



ILLUSTRATION: C. VEST

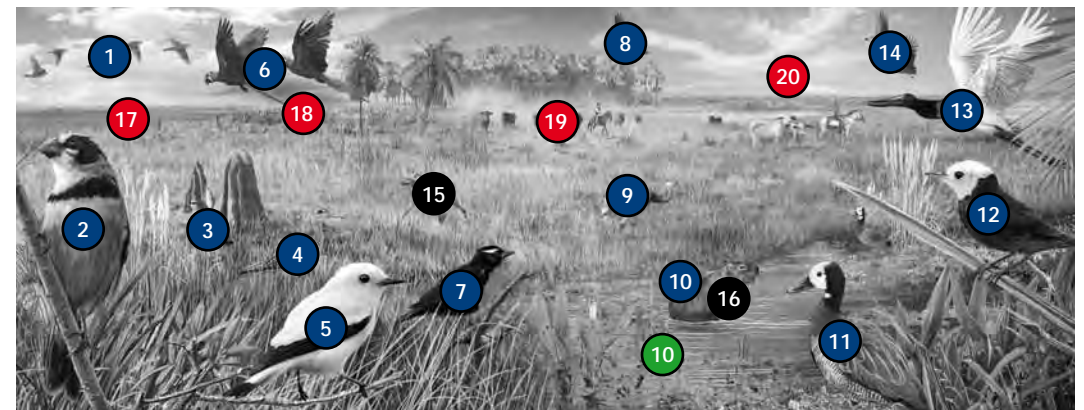
GRASSLANDS

AREA: 1,858,634 SQ. MILES AZE SITES: 3
 PRIMARY COUNTRIES: THREATENED SPECIES: 24
 ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, GUYANA,
 MEXICO, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY

Tropical grasslands occur widely throughout the Neotropics, with the greatest extent in the campos and pampas of central Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina; large areas also occur in the Gran Sabana of Venezuela and the Guianas, within the Amazon basin, in Mexico, and elsewhere. Several spectacular areas of seasonally flooded grasslands, including the Llanos of Venezuela and Colombia, Argentina's Mesopotamian marshes, Bolivia's Beni savanna, and the Brazilian Pantanal support immense concentrations of wildlife (though parts of the Pantanal in particular are perhaps better considered

as wetlands—see p. 330). Cooler grasslands occur in Patagonia (Chile and Argentina). Grasslands vary in structure depending on fire frequency and moisture, and are often interspersed with a variety of arid woodlands to form savannas. Areas where woodlands, palms, and grasslands meet also provide habitat for specialist birds.

Birds: Prominent species groups include tinamou, rheas, quail, ovenbirds, tyrant-flycatchers, pipits, seedeaters, sparrows, finches, and blackbirds. Neotropical migrants, such as the Swainson's Hawk, American Golden-Plover, Buff-breasted



Birds: 1. Bobolink; 2. Rusty-collared Seedeater; 3. Southern Lapwing; 4. Upland Sandpiper; 5. White Monjita; 6. Hyacinth Macaw; 7. White-browed Blackbird; 8. Swainson's Hawk; 9. Greater Rhea; 10. Cattle Tyrant; 11. White-faced Whistling-Duck; 12. White-headed Marsh-Tyrant; 13. Jabiru; 14. Southern Screamer. **Mammals:** 15. maned wolf; 16. capybara. **Threats:** 17. agriculture; 18. deliberate fires; 19. over-grazing; 20. pesticides.