

VILA GALÉ ALAGOAS



FIELD GUIDE FAUNA

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FIELD GUIDE

The Field Guide - Fauna is part of a project under construction by the Vila Galé group in Brazil with the support of the local community, which seeks to bring scientific and popular knowledge of the region's biodiversity closer to the tourists who come to stay at the resorts.

The guide aims to instruct monitors about the easily observable birdlife and can be used as an environmental education tool during ecological tours.

In addition, it facilitates the identification of birds and other animals that occur in the Vila Galé Brazil regions and encourages popular scientific dissemination of the species that occupy this ecosystem.



ALAGOAS

Vila Galé Alagoas is located on the Carro Quebrado beach, in the municipality of Barra de Santo Antônio, in Alagoas, 40 minutes away from the state capital, Maceió.

The municipality of Barra was colonised by the Dutch around 1853, when progress began on the settlement, which was made up of mud houses on the banks of the Santo Antônio river. At the time, the economy was based on fishing and the exploitation of limestone, followed by the expansion of sugar cane, an activity that continues to this day. Despite this, Barra's natural strength lies in tourism. Its beaches preserve native landscapes and lines of reefs that form clean, clear natural pools.

The Santo Antônio river divides the town into two parts, with the portion known as Crôa Island holding the Carro Quebrado beach, considered one of the most beautiful in Brazil.



There are more than one story about the origin of the name, from the misfortune of a couple of lovers whose car got bogged down and eroded by the high tide, to the stranding of ox carts carrying out burials. The great attraction of Carro Quebrado beach is its vibrantly coloured clay and sandstone cliffs, formed from natural erosion sculpted by the sea. You can also see and appreciate a vast sandbank along its entire length and make the most of the natural pools formed by the coral reefs.

Barra de Santo Antônio's coastal reefs, along with its estuaries and mangroves, are protected by the Costa dos Corais EPA, the largest federal coastal marine conservation unit in Brazil. The EPA stretches from the municipality of Maceió/AL to the municipality of Tamandaré/PE, covering more than 400,000 hectares and 120 kilometres of beach. The EPA is classified as a sustainable use Conservation Unit and seeks to reconcile conservation objectives and uses, such as fishing and tourism, in a sustainable way.





- 1 - Carro Quebrado Viewpoint
- 2 - Carro Quebrado Beach
- 3 - Vila Galé Alagoas
- 4 - Crêba Island
- 5 - Rio Santo Antônio Mouth
- 6 - Barra de Santo Antônio
- 7 - Pontal do Gamela / Natural Pools
- 8 - Macaíó



Photo
Index no.

Family

COMMON NAME

Scientific name



Size in cm

**The species are listed in alphabetical order by the family to which they belong.*

Description of the species.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



The image features a light beige background with numerous white silhouettes of birds in flight, scattered across the frame. The birds are depicted in various stages of flight, with wings spread, some appearing to be in a landing or takeoff phase. The word "BIRDS" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

BIRDS

BIRDWATCHING



Birdwatching, also known as birding, is a recreational activity that involves connecting with nature, providing well-being and soothing the soul. Birdwatchers are allies of conservation and promoters of sustainable tourism, as they help protect natural habitats and directly contribute to the local community's income during their birding trips.

Birdwatching can be practiced by anyone of any age; all it takes is a bit of time during the day to appreciate the birds that have always been there, often unnoticed. The best time for birdwatching is early in the morning, but even if you're not an early riser, you can still see different species, albeit in smaller numbers.



3

Alcedinae

RINGED KINGFISHER

Megaceryle torquata



42 cm

The ringed kingfisher is the largest of its family in Brazil. Its beak measures up to eight centimetres, its upperparts are bluish and its throat and neck are white. Males can be differentiated from females by looking at the rusty-coloured breast and white underside of the wings in males, and the bluish breast and rusty-coloured underside of the wings in females. It feeds preferentially on fish, perching high up near clean water to locate prey and catch it on a dive. Once caught, it returns to the perch where it strikes the prey. It nests in ravines or rocks, digging galleries up to two metres long. It lives in solitude.





2

Ardeidae

GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba



65-104 cm

The great egret has completely white plumage, a long, reddish-yellow bill and a typical "S" shaped neck. During the breeding season, long, ornamental feathers appear on its back, called egrets, which are used for seduction during courtship. It has been hunted extensively due to the use of these feathers in the hat industry. Their diet consists mainly of fish, but they can be seen feeding on insects, amphibians, reptiles and small rodents. They are very intelligent and can use bait to attract the fish they feed on. When hunting, they have a habit of moving slowly and can stand still for long periods if necessary. They are migratory and flock animals.





2

Ardeidae

STRIATED HERON

Butorides striata



36 cm

When agitated, the striated heron can display a bristly blue tuft and has a habit of crouching down. It flies slowly, with its neck tucked in and its legs stretched out. It is a migratory species and feeds on fish, aquatic insects, crabs, molluscs, amphibians and reptiles. It lives alone all year round and during the breeding season it usually nests in trees or bushes in the marshes, far away from other birds of the same species. It likes rainy, dark days.





2



Ardeidae

SNOWY EGRET

Egretta thula



54-66 cm

The snowy egret, also known as the little egret, is a completely white bird with a black beak with a yellow spot at the base, yellow iris and lore, long black legs and yellow feet. During the breeding season it has large egrets and associates in colonies, forming nests with other species. It builds its nest with dry branches on a tree near the water. It has different fishing and hunting techniques and feeds on fish, insects, larvae, molluscs, worms, crabs, amphibians and small reptiles. It is found on the edges of lakes, rivers, marshes and by the sea.





2



Cathartidae

TURKEY VULTURE

Cathartes aura

 **Length**

62-81 cm

The turkey vulture has a matte-black plumage, a white stripe on the nape and a bare, red head and neck. When young, it has a grey head and no nape band. It is a saprophagous animal, which means it feeds on the remains of other animals. It has a keen sense of smell and is one of the first to spot carrion. Most of the time, however, it is the last to feed because it is scared away by more aggressive vultures, such as the black vulture. As with all vulture species, it has no vocalisation. In flight, it usually glides and flaps its wings little. It has been classified as the second smelliest animal in the world, second only to the North American opossum.





8



Cathartidae

BLACK VULTURE

Coragyps atratus



56-76 cm

The black vulture is the smallest compared to the other vultures, but the most aggressive, violently disputing the carcass with other species. Its sense of smell is poorly developed and so it uses its keen eyesight to locate the carcass, or it is guided by the red-headed vulture, which has a keen sense of smell and gets to the food first. It feeds on carrion, leftover food and live animals that are unable to escape. On hot days it usually lands on the banks of rivers and ponds to drink water and wet its legs. It is often seen forming mixed flocks with crested caracaras because both species benefit from this interaction: the crested caracara provides protection because it has a vocalisation, while the black vulture allows the carrion to be divided.





5



Charadriidae

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

Charadrius semipalmatus



18 cm

The semipalmated plover has a brown head and upperparts, a white throat, underparts, front and nuchal collar, as well as a short, yellow-based bill and yellow legs. It is a limicolous species, which means it lives and feeds in semi-flooded environments. It lives in flocks, but spreads out to feed. It is possible to see them with other species of plovers and shorebirds. They use Brazilian beaches as wintering sites and stop-off points during their migration to North American countries.





7



Charadriidae
LAPWING
Vanellus chilensis



37 cm

The southern lapwing, also known as *tero-tero*, gets its name from its “tero-tero” song, which it emits mainly in defence of its territory, being an aggressive and alarmist species, even to a man. It’s also known in the region as “scare-the-oxen”. It has a red spur on each wing which, in situations of conflict, becomes visible for defence. It has a characteristic plume on the back of its head and its plumage is grey, black and white. It feeds on aquatic invertebrates, small fish and arthropods, stirring up mud with its feet to make prey flee.

It nests on the ground and its eggs are spotted and easily mistaken for soil. It is always the first to raise the alarm of an intruder in its territory and is considered an excellent guard animal. It was immortalised in Barbosa Lessa’s song:

“ (...)When the *tero-tero* cries
It’s a sign that someone is approaching
Tero-tero in the middle of the night
Cried because it saw someone approaching (...)”





1

Columbidae

RUDDY GROUND DOVE

Columbina talpacoti



12-18 cm

The ruddy ground dove is one of the most common native species in large Brazilian cities, and is found in greater numbers in anthropised places than in its original habitat (savannah and grassland areas). The male has reddish-brown feathers all over its body and a bluish-grey head. The female is brown and both have black spots on their wings. It feeds on grain on the ground and often visits feeders with chirella and seeds. It can breed all year round depending on the amount of food available. It's a friendly species, always present in backyards, squares and gardens. Recorded in the song by Waldemar Henrique:

"The dove, my lady, take it, but don't let it cry
the dove from the seaside that cried, cried,
in my heart and it's from my hinterland".





4



Cuculidae

SQUIRREL CUCKOO

Piaya cayana



50 cm

The squirrel cuckoo gets its name from its sneaky and mysterious appearance. It has uniform rusty-brown plumage on its upperparts, a cinnamon throat and chin and a grey chest and belly. It has a long, dark tail with light tips, a greenish-yellow beak and red irises. It feeds almost exclusively on insects, mainly caterpillars on leaves, but can also be seen eating fruit, lizards, tree frogs and the eggs of other birds, which is why it is often seen being chased away by swifts. It builds its nest in the shape of a shallow pot. During the breeding season, it sings tirelessly throughout the day and builds its nest in the shape of a shallow pan. It moves through the treetops and is almost never seen descending to the ground. It often glides and relies on two tails to do so.





2

Falconidae

CRESTED CARCARA

Caracara plancus



50-60 cm

The crested caracara gets its name from the sound emitted by specimens of the species to communicate between couples or to mark territory: "cuh-rah, cuh-rah". It has a white head with a distinctive black plume. Its plumage varies from brown to black and the tips of its wings are white. The colour of the "wax" - the name given to the bare region of the face - can change according to their mood and the situation at the time, as well as serving to demonstrate hierarchy between them, where specimens with a yellowish face are dominant. It is not a specialised predator, but a diverse and opportunist, feeding on insects, small mammals, eggs, chicks and carcasses. It lands in trees or on roofs and is often seen on the ground. They build nests with twigs in palm leaf sheaths. Immortalised in the song by João do Valle and José Cândido:

*"The crested caracara catches, kills and eats
The crested caracara won't die of hunger
The crested caracara, braver than a man (...)"*





1

Falconidae

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA

Milvago chimachima



36-45 cm

The yellow-headed caracara is a common bird, widely found in open areas, towns and beaches. It is one of the few species to have benefited from deforestation and pasture expansion. It has a yellowish-white head and body, a dark brown back and wings and a black stripe behind its eyes. It feeds on caterpillars, termites, the young of other birds, fruit, carrion and especially parasites such as ticks. It can also be seen flying over roads in search of animals that have been run over. It lives alone or as a couple and builds large nests in palm trees. When it flies, it emits a high-pitched cry that sounds like: "peen-yeah".





1



Fregatidae

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD

Fregata magnificens



99-104 cm

Also known as "scissor bird" in Portuguese, the magnificent frigatebird is found all along the Brazilian coast. It is an unmistakable bird, very large, with long, narrow, angular wings and a scissor tail. The male is black and is distinguished by a red gular sac. The female is also black, but with white sides to the neck and chest. The young have a white head. Magnificent frigatebirds swarm around fishing boats and pick up scraps of fish from the surface with their beaks in gliding flights. They can be seen chasing other seabirds in search of prey or regurgitated fish. It is unable to swim because it has no protective fat. It roosts and nests on islands.





3



Fringilidae

VIOLACEOUS EUPHONIA

Euphonia violacea



11-12 cm

The violaceous euphonia is a fairly common bird, widely occurring in canopies, thickets and forest edges. The species is sexually dimorphic: the male has metallic-blue upperparts, orange underparts and a small yellow spot on the forehead, while the females are olive-green above and olive-yellow below. It is an admirable imitator, with the ability to emit the sounds of 10 to 16 different birds in a few minutes. Its repertoire is a faithful copy of the birdlife in the area where it lives. It feeds on fruit and rarely on insects. They build nests in hollows in tree trunks, live in pairs or small groups and often form mixed flocks of birds.





1

Furnariidae

RUFOUS HORNERO

Furnarius rufus

📏

18-20 cm

Known for its oven-shaped clay nest, the rufous hornero has a reddish brown back and a soft lighter eyebrow in contrast to the plumage of its head. The underside is lighter and the neck and chin are white. It spends much of its time on the ground with its typical gait, alternating between short runs and slow steps. It rummages through leaves in search of termites, ants or *Atta* leafcutter ants. Inside its clay nest there is a wall separating the entrance and the incubation chamber, to reduce draughts and access by predators. The bird also avoids building the nest door on the side where there is more wind and, in cold regions, the entrance is built facing the sun, unlike in hot regions, where they usually build on the opposite side. They seem to rotate between two or three nests, not using the same one for two seasons in a row. Specimens usually live in couples and sing duets around the nest. It is a species with numerous legends, the most famous being the legend that if the male is betrayed, he can lock the female in the nest until she dies.





1

Galbulidae

RUFOUS-TAILED JACAMAR

Galbula ruficauda



19-25 cm

An eye-catching and very beautiful bird, the rufous-tailed jacamar may look like a large hummingbird at first glance due to its long, thin beak. The male has a bright golden-green chest and upperparts, a white throat and rusty underparts, while the female has a yellowish throat and a lighter belly. It feeds exclusively on flying insects (wasps, dragonflies and butterflies), hunting with great dexterity and speed. After catching it, it slams its prey repeatedly against its perch, removing wings, stingers, and breaking the carapace. It lives in couples all year round and digs long, narrow galleries in river banks, in termite mounds or in clods of earth stuck in the roots of fallen trees. It has a habit of perching on exposed branches and vines to look for prey and feed. This bird is easy to observe and does not shy away from human approach.





7

Hirundinidae

GREY-BREASTED MARTIN

Progne chalybea



16-22 cm

The grey-breasted martin has a shiny metallic blue-black head and back. Its face is matte black and its long, pointed wings are black with a bluish reflection. Its throat and chest are greyish white and its belly is white. It is an insectivorous bird, catching insects in flight and sometimes on the ground. They build their nests in cavities in rocks and protected places in urban buildings. They use straw, dried cattle faeces and feathers for construction. They live in large flocks and can be seen on hotel roofs or flying at dusk.





3



Hirundinidae

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

Stelgidopteryx ruficollis



14 cm

The southern rough-winged swallow has an almost rectangular tail, a reddish-cinnamon throat, a yellowish belly and dark brown upperparts. It is a common bird, found in open areas and forest edges, usually near water. It is one of the main insect-eating species, feeding on termites, ants, flies and bees. It nests in holes in ravines, under roof tiles or in cavities in human constructions. Couples tend to nest together. It lives in small groups, perches on dead branches or wires and is usually restless at dawn and dusk.





3

Hirundinidae

WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW

Tachycineta albiventer



13-14 cm

The white-winged swallow, also known as the "river swallow" in Portuguese, has a greenish tinge to its back plumage and a white spot on its wing, visible both in flight and at rest. As its name suggests, it is a water-loving species, flying very close to the water's surface, catching insects in rapid movements. It has a habit of landing on partially submerged branches or exposed roots in ravines. They build nests in river ravines or even in abandoned kingfisher nests. They live in couples, family groups or alone.





4



Passeridae

HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus



13-18 cm

The house sparrow is an exotic bird that arrived in Brazil around 1903 after the authorised release of specimens from Portugal. This bird is abundant and strongly associated with human presence. They are sexually dimorphic, with the male having a black throat, a red neck and ochre and brown wings, while the females are brown, smooth and have a light brow. They feed on seeds, flowers, insects and leftover food left by humans, which is why they are easily spotted in hotels near restaurants. They are noisy at dusk and often look for food on the ground.





4



Picidae

WHITE WOODPECKER

Melanerpes candidus



24-29 cm

The white woodpecker is a species that lives in open areas, usually in groups of six to ten specimens. It has a white head, a black mantle, white underparts, a black stripe connecting the lower back of the eyes to the upper part of the mantle and white eyes with golden-yellow "spectacles". Males have this well-defined stripe, as well as yellow feathers on the back of the head. It feeds on insects, fruit and honey. It attacks and destroys termite mounds, hornets' nests, wasps and bees, always on the lookout for larvae. It sleeps in groups in tree hollows and, during the breeding season, digs its nest in palm trunks.





7



Poliophtilidae

TROPICAL GNATCATCHER

Poliophtila atricapilla



11 cm

The tropical gnatcatcher is a very small grey and white bird that usually has its tail held high. In males, the hat is black and in females it is grey. It is known in the region as "little cat" because of its song. It feeds on insects directly on foliage and small branches. It is an endemic bird of Brazil, occurring throughout the Northeast and is considered common in caatinga areas.





1

Psittacidae

RED-SHOULDERED MACAW

Diopsittaca nobilis



30-35 cm

The red-shouldered macaw is a green macaw with a bluish forehead, a bare white face and a red shoulder. In flight, you can see the base of the red wing and the yellowish edge. It feeds on palm coconuts, palm oil, fruit and especially seeds, which it crushes with its strong beak. It has the habit of using its beak as a third foot and its legs to hold food and bring it to its palate. It nests in cavities in trees and palms. It usually lives in pairs and large flocks outside the breeding season.





1



Psittacidae

JANDAYA PARAKEET

Aratinga jandaya



30 cm

A very beautiful and unmistakable bird, the jandaya parakeet has a yellow head and neck, orange on the front of the head, around the eyes, chest and belly, and green wings and mantle. It feeds on fruit, nuts and seeds. They use the hollows of palm trees or other trees to make their nests. The female is responsible for incubation and the male for feeding during this period. They are seen alone, in pairs or in small groups of up to 15 specimens. They have a habit of flying close to the ground with sudden changes of direction.





1



Psittacidae

PEACH-FRONTED PARAKEET



25-26 cm

Eupsittula aurea

The peach-fronted parakeet is the best known and most abundant representative of the Psittacidae family in the country. It has a green upperpart, a bright orange forehead and eye ring, a bluish crown and a yellowish-green underpart. It has the habit of using its beak as a third foot and uses its legs to hold food. It feeds mainly on seeds and not just fruit pulp. It eats the kernels of green cashew nuts, called maturis, and looks for mango, Brazilian grapetree berries, guava and papaya trees. They nest in the hollow trunks of palm trees or in holes in eroded rocks. It is common to see them in flocks and they live in couples, remaining together for life.





3



Rhynchocyclidae

YELLOW-LORED TODY-FLYCATCHER

Todirostrum poliocephalum



9 cm

The yellow-lored tody-flycatcher is a small flycatcher, typical of the slopes of the Atlantic forest, easily recognisable by the clearly visible yellow stripe on its lore.

It attracts attention because of the vivid contrast between the dark bluish grey of its head and the yellow of its ventral part. It feeds on invertebrates and small fruits. It catches its prey in mid-air and among the foliage of the canopy. It builds its nest on the tips of branches, hanging from a braid about 30 centimetres long. Very light and almost never still.





2

Strigidae

BURROWING OWL

Athene cunicularia



21-28 cm

The burrowing owl usually lives in fields, sandbanks, deserts and beaches and has this common name because it digs its nest, usually in termite mounds and in the sand on the beach. It is a small bird with long legs and large yellow eyes, even bigger than the brain in some subspecies. Its body is rust-coloured with scattered white spots. It has privileged vision and hearing and can turn its head up to 270° to increase its field of vision. It has a habit of standing on just one leg. Its nests can be up to two metres long and are lined with dry grass and manure in order to attract insects to feed on and to control the microclimate inside the hole. It is one of the species that suffers from car traffic on the beach sand and is often killed by burying its nests. Its diet is basically carnivorous-insectivorous. When in danger, it emits a loud screeching sound, the chicks enter the nest while the adults fly out and attack the enemy.





3



Thraupidae

TURQUOISE HONEYCREEPER



13 cm

Dacnis cayana

The turquoise honeycreeper is a fairly common bird, occurring in the canopy of forest edges and rarely in open areas. It has clear sexual dimorphism: the male is turquoise with a black throat, back, wing and tail and pink feathers, while the female is green with a bluish head. It feeds on nectar, insects and fruit and visits feeders frequently. It breeds in spring and summer. The female is responsible for building the nest and the male for protecting it. The species lives in pairs or groups and can form small mixed flocks.





2



Thraupidae

BANANAQUIT

Coereba flaveola



10-11 cm

The bananaquit, also known as yellow bird and sugar bird, has a dark brown back, wings and tail, a yellow breast, a black crown and face, a white superciliary band, a grey throat and a curved, pointed, black bill with a pink base. It feeds on nectar, fruit and arthropods and is commonly seen at watering holes and feeders. To feed, it often sits upside down on a branch in order to reach the flower or fruit. It builds two types of nest, one for breeding and the other for resting and sleeping. It lives alone or in pairs, bathes several times because of the sticky nectar and is quarrelsome, standing up, stretching its body and vibrating its wings to frighten an enemy.





8



Thraupidae

BURNISHED-BUFF TANAGER

Stilpinia cayana



15 cm

The burnished-buff tanager, or rufous-crowned tanager as it is known, is an unmistakable bird. The male has a golden yellow colour and a black mask that extends to the throat and passes through the middle of the belly. The female is more subdued, without the black underneath, but with a dark mask. The wings of both sexes are bluish-green. During the breeding season, although she is helped by the male, the female is responsible for most of the nest building, incubating the eggs and warming the chicks. It lives in pairs or small groups.





8



Thraupidae

PALM TANAGER

Thraupis palmarum



17-18 cm

The common name of the palm tanager comes from the fact that it is often associated with palm trees. It is predominantly greenish in colour, with a yellowish band in the middle of the wing feathers, visible only in flight. They feed on fruit, insects and nectar and often visit feeders. When hunting for insects and eating fruit, it is constantly seen upside down. It is an aggressive species towards other birds and has a high-pitched call. The couple build their cup-shaped nest among dense foliage or in the leaf sheaths of palm trees. They are very active, moving around in the cool hours of the day. They live in couples and small groups and have been seen mingling with other species, such as sparrows.





3

Trochilidae

SWALLOW-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD

Eupetomena macroura



15-18 cm

The swallow-tailed hummingbird is the most abundant hummingbird in urbanised areas, known for its colouring, tail and quarrelsome behaviour. It has a purplish-blue head, neck and chest, a long, forked blue tail and the rest of its plumage is dark green. It feeds basically on flower nectar, but can be seen hunting small insects. Hummingbirds have the fastest metabolism among birds and can flap their wings dozens of times a second. During the breeding season, the female is responsible for choosing the site, building the nest, incubating the eggs and feeding the chicks, while the male defends the territory and the flowers that serve as food. It is a territorial and extremely aggressive species, capable of attacking much larger birds.





3

Troglodytidae

HOUSE WREN

Troglodytes musculus



10-13 cm

The house wren, also known as brown-throated wren, is an unmistakable bird that is found in practically all habitats. It sings a lot, especially early in the morning, and is so small that it can be hidden in the palm of your hand. It feeds on insects, small spiders and gecko chicks, usually making its way through cavities and gaps with its beak, both in buildings and under the bark of plants. It is found among low foliage and in the corners of gardens. It can build its nest in unlikely places, such as tractors, music boxes and public telephones. It has the behaviour of destroying the eggs of other bird species even without feeding on them, possibly to eliminate competition. It is a species that resembles a mouse in that it jumps while moving along the ground and has the ability to climb vertical surfaces like woodpeckers do.





2



Tyrannidae

MASKED WATER TYRANT

Fluvicola nengeta



14-16 cm

The masked water tyrant is a predominantly white bird with a black transverse band, greyish-brown wings, a black tail with white spots at the end, a black beak, feet and irises. It feeds on small arthropods caught in the mud on the banks of bodies of water and has a habit of knocking its food against the ground. Its nest is built with sticks piled up near the water.





16,5 cm

Vireonidae

RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKE *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

The rufous-browed peppershrike is a bird that is more heard than seen. In Portuguese, it's also called the "everybody-come" because of the sonority of its song. It is olive-coloured on top, with a grey head and neck, cinnamon eyebrows and orange eyes. Its belly and throat are light grey, separated by a yellowish stripe. Its head and strong beak are disproportionate to its body. It feeds on invertebrates and small fruits and can catch large caterpillars. It kills its prey by slamming it against branches with its strong beak. It lives on the edges of forests, almost always in the upper and middle parts, hiding among the foliage of trees and occasionally seen in low bushes. They are aggressive and one can see them attacking other rufous-browed peppershrikes in their territory.





7

Tyrannidae

BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER

Megarynchus pitangua



21-23 cm

At first glance, the boat-billed flycatcher looks very similar to the great kiskadee, distinguished by its distinctly larger, wide and flat beak and its vocalisation. It is also a shyer bird, living in the treetops and vocalising less frequently. It is found in forests, forest edges and in urban areas. It feeds on insects, fruit, small fish and the young of other birds. During the breeding season, the female builds the nest in the upper parts of the trees, while the male is responsible for bringing the material for it. It is a migratory bird, found in the warmer months of the year.





7



Tyrannidae

GREAT KISKADEE

Pitangus sulphuratus



20-25 cm

The great kiskadee is certainly the most popular bird in Brazil. It is found in cities, forests, beaches, plantations and river beaches. It gets its name from its trisyllabic song that resembles the syllables "kis-ka-dee". It has a brown back and a bright yellow belly, a white stripe on its eyebrow, a black tail and a yellow tuft that only appears when the bird brushes it. Its diet is diverse, meaning it can be seen feeding on fruit, eggs, the young of other birds, flowers, fish, tadpoles, small rodents, ticks and insects, making it an important pest controller. It makes large, spherical nests with grass and branches, and can nest in tree cavities. It is an aggressive bird, threatening hawks and vultures when they approach its territory.





7

Tyrannidae

TROPICAL KINGBIRD

Tyrannus melancholicus



18-24 cm

The tropical kingbird has an onomatopoeic name in Portuguese - "suiriri" - derived from its "si-ri-ri" vocalisation. Its head is predominantly grey with a darker stripe in the eye and ear area, its chest is olive green and its belly is yellow. It feeds basically on insects and fruit. To catch insects, the bird flies from a perch and catches its prey in the air. Immediately after catching it, it returns to its perch to kill it, usually by hitting the branch, and consume it. They live alone or in couples and are aggressive towards each other. Their nests are built by the couple using twigs and dry tendrils and they are often preyed upon by crested caracaras, although the parents defend them and even receive help from other species of the same family. Curiously, specimens have been observed that tend to choose the same times and places for their chirping.





2



Tyrannidae

CATTLE TYRANT

Machetornis rixosa



18 cm

The cattle tyrant, as its name suggests, has as its main known behaviour the habit of following oxen, tapirs, horses and capybaras to capture ticks and other parasites and to catch insects that are scared away by them. In addition, specimens can be seen hunting on the strip of sand near the sea. It has a yellow chest, a light throat, a grey head and brown upper-parts. It is easily differentiated from other tyrants because it spends most of its time on or near the ground. It can be seen being preyed upon by ferruginous pygmy owls.





MAMMALS
REPTILES
AMPHIBIA





2



Bufonidae

CANE TOAD

Leptodactylus macrosternum



13-25 cm

The cane toad, also known as the giant neotropical toad or marine toad, is the largest species of anuran in South America and is found in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia. It can be found in different biomes, inhabiting open areas and close to homes. It is known because of its vocalisation and size. Its colouring varies from light to dark brown, with brown spots. It has a robust body, a short, broad head, rough skin and venom glands behind the eyes (parotoid glands) and on the thighs (paracnemal glands). The toad's venom is a defence mechanism against predators, such as snakes, which, when they swallow the animal and press on one of its glands, release the toxin, causing discomfort, vomiting and paralysis. The indigenous people of South America use its toxin to poison the tips of their blowguns for hunting animals. Generally, this poison poses no risk to humans, as the glands need to be pressed and the toxin brought to the palate or eyes for intoxication to occur.





8



Callitrichidae

COMMON MARMOSET

Callithrix jacchus



18-25 cm

The common marmoset, also known as white-tufted marmoset or white-tufted-ear marmoset, is a species of small monkey, endemic to Brazil, originally from the northeastern caatinga and currently found in parts of the southeastern and northern regions of the country after its introduction. It has light grey, brown and black plumage, with tufts of white hair around its ears and a white spot on its forehead. Its tail is longer than its body and its function is to ensure the animal's balance. It feeds on plant and animal matter, such as seeds, flowers, fruit, arthropods, molluscs, young birds and mammals, amphibians and small lizards. It is also gomi-vorous, with lower incisors that make it easier to dig up gum-producing trees. It lives in groups of three to fifteen specimens and spends most of its time travelling and foraging.





2



Canidae

FOREST FOX

Cerdocyon thous



65 cm

The forest fox is the best-known Brazilian canid.

It has grey and brown colouring, short ears and a long tail with some black hairs. It is widely distributed throughout the country, present in all Brazilian biomes and frequent in forest edges and open environments, mangroves and sandbanks. It is apparently tolerant of anthropogenic disturbances, occurring in sugar cane fields, eucalyptus plantations, fruit crops, pastures and suburban landscapes, but does not show the same tolerance to urbanisation. It is omnivorous, feeding on fruit, insects, crustaceans, small mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and the eggs of other species. It can act as an important seed disperser and feed on the carcasses of domestic and wild animals. It is monogamous, living in couples or family groups.





Cheloniidae

HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLE

Eretmochelys imbricata



60-100 cm

The hawksbill sea turtle has a carapace with four pairs of overlapping lateral plates, with a back coloured between light and dark brown, a serrated posterior margin and a belly that varies between light yellow and white. The head is narrow and elongated, with a pointed horny beak used to search for food in the crevices of rocks and corals. Adults can weigh up to 80 kg and usually reach sexual maturity between the ages of 17 and 25. They feed on algae, urchins, crustaceans, molluscs, fish eggs and corals.

Spawning in Brazil takes place from Espírito Santo to Ceará, from November to April. The areas with the highest concentration of spawning occur in the states of Bahia, Sergipe and southern Rio Grande do Norte.





Cheloniidae

OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLE

Lepidochelys olivacea



60-80 cm

The olive ridley sea turtle is considered one of the most abundant species in the oceans. It has a carapace with five to nine pairs of lateral plates (usually six), which are juxtaposed and asymmetrical. The coloration of the carapace varies from dark green to grey, and ventrally it is light yellow. Adults weigh an average of 50 kg and are the smallest species of sea turtle found in the world. They usually reach sexual maturity between the ages of 10 and 18. They are predominantly carnivorous as hatchlings and tend to be omnivorous in the other stages of their life cycle.

In Brazil, their spawning occurs between November and January, with the highest density on the coast of Sergipe, but the priority areas are located between the south coast of Alagoas and the north of Bahia.





2

Dipsadidae

CROWN GROUND SNAKE

Erythrolamprus viridis



60 cm

The crown ground snake is a diurnal snake with a terrestrial habit. It is found in the northeastern caatinga and can be found in open areas and in the interior and edges of forests. The dorsal colouration of adults is green and the belly is lighter. The young specimen is green, but with black transverse spots along the body, which are lost in adulthood. It feeds on lizards and anurans such as small toads, frogs and toads. Although this species has venom, it is not dangerous to humans.





8



Erethizontidae

BRAZILIAN PORCUPINE

Coendou prehensilis



30-60 cm

The Brazilian porcupine is a rodent with arboreal habits, found in forest vegetation along small rivers and forest edges. It is found in all Brazilian states, with the exception of the southern states. Its body is covered in short, pointed spines in a yellowish or whitish colour, along with darker fur. It has strong claws and a tail that acts as a fifth limb to help it climb. They are herbivorous animals, feeding mainly on fruit. They are nocturnal, live alone or in pairs and produce only one offspring per litter. Contrary to what many people think, no species of porcupine is capable of throwing spines to defend itself. When threatened, the animal erects its spines and curves its body in an attempt to protect its head and limbs.





2

Iguanidae

GREEN IGUANA

Iguana iguana



130 cm

The green iguana is a widely distributed lizard in Central and South America, occurring in a large part of Brazil, mainly in the North, Northeast and Centre-West regions. It is a species of arboreal habits, living especially in forest areas, mangroves, savannahs and the caatinga. It is mostly herbivorous, feeding on fruit and leaves, but can be seen consuming eggs, insects and small vertebrates. It has a crest that extends from its head to its tail and a dilatable throat sac. Its colouration is green when young and greyish-green in adulthood. It is an oviparous animal, meaning that the embryo develops inside an egg in an external environment and can take up to 15 weeks to hatch. Some iguana mums can provide protection and food for their young until they become independent. When threatened, iguanas defend themselves with bites and their tails.



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