



AMAZON CRUISE SPECIES LIST

March 18 – March 26, 2017

ABOARD THE AMAZON STAR

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*List compiled by Woody Wheeler, tour host from Naturalist
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REFERENCE LOCATIONS WHILE ABOARD THE AMAZON STAR

1. Saturday, March 18 – Arrival in Iquitos, board the Amazon Star, head up river.
2. Sunday, March 19 – AM Ucayali River and side channels. PM Yarapa River.
3. Monday, March 20 – AM Yanallpa Creek & village of Nuevo Aucayacu.
4. Tuesday, March 21 – AM Zapote River. PM Night ride.
5. Wednesday, March 22 – AM Pacaya River explore and swim in Yanayacu Lake. PM El Dorado River fishing and birding.
6. Thursday, March 23 – AM Supay Creek kayaking. PM San Jose Paranapura village w/shaman.
7. Friday, March 24 – AM Nauta market & casual rainforest walk. Pause at confluence. Head to Iquitos.
8. Saturday, March 25 – AM Disembark; return to Lima

BIRDS

Anhimidae: Screamers

Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta* – Seen and heard, calling in loud, ape-like tones, on most days. Some of our group were fortunate to see several of their eggs in a nest.

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* – Seen scattered along some of the smaller drainages and in villages

Cracidae: Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows

Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata* – Seen and heard on several days, including from our kayaks on day 6.

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* – Seen daily, sometimes in large numbers mixed in with egrets.

Anhingidae: Anhingas

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* – Just two along Zapote River: One in flight and one perched on tree overhanging the river.

Ardeidae: Herons, Egrets & Bitterns

White-necked (Cocoi) Heron *Ardea cocoi* – Many of these elegant herons flew overhead; a few perched at a distance.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* – Seen everywhere, the most common egret. Often foraged in flocks.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* – The second most common egret, with best looks along smaller tributaries and side channels.

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* – Seen on just about every boat ride, usually flying just ahead or beside us.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus* – These beautiful herons seen on four days, including some perched close by.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* – We saw about a half-dozen on day 6 in one roost.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius* – Only one was seen by the second boat on our nighttime journey.

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum* - One was seen on the Pacaya River from our skiff.

Cathartidae: New World Vultures

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* – Common, especially near villages and towns; often in groups

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* – The smaller and more common of the two Yellow-headed Vultures seen flying relatively low to the ground in small numbers.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus* – The larger of the two species had a different, darker appearance and soared higher than the Lesser. We only saw a few of these.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* – These were seen on most days, sometimes in mixed flocks with Black Vultures. Some had a yellow nape.

Pandionidae: Osprey

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* – About a half-dozen total seen on five different days, often near river confluences.

Accipitridae: Hawks and Eagles

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* – Seen soaring on two different days.

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* – One seen soaring above Yanallpa Creek.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* – Many seen perched along shorelines on five different days.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* – Seen on two different days, but saw nine soaring together above the Yarapa River.

Slender-billed Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* – Several seen soaring above Yarapa River.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris* – This small hawk was seen multiple times daily.

Slate-colored Hawk *Leucopternis schistaceus* – Seen well on four days, especially the one perched across from the village of Nuevo Aucayacu.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis* – This strikingly handsome hawk was seen frequently perched along creeks, streams and side-channels, sometimes in small family groups.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* – A few seen almost every day. Most memorably, one flew across the Yarapa River in front of our skiffs, carrying a black snake in its talons.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens* – Two total seen on day five and six.

Rallidae: Rails and Gallinules

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* – One seen at the Iquitos waterfront park and another at Yanayacu Lake along the Pacaya River.

Heliornithidae: Sungrebe & Finfoots

Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica* – Heard but not seen.

Jacanidae: Jacanas

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* – In emergent vegetation these colorful birds were ever-present, often with young.

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* – Two seen on the Yarapa River area on islands of vegetation.

Laridae: Gulls & Terns

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* – Often seen in flight near our boats.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula supercilialis* – Also seen in flight near boats; much smaller than the Large-billed Tern.

Columbidae: Pigeons & Doves

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* - Seen in towns and cities we visited.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* – Seen once in San Jose Paranapura.

Ruddy Pigeon *Columba subvinacea* – One seen along Yanallpa Creek.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columba talpacoti* – Seen on Sapuena Creek.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* – Seen in Iquitos.

Opisthocomidae: Hoatzin

Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin* – Five seen very well in side channel near Yarapa River; more seen on 2 other days.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos & Anis

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* – One seen clearly flying across Yarapa River.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major* – A number of groups moved along rivers, hiding in the riparian vegetation.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* - Often seen perched together in groups on limbs, especially around villages and open areas.

Strigidae: Owls

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* - Two perched together in leafy cove on Zapote River.

Caprimulgidae: Nighthawks, Nightjars & Allies

Band-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne leucopyga* – Many seen hunting over the lake on our evening outing in the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve.

Sand-colored Nighthawk *Chordeiles rupestris* – A number also seen on evening outing in Pacaya-Samiria Reserve.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* – One seen via its illuminated eyes on our night expedition on Pacaya River.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis climacocerca* – Several seen roosting on branches surrounded by water.

Nyctibiidae: Potoos

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis* – At least four total seen on three different days, including one on evening outing that posed calmly on a snag surrounded by water for all to see.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* – Saw one perched along Yarapa River resembling the tree snag where it rested, awaiting unsuspecting insects.

Apodidae: Swifts

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura* – Flocks seen overhead on two different days.

Fork-tailed Palm Swift *Reinarda squamata* – One flock seen flying above Manatee Rescue Center in Iquitos.

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis* – The most common hummingbird we saw, including two babies on a nest near Yarapa River.

Olive-spotted Hummingbird *Leucippus chlorocercus* – Best seen in two villages visited, moving through flowers.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriate* – Seen in village of San Jose Paranapura.

Trogonidae: Trogons

Black-tailed Trogon *Trogon melanurus* – Several seen on Yarapa River; one along Zapote River.

Green-backed (White-tailed) Trogon *Trogon viridis* – One seen on Zapote River.

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

Ringed Kingfisher *Ceryle torquata* – Seen daily, multiple times/day.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* – The second most common kingfisher we saw, usually flying low over the water

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* – Seen on 2 days; best seen perching 25 yards away in Yanallpa area.

Bucconidae: Puffbirds

Black-fronted Nunbird *Monasa nigrifrons* – Seen frequently and clearly heard singing loud choral arrangements with other Nunbirds.

Swallow-winged Puffbird *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* – Three seen on kayak trip along Sapuenya Creek.

Galbulidae: Jacamars

White-eared Jacamar *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis* – Seen in Yamallpa area, perched on bare branches above water.

Bluish-fronted Jacamar *Galbula cyanescens* – Had beautiful view of this multi-colored bird on Pacaya River.

Capitonidae: Barbets

Scarlet-crowned Barbet *Capito aurovirens* – Seen on four days, usually in small groups in treetops.

Toucans: Ramphastidae

Lettered Aracari *Pteroglossus incriptus* – One nice look of perched bird on Yanallpa Creek.

Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis* – Many good looks starting with view of one at Manatee Rehabilitation Center in Iquitos.

White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos cuvieri* – Just one seen on Yanallpa Creek.

Picidae: Woodpeckers

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula* – Seen on three different days flying to snags.

Chestnut Woodpecker *Celeus elegans* – This gorgeous woodpecker seen on Yarapa and Yanallpa Creeks.

Cream-colored Woodpecker *Celeus flavus* – Found on Yarapa, Yanallpa and Pacaya Creeks/River.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* – Seen once working on large snag in Yanallpa area.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* – Several seen on Yarapa and Yanallpa Creeks.

Falconidae: Falcons & Carcaras

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* – Seen twice but best view was on snag along Sapuena Creek.

Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis* – Several seen perched and chasing a Macaw in Yanallpa area.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – Two seen on our second day out on Yarapa Creek.

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* – One seen along the Yarapa River.

Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus* – Only found on Yanallpa Creek.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* – The most common raptor on the trip, seen daily.

Psittacidae: Macaws, Parrots & Parakeets – 16 Species!

Blue and Yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna* – Had multiple, terrific looks at this charismatic species, including close looks from Amazon Star Deck in early morning perched atop dead Fig trees in the Yanallpa Area.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* – Saw multiple small groups in flight. Best sighting was pair illuminated by late afternoon sun near El Dorado.

Chestnut-fronted Macaw *Ara severus* – Seen on two days on Pacaya River and Sapuena Creek.

Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilata* – Perhaps the most numerous species of Macaws that we saw.

White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalma* – A number seen well along Yarapa River and Yanallpa Creek.

Dusky-headed Parakeet *Aratinga weddellii* – Seen often but especially well near nest hole at Sapuena Creek.

Canary-winged Parakeet (White-winged Parakeet) *Brotogeris versicolurus* – Seen most days, often in mixed flocks with other parakeets.

Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanopectera* – Another common species of this family, again in mixed flocks.

Tui Parakeet *Brotogeris sanctithomae* – Seen a few times on our trip, including a close look at second village.

Short-tailed Parrot *Graydidascalus brachyurus* – Seen several times, always in flight.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* – Just a few sightings of this species flying overhead.

Festive Parrot *Amazona festiva* – Seen on several occasions, including its dance performance along the Pacaya River, which is how this parrot got its name.

Yellow-crowned Parrot *Amazona ochrocephala* – Seen a few times, but the best and closest look was in the village of San Jose Paranapura.

Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica* – Common parrots, flying by in noisy flocks.

Mealy Parrot *Amazona amazonica* – Seen almost daily in small groups, readily identified by their chunky appearance and rapid wing beats.

Blue-winged Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopteryglus* – Seen only on second morning on Yarapa River.

Thamnophilidae: Antbirds

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* – Those who got up early and on the deck on our 6th day saw one on shore.

Furnariidae: Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers (Dendrocolaptinae)

Long-billed Woodcreeper *Nasica longirostris* – Seen two different days and always working a snag. One seen in striking profile with its over-sized bill.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* – Also seen on two days and working on snags.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Dendroplex picus* – The least common of woodcreepers seen, also found on a snag.

Red-and-white Spinetail *Certhiaxis mustelina* – Three seen foraging on emergent vegetation in Yanallpa area.

Tyrant Flycatchers: Tyrannidae

Drab Water Tyrant *Ochthornis littoralis* – This appropriately named bird was seen on three different occasions in wetland habitats.

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala* – Several were seen well, especially one that was perched on its nest in the Yanallpa area.

Cinnamon Attila *Attila cinnamomeus* – Had one terrific look at this bird perched in Pacaya River backwater area.

Dull-capped Attila *Attila bolivianus* – One found along the Zapote River.

Lesser Kiskadee *Pitangus lictor* – Common along rivers and creeks, especially quieter backwater areas.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* – Very common, seen daily, often heard calling its name.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* – One seen well near entrance to Manatee Rehabilitation Center.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* – Seen along Yurapa and Pacaya Rivers.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* – Also seen along Yurapa and Pacaya Rivers, including one individual on Yurapa that was close and well lit.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* – Often near nesting oropendola and caciques, since they usurp other birds' nests, thus the name "piratic."

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* – We had multiple daily sightings of this attractive bird.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* – We saw a few of these mixed with perched groups of Fork-tailed Flycatchers.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana* – We saw large numbers of this flycatcher soaring and perched, every day.

Cotingidae: Cotingas

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata* – Several seen in shrubs along Iquitos' waterfront park/promenade.

Bare-necked Fruitcrow *Gymnoderus foetidus* – Several seen along Zapote River.

Plum-throated Cotinga *Cotinga maynana* – One look at this stunning bird led to five more seen on the Yarapa River.

Tityridae: Tityras, Schiffornis & Becards

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* – One seen well on morning of second day along the Yarapa River.

Hirundinidae: Swallows & Martins

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera* – A small flock feeding along the Zapote River.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* – The most common of the two martins, seen on five different days.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* – Seen in small numbers, perching, flying, and feeding along Yarapa River.

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer* – Commonly perched in small groups along creeks and rivers.

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Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* – A few were seen on the Yarapa River.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* – Several flocks seen foraging over rivers on second and fifth days.

Troglodytidae: Wrens

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus* – Heard more often than seen.

Buff-breasted Wren *Thryothorus leucotis* – Boisterous and heard every day. Seen well on only one day.

Donacobiidae: Donacobuius

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla* – Seen and heard on four days in tall shrubs in flooded areas.

Thraupidae: Tanagers & Allies

Red-capped Cardinal *Paroaria gularis* – Seen most days foraging low in branches overhanging the water.

Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata* – Only seen once on the afternoon of the 3rd day on trip to village.

Masked Crimson Tanager *Ramphocelus nigrogularis* – A vividly colored tanager seen in groups on Yarapa River.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* – Several seen in Iquitos and along Yarapa River.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* – The most common tanager of the trip.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* – Seen in Iquitos and along Sapuena Creek.

Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis* – Seen on the way back from our first village visit. Aka “the seven-colored bird” this is another eye-popping tanager.

Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillate* – Well named, as the gray head stands out in good lighting. We saw one on the Yarapa River.

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana* – Saw this attractive tanager that looks more royal blue than turquoise with a yellow belly, on the Zapote River.

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris* – A common species in wet grassland areas, of which there were many.

Caqueta Seedeater *Sporophila murallae* – One perched along the Yarapa River.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola Mexicana* – Seen in Iquitos and villages.

Emberizidae: Finches & Sparrows a number of days and always at water’s edge foraging

Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons* – Seen on Iquitos Waterfront and in the two villages we visited.

Icteridae: Blackbirds & Orioles

Oriole Blackbird *Gymnomystax mexicanus* – Another gorgeous bird seen almost daily.

Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* – Seen frequently near masses of floating vegetation.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* – Seen multiple times near woven nests along the waterfront. We watched several weaving their nests at ranger station #2 along the Pacaya River.

Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons* – These large, handsome birds were seen often near their pendulous nests near shorelines or in flight.

Fringillidae: Siskins, Goldfinches & Euphonias

White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta* – Seen only once on Sapuena Creek.

MAMMALS

Edentata: Sloths

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus* – These were often seen in interesting hanging configurations, at times resembling hammocks in trees.

Chiroptera: Bats

Long-nosed Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso* – Seen roosting in a linear formation above the water line on vertical trunks.

Fishing (or Bulldog) Bat *Noctilio leporinus* – Often seen at night flying low to the water in search of fish.

Primates: Monkeys & Allies

Pygmy Marmoset *Cebuella pygmaea* – Seen moving through vegetation along Yarupa River.

Saddle-backed Tamarin *Saguinus fuscicollis* – Seen in riparian forest along Yanallpa Creek and Zapote River.

Night (Owl) Monkey *Aotus vociferans* – We had great looks at several in a nest hole along Yanallpa Creek, gazing at us through sleepy yet curious eyes.

Dusky Titi-Monkey *Callicebus moloch* – Seen twice on Yarapa River and Yanallpa Creek.

Monk Saki Monkey *Pithecia hirsute* – Seen in same places as Dusky Titi Monkey, but we had better looks – especially of one male who was out on an exposed limb.

Brown Capuchin *Cebus paella* – Seen only on one day, along Yarapa River.

White-fronted Capuchin *Cebus albifrons* – Seen in the afternoon along Yanallpa Creek.

Equatorial Saki Monkey *Pithecia aequatorialis* – Seen only in PM along Yanallpa Creek

Common Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri sciureus* – Most commonly seen monkey (on four days), performing acrobatic feats including large leaps between trees.

Bolivian Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri boliviensis* – Seen on two days along Zapote River and Sapuena Creek. Dark head markings distinguish this species from Common Squirrel Monkeys.

Rodentia: Rodents

Yellow-crowned Brush-Tailed Tree Rat *Isothrix bistriata* – We had one very good look at this cute rat (yes, it is a cute rat) sitting in a tree hole and peering at us.

Cetacea: Dolphins

Pink River Dolphin *Inia geoffrensis* – Seen and heard expelling air through their breathing holes almost daily.

Gray River Dolphin *Sotalia fluviatilis* – Less common but still seen frequently, especially at river confluences.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Caiman Lizard *Dracaena sp.* – This snail-eating, red-faced lizard was seen a few times, lounging on branches overhanging the river.

Amazon Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* – Had great looks at this Iguana perched in tree branches in Iquitos and on Sapuena Creek.

Spectacled (White) Caiman *Caiman crocodilus* – Seen on our night journey, with one captured temporarily by Segundo for a close look before he released it to the wetlands.

Polkadot Treefrog *Hypsiboas punctatus* – Usiel captured one and showed it to us in the boat.

Clown Treefrog (Giraffe phase) *Dendropsophus leucophyllatus* – One found along the Pacaya River.

Red (Orange) – backed Poison Frog *Ranitomeya reticulata* – One seen at close range on tropical rainforest walk.

Collared Forest Gecko – One seen climbing high on a tree along Zapote River.

Anaconda *Eunectes murinus* – Saw a young, but still 10-foot snake in a creek. It slithered up a tree then vanished in the mud in the creek bottom.

Red-tailed Boa *Boa constrictor constrictor* – Had a spectacular look at this boa in action as it hissed at us and coiled on tropical rainforest trail where it blended in beautifully with leaves on the trail. We gave wide berth and let it be.

Yellow-spotted Turtle *Podocnemis unifilis* – Seen only in Manatee Rescue Center in Iquitos.

FISH

Silver Piranha

Large-toothed Tambaqui

Pacu Fish

Purple Catfish

Pineapple Catfish

Silver-hatched Sardine

Armored Fish

Stinger Catfish

Walking Catfish

Red-bellied Piranha

A (Very) Short List of LARGE INVERTEBRATES

Leaf-cutter Ant

Amazonian Fire Ant

Army Ant

Aztec Ant

Bullet Ant

Leaf Katydid

Rainbow Grasshopper

Nasute Termite

Bird-eating Spider

Pink-toed Tarantula

Blue Morpho

Glaucous Kite Swallowtail

Malachite Butterfly

Argent Sulphur (many!)

Green Pondhawk

Amazon Red Darter

Raspberry Skimmer

