

Amazon Pre-trip Report

June 13-14, 2017

Venkat Sankar

Participants: Paul Carter (PC), Charles Hood (CH), Jose Gabriel Martinez (JM), Judy Parish (JP), Hari (HS) and Venkat Sankar (VS)

Summary: 13 species including Southern Two-toed Sloth, Spix's Night Monkey, Golden-faced Saki, Tayra, and Northern Amazon Red Squirrel. The only significant miss was Golden-backed Uakari (luckily we connected later in the trip!).

(Day 1: 6/13/17)

Most of us arrived on the evening of the 13th and went straight to the Hotel Tropical. After settling into the rooms and a quick dinner, we spent 1.5 hours spotlighting the hotel grounds. Although the forest was small and very disturbed and there were many feral cats, Jose Gabriel spotted a **Southern Tamandua** within 10 minutes, which I also glimpsed for a few seconds but the others missed. We then observed 3 **Southern Two-toed Sloths** (including a mother and baby) and 2 **Common Opossums**. We also saw many unidentifiable bats flying around fruiting trees and skimming the river.

(Day 2: 6/14/17)

We met the rest of the group at 5 AM and drove to a site near Irاندوبا (with guide Rafael) where we hoped to find Golden-backed Uakaris in some remnant swamp forest. While we didn't see any of those in about 3 hours in the canoes, we did observe many more common species: 3 troops of **Common Squirrel Monkeys** (ssp. *cassiquiarensis*), 2 troops of **Large-headed Capuchins**, several **Proboscis Bats**, and a **Frosted White-lined Bat**; we even heard some Venezuelan Red Howlers nearby. We also had a nice bonus in the form of a melanistic **Northern Amazon Red Squirrel**, apparently quite rare locally.

We then drove to Novo Airao to look for the night monkeys at Junior's hotel. Along the way, I was lucky enough to be awake and glimpse the **Tayra** that Rafael spotted flash off the side of the road about 15 km before town. Unfortunately, the driver braked too late and frightened the animal, so the others missed it. While entering the hotel, Paul spotted a small group of monkeys that turned out to be **Golden-faced Sakis**, only recently expanding their range into this area. We then readily found the **Spix's Night Monkeys** at their roost at the Pousada Amazonia hotel and found lunch in the half-ghost town, almost dead from lack of tourism.

Driving back to Manaus, I spotted a **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** in a roadside *Cecropia*. We were somewhat tired, but still spent an hour spotlighting around the Hotel Tropical before heavy rain began. It was another reasonably productive night, with good views of 2 Southern Two-toed Sloths, several Common Opossums, and a three-toed sloth that we later identified as a **Pale-throated Sloth**.

Species List:

1. **Common Opossum** (*Didelphis marsupialis*) – a total of 5 observed at Hotel Tropical over both nights; a few more observed by PC and JM 6/14/17
2. **Pale-throated Sloth** (*Bradypus tridactylus*) – seen poorly 6/14/17 night at Hotel Tropical
3. **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** (*Bradypus variegatus*) – 1 observed on the highway from Novo Airao 6/14/17
4. **Southern Two-toed Sloth** (*Choloepus didactylus*) – a total of 5 observed at Hotel Tropical over both nights; 1 more observed by CH and JP on 6/14/17 morning
5. **Southern Tamandua** (*Tamandua tetradactyla*) – 1 observed by JM and VS at Hotel Tropical 6/13/17
6. **Proboscis Bat** (*Rhynchonycteris naso*) – 4 observed at a day-roost at Iranduba 6/14/17
7. **Frosted White-lined Bat** (*Saccopteryx canescens*) – day-roosting at Iranduba 6/14/17
8. **Large-headed Capuchin** (*Sapajus macrocephalus*) – 2 troops observed at Iranduba 6/14/17
9. **Common (Humboldt's) Squirrel Monkey** (*Saimiri sciureus cassiquiarensis*) – 3 troops observed at Iranduba 6/14/17
10. **Spix's Night Monkey** (*Aotus vociferans*) – 5 seen at day-roost at Novo Airao 6/14/17
11. **Golden-faced Saki** (*Pithecia chrysocephala*) – 2+ unexpectedly observed at Novo Airao 6/14/17
- [**Venezuelan Red Howler** (*Alouatta seniculus*) – 1 troop heard-only at close range at Iranduba 6/14/17]
12. **Tayra** (*Eira barbara*) – 1 unexpectedly seen by JM and VS streaking off the side of the road 10 km from Novo Airao at midday
13. **Northern Amazon Red Squirrel** (*Sciurus igniventris*) – melanistic individual seen at Iranduba 6/14/17; apparently rather rare