

BRAZIL PRIMATE TRIP, 2023 MAMMALS OF THE AMAZON
RAINFOREST, CAATINGA AND ATLANTIC RAINFOREST OF
NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST
24 May 2023 - 10 June 2023

In my quest to see most, if not all, of the primates that live in Brazil I teamed up again with the wonderful Regina Ribeiro (in my opinion THE primate watching guide in Brazil) with the additional expertise of Marluce Boute from Boute expeditions. Regina is always able to find the best local contacts and guides in country in the best locations. As usual I feel that using guides in places like Brazil gives back to the local economy and them being in the field helps as guardians of the locations once I have ticked off the things I want to see and go home. Plus traveling with local knowledge always smooths out any difficulties along the way.

Regina can help put together any parts of this trip, local guide portions, or the trip itself. She can be contacted at guiaregis@yahoo.com.br. In respect to all the time and effort she puts into all my primate wish lists, she is the one to contact for more detailed location information. Go with her on a trip, it is worth it.

I concentrated on five primates that I wanted to see, then anything else was a bonus. This was not a hard core listing trip, as seeing those primates was my priority. There was time to relax, eat great food and drink lots of caipirinhas.

1. Rondon's marmoset, described in 2010 and split from the Emilia's marmoset.
2. Silvery Marmoset, a species very common in zoos, especially in Europe.
3. Blond Titi Monkey, my last *Callicebus Titi* I needed to see in the wild.
4. Black-faced Lion Tamarin, which I had suspected would be difficult

5. Southern Muriqui, the largest of the Neotropical primates so a must for any primate watcher.

We stayed at the following places -

1. Tryp by Wyndham Manaus - our first stop mainly for a few hours sleep after arriving in Brazil.
2. Pousada Nossas Raizes - in Porto Velho.
3. Pousada Boutique Vila de Alter - in Alter do Chao, easily the nicest place we stayed.
4. Arua Lodge - in Mata de Sao.
5. Pousada Casa de Geleia - in Lençóis.
6. Hotel Panamby - in Sao Paulo.
7. Pousada Recanto Ararapira - on the north coast of Superagui Island.
8. Pousada Ariri - in Ariri.
9. Pousada Marchesin - on top of a gas station on the outskirts of the Carlos Botelho State Park.
10. Grand Hotel Royal - in Sorocaba.

Day 1 - After an overnight flight that connected through Panama City, I arrived into Manaus at 2:49 am. I had a transfer to the hotel where I slept for a few hours, then met up with Regina and my trip companion Judy Parish during breakfast. This was my third time in Manaus and after seeing the Golden-faced Saki Monkey and the Pied Tamarin in the past, we decided to see them again, but at a more leisure filled pace. We started the day looking for the tamarin on the streets that surrounded the former Tropical Hotel. It was sad that so many of the forest fragments around the hotel had been cut down since my last visit, and workers were busy cutting more down while I was there. Despite hearing the tamarins multiple times, we were unable to get to them as many of the forest fragments were blocked by gates. After this we drove to the Bosque da Ciencia, run by the National Institute of Amazonian Research. Situated on one of the more lush forest fragments in Manaus, there are multiple trails throughout the grounds that several mammal species have taken up residence. I was mainly interested in the Saki monkeys. After walking around the entire

grounds, we finally met up with a family of five Golden-faced Saki Monkeys just past the main entrance gate. We were told this a a current favorite location they stay in.



After this we drove to the Mindu Municipal Park in the late afternoon which is located about 15 minutes from the city center. One of the reasons the park was set up was to protect the Pied Tamarin. After

walking the trails in the upper and lower parts of the park, one of the workers called out to us that the tamarins were next to the restaurant. Many of the individuals had collars on them.



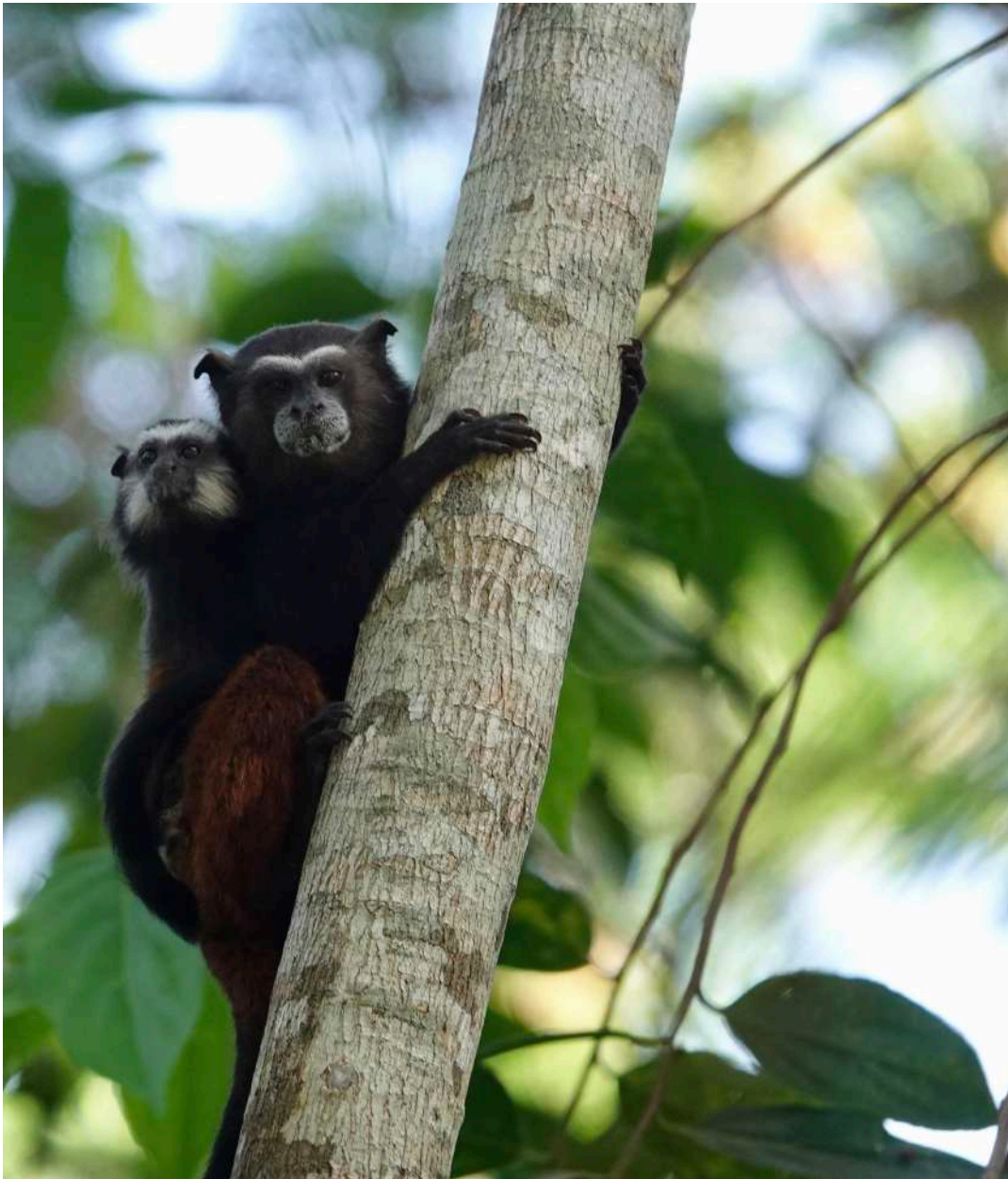


After the park we collected our belongings from the hotel and took a night flight to the city of Porto Velho, the capital of the state of Rondonia.

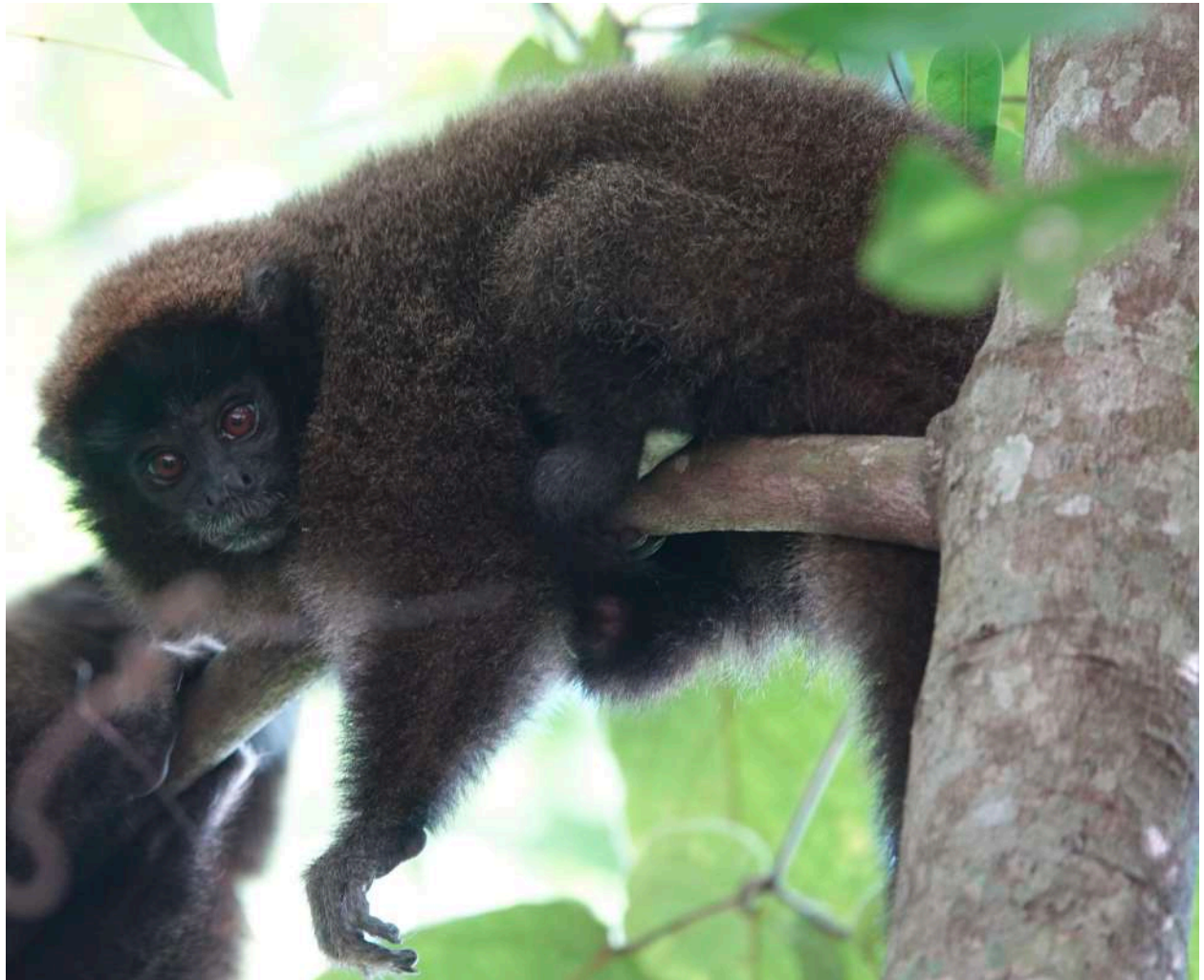
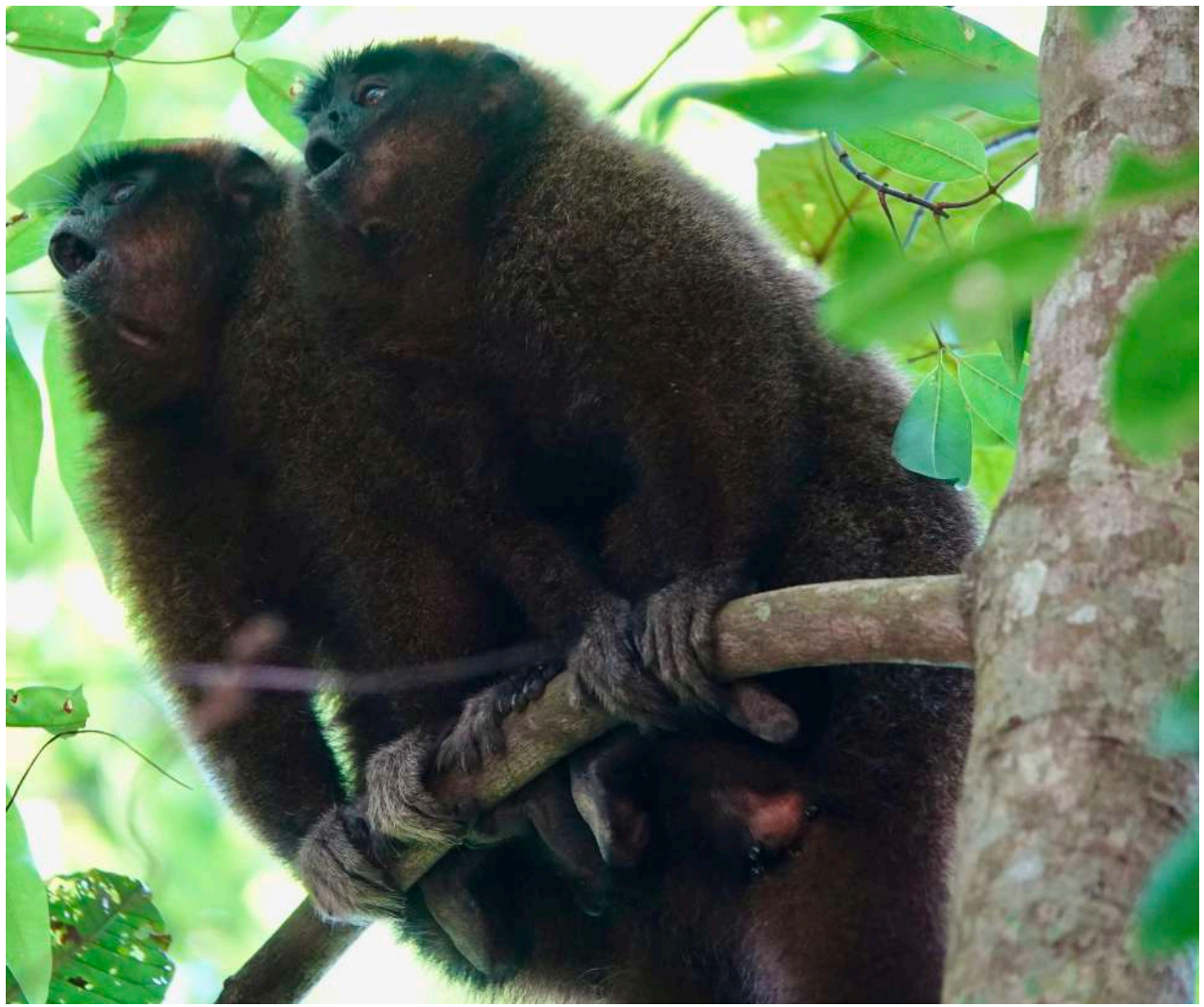
Day 2 - Regina had been given a tip by a local guide that Rondon's Marmosets were possible to see on the grounds of the Federal University of Rondonia. While he was unable to go with us, he linked us up with Kamila Miranda. She works for ICMBIO, the national agency of the environment that regulates environmental issues for all of Brazil. Her job was to monitor the fauna in the state, so she knew about the marmosets and was keen to do some guiding. She

does not speak English (and more importantly I do not speak Portuguese) so once again having Regina with us was a bonus. Kamila and her partner picked us up in the morning and drove us onto the university campus. Kamila knew of a spot that the marmosets, as well as several other species of primate that I will list soon, did a daily exaggerated loop around a forest fragment on the campus. Within 30-40 minutes of walking on said loop the tell tail shrill pitch marmoset call was in front of us. We then walked towards the sound and saw a large number of Bare-eared Squirrel Monkeys with two marmosets up in the canopy. It did not take long however for the Squirrel Monkeys to position themselves almost at eye level with us.

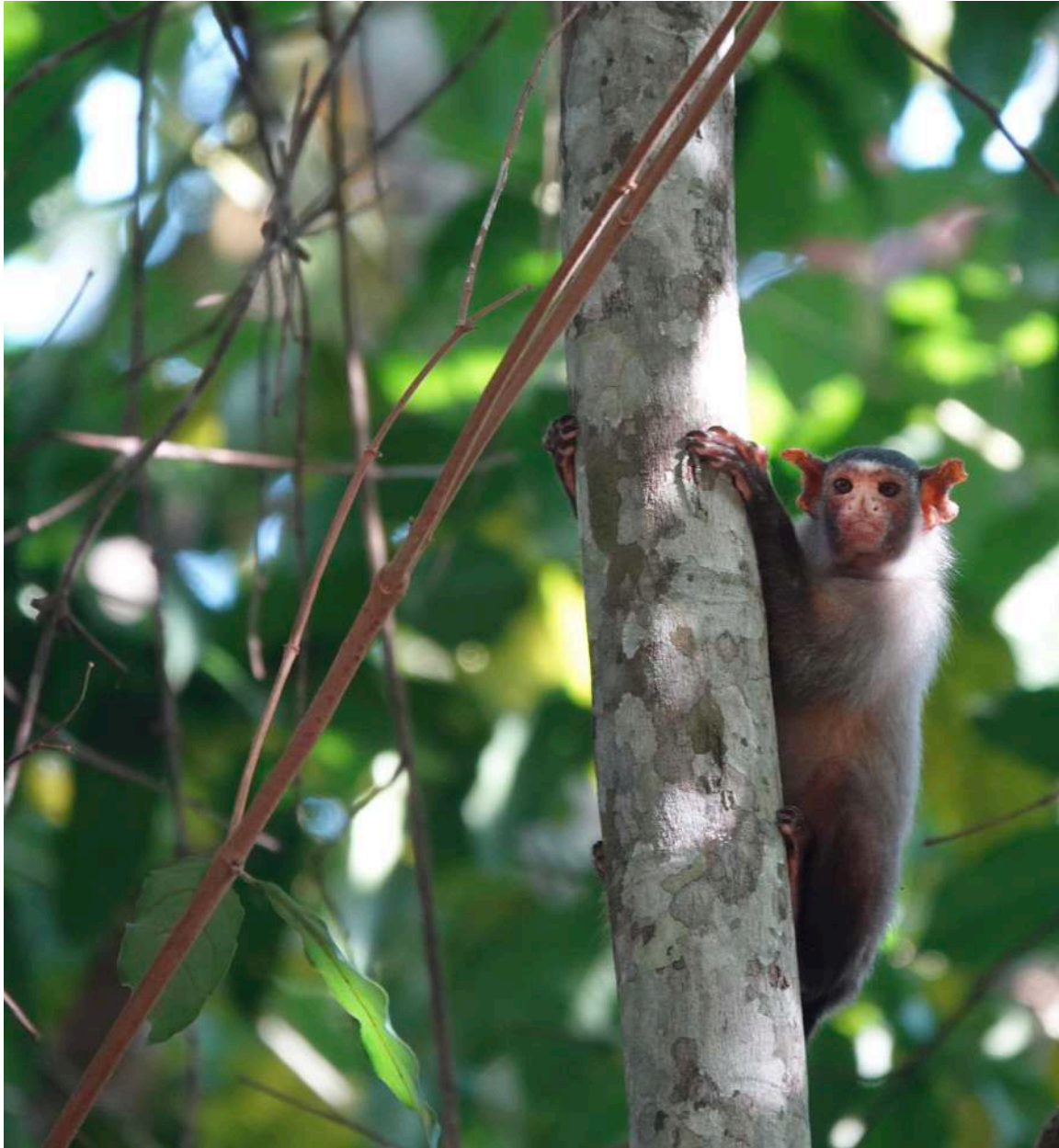




They lead the procession of what seemed to go on forever of themselves, even more marmosets, Weddell's Saddle Back Tamarins, and two families of Brown Titi Monkeys taking up the rear. It got to the point where the sheer number of monkeys, many again just above our heads or at eye level, just did not stop. They also for the most part were very relaxed with us watching them. At one point, awe struck, I turned to Regina and asked if this was what monkey heaven (for a primate watcher) looked like.



The other thing that was so special for me, was the Rondon's Marmoset was my 900th mammal species I had seen in the wild. I am finally catching up with "the Boys".





After watching them for over an hour, Kamila then told us she knew of a location that Ryland's Bald-faced Saki Monkey frequented. We walked down a dirt road near the end of the University grounds. We were rewarded with another very relaxed Brown Titi monkey that was busy foraging. At the end of the trail we finally saw a family of five saki monkeys, however they were on the move and ran in the canopy above our heads, so were too fast to photograph.



Kamila then recommended that we eat lunch at Barracao do Jar seafood restaurant overlooking the Madeira River. The restaurant overlooked a nice section of the river that came complete with views of some Amazon river dolphins (botos). After lunch we retreated to the hotel for a siesta. There I witnessed one of the most intense rainfall with a secondary flash flooding that I had ever seen in the Neotropics. The road in front of our hotel briefly was completely under at least 1.5 meters of water. I probably could have gone swimming in it.

After that we went back to the University grounds and walked around the same areas we had in the morning. This time however none of the

monkeys showed up in any of the locations that we had been rewarded with during the morning.

Kamila had told us that her partner's mother's house is frequented by a small family of Black-headed Night Monkeys that use the trees in her backyard as a path during their nightly outings. While she did not know the location of the day roost, she felt confident that the monkeys would show. So, at dusk, we positioned herself at a table in the backyard and waited for the monkeys. It did not take long that the tell tale moving branches started and the monkeys slowly made their way along the trees through the back yard. They briefly stopped to look at us.



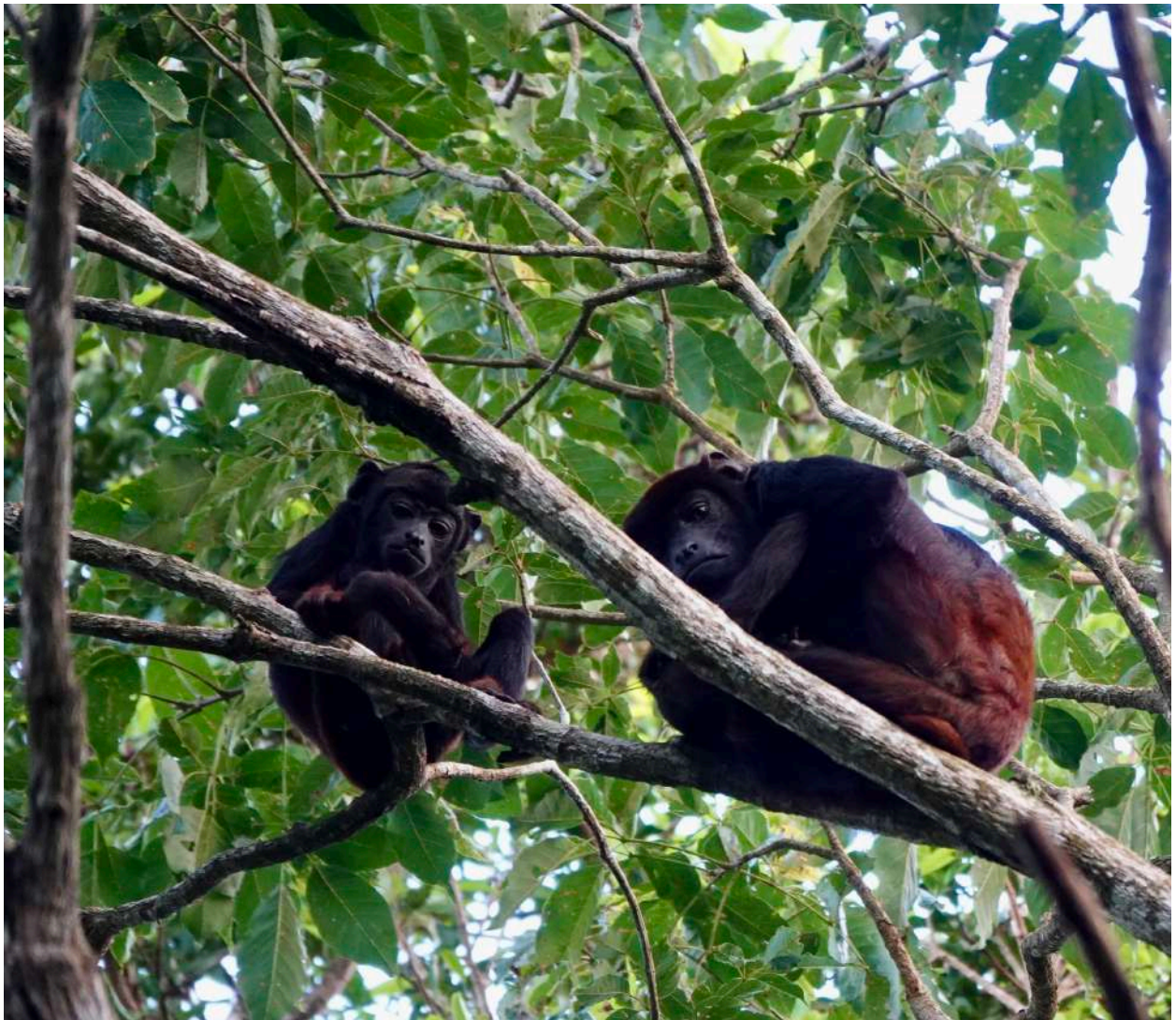
Day 3 - Regina's original Port Velho guide contact had told her about a dirt tract about an hour northwest of Porto Velho on Highway 319 that he had seen Doubtful Titi Monkeys on. So this morning we drove to the road and starting looking in the location where he had seen them. Despite our early arrival, the heat that morning was oppressive. The road ran through a small forest fragment with a swampy area in front of it, that made walking into the forest itself impossible. The Titis did not call that morning, and despite seeing movement in a tree and the abdomen of what was most likely a Doubtful Titi, I can not count that as a species seen. I would however recommend trying as I will the next time I am in the area. We did however see briefly a few Weddell's Saddle-Back Tamarin that were followed by a more obliging family of Red-Bellied Tamarins that were busy grooming each other, followed by a feeding session in a fruiting Cecropia tree.



We drove back to Porto Velho in the afternoon and Kamila recommended that we stop at the Parque Natural Municipal. Located at the end of Avenida Prefeito Chiquilito Erse it is about 390 hectares in size. The park is closed on Mondays, and two of the three trails require you to be with a guide. They accepted Kamila however as being our guide being a local. Kamila has seen the marmosets there in the past, and one of the guards claimed he saw titi monkeys there, but was unsure of the species. We showed him multiple pictures of the Brown Titi Monkey and he did not think it was that, nor the Doubtful Titi either. Whether this is true I am still unsure. The park also closes at 17:00, so with that and an afternoon downpour of rain, we only stayed at the park for a brief period of time.

Day 4 - We had an early morning flight (well three flights actually) from Porto Velho to the city of Santarem in the state of Para. We met our local guide Pierre Schwarz. From there we drove to the city of Alter do Chao located on the right bank of the Tapajos River. Known more as a beach town for the white sandy beaches that occur along the river bank during the dry season, it is also known as having a large population of Silvery Marmosets. Pierre had done some ground work prior to our visit (as we were his first tourists to request primate watching) to find the best locations to see the marmosets. This included the back yard of one of his close friends where the marmosets show up to feeders, some local lodges and a boat trip along the river. Pierre first took us to our lodge, the Pousada Boutique Vila de Alter, located in a beautiful small forest patch in the city. The lodge was the best in the city, and was worth the splurge! The only negative is at the same time we were staying at the lodge, a festival (aka loud party) was going on each night celebrating the amazon river dolphins, a competition of the Tucuxi's vs the Botos. The lodge had told us that the marmosets as well as Red-Bellied Titi Monkeys frequent the grounds. When we got there a female Brown-throated three toed sloth was high in a tree along one of the paths. After settling in, Pierre took us to a dirt road behind the Belo Alter hotel Natureza where he had seen marmosets in the past. Within a few minutes of walking the path, Regina and I looked at each other after both smelling howler monkeys (a smell I know well). We then started looking up in the trees above us and a large family (at least 10 of

various ages) of Spix's Red-Handed Howlers were staring casually down at us. After spending some time with the howlers, we went to dinner, then back to the lodge to sleep. The night guard told us that Azara's night monkeys sometimes can be found on the lodge grounds, so Judy and I did a brief survey of the area with no luck.



Day 5 - Pierre has a friend, Indios, that owns the TerrAmor Amazon Lodge. The lodge has several cabins and has a nice overlook of the



river from a hillside vantage point. Also from said vantage point is building where Indios does do Ayahuasca ceremonies. Silvery marmosets are usually seen by the vantage point and sometimes around the rooms themselves. We hiked up a hillside path and almost when we reached the top we could hear some marmosets calling. We were rewarded with views of two Silvery marmosets just to the right of the building. There was also a Guianan Squirrel in one of the trees, and a Red Rumped Agouti ran across the path.

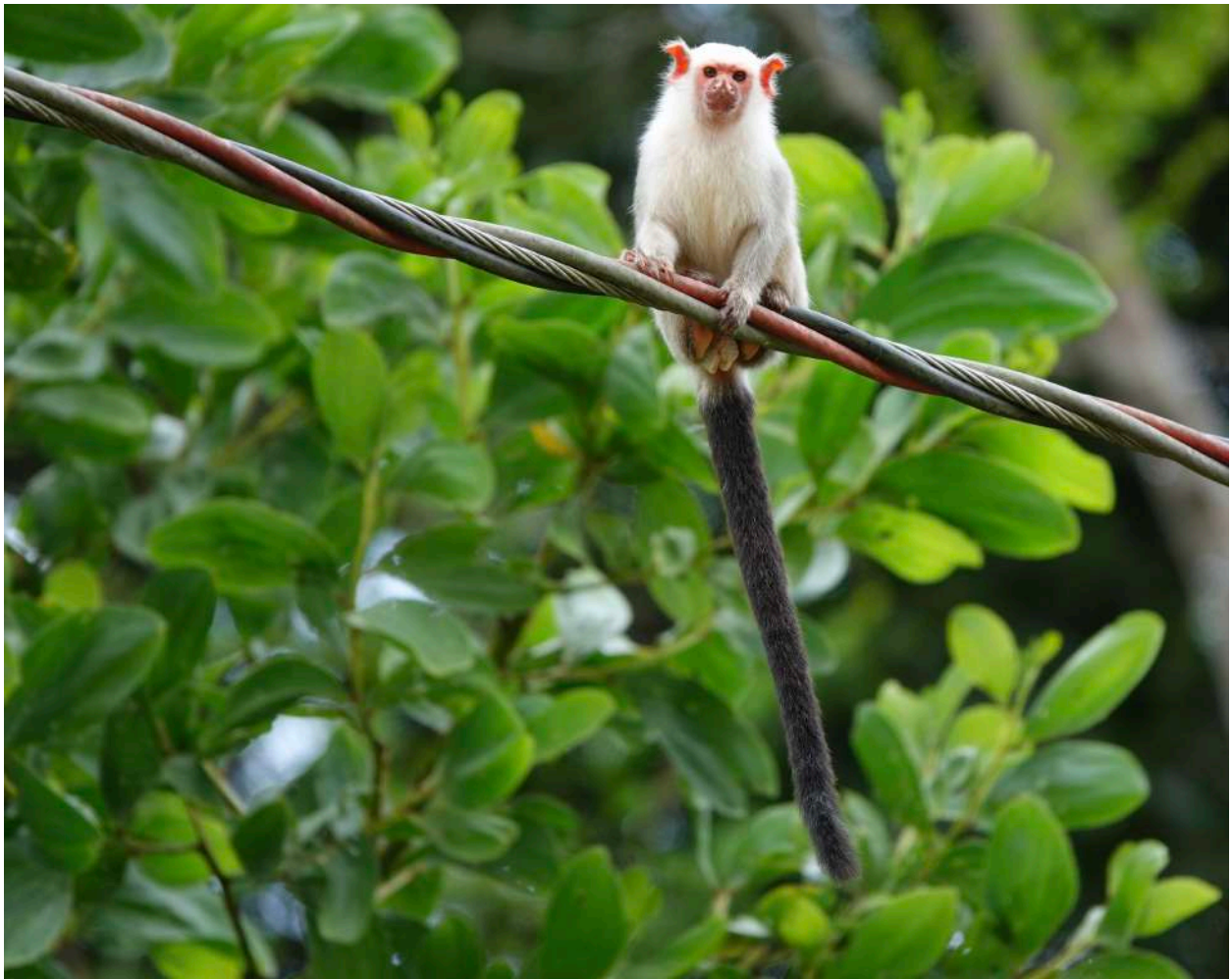


While watching the marmosets we heard Red-bellied titi monkeys calling so walked further up the hill and I briefly saw one titi. In another tree there was a small family of Spix's red-handed howler monkeys. We walked a different path down towards our vehicle and

saw more marmosets as well as three Lesser Sac-Wing bats. More howler monkeys were waiting for us by our car.



We went back to our lodge and decided to walk around the forest fragment that surrounds the lodge. We saw some very obliging Silvery Marmosets, ones that were walking along power lines to get into forest fragments before stopping to take a nap in front of us, and three Red-Bellied Titi Monkeys that were feeding. These were most likely the ones that sometimes hang out at the lodge itself.

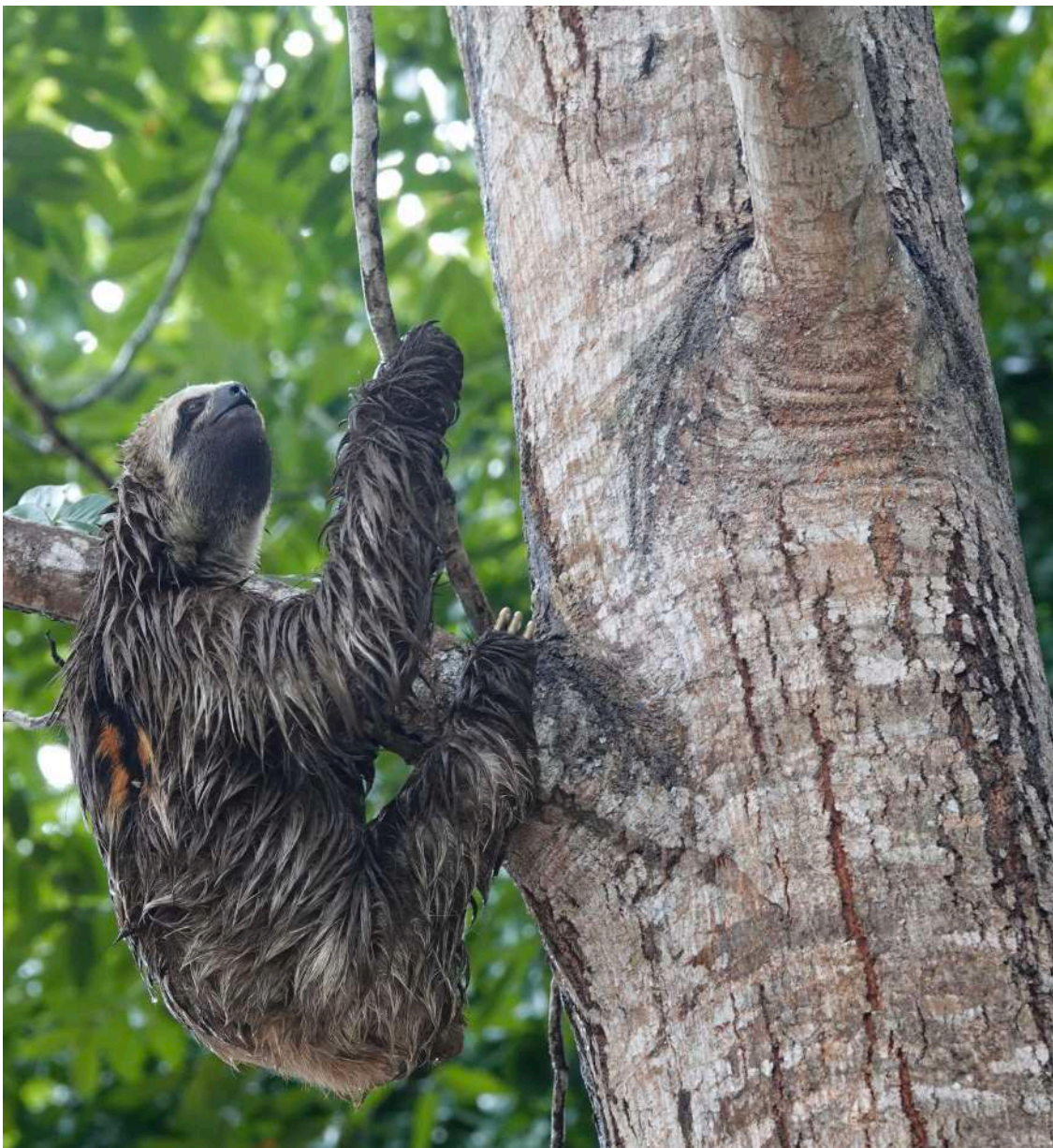




After a mid day break we got a call from Pierre's friend that the marmosets were behind his house. We went to the house where the majority of his family was relaxing in their pool while we watched the marmosets. A large troop of Howler monkeys then crossed in the trees behind his friends house. We went back to the Belo Alter hotel and walked the dirt road again. We saw two more Guianan Squirrels as well as another family of Titi Monkeys. Regina was staying at Ximango Pousada. The owner had told her he frequently had monkeys on his property, including Azara's night monkeys. We went to the pousada and saw more Titi Monkeys and again more marmosets walking along power lines. At this point it seemed that every forest fragment in town was graced with primates! After dinner we did wait to see if the night monkeys would show up, but after awhile Judy and I decided to go back to our lodge. Later in the

evening, the pousada owner woke Regina up to see the Azara's Night monkeys close up.

Day 6 - In the morning we had planned to try to focus on the one primate species we had not seen in the city, the Collins Squirrel Monkey. While Judy and I had seen that monkey on our last trip to Brazil, it was supposed to be the more common monkey species in the area and it would have been a lifer for Regina. Mother Nature had other plans for us however in the forms of heavy rain that lasted until mid day. We decided to relax on the lodge grounds. Judy had seen a black rat (unsure of the species) and a Red-rumped agouti on the lodge grounds while I was still asleep. Once I got up, the staff showed us a very active young male Brown-throated Three-toed sloth on one of the trees outside the lodge gate.



After Regina met us at the lodge, I decided to retreat to my room to do some packing. Regina later messaged me that a sloth had a baby. Judy had earlier told me that the female sloth we saw the first day looked like it had a baby with it, so is suspected that is what she was talking about. I replied “oh yeah, that is what Judy thought”, then went back to what I was doing. A few moments later she messaged me again, “ I think it is eating its placenta, or maybe a red flower, except there are not any flowers around”. This definitely peaked my interest, so I went outside and looked up at a tree above the lodge kitchen to a female Brown-throated three-toed sloth actively eating her placenta, with her newborn baby clutching her neck in the rain. We watched her finish eating all the way to the umbilical cord hanging from the baby, before retreating higher up in the tree and folding herself into a ball around her baby.





After this we had lunch and the rain finally let up.

Pierre had set up a private speed boat trip for us along a portion of the Tapajos River. We did this and saw multiple troops of Howler Monkeys.



We then went to the Floresta Encantada do Caranazal for a canoe ride in some flooded forest where Pierre had seen squirrel monkeys on occasion. In the parking lot we saw more titi monkeys. On the canoe ride we saw some Proboscis Bats, and again more Silvery Marmosets that Regina spotted. We took the speed boat back to where our car was parked. Along the way we saw more Howler monkeys and Pierre spotted a Linnaeus two-toed sloth high in a tree.



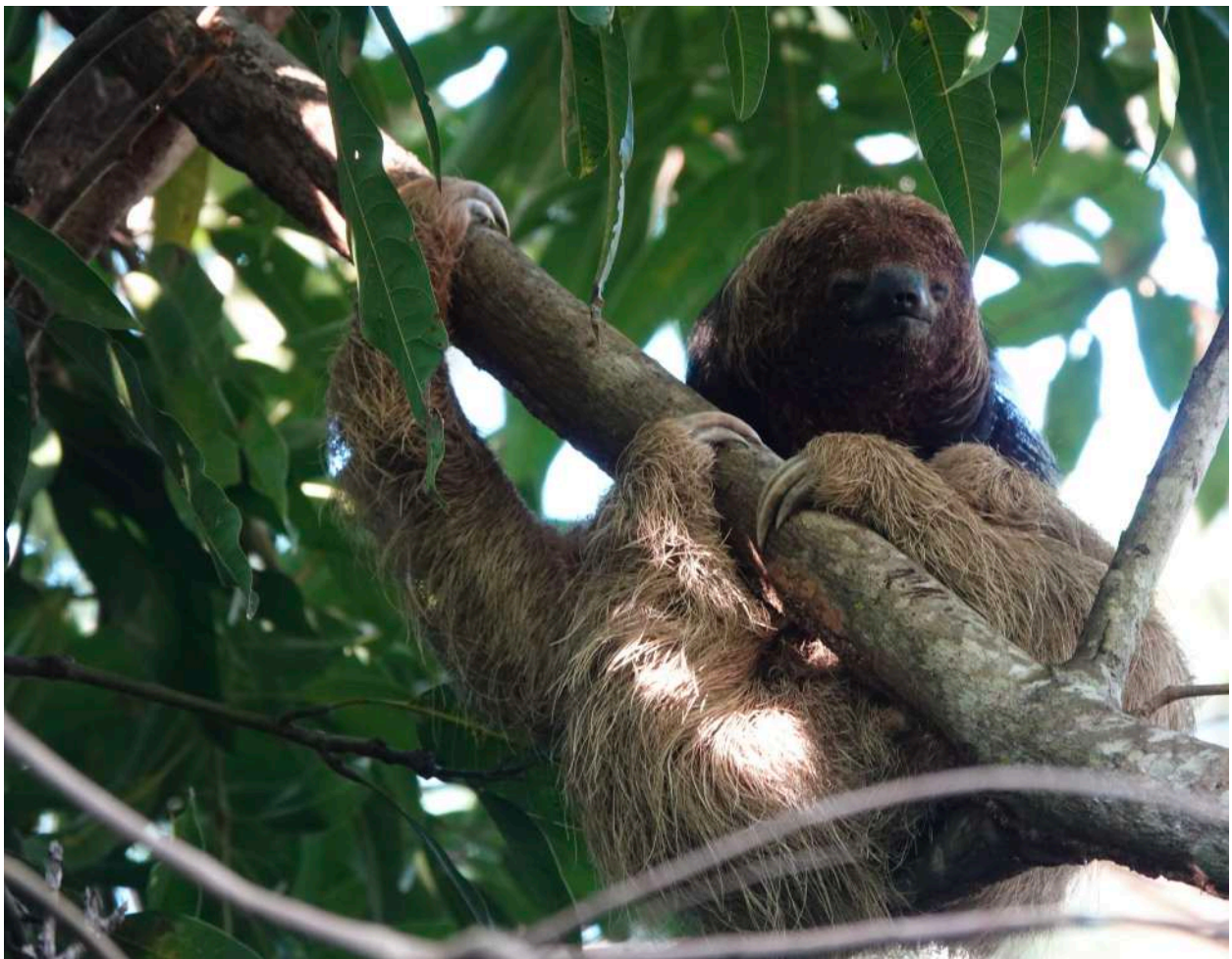
At dinner Pierre told me he had never seen so many primates in such a short period of time in his life. That night we briefly unsuccessfully checked Regina's pousada for the night monkeys.

Day 7 - We had another early flight that required us to leave at 1:45 am. This was a three legged flight, from Santarem to Belem to Recife to Salvador in the state of Bahia. Once again having Regina with us was crucial. When we landed in Recife we were in a section of the airport where our connection gate could not be accessed. There were not signs and no one was speaking English. We ended up having to run into the general part of the airport, go back through security, then run again to our connection gate. I would have easily missed my connection had it not been for her. Once we landed Leo Patrial, a

guide I had met on my last to Brazil, was waiting for us for the next leg of our trip. Regina planned for us to do a two night stop outside the beautiful seaside town of Praia do Forte. She had found out that the owner of the Arua lodge, Coe, was also skilled at finding mammals. He had worked on a project with Northern Maned sloths (of which he knew many locations where to look for them) but also was a keen spotter of the two porcupine species in the area, the Bristle-Spined, and the Bahian Hairy Dwarf. Coe had told Leo that, that morning he had already staked out an individual of both species close to his lodge. So after dropping off our bags, stopping to look at a balled up Northern Maned sloth, we walked into along the road trying to locate the Bahian Hairy Dwarf Coe had seen that morning. Unfortunately it had moved on. We next walked into a forest fragment riddled with armadillo burrows (six and nine banded) towards a palm tree where a Bristle-spined porcupine was doing its best to hide from us. After watching the porcupine we did some brief spot lighting before heading back to the lodge to sleep.



Day 8 - In the morning we saw White-tufted Marmosets behind the lodge. Coe told us they often come to the bird feeding tables to take advantage of all the fruit. We waited for awhile to see if they would come down, then decided to head back to one of the roads by the lodge to mammal watching. Coe quickly found us a female Northern Maned Sloth with a large baby in the branches next to her, followed

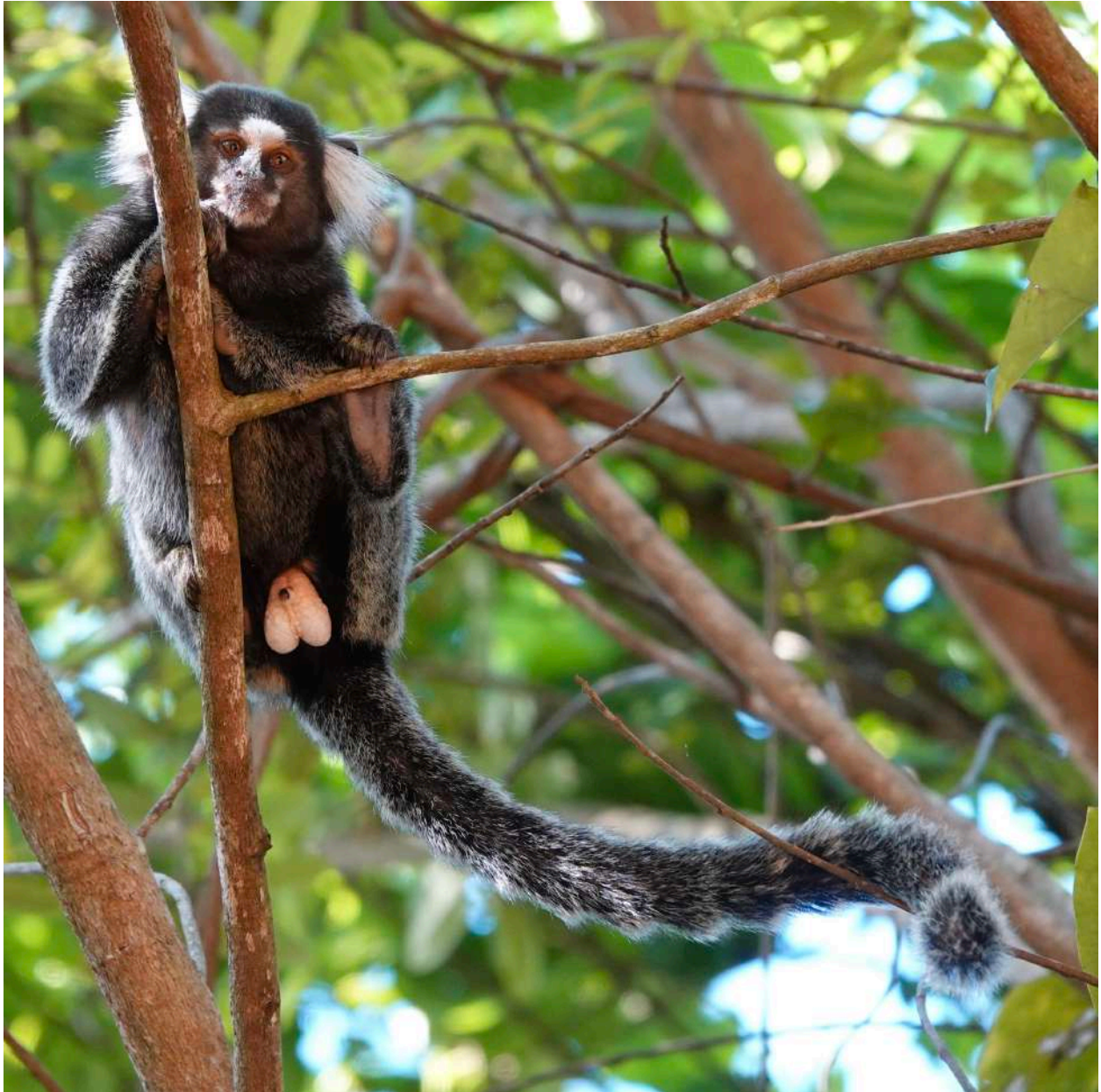


by another sloth high in a tree snuggling a small baby.



We went back to the area where he had seen the dwarf porcupine but were unsuccessful. We got some close views of an obvious male White tufted Marmoset, followed by more marmosets on the road.

After talking about never seeing a Cavy, of any species anywhere, Coe decided we should go to a pond near his property where he had often seen Brazilian Cavy. We followed Coe while he was riding a



motorcycle with us in a car. We watched as Coe, at what seemed to be a significant speed, look back and forth along the trees. He came to an abrupt spot and very excitedly gestured for us to come to

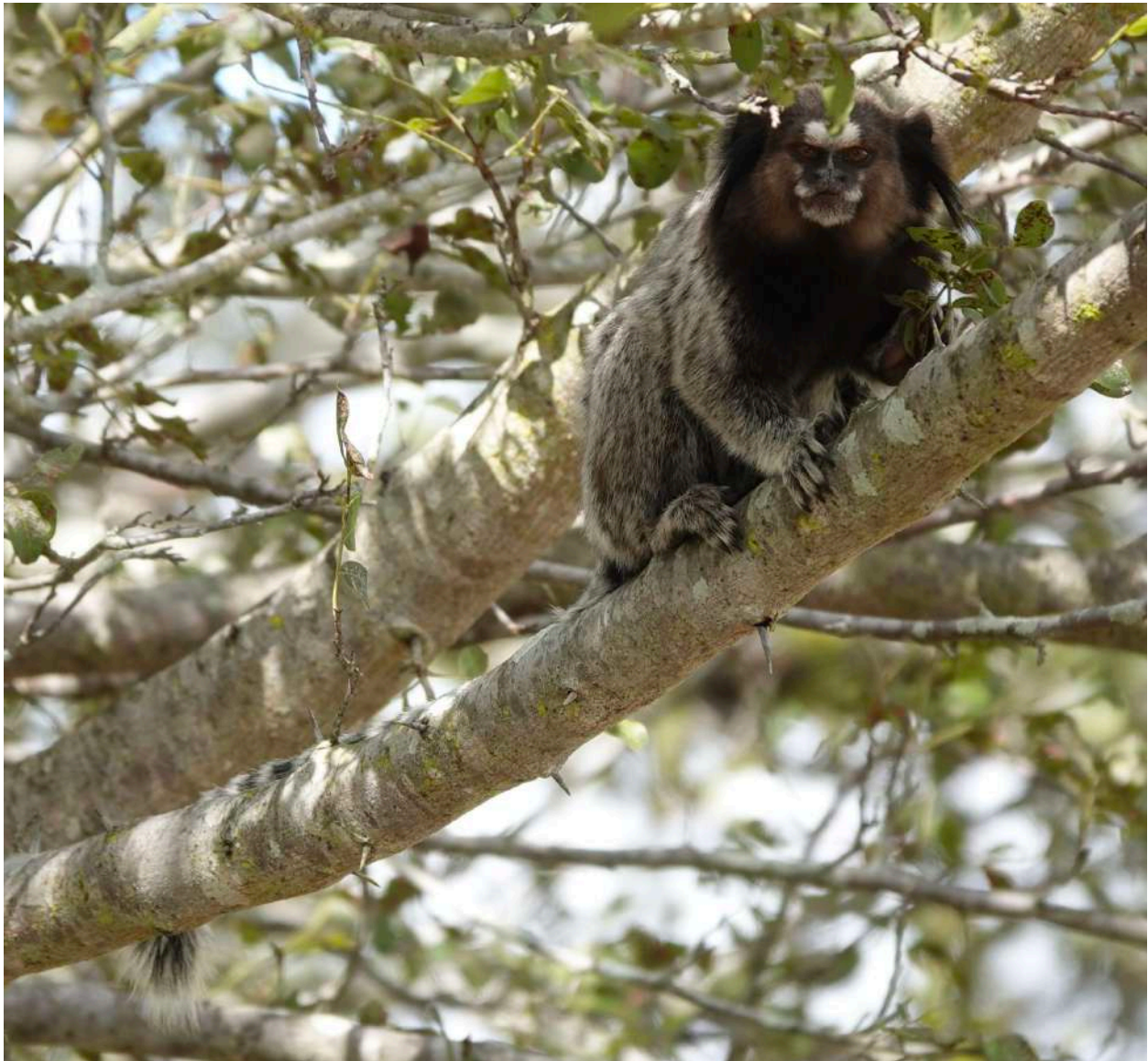
where he was . Up on the top of a mango tree, slightly hidden from the road itself on a branch, a female Bahian Hairy Dwarf Porcupine was staring down at us. How Coe was able to see the porcupine at the speed he was going and with her location still goes down as one of the best “spots” I have seen a mammal found in.



After watching the porcupine, Coe took us to the lake where he had often seen Brazilian Cavy. We looked around various reed bed areas and my streak of never seeing a cavy continued. Later in the morning we went to the Sapiranga Reserve where Coe had worked in the past. We were greeted by a large troop of noisy White-tufted Marmosets We walked to trail along a river and saw more marmosets. We had lunch at the reserve, then went back to the

lodge to rest for a bit. In the late afternoon we went to the lake to look for cavy (and continue my bad luck streak), then went to the nearby beach for dinner.

Day 9 - After breakfast Leo drove us 7 hours to the beautiful colonial town of Lencois, on the outskirts of the Chapada Diamantina National Park. We had lunch right after the town of Itaberba, then Leo took us to a dirt road where he had seen cavy in the past. Waiting on the outskirts of the road in a small tree was a very disappointing to our



presence Black-tufted Marmoset. It was nice to see the species finally in its native habitat and not as an introduced species as I had before.

Just in the beginning phases of trying to take a nap in the back of the car, I overheard Leo and Regina saying “cavy” in a very excited tone. Regina turned back to me and told me to look at the side of the road. Scurrying in and out of the long grass, I watched several cavies. We stopped the car and I was able to get a quick record shot of two Spix’s Yellow-Toothed Cavies, my bad luck streak was over.

After getting to Lencois, we heard, then watched, Black-tufted Marmosets along the back of the property of our lodge.



We then met our next local guide for the area, Cristine Prates, who runs Birding Chapada Diamantina. Not only is she a birder, but she is keen to do mammal watching trips as well. Cristine took us to her neighborhood where she often sees Yellow-Breasted Capuchins raiding her bird feeding table, as well as some of the banana trees at the edge of her property. While we did not see the capuchins, a very relaxed family of Black-tufted Marmosets entertained us for an extended period of time.



Day 10 - Cristine knew of an Atlantic forest fragment on the outskirts of the national park where several families of Blond Titis lived. We woke up early and went from territory to territory looking for the titi monkeys. By the third territory we heard a very distant family calling, but we could not get to them. We went back to the second territory, and very quickly right next to the road, a family of four started calling. We were only to get brief views as they were on the move which made photography tricky for me. After they left we went to the fourth territory. This time the adult members of the family called right next to the road which allowed me to get a few photos and a nice video as well. While I was taking the video, Judy got the picture below of the adults. We ended up in all hearing five families calling that morning, with seeing two.



In the afternoon Cristine took us to Mt Saint Ignacio for views of the national park as well as to look for Rock Cavy. Regina also wanted to see the Hooded Visorbearer hummingbird, an endemic species only found at higher elevations of the park. The views from the top were spectacular, as well as the strength of the wind along the top which made me at times hold onto guard rails to stay upright.



Leo found a small cave in one of the rock formations across from the top of the mountain, ripe with Rock Cavy droppings at the entrance. Leo and Judy then started scanning, and Judy quickly found us a lone individual by the cave entrance. After this we went back to Lencois for dinner and to relax.



Day 11 - Deep in the forest fragments where we had seen the titi monkeys before, sits the village of Remanso. The village is along the San Antonio River, and villagers offer canoe rides along the river. Cristine had often seen Blond Titi monkeys at eye level during these tours. We got up early and drove to the village. Along one of the dirt paths, a very large beautiful Tayra crossed the road. The boat trip took us through some reed beds, then along a forest fragment. We heard four titi families, but only had brief views of two individuals. We also saw Long-nosed bats, and more Black Tufted Marmosets around

the trees where we met the boat. We continued to see marmosets on the drive back and stopped to see the Blond Titi Monkey family we had viewed first the day before. They continued to be shy.

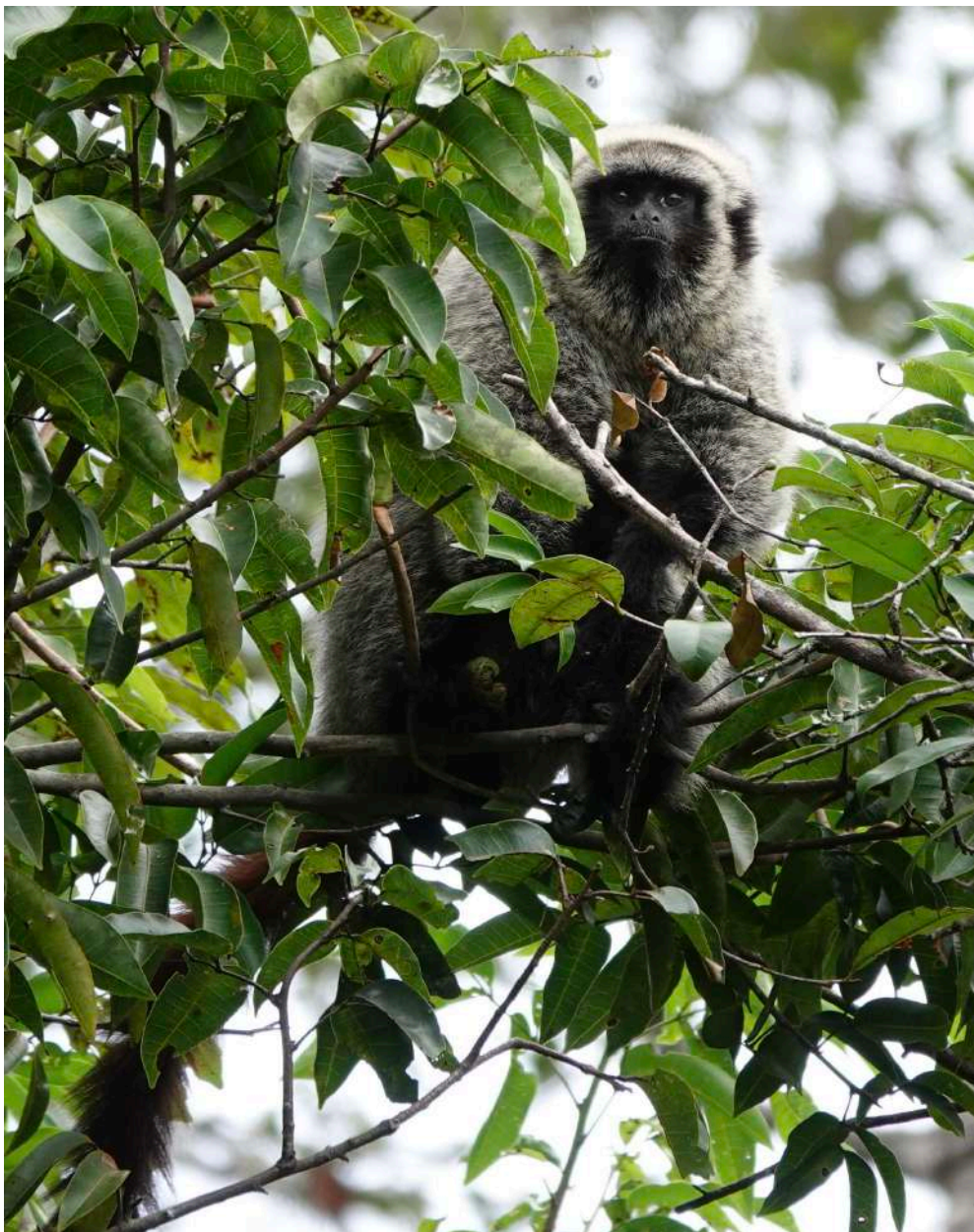
Prior to getting to Lençóis, Cristine had contacted Leo and Regina and asked if we would be interested in seeing some Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo. Cristine was friends with Rodolfo Magalhaes, a Brazilian biologist who was studying the species outside the city off Brotas de Macaúbas in the village of Sumidouro. The project, called Tatu Bola, is monitoring the population of the species on the property of Eólico Parque which runs wind turbines. The study area is about 60 square feet and currently they think there are about 77 individuals. They had hired two locals, who were ex hunters for the species, Olavo and Doçao to help find the armadillos. Hunting was one of the main reasons for the species decline, as like the Southern Three-banded armadillo, the rolled up ball defense position it takes when threatened, made it an easy target for hunters to pick up. We drove to Sumidouro, and met up with Rodolfo where he was staying at the only pousada in the sleepy town. We then picked up Olavo and Doçao and went to the armadillo habitat. Olavo and Doçao split off from us and Rodolfo told us if they found one they would make dog barking/howling noises to alert us. Rodolfo then showed us some burrows of six and the three banded armadillos and various areas where they like to forage. We were told if an armadillo is found, a t-shirt or cloth would be thrown over it to stop it from running away. Within less than 20 minutes I heard a barking noise and alerted Rodolfo. Not only was one armadillo quickly found, but two! A male and female, most likely a breeding pair based on how close they were to each other. We watched Rodolfo take measurements and weigh each individual. We then walked back to where the armadillos were found to watch them get released. The male immediately ran off, while the female stayed in the ball position, before slowly walking off. A great experience. We were the first tourists to go out with Rodolfo. With Cristine's connections however (again never would have known this was a possibility without a guide) she can set up going out with the Tatu Bola team to see the armadillos. Mongabay also wrote an article about the team called "Brazilian 3-banded armadillo benefits from community conservation in Bahia" on March 13, 2023.





Day 12 -

We went back to Cristine's neighborhood to look unsuccessfully again for the Yellow-breasted capuchins (of course she sent us a video of them two days later in her backyard), then went back to the Atlantic Rainforest fragment to watch once again both families of Titi Monkeys we had seen the first day. Hands down the most beautiful of the Callicebus Titi Monkeys in my opinion.



Leo then drove us to Salvador where we said good-bye to him, then we flew to Belo Horizonte then Sao Paulo with Regina. We were picked up by our next local guide Ecuador Castro who would be with us for the remainder of the trip.

Day 13 - We had an approximate 7 hour mammal-less drive to the village of Ariri.



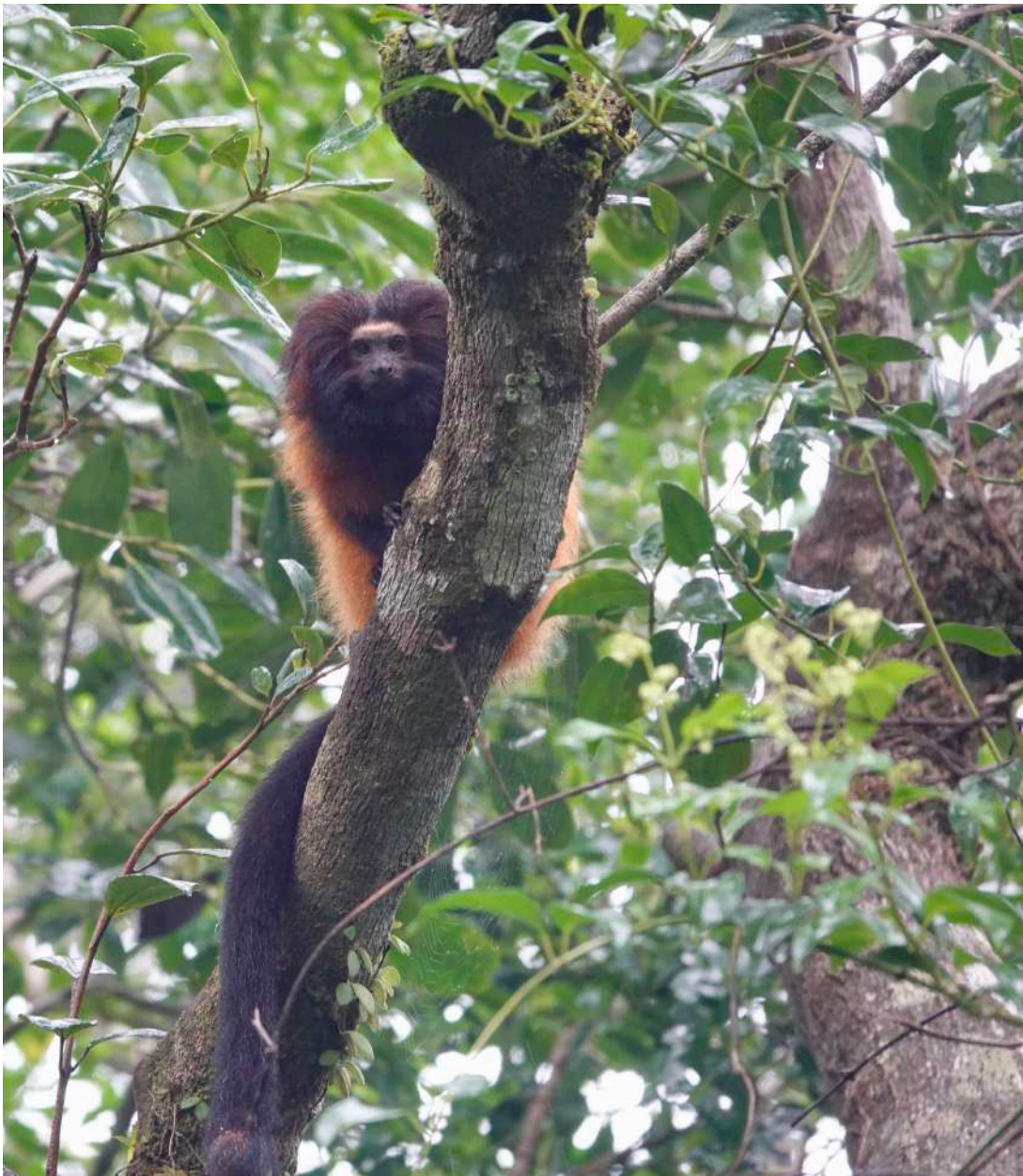
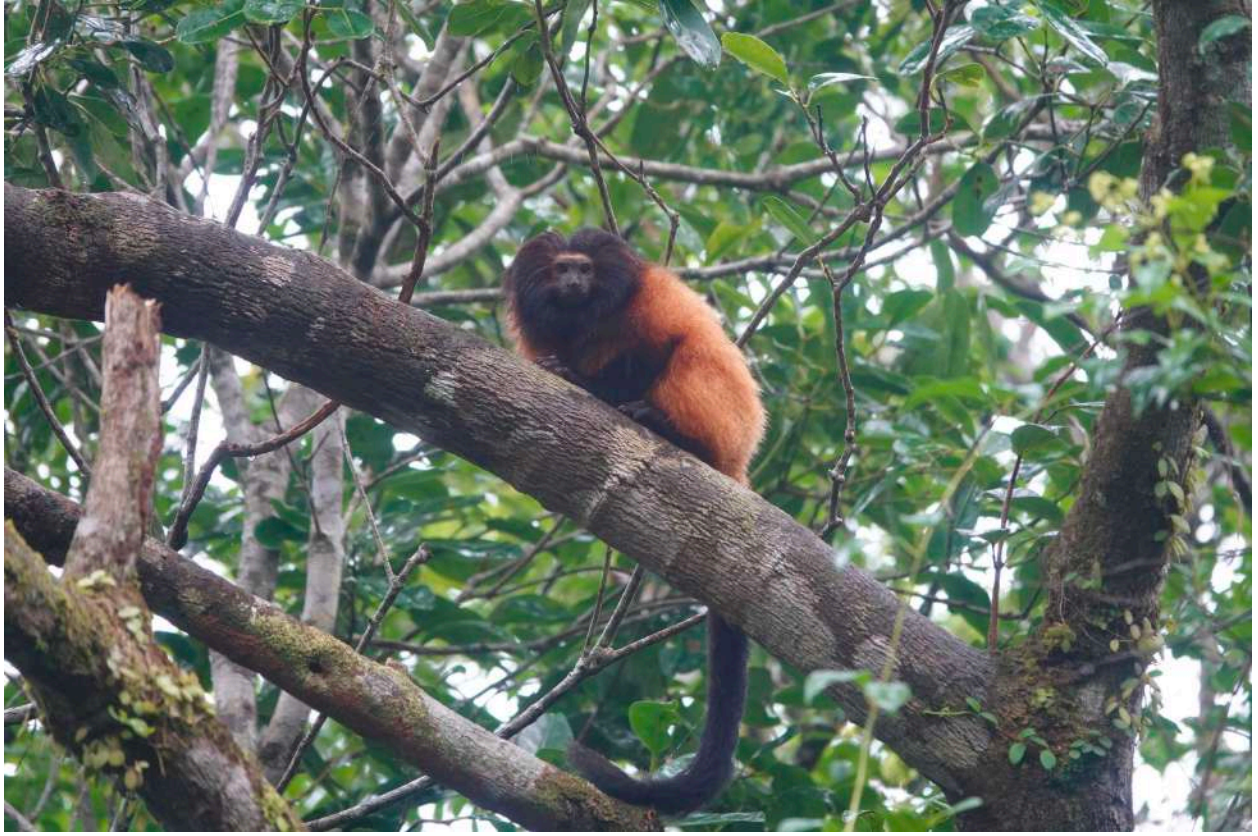
We were met by Marcio Muniz who took us then to Superagui Island which was about a 30 minute boat ride along the Ariri and Ararapira Rivers. This would be our first spot to look for the beautiful Black-faced, or Superagui, Lion Tamarin. Marcio, who also helped Jon Hall and Alex Meyer while they were on the island, had converted one of the buildings on his riverside property to comfortable guest rooms with en suite bathrooms. His wife cooked delicious meals for us and

Marcio made a killer Caipirinha. As we arrived late, we had dinner then I decided to go to bed early while Judy and Eduardo did a night walk and saw a Black-eared opossum.

Day 14 - Regina and Eduardo decided to delight us that morning at breakfast with tales of how lush and beautiful Superagui was, how difficult a quest we were about to embark on looking for our target Black-faced Lion Tamarins, how to make sure over snake guards were in place as at times as we might be walking off trail , and to check ourselves when we got back for ticks, as the ticks here were notorious for making large tick balls that if we hit one we could almost immediately be covered in hundreds of them. While tick balls were something I knew about, having the phrase used in a complete sentence with the probability of an encounter seemed not like something that should not be included in any promotional material for Superagui. After the morning pre-hike pep talk, I noted the time on my phone and wondered how long we would be walking. Marcio had told Regina that the tamarins were best seen in two locations, the first to the right of the village (if you are facing the river) where Alex Meyer had his views, then the second along trails on the outskirts of the village to the left where Jon Hall has seen his. No one there is currently actively looking for the tamarins, but Marcio's father had seen them two days prior close to his house. We decided to look first where Jon Hall did. After about 15 minutes we were in a small lush forest fragment filled with bromeliads, looking like something out of a fairy tale with how beautiful it was.



Marcio started some play back he had recorded from a video he had taken, then within three minutes, the sky opened up and it started to rain. But almost at the same time, 18 minutes after leaving Marcio's property, two Black-faced Lion Tamarins showed themselves and gradually positioned themselves in the trees above us. Not bothered by the rain, they called at us, then to the rest of the family (Marcio suspected 10-15 tamarins) who were too shy to come closer. We were able to watch them for almost 30 minutes, until they were bored with us, and went back to foraging with the family. A very special, albeit very wet, encounter.



As the rain intensified, we decided to go back to the pousada and relax until after lunch. We walked back in the afternoon to the same spot, but the tamarins had moved on. Close to dusk, Marcio took us across the river to a roost spot for Scarlet Ibis.



We did a night walk that evening and saw no mammals besides someones domestic cat on the top of a water tower whose eyeshine caused brief moments of excitement.

Day 15 - We decided this morning to walk to the area where Alex saw his tamarins. This trek was much harder, and the vegetation was denser. I am sure at some point, a venomous snake and at least one tick ball was close to me. After seeing nothing, we went back to the

spot we had the day before. Marcio walked down a trail while we waited. We heard the tamarin call, and initially thought it was playback from Marcio, until once again a Black-faced Lion Tamarin was above us. This individual was initially not as relaxed as the ones the day before as it jumped from tree to tree, but within 10 minutes it grew bored of us, then started feeding in some of the bromeliads above us.



We ate lunch then Marcio took us back to Ariri Village where we would spend the next two nights. Along the way Marcio took us through the Ariri Lagoon to watch a small pod of Guiana Dolphins.



That night we did a night drive outside the village. Eduardo and Regina briefly saw a Crab-eating Fox cross the road.

Day 16 - The State Forest Institute of Sao Paulo monitors two populations of Black-faced Lion Tamarin that inhabit an area outside of Ariri. They have two feeder boxes that sometimes the tamarins frequent, but these areas are off limits to tourists. However the forest fragment by the road close to the feeders is a place that many people, including Eduardo, have seen them. We picked up one of the forest workers, Antonio, who took us to the forest patches to see if we could find the tamarins. Unfortunately no tamarins showed up or responded to play back. At one point we did walk down a path and it happened to be the one day I was not wearing snake guards on my legs. I excused myself from the group at one point to a off trail grassy area and almost stepped on a sunbathing male Jararaca viper. He was probably just as surprised to see me, as I as him.



Antonio also is a caretaker for a local farm and had told us that he sometimes see Southern Black-horned Capuchins there. We stayed there until dusk and right before leaving I got a quick glimpse of some capuchins in trees across the street from the farm.

Day 17 - in the morning we left Ariri to drive to the Carlos Botelho State Park. The park has beautiful lush scenery almost, almost ... enough to rival Superagui, but the main draw for me was the population of Southern Muriqui in the park. Regina had been telling me for years about the "Monkey Safari Team" that during parts of the year will follow the Muriqui, then take tourists for three hours to watch them. We were warned that pending on where the monkeys nest for the night, the climb to see them could either be strenuous or moderate. We had booked one safari for the following morning. On the way out of Ariri, we went again to the forest fragments that the tamarins are often seen in with no luck, then made the 301 km drive north. We got to the park in late afternoon so did a drive through it.



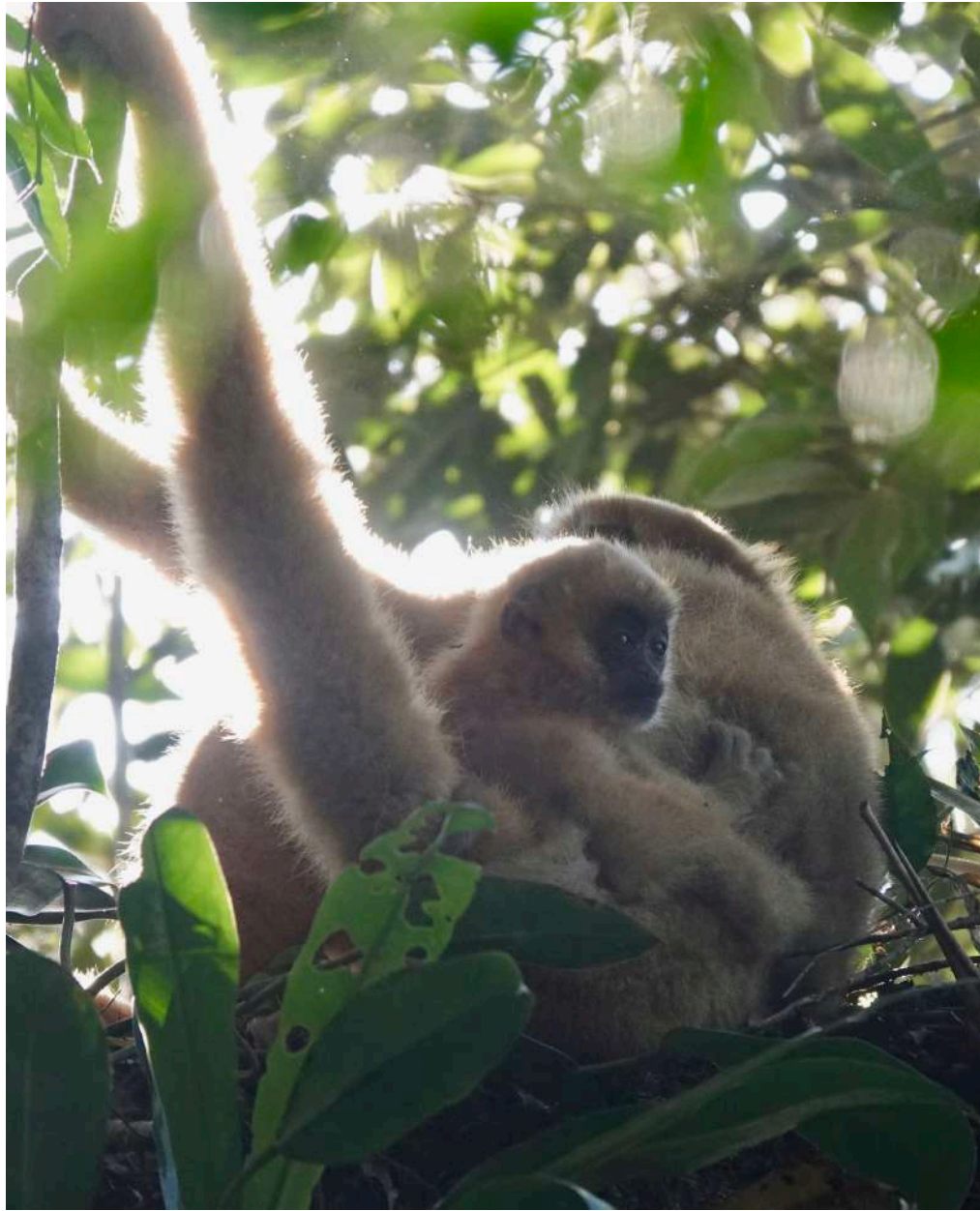
At one of the overlooks, a troop of Southern Black-Horned Capuchin were foraging. I was able to fire off a record shot of one of the males. We then drove to our accommodation for the night, then drove back into the park's visitor center to look for Brazilian Tapir that often graze on the grass at dusk. At the top of the visitor center grounds, a boardwalk is being made which is currently closed to the public. When we got there a biologist that Eduardo is friends with, as he use to work at the park, called our to him that he could see the Muriqui from the boardwalk, not far from us. At this point it was almost dark and none of us had our torches. The path to get to where they were was straight down so we decided to abort trying to see them that evening. I did get a very false sense that the walk the next morning would be easy based on how close they were.....

That night we drove into town for dinner and saw a Black-Eared Opossum in the road. Fearing he had been injured, Eduardo and I jumped out of the car to investigate, but were only greeted with a hiss as he ambled off into the forest.

Day 18 - We met our Monkey Safari Team guide Edipo Fernandes along the road early in the morning before dawn. He had been following the Muriqui for three days before our arrival and they had in fact slept in the location where we had almost seen them the night before. Excited, I asked if it would be easy to get to them. Edipo just gave me a casual smile in response. The hike in the dark started easy enough with a well maintained trail going straight down. We then went off trail, and we pretty much walking flat on the forest floor. This did not last long however when pretty much the rest of the walk would be straight up along a very large dirt wall. At one point I was on my hands and knees propelling myself upwards as most of the trees that I normally would have grabbed onto were covered in thorny spikes. This crawl seemed to go on forever until breathless, Edipo stopped and pointed to some trees where the canopy was almost at eye level. There was a very small ridge that we were able to stand on, and let me emphasize small. It was difficult to get around each other, and often I would have to hold onto trees, the non spikey species, to remain vertical. In said trees we were told that the Muriqui were still sleeping and to just wait until dawn for them to awaken. Edipo also at this point told Regina that they had picked one of the harder areas

in the park to sleep for him to get tourists to. As soon as the sun started to come up, several of the troop got up, stretched, then went back to sleep. Most of the troop repeated this behavior in two more 15 minute intervals. After about 30 minutes, some of the younger members started wrestling in one of the trees as their mothers did not look on as they were again napping. Finally, several of the Muriqui abruptly started moving off from where we were standing. Edipo then told Regina that they had officially gone into the direction of an even harder place for us to get to. At this point the sunrise was directly in front of us making photography and the views very challenging. Luckily for me, I mean the group, half of the troop, still napping, decided to stay behind. It was then about 5 minutes later that I looked up and a Muriqui was right above me staring at me in a very relaxed position. Several members repeated this with everyone in the group. They acted like we were the most interesting things they had ever seen. Then after they seemed bored with us, the entire remaining members for the troop started to move forwards up the hill. What I did not realize at this point is that we were very close to the boardwalk that was being made, and was pretty much finished. Since we were with Edipo we were allowed to walk on it. So after hauling ourselves up the hill and over onto the boardwalk, we were able to view the Muriqui in a more comfortable and relaxed position, and watch them while they were foraging. After our three hours were up, we were told we could walk on the boardwalk to get back to our vehicle. While you only get three hours to technically watch them, what they do is up to them. Several members of the troop followed us, and some were positioned in areas next to the boardwalk foraging. We ended up spending over 4.5 hours with them that morning, in the end a wonderful encounter. Regina also saw a Southeastern Squirrel while we were on the ridge watching the Muriqui in the morning.







After lunch in the early afternoon we drove about half the length of the park, then started the two hour drive to Sorocoba to spend the last night.

Day 19 - the plan was to visit the Parque Zoologico Municipal Quinzinho de Barros in the morning, then drive to Sao Paulo to catch our flight home. But for me at least, at 2 am I was awoken to the effects of some of the worse food poisoning I had in awhile. So as I stayed in my room, the rest of the group went to the zoo and saw a family of wild Brown Howler Monkeys on the property. After that we were driven to Sao Paulo and flew home.

Again I can not say enough about Regina and Marluce's abilities to put together the perfect trip!

Trip List

1. Golden-faced Saki Monkey - *Phitecia chrysocephala*
2. Pied Tamarin - *Saguinus bicolor*
3. Bare Eared Squirrel Monkey
4. Rondon's Marmoset - *Mico rondoni*
5. Weddell's Saddle Back Tamarin - *Leontocebus weddelli*
6. Brown Titi Monkey - *Plecturocebus brunneus*
7. Rylands Bald Faced Saki - *Pithecia rylandsi*
8. Black-headed Night Monkey - *Lotus nigriceps*
9. Red Bellied Tamarin - *Saguinus labiatus*
10. Pink Amazon River Dolphin - *Inia geoffrensis*
11. Brown Throated Three-toed Sloth - *Bradypus variegatus*
12. Spix's Red Handed Howler - *Alouatta discolor*
13. Silvery Marmoset - *Mico argentatus*
14. Red jumped Agouti - *Dasyprocta leporina*
15. Guianan Squirrel - *Guerlinguetus aestuans*
16. Red Bellied Titi Monkey - *Plecturocebus moloch*
17. Lesser Sac Wing Bat - *Saccopteryx lecture*
18. Azara's Night Monkey - *Lotus azarae*
19. Long Nosed Bat (Proboscis) - *Rhynchonycteris nasa*
20. Linneaus Two-toed Sloth - *Choloepus didactylus*
21. Northern Maned Sloth - *Bradypus torquatus*
22. Bristle - Spined Porcupine - *Chaetomys subspinosus*

23. White-Tufted Marmoset - *Callithrix bacchus*
24. Bahian Hairy Dwarf porcupine - *Coendou prehensilis*
25. Black-Tufted Marmoset - *Callithrix penicillata*
26. Spix's Yellow-toothed Cavy - *Galea spixii*
27. Blond Titi Monkey - *Callicebus barbarabrownae*
28. Rock Cavy - *Kerodon rupestris*
29. Tayra - *Eira barbara*
30. Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo
31. Black-eared opossum - *Didelphis marsupials*
32. Black-faced Lion Tamarin - *Leontopithecus caissara*
33. Guiana Dolphin - *Sotalia guianensis*
34. Crab eating Fox - *Cerdocyon thous*
35. Southern Black Horned Capuchin - *Sapajus cucullatus*
36. Southern Muriqui - *Brachyteles arachnids*
37. Southeastern Squirrel - *Guerlinguertus ingrami*
38. Brown Howler Monkey - *Aloutta guariba*