

Peru – Madre De Dios – May 2018

Itinerary

May 23 – Fly from Miami-Lima-Cusco-Puerto Maldonado
May 24 – Taxi PM to Laberinto, Boat from Laberinto to Los Amigos Biological Station (CICRA)
May 25 – Los Amigos Biological Station (CICRA)
May 26 – Los Amigos Biological Station (CICRA)
May 27 – Los Amigos Biological Station (CICRA)
May 28 – Los Amigos Biological Station (CICRA) to Boca Colorado
May 29 – Boca Colorado to Manu Birding Lodge
May 30 – Manu Birding Lodge
May 31 – Manu Birding Lodge
June 1 – Manu Birding Lodge
June 2 – Manu Birding Lodge to Puerto Maldonado, fly back to US

Weather:

It was very dry while I was at CICRA, only raining for about 20 minutes one morning. At MBL we had one strong afternoon shower and then a FriaJe came in the day we left for Puerto Maldonado. Clouds, rain, wind, and temperatures in the low 50s!

Night walks:

In general, I was a bit disappointed with the lack of activity on my night walks. I spent about four hours out each night, varying the time and if the moon was out or not. There was a full moon while I was there and overall there seemed to be less activity while it was out, especially bird sound. I started out the trip doing mainly 12-4 am walks but later switched to 8-12 and noticed there seemed to be more activity at that time.

Mammal List:

- 1. Lowland Tapir** – Two seen, “Manolo” the semi-pet animal at MBL came onto the grounds at least 3 times, and a second fully wild Tapir seen at the Tapir lick one night, approx. 9 pm.
- 2. Red Brocket Deer** – One flushed and seen briefly along trail 10 at CICRA, a second seen walking down trail 27, both during the day
- 3. Tayra** – One seen at CICRA on trail 8
- 4. Southern Tamandua** – One seen right after arriving at MBL, on the Tapir trail
- 5. Common Opossum** – One seen on a night walk near the armadillo carcass on trail 10 at CICRA
- 6. Mouse Opossum Sp.** – One seen in a bamboo patch on a night walk at CICRA, trail 10
- 7. Giant Otter** – two groups seen, 4 or 5 in Cocha Lobo at CICRA, and 4 in Cocha Blanco near MBL
- 8. Greater Long-nosed Armadillo** – Two seen on night walks at CICRA, one on the trails, the other near the station compost area, also found a carcass along trail 10, these things are big!

9. Brown Agouti – one in the garden at MBL and another on a trail to the river overlook, both during the day

10. Tapeti – three seen on the lawns of CICRA at night, and one on trail 15

11. Peccary Sp. – A group of probably 4-5 flushed in the floodplain forest at CICRA, only saw one, and not clearly enough to ID.

12. Amazon Red Squirrel Sp. – 4 seen, 3 at CICRA and one at MBL

13. Amazon Dwarf Squirrel – 3 seen at CICRA

14. Kinkajou – One seen, high in a tree in the clearing at MBL at night

15. Emperor Tamarin – Had a lot of bad luck not running into these for my first few days at CICRA, then encountered them four times in 24 hours, usually in groups of 3-5, seen once at MBL as well, an individual with a group of Saddle-backs.

16. Weddell's Saddle-backed Tamarin – Amazingly I did not run into these at CICRA, purely bad luck as others there saw them daily, I later saw them 7 different times at MBL, usually in groups of 3-5

17. Black-capped Squirrel Monkey – a few seen with the large group of White-fronted Capuchins at Cocha Lobo, CICRA, two large groups of 40+ in the floodplain forest, one at CICRA and another on the walk to the Macaw Clay Lick near MBL, another small group seen on the tapir trail at MBL.

18. Brown Capuchin – Pretty common at both sites, encountered about ten times, usually in groups of 2-5 and a few times with Squirrel Monkeys

19. White-fronted Capuchin – More common than expected based on other reports, could be due to season? A large group of 30+ seen at Cocha Lobo at CICRA, and another group of 4-5 seen on trail 23, additionally encountered three times at MBL, usually in groups of 2-4

20. Gray's Bald-faced Saki – Saw one individual at CICRA on trail 8 that had a couple others with it calling, also had a group of 4-5 along the Tapir Trail at MBL

21. Peruvian Spider Monkey – Seen 4 or 5 times at CICRA, usually in family groups but one group in the floodplain forest had probably 10 or more. Only encountered one at MBL, on a night walk moving through the canopy that I must have woken up

22. Coppery Titi – Pretty easy at CICRA as a few hang around the clearing and are quite tame, saw a few times on the trails there too, only encountered once at MBL, a pair

23. Black-headed Night Monkey – heard these a couple times at night at CICRA but did not see them until at MBL where seen three times across two nights, in groups of 4-5, 3, and 2

Things I missed:

Cats – Was a bit disappointed not to encounter at least Ocelot on this trip after I had heard the reports of them frequenting the lawn at CICRA. I caught a glimpse of a larger mammal on the trail at MBL the last night that may have been one, but it was just not enough of a look.

Paca – I was really surprised to miss this one given the many hours spent out at night, and how common they apparently can be at times near MBL. I wondered if the dry conditions/time of year had something to do with this.

Howler Monkey – Heard 6 or 7 times across both lodges, a few people reported seeing singles or small groups while I was there but sightings were less common than the other primates

Dogs – A short eared dog was seen at CICRA a week or two before my trip, and one of the researchers who has been there for the last three months had seen one, as well as a group of 3 Bush Dogs!!

Peccaries – I was surprised to only encounter these once, I would imagine this is another animal that changes its habits significantly during the wet vs dry season when the floodplain forests and palm swamps have more water.

Kinkajou and **Olingo** – very surprised to only see one Kinkajou, based on other reports and research performed on Olingos at CICRA.

Capibara – seems like these have really decreased in the area, scanned for them along the rivers without luck.

Happy to answer any questions about the trip in general, the locations/accommodations, or the many bird species encountered.

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