



# **Amazon Cruise - Primates & Parrots**

## **Trip Report and Systematic List**

**28 April – 10 May 2019**

Text by Chris Collins with assistance from Regina Ribeiro.  
Photos by Chris Collins except where indicated.

### **Introduction**

This was the second of our “world first” Amazon Primates and Parrots wildlife cruises and like the inaugural trip in 2018, the expedition was a great success with many poorly known species being seen. We spent most of the time exploring the remote rainforests south of the Amazon between Manaus and Santarem (with a couple of days north of this mighty river towards the end of the tour) giving us access to the home ranges of many highly localised primates.

For many of the group, the marmosets were amongst the most desired species and we had considerably success finding five species including Golden-white Tassel-ear, Maués, Sateré and Santarem. We were equally successful with the titi monkeys and our sightings included Lake Baptista, Red-bellied, Chestnut-bellied and Ashy. With other primates including Martin’s Bare-faced Tamarin, Red-nosed Saki, Spix’s Howler, Spix’s Black-headed Uacari, the total for the main tour was 26 species, with a further five being seen on the extension to Uacari Lodge.

The mammals found also included other families than just primates and we had good views of Brown-throated and Linnaeus’s Two-toed Sloths, as well as Brazilian Porcupine and more or less daily sightings of both Tucuxi and Amazon River Dolphin. Indeed, for some of the group our visit to a site near Manaus where it was possible to ‘swim’ with wild dolphins was a major highlight of the tour. Although these animals are given a small quantity of fish, they are completely free and chose to stay and interact with us for almost an hour after the last of the fish had been consumed. A truly wonderful experience !!

The tour also saw a great range of tropical birds including twenty one species of parrots. Although Bald and Vulturine Parrots sadly eluded us (with many less flowering and fruiting trees in the key areas than last year almost certainly being the cause), we had some fantastic views of several species of macaws, with the most noteworthy being some great views of the Blue-and-Yellow Macaws. Other parrots highlight included the somewhat localised Red-fan

Parrot which we saw at the Musa Canopy Tower on the outskirts of Manaus and Black-headed Parrot which was found at Axepica on the Rio Trombetas. With other specialities including White-browed Guan, Red-necked Aracari, Toco Toucan, Zimmer's Woodcreeper (as well as the extraordinary looking Long-billed Woodcreeper), Glossy Antshrike, Three-striped Flycatcher and Spangled Cotinga, a good selection of species were found .

It was definitely an extremely memorable trip and this introduction must also pay tribute to our fantastic crew who were led by the brilliant 'Junior'. He not only knew the areas we visited intimately but also had a seemingly unquenchable desire to share his knowledge of this remote region with us.

The following text lists the species we encountered and will hopefully bring back many happy memories for those who joined us.

Chris Collins and Regina Ribeiro  
May 2019



**Victoria Amazonica**

(photo by Regina Ribeiro)

## Itinerary

- 28 April Early morning at Musa Tower, Manaus. Board *Victoria Amazonica*. Late afternoon at Praia Grande.
- 29 April Early morning at Praia Grande. Dolphin “swim” at Acajatuba. Afternoon at Ariau River.
- 30 April Morning at Mamoni Channel, Lake Janauaca. Cruise to “meeting of the waters” near Manaus and then eastwards along Amazon River. Night excursion at Machado Island.
- 1 May All day at Laguinho, near Nova Olinda on Madeira River including night excursion.
- 2 May All day around Barra Mansa village on the Abacaxis River including night canoe excursion.
- 3 May Early morning at Barra Mansa. Cruising eastwards along Parana Urariá. Late afternoon canoe ride at Rio Paraconi.
- 4 May Early morning at Rio Paraconi. Cruising eastwards along Parana Urariá. Afternoon canoe ride at Santa Maria Channel, near Maués. Evening stop at Maués town.
- 5 May Cruising along Amana River with afternoon canoe ride.
- 6 May Morning cruising downstream along Amana River. Landing near Monte Sinai village. Afternoon cruising on Rio Maués-açu.
- 7 May Early morning canoe ride at Rio Maués-mirim followed by landing. Cruising on Paraná do Arariá and Paraná Andira.
- 8 May All day at Axepica, Trombetas River.
- 9 May Morning canoe ride and landing at Pancada village, Rio Erepecuru. Afternoon cruising downstream on Rio Erepecuru and Rio Trombetas.
- 10 May All day visit with morning and afternoon canoe rides at Alter do Chao, Rio Tapajós.



## Systematic List

The taxonomy and English names used in this systematic list for the birds generally follows the recommendations of the IOC's *World Bird List* with revisions made where an alternative name/taxonomy is considered more appropriate. For mammals, we have largely adopted the treatment proposed in the *Handbook of Mammals of the World* series by Lynx Editions, although again a few minor changes have been made.

The systematic list includes all species seen by at least two people during the expedition on *Victoria Amazonica* (28 April-10 May) and also includes a summary of the primates seen on the extension to Uacari Lodge. The species listed are based on the nightly logs held whilst on *Victoria Amazonica*.

### MAMMALS

#### **Three-toed (Brown-throated) Sloth** *Bradypus variegatus*

Seemingly the commonest sloth species of the region and recorded on five dates with the highest count being at least seven individuals on 30 April.

#### **Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth** *Choloepus didactylus*

Much less frequently seen than the Three-toed Sloth with a total of three individuals logged across our excursions on 1 and 2 May (Laguinnha and Barra Mansa).

Despite the name, Two-toed Sloths actually have three toes on their hind limbs.

#### **Ghost Bat sp.** *Diclidurus sp.*

These highly distinctive bats (which are almost entirely white) were recorded on at least a couple of occasions during our night excursions. Whilst some animals were almost certainly Northern Ghost Bats, on one evening what appeared to be a larger species was observed.

#### **Sharp-nosed (Proboscis) Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso*

This bat roosts on the trunks of trees and was found during our canoe excursion at Mamoni Channel on 30 April.

#### **Greater Bulldog Bat** *Noctilio leporinus*

This species was recorded at Mamoni Channel (30 April) with other fishing bats (which are likely to have been this species or Lesser Bulldog Bats) noted on at least four other evenings.

**Pallas's Mastiff Bat** *Molossus molossus*

Also known as the Velvety Free-tailed Bat, this species was recorded by a bat detector on 30 April.

**Neotropical River Otter** *Lontra longicaudus*

One was seen very briefly during our canoe ride at Pancada village, along the upper reaches of the Rio Erepecuru on 9 May.

**South American Coati** *Nasua nasua*

A group which was thought to number at least a dozen individuals was seen very briefly during our morning canoe ride at Paraconi River (4 May).



**Silvery Marmoset** *Mico argentatus*

One of the final primates to be found on the expedition, this species only occurs to the east of the Rio Tapajós and we found two troupes on our canoe rides not far from the small town of Alter do Chao (10 May).

Unlike some of the other marmosets we saw on the trip, this species seemed far less fearful of humans and we had some great views of several individuals as they spent time on open limbs close to the river bank. (Photo to left).

**Maués Marmoset** *Mico Mauési*

Despite considerable searching this species was not seen on our inaugural expedition in 2018, so we were very pleased to have some decent views of at least a couple of individuals on 4 May when exploring along the Paraná Urariá.

As with a number of the other marmoset species we saw on the cruise, this species is highly localised only occurring from the west bank of the Rio Maués-açu as far west as the east banks of the Parana Urariá and Rio Abacaxis (ie the opposite bank from Barra Mansa village).

**Gold-and-white Tassel-ear Marmoset** *Mico chrysoleuca*

Good numbers of this gorgeous miniature primate were seen on 1 May on the east bank of the Madeira River not far from the small town of Nova Olinda do Norte. (Photo to right).

**Sateré Marmoset** *Mico Sateréi*

This species was one of our main targets at Barra Mansa on the west bank of the Abacaxis River (2-3 May) and it is always tricky to find as demonstrated by the fact that it was only described in 1998. Having failed to find it on the





afternoon of 2 May, we walked a different trail early the following morning and two small troupes were seen, although on both occasions the views were somewhat brief.

Interestingly, photos showed the marmosets feeding on tree sap and this may partly explain their elusive nature, if they primarily focus on a few favoured trees within the forest, rather than moving more widely.

(Photo to left).

**Santarem Marmoset** *Mico humeralifer*

This highly localised marmoset which is only found between the Maués and Tapajós Rivers was seen to the east of the town of Maués on 7 May with at least three individuals being noted.

This species seems to spend a good percentage of its time high in the canopy but we were fortunate to see at least two individuals which came somewhat lower, allowing us some great views.

**Midas (Golden-handed) Tamarin** *Saguinus midas*

It was a long journey up the Trombetas and Erepecuru Rivers (on the northern bank of the Amazon) to Pancada village where this was one of our principle targets. Although none were seen at the site where we found this species in 2018, we persevered and eventually located two individuals of this unusually coloured primate from the canoes (9 May).



**Pied Tamarin** *Saguinus bicolor*

Those who went on the extension joined Regina on a trip to Mindu City Park in Manaus the day after returning from Uacari Lodge (27 April) and at least four marmosets were found.

(Photo to left by Regina Ribeiro).

**Martin's Bare-faced Tamarin** *Saguinus martinsi*

This poorly known and rarely seen Tamarin is only found in a small area north of the Amazon and west of the Rio Trombetas. After Junior found a site for it in 2018, we visited the forests near the small community of Axepica (8 May) in the hope of seeing it and a small troupe of about six individuals was spotted from the canoes as we cruised down a narrow channel through riverine forest. Unfortunately, the monkeys disappeared extremely quickly and despite much searching we were unable to relocate them.

**Golden-backed Squirrel Monkey** *Saimiri ustus*

The first of four species of squirrel monkey seen on the trip and the one found on the southern bank of the Amazon and Solimões Rivers. Despite spending several days in this region, we

only saw this species on two dates (30 April and 1 May) during our canoe rides at Ariau River and Mamoni Channel.

**Guianan (Common) Squirrel Monkey** *Saimiri sciureus*

This species is found north of the Amazon and east of the Negro and we were, therefore, only in range of it during the latter stages of the trip. It was first seen at Axepica on the Trombetas River (where our primary target was Martin's Bare-faced Tamarin) on 8 May, with more seen the following day around Pancada village further north along the Trombetas River.

**Humboldt's Squirrel Monkey** *Saimiri cassiquiarensis*

Found to the north of the Solimões and west of the Negro, this species was seen on the extension to Uacari Lodge and also on our first two days aboard *Victoria Amazonica* (28-29 April). On the evening of 29 April, we visited an abandoned eco-lodge near the mouth of the Ariau River where the monkeys had previously been habituated and a number of individuals climbed onto the canoes to grab bananas, giving us some incredible views.



**Humboldt's Squirrel Monkey (Regina Ribeiro)**

**Black-headed Squirrel Monkey** *Saimiri vanzolinii*

One of the most localised primates in the world and one of the principle targets on the extension to Uacari Lodge.

**Guianan Brown Capuchin** *Sapajus aella*

Unlike some of the primates we saw on the trip where the major rivers act as a natural barrier to their ranges, somewhat unusually, this species is found on both the north and south banks of the Amazon.

We first found it whilst exploring the Mamoni Channel River (30 April), with a brief sighting at the Amana River (5 May) and then four more individuals near Axepica on the Rio Trombetas (8 May).

**Large-headed Capuchin** *Sapajus macrocephalus*

This species was only seen on the extension to Uacari Lodge.

**Spix's White-fronted Capuchin** *Cebus unicolor*

This species was seen on three dates with the first sighting at Laguinho, near the small town of Nova Olinda do Norte on the east bank of the Madeira River, although only a handful of the group saw the single monkey which appeared to be associating with a group of squirrel monkeys. Three days later a much bigger and more cooperative troupe was found on our morning canoe ride at Paraconi River with at least 50 individuals noted. These were feeding on some ripe fruits close to the river bank and we enjoyed prolonged views of them as they moved along the river edge before moving inland.

The final sightings were about three individuals which were seen on 5 May whilst exploring the Amana River.



**Spix's White-fronted Capuchin**



**Chestnut-bellied Titi** *Callicebus caligatus*

Like many of the other titi monkeys seen on the trip, this species is relatively localised and is only found south of the Solimões River and west of the Madeira River. We were only in range for it on the morning of 29 April when exploring the Mamoni Channel and a small troupe estimated to number about six individuals was found. A little earlier another group had been heard but could not be located.

**Hoffmann's Titi** *Callicebus hoffmannsi*

This localised titi monkey was heard during our early morning canoe ride on 7 May with at least two troupes being heard on opposite banks of the Rio Maués-mirim.



A couple of hours later, we heard another group whilst looking for the Santarem Marmosets and a lucky few saw one individual before it disappeared off through the trees.

**Ashy Titi** *Callicebus cinerascens*

The small community of Barra Mansa on the west bank of the Abacaxis River is an excellent place to find this titi monkey and shortly after dawn on 2 May we found a troupe on the outskirts of the village. These were extraordinary obliging and two individuals spent several minutes sitting on open branches allowing us some fantastic looks.

The following day we heard what was presumed to be a different troupe at Barra Mansa, although these were too distant to locate. (Photo to left).

**Lake Baptista Titi** *Callicebus baptista*

One of the most localised of the titi monkeys where the western edge of its range is thought to only be along about 45 miles of the east bank of the Madeira River and then eastwards for maybe no more than 120 miles.

At least a couple of individuals were seen just after dawn on 1 May somewhat to the north of the small town of Nova Olinda do Norte with what was presumably the same troupe found later in the morning when approximately five animals were found. It is thought that this area is the extreme southwest of this species' range. (Photo to right).



**Red-bellied Titi** *Callicebus moloch*

On our 2018 expedition, this species was a new primate for our highly experienced local guide Junior and we explored the same area near Alter do Chao on the east bank of the Rio Tapajós in the hope of more success in 2019. Fortunately, we had similar luck, finding two troupes which contained about seven individual monkeys.

Although Red-bellied Titi has a much larger range than some species of titi monkey, it is only found east of the Rio Tapajós, so our stop at Alter do Chao is the only chance on the itinerary to see this handsome monkey.



**Red-bellied Titi**

**White-faced Saki** *Pithecia pithecia*

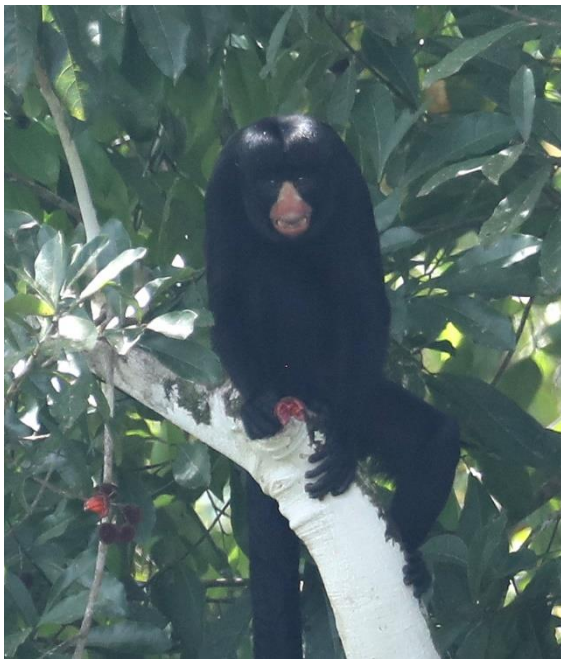
This species was found in a forest patch not far from where we boarded Victoria Amazonica on 28 April.

The name White-faced Saki seems particularly inappropriate for the animals we saw given the males have golden faces and some authorities (including IUCN) are now treating the white-faced and golden-faced taxa as different species and if this approach is followed, the monkeys we saw were Golden-faced Sakis *Pithecia chrysocephala*.

**Gray's Bald-faced Saki** *Pithecia irrorata*

A small troupe which was thought to number about three individuals was found whilst we were on our morning canoe ride at Laguinho, near the small town of Nova Olinda do Norte on east bank of the Madeira River on 1 May.

This is another monkey where there have been proposals to split the 'species' since the publication of the primates volume of Handbook of Mammals of the World. If this recent approach is adopted, the animals we saw were Mittermeier's Tapajós Sakis *Pithecia mittermeieri*, although at the time of writing this proposal has not been fully adopted by IUCN who retain the name Gray's Bald-faced Saki for the animals we saw but split those further west as Pissinatti's Bald-faced Saki.



**Red-nosed Bearded (White-nosed) Saki**  
*Chiropotes albinasus*

One of the big surprises of the expedition was the number of these Saki monkeys which were seen compared with 2018, when only a lone individual was noted. On this year's trip, however, at least four different troupes were found whilst exploring along the Amana River (5 May) with more seen in the same general area the following day. Some of these showed very well allowing us some fantastic views of this distinctive species.

Although some use the name White-nosed (Bearded) Saki for this species, this seems particularly ridiculous when the nose is bright red. This evidently arose as it was described

from a museum specimen and it was wrongly believed to have a white nose..... (Photo to left).

**Bald (Red) Uacari** *Cacajao calvus*

This extraordinary looking primate was the principle target of the extension to Uacari Lodge near Tefe where it is regular but nevertheless tough to find. Those who went on the extension spent three days in the area and saw one troupe. Despite considerable searching on the previous and subsequent days, this was the only sighting.

**Spix's Black-headed Uacari** *Cacajao ouakary*

This distinctive species is only found west of the Negro and north of the Solimões River and it was the main target for our first afternoon on *Victoria Amazonica* (28 April). A troupe which probably numbered at least a dozen individuals was found moving through the vegetation, although they quickly moved out of sight.

Again, this is a species where there is not unanimity over the taxonomic treatment and the current IUCN list gives the animals we saw the name Black-headed Uacari *Cacajao melancephalus*.

**Colombian Red Howler** *Alouatta seniculus*

Like a number of other South American primates, there have been significant taxonomic revisions in recent years to the red howlers with the major rivers now considered to act as natural divides between species. Although not far from Manaus, the howlers seen at the Ariau River on the afternoon of 29 April are on the south bank of the Solimões/Amazon Rivers and, therefore, this species.

**Juruá Red Howler** *Alouatta (seniculus) juara*

This proposed split (which is not yet recognised by IUCN) was found on the extension to Uacari Lodge.

**Guianan Red Howler** *Alouatta macconnelli*

This species is only found on the north bank of the Amazon and was seen near Pancada village on the upper section of the Rio Trombetas (9 May). It was also found during our trip to the Musa Tower on the outskirts of Manaus (28 April).

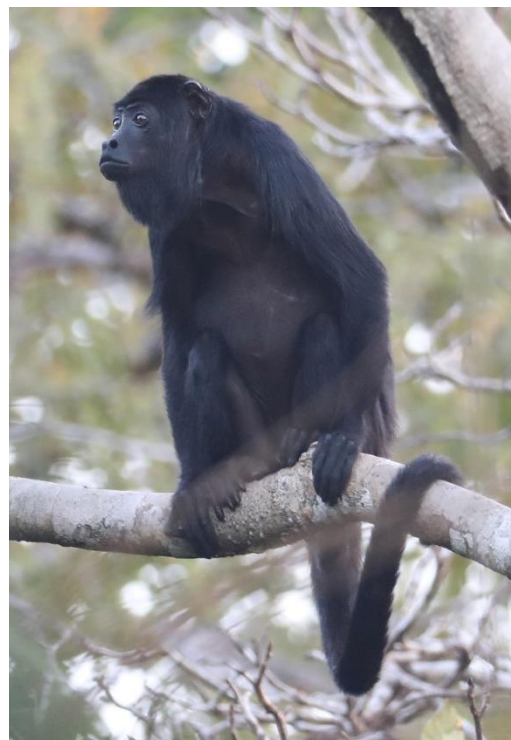
**Amazon Black Howler** *Alouatta nigerrima*

This species was first encountered on 3 May at the Rio Paraconi when three individuals were seen. Two days later, there were at least ten individuals (several different troupes) along the Amana River, with slightly higher numbers along the same river and the Rio Paracuari, the following day. (Photo to right).

**Spix's (Red-handed) Howler** *Alouatta discolor*

One of the last primate species to be seen on the trip as it is only found on the east bank of the Rio Tapajós and eastwards from there. Several small troupes were seen on 17 May when exploring close to Alter do Chao where seeing their red hands proved somewhat challenging.

This is another species where the taxonomy remains somewhat confused. Whilst the Handbook of Mammals of the World and the IUCN both treat this species as distinct from the Red-handed Howler *Alouatta belzebul*, others have queried this approach and continue to lump the two.





### **Red-faced Black Spider Monkey**

*Ateles paniscus*

It was a major surprise finding two of these monkeys not far from the small village of Pancada on the upper reaches of the Rio Trombetas (9 May) as this species is often hunted.

Compared with some of the primates seen on the expedition, this one has a fairly large range occurring from Guyana south and eastwards to the Amazon. (Photo to left).

### **Southern Amazon Red Squirrel**

*Sciurus spadiceus*

Two were seen on 30 April whilst exploring Mamoni Channel, with lone individuals then found on each of the subsequent three days. (Photo to right).

**Brazilian Porcupine** *Coendou prehensilis*

We enjoyed considerable success with this arboreal species during our night excursion near Barra Mansa on the evening of 2 May with four individuals being seen.



**Red-nosed Tree-rat** *Makalata didelphoides*

A tree-rat found during our nocturnal excursion on 3 May was believed to be this species.

**Giant Tree-rat** *Makalata grandis*

One of these substantial tree-rats was observed during our after dinner canoe ride at Machado Island (30 April).

**Cuvier's Spiny Rat** *Proechimys cuvieri*

One was seen on 1 May on the night trip at Laguinho.

**Tucuxi** *Sotalia fluviatilis*

Like the next species, this species was seen on a regular basis with the last day of the tour (when we spent the whole day at Alter do Chao) being the only date when it was not recorded.

### **Amazon River Dolphin** *Inia geoffrensis*

Seen in variable numbers on a more or less daily basis.

For many of the group, one of the major highlights of the entire trip was ‘swimming’ with some wild dolphins at a white sand beach not far from Manaus. Although the dolphins are given a couple of kilos of fish, they stayed with us long after all the fish had been eaten and it was a truly magical experience interacting with them.



**‘Dolphin swim’, near Manaus**

## **Birds**

### **Undulated Tinamou** *Crypturellus undulatus*

Heard on one date (2 May) but not seen.

### **Horned Screamer** *Anhima cornuta*

This substantial, turkey-sized bird, was found on four dates. Most sightings were from the top deck of *Victoria Amazonica* and were observed as we passed more open areas.

### **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Arguably this species was unexpectedly uncommon given we passed plenty of areas of suitable habitat whilst cruising between locations on *Victoria Amazonica* as it was only recorded on three dates.

### **Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

Although plenty of the people who live along the edge of the rivers we traversed kept Muscovy Ducks, birds which it was felt were wild (ie rather than of domestic origin) were seen on eight dates.

### **Brazilian Teal** *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

Recorded on five days although none were seen between 1-6 May.

**Little Chachalaca** *Ortalis motmot*

The sole record was a lone bird which was seen briefly during our canoe ride at Alter do Chao (10 May).



**White-crested Guan** *Penelope pileata*

Three individuals of this moderately localised Brazilian endemic were found whilst exploring the Amana River (5-6 May) with the sighting on the second day being seen very well from the top deck of *Victoria Amazonica*.

(Photo to left).

**Buff-necked Ibis** *Theristicus caudatus*

Recorded on three widely spaced dates.

**Green Ibis** *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

A reasonably numerous species which was seen on a more or less daily basis.



**Green Ibis**

**Rufescent Tiger Heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum*

Recorded on a daily basis for the first three days we were aboard *Victoria Amazonica* (28-30 April) and then on both 7 and 8 May. This species is generally rarer than the majority of the other heron species we saw and typically no more than two or three individuals were seen on any day when it was found.

**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius*

Lone birds were seen during our canoe rides on both 30 April and 1 May. The nocturnal habits of this species generally means it is only occasionally found and more often on night excursions.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Small numbers were logged on three dates (29 April-1 May).

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

With the exception of the first day we were aboard *Victoria Amazonica*, this widespread heron was recorded on a daily basis.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

This comparatively recent natural colonist of the Americas was seen on nine dates.

**Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi*

Recorded on a regular basis.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

A similar pattern to Striated Heron, with the first day aboard *Victoria Amazonica* being the only occasion when this species was not seen.

**Capped Heron** *Pilherodius pileatus*

A handsome heron which was recorded on seven dates during the main tour.

**Little Blue Heron** .. *Egretta caerulea*

Only seen on two days towards the end of our time on *Victoria Amazonica* (7 and 8 May) although on both occasions reasonable numbers were recorded.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*

Much more numerous than the previous species with almost daily sightings.

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

There were daily sightings from 30 April-6 May and then again on 8 May.

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*

Seen on five dates during the second half of the tour with a low single figure count the typical day total.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*

One of the few species to be recorded on a daily basis.

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus*

Probably overlooked but there were confirmed records on two days.



**Greater Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes melambrotus*

There were sightings on ten days during the main trip.

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*

By far the commonest vulture of the region with good numbers recorded daily. Indeed, this species is so numerous, it is almost difficult to understand how so many survive given their diet.

**King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa*

A somewhat uncommon vulture in this part of Amazonia, with a handful of individuals noted on a daily basis from 2-5 May.

**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Seen on nine days during our time on *Victoria Amazonica*, although no more than a couple of individuals or so were typically observed on most days.

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus*

Only seen on two dates (30 April and 5 May).

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus*

This handsome raptor was recorded on four widely spaced dates during the trip.

**Black Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus*

A lone bird seen soaring over the forest at Mamoni Channel (30 April) was the sole sighting of this low density species.

**Black-and-white Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus melanoleucus*

Only one record – a lone bird on 5 May whilst exploring along the Amana River.

**Ornate Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus*

This species was found on two dates (30 April and 6 May) although as with all the other species of hawk-eagles we encountered, it was only seen in flight.

**Double-toothed Kite** *Harpagus bidentatus*

Found on 3 May.

**Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea*

Seen on seven dates but usually only in small numbers.

**Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis*

After Roadside Hawk, the most frequently encountered raptor with sightings on nine dates. (Photo to right).

**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Recorded on 30 April and 8 May.



**Crane Hawk** *Geranospiza caerulescens*

A lone bird in flight on 8 May was the only observation on the expedition.

**Slate-coloured Hawk** *Buteogallus schistaceus*

A total of three birds were recorded across 1-2 May.

**Savannah Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis*

Seen on a more or less daily basis between 30 April-9 May.

This is very much a bird of open country type habitats.

**Great Black Hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga*

A similar pattern to the previous species, although on a number of days only a lone bird or two was seen.

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris*

The commonest raptor with daily sightings from 30 April onwards. It should, however, probably be renamed the 'Riverside Hawk' as that was where most of our sightings were!!

**Sunbittern** *Eurypyga helias*

A lone individual was found on 8 May during the canoe ride at Axepica on the Rio Trombetas.

**Grey-necked Wood Rail** *Aramides cajaneus*

This species was heard on both 2 and 3 May, with a roosting individual also seen during our night excursion on the latter date.

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinicus*

Recorded in low numbers on three dates between 5-8 May.

**Azure Gallinule** *Porphyrio flavirostris*

There were sightings on both 29 and 30 April.

**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna*

Seen on four dates during the main tour.

**Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis*

Recorded on five dates between 30 April-8 May during our time on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Pied Plover** *Hoploxypterus cayanus*

Small numbers of this species were seen between 30 April-8 May (5 dates) with many of these seen from the top deck of *Victoria Amazonica* whilst travelling between sites.

(Photo to right).



**Wattled Jacana** *Jacana jacana*

Seen on almost every day of the expedition.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*

A lone individual of this North American migrant was found on 30 April.

**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger*

This impressive looking bird was seen on two dates (30 April and 8 April) although on both occasions in relatively low numbers.

**Yellow-billed Tern** *Sternula superciliaris*

Much less common than the next species with odd individuals on both 28 and 30 April.

**Large-billed Tern** *Phaetusa simplex*

This large tern was found on a frequent basis with only three days when it was not recorded.

**Scaled Pigeon** *Patagioenas speciosa*

This distinctive pigeon was noted in reasonable numbers whilst exploring along the Amana River (5-6 May) with the only other sightings being on 3 May.

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis*

The most frequently encountered pigeon on the expedition with daily sightings except on 2 May.

**Plumbeous Pigeon** *Patagioenas plumbea*

Seen on 29 April and 3 May and also heard occasionally, although reasonable numbers of Plumbeous/Ruddy Pigeons were also seen.

**Ruddy Pigeon** *Patagioenas subvinacea*

This species was heard occasionally but it is highly likely that some of the Plumbeous/Ruddy Pigeons which were seen were this species.

**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerina*

Recorded on four widely spaced dates.

**Ruddy Ground Dove** *Columbina talpacoti*

Small numbers were logged on 2, 3 and 4 May.

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi*

This species was only seen on a couple of dates – 29 April and 1 May.

**Hoatzin** *Opisthocomus hoazin*

This prehistoric looking bird was seen on a regular basis with records on nine days during the main tour.

**Greater Ani** *Crotophaga major*

Common and recorded on a daily basis from 29 April until the end of the tour.

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani*

Generally less numerous than the previous species but still logged most days.

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana*

Recorded on seven dates although on most occasions only one or two individuals were seen.

**Tawny-belled Screech Owl** *Megascops watsonii*

Heard during the night excursion at Barra Mansa on 2 May.

This species is sometimes split into Northern and Southern Tawny-belled Screech Owls and if this taxonomy is followed, the bird heard was the northern species.

**Crested Owl** *Lophostrix cristata*

Another species which was only heard and again this was during our night canoe ride at Barra Mansa on 2 May.

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata*

One of these fine owls was seen briefly during the afternoon canoe ride on 29 April.

**Great Potoo** *Nyctibius grandis*

Two individuals were seen on our after dinner canoe trip at Machado Island on the evening of 30 April with a lone bird then seen three nights later at Rio Paraconi.

**Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus*

Despite its name, this species was less numerous than Great Potoo with the only sighting being a lone bird on our night time canoe ride at Machado Island (30 April).

**Sand-coloured Nighthawk** *Chordeiles rupestris*

A flock of a couple of dozen or so individuals was seen flying around the Erepuuru River shortly after dawn not far from Pancada village on 9 May with two birds also seen perched on a small river island.

**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Recorded on five evenings and often seen flying with Band-tailed Nighthawks at dusk.

**Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus*

Two birds were seen flying with Band-tailed Nighthawks on the evening of 28 April.

**Band-tailed Nighthawk** *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*

By far the commonest nightjar/nighthawk recorded on the tour with sightings on eight dates. Although a few birds were seen during the day, most of those we saw were small groups flying over water at dusk.

It is worth noting that there is ongoing research on this 'species' which is likely to result in it being split into two species as there are birds which have very subtle plumage differences and quite different calls from normal Band-tailed Nighthawks. It is, however, currently believed that the closest this new species comes to Manaus is somewhat to the north-west along the Rio Negro.

**Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Somewhat unexpectedly, this nightjar was only heard on one occasion (8 May).

**Ladder-tailed Nightjar** *Hydropsalis climacocerca*

Seen on four dates with the majority of these being roosting birds we found during our daytime canoe rides.

**Band-rumped Swift** *Chaetura spinicaudus*

Chaetura swifts were recorded on a regular basis, especially during the first half of the trip, but identifying these to a particular species is not always easy although there were confirmed sightings of this species on at least five days.

**Grey-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris*

The confusion species with the above species if the upper side of the bird is not seen but identified on at least three dates.

**Chapman's Swift** *Chaetura chapmani*

A flock of these distinctive swifts were found during our canoe ride near Pancada village on the Erepucuru River on 9 May.

**Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyura*

A very distinctively shaped swift which was seen on seven widely spaced dates throughout our time on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Neotropical Palm Swift** *Tachornis squamata*

A lone bird at the Musa Tower in Manaus on 28 April was the sole sighting of the expedition.

**Grey-breasted Sabrewing** *Campylopterus largipennis*

Single birds were found on two occasions – Amana River (5 May) and Axepica (8 May).

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora*

The only sighting of this distinctive hummingbird was whilst travelling south/upstream along the Amana River on 5 May.

**Black-throated Mango** *Anthracothorax nigricollis*

This hummingbird was logged on two dates (1 and 4 May) whilst we were travelling on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Blue-tailed Emerald** *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*

The only record was whilst exploring at Axepica on the Rio Trombetas (8 May).

**Fork-tailed Woodnymph** *Thalurania furcata*

Another hummingbird which was only recorded at Axepica on the Rio Trombetas (8 May).

**Glittering-throated Emerald** *Amazilia fimbriata*

Seen on both 4 and 5 May.

**Black-tailed Trogon** *Trogon melanurus*

The first of four species of trogon we recorded with sightings on three dates between 30 April-3 May.

**Green-backed Trogon** *Trogon viridis*

On our “Remote Amazon” itinerary, this species is usually the most frequently encountered trogon, however, we only found it on two occasions (6-7 May) on this trip with a total of three birds being logged.

**Amazonian Trogon** *Trogon ramonianus*

Seen on 7 and 8 May.

This species was previously included within Violaceous Trogon but the 'World Bird List' maintained by the IOC has split Violaceous Trogon into several species and the birds in the Amazon are thus Amazonian Trogons. It is worth noting, however, that not all authorities accept this treatment and the Birdlife International/HBW treatment is still to maintain Amazonian Trogon within Violaceous Trogon.

**Blue-crowned Trogon** *Trogon curucui*

The only record was two birds found on 2 May at Barra Mansa.

**Collared Trogon** *Trogon collaris*

Another trogon which was only noted at Barra Mansa with a lone individual seen there (2 May).

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea*

As its name suggests, this is the smallest of the kingfishers in the Neotropics and is often only seen occasionally on our Amazon itineraries and this was the case in 2019 with a singleton on 4 May being the only sighting.

**Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle inda*

Recorded on three occasions (29-30 April and 3 May).

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana*

Somewhat unexpectedly, this species was only noted on three dates (1, 3 and 4 May).

**Amazon Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle amazona*

Recorded on a daily basis from 29 April onwards.

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata*

This large, noisy and conspicuous kingfisher was seen on every day of the main trip.

**Paradise Jacamar** *Galbula dea*

Seen on three days (6-8 May) although only individual birds were seen on each occasion.

**Great Jacamar** *Jacamerops aureus*

This large jacamar was seen on both 5 and 6 May and was also heard but not seen on 9 May.

**White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*

White-necked Puffbird was split into two species a few years ago with the Amazon and other major rivers largely defining the dividing line between the two 'new' species.

When we were exploring on the southern side of the Amazon, the birds seen were, therefore, this species with the sole sighting being a lone bird on 7 May.

**Guianan Puffbird** *Notharchus macrorhynchus*

A lone bird was seen from the Musa Tower in Manaus on 28 April.

**Pied Puffbird** *Notharchus tectus*

This species is in many respects the diminutive cousin of the two species above and we found three individuals between 2-5 May.

**Spotted Puffbird** *Bucco tamatia*

Single individuals were seen on 29 and 30 April.

**Rufous-necked Puffbird** *Malacoptila rufa*

One was seen briefly by some of the group whilst exploring the forests at Barra Mansa during our quest to find the Sateré Marmoset (3 May).

**Black Nunbird** *Monasa atra*

This Guianan Shield speciality is only present on the northern side of the Amazon, so our main chance of seeing it was when exploring the area around Axepica and Pancada (8-9 May) and a lone bird was found at the second of these locations.

**Black-fronted Nunbird** *Monasa nigrifrons*

A reasonably conspicuous species which was found on a daily basis between 29 April – 8 May.

Although the common names of some birds seem to defy common sense, the English name of this species does seem particularly ridiculous given it is all black. Indeed, the Black Nunbird has more white on it than this species.

**Swallow-winged Puffbird** *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*

This distinctive bird was seen on every day of the expedition except 30 April and was often seen in good numbers as we cruised along the various rivers.

**Lettered Aracari** *Pteroglossus inscriptus*

The only sighting was on 29 April when two birds were found.

**Red-necked Aracari** *Pteroglossus bitorquatus*

This species was seen on both 4-5 May and was a new bird for this itinerary.

**Black-necked Aracari** *Pteroglossus aracari*

The commonest Aracari with sightings on six widely spaced dates.

**Chestnut-eared Aracari** *Pteroglossus castanotis*

Seen on two occasions with records on both 1 and 2 May.

**Channel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos vitellinus*

Seen across eleven dates during the main tour.

**Toco Toucan** *Ramphastos toco*

This iconic species was seen on four dates between 2-8 May.

**White-throated Toucan** *Ramphastos tucanus*

Like the Channel-billed Toucan, this species was encountered on a regular basis with records on eight days during our time on *Victoria Amazonica*.



**Varzea Piculet** *Picumnus varzeae*

This species is classified as “Endangered” by Birdlife International and is regarded as “little known” having a range which is rather restricted along the Amazon and certain tributaries. We were, therefore, extremely fortunate to get some great views of two of these diminutive woodpeckers during our afternoon canoe ride at the Santa Maria Channel, near Maués on 4 May. (Photo to left).

**Yellow-tufted Woodpecker**

*Melanerpes cruentatus*

Found on six dates between 1-8 May.

Unlike many woodpecker species, this one is often colonial and invariably when it is found, several individuals are seen.

**Yellow-throated Woodpecker** *Piculus flavigula*

This handsome woodpecker was heard but not seen during our trip to the Musa Tower prior to boarding *Victoria Amazonica* (28 April).

**Golden-green Woodpecker** *Piculus chrysochloros*

The sole record of this species was at Mamoni Channel on 30 April.

**Spot-breasted Woodpecker** *Colaptes punctigula*

Seen on three widely spaced dates across the main tour.

**Chestnut Woodpecker** *Celeus elegans*

Another woodpecker which was only seen on one occasion with a lone bird at Barra Mansa on 3 May.

**Ringed Woodpecker** *Celeus torquatus*

Single individuals were seen on 29 April and 5 May.

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus*

Recorded on five widely spaced dates whilst travelling on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Red-necked Woodpecker** *Campephilus rubricollis*

One individual was found whilst we were at the Musa Tower on the outskirts of Manaus (28 April).

**Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucos*

Recorded on four dates whilst we were on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Black Caracara** *Daptrius ater*

This species was seen on a more or less daily basis between 2-9 May.

**Red-throated Caracara** *Ibycter americanus*

This very distinctive and noisy Caracara was only recorded in the latter stages of the trip with some great views at Axepica on 8 May.



**Northern Crested/Southern Caracara** *Caracara cheriway/plancus*

Seen on six dates during the tour.

What was previously known as Crested Caracara was split into two species several years ago, however, there remains some confusion about the identity of the birds in this region as the two 'new' species are not easy to separate in the field.

With forest clearance, caracaras have spread through this region and whilst it is generally considered that the birds along the Amazon are Southern Caracaras, more work needs to be done on this species pair. It is worth noting, however, that at the time of writing, the maps on HBW Alive only show Northern Crested occurring in this area.....

**Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima*

One of the species to be seen on a daily basis throughout our time on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans*

This species generally seems to occur in relatively low densities with just the occasional sighting, however, we were fortunate to encounter it on three dates with four individuals logged.



**Bat Falcon** *Falco rufigularis*

We first found this diminutive falcon, which somewhat resembles a Eurasian Hobby, at the Musa Tower (28 April) where three birds were sat in the same tree as the last occasion Chris and Regina visited this site (September 2018). It was then seen on six further dates we were on *Victoria Amazonica* although generally only one or two individuals were seen each day. (Photo to left).

**Blue-and-yellow Macaw** *Ara ararauna*

The almost iridescent plumage of this species surely makes it one of the most colourful birds on this tour and it was found on five dates between 2-9 May with nice views on a number of occasions.

**Scarlet Macaw** *Ara macao*

Seen on five widely spaced dates, although as with the Blue-and-Yellow Macaw on most days we only saw a few individuals.

**Red-and-green Macaw** *Ara chloropterus*

Only recorded on two dates (5 and 9 May).

**Chestnut-fronted Macaw** *Ara severus*

Two individuals were seen on both 30 April and 1 May.

**Red-bellied Macaw** *Orthopsittaca manilatus*

This Moriche Palm specialist was seen on a daily basis from 5-8 May inclusive.

As we cruised up and then down the Amana River, we passed a tree where a couple of dozen or so individuals seemed to be waiting out the heat of the day.

**Peach-fronted Parakeet** *Eupsittula aurea*

Only found on the last day of the tour (10 May) when we explored the area near the small town of Alter do Chao.

**Golden Parakeet** *Guaruba guaruba*

This species proved unexpectedly tricky (ie after our success in 2018) and the only sighting was at dusk on the evening of 6 May when a bird flew by as we explored a channel off the Rio Maués-Açu (which the Amana River flows into). With the poor light, it was initially difficult to be 100% sure about the identity of the bird, however, a Bat Falcon suddenly appeared and attacked the parrot causing it to bank sharply allowing us to see its distinctive colouration.

Sadly this is one of the most prized birds in the cage bird trade and due to this and ongoing habitat destruction, it is considered vulnerable by Birdlife International.

Interestingly, HBW Alive confirms our experience and describes this species as “apparently nomadic, with birds seeming to wander widely and not predictable at one locality at any one season”.

**White-eyed Parakeet** *Psittacara leucophthalmus*

This species is often seen flying overhead in small to medium sized flocks and it was encountered on six dates during the tour.

**Crimson-bellied Parakeet** *Pyrrhura perlata*

One of our target speciality parrots and seen on a daily basis from 4-7 May.

Curiously, many more of these birds were found on this year’s tour than in 2018, whereas some of the other parrot species were conspicuous by their absence in 2019. Presumably this was something to do with an apparent difference in the number of fruiting/flowering trees between the two trips.



**White-winged Parakeet** *Brotogeris versicolurus*

Seen on three dates during the expedition (1, 7 and 8 May).

**Golden-winged Parakeet** *Brotogeris chrysoptera*

Recorded on three dates – 28-29 April and 5 May.

**Tui Parakeet** *Brotogeris sanctithomae*

Occasional sightings during our time on *Victoria Amazonica* with records from four dates. (Photo to left).

**Black-headed Parrot** *Pionites melanocephalus*

This handsome parrot occurs all the way from the Guianas across Northern Amazonian Brazil to Ecuador and Peru and we saw about four individuals at Axepica whilst searching for Martin’s Bare-faced Tamarin (8 May).

Despite it occurring across a fair swathe of territory, this species was a tick for our local guide, Junior, suggesting that it is not particularly numerous in this region.

**Short-tailed Parrot** *Graydidascalus brachyurus*

Another parrot species where there was a marked difference in the numbers seen compared with 2018, as on our previous tour this species was only found on three dates, whereas this year it was seen on a daily basis from 30 April-8 May.

**Blue-headed Parrot** *Pionus menstruus*

This species was first seen from the Musa Tower on the outskirts of Manaus on the morning of 28 April, with the only other sightings being six days later to the west of Maués.

**Dusky Parrot** *Pionus fuscus*

Another parrot which was first encountered at the Musa Tower (28 April) where we had the somewhat unusual experience looking down on these birds as they fed in trees almost immediately below us. It was then seen on four dates between 3-7 May.

**Diademed Amazon** *Amazona diadema*

Only seen from the Musa Tower (28 April).

**Festive Amazon** *Amazona festiva*

Again, there was a marked difference in the numbers of birds seen in 2019 compared with 2018 with almost daily sightings on our previous tour, whereas this year, birds were only found on three dates between 29 April-2 May.

**Orange-winged Amazon** *Amazona amazonica*

Recorded on a regular basis between 28 April-8 May with more or less daily sightings.

**Mealy Amazon** *Amazona farinose*

Only seen on 28 April and once again markedly less conspicuous than in 2018.

**Red-fan Parrot** *Deroptus accipitrinus*

This much-prized and somewhat local parrot was seen from the Musa tower near Manaus (28 April) where two individuals were found.

**Band-tailed Hornero** *Furnarius figulus*

Seen in small numbers on four dates during our time on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Yellow-chinned Spinetail** *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*

The only records on the trip were on 30 April and 7 May.

(Photo to right).





**Long-billed Woodcreeper** *Nasica longirostris*

This species is surely the most spectacular of all the woodcreepers and it was logged on four dates during the expedition. (Photo to left).

**Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper**

*Dendrexetastes rufigula*

A lone bird was seen during the canoe ride at Laguinho (1 May).

**Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex picus*

Seen on a daily basis between 30 April-2 May.

**Zimmer's Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex kienerii*

This somewhat localised woodcreeper, which is only found along the Amazon and some tributaries, was seen at Barra Mansa (2 May) and responded well to recordings confirming it was indeed this species.

**Ocellated Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus ocellatus*

A lone bird was found at Laguinho (1 May).

**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major*

Seen at Mamoni Channel on 30 April.

**Glossy Antshrike** *Sakesphorus luctuosus*

This species has a moderately limited range and was seen on two dates – 1 and 4 May.

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus*

One was seen on our early morning canoe trip at Mamoni Channel on 30 April.

**Mouse-coloured Antshrike** *Thamnophilus murinus*

This species was heard but not seen at Barra Mansa (2 May).

**Amazonian Streaked Antwren** *Myrmotherula multostriata*

A pair were well seen during our afternoon canoe ride at Barra Mansa on 2 May.

Like a number of other Antwrens, there have been several splits of what was previously considered “Streaked Antwren” and this is now regarded to be three species, the Pacific Antwren, Amazonian Streaked Antwren and Guianan Streaked Antwren.

**Leaden Antwren** *Myrmotherula assimilis*

Another somewhat range restricted species which was only seen during the canoe ride at Barra Mansa (2 May).



**Amazonian Streaked Antwren (female)**



**Leaden Antwren**

**Black-chinned Antbird** *Hypocnemoides melanopogon*

This species was only found at Laguinho (1 May).

**White-lored Tyrannulet** *Ornithion inermis*

Seen on both 1 and 3 May.

**Snethlage's Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus minor*

Heard but not seen at Ariau River on 29 April.

**Spotted Tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum maculatum*

One of the better looking flycatchers we found and seen on five dates during the trip.

**Amazonian Black Tyrant** *Knipolegus poecilocercus*

Although not considered globally threatened, this species seems to be generally uncommon to rare with the only sighting being on 4 May.

**Drab Water Tyrant** *Ochthornis littoralis*

As with the above species, this appropriately named bird was only encountered on 4 May.

**White-headed Marsh Tyrant** *Arundinicola leucocephala*

Seen whilst cruising down the Erepecuru River on 9 May.

**Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus*

Seen on four widely spaced dates across the expedition.

**Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis*

Undoubtedly overlooked but seen on 3, 8 and 10 May.

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Seen on every day of the main tour – one of the common and ubiquitous species in this region.

**Lesser Kiskadee** *Philohydor lictor*

Not nearly as common as the previous species but nevertheless recorded on four dates.

**Three-striped Flycatcher** *Conopias trivirgatus*

Seen on six dates between 2-8 May.

**Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus*

Recorded on four days between 29 April-5 May.

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua*

Another species that was almost certainly overlooked (given the number of lookalike flycatchers) but seen on 8 May.

**White-throated Kingbird** *Tyrannus albogularis*

Seen on three dates.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*

One of the species seen on every day of the expedition – common and widespread.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana*

This species is very widespread in South America but whilst some populations are resident, others are nomadic or migratory. It was recorded on ten dates during the trip.

**Short-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus ferox*

Recorded on two dates (29 April and 1 May) during our time on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Found during our afternoon canoe ride on 4 May.

**Cinnamon Attila** *Attila cinnamomeus*

The only sightings were on 1 May at Laguinho and three days later when exploring the Santa Maria Channel, not far from the town of Maués.

**Spangled Cotinga** *Cotinga cayana*

This fantastic looking bird was seen on four dates between 2-7 May. On most occasions, only a handful of birds were noted but on 5 May (whilst we were cruising on the Amana River), the day total was nine individuals.

**Screaming Piha** *Lipaugus vociferans*

This species is unquestionably one of the classic songsters of terra firme Amazonian forest and we heard it on a couple of occasions.

**Bare-necked Fruitcrow** *Gymnoderus foetidus*

This species is usually reasonably numerous on both this itinerary and our “Remote Amazon” tour, however, both on the recent expedition and our September 2018 Rio Negro tour, the numbers were significantly lower than usual. Junior also mentioned that he had seen many fewer recently than usual.

**Capuchinbird** *Perissocephalus tricolor*

One of the big surprises of the expedition was finding a lek of this much wanted and bizarre looking species whilst looking for Martin’s Bare-faced Tamarin at Axepica on 8 May. With over half of the group back on *Victoria Amazonica*, one of the crew, Darlan, told Regina and Chris in the late afternoon that he had heard a Capuchinbird nearby.

Following a rapid change to our plans, those who were ashore headed to the spot where Darlan had heard the distinctive call of this species and gradually two birds responded to recordings and came in to the forest canopy above us. Not long later, the majority of the rest of the group arrived and we enjoyed some nice views as the birds moved between trees way above us.

**White-bearded Manakin** *Manacus manacus*

A total of eight individuals were logged across 8-9 May.



**Crimson-hooded Manakin** *Pipra aureola*

Undoubtedly one of the most colourful birds of the expedition with a male seen at Laguinho on the east bank of the Madeira River (1 May). This was absolutely stunning with crimson, yellow and black plumage. (Photo to left).

**Red-headed Manakin** *Ceratopipra rubrocapilla*

Two birds were found at Barra Mansa on 3 May during our quest to find the Sateré Marmoset.

**Black-crowned Tityra** *Tityra inquisitor*

The only sighting was on 3 May.

**Black-tailed Tityra** *Tityra cayana*

Recorded on two dates with a lone bird on 29 April and a further sighting on 6 May.

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata*

This is generally the commonest of the tityra species in Brazilian Amazonia and was found on three occasions during the main tour (30 April, 2 and 6 May).

**Chestnut-crowned Becard** *Pachyramphus castaneus*

Two birds were seen at the Santa Maria Channel, near Maués on 4 May.

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

A lone bird was seen during our morning canoe ride at Alter do Chao (10 May).

**Chivi Vireo** *Vireo chivi*

Seen on 2 May at Barra Mansa.

The taxonomy of this 'species' remains somewhat confused and controversial as it has variously been treated as a full species or the Neotropical subspecies of Red-eyed Vireo. Currently IOC treat it as a full species (having split it in 2018) but Birdlife International/IBW regard it as a subspecies.

It seems highly likely that the birds we encountered were indeed Chivi Vireos as any North American migrant vireos (some of which do 'winter' in Amazonia) should have headed north by early May.

**White-winged Swallow** *Tachycineta albiventer*

Seen on a daily basis from 30 April onwards and by far the most numerous hirundine species throughout our time on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea*

Seen on ten dates between 29 April-10 May.

**Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera*

Generally less common than the above species but nevertheless logged on seven dates.

**White-banded Swallow** *Atticora fasciata*

A small number of these distinctive swallows were found on 5 May whilst exploring the environs of the Amana River.



**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

A reasonably common hirundine species with sightings on nine days.

**Black-capped Donacobius** *Donacobius atricapilla*

This distinctive bird was first seen at Mamoni Channel on the morning of 30 April. There were then sightings on a further five days.

Although this species is often included within the Wrens, there is a growing consensus that this treatment is not correct and DNA work has suggested it may actually be closer related to the Old World warblers.

**Coraya Wren** *Pheugopedius coraya*

Singletons were seen on both 7 and 8 May.

**Buff-breasted Wren** *Cantorchilus leucotis*

A relatively elusive bird which was heard on a number of occasions.

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*

Seen on 4 May.

The birds in South America have sometimes been treated as a separate species, Southern House Wren, but this approach has not been adopted by either IOC or Birdlife International/HBW.

**Tropical Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila plumbea*

Found whilst exploring the Santa Maria Channel, near Maués on 4 May.

**Purple-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia chlorotica*

Only seen at Barra Mansa on 2 May.

**Thick-billed Euphonia** *Euphonia chrysopasta*

The only other euphonia species recorded on the trip with two birds at Laguinho on 1 May.

**Red-breasted Blackbird** *Sturnella militaris*

A species which is generally associated with more disturbed habitats and seen on four dates between 30 April-8 May, with most of our sightings being from the top deck of *Victoria Amazonica* as we cruised between sites.

**Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus*

The commonest oropendola in this region and logged on eight dates between 28 April-8 May.

**Olive Oropendola** *Psarocolius bifasciatus*

A lone bird at Mamoni Channel on 30 April was the sole sighting of the expedition.

**Yellow-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus cela*

One of the classic birds of lowland Amazonia and seen in good numbers on a daily basis (with the exception of our last day at Alter do Chao) during our time on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Orange-backed Troupial** *Icterus croconotus*

A total of five individuals were seen between 29 April-4 May.

**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus*

Recorded on five dates between 29 April-6 May.

**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis*

This brood parasite which occurs from Florida to Central Argentina, was logged on two dates whilst we were travelling on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Oriole Blackbird** *Gymnomystax mexicanus*

This colourful Icterid was seen on four days during the latter stages of our time on *Victoria Amazonica*.

This species has an interesting distribution as in Brazil it is primarily found along the Amazon and some of the larger tributaries, whereas elsewhere in its range it occupies savannahs and similar habitats.

**Yellow-hooded Blackbird** *Chrysomus icterocephalus*

Like the above species, this black and yellow Icterid is predominantly found along the Amazon and larger tributaries in Brazil and several were seen on 7 May as we cruised along the Rio Maués-mirim and Parana do Arariá.

**Masked Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*

A lone bird was found whilst exploring the Santa Maria Channel, near Maués on 4 May.

**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola*

Rather surprisingly, this widespread Neotropical species was only seen on one occasion (5 May) with two individuals being logged.

**Yellow-browed Sparrow** *Ammodramus aurifrons*

Generally found in grasslands or scrubby areas, this well named species was recorded on three dates between 28 April-4 May.

**Red-capped Cardinal** *Paroaria gularis*

A reasonably conspicuous bird which was seen on a regular basis with sighting on each day except 10 May when we explored the waterways near Alter do Chao on the eastern side of the Rio Tapajós.

**Grey-headed Tanager** *Eucometis penicillata*

The sole record was at Laguinho on 1 May.

**Flame-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus cristatus*

A lone bird seen from the Musa Tower on 28 April was the only record.

**Masked Crimson Tanager** *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*

There were daily sightings of this brightly coloured tanager from 1-4 May.

**Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo*

Seen on a more or less daily basis from 30 April-7 May.

**Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus*

This species is reasonably widespread from Central America to Amazonia and we saw it on a daily basis except when exploring at Alter do Chao (10 May).

**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum*

Found on a somewhat less regular basis than Blue-grey Tanager but nevertheless was recorded on eight days.

**Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara mexicana*

This species was logged on three dates between 1-4 May.

**Opal-rumped Tanager** *Tangara velia*

Only recorded on 5 May whilst we were exploring along the Amana River.

**Yellow-bellied Dacnis** *Dacnis flaviventer*

Seen on a couple of dates (5-6 May).

**Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana*

Found on both 3 and 6 May.

**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

Two birds at Barra Mansa on 3 May were the sole records of the expedition.

**Bicolored Conebill** *Conirostrum bicolor*

Seen in a small patch of Cecropia trees during our canoe excursion at the Santa Maria Channel on 4 May.

**Orange-fronted Yellow Finch** *Sicalis columbiana*

A moderately common bird in more disturbed habitats and seen on four dates.

**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina*

A lone bird on 3 May was the only record.

**Wing-barred Seedeater** *Sporophila americana*

Seen on 1 and 6 May.

**Lined Seedeater** *Sporophila lineola*

Found on four widely spaced dates.

**Greyish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens*

A single sighting on 4 May.

## REPTILES

**Spectacled Caiman** *Caiman crocodilus*

Seen in the river opposite our hotel in Manaus (28 April) and then on four subsequent days.

**Black Caiman** *Caiman niger*

This species was found on 5 May.

**Amazon Tree Boa** *Corallus hortulanus*

Found on four of our night excursions from *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Amazon Whiptail** *Ameiva ameiva*

One of these whiptails was identified at Axepica (8 May).

**Rainbow Whiptail** *Cnemidophorus lemniscatus*

One of these suitable named and colourful lizards was seen at Axepica (8 May).

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana*

The commonest reptile on the tour with records on eight days including near our hotel in Manaus.

## **FROGS AND TOADS**

**Crested Forest Toad** *Rhinella margaritifera*

One of these frogs was seen at Barra Mansa on 3 May.

It is worth noting, however, that “Crested Forest Toad” is widely regarded to be a species complex and many herpetologists believe there are multiple species but the work to confirm this has not yet been done.

**Gladiator Treefrog** *Hypsiboas boans*

Found on our night time excursion on 2 May whilst travelling on *Victoria Amazonica*.

**Glass Frog sp.**

One of these unique frogs (where it is possible to see some of the internal organs through the skin) was found on 4 May.

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Our next planned departure will be in May 2021.