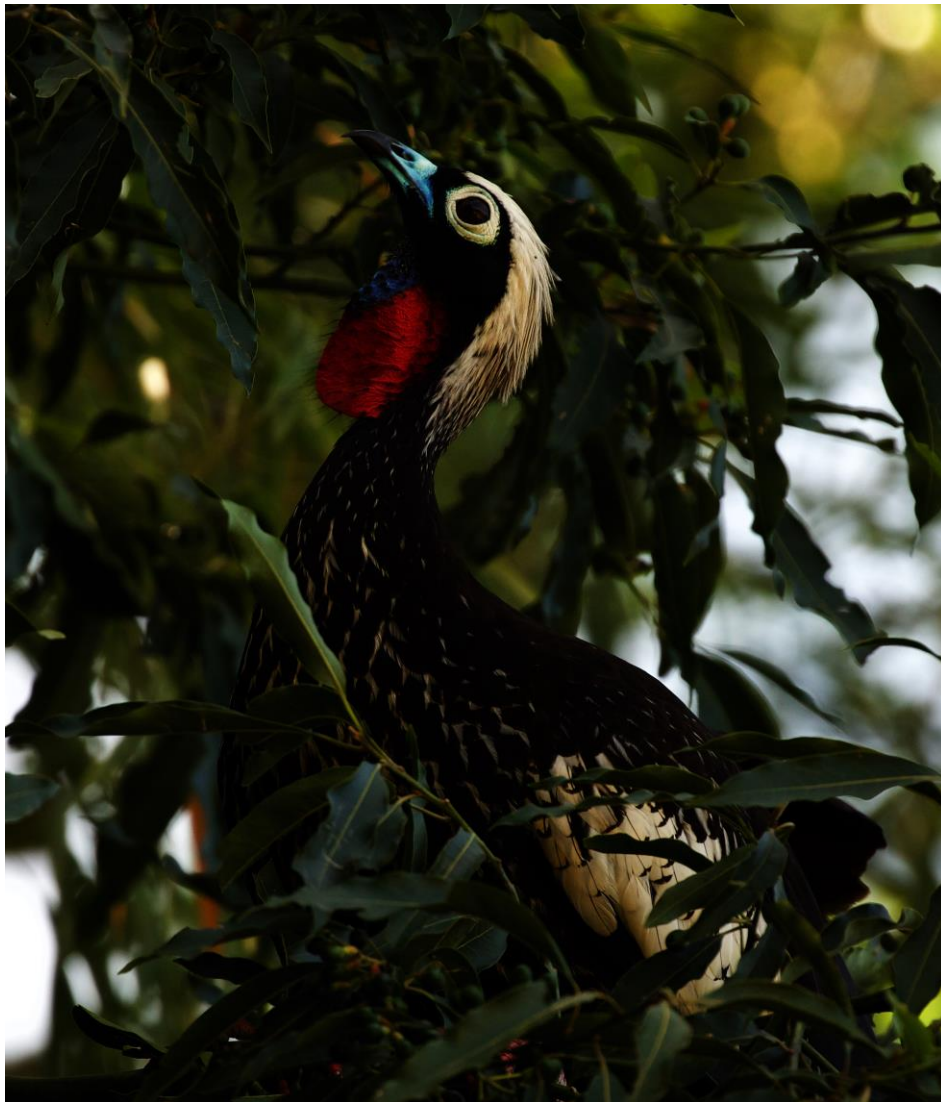


**FIELD REPORT**

**BRAZIL: IGUAÇU FALLS**

**SEPTEMBER 3–7, 2022**



Black-fronted Piping-Guan, *Pipile jacutinga*. Photo: D. Ascanio ©

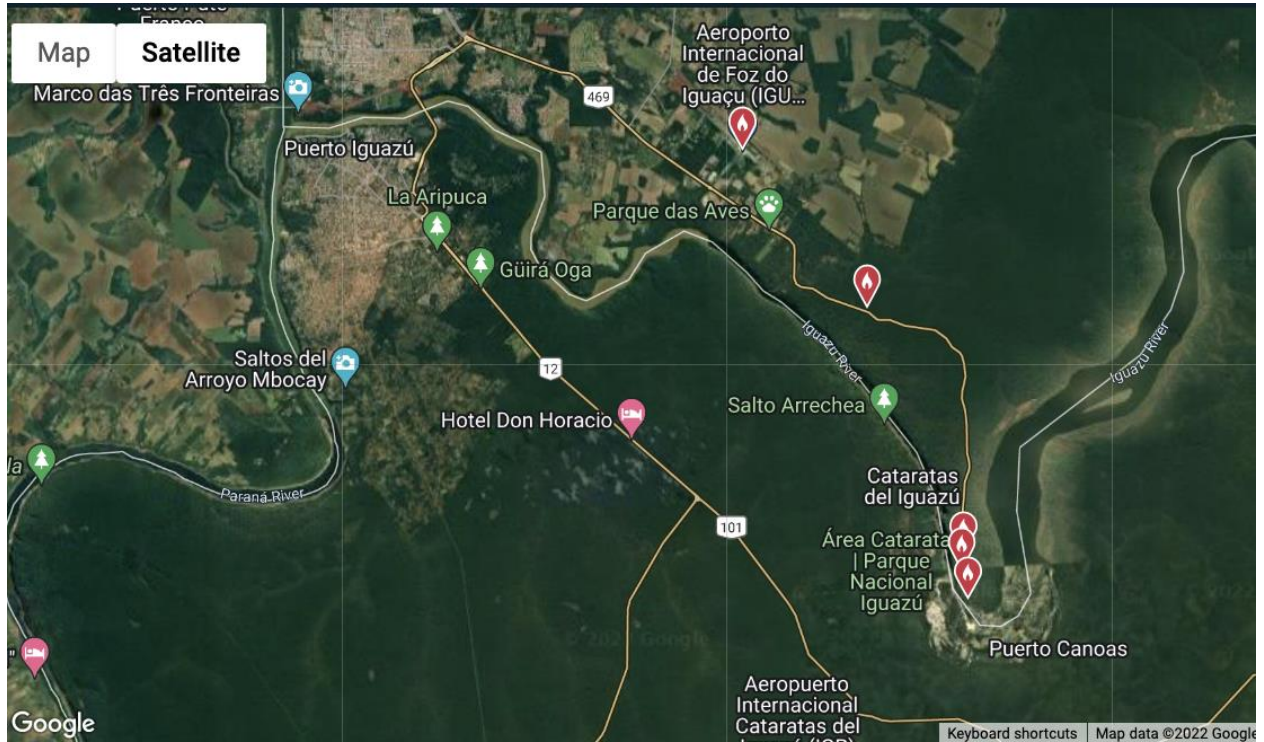
**LEADERS: DAVID ASCANIO & AVENI DE OLIVEIRA**  
**LIST COMPILED BY: DAVID ASCANIO**

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.**  
**2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003**  
**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746**  
**WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

# BRAZIL: IGUAÇU FALLS

SEPTEMBER 3–7, 2022

## MAP OF LOCATIONS



Map source: eBird Trip Report

### ITINERARY:

4 Sept 2022. Belmond Hotel das Cataratas, Iguazu Falls.

5–6 Sept 2022. Foz de Iguazu área, Pozo Preto Road & Iguazu Falls.

7 Sept 2022. Departure.

# BRAZIL: IGUAÇU FALLS

**SEPTEMBER 3–7, 2022**

**Compiled by David Ascanio**

**Photo album:**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72177720302978058>

**Ebird Trip Report:**

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/80468>



Iguazu Falls. Photo: D. Ascanio ©

If there is a place on Planet Earth where the power of nature is revealed in unimaginable ways, that place is Iguazu Falls. Draining from the Parana River, a series of waterfalls plunges down with such force that one must witness it in order to truly comprehend the power of nature. We found it striking that in such grandiosity there are small creatures and plants challenging this astonishing waterfall and its intimidating noise. We saw bushes and semi-aquatic plants rooted to the substrate of rocks, resisting the continuous energy produced by the river itself. Vultures took advantage of a thermal decorated with a spray of water elevated like a misty column right next to the falls. We could not believe how a piping-guan walked to a ledge in the falls and later decided



to open its wings and then glide out of the falls. Maybe it was in search of a fruiting tree located somewhere downstream in the river. Although these were all moments that will remain with us as the purest meaning of life, I must confess that what I could not stop watching (and trying to understand) were the numbers of Great Dusky Swifts resting or roosting under the seemingly impenetrable waterfall. These species, along with a spectacular landscape, gave life to what otherwise would be rocks and water, moving along its drainage, attracted by the gravity of our planet.



A Great Dusky Swift (*Cypseloides senex*) challenges the power of the Iguazu Falls to roost behind the curtain of water. Photo: D. Ascanio ©

The weather was challenging, as an unexpected cold front provided chilly mornings and humid days. Nevertheless, we managed to deal with gray, cloudy days and rainy afternoons, and still enjoyed views of antpipits, antbirds, manakins, astonishing tanagers, birds of prey, and even a Puma!

Our sighting of this amazing cat must be credited to our Covid protocol. Normally, we would walk along the trails in search of birds and other wildlife, but the park itself was so crowded that I suggested we walk further away from the falls area, along the access road. And what a good decision! We nailed trogons, woodpeckers, becardes, and a wonderful Spot-billed Toucanet. As we waited for the evening to close the day, and betting for a tinamou to walk across the road, two vehicles suddenly stopped along the road. Bev was looking in the right direction, and being curious about these vehicles, she raised her binocs. A short sentence followed, "A Mountain Lion!" she exclaimed. And there it was, in all its glory, standing at the edge of the road; it eventually walked across and hid in the forest on our side of the road. As far as I know, this is the first Puma encounter in Iguazu Falls on any previous VENT tour!



Puma, *Puma concolor*. Photo: D. Ascanio ©



Puma, *Puma concolor*. Photo: D. Ascanio ©



Our birding continued on the wonderful walkway at the side of the river, with the powerful sound of the waterfall and where we nailed our first views of Red-rumped Cacique, Plush-crested Jay, Black-fronted Piping-Guan, and Rufous Hornero. Later, we spent two full days exploring the Pozo Preto Road and its magnificent forest, packed with bromeliads, orchids, and tree trunks covered in lichens and other plants. It was a magical forest with magical creatures. Some were quite challenging to see well, as the Southern Antpipit and others were just impossible to immortalize with a photo, given their behavioral tendency to keep moving.

In addition, we were privileged to enjoy astonishing observations of a wonderful Bicolored Hawk (a rare species here, according to our guide Oliver) and a roosting Long-tailed Potoo (indeed, another almost impossible-to-see bird). Birding that road was like opening a box loaded with great surprises.



Bicolored Hawk, *Accipiter bicolor*. Photo: D. Ascanio ©

Each one of the two full days provided glorious moments. Perusing the birdlist will bring back those memories. Among the top experiences, we managed to see the spectacular Toco Toucan, Red-breasted Toucan, Spot-billed Toucanet, and Chestnut-eared Aracari, and I believe the one species that made everyone's jaw drop was a pair of his majesty, the Robust Woodpecker.



Long-tailed Potoo, *Nyctibius aethereus*. Photo: D. Ascanio ©

Our last evening found us on the paved road near the hotel grounds. As the daylight dimmed, we experienced the switch from diurnal fauna to nocturnal creatures. After seeing caciques, a Roadside Hawk, a few caracaras, hundreds of swifts, and Toco Toucans moving to their roosting area, the sad serenade of the Green Ibis announced that the day was over, and it was time for the night shift, where owls, frogs, and nocturnal invertebrates dominated the acoustics of the forest.

What an extraordinary two and a half days here! The sounds of thunder at night, heavy and light rain, the waterfalls in the background of our rooms, and a flock of Green-headed Tanagers chattering at mid strata of the forest, along with the colors of the red-ironed mud along the road



and a magical first afternoon when we were dazzled by those rainbow-producing cascades, made this journey one to be remembered for many years.



Green-headed Tanager, *Tangara seledon*. Photo: D. Ascanio ©

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have worked with my colleague Oliver and an honor to be your VENT leader. Please consider joining me in other destinations equally contrasting and hosting a unique flora and fauna. Some of these tours and cruises are:

*The Amazon River Cruise*

Photo album (2022 cruise):

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72177720296806653>

Video (2016 cruise):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b3xYG0cPSo>

*Costa Rica, A Relaxed & Easy Tour*

Photo album (2021 tour):

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157720089099045>

Video (2015 tour):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzgD6NfVNSE>

*Cuba: Supporting the Cuban people while birding this amazing island.*

Photo album (2022 tour):

[www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com)



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157643519265893/>

Video (2015 tour):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLRHvB1jzdI>

I look forward to seeing you on another VENT tour!



Robust Woodpecker, *Campephilus robustus*. D. Ascanio ©

\* For detailed information regarding numbers of individuals and dates when the bird species was seen or heard, please refer to the link above: *Ebird Trip Report*.

## **BIRDS:**

### **Tinamidae (Tinamous)**

**Solitary Tinamou** (*Tinamus solitarius*).

**Brown Tinamou** (*Crypturellus obsoletus*).

### **Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas & Allies)**

**Black-fronted Piping-Guan** (*Pipile jacutinga*).

### **Columbidae (Pigeons & Doves)**

**Pale-vented Pigeon** (*Patagioenas cayennensis*).

**Picazuro Pigeon** (*Patagioenas picazuro*).

**Ruddy Ground-Dove** (*Columbina talpacoti*).

**White-tipped Dove** (*Leptotila verreauxi*).

**Eared Dove** (*Zenaida auriculata*).

### **Cuculidae (Cuckoos & Anis)**

**Squirrel Cuckoo** (*Piaya cayana*).

### **Caprimulgidae (Nightjars & Allies)**

**Silky-tailed Nightjar** (*Antrostomus sericocaudatus*).

### **Nyctibidae (Potoos)**

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

### **Apodidae (Swift)**

**Great Dusky Swift** (*Cypseloides senex*).

**Gray-rumped Swift** (*Chaetura cinereiventris*).

### **Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)**

**Blue-tufted Starthroat** (*Heliomaster furcifer*).

**Violet-capped Woodnymph** (*Thalurania glaucopis*).

### **Charadriidae (Lapwings)**

**Southern Lapwing** (*Vanellus chilensis*).

### **Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*).

### **Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns)**

**Cocoi Heron** (*Ardea cocoi*).

**Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*).

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

### **Threskiornithidae (Ibises & Spoonbills)**



**Green Ibis** (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*).

**Cathartidae (New World Vultures)**

**Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*).

**Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*).

**Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles & Kites)**

**Bicolored Hawk** (*Accipiter bicolor*).

**Roadside Hawk** (*Buteo magnirostris*).

**Short-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo brachyurus*).

**Strigidae (Typical Owls)**

**Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** (*Glaucidium brasilianum*).

**Trogonidae (Trogons & Quetzals)**

**Surucua Trogon** (*Trogon surrucura*).

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

**Momotidae (Motmots)**

**Rufous-capped Motmot** (*Baryphthengus ruficapillus*).

**Ramphastidae (Toucans & Aracaris)**

**Chestnut-eared Araçari** (*Pteroglossus castanotis*).

**Spot-billed Toucanet** (*Selenidera maculirostris*).

**Toco Toucan** (*Ramphastos toco*).

**Red-breasted Toucan** (*Ramphastos dicolorus*).

**Picidae (Woodpeckers & Allies)**

**Yellow-fronted Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes flavifrons*).

**Robust Woodpecker** (*Campephilus robustus*).

**Blond-colored Woodpecker** (*Celeus flavescens*).

**Falconidae (Falcons & Caracaras)**

**Crested Caracara** (*Caracara plancus*).

**Psittacidae (Parrots, Macaws & Allies)**

**Monk Parakeet** (*Myiopsitta monachus*).

**Turquoise-fronted Parrot** (*Amazona aestiva*).

**White-eyed Parakeet** (*Aratinga leucophthalmus*).

**Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)**

**Large-tailed Antshrike** (*Mackenziaena leachii*).

**Rufous-margined Antwren** (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*).

**Streak-capped Antwren** (*Terenura maculata*).

**Conopophagidae (Gnateaters)**

**Rufous Gnateater** (*Conopophaga lineata*).

## **Furnariidae (Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers)**

**Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser** (*Sclerurus scansor*).

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*).

**Plain-winged Woodcreeper** (*Dendrocincla turdina*).

**Lesser Woodcreeper** (*Xiphorhynchus fuscus*).

**Rufous Hornero** (*Furnarius rufus*).

**Black-capped Foliage-Gleaner** (*Philydor atricapillus*).

**Ochre-breasted Foliage-Gleaner** (*Anabacerthia lichtensteini*).

**White-eyed Foliage-Gleaner** (*Automolus leucophthalmus*).

## **Pipridae (Manakins)**

**Swallow-tailed Manakin** (*Chiroxiphia caudata*).

**Band-tailed Manakin** (*Pipra fasciicauda*).

## **Tityridae (Tityras, Becards & Allies)**

**Greenish Schiffornis** (*Schiffornis virescens*).

**Crested Becard** (*Pachyramphus validus*).

**Sharpbill** (*Oxyruncus cristatus*).

## **Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)**

**Sepia-capped Flycatcher** (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*).

**Southern Bristle-Tyrant** (*Phylloscartes eximius*).

**Sao Paulo Tyrannulet** (*Phylloscartes delalandi*).

**Southern Antpipit** (*Corythopsis delalandi*).

**Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet** (*Camptostoma obsoletum*).

**Mouse-colored Tyrannulet** (*Phaeomyias murina*).

**Small-billed Elaenia** (*Elaenia parvirostris*).

**Euler's Flycatcher** (*Lathrotriccus euleri*).

**Sibilant Sirystes** (*Sirystes sibilator*).

**Short-crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus ferox*).

**Cattle Tyrant** (*Machetornis rixosa*).

**Great Kiskadee** (*Pitangus sulphuratus*).

**Social Flycatcher** (*Myiozetetes similis*).

**Three-striped Flycatcher** (*Conopias trivirgatus*).

## **Vireonidae (Vireos & Greenlets)**

**Chivi Vireo** (*Vireo chivi*).

## **Corvidae (Jays)**

**Plush-crested Jay** (*Cyanocorax chrysops*).

## **Hirundinidae (Swallows & Martins)**

**Blue-and-white Swallow** (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*).

**Gray-breasted Martin** (*Progne chalybea*).

## **Poliophtididae (Gnatcatchers)**

**Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher** (*Poliophtila lactea*).



## **Troglodytidae (Wrens)**

**House Wren** (*Troglodytes aedon*).

**Thrush-like Wren** (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*).

## **Mimidae (Mockingbirds)**

**Chalk-browed Mockingbird** (*Mimus saturninus*).

## **Turdidae (Thrushes & Allies)**

**Pale-breasted Thrush** (*Turdus leucomelas*).

**Rufous-bellied Thrush** (*Turdus rufiventris*).

## **Fringillidae (Finches & Euphonias)**

**Purple-throated Euphonia** (*Euphonia chlorotica*).

**Violaceous Euphonia** (*Euphonia violacea*).

**Chestnut-bellied Euphonia** (*Euphonia pectoralis*).

## **Icteridae (Orioles, Blackbirds & Allies)**

**Red-rumped Cacique** (*Cacicus haemorrhous*).

**Variable Oriole** (*Icterus pyrrhopterus*).

**Shiny Cowbird** (*Molothrus bonariensis*).

**Chopi Blackbird** (*Gnorimopsar chopi*).

## **Parulidae (New World Warblers)**

**Tropical Parula** (*Parula pitiauyumi*).

**Golden-crowned Warbler** (*Basileuterus culicivorus*).

## **Thraupidae (Tanagers, Seed eaters & Allies)**

**Black-goggled Tanager** (*Trichothraupis melanops*).

**Ruby-crowned Tanager** (*Tachyphonus coronatus*).

**Fawn-breasted Tanager** (*Pipraeidea melanonota*).

**Sayaca Tanager** (*Thraupis sayaca*).

**Green-headed Tanager** (*Tangara seledon*).

**Swallow Tanager** (*Tersina viridis*).

**Blue Dacnis** (*Dacnis cayana*).

**Guira Tanager** (*Hemithraupis guira*).

**Chestnut-vented Conebill** (*Conirostrum speciosum*).

**Saffron Finch** (*Sicalis flaveola*).

**Green-winged Saltator** (*Saltator similis*).

## **MAMMALS:**

**Brown (Tufted) Capuchin** (*Cebus apella*).

**Azara's Agouti** (*Dasyprocta azarae*).

**Puma** (*Puma concolor*).

**Tayra** (*Eira barbara*).

**South American Coati** (*Nasua nasua*).

**Red-brocket Deer** (*Mazama americana*).