

Guyana: Unspoiled Wilderness Species List | February 15 – 27, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Mason Flint with local guide Gary Sway. Our clients included Julia, Richard, Bill, Benjamin, Sarah, Emily, and Stephen

Guyana truly is a land of unspoiled wilderness and one of the last frontiers of natural history travel. For most 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. From there we flew south to Kaieteur Falls and then on to Surama. Over the next 9 days we visited the forests, savannah edges, and the Rupununi Road around Surama and Atta Lodge, floated the Rupununi River, visited the rugged isolation at Karasabai, and the grasslands and wetlands along the border with Brazil, and a last morning in the lovely mountains at Moca Moca.

We finished the trip with 334 species of birds thanks to the help of Gary and the sharp-eyed client birders on the trip. Highlights included Crestless Curassow, Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo (seen by a few in the group), four species of Potoo, Crimson Topaz, Sunbittern, Jabiru, 20 raptor species, owls including Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl and Black-banded Owl, 10 woodpecker species including the Guianan Shield endemic Blood-colored Woodpecker, a (distant) Orange-bellied Falcon, 19 Parrot/Psittacidae species including the endangered Sun Parakeet, and many more.

We saw 12 species of mammals, most memorably, great early morning looks at Giant Anteater on the way to Karasabai and Giant Otter on two different days. Dry conditions limited reptiles but we saw a handful of lizard and frog species and Black Caiman.

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

[Guyana: Unspoiled Wilderness | February 15-26, 2024 | Naturalist Journeys Trip Report](#)

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

MAMMALS (12)

Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* — Seen early in the morning during our drive to Karasabai for our (successful) search for Sun Parakeet.

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* – Seen twice, first during our float trip on the Rupununi River near Rock View Lodge and again during our drive to Manari Ranch.

Pale-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus tridactylus* — Seen near Atta Lodge.

Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporine* – Seen once near Atta.

Guianan Red Hower *Alouatta macconnelli* — Seen and more often heard on at least six days, first on our boat trip at Mahaica.

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

Weeper Capuchin *Cebus olivaceus* – Also known as Wedge-capped or Guianan Weeper Capuchin, seen twice during our stay at Surama.

Brown Capuchin *Sapajus apella* – Seen on at least three days, first at Mahaica, including the semi-tame *Picolo* at Rock View.

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous* – Some in the group were lucky to see this medium-sized canid on our drive out to the Ireng River to search for Rio Branco Antbird.

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

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

Proboscis Bat *Thynchonycteris naso* – Several were perched above us during our lunch at the Kezee Eco Lodge at Karasabai.

We also saw tracks for South American Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) and Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) during one of our hikes on the Borro Borro Trail at Surama.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5)

Giant Ameiva *Ameiva ameiva* – Seen on at least two days during our stay at Surama.

Gold Tegu *Tupinambis tequixin* – Seen on the Rupununi Road north of Atta.

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

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus* – Seen along the Rupununi Road between Surama and Atta.

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina* — An invasive species and the world’s largest true toad, we saw one near Surama.

Golden Rocket Frog *Anomaloglossus beevei* - Most in the group got glimpses of this Guyana endemic frog that lives in the water collected by the giant bromeliad (*Broccchinia micrantha*) at Kaieteur Falls.