



Amazon Birds and Wildlife Cruise

Systematic List

22 September – 6 October 2018

Text by Chris Collins with assistance from Regina Ribeiro

Photos by Chris Collins unless otherwise stated

Introduction

This was the third WildWings expedition cruise in Amazonia and the tour was a great success with a spectacular range of wildlife being seen. We spent much of the trip exploring along the Rio Negro and some of its tributaries, such as the pristine Jaú River, but also spent a day on the Rio Branco and visited the ‘meeting of the waters’ where the black water Negro and white water Solimoes join to form the mighty Amazon River.

On a trip such as this, everyone inevitably has their own highlights but the special experiences we shared included the rarely seen Silky Anteater (surely ‘mammal of the trip’), the opportunity to get in the water with wild Amazon River (or Pink) Dolphins, finding Spotted Pacas on three of our night canoe rides and visiting a lek of Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock for those who joined Chris on the pre-tour extension.

Inevitably birds were the most recorded group with a great range being seen including such desirable species as Hoatzin, Spectacled Owl, Rufous Potoo, Agami Heron, Sunbittern, Sungrebe, Guianan Toucanet, Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Bronzy Jacamar, Wire-tailed Manakin and Spangled Cotinga. We also spent a percentage of our time looking for some of the extremely range restricted species which can be found in this region and these included Cherrie’s and Klages’s Antwrens and Pearly-breasted Conebill.

The trip was, however, not just about birds and we also made a special effort to look for mammals with eleven species of monkeys being seen, as well as Brazilian Porcupine, Giant Otters and a range of opossums and forest rats. Arguably the primate highlight was the reasonably localised Spix’s Black-headed Uacari but others species seen included Spix’s Night Monkey, White-faced Saki, Humboldt’s and Guianan Squirrel Monkeys, Pied Tamarins and Guianan Brown Capuchins.

As well as the aforementioned Amazon River Dolphin, we also saw Tucuxi on a more or less daily basis. Our reptile tally included three species of caimans, Black, Spectacled and the much more rarely seen Schneider's Smooth-fronted (Dwarf) Caiman, as well as a selection of lizards and frogs.

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

October 2018



Iracema

Itinerary

21 September 2018

Arrive Manaus.

22 September 2018

Pre-tour extension to Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek near Presidente Figueiredo.

23 September 2018

Morning: Musa Tower and grounds of Tropical Hotel.

Lunchtime: Board *Iracema*

Afternoon and Evening: 'Meeting of the waters' and Xiborantina

24 September 2018

Morning: Marchantaria Island, Rio Solimoes

Evening: Pagodão, Rio Negro

25 September 2018

Morning: Igarapé Cachoeira

Afternoon: Campina, Jaradá Lake, Rio Cueiras

26 September 2018

Morning: Anavilhanas archipelago

Afternoon: Novo Airão

27 September 2018

Morning: petroglyphs and Jaú National Park HQ/entrance

Afternoon: Smugglers' Channel, Jaú National Park

28 September 2018

Morning: Campina Trail/canoe ride, Jaú National Park

Afternoon: Cachoeira village environs, Jaú National Park

29 September 2018

Morning: Igarapé do Miratucú, Jaú National Park

Afternoon: Igarapé Capoeira Grande, Jaú National Park

30 September 2018

Morning: Cachoeira village environs, Jaú National Park

Afternoon: Igarapé Preto, Jaú National Park

1 October 2018

Morning: Curirú Lake, Remanso village, Rio Negro

Afternoon: Maquari Lake, Rio Branco

2 October 2018

Morning: Menena, Rio Negro

Afternoon: Lagoa do Piluluna/Oropiaú

3 October 2018

Morning: Remanso and environs

Afternoon: Furo da Agua Boa, Rio Negro

4 October 2018

Morning: Aturiá River

Afternoon: Paraná Santo Antonio, Rio Negro

5 October 2018

Morning: Camaleão Island, Anavilhanas archipelago, Rio Negro

Afternoon: Novo Airão, cruising on Rio Negro, Amazon River Dolphin swim

Evening: Arrival in Manaus

6 October 2018

Tropical Hotel gardens and disembark *Iracema* in Manaus



Flooded forest on Cueiras River Photo Regina Ribeiro

Amazon Bird and Wildlife Cruise

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.

Mammals

Northern Black-eared (Common) Opossum *Didelphis marsupialis*

One was seen briefly during our night time canoe ride on 4 October.

Grey Four-eyed Opossum *Philander opossum*

We had some reasonable views of one of these opossums whilst spotlighting on 25 September.

Linnaeus's Mouse Opossum *Marmosa murina*

One of the more bizarre sightings of the expedition, as Junior, Regina and Chris were discussing plans for the following day shortly before dinner on 3 October when they heard a scream come from the lower deck. On investigating, it transpired that one of the chefs had found a small opossum near one of the freezers and had been rather startled at her discovery !!



Junior quickly caught the stowaway (which had presumably come aboard that morning when *Iracema* was tied up to a tree) and we released it during our night time canoe excursion after a number of photos were taken to aid in the identification.

There are a number of very similar looking species of mouse opossums but based on the size, colour and likely origin of this individual, it appears most likely to be this species.

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

Three sloths were found on our first night excursion on the evening of 23 September with the only other sighting being a lone individual on 3 October. (Photo to left)



Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus didactylus*

The final mammal species of the expedition to be recorded, with one found in the gardens of the Tropical Hotel shortly before we disembarked *Iracema* (6 October). Some of the group were fortunate enough to see the sloth descend to the ground, cross one of the quiet roads in the hotel grounds and then climb up another tree. (Photo to left – Regina Ribeiro)

Common Silky Anteater *Cyclopes didactylus*

Without question the mammal highlight of the trip and only the second sighting for Junior in over twenty years of guiding in the Amazon.

The circumstances of us finding this rarely seen creature were quite extraordinary, as we were returning to *Iracema* after a night excursion (4 October), when a small animal

was spotted swimming in the river. We approached it, presuming it would be a squirrel which had fallen in the water, but were stunned when we realised it was actually one of the trickiest Amazonian mammals to see !!!

As the anteater was only about half way across a channel which was at least a couple of hundred metres wide and we knew there were caimans nearby, we decided to assist it. Junior carefully fished it out of the river and we took it to the bank where it was released on a tree and quickly disappeared up towards the canopy. A truly unique and very special experience.



Silky Anteater has recently been split into seven species with the Rio Negro acting as the division between Rio Negro Silky Anteater *Cyclopes ida* to the west and Common Silky Anteater *Cyclopes didactylus* to the east. Given the location of our sighting, it is conceivable that it could potentially have been either species, however, based on the fur colour and reasonably prominent dorsal stripe, it appears it was the Common Silky Anteater.

Given how infrequently this species is seen, however, 'Common' seems a particularly inappropriate name.....

Southern Tamandua *Tamandua tetradactyla*

The second species of arboreal anteater seen on the cruise and whilst more regularly encountered than Silky Anteater, still an excellent species to find, with one seen very well whilst some of the group were exploring the Campina/Rufous Potoo Trail in Jaú National Park (28 September).

Northern Ghost Bat *Diclidurus albus*

Seen on two of our night excursions (29 September and 3 October) and also identified by the bat detector (see below).

Sharp-nosed (Proboscis) Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso*

These small bats were regularly seen at roost during our daytime excursions with records on eight dates.

Greater Bulldog (Dog-like) Bat *Peropteryx kappleri*

Recorded on at least three nights with this species also picked up by the bat detector.

Bat detector identified species

In addition to the bats listed above, the following species were identified as a result of a bat detector:

- **Lesser Bulldog (Dog-like) Bat** *Peropteryx macrotis*
- **Black Mastiff** *Molossus rufus*
- **Velvety Free-tailed Bat** *Molossus molossus*
- **Hoary Bat** *Lasiurus cinereus*
- **Thomas' Shaggy Bat** *Centronycteris centralis*

Pied Tamarin *Saguinus bicolor*

This extremely localised monkey is classified as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red List with a small troop found in the gardens of the Tropical Hotel in Manaus on 23 September shortly before we boarded *Iracema*, with more found in the hotel grounds, a couple of weeks later when we returned to Manaus.

Humboldt's White-fronted Capuchin *Cebus albifrons*

A troop thought to number at least twenty five individuals was found on 30 September.

It is worth noting that volume 3 of Handbook of Mammals of the World suggests that there is "the strong possibility" that there is more than one taxa of White-faced Capuchin north of the Amazon. As Humboldt's White-fronted Capuchin is one of the few monkey species that seemingly occurs on both sides of the Negro, ie the river is not deemed to be a natural divide between species, there would certainly seem logic in this proposition.

Guianan Brown (Tufted) Capuchin *Sapajus apella*

Seen on both 1 and 2 October with an estimate of ten individuals on the first of these occasions and probably slightly more on the second.

Guianan Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri sciureus*

Logged on three occasions during the last five days of our expedition on *Iracema*, with the best sighting being at Paran Santo Antonio (4 October) shortly before we experienced the only major downpour of the trip.

Humboldt's Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri cassiquiarensis*

This species was seen on our first day on *Iracema* at Xiboraninha (23 September).

Spix's Night Monkey *Aotus vociferans*

Two of these nocturnal monkeys were seen near the village of Novo Airo on 26 September. (Photo above)



Spix's Black-headed Uacari *Cacajao ouakary*

This handsome monkey is relatively range-restricted and was one of our major targets in the Ja National Park. Unfortunately, none were found at our regular spot (a flooded river island where a small number became marooned approximately fifty years ago) but those who explored the trail near Cachoeira village (30 September) enjoyed some great views of at least twenty monkeys as they moved through the forest canopy.

As only a percentage of the group were with Chris when these were seen, we decided to visit another site Junior knew for this species further up the Rio Negro and six individuals were found there on the morning of 2 October. Later that day, another group was briefly seen by some of the group, although they were more heard than seen.



Guianan (Brown-backed) Bearded Saki
Chiropotes sagulatus

We did very well for this relatively local species with half a dozen seen from the Musa Tower on 23 September and a similar number found not far from Remanso village on 1 October.

Interesting the individuals on the latter occasion were part of a mixed species troop which included Guianan Brown Capuchins and Guianan Squirrel Monkeys. Whilst it is not unusual to find two species associating, it is comparatively rare to find three species travelling together in this part of Amazonia. (Photo to left)

White-faced Saki *Pithecia pithecia*

Several of these monkeys were seen in the grounds of the Tropical Hotel on 6 October.

The form found here has golden faces (in the males) so the name Golden-faced Saki is sometimes used instead.

Like the Pied Tamarins noted above, the ancestors of these monkeys became marooned in the grounds of the Tropical Hotel when Manaus expanded around them, so despite the somewhat unlikely location, they are regarded as wild and tickable.

Guianan Red Howler *Alouatta macconnelli*

This species was first seen from the Musa Tower (23 September) where four monkeys were spotted. Similar numbers were then found on both 25 September and 1 October.

Colombian Red Howler *Alouatta seniculus*

This species only occurs west of the Rio Negro (with the river acting as a natural divide between this species and Guianan Red Howler) and three individuals were found on 2 October.

Amazon Dwarf Squirrel *Microsciurus flaviventer*

A lone individual was found whilst we were exploring the Campina/Rufous Potoo trail in Jaú National Park (28 September).

Northern Amazon Red Squirrel *Sciurus igniventris*

One was seen during the visit to the Musa Tower on 23 September.

Brazilian Porcupine *Coendou prehensilis*

This species can be tricky to find but we had some good views of one during our night excursion on 3 October.



Lowland (Spotted) Paca
Cuniculus paca

We were fortunate to encounter six of these large rodents on our night excursions with three seen on 28 September with another duo encountered the following night. The final sighting was on 4 October and, unfortunately, the animal had a large gash on its neck, presumably as a result of either a fight with another individual or after encountering a predator.

According to Junior, these animals are regarded as the best 'bush meat' in this part of Amazonia..... (Photo above)

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis*

This species was found on a daily basis between 28-30 September with at least ten individuals being noted.

Despite the scientific name, this species is not endemic to Brazil and can be found from Colombia as far south as Paraguay, although it has declined markedly across much of its former range.

Giant Tree Rat *Makalata grandis*

Two of these large arboreal rats were found (28 September and 2 October) during the expedition.

Long-tailed Armoured Tree-rat *Makalata macrura*

Although Junior initially suggested that the two rats we found during our evening excursion on 28 September were Red-nosed Tree-rats (an entirely reasonable suggestion given the colour of their noses!!), the taxonomy in the *Handbook of Mammals of the World* treats those in the region we visited as Long-tailed Armoured Tree-rats.

Steere's Spiny Rat *Proechimys steerei*

One of these terrestrial spiny rats was well seen on 29 September during our night time excursion. Although there are a couple of similar looking species, the size seemed right for this species and according to the *Handbook of Mammals of the World*, it is the only species to occur in varzea forest which was where we found it.



Steere's Spiny Rat

Tucuxi *Sotalia fluviatilis*

This species was seen on a more or less daily basis with only two dates when we did not record it. When we went swimming with the Amazon River Dolphins (5 October), there were Tucuxi very close by but for some reason they do not come close.

Amazon River Dolphin *Inia geoffrensis*

Like the previous species, the Amazon River Dolphin was seen almost daily.

One of the undoubted highlights of the entire expedition was getting in the water with several of these amazing creatures on 5 October. Although the dolphins are given some fish, the quantity is little more than a light snack for such a substantial mammal (with the maximum permitted feed being a couple of kilograms). It truly felt like these wild animals were genuinely happy to interact with us as they stayed long after all the fish had been eaten. An incredible experience.

Birds

Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus*

Heard but not seen.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Recorded at the very beginning and end of the trip.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Seen on a more or less daily basis, although on most occasions only a few individuals were logged.

Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

A total of three birds were seen with two on 23 September and a singleton the following day.

Little Chachalaca *Ortalis motmot*

Only seen in the gardens of the Tropical Hotel, Manaus on 6 October.

Spix's Guan *Penelope jacquacu*

This species was heard but not seen on 25 September.

Nocturnal Curassow *Nothocrax urumutum*

This rarely observed species was heard during our night trip on 28 September.

Crestless Curassow *Mitu tomentosum*

This species was heard whilst out in the canoes on 26 September exploring the river islands of Anavilhanas. When we stopped in the archipelago on our way back to Manaus nine days later, some of the group saw a lone bird flying across the river.

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus*

Two birds were found during our first afternoon on *Iracema* (23 September).

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

A reasonably numerous species which was seen on a more or less daily basis although our day totals were only ever in low single figures.

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

Two individuals were found during our canoe ride on 1 October with the same number recorded a couple of days later.



Agami Heron *Agamia agami*

A very successful trip for this fantastic looking heron with sightings on three dates and at least fifteen birds logged. (Photo to left)

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*

This species was logged on four widely spaced days. During our predawn canoe ride on 1 October, a number of birds flew directly over the canoes.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Seemingly a relatively scarce species in this region with sightings on only two dates.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

This species was recorded on every day whilst we were on *Iracema*.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

This widespread species, which only colonised the Americas relatively recently, was found on three days with a total of eighteen individuals noted.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

With the exception of our first day on *Iracema*, this species was recorded on a daily basis.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Found on nine days.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*

A handsome heron which was recorded on three dates during the second half of the expedition with a total of four birds logged.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

The American equivalent of the Little Egret and found on four days.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Seen in variable numbers on every day we were on *Iracema*.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

Logged on a more or less daily basis.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Seen daily.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus*

Like the next species, ie Black Vulture, seen on a regular, almost daily, basis.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Seen almost daily.



King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

Normally this is a somewhat uncommon vulture in this part of Amazonia and we only find a handful of individuals but on this occasion it was unexpectedly numerous with nine individuals recorded across six dates. (Photo to left)

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Seen on a regular basis throughout our time on *Iracema*.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Seven of these fine raptors was seen on 4 October.

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

Only two sightings, with lone birds on 27 September and 1 October. Fortunately the first of these individuals was soaring and flew more or less directly over us at one point giving some good looks.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*

Amongst the most conspicuous raptors in this region, with sightings on nine dates, although on most days we only logged a handful of individuals.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*

Seen on four dates with a total of five birds recorded.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

The only day when this species was seen was our first day aboard *Iracema* (23 September).

Slate-coloured Hawk *Buteogallus schistaceus*

Two birds were seen (25 September and 1 October).

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*

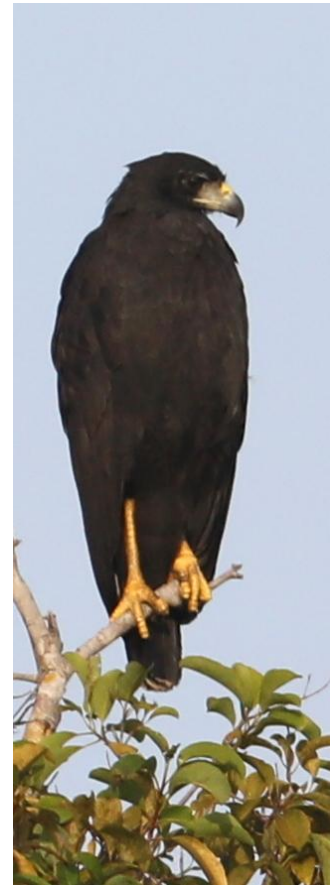
Recorded on six dates with a total of twelve birds logged. (Photo to right)

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*

The commonest large raptor with almost daily records. It should, however, probably be renamed the 'Riverside Hawk' as that was where most of our sightings were!!

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

A single individual spotted during our southbound exploration of the Anavilhanas archipelago on 5 October was the only sighting.



Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*

A lone individual on 29 September was the sole record of the trip.

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica*

This species was recorded on an almost daily basis during the expedition, with a total of eighteen individuals seen, although the maximum day count was four individuals. (photo to the left).

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

This North American migrant was seen on two dates (24 September and 5 October).

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*

Reasonable numbers of this species were seen on 24 September whilst exploring around Marchantaria Island, with the only other sighting being two birds on 3 October.

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*

Somewhat surprisingly, the only sightings of the expedition were shortly after we boarded *Iracema* on the transit between the 'meeting of the waters' and Xiborezinha (23 September).

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

A lone individual was found feeding on the muddy shoreline of one of the Marchantaria river islands we cruised by on the morning of 24 September.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

A total of seven individuals were seen across four widely spaced dates. (Photo to right)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Another North American migrant which was seen on three dates.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

A lone bird was seen at Marchantaria (24 September).

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

This impressive looking bird was seen on a regular basis during our time on *Iracema* although generally in relatively low numbers.



Black Skimmer

Gull-billed Tern

Four birds were found during our canoe ride on the morning of 24 September at the Marchantaria Islands, not far from Manaus. This species is not regularly found so far up the

Amazon and it was the first time Junior had seen it this far upstream despite many years of leading trips.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*

Much less common than the next species, ie Large-billed Tern, with sightings on eight dates,

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*

This large tern was seen on a more or less daily basis.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciose*

Two were seen in a fruiting tree along the trail we explored on 2 October.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*

Recorded on five dates.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*

The common pigeon by voice in this region and recorded on nine days.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina*

Seen on the pre-tour extension to Presidente Figueiredo (22 September) and 4 October.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*

The only record was two individuals on 24 September.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*

This species was seen on 28 September.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*

Only heard.

Ruddy Quail-dove *Geotrygon montana*

One was rescued from the river early in the morning of 30 September whilst moored close to Cachoeira village. It is unclear how it had ended up in the water but after spending most of the morning recuperating in a box in Chris' cabin, it was released on the top deck of *Iracema* and flew off into the forest.

Another was then seen on 5 October.

Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin*

This bizarre looking bird was seen on three dates.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*

Common and recorded on a daily basis from 25 September onwards.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

A lot less numerous than the previous species with sightings on the pre-tour extension (22 September) and also on 24 September.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*

Typically this is the commonest of the Neotropical cuckoos to be seen in this region and we saw it on three days.

Black-bellied Cuckoo *Piaya melanogaster*

We had some great views of about half a dozen birds from the Musa Tower on 23 September.

Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba*

A lone bird was heard during our pre-dawn canoe ride near Remanso village on 1 October.



Tawny-belled Screech Owl *Megascops watsonii*

A roosting bird was seen not from the entrance to the park where the Musa Tower (23 September) is located.

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

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*

We were fortunate enough to encounter three of these fine owls during the expedition with everyone enjoying some good looks during our canoe ride at Cachoeira village on 28 September. (Photo to left)

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*

Xiboreninha, the site of our first nocturnal canoe ride, is an excellent place for this species and we found about a dozen individuals there. The only other records were in the latter stages of the trip with a bird heard calling on 1 October and two seen at dusk from the top deck of *Iracema* on 2 October.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

Our best night excursion for this species was on 28 September when four birds were found. The other sightings were on 23 September and 2 October when singletons were encountered.

Rufous Potoo *Nyctibius bracteatus*

We visited a trail in Jaú National Park where this species can sometimes be encountered and were fortunate to have some great views of a perched bird on a night walk on 27 September. There were at least two birds calling in the area and we were lucky that one of these flew close to one of our “boat boys” who put a light on it. We all quickly retreated down the trail for some prolonged views of this gorgeous bird. Undoubtedly one of the birds of the trip.

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*

One flew overhead whilst we were enjoying the ‘Dolphin swim’ on our last evening on *Iracema* (5 October).

Band-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*

This species was by far the commonest nightjar/nighthawk recorded on the expedition with sightings on more or less a daily basis.

It is worth noting that there appear to be two cryptic species within ‘Band-tailed Nighthawk’ as seemingly almost identical looking birds have two very different songs in this part of Amazonia. As few of the birds we saw were calling, it was not possible to be certain if we encountered both types but most individuals were almost certainly of the more well-known song type. Some of the birds seen in the evening of 30 September may, however, have been the

'new species' as according to Junior, the white in the tail is slightly different and it proved tricky to see this in a number of these individuals.



Band-tailed Nighthawks

Blackish Nightjar *Nyctipolus nigrescens*

Compared with previous trips, this species was seen on a much more frequent basis with sightings on six dates.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Recorded on two occasions (23 and 28 September).



Ladder-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis climacocerca*

This very distinctive nightjar was seen on three dates with a total of four birds noted. (Photo to left)

Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus*

Telling this species from the next species, ie Grey-rumped Swift, really necessitates seeing the rump of the bird and when birds are flying overhead, this can be relatively difficult to see. As a result, we only definitely recorded this species on three days, although no doubt it was more numerous than this.

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

Seemingly the commonest swift with daily sightings between 28 September – 4 October.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*

A very distinctively shaped swift which was seen on nine dates throughout the expedition.

Neotropical Palm Swift *Tachornis squamata*

First recorded on the pre-tour extension (22 Sept) and then logged on two dates during the subsequent four days.

Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber*

A lone individual on 26 September was the only record.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*

Seen on three occasions between 27 September – 2 October.

Ruby-topaz Hummingbird *Chrysolampis mosquitus*

Although it was always somewhat distant, a single individual on 2 October was the first time Junior had seen this species.

Blue-tailed Emerald *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*

One individual was seen on 26 September with another on 5 October.

White-chinned Sapphire *Hylocharis cyanus*

A singleton on 28 September.

Green-tailed Goldenthrroat *Polytmus theresiae*

The sole record was on 2 October.

Black-eared Fairy *Heliothryx auritus*

A lone bird was seen on 29 September.

Green-backed Trogon *Trogon viridis*

The most frequently encountered of the trogons with birds logged across five dates.

Amazon Trogon *Trogon ramonianus*

Seen on three widely spaced dates.

Blue-crowned Trogon *Trogon curucui*

A pair was found during our morning excursion on 29 September with this species also heard the following day.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*

The only sighting was on 23 September.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*

This species is typically the least recorded species of the five Neotropical species of kingfishers we typically see and two birds were seen on both 27 September and 1 October.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda*

A total of six birds were seen across four dates during the second half of the expedition.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

Logged on five dates across the trip.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*

After the next species, the most regularly recorded kingfisher species with daily sightings between 26 September-5 October.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Recorded on a daily basis except 24 and 25 September.



Ringed Kingfisher

Amazonian Motmot *Momotus momota*

Heard shortly after dawn on our early morning canoe ride on 1 October.

Yellow-billed Jacamar *Galbula albirostris*

The first of four species of jacamars logged on the expedition with a lone bird being found during the forest walk on 2 October.

Green-tailed Jacamar *Galbula galbula*

Recorded on three dates.



Bronzy Jacamar *Galbula leucogastra*

We had fantastic views of a lone bird at the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek on the extension to Presidente Figueiredo (22 September). Two birds were then seen on our excursion on 27 September with another two logged on 30 September. (Photo to the left)

Paradise Jacamar *Galbula dea*

Seen from the Canopy Tower at Manaus on 23 September (2 birds) and then again on 4 October when three individuals were found.

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*

A single bird was seen on the trail at Lagoa do Piluluma (2 October).

It is worth noting that 'White-necked Puffbird' has been split into two species relatively recently with the major rivers in the region

primarily acting as the dividing line with White-necked on the west side of the Rio Negro and Guianan Puffbird on the east bank.

Pied Puffbird *Notharchus tectus*

This species is in many respects the diminutive cousin of the bird above and we recorded two individuals on 26 September.

Spotted Puffbird *Bucco tamatia*

A single individual was found on 25 September.

Black Nunbird *Monasa atra*

This Guianan Shield speciality was seen on an irregular basis during the trip with the first record being on 23 September. It was then found again on both 1 and 4 October.

Black-fronted Nunbird *Monasa nigrifrons*

This species was logged on eight dates during the expedition.

Given the feather colour of this bird (it is all black), the name is verging on ridiculous especially when Black Nunbird has white in its wings.

Swallow-winged Puffbird *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*

With the exception of our last day on *Iracema*, this distinctive bird was seen on a daily basis during the expedition. (Photo to right)

Black-spotted Barbet *Capito niger*

Seen from the Musa Canopy Tower (23 September) and on the previous day during the pre-tour extension to Presidente Figueiredo.

Green Aracari *Pteroglossus viridis*

A small flock of six birds were found on 23 September whilst we were birding from the Musa Tower.

Black-necked Aracari *Pteroglossus aracari*

Like the above species, this aracari was only found during our visit to the Musa Tower.

Guianan Toucanet *Selenidera piperivora*

This extremely handsome toucan was also seen from the Canopy Tower in Manaus on 23 September.

Tawny-tufted Toucanet *Selenidera nattereri*

Another fine and moderately localised member of the toucan family, with two individuals seen by some of the group on 30 September.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*

Recorded on four widely spaced dates during the expedition.

Whilst we were watching from the top deck of *Iracema* in the late morning of 4 October, one of these handsome birds was seen flying across the Rio Negro ahead of the boat. It gradually got lower and lower and then crashed into the water, so a canoe was quickly untied and a very wet and bedraggled bird was brought aboard. As soon as it had dried out, we released it from the top deck and it flew off strongly into the forest. Close up, the colours on this bird were quite incredible. (See overleaf for photo)





Curiously a dead (presumably drowned) bird was found in the Rio Negro a couple of hours later during our afternoon canoe ride. Despite all his years of travelling in Amazonia, Junior had never previously seen any toucans in the water and it is interesting to speculate what might have been behind what was presumably a linked event. It is worth noting that one of his staff had previously mentioned that he had experienced a similar situation but did not know what the cause was.

White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos tucanus*

More frequently encountered than the previous species with records on eight days including the pre-tour extension.

Golden-spangled Piculet *Picumnus exilis*

A presumed pair was found in the gardens of the Tropical Hotel on the morning of 6 September.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus*

Four individuals were seen during our morning canoe ride in the Anavilhanas archipelago on 26 September. This species was also heard but not seen on 4 October.

Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerines*

This species was found on three dates between 24-28 September with a total of four birds being logged.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker *Piculus flavigula*

An extremely smart woodpecker which was recorded on two dates during the expedition.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula*

Single birds were seen on both 26 September and 3 October.

Waved Woodpecker *Celeus undatus*

Only seen on two dates with lone birds on both 26 September and 5 October.

Chestnut Woodpecker *Celeus elegans*

Logged on six dates across the expedition.

Cream-coloured Woodpecker *Celeus flavus*

Two birds were found on 25 September. (Photo to right)

Ringed Woodpecker *Celeus torquatus*

A singleton on 30 September was the sole record.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*

Recorded on three widely spaced dates.

Red-necked Woodpecker *Campephilus rubricollis*

The only record was during our canoe ride on 4 October when three birds were located.



Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*

Only recorded on 28 September.

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater*

Seen on six dates across the expedition.

Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus*

This noisy and very distinctive species was only recorded on one occasion (4 October) when a party of about five birds was found during our morning canoe ride. (Photo to right)

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*

The commonest caracara in the region with daily sightings although usually only in relatively low numbers (ie single figure count per day).



Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*

Three of these small falcons, which somewhat resemble Eurasian Hobbies, were seen from the Musa Tower in Manaus on 23 September with four then logged eight days later. The final sighting was on 5 October when a lone bird was spotted.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna*

A total of twenty two of these fine parrots were logged between 27-30 September. (Photo to left)



Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*

This species was seen on an irregular basis throughout the trip with sightings on eight dates (including the pre-tour extension) with twenty two individuals recorded.

Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloropterus*

Only seen on a couple of dates (29 September and 2 October) with a total of six birds noted.

Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilatus*

This Moriche Palm specialist was seen late in the afternoon of 29 September with two birds seen flying by.

Brown-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula pertinax*

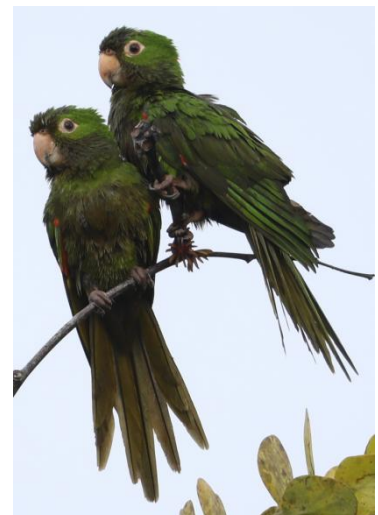
The only records were on 29 September when several birds were encountered.

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus*

Generally the commonest parrot close to Manaus with sightings on five dates. (Photo to right)

White-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris versicolurus*

Only seen in the early stages of the trip with records on the pre-tour extension (22 September) and 24 September.



Golden-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris chrysoptera*

Found on 4 October.

Tui Parakeet *Brotogeris sanctithomae*

Recorded in reasonable numbers during our landing at Marchantaria Island (24 September).

Orange-cheeked Parrot *Pyrilia barrabandi*

A very handsome parrot which was seen on two dates during the latter stages of the expedition.

Caica Parrot *Pyrilia caica*

Recorded during our visit to the Musa Tower on 23 September and then again on 4 October.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*

Recorded at both ends of the expedition with birds seen from the Musa Tower on 23 September and then again on 4 and 6 October.

Dusky Parrot *Pionus fuscus*

Seen in small numbers on three dates during the first half of the expedition.

Festive Amazon *Amazona festiva*

The commonest *Amazona* parrot on the expedition with daily sightings between 26 September-5 October.

Orange-winged Amazon *Amazona amazonica*

Logged on five dates across the trip.

Mealy Amazon *Amazona farinose*

The only record was on 28 September.

Rusty-backed Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpine*

Four birds were seen on 1 October during our afternoon canoe ride at Maquari Lake, Rio Branco.

Parker's Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpecula*

This relatively recently described species (which was named in honour of the American ornithologist Ted Parker who was killed in a plane crash in Ecuador in 1993) was seen on a relatively new river island in the Marchantaria archipelago on 24 September.

Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner *Philydor pyrrhodes*

At least one of these distinctive foliage-gleaners was found in a mixed feeding flock whilst walking on the trail near Remanso village on 3 October.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*

The only record was on 23 September prior to boarding *Iracema*.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorynchus spiurus*

Another species which was only seen in the mixed feeding flock on the trail near Remanso on 3 October.

Long-billed Woodcreeper *Nasica longirostris*

This species is surely amongst the best looking of all the woodcreepers and it was recorded on six dates between 28 September-4 October, although on most occasions it was heard but not seen.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Dendroplex picus*

Seen on at least three dates and heard on other occasions.

Zimmer's Woodcreeper *Dendroplex kienerii*

This somewhat localised woodcreeper, which is only found along the Amazon and some tributaries, was seen on two dates (28 and 29 September) and heard on a couple of subsequent occasions.

Striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*

One was found on 29 September.

Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphorus canadensis*

This handsome antshrike was recorded on both 26 September and 1 October with a total of six individuals being logged.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*

Heard on at least a couple of days and seen on 28 September.

Blackish-grey Antshrike *Thamnophilus nigrocinereus*

This species is primarily found along the Amazon River and some of its tributaries with a pair seen on 26 September.

Mouse-coloured Antshrike *Thamnophilus murinus*

This species has a very distinctive song and was heard on a number of occasions. We made a special effort to see it along the trail at Cachoeira village on 30 September and were rewarded with some great views.

Amazonian Antshrike *Thamnophilus amazonicus*

As its name suggests this species is primarily found in the Amazon basin and we found four birds on 29 September.

Cinereous Antshrike *Thamnomanes caesius*

This species is often considered to be a flock leader and we saw one male reasonably well when we encountered an understory flock along the trail near Remanso village on 3 October.

Bluish-grey Antshrike *Thamnomanes schistogynus*

A female was found in the mixed feeding flock at Remanso (3 October).

Rufous-bellied Antwren *Isleria guttata*

One was found on 26 September.

Cherrie's Antwren *Myrmotherula cherriei*

This species has a moderately limited range being only found in NW Amazonia. It was well seen on 29 September with about six individuals being logged in the Jaú National Park. Another was then found three days later when we explored further up the Rio Negro.

Klages's Antwren *Myrmotherula klagesi*

This species resembles Cherrie's Antwren, however, its song is quite different and it has a much more restricted range only occurring along a relatively short section of the Amazon River and a few major tributaries.

It seems to favour river islands and river-edge forest and as these are subject to more clearance than some other habitats, this species is classified as 'vulnerable' by Birdlife International.

During our expedition, three individuals were found in the Anavilhanas archipelago (26 September).

White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris*

A lone bird was seen when returning along the trail near Remanso village on 3 October.

Leaden Antwren *Myrmotherula assimilis*

Another somewhat range restricted species which was recorded on 1 October when four birds were found.

Black-chinned Antbird *Hypocnemoides melanopogon*

The most frequently recorded antbird during the expedition with sightings on four dates.

Amazonian Inezia *Inezia subflava*

Two were found on our canoe ride on 25 September.

Spotted Tody-flycatcher *Todirostrum maculatum*

One of the better looking flycatchers we recorded and seen on four dates during the early stages of the trip (including the pre-tour extension).

Cinnamon Neopipo *Neopipo cinnamomea*

One on 28 September was the only record.

Amazonian Black Tyrant *Knipolegus poecilocercus*

Although not considered globally threatened, this species seems to be generally uncommon to rare and we did exceptionally well with sightings on three dates and four birds being logged.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*

Seen in the ground of the Tropical Hotel in Manaus.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*

Seen on 23 September.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*

Seen on a daily basis during the first few days of the trip and then again in the latter stages.

Lesser Kiskadee *Philohydor lictor*

Recorded on six dates and as with the above species not found during the middle part of the expedition.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*

We saw this species on three dates and it is worth noting that the birds found on some of the river islands we visited are a potential split.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*

Seen on a couple of occasions in the early part of the trip.

Sulphury Flycatcher *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*

The only record was on 26 September.

Variiegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius*

Found on a couple of dates (26 and 27 September).

White-throated Kingbird *Tyrannus albogularis*

Probably overlooked given its similarity to the next species but recorded on 2 October.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

One of the species to be seen on every day of the expedition.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

Seen in variable numbers on six dates during our first week on *Iracema*.

Greyish Mourner *Rhytipterna simplex*

Two individuals were seen on our canoe ride on 29 September.

White-rumped Sirystes *Sirystes albocinereus*

A lone bird was found on 25 September.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Seen on 24 September.

Cinnamon Attila *Attila cinnamomeus*

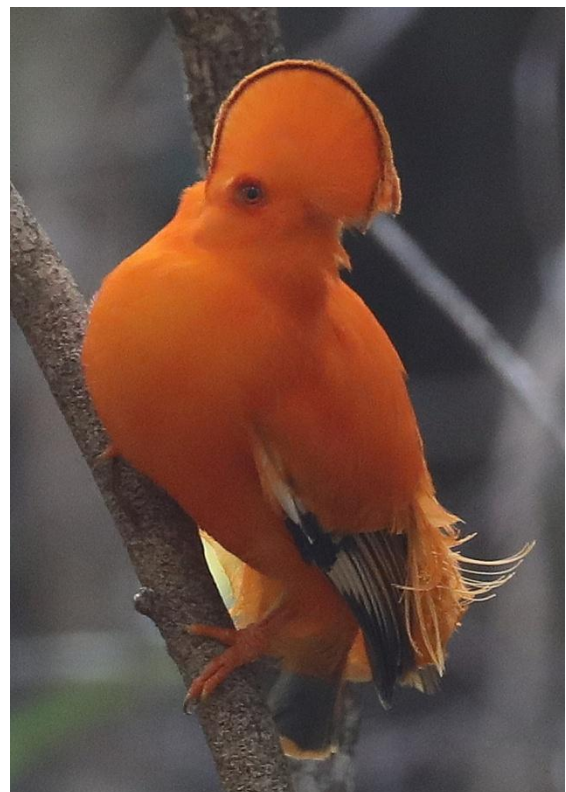
Seen on two days (25 September and 2 October).

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock *Rupicola rupicola*

This species was the principle target of the extension to Mari Mari, near Presidente Figueiredo (22 September) and the first individual was seen almost immediately we arrived. Several more were found over the course of the next hour and then after a leisurely lunch, we walked the comparatively short distance to a lek where there were at least six males. For many, this was one of the undoubted avian highlights of the entire expedition. (Photo to right)

Guianan Red-Cotinga *Phoenicircus carnifex*

A male was seen briefly on the extension to Mari Mari, near Presidente Figueiredo (22 September). This species is more localised than most of the other Cotingas we saw and it was the first sighting on any of the WildWings “Remote Amazon” expeditions.



Purple-breasted Cotinga *Cotinga cotinga*

Another species which was only seen on the extension to Mari Mari (22 September) with both males and females seen feeding on palm fruits – another exquisite member of the cotinga family.

Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana*

This fantastic looking bird was seen on three dates (including the pre-tour extension), however, the bird seen on 4 October was highly appreciated, as it was a particularly cooperative male which spent several minutes on a bare snag allowing us some great views of this highly colourful species. (Photo to right)



Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans*

This species is unquestionably one of the classic songsters of the lowland Amazon and we heard it on five days with sightings on two additional dates.

Pompadour Cotinga *Xipholena punicea*

Another of the extremely colourful cotinga species encountered on the expedition, with two seen along the Campina/Rufous Potoo trail in the Jaú National Park on 28 September.

Bare-necked Fruitcrow *Gymnoderus foetidus*

Another species which was less common than on some previous visits to the region with two individuals seen along the trail near Remanso village on 3 October.

Capuchinbird *Perissocephalus tricolor*

We visited a spot where on previous trips there has been a lek of this bizarre looking species, however, when we arrived at the site (3 October), we discovered there had been considerable damage to the forest immediately adjacent to where the birds had been seen. We were, therefore, fortunate to find a lone bird.



Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronate*

Three were found on the trail near Cachoeira village on 30 September.

Black Manakin *Xenopipo atronitens*

Heard on the trail on 25 September but not seen.

Wire-tailed Manakin *Pipra filicauda*

With the possible exception of some of the cotingas we saw, this was surely amongst the most colourful and vivid species recorded on the expedition. For some of the group, the males we watched displaying on 26 September in the Anavilhanas archipelago were amongst the highlights of the entire trip. A lone bird was also found on 5 October when we explored a different part of the Anavilhanas archipelago on our way back towards Manaus.

(Photo to left by Regina Ribeiro)

White-crowned Manakin *Dixiphia pipra*

One on 3 October along the trail near Remanso village was the sole record.

Golden-headed Manakin *Dixiphia erythrocephala*

Another fine species with four birds seen on 28 September.

Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana*

First seen from the Musa Tower on 23 September with the only other sighting being five days later in the Jaú National Park.

Varzea Schiffornis *Schiffornis major*

Single birds were found on both 26 September and 1 October.

Black-capped Becard *Pachyramphus marginatus*

A pair were found during our canoe ride on 29 September.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

This species was heard on several occasions but the only sighting was on 29 September.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

Seen on 26 September.

Given the date (and that we saw some other North American migrants), this bird could either have been a resident bird (often called Chivi Vireo) or a migrant from further north.

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*

Seen on a daily basis throughout our time on *Iracema*.

White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*

The first record on one of the WildWings Remote Amazon trips with two birds seen on 30 September.

Purple Martin *Progne subis*

This species 'winters' in good numbers in the part of Amazonian Brazil we visited and was logged on ten dates including the pre-tour extension.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

Recorded on four dates.

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*

Much more numerous than the above species with daily sightings.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Another hirundine which was found on each day of the trip.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Logged on eight days across the expedition but on most occasions in only small numbers.

Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus leucotis*

Heard on a number of occasions but not seen.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

This widespread American species was seen on 26 September.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*

Two were found on 2 October with one the previous day.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*

Reasonably numerous in the grounds of the Tropical Hotel in Manaus (23 September and 6 October) and also seen on 26 September.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

An introduction which was only seen in Manaus (23 September) and on the pre-tour extension the previous day.

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica*

The first of three species of euphonias which were seen on the expedition, with a lone bird on 2 October.

White-lored Euphonia *Euphonia chrysopasta*

A singleton on 28 September was the only sighting.

White-lored Euphonia *Euphonia chrysopasta*

Only found on the pre-tour extension on 23 September.

Red-breasted Blackbird *Sturnella militaris*

This species is generally associated with more disturbed habitats with the majority of our sightings coming in the first couple of days on *Iracema*, although lone birds were also spotted on 29 and 30 September.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*

Seen on three dates during the expedition.

Green Oropendola *Psarocolius viridis*

Seen on a couple of days.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*

One of the classic birds of lowland Amazonia and seen on a daily basis during our time on *Iracema*.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*

Six birds were found on 1 October, with a few more three days later.

Oriole Blackbird *Gymnomystax mexicanus*

This species is fairly habitat specific (and in Amazonia typically inhabits relatively new river islands) and we only saw it on 24 September.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

A total of five birds were logged across four dates with the majority of individuals seen in the latter stages of the expedition.

Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons*

Seen on a couple of dates and also heard occasionally as it has a distinctive buzzy song.

Red-capped Cardinal *Paroaria gularis*

A reasonably conspicuous species which was seen on seven dates, although on most occasions it was only recorded in small numbers.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*

Seen on four dates (including the pre-tour extension), although all counts were in single figures.

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*

This species is reasonably widespread from Central America to Amazonia and we saw it on seven dates including the pre-tour extension.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

Seen on six dates with all sightings towards the beginning or end of the trip.

Blue-backed Tanager *Cyanicterus cyanicterus*

A small party of this generally local and uncommon species was found on 25 September.

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana*

This species was logged on two dates, the pre-tour extension to Mari Mari on 22 September and then again in the grounds of the Tropical Hotel shortly before we disembarked from *Iracema* on 6 October.

Spotted Tanager *Tangara punctata*

Seen in the grounds of the Tropical Hotel on 23 September and 6 October.

Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata*

The only sighting was on 23 September.

Yellow-bellied Dacnis *Dacnis flaviventer*

Recorded on three dates during the middle section of the trip although all sightings were of only a handful of individuals.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*

Logged on three dates (23 and 25 September and 2 October).

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

Seen on the same three dates as the above species.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*

Seen on 23 September and then again on 3 October.

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira*

A small party of about half a dozen individuals was found on 5 October with the only other record being a lone bird four days earlier.

Bicolored Conebill *Conirostrum bicolor*

About a dozen or so individuals were recorded on 24 September at Marchantaria Islands.

Pearly-breasted Conebill *Conirostrum margaritae*

This species is a highly range-restricted river island specialist and one individual was found on 24 September.

Orange-fronted Yellow Finch *Sicalis columbiana*

A reasonably common bird typically associated with more disturbed habitats and seen on five dates.

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris*

Found on 24 September and 3 October.

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*

Seen on the pre-tour extension (22 September) and then again in the grounds of the Tropical Hotel on 6 September.

Reptiles

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus*

Spectacled Caimans were seen on three days between 28 September-3 October and were also noted in the creek near our hotel in Manaus on 22 September.

Undoubtedly some of the other caimans whose eyes were illuminated on our other spotlighting sessions were also this species, although we were generally concentrating on looking for other creatures.....

Black Caiman *Caiman niger*

Identified on at least three of our night excursions, although as noted above, caimans were seen more frequently but not always identified to species.

Schneider's Smooth-fronted (Dwarf) Caiman *Paleosuchus trigonatus*

This species is the second smallest in the family *Alligatoridae* with two individuals found on our after dark canoe ride on 29 September.



Schneider's Smooth-fronted (Dwarf) Caiman

Diving Lizard *Uranoscodon superciliosus*

A single individual was found on 4 October.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

Seen on seven dates across the expedition including the pre-tour extension to Mari Mari on 22 September.

Crocodile Tegu *Crocodylus lacertinus*

Found on both 25 and 26 September.

South American Spotted Skink *Copeoglossum nigropunctatum*

One on 3 October.

Amazon Tree Boa *Corallus hortulanus*

Positively identified on 28 September and 3 October during our night-time canoe rides.

Arachnids and related species

Pink-toed Tarantula *Avicularia avicularia*

Seen on two days with a large adult in a palm adjacent to where we enjoyed an evening barbeque (25 September). The following day at least two more were found at Novo Airão including one small youngster. (Photo to right)



Amphibians

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina*

We found these large toads on four of our night excursions. This species has been introduced into Australia where, unfortunately, it is causing real problems as it secretes chemicals which are toxic to the native amphibians.

Smoky Jungle Frog *Leptodactylus pentadactylus*

Seen or heard on three of our night excursions. (Photo below)



Chaco Tree Frog *Hypsiboas raniceps*

Seen on 4 October during our after dinner excursion.

Giant Gladiator (Rusty) Tree Frog
Hypsiboas boans

One was found on 28 September with another on 4 October.

Moths, Butterflies etc (selected only)

Sulphur Butterflies Family *Pieridae*

Morpho Butterflies Family *Morphidae*

Dragonflies Order *Odonata*

Damselflies Order *Odonata*

True bug Order *Hemiptera*

Fish

Peacock Bass sp *Cichla sp.*

Some of our 'boat boys' caught a number of these brightly coloured fish (which were subsequently served up in the restaurant) which were one of the species of Peacock Bass, a family that contains at least fifteen species.

Amazonian Dogfish sp. *Acestrorhynchus sp.*

A small individual jumped into one of the canoes during our nocturnal excursion on 4 October. Fortunately it was not a full sized adult, as Junior was able to show us the large teeth on this predatory species before it was released.

Amazonian Wolffish sp. *Hoplias sp.*

Found in precisely the same manner as the above species (and only a matter of moments later) and with even more substantial teeth.

Needlefish sp. *Belonidae sp.*

Two of these strange looking fish were seen swimming around the canoes during the night time excursion on 4 October.

Freshwater Stingray sp. *Potamotrygoninae sp.*

Two of these were seen during our canoe ride on 25 September. As their names suggest and like their marine 'cousins', freshwater stingrays are alarmed with a toxic sting which can cause injuries to humans.

Orchids and other plants (selected only)

Devon's Galeandra *Galeandra devoniana*

Cattleya violacea (Photo to right by Regina Ribeiro)

Orchid sp. *Encyclia sp.*



Cacti

Moon Cactus *Selenicereus wittii*

We visited a spot in the Anavilhanas archipelago on 5 October where Junior knew of one of these unusually arboreal cacti. He told us that he was only aware of about twenty or so plants in the whole of the region he takes trips to and suggested that this species may be endangered.



Moon Cactus