

# Guyana: Unspoiled Wilderness | Species List

## February 4 – 17, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



**With Naturalist Journeys Guide Mason Flint (NJ), local guide John Christian, and clients Judy, Melinda, John, Larry, Jim, Jeff, Brian, and Philip**

Compiled by Mason Flint

Guyana truly is a land of unspoiled wilderness and one of the last frontiers of natural history travel. For much of our nearly two weeks we seemed to have the country to ourselves, rarely seeing anyone except local people going about their lives. Our adventure began in Georgetown, the capital city, where we stayed in the historic Cara Lodge and birded several locations close to the coast including Georgetown Botanical Gardens, National Park Georgetown, and the Mahaica River. We then flew south to Letham where we made a short trip into Brazil and birded the virtually untouched Rupununi Savannah using Manari Ranch as our base. We spent the next several days moving north visiting forests, wetlands, and grasslands with stops at Karasabai, Rock View, Surama, Atta, and finally a stop at Kaieteur Falls before returning to Georgetown and departures.

Our experienced travelers adapted to re-ordering of our route due to air travel problems. The change allowed us to visit a few wonderful locations not visited on previous Naturalist Journeys tours including Moca Moca Village and JR Ranch. Perhaps we may add those stops to future tours. We finished the trip with an amazing 350 species (recorded in eBird), just two less than the highest number encountered on 10 previous Naturalist Journeys tours to Guyana. Our success was due to the incredible local knowledge of John, our Guyanese guide, and the skilled client birders on the trip. Great work!

Highlights included many Guianan Shield endemics, rarely seen and sought after birds such as Crestless Curassow, Nacunda Nighthawk, Crimson Topaz, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Long-winged Harrier, Rufous Crab Hawk, Black-banded Owl, Guianan Trogon, Guianan Puffbird, Black Nunbird, Guianan Toucanet, White-bellied Piculet, Blood-colored Woodpecker, Orange-breasted Falcon, Blue-cheeked Parrot, Sun Parakeet, Rio Branco Antbird, Guianan Woodcreeper, Hoary-throated Spinetail, Black Manakin, Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, Crimson Fruitcrow, Purple-breasted, Spangled, and Pompadour Cotinga, and Amazonian Black-Tyrant. We saw Giant Anteater twice including a particularly memorable late afternoon at Manari Ranch when the amazing creature walked slowly by our quiet group. Reptile fans weren't disappointed with looks at a beautiful pencil-thin Brown Vinesnake on the Surama entrance road and an almost invisible Common Lancehead (aka Fer-de-lance) at Kaieteur Falls on our last day. On the same walk at Kaieteur, we saw the tiny Golden Rocket Frog, a Guyana endemic, hidden in the giant tank bromeliads.

The eBird Trip Report for the trip is at the link below.

[Guyana: Unspoiled Wilderness - February 5 - 17, 2023 - Naturalist Journeys Trip Report](#)

Below is a list of mammal, reptile, and amphibian species seen during the trip.

## **MAMMALS (7)**

**Giant Anteater** *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* — Seen twice, first at Manari Ranch and again the next morning on the drive to Karasabai.

**Pale-throated Sloth** *Bradypus tridactylus* — Seen near the Atta Lodge on Valentines Day.

**Guianan Red Hower** *Alouatta macconnelli* — Seen or heard on at least four days.

**Red-faced Spider Monkey** *Ateles paniscus* — Also known as Guiana Spider Monkey, seen twice near Surama and near Atta.

**Tufted Capuchin** *Sapajus apella* — Also known as Brown Capuchin or Black-capped Capuchin, seen several times during the trip including “Picolo”, the habituated monkey at Rock View Lodge that seemed to like Brian.

**Small Indian Mongoose** *Urva auropunctata* — An introduced species, seen during both visits to the seawall in Georgetown.

**Guianan Squirrel** *Urva Sciurus aestuans* — Also known as Brazilian Squirrel, Brian saw one at Atta.

## **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5)**

**Green Iguana** *Iguana iguana* — Also known as American Iguana or Common Green Iguana, seen at least twice, possibly invasive/introduced.

**Brown Vinesnake** *Oxybelis aeneus* — Also known as Mexican Vine Snake, we saw one pencil then snake about a meter long on the Surama entrance road.

**Black Caiman** *Melanosuchus niger* — The largest caiman in the world, we saw them during our boat trip on the Rupununi River.

**Cane Toad** *Rhinella marina* — The world’s largest true toad, we saw at least one at Atta. Likely an introduced/invasive species.

**Common Lancehead (Fer-de-lance)** *Bothrops atrox* — We saw one on the side of the trail at Kaieteur Falls on our last day, almost invisible from a short distance.... The compiler of this list was surprised to learn that “Fer-de-lance” is a common name for several species of venomous snakes in the genus *bothrops*. At least four in that genus are seen in Guyana but we saw *Bothrops atrox* or Common Lancehead