

## Amazon River Adventure, March 4 to 18, 2019 Trip Report by Fiona A. Reid



Reflections, Ross Baker

**Participants:** Evita Caune, Lynne Hertzog, Steve Pequignot, Dawn Hannay, Gwen Brewer, George Jett, Sam and Anne Crothers, Ross Baker, Lynn Whitfield, Nancy Polydys, Jerry Friis, Lucy Mason, Margo Selleck, JoEllen Arnold, Lorysa Cornish

**Leaders:** Fiona Reid, James Adams, Moacir Fortes Jr., Ramiro Melinski

### March 4

We arrived in Manaus near midnight and had a short transfer direct to the LV Dorinha. We set sail at 1:30 a.m.



Dorinha, Ross Baker

### March 5

We woke up in Januari Lake in the Paracuuba Channel. Here we boarded canoes that took us to Xiboreinha. We saw many water birds, but the most interesting swimmer was a Southern Tamandua that made its way to dry land and up a tree. It shook and scratched itself repeatedly, perhaps to dislodge ants or termites from its fur. We also saw our first Brown-throated Three-toed Sloths and Proboscis Bats. Later we sailed upstream to a place called Anrá (pronounced uh-ha). We enjoyed views of a number of pretty icterids: Troupial, Yellow-hooded and Oriole Blackbirds, and the ubiquitous Yellow-rumped Cacique. We also saw 5 species of woodpecker and 7 species of parrot. A number of raptors were seen, including the Slate-colored Hawk. We sailed on to Janauacá Lake where we had a night trip at a place called Miuá. We saw Tropical Screech Owl, our first of many Amazon Tree Boas, and watched Lesser and Greater Fishing Bats feeding over the water. Frog diversity was good here too.



Southern Tamandua, left, George Jett, right, James Adams



### March 6

We woke up in Mamori in Janauacá, and later sailed upstream to Igarapé Preto, birding from the upper deck. On our way to the village we had great views of Rainbow and Amazon Whiptails, while Blue-gray tanagers flitted overhead. We had a tour of the village and bought a big sack of passionfruit. A Giant Amazon River Turtle was being held captive for a future meal.



Amazon Whiptail, James Adams

We motored through the forest of floating arums to Enchanted Lake, and continued to “dry land” (actually about 6-12 in deep water) where we looked for night monkeys. Sadly the monkeys were not present and we headed back. It was fascinating to go through the floating arum forest by day and by night. As we passed the village we saw numerous Green Iguanas in the treetops, and our first Black-crowned Night Heron.

### March 7

We found ourselves in the mouth of Piranha Lake and went to the small island of Macaquinho. One group went fishing while others went exploring. The fishing trip was very successful, with 180 red-bellied piranha and other fish caught.



Red-tailed Boa, James Adams

In the afternoon, Erivan took us to see a huge Red-tailed Boa, resting high on a branch in flooded forest. We also watched a Crimson-crested Woodpecker in nearby trees. Erivan also took us to see a group of Horned Screamers, and we had nice views of Hoatzins too. After dark we had a night canoe trip. We recorded a group of 3 sleeping Sungrebes, 4 Red-nosed Tree Rats, and woke up a group of Bare-eared Squirrel Monkeys. On return to the Dorinha we motored back to Manaus.

### March 8

We spent the morning on land, starting at the Tropical Hotel where we saw several mammals: Southern Two-toed Sloths (including mother and young), Pied Tamarins, and Golden-faced Sakis, although George saw them even better later and caught some great images.



Golden-faced Sakis,  
(male carrying  
young), George Jett



Pied Tamarin, George Jett

A red-rumped Agouti was seen by some. We went to the Opera House for a taste of culture. We boarded the boat for lunch and traveled up the Rio Negro to Acajatuba Lake where we had a wonderful time swimming with Pink River Dolphins.

Pink River Dolphin or Bouto, Lorysa Cornish





We continued on to Pagadão. This area has a series of channels with very steep banks leading to terra firme forest. We saw a number of Gray Four-eyed Opossums, Diving Lizards, and numerous frogs. We turned off the lights to listen to frogs, Crested Owls and other nocturnal species.

Gray Four-eyed Opossum, Dawn Hannay

### March 9

We woke in the Cuieiras River and took a morning trip to Igarapé Cachoeira. Traveling through a maze of dead trees and clumps of mistletoe we saw a number of hummingbirds, but unfortunately missed the Crimson Topaz. Gwen was happy to see Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. We had a lovely swim in the dark orange waters before returning to our ship, and Mo caught a Peacock Bass. James saw a coral snake when he went exploring. After lunch we headed to Mo's camp on Jaradá Lake, on the Cuieiras River. Most of the group hiked to the campina, despite a heavy rainstorm. They were lucky to see a yellow-footed Tortoise, as well as unique vegetation.

Yellow-footed Tortoise, James Adams



I set nets for bats behind the camp. We had a very successful bat night, with 10 species caught. Lynn and Ross were thrilled to find their first Frog-eating Bat. I saw a tiny opossum, the Delicate Slender Mouse Opossum, but sadly nobody else saw this.



Left, Striped Hairy-nosed Bat, right, Frog-eating or Fringe-lipped Bat, Fiona Reid

### March 10

We sailed overnight back to the Rio Negro and woke in the Anavilhanas Islands. We visited Uruá Island in the morning, and found two large rodents. One was a Red-nosed Tree Rat. The second, shown below, was peeking out of a tree hole. Some would lump this with the Yellow-crowned BTR. I follow J Patton.

Rio Negro Brush-tailed Rat, Dawn Hannay



Many Blue and Yellow Macaws were seen. After a swim we traveled to Santo Antonio Channel for upper deck birding. We saw our first Short-tailed Hawk and Bare-necked Fruitcrow, and some of the group saw a Razor-billed Curassow. We had brief views of a Golden-faced Saki, which was the farthest north our captain has seen this species. Common Squirrel Monkeys were seen too.

Blue and Yellow Macaws, Lynne Hertzog



After dark we had a long night trip on the Aturia River, searching for Emerald Boa. We didn't find our target but did see a number of animals of interest. The best was a very prolonged view of a Black-tailed Hairy Dwarf Porcupine. Usually these mammals shy away from any light, but this one stayed in full view for several minutes. We had a short but good view of a Paca on a forested bank, and also had excellent views of a Bicolored Rice Rat. Four Amazon Tree Boas and several Gladiator Treefrogs were seen, and we found the first Blackish Nightjar of the trip. We also noted Ghost Bats flying over the water.



Black-tailed Hairy Dwarf Porcupine,  
James Adams

**March 11**

We had a very nice day trip to a waterfall on the Aturia River where we made a fire and some tasty chicken stew. The water was great for swimming. Many plants of interest were seen including sundews and orchids. We had good looks at a Gray-headed Kite, Ringed Woodpecker, and Spangled Cotinga, among other birds. After dinner we had a night trip in Meduini (I was stuck in my room with the 24 hour plague).



Sundews, Dawn Hannay

**March 12**

We were in the mouth of the Jauaperi River on waking, and went on a hike in Cambeua. A good number of birds were listed. Brown Capuchins, Common Squirrel Monkeys and Venezuelan Red Howlers were also seen. Later the group explored up the Jauaperi River, and in the evening Ross and Lynn went with Junior to set nets at the Farm (there is only one farm in this area). I staggered out onto a canoe and we did quite well for a short outing, seeing two Western Woolly Opossums, a Bicolored Rice Rat and a Tropical Screech Owl, as well as the usual suspects.



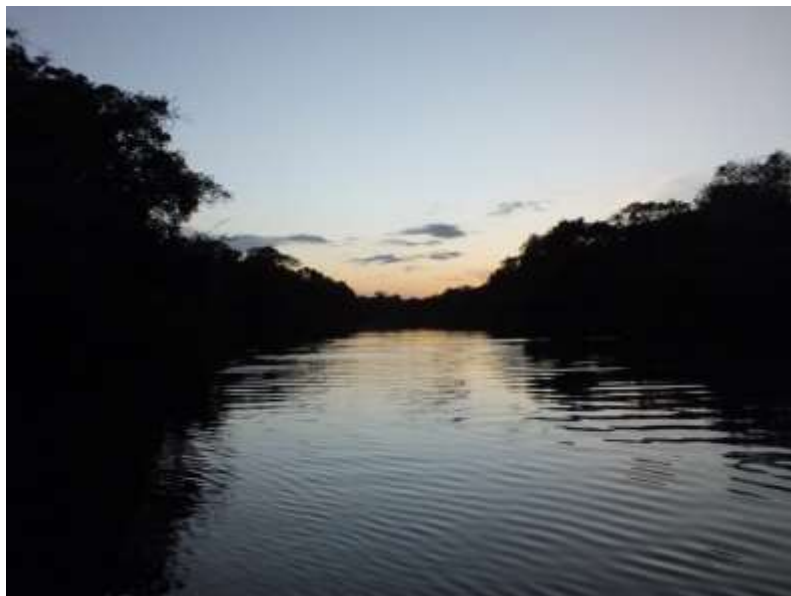
Bicolored Rice Rat, Fiona Reid



Sunrise, Lorysa Cornish

### March 13

We got up at an unmentionably early hour, but it was well worth it. We paddled slowly on a broad stream in the dark, listening to dolphins breathing in the waters around us. Magical. Slowly the forest woke up, the Tropical Screech Owl calls replaced by Green Ibis and Red-throated Caracara's maniacal shrieks. We paddled up a small channel, stopping for Chestnut and Ringed Woodpeckers, and spotting a Guianan Squirrel too. We continued to



Remanso Village, where we met villagers and gave out some medicines, and bought a few baskets. Jerry had a bad fall on a bridge and returned to the boat. We sailed north to the Rio Branco where we explored Maquari Lake, about 2 km upstream. We recorded Common Squirrel Monkey and Brown Capuchin, and many birds of interest including Agami and Boat-billed Herons and Pygmy Kingfishers. After dark we spotted a Bamboo Rat and our first Ferreira's Spiny Rat, poking its nose out from behind a narrow tree trunk.

### March 14

We returned to Remanso overnight. In the morning we set out with a guide from the village to hike into the forest in search of Capuchin-bird and various primates. Our best monkey sightings were actually from the boat, where some saw the Brown-bearded Saki. Brown Capuchin and Common Squirrel Monkey were also recorded. Hiking through the Brazil nut forest was interesting, and a number of forest birds were seen, including White-crowned Manakin and Grayish Mourner. Pedro found a Green Vine Snake that was very well-camouflaged.



Green Vine Snake,  
James Adams

After lunch we traveled to Parana de Floresta on the Rio Negro. Later in the afternoon we boarded to canoes to take a very long short-cut through a series of channels called Furo do Agua Boa. The first half of the trip was in daylight, and we saw our first Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, along with other water birds. After dark I spotted a rat in a tree hole, another Yellow-crowned Brush Rat. There seems no easy way to lure them out, much as I wanted to see its body and tail. We also found some very small, colorful Amazon Tree Boas, had our first good look at a Common Potoo, and all the usual suspects. Ghost bats flying near the canoes were a highlight.

### March 15

We woke in the Anavilhanas Islands near Camaleao. On this island we searched for Wire-tailed Manakin, eventually getting good looks at this amazing little bird. We went to see a *Strophocactus*, with a highly unusual growth form, its thick leaves wrapped around the trunks.



Wire-tailed Manakin, George Jett

*Strophocactus* sp., Fiona Reid

We also saw the reddish, narrow-buttressed *Schwartzia* trees here. Short-tailed Hawk and Scarlet Macaws added to our morning. We sailed south on the Rio Negro to Praia Grande, where a fierce wind died down enough to allow us to paddle into a nearby lake. Here we waited for Black Uakari, eventually giving up on the wait and going in search. I spotted a group at the far end of the lake, and after a few back and forth rides around a small peninsula, nearly everyone had several good views of these

incredible primates. On the way back the wind had really whipped up so we had to disembark and cross a narrow patch of sand to get back to the boat, reducing the weight on the canoes enough for them to be safely driven back out. It was too wild and windy for a night drive.

### **March 16**

We woke up in Manaus, and after breakfast took a bus to the Presidente Figueredo area. Here we split up, with the hikers and batters taking off to Maruaga Cave, and the birders going to Mari-Mari. The batting was excellent with 6 species recorded, most being new for the trip. We even saw female Cock-of-the-rocks on their nests. The people at Mari-Mari had no such luck, but after lunch a male Cock-of-the-Rock put on a good show through a tangle of branches, never coming close enough for good photos. We headed back to the boat in time for dinner.



Female Cock of the Rock and Maruaga Cave, below, Fiona Reid





Pied Tamarin, James Adams

**March 17**

A small group of us got up very early to go to El Ducke reserve and tower, in the MUSA Park. This was an excellent trip with many new birds and good sightings of Pied Tamarins and Red Howlers.

A group of Red-fan Parrots preening in the early sun was a highlight, as were Spotted and Flame-crested Tanagers. We returned to our boat for a late

breakfast, and sailed down to the Wedding of the Waters, where some of us jumped in and got a real feeling for the temperature change from the warm dark water to the cool white water. We headed back to Janauari Lake and enjoyed fine views of Three-toed Sloth, our first White-fronted Capuchins, Red Howlers, and numerous birds.

One big surprise was a snake swimming across the river. It came very close to the canoes and then climbed up into vegetation. We later identified it as a *Chironius* sp, possibly Amazon Whipsnake, We went back to the Dorinha and sailed back to Manaus for the last time, eating dinner on the way, before we sadly headed to the airport for late-night flights home.

Amazon Whipsnake, George Jett





Our amazing crew: Vito, Cantagalo, Roci, Mo Junior, Wandalane, Elias, Cleide, Ramiro, Pedro



And us lot: Anne, Sam, Dawn, Steve, JoEllen, Jerry, Fiona, Lynne, Lynn  
Evita, Margo, George, Gwen, Lorysa, Lucy, Ross  
and James!



Dawn Hannay



**MAMMAL LIST March 5-17, Amazon and Rio Negro  
2019 Fiona Reid**

<b>Opossums</b>	<b>Didelphidae</b>
Western Woolly Opossum	<i>Caluromys lanatus</i>
Gray Four-eyed Opossum	<i>Philander opossum</i>
Delicate Slender Mouse Opossum	<i>Marmosops parvidens</i>
<b>Armadillos/Sloths/Anteaters</b>	<b>Xenarthra</b>
Southern Tamandua	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>
Southern Two-toed Sloth	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>
<b>Bats</b>	<b>Chiroptera</b>
<b>Sac-winged Bats</b>	<b>Emballonuridae</b>
Greater Ghost Bat	<i>Diclidurus ingens</i>
Lesser Dog-like Bat	<i>Peropteryx macrotis</i>
Proboscis Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>
Greater White-lined Bat	<i>Saccopteryx bilineata</i>
Lesser White-lined Bat	<i>Saccopteryx leptura</i>
<b>Fishing Bats</b>	<b>Noctilionidae</b>
Lesser Fishing Bat	<i>Noctilio albiventris</i>
Greater Fishing Bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>
<b>Leaf-nosed Bats</b>	<b>Phyllostomidae</b>
<b>Spear-nosed Bats</b>	<b>Pylostominae</b>
Striped Hairy-nosed Bat	<i>Gardnerycteris crenulatum</i>
Hairy Spear-nosed Bat	<i>Phyllostomus elongatus</i>
Greater Spear-nosed Bat	<i>Phyllostomus hastatus</i>
Fringe-lipped Bat	<i>Trachops cirrhosus</i>
<b>Nectar Bats</b>	<b>Glossophaginae</b>
Pallas's Long-tongued Bat	<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>
<b>Short-tailed Bats</b>	<b>Caroliinae</b>
Seba's Short-tailed Bat	<i>Carollia perspicillata</i>
Dwarf Little Fruit Bat	<i>Rhinophylla pumilio</i>
<b>Tailless Bats</b>	<b>Sternodermatinae</b>
Dark Fruit-eating Bat	<i>Artibeus obscurus</i>
Plain Fruit-eating Bat	<i>Artibeus planirostris</i>
<b>Vampire Bats</b>	<b>Desmodontinae</b>
Common Vampire Bat	<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>
<b>Mustached Bats</b>	<b>Mormoopidae</b>
Common Mustached Bat	<i>Pteronotus parnellii</i>
<b>Vesper Bats</b>	<b>Vespertilionidae</b>
Black Myotis	<i>Myotis nigricans</i>
Riparian Myotis	<i>Myotis riparius</i>
<b>Free-tailed Bats</b>	<b>Molossidae</b>
Black Mastiff Bat	<i>Molossus rufus</i>
Pallas' Mastiff Bat	<i>Molossus molossus</i>

<b>Monkeys</b>	<b>Primates</b>
Red-backed Bearded Saki	<i>Chiropotes chiropotes</i>
Golden-faced Saki	<i>Pithecia chrysocephala</i>
Black-headed Uakari	<i>Cacajao melanocephalus</i>
Common Squirrel Monkey	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>
Bare-eared Squirrel Monkey	<i>Saimiri ustus</i>
Brown Capuchin Monkey	<i>Sapajus macrocephalus</i>
White-fronted Capuchin	<i>Cebus albifrons</i>
Guianan Red Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta macconnelli</i>
Venezuelan Red Howler	<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>
Pied Tamarin	<i>Saguinus bicolor</i>
<b>Rodents</b>	<b>Rodentia</b>
Red-rumped Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta agouti</i>
Paca	<i>Agouti paca</i>
Black-tailed Hairy Dwarf Porcupine	<i>Coendou melanurus</i>
Amazon Bamboo Rat	<i>Dactylomys dactylinus</i>
Armored/Red-nosed Tree Rat	<i>Makalata didelphoides</i>
Rio Negro Brush-tailed Rat	<i>Isothrix negrensis</i>
Bicolored Rice Rat	<i>Oecomys bicolor</i>
Ferreira's Spiny Tree Rat	<i>Mesomys hispidus</i>
Guianan Squirrel	<i>Sciurus aestuans</i>
<b>Dolphins</b>	<b>Cetacea</b>
Pink River Dolphin or Boto	<i>Inia geoffrensis</i>
Gray River Dolphin or Tucuxi	<i>Sotalia fluviatilis</i>