

### **Some mammal observations in Suriname (19, 22-23 February 2023)**

Here are some notes about some casual mammalwatching in Suriname, done during and following a work trip. I am an ecologist and equal-opportunity natural history person, happy to see mammals, birds, herps, whatever. I was in the country to do some conservation planning. Others have provided some basic information about Suriname so I will focus on the details. For someone with more time and focus, I believe that a good list of mammals could be generated with modest effort. I would have loved to have spent more time at Brownsberg, where there are a number of cats and other species possible. The birding and herpetological possibilities (especially at night) are also great. I had a guide accompany me to Brownsberg Nature Park who is quite knowledgeable about the mammals of Suriname and who would be a great person to contact (Errol Gezius, also the Secretary of the United Tour Guides of Suriname, +597 854 4192).

### **Peperpot Nature Park (19 February 2023)**

Peperpot Nature Park is easily accessed from the main town of Paramaribo. Any hired driver will know where it is just across the Suriname River. There are good accommodations near the park (Boutique Hotel Peperpot near the back entrance) or you can simply travel there for the day. I spent an afternoon walking slowly through the park to the back entrance, where we met our driver. No guide is necessary. It was pretty easy to observe the mammals that I did see, and you could easily pick up more species (anteaters, sloths, etc.).

Mammals seen:

- Guinean Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)
- Guinanan Brown Capuchin (*Sapajus apella*)
- Red-rumped agouti (*Dasyprocta leporine*)

### **Brownsberg Nature Park (22-23 February 2023)**

I traveled to Brownsberg primarily to see Gray-winged Trumpeters (*Psophia crepitans*), one of a three-member bird family which is rather easily seen at the park because they were fed in the past. The drive to the village of Brownsberg is straightforward (though beware the traffic in and around Paramaribo during peak commute times). From the village of Brownsberg up to the plateau where the Brownsberg Camp is found the road was god-awful, and my guide and I got a ride up (~13 km) with another vehicle that had 4 wheel drive (4-wheel-drive is an absolute necessity to get up that road, unless you walk).

We stayed at the Camp, where there are several adequate small lodges to stay in. Some references encourage reserving ahead of time with STINASU HQ in the capital Paramaribo (stinasu@gmail.com). But you could also contact the Camp directly (mobile +5976808322) and there was space when I visited.

My guide and I ended up walking out the 13 km when there was not another vehicle at the park when we needed to leave to get back to Paramaribo for my flight the next day. The walk did allow some additional bird and mammal observations.

Red-rumped Agoutis, Guianan Red Howlers, Golden-handed Tamarins, and Two-toed Sloths were relatively easy to observe at the center around the cabins and along the trails. Red-faced Black Spider Monkeys and White-faced Sakis were observed along trails not far from the cabins.

- White-faced Saki (*Pithecia pithecia*)
- Red-faced Black Spider Monkey (*Ateles paniscus*)
- Guianan Red Howlers (*Alouatta macconnelli*)
- Golden-handed Tamarin (*Saguinus midas*)
- Pale-throated Three-toed (*Bradypus tridactylus*)
- Linné's Two-toed Sloth (*Choloepus didactylus*)
- Red-rumped agouti (*Dasyprocta leporine*)

#### **Incidental Observations:**

We also observed a Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) crossing the highway on our way to Brownsberg. We pulled off the road and got excellent looks – my guide indicated it was only the second time he'd observed this smaller species of otter.

Finally, there are a couple of groups of Great Fruit-Eating Bats (*Artibeus lituratus*) in spots under the covered walkways at the Torarica Royal Hotel where I stayed in Paramaribo.