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AMAZON RIVER VOYAGE ABOARD LA ESTRELLA AMAZONICA

March 20-27, 2015

SPECIES LIST

Usiel Vasquez and Segundo Mesia, Expert Local Guides
Dennis Osorio, Expedition Leader for International Expeditions
Peg Abbott, enthusiastic host for Naturalist Journeys
With 27 grand adventurers, who all contributed to the experience!

AMAZON VOYAGE on the La Estrella Amazonica: REFERENCE LOCATIONS

March 20 - Lima Pre-trip:

Mainly city locations, though on arrival day Paul, Chuck and Peg went to Rosa Nautica to watch seabirds while having lunch, and they walked through several blocks with greenery, including the area of ancient Lima Culture ruins known as Huaca Pucllana. Late afternoon at Parque El Olivar, (Olive Grove Park) close to our hotel, proved to be very productive and was a great place for people-watching too.

March 21-27 Voyage on the Amazon River: (Numbers go with a map prepared on the ship)

#1 Sat., March 21 ARRIVAL in Iquitos at dusk / Boarding La Estrella Amazonica

Note, we arrive to xx River in Iquitos, but once we embarked were quickly in the *Amazon River*

proper

#2 Sun., March 22 AM San Joaquin de Omaguas

#3 Sun., March 22 PM Yucuruchi – Birding from the Deck Rio Ucayali

#4 Mon., March 23 Early AM Supay Creek with Machete track to a small lake

#5 Mon., March 23 AM Nuevo Aucayacu Village and return by new shortcut – exploring by machete!

#6 Mon., March 23 PM Requena Town / Tapiche River / Lake Yuracochoa (crashing through floating vegetation where we found many Horned Screemers / Shortcut to palms with macaws, Faucett Channel

#7 Tues., March 24 AM *Zapote River* Private Reserve with picnic breakfast. This is the private reserve where Nixon was waiting for us to collect fees and upon return, our treats from the breakfast fare. This was a lovely wild stretch of river, free of high hunting pressure due to protection from this community – ecotourism in action we were happy to support.

#8 Tues., March 24 PM A small lake near Ranger Check Point 1: Pacaya Samiria Reserve

This is where we stayed into the night to see Great Potoo, nighthawks, and the opening of Victoria water lilies. It was also a great creek to find a variety of small tree frogs on floating mats of vegetation.

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- #9 Wed., March 25 AM Pacaya Samiria Reserve, Ranger Station 2 over twenty miles upriver to Yanayacu Lake (swimming)
- #10 Wed., March 25 PM Pacaya Samiria Reserve: *El Dorado Creek*, Fishing spot and Hoatzins; it is a blackwater river.
- #11 Thurs., March 26 Early AM – 6:30-8:30 *Yanallpa Creek* – place of Night Monkeys and aracarís
- #12 Thurs., March 26 AM – Kayaking *Irikawa Tributary*, with option for birding - Blue-Throated Piping Guan and several macaws sighted here. This outing was 10:00-Noon. We spotted Spotted Tody Flycatcher here feeding in bright orange-flowering mistletoe.
- Long navigation close to confluence, just before San Jose Village
- #13 Thurs., March 26 PM - Visit to the Shaman and shopping / Across from San Jose de Sarapanea
Alternate activity was a boat ride across from the village, *Yarapa Creek* – magical afternoon ending with Capped Heron. Highlights included Paradise Jacamar, a difficult species to find. A lovely river – a place with small lodges hosting mainly fishing-oriented tourists.
- Confluence of Rio Ucayali and the Rio Marañon, on the latter a long navigation to Nauta, tied up there, busy at dawn next day
- #14 Fri., March 27 Early AM – Nauta Market Visit at 6:30AM
- #15 Fri. March 27 AM – Close to Nuevo de Octubre, Terra Firma forest walk at Casual
- #16 Fri. March 27 PM – Alfresco lunch and passing back by the Confluence, officially back on the Amazon Main river
- Then navigate to Iquitos, near Panguana, final outing by skiff (about 100 miles today)
- #17 Sat., March 28 AM Iquitos dockage / Manatee Rescue Center / Return to Lima

SPECIES LIST MARCH 20-27, 2015

BIRDS

Tinamidae: Tinamous

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* – Heard early in the morning on March 23, from the ship's prow as we gathered for early morning coffee.

Anhimidae: Screamers

Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta* – This iconic species of the Amazon caused quite a commotion when we first saw them flying above trees of the river edge. We first got good close looks, approaching Lake Yuracochoa. These huge members of the waterfowl clan, unique in their own order, have deep and far-reaching vocalizations and once we encountered them, were quite common. We parked the skiffs and listened to their loud voices. In the deeper part of the watershed, Pacaya-Simiaria reserve, we had them daily.

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* – Two wild birds flew through the area we waited for three species of macaws to come in Monday afternoon on the palms of Faucett Channel.

Cracidae: Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows

Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata* – One of our boats spotted them on the very first outing, and Peg spied them Tuesday morning at dawn from the prow of the ship where we were parked. Chuck and Paul also got good looks another day from the ship. Loud calls alerted us each time.

Blue-throated Piping Guan *Pipile pipile* – Peg spotted this rare species perched above two Scarlet Macaws high in a distant tree; we then found a Blue-and-yellow Macaw in the same tree– what a trio of wilderness species! This was in the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve at Irikawa Creek, a magical place.

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* – Common in small numbers each day, at times quite numerous as flocks would pass overhead. Lovely in flight, flying up the light-patterned river.

Anhingidae: Anhingas

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* – Scarce at this time of year with high waters, just two individuals seen in the Lake Yuracocha area we visited for the night wildlife outing.

Ardeidae: Herons, Egrets & Bitterns

White-necked (Cocoi) Heron *Ardea cocoi* – One or two individuals seen each day, sometimes at quite good height soaring, often just an individual at a time, along the river shore hunting.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* – Quite common, and elegant in various poses as they fished, preened and gathered in the small lagoons adjacent to the river. Fairly evenly distributed on quiet waters. One afternoon we noticed a good number flying very high, purposefully, as if going to the south, or to a known area some distance away.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* – Clustered in groups, feeding in lake and lagoon areas, often seen then in numbers of 10 or more, fishing quite successfully, not long to wait to watch them come up with a small silver prize after a hunting stab. They were coming into breeding plumage, with fine plumes and red cere, lovely!

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* - Individuals seen here and there, coming up from the water hyacinth or from the edge of a small lagoon, a few chased up as our skiffs plied the waters of smaller tributaries. We saw them every day, and if numbers were added up it would be an extensive count.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus* – Chuck expressed for us all, “this is fast becoming my favorite heron”. We were seeing them in breeding plumage, so the yellow feathers and blue facial skin were both bright, a lovely contrast against the sharp white. Their beauty always remained a surprise as we checked a heron to find that it was indeed a Capped. They were often near either Snowy or Great egrets; we saw 1-3 or so a day. On our optional outing up Yarapa creek, the one we missed due to an intense afternoon storm one day, this was our grande finale bird after many fine sightings. Its white, yellow and blue shone as if illuminated from within as darkness approached and we returned to the ship.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*– A group was seen near a small village on day one, and then near the larger town of Requena, with cattle in freshly cut fields at the edge of town. We wondered among the enormity of the Amazon, not replete with grazing mammals, just how does this species find cattle?

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* – Peg, Chuck, and Paul saw two at close range at the Olive Park in Lima. In the Amazon we had them on several of our days, one good sighting was near the “tree of terns” (see Large-billed Tern entry).

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* – Peg saw one at dawn on the first day from our ship as it slowly moved upstream, it came up out of the grass and dove back in – just like they do back home! One of the first species seen. We saw it again as we passed through dense water hyacinth and other submergent vegetation to get to an open lake – one popped out in front of Usiel’s boat for quick views for some.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* – One individual seen by the second boat as we came from the night viewing outing, perched on a prominent downed tree sticking out of the river – excellent views.

Zigzag Heron *Zebrilus undulatus* — One individual seen from the back of the second boat by Chuck as we were returning from Ranger Station 2. Shy and secretive, this little heron jumped back under the trees as the boats passed.

Threskiornithidae: Ibises & Spoonbills

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* — We saw two very well from the boat, early one morning, they flew along the canopy and put on a good display of wing and bill. Seen only on one other day.

Cathartidae: New World Vultures

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* — Chuck spotted one individual at very keen height as we returned from our morning outing in the private community reserve on Tuesday morning.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* — Seen daily, sometimes in huge numbers around homes and villages. They appeared on the roofs, spreading wings dry here as easily as they did above wind-topped palm stumps. They supplement scavenging by eating palm fruits.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* — We found these as we got away from Iquitos. They varied quite a bit in intensity of head color but we had plenty to view and compare, for the most part they outnumbered Turkey Vultures along the river away from towns.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus* — It was in the private reserve of the Zapote River we visited on Tuesday that we got good looks at two of these giants soaring, at home in a place wild enough that we also found two species of macaws, and three species of monkeys including Monk Sakis. We noted them on a couple of other days, but the first sighting was memorable as it signaled we were getting deeper into the wild.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* — We found a few to several of these on most days, the Amazon race marked with a white upper neck collar.

Pandionidae: Osprey

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* — It was fun to see a familiar face in a totally different setting. Osprey seem very much at home in this emerald world where fish are readily available. They were absent from very muddy sections of the river, but were quite common in confluence areas or areas of water upheaval. Osprey are non-breeders in the Amazon but it is likely young birds may take up multi-year residence before heading north to breed.

Accipitridae: Hawks and Eagles

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* — Peg and Chuck watched a lone individual approach with its curious wing shape, this single sighting was our first of the trip. We saw another flying at closer range up one of the small tributaries of the Pacaya-Samira Reserve. And in contrast to that wild location, one was found in a large kettle of vultures above the town of Nauta.

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* — One individual seen at a good distance, perched along the river near the junction of the Zapote River as we were going back downstream.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* — Two to ten individuals seen each day, often perched up on emergent trees along the river shore. We had one seen carrying prey, and good views at close range of several.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* — A few were seen on our initial day, then three as we stopped for breakfast while going into the private reserve in search of monkeys and other species. We then saw them in small numbers on several days, perched and flying. Noted on at least five days. With such high water, their preferred apple snail diet may have been hard to find.

Slender-billed Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* — First seen on our morning up the Purinahua Channel as we took a tributary up to a private reserve. We got excellent looks at this snail-eating relative of the Snail Kite with a less-restrictive diet, on several days. Peg noted we often found Caiman Lizard, another snail eater, at the same locations.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* – Chuck found one early one morning as we started out for one of the small tributaries while on the Marañon River our final full day.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris* – A pair was active in the vicinity of our riverside breakfast, though getting good looks hampered by juggling binocs and a very full, colorful baskets of breakfast goodies. One showed off the rust in its wing while the other gave a handy scream, a signature we recognized well for identification. A fairly common hawk seen on three days of our journey, but always in small number.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* – Chuck scanned a huge kettle of vultures at the small city of Nauta, which lies at road's end from Iquitos, the spot we went to the market early one morning. He came up with a light-phase member of this species.

Slate-colored Hawk *Leucopternis schistaceus* – We had several of these called in our first two days, quick sightings of birds in flight. On our third day, up the Purinahua Channel, we got very good looks at perched adults, one going up, and one coming down, a small tributary there. Noted on three days of the trip.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis* – Tuesday at the private reserve was our first day with this species, and we saw five or six as we went up river, two in particular putting on a good show. David called the first one, seeing it come off the water to fly direct back into the forest. The next seemed to pay us little mind, and we had a great show as they fished along a tributary, crossing the river, and maneuvering about the dense vegetation to find secretive perches. This was a favorite for many, and a bit hit with the photographers. Finding a nest with both of the pair present was fun – it was not yet incubation time, but close.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* – This stunning raptor is common along the river, and saw it most days, often a pair at one or more location. Those watching the sky would add at least another pair each day as the love to soar on thermals. Near the end of the trip we got quite close to an immature, heavily streaked bird of this species.

(LO) Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*– Noted by Segundo on March 24, but it was too quick for most to get a glimpse. On some voyages they are more common, we did not see others this trip.

Note: Falcons and Caracaras appear later in the checklist...

Rallidae: Rails and Gallinules

(HO) Gray-necked Wood-rail *Aramides cajaneus* - Heard from the grasses of a small island across from us as we watched Blue-and-Gold Macaws tending their full sized youngster at an active nest.

Azure Gallinule *Porphyrio flavirostris* – Quick views as we started upstream Monday, having watched the tree of terns for awhile. It flew up from the margin of Pampas grass further into the thicket, and a brilliant troupial sighting nearby drew off our attentions. Sadly it was a quick look only for those in the front of the boat as we pushed through emergent vegetation as this is a rare species in the region, and throughout much of its range.

Heliornithidae: Sungrebe & Finfoots

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica* – For most of the group this species was only heard, on our trip up the Purinahua Channel in a small tributary, on El Dorado Creek, on Irikawa Tributary. There, as we waited to find a Pygmy Kingfisher and then were distracted by a stunning Cream-colored Woodpecker, Usiel and a few of the group looking that direction got a quick glimpse of one as it dove. We heard several others on small creeks of Pacaya-Simira Reserve.

Jacaniidae: Jacanas

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* – Seen daily, and enjoyed by all. One great memory is Segundo finding an adult male tending two tiny chicks, likely just a day old, small enough to fit under Dad as he became alarmed.

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* – One individual seen on each of our first days, both times coming off of logs floating down the river. We had a couple of others, likely in lower water times with sand beaches you would have many.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* – One individual spotted by Chuck on Yanallapa Creek – in general water levels were just too high for a good showing of sandpipers!

Laridae: Gulls & Terns

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* – A very common bird of the river, at times we'd have a dozen or more in view, their black-tipped wings notable. This large tern is vocal, and became an icon for us of time on the river, often present and just a lovely, agile species in flight against the clouds. On Sunday as the big storm approached they glowed like brilliant lights against a navy blue sky. Near the junction of two rivers, hundreds of Large-billed Terns rested on prominent dead trees, like ornaments at Christmas draping the tree, we started up a channel to a lake here, and Peg called it the "tree of terns" location.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris* – These small terns, the size of our Least Terns, were more local. When we did see them it was ten or twelve at a time. Near the city of Requena they were quite numerous, catching small fish in front of the river-edge stilt houses.

Columbidae: Pigeons & Doves

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* - Lima and Iquitos

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* - The most common of the large pigeons along the river. Seen on most days in low number.

Ruddy Pigeon *Columba subvinacea* – Seen on just one day, in the very narrow channel we explored on Monday, near our first donacobius which stole the show.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columba talpacoti* – Seen on Monday in the village we went to before passing the very narrow channel we explored, one kept open just barely by frequent local canoes. It was then also seen in Nauta near the city park.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* – One individual flew across as Segundo chopped open a route for us to follow up to a lake offset from the river on Monday.

Opisthocomidae: Hoatzin

Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin* – This species is iconic for the Amazon and a "must-see" for any voyage. The first one we saw was on a nest, making for some fine photography. Great to see this wild "hairdo" and big eye at close range. We found a family group with a fairly large chick, and a number of individuals when we explored the smaller quieter creeks such as El Dorado where a group of them in a flooded open area kept one boat from starting their fishing.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos & Anis

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* – Peg had one as we were motoring at higher speed to get to the village Monday afternoon. It was perched, then flew, allowing inspection of its belly coloration. Chuck spied another late in the week. These can be quite common, but for us these were the only two sightings.

Great Ani *Crotophaga major* – We enjoyed this fairly common species, seen often in groups, coming up from close to the water to disperse in the grasses and trees. At times the light would catch them and they'd shine an iridescent blue. A wonderful memory is our boat plying the waters of quiet streams, chasing up groups of these that would fly back and forth, totally silent on the wing. It made one feel that you were in an ethereal realm.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* – Seen first as we drove from the airport in Iquitos to the boat and then we saw them by the score, a very common species along the river throughout our journey.

Strigidae: Owls

Tropical Screech Owl *Otus choliba* – Heard only, one early morning from the main boat on March 24th.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* – One individual watched us hack our way through a tight channel, using the machete and making a lot of noise, we were amazed that it never moved until we passed along our way!

Caprimulgidae: Nighthawks, Nightjars & Allies

Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus*– Seen by the first boat that got a head start on fishing on El Dorado, the second boat missed them as it had to tear themselves away from Hoatzins to enjoy the fishing fun!

Band-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*– We saw a number of these hunting over the lake on our evening outing in the Pacaya-Simiru Reserve. They came out just before sunset, allowing us good views.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*– One individual seen in the spotlight on our night outing to the lake in the Pacaya-Simiru Reserve. It was very active flying back and forth, low, in front of a partially submerged tree.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis climacocerca* – What a joy it was to see this bird CLOSE, as it roosted by day along quiet tributaries of the river. We saw several at times and they would sense us and sometimes sit, sometimes fly, only to alight casually on a nearby tree, perhaps even a better perch for photography!

Nyctibiidae: Potoos

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis* – First seen on a night drive, then on a day roost the following day. This is a big potoo, a most impressive bird! Gingy was thrilled to spy one.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*– A quick spot by Segundo's boat as we left the lake of our night drive.

Apodidae: Swifts

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*– Seen on just two days of the trip, in good number around Iquitos.

Fork-tailed Palm Swift *Reinarda squamata* – Seen on our first day as we boarded the ship, and again at the village where we saw a home and school. This was the most common swift of the trip, seen on several days in good number. They were flying in closest range in the park in Nauta that had palms, there preferred nest trees and we could hear their vocalizations.

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga melivora* – Chuck found this species in the small village we visited, in flowering shrubs across from the home of the couple that hosted us to see their kitchen and tell us about how they met, their family and life.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis* – By process of elimination we identified this as the species we watched feed in morning glory flowers off the ship brow one morning. We then had a couple of other sightings, a fairly likely bet for many hummingbirds along the river.

Blue-chinned Sapphire *Chlorostilbon notata* – A brilliant male was seen on the 25th.

Olive-spotted Hummingbird *Leucippus chlorocercus* – Seen twice on the small channel we explored one morning to get to a lake, using a machete to open up the route. One was feeding low in red flowers, and another was found that afternoon, feeding alongside an emerald on acacia like flowers near the place we were totally surrounded by hundreds of Fork-tailed Flycatchers. This is a specialty of the area.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata* – First seen on the same flowers as one of the Olive-spotted, it was alert to Peg pishing, perched, and then flew off. We had better looks later on in the trip near flowers, and on our final docking at the off-loading spot in Iquitos, voila, perfect shimmering green at close range, lovely!

Trogonidae: Trogons

Black-tailed Trogon *Trogon melanurus* - Heard going up river Tuesday morning, then seen in flight in the very same area returning. Then seen on our outing the 26th, second to last day afield.

Green-backed (White-tailed) Trogon *Trogon viridis* – Seen and heard in several locations, seems to be the more common of the trogons.

Amazonian (Violaceous) Trogon *Trogon ramonianus* – Heard only at first, Monday, along the small and dense area we navigated with speed to reach the village for our visit, a place of many birds but we had little time. Seen by one boat on the 24th.

Momotidae: Motmots

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum* – Heard on our Terra Firma walk, but we could not zero in on a sighting.

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

Ringed Kingfisher *Ceryle torquata* – Seen as we got on the boat, and every day forward, a common species and often found in pairs. We watched them catch fish, and got used to hearing their rattle. Photography was rewarding for this species, which seemed more likely to perch and pose.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* – Seen in good number on the smaller river channel. Also listed daily.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* – Quite fewer in number than the Amazon, likely due to our spending time mainly on larger rivers. We had one sighting after the picnic breakfast that perched nicely for view. Seen on five of our days, most days one or two individuals.

Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda* – This species was high on Chuck's most-wanted list and we caught up to it just as we pulled in to tie up for our picnic breakfast Tuesday. It alerted us by calls, then crossed the river quite low to the water, giving us a sideways view of its coloration. Luckily this was not our only chance, and by the trip's end we all had good views, seen on three days.

Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* – Yeah! A five kingfisher day is something to celebrate anywhere and on the Amazon – just right! This occurred on March 26, a day of double, fabulous outings.

Bucconidae: Puffbirds

Black-fronted Nunbird *Monasa nigrifrons* – We watched this fairly common bird sit-and-wait hunting on several of our outings. We would get quite close to them at times, and often they were in the presence of monkeys, our guides pointed out they take advantage of insects stirred up by roving bands of primates.

Swallow-winged Puffbird *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* – This species came out with the sun, so while missing our first two days, it was evident on tree tops on most of our following days, maybe a half dozen that first morning, double that in afternoon. Peg spied the first from the main boat, and then we found them in small number, readily.

Galbulidae: Jacamars

White-eared Jacamar *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis* – This was our most common jacamar species and we enjoyed them on most days of the trip. They often chose exposed perches so were easier to find. Great for photography!

Bluish-fronted Jacamar *Galbula cyanescens* – Peg caught the iridescent glow of this species as it flew across a narrow part of the river, our second boat with Usiel then had stellar views of it as it perched. We heard them again the next day, they seemed to like the wilds of Pacaya-Samiru Reserve. Their call is quite distinct.

Paradise Jacamar *Galbula dea*– This was a grand find on our morning up Irikawa Creek, the same trip on which we saw in the distance, Blue-throated Piping Guan. Two difficult to find species in one trip. Big smiles and thumbs up as we got off the skiffs this day (and all days....).

Capitonidae: Barbets

Scarlet-crowned Barbet *Capito aurovirens* – One jaunty and brightly-clad bird. Its shape and jerky movement is characteristic of the clan, enough that we could detect it in treetops from our boat, which when the captain hugged the shore, was like a mobile canopy platform. Seen on five days, normally one pair at a time. Several times mixed flocks were in association.

Toucans: Ramphastidae

Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis* – This was our only aracari of the trip but a stunning one and we saw it on several days. We all first saw them at pretty close range coming out of the small tributary we hacked our way up by machete, the one that seemed to have a lot of local traffic as it led to a lake. It perched for photos and inspection atop a dead snag. Then seen on five days. Perhaps most memorable was one for coming out to the rivers' edge to perch, on our sunset cruise it seemed to perform for us in golden glow!

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* – Heard only, on March 26, same tributary that gave us great looks at White-throated Toucans, where kayakers were at play.

White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos cuvieri* – This icon of the rainforest was ours to behold on two days, one of the species we saw on the creek that kayakers enjoyed.

Picidae: Woodpeckers

(HO) Plain-breasted Piculet *Picumnus castlneau* - *Segundo pointed out this little member of the woodpecker family, which we heard but were not able to spot on March 23.*

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula* – Seen on three days, a cooperative woodpecker that let us see it well, gorgeous colors. One was near the first aracari sighting so a lot of people got to see it well. The female has her head sticking out of a nest hole, and the male was not about to go far.

Chestnut Woodpecker *Celeus elegans* – A beautiful woodpecker, seen on three days.

Cream-colored Woodpecker *Celeus flavus* – This species shines like a flashlight against the dark green tones of the forest. We watched one for quite a time, a photographers dream shot working on a probable nest hole. Seen on two days of the trip, best views on the Irikawa.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* – The most common of the large woodpeckers, Sally enjoyed seeing it very much, as she had just been trying to tally up a Pileated Woodpecker, similar in appearance, just before leaving home. How many get to see this tropical species first – fun! It was a good photography target being tolerant of our boats. Noted on three days.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* – This one was also seen near the aracari, with one of the pair in a nest hole with beak sticking out and the other perched above, great looks. Seen on two days of the journey.

Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus* – Seen just on one morning in a mixed flock that those rising early could see from the top observation deck, our floating canopy platform. We heard one another morning, but were not satisfied with looks as it darted out of the pampas grasses.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* – We were missing this woodpecker and were glad to see it put in an appearance on one of our last outings, just one sighting of this species on the 26th.

Falconidae: Falcons & Carcaras

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* – A pair was in a tree close to the river as we disembarked from our skiffs to tour a local village. Bright eyed children vied for our attention, but the “Guacos” were calling and commanding our attention at such close range. We heard another the following day, and laughed to hear caciques imitating them quite well in a repertoire that also included Orange-winged Parrot. A regal individual was present in the wide-open spaces of the marsh we crossed to Yuracochu Lake.

Collared (Barred?) Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*– Chuck had a quick glimpse of this species just at dawn our first day past Iquitos.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* – We had several individuals the morning we awoke on the Marañon River, and another on our final full day on the main Amazon.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* - Peg spotted one as the boat roared by as we made our way to the macaw roost amid the palms. George whisked the boat around and we made a circle so all could see its commanding and familiar silhouette. It is not a common species for the area.

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* – We spotted one from the Observation Deck our first day along the river. Segundo found another on the tributary we traveled early in the morning the 26th, a five kingfisher stream and lovely spot.

(LO) Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus* – Spotted by Segundo on one of our final morning outings, just a quick glimpse.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* - This was the most common raptorial bird along the river, often posing for us on downed logs, prominent tree branches, or flying at close range by the boat and skiffs. A common bird seen daily, at times 4 or 5 at a time, other times solo or paired. One morning a pair was just off the boat at dawn, the male would throw his head back to call, like a toucan catching fruit in profile.

Southern Caracara *Caracara plancus* – Spotted by Peg and Chuck on two occasions along the main tributary. This species has recently been seen more often along the Amazon than the similar Crested Caracara. We got the scope on one for really good looks.

Psittacidae: Macaws, Parrots & Parakeets – 16 species!

Blue and Yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna* – This was Paul's most wanted species and we first found them at an active nest site, two adults present to attend to a very large chick that seemed ready to fly. This was Monday in an area that held other macaw species as well. We saw them again on Tuesday, five individuals flying with us as we made our way up a small tributary where we would enjoy a picnic breakfast. We saw them again up Irikawa Creek.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* – We had quick looks at a pair that flew into the woods near to our breakfast picnic, and then re-emerged to fly up the river in view for all. They appeared on several days, usually one pair, or one individual.

Chestnut-fronted Macaw *Ara severus* – We had over two dozen Red-bellied Macaws at a roost area up a tributary of the Tapiche River and one pair among them were these. They were far away, but we could make out their striped cheek pattern, and for those with a practiced ear, hear the difference in their voice. Seen on three days.

Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilata* – This was the most common macaw that we would see, first appearing among the abundant White-shouldered Parakeets that first morning out of Iquitos. We saw them two or three at a time, and near the roost site had some swirling flocks coming in to land for the night, of seven or more at a time. Seen on five days of the journey.

White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalma*– We had a few sightings of this larger parakeet, alerted by their strong voice. First views were almost always of flying birds, but at Yanallpa Creek we had them perched.

Dusky-headed Parakeet *Aratinga weddellii* – We had several groups of Dusky-headed, again alerted by vocalizations, and finally on our route up to the private reserve we spotted some perched in a tree.

White-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris versicolurus* - The numbers of this small parakeet were truly astonishing at times, with large flocks erupting from the Pampas grass early mornings. Our first morning we watched them swirl out of the reeds, joined by Fork-tailed Flycatchers and the combined numbers were in the thousands. We could have tallied several thousand at dawn that first morning, most impressive – at height almost like seeing a cicada swarm! The confluence was the highest density area, but we would see them daily, hear them daily, and a few we observed, at close range as they perched low to inspect round termite mounds on the trees as possible nest sites.

Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanopectus* – Chuck pointed out that we might be missing what should be a locally common species, when that very afternoon we had several groups, flying lowing enough to see the blue wing pattern and relative size. As these small parrots were at times everywhere, we may have missed them our first days, but had them for sure near the macaw roost area. Learning vocalizations of these small parrots is key.

Tui Parakeet *Brotogeris sanctithomae* - A pair were seen fairly low to be able to note the yellow forehead, as we motored our way up the narrow channel to the lake. We saw them at a corner where a lot was happening – always so much to see and with multiple guides we could have multiple things called out at once, this one came by just as we were focused on finding a jacamar.

Black-headed Parrot *Pionites melanocephalus* – Seen more towards the end of our trip, in small number on two days, this bird sporting orange and black was prized!

Short-tailed Parrot *Graydidascalus brachyurus* – We had two pairs of these on Sunday, one seen from the boat in a very narrow canal, and then another pair seen well as we gathered under the shelter of the Observation Deck cover as a wild storm approached and we deemed it too wet to go out. Nice of them to tee up at eye-level for us to inspect from the boat! Seen on at least four days.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* – On our final sunset cruise, a group of four called and then flew down the shoreline with their characteristic low-slung wing-beats, not a super look, but documented!

Festive Parrot *Amazona festiva* – There seemed to be a local population around El Dorado, at least this was where we saw them with ease. Their call was quite distinct and we saw them mainly as pairs, up and down the tributary.

Yellow-crowned Parrot *Amazona ochrocephala* – Seen well in the Picaya-Simiru Reserve and at Yanallpa Creek on the 26th, again distinct vocalizations really helped us find them.

Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica* – This was the more numerous of the large parrots, seen in pairs and groups, vocal and flying across the larger river as well as small channels. Seen daily.

Mealy Parrot *Amazona amazonica* – The clearest sighting was an individual that came in as we enjoyed our picnic breakfast, perching above us in a maze of branches, identified by its bulls-eye circle around the eye. A few other pairs were seen in flight crossing the river.

Thamnophilidae: Antbirds

(HO) Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* – Heard only on March 23rd, several other birds vied for our attention and movement of the boat was tricky – we opted to let it go but noted its presence. It remained, heard only...

Amazonian Streaked Antwren *Myrmotherula multostriata* – We had the male and female at very close range from the nose of the boat on one occasion, March 26 in Irikawa Creek.

White-shouldered Antbird *Myrmeciza melanoseps* – Seen on March 26 after hearing this species over the previous two days.

Furnariidae: Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers (Dendrocolaptinae)

Long-billed Woodcreeper *Nasica longirostris* – Seen on two days, Chuck spied the first one on the 24th, noting its really huge bill. Several got to see it on the 26th, up Yanallpa Creek, one of our most amazing birding days of the trip.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* – Seen on two days of the voyage, notable for its distinctive call.

Long-tailed Woodcreeper *Deconychura longicauda* - Spotted on two days of the journey, our first day, the 24th and 26th.

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper *Dendrexetastes rufigula* – Seen on March 25th, we were lucky it perched quite low to the water, affording great looks and some lovely photographs.

Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus* – This bird was most cooperative one morning as we were still parked near shore, the day we went up a tributary passing a tree wearing Snowy Egrets like Christmas ornaments. It was close the boat, and uttered a few calls. This was our only sighting, perhaps due to such high water levels.

Orange-fronted Plushcrown *Metopothrix aurantiaca* – When we parked to watch caciques and also to admire the Ladder-tailed Nightjar, we found the first of several pairs of this species making nests. Peg had them in the scope from the top deck on another occasion. This is one cute little bird, more like a small tanager in behavior than a typical member of its furnarid family.

(HO) Red-and-white Spinetail *Certhiaxis mustelina* – We heard this at the same spot we were intrigued by Pale-legged Hornero. We thought then we'd encounter it in similar river-edge habitat, but this was the only time we noted it and it remains – heard only.

(HO) Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis* – We heard this spinetail less commonly than the Red-and-white, but noted it on at least two days.

Tyrant Flycatchers: Tyrannidae

Spotted Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum maculatum* – We heard this bird on a couple of occasions but other things always called our attention. One outing, Usiel heard one call up the creek our kayakers enjoyed and whipped the boat around; it was feeding in a beautiful orange-flowering mistletoe mid-river and put on quite a show! Peg got some good photos as a record.

Drab Water Tyrant *Ochthornis littoralis* – This is a very well-named bird, but we enjoyed being able to see it at close range, especially eye to eye in the skiffs. Seen on four days.

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala* – One female noted on March 23 by Chuck.

(HO) Dull-capped Attila *Attila bolivianus*, heard only as pointed out by keen-eared Segundo.

Lesser Kiskadee *Pitangus lictor* – Common along the river, especially quieter water creeks, often perched low to the water.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* – Very common, seen daily, heard often uttering its namesake cry.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* – Seen around villages as we were walking and at the Manatee Rescue Center in Iquitos. Just a few individuals.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* – Seen coming out of the Iquitos airport, and in some of the villages, not as common as we expected it to be.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* – We had several good sightings of this bird, in pairs, appeared to be keen on nesting.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaius* – Seen on Irikawa tributary carrying nest material; several oropendola and cacique nesting groups that they associate with around.

Crowned Slaty Flycatcher *Empidonous aurantioatrocristatus* - Seen by one boat on March 23 as we explored the Faucett Channel++=

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox* – We got good views of this species on two days. This is the member of its clan most often encountered in Varzea and riverine forests.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* – Present in good numbers, daily.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* – These could be found intermingled in with the Fork-tailed Flycatchers, but were likely just starting to move north from wintering here, or wintering in deeper South America, as their numbers increased towards the end of the trip. Great to see them side by side with an austral migrant, the Fork-tailed Flycatchers!

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana* – One of the joys of travel on the river in this season is seeing the astonishing numbers of this beautiful bird. We had trees just loaded with them as it decorated for the holidays. And at times the sky would swirl with hundreds of them hawking insects on the wing. Like mini fireworks, they would explode from roosts in the pampas grasses, mixing it up with White-winged Parakeets. This is one of the great migration spectacles, many being young birds as noted by their shorter tails – we timed it just right! These are austral migrants, coming up from the great grassland areas of southern South America.

Cotingidae: Cotingas

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata* – Their loud calls alerted us on two days of the journey. It was fun to watch them feed in tall trees, listen to their chatter as they kept in touch in the dense vegetation.

Bare-necked Fruitcrow *Gymnoderus foetidus* – Ginky had an eye for this species of “peculiar geometry”, often perched in the treetops, best described as a collected jumble of parts and, particularly for the female, one homely bird! We did have one more handsome male up Irikawa Creek, but most sightings were females.

Plum-throated Cotinga *Cotinga maynana* – A stunning bird, seen only at long distance, but good views in fruiting trees along the river. Seen on both outings, Yarapa and Irikawa, on March 26.

Tityridae: Tityras, Schiffornis & Becards

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* – Seen on three days of the trip, March 23, 24 and 26.

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor* – We had one pair, in the little mixed flock we had one morning from the ship’s observation deck, March 25, with tanagers and Orange-fronted Plushcrown.

Varzea Schiffornis *Schiffornis major* – This often elusive species decided to put in an appearance as kayaks were launched at Irikawa Creek. Our guides were quick on knowing bird calls, very helpful for an elusive species like this.

Cinereous Becard *Pachyramphus rufus* – Noted by one of the boats for the 23rd, a quick sighting as we took a machete route through some dense vegetation. Birding by boat has its challenges!

Vireonidae: Vireos & Greenlets

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* – Usiel pointed this species out in a mixed flock encountered on one of our first days, March 22.

Corvidae: Jays & Crows

Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus* – Segundo’s boat encountered this beauty the morning they motored farther up Yarapa Creek.

Hirundinidae: Swallows & Martins

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera* – A small flock feeding high above us on the wing was spotted on March 23.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* – This was the more common martin, seen on two days of the trip, quite common around Iquitos.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* – Seen daily, often in good number, perched on dead snags in the river, flying, feeding, hundreds grouped together at times.

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer* – This lovely swallow was a constant companion, not in large number like the Southern Rough-winged, but present often, perching confidently at close range, putting on great aerial flight shows.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* – Seen on the first day of our journey leaving Iquitos, a small group at the junction of one of the smaller creeks coming into the main river.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* – Seen often but in small numbers, one here and there but no large flocks, just one or two here and there, sometimes up to a dozen. Seen on at least five days of the journey.

Troglodytidae: Wrens

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus* – Peg spotted a family group of this large and bold wren on a vine-entangled dead tree where it was easy to see their antics. We first heard them on March 24, then had sightings on the two subsequent days.

(HO) Coroya Wren *Pheugopedius coraya* – Heard only as pointed out by Segundo, on March 23, on a narrow creek where we had a lot of bird (and very cute brush rats peeking out of tree holes) activity all calling for our attentions.

Buff-breasted Wren *Thryothorus leucotis* – This is one loud wren, taunting us as the boat was parked along shorelines of the river. We heard them several days but managed to get looks on 23 and 26 March.

Donacobiidae: Donacobius

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla* – This handsome bird caught everyone's attentions with its duet calling of crazy vocalizations. Fun to see their curious inspection of our boats as we plied the marshes. Seen on four days of the journey.

Turdidae: Thrushes

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis* – We first heard this species on March 24, then in the mixed flock seen early morning of March 25, we had three or four perching up in good view from the boat's observation deck.

Thraupidae: Tanagers & Allies

Red-capped Cardinal *Paroaria gularis* – A photographer's favorite as it perched for us at close range, often seen along the riverbank, encountered on four days of the journey.

Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata* – This was the more common of the tanagers we encountered (other than Blue-gray and Masked Crimson) on our outings, seen on at least four days

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus* – Seen just one one day, our afternoon outing on March 26 up Yarapa Creek.

Masked Crimson Tanager *Ramphocelus nigrogularis* – This stunning tanager caught everyone's attention, and was seen almost daily from our skiffs on smaller rivers.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* – First encountered on March 22, then seen in the mixed flock we observed March 25 (1 pair), and several in a group on the 27th at the Manatee Research Center.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* – Ubiquitous, present in rural, wild, and urban settings. The Amazon version is distinct with a lovely white wing patch. Our final morning they were below us in riverside shrubs where we moored, great show of color and feeding activity.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* – Seen on three days, our final three, again a comfortable species around villages and civilization.

Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis* – What a beauty! We first saw them quite high and in poor light, but with luck we found them on several other days, a couple of times in photographic range.

Green-and-gold Tanager *Tangara schrankii* – Seen by those in Segundo's boat on the morning of March 26 in one of the prettiest tributaries of the trip.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* – Seen quite high in a tree with a flock that also included Paradise Tanager for a good dose of color!

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus* – Male and female spotted on March 26.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* – Just one sighting on March 25, a pair high in the canopy.

Yellow-bellied Dacnis *Dacnis flaviventer* – Seen both morning and afternoon of March 26.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volarinia jacarina* – Peg spotted one in tall grass doing its typical jump-up routine as we drove by bus from the Iquitos airport to the ship.

Lesson's Seedeater *Sporophila bouvronides* – Peg spotted a small group of seedeaters for our big boat, moored near a lagoon with many egrets and lush vegetation. In the scope we could see they were Lesson's.

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris* – A fairly common species in clearings, around villages, and the park in Nauta we walked to.

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* – First heard on the 22nd, we got good looks on March 23.

Emberizidae: Finches & Sparrows

Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons* – Seen on two days, the 22nd in marsh grasses (near the Azure Gallinule sighting and the tree decorated with terns near the confluence) and on our final day around Nauta.

Icteridae: Blackbirds & Orioles

Oriole Blackbird *Gymnomystax mexicanus* – This large blackbird was common, seen on at least four days of the trip. Their color outstanding!

Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* – This bright-headed bird was a regular among the pampas grasses and shorter reeds encountered often at tributaries. Seen on at least four days of the journey.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* – We encountered these on four days of the trip, typically in small flocks up to a dozen birds.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* – Only Peg spied this species, on March 23, near cluster of nests of an Oropendola at a time when a lot of bird action was going on. Thought we'd find another, but no – this was expected in greater number but they proved scarce.

Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus* – We first spotted a group our initial morning as we approached the confluence. We then had quick looks at the brilliant plumage of this species as we made our way into the lake, passing through dense floating vegetation, the day we saw all the macaws.

Solitary Black Caciue *Cacicus solitarius* – Segundo's boat, including Chuck, spotted this one on March 26.

Yellow-rumped Caciue *Cacicus cela* – We had good fun with this colorful bird, another abundant species with ample nest clusters. As we prepared to go kayaking we made a pit stop at the ranger station and a colony here entertained us. Previously we'd parked in an area of large Victoria water lily pads close to a colony to watch them in detail.

Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons* – Abundant, their nests decorated many trees along the river, we heard their calls and say them daily. It was the only oropendola species seen.

Fringillidae: Siskins, Goldfinches & Euphonias

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris* – A bird that tolerated human settlement, we found them on March 26, and 27, good views at our final docking and at the Manatee Research Center.

Additional Species Seen only in Lima – Quick visit to the coast at Miraflores and Olive Grove Park by our hotel. Chuck and Paul returned to the Villa Marshes for a fun day trip – 52 species (not listed), wow!

Peruvian Booby *Sula variegata* – Great close views as they flew by us at the coast walk of Miraflores.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* – Seen from the coastal walk in Miraflores, feeding close to shore in the rich waters, likely on anchovies.

Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus* – One of these giants preened and rested amid numerous Brown Pelicans on the pier going out from Rosa Nautica. At 7kg, this giant was impressive. They suffered a big die-off in 2012 that made International news; very dependent on coastal anchovies of the Humboldt Current.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* – Numerous on the pier jutting out from the Rosa Nautica restaurant in the Miraflores district of Lima

Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater* – A very tolerant pair was seen on the jetty going out to Rosa Nautica, so close we could photograph them with iPhones!

Gray-headed Gull - *Chroicocephalus (Larus) cirrocephalus* – Present in good number in the rich coastal waters glanced from Rosa Nautica and coastal Miraflores.

Belcher's (Band-tailed) Gull *Larus belcheri* – One handsome gull, easy to spy near Rosa Nautica, perching on the lights and coming in to sit on the restaurant windows!

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* – Adult and immature birds seen near Rosa Nautica, mainly in flight and resting on the sea.

Inca Tern *Larosterna inca* – What a stunning tern! They roost and nest on the pilings around Rosa Nautica.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* – Four individuals seen well at Olive Grove Park.

West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda* – Common in Lima.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* – Common in Lima.

Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana* – Seen very well in parks of Lima.

Amazilia Hummingbird – *Amazilia amazilia* – Seen in two parks of Lima. The namesake species for its genus.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* – Seen on wires of the city in Lima.

Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis* – A duo seen at Olive Grove Park, a feral population.

Scarlet-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga wagleri* – A noisy group seen at Olive Grove Park, a feral population.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* – Seen in Lima where we noted both the normal (namesake) brilliant red, and the Lima variety of a plum colored male with striped female. Chuck and Paul got good views of a pair in a small park outside the archeological ruins at Miraflores.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* – A few around Lima spotted by Chuck

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* – Two seen at the back side of Olive Grove Park near a group of mockingbirds.

Long-tailed Mockingbird *Mimus longicaudatus* – Jaunty and fun, common in Lima.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* – Seen only in the Lima part of the trip, in urban trees.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola* – One bright pair seen in Olive Grove Park in Lima.

Scrub Blackbird *Dives warszewiczi* – The vocalizations of this species are pretty amazing, we were serenaded as we walked the city streets back into town from Miraflores. They like to perch in the palms and belt it out – definitely on the increase in Miraflores.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* – urban areas...

MAMMALS

Edentata: Sloths

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus* – We saw several a day on all the creek outings, and some were spotted along the main river. High water makes finding slots a breeze!

Chiroptera: Bats

Long-nosed Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso* – Seen several evenings and roosting.

Fishing (or Bulldog) Bat *Noctilio leporinus* – Seen at very close range the night we returned from our night outing (scratching our mosquito bites – who will forget!).

White-lined Sac-winged Bat *Vampyrops brachycephalus* – Several day roost noted, and photographed, fun!

Jamaican Fruit-eating Bat *Artibeus jamaicensis* – Night excursion in the Lake, with Segundo's boat

Primates: Monkeys & Allies

Pygmy Marmoset *Cebuella pygmaea* – We heard them on a couple of outings, but the sighting they saved for our final sunset cruise. Recognizing sap wells made by this species, we parked our boats and waited, with success! Very significant to see the world's smallest primate!

Saddle-backed Tamarin *Saguinus fuscicollis* – We had two sightings of this lovely active primate, not as colorful as some of the species of the group, but great to listen to, and to see. They were highly active, feeding.

Night (Owl) Monkey *Aotus vociferans* – For many this was a mammal highlight of the tour, four packed into the trunk of a submerged dead tree. We were very close, and they came out to see what was up, peering over each other. We got great photos, and a video was made of one waving its hand above another's head, way too human to believe! Just one sighting, but very memorable.

(HO) Dusky Titi-Monkey *Callicebus moloch* – Many voyages record this species, but for ours, it was a heard only – likely we assumed we would find them again and alas, did not.

Monk Saki Monkey, *Pithecia monachus*,

Brown Capuchin *Cebus paella* – Our guides seemed really pleased with the frequency of which we saw this more difficult to spot monkey. We had them in photo range on two occasions, and noted on a third.

Common Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri sciureus* – This species lived up to its name, seen quite often, but always fun to see. At the end of our tour at the Manatee Rescue Center we saw them up close and personal, scampering just feet away.

Bolivian Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri boliviensis* – Common, seen on numerous days, the dark highlights in their pelage really set them off. We watched them feed, at times found females with young on their backs in the troops.

Red Howler Monkey *Alouatta seniculus* – Seen but sad to see them so afraid of boats. As the reserves keep them safe from hunting they may become tamer, but it was a real challenge to get to see them. Glimpses of deep russet males were intriguing.

Rodentia: Rodents

Northern Amazon Red Squirrel *Sciurus igniventris* – Seen by one of the boats on the 26th, in the morning.

(HO) Amazon Bamboo Rat *Dactylomys dactylinus*, heard at dusk along Caño Yanallpa; loud calls are evocative. Heard again up one of the small and wilder creeks at dusk

Yellow-crowned Brush-Tailed Tree Rat, *Isothrix bistrata*, we had good views of two or three of these interesting little rodents that sit in tree holes and peer out, challenging but wonderful photography!

Note: we also saw (Introduced) White-naped Squirrels in Lima...

Cetacea: Dolphins

Pink River Dolphin *Inia geoffrensis* Seen daily at the expense of many hours for the photo-obsessed. We became very fond of them and they seemed somewhat attracted to the ship, we would hear their spouts, and then they'd surface, flit by and were gone. Favorite observations were mainly at tributary mouths, where currents stirred up food resources.

Gray River Dolphin *Sotalia fluviatilis* – Less common but still seen frequently, especially at the mouths of smaller rivers. Agile and playful, fun to watch.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Caiman Lizard *Dracaena sp.* This snail-eating lizard was a favorite, decked out in Christmas colors, and we saw a dozen or so mainly in the small and wilder creeks. They would bask on overhanging branches of the river, and when approached would PLOP into the water, showing off strong swimming skills. Another name for them is water Tegu. Some males had very red and orange heads, striking!

Amazon Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* – Another icon of the region, we enjoyed watching them sun regally on thick vegetation where they blended in remarkably.

Spectacled (White) Caiman *Caiman crocodilus* – Seen on our night journey, one scooped up by Segundo for close inspection.

Glass Frog (sp.) – Delight small frogs found in floating mats of vegetation, very common!

Polkadot Tree Frog *Hypsiboas punctatus* – This one is a show-stopper, causing many oohs and aahs to come from their admirers. They were not uncommon, again found in the floating mats of vegetation on quiet tributaries.

Variable Clown Tree Frog *Dendropsophus Triangulum* – This group of frogs has been the centerpiece of evolutionary research and it was great to see them first hand, in various phases! Very common in the floating vegetation mats.

Clown Tree Frog – Giraffe phase *Dendropsophus leucophyllatus* – an easy favorite for many in the group. We had many, and were able to get close-up photos. They are much at home in floating mats of vegetation.

Red (Orange) – backed Poison Frog *Ranitomeya reticulata* – Great close-up views of this species on our Terra Firma walk thanks to our local guides.

Rain Frog, sp. – several were found with other species on floating islands of vegetation along quiet river shorelines.

Amazon Milk Tree Frog *Trachycephalus resinifictrix* – It was nice to see this popular species of the pet trade (it breeds well in captivity) out in the wild. Though one of the drabber species, it has engaging eyes and moves with quick agile jumps – fun!

Common Bromeliad Tree Frog *Osteocephalus leprieurii* – Segundo's group at the Forest Walk at Casual

Pygmy Hatchet-faced Tree Frog *Sphaenorhynchus carneus* – Seen in the floating mats of vegetation a day we took time to study frogs

Greater Hatchet-faced Tree Frog *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus* – Seen along with Pygmy Hatchets in the floating vegetation of quiet rivers.

Giant Monkey Frog *Phyllomedusa bicolor* – Seen on our terra firma walk, as the local guides scurried through the forest to find us species of interest.

Common Forest Anole *Anolis trachyderma* – Seen on several of our jaunts up smaller tributaries.

Collared Treerunner *Plica plica* – Found by Segundo on our Terra Firma walk.

Anaconda *Eunectes murinus* – Rangers at the first check point up Pacaya Samiria Reserve entrusted us to release an Anacaconda that villagers had rescued from persecution, asking that it be returned to the wild – hope for future attitudes toward wildlife changing among locals now vested in success of the reserve. It was an amazing thing to see this master of all snakes up close and personal, and several of the group helped Segundo make the release. Cameras were clicking!

Red-tailed Boa Constrictor *Boa constrictor constrictor*– Bud had the most personal encounter with this boa, perched at eye level just off the forest path where we walked on Terra Firma. With his keen photographic interest he put the lens up for that defining close up, a big HISS and he jumped – Mr. Snake defining his limits. This snake was an eye-opener, as it was full bodied, and resting from the high water – just at our eye level. An impressive snake.

Olive Whip Snake *Chironias fuscus* – Our guides spotted this highly camouflaged snake in the roots of a tree hanging over the river.

Green-striped Vine Snake *Xenoxybelis argenteus*– Segundo's group saw this species on the Forest Walk at Casual

Yellow-spotted Turtle *Podocnemis unifilis* – Seen only in the city pond where rescued species are released, in Nauta

FISH – Sampled on our fishing outing up El Dorado Creek...

Silver Piranha

Stinger Catfish

Silver-hatched Sardine

Tetra

Walking Catfish

Red-bellied Piranha

Sabalo, "Brycon"

A (Very) Short List of LARGE INVERTEBRATES

Leaf-cutter Ant

Amazonian Fire Ant

Bullet Ant

Ichichmi Ants – seen on palms as we motored up the smaller rivers

Dung Beetle

Leaf Katydid

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Rainbow Grasshopper
Armored Millipede
Nasute Termite
Wolf Spider
Pink-toed Tarantula
Social Spider
Golden Silk Spider
Blue Morpho
Argent Sulphur (many!)
Caligo (Owl) Butterfly
Tiger Longwing
Peacock
Glasswing
Julia Butterfly
Long-tailed Skipper
Swallow-tailed Moth
Green Pondhawk
Amazon Red Darter
Raspberry Skimmer