

Bolivia, Sept 2025



Preface

I lived in the USA from the age of 12 – 27, and visited the Neotropics with my parents many times, on non-mammalwatching trips. So many missed species 🥹

As I grew up, I took some trips that were more wildlife-oriented, but my first 'real' MammalWatching trips to the region were Northern Pantanal in 2009 and Costa Rica in 2010. Even these were pre-thermal scope era, and with fewer night outings than today's standard. So, while I have a nice, non-embarrassing list of Neotropical mammals 'under my belt', I'm still missing some decently common things like tayra, white-lipped peccary, any new world porcupines, jaguarundi, and even a kinkajou, despite a close call in Guatemala that got cut short due to a restaurant reservation (thanks, mom! 🇸🇩)

My only 'real hardcore' trip to south America post COVID and with a thermal scope was in 2022 to Paraguay (<https://www.mammalwatching.com/2022/09/24/paraguay-trip-report-tomer-ben-yehuda-jul-2022/>) where I saw a bunch of cool shit but dipped on 2 of the top targets which were Chacoan Peccary and jaguarundi. It was also a little too bird-centric, making me realize this is something I need to be very clear and upfront about, as I join forces with friends from the different wildlife communities around the world.

So in 2024 I started working with Nick McPhee of Nick's Adventures on a

mammalwatching trip for Sept. 2025 to Bolivia. I made it clear to potential group members that under no circumstances would bird playbacks be played on this trip, and that the focus would be mammals only. Awesome birds and herps along the way would be great bycatchers. (Of course, during the down times, you can bird till your heart's content)

Nick helped me put together an itinerary based on 'gettable' targets I had in mind. To make things simple, I had 1-2 'main' targets for each leg of the trip, then secondary targets would be pursued after the main targets.

My personal targets were as follows:

Santa Cruz - 1. Bolivian white-eared titis

Jaguarland - 1. Jaguarundi, 2. Photogenic ocelot (since I only had a quick sighting with no photos from the Pantanal)

Kaa Iya - 1. Chacoan Peccary, 2. Photogenic puma (Costa Rica – no photo)

Trinidad – really, only the pink river dolphins, as we were to spend 1 night there. However, just before the trip, Nick informed me that he was able to get access to an area outside of Trinidad where they were researching newly discovered populations of short-eared dogs AND Pantanal cats, both of which made local news. After assertively ensuring we understand how rare and unlikely these two are, we added them both as tentative targets (more like targeted wish list species)

Pando - 1. Goeldi's monkey, 2. Reynold's bare-faced saki (I hadn't seen any saki species as of yet)

Logistics

Before I get into group members and itinerary, I want to give a huge shout-out to Nicholas McPhee: this motherfucker is everything you want in a guide, and is what I imagined, based on what I heard: he's smart, enthusiastic, eagle-eyed, hilarious, and is single-handedly, desperately trying to save Bolivia's constantly-burning-and-dying fragile nature. Fucking kudos to you, brother!! You are the MAN.

And I haven't even mentioned Nick's Adventures - the entire operation runs flawlessly from the moment you land in Santa Cruz until you're dropped off at your final hotel or airport. With stars like Mauricio to drive, co-guide and skillfully spot animals, with humor and great vibes, to Jose, Nick's tireless driver, to Natalie and Joseline who work miracles in the barely existing kitchens... Seriously - Bolivia has some of the roughest MammalWatching I've done infrastructure-wise, and yet the food was constantly good, there was plenty of water, beer and juice, beds were decent even in Pando, flights and

driving times were planned to a T, local guides knew our targets before we arrived, and seriously, if I tried to find a flaw I still couldn't. Fucking A!

Ok, now that I'm done praising Nick, let's get to the group members 🙄
I assembled a super-enthusiastic group of participants with varying levels experience in the field, ages, backgrounds and even interests.

But everyone was seriously awesome and really into it: Judy Parrish from CA, Luc Van Der Bergh from Belgium, Marc Bozon from the Netherlands, Jonathan Ben-Simon from Israel and Uri Wolkowski from Israel as well.

Each of you bought something to the table and helped make it a great trip! Luc was to join the first half, and everyone else continued with me to Beni and Pando.

A sidenote: For the first time in 15 years, I actually had a pair of good binoculars. So, they became my first choice of observing mammals, whereas previously, my superzoom camera was my first choice. This meant I got excellent views of almost all the mammals on the trip but I was less 'quick to shoot' photos, meaning in this report I will use more of the group members' photos, who kindly gave me permission.

The itinerary was as follows:

Day 1. Meet in Santa Cruz. Morning in Curiche La Madre (on our own), afternoon Botanical gardens with Nick. Stay in Santa Cruz
Day 2. Jaguarland arriving early afternoon
Day 3-4. Jaguarland
Day 5. Jaguarland to Santa Cruz
Day 6. Kaa Iya arriving late afternoon
Day 7-8. Kaa Iya
Day 9. Kaa Iya to Santa Cruz
Day 10. Fly to Trinidad, night tour & stay in Trinidad
Day 11. Half day dolphin cruise then fly to La Paz
Day 12. Fly to Cobija (Pando) and drive to Tahuamanu biological station
Day 13-14. Tahuamanu Station (Pando)
Day 15. Tahumanu to Cobija
Day 16. Fly to La Paz and Santa Cruz.

Day-by-day-account

Day 1

We all arrived from different places: Uri and Marc were both in Bolivia, Judy flew in from the States, while Jonathan and I met Luc on a connection in Madrid, then flew together to Santa Cruz. We met for breakfast and headed out to Curiche La Madre nature park when it opens around 8am.

The search for the titi monkeys wasn't as easy as I thought and we saw no mammals in the first hour and a half or so, but the colorful birds shouted "WELCOME TO THE NEOTROPICS" with a variety of beautiful parrots and macaws, trogons, tanagers and others. I also soon came to realize Uri and Jonathan spontaneously merge into a birding power-couple when not kept in-check 😊 but they're also mammal enthusiasts.

Finally around 9:45ish, I spotted the first mammal and the first trip target: **Bolivian White-eared titi Monkeys**. A pair quickly jumped up a tree then hid in dense coverage



where there's no way I would have spotted them. Luckily, they stayed put for as long as we were there, peeking out from the foliage once every few minutes and giving us semi-satisfactory views. I reassembled the group, which was spread out on the trail, and made sure everyone got decent views. Success ✅

Returning up the main trail, Luc found an **Azara's agouti**, but it disappeared too briefly. We

took a side-trail where Jonathan quickly found a **Bolivian Squirrel**, and we followed it for a several seconds as it restlessly moved between trees but never got a picture. Further down, Luc and Marc pointed out another **squirrel** which we lost even quicker. But the real fun started when a ginormous group of **Black-capped squirrel monkeys** appeared further down the trail at the very edge of the reserve. There must have been 70 animals or more; they were everywhere! Always a treat, and a lifer for Jonathan and Marc! Individuals came within touching distance at times. I also spotted a single brown, probably **Hooded Capuchin** in the back, high up a tree.



While we continued to take pictures of the monkeys, Uri found what was likely a Brazilian cavy, but we can't know for sure.

Back at the entrance, we decided to go to a city park where Uri found a 3-toed sloth the previous day, as it would be a lifer for some. We hit up Parque Autonomico 4 de Mayo. Uri took us to the area where he spotted the sloth the previous day. I was literally in the middle of saying "you usually see them hugging cecropia trees" when I spotted one hugging a cecropia tree. We enjoyed our first **brown-throated 3-toed sloth** of many. After some birding 🐦 we Uber'ed our way back to the hotel, then to a nearby mall for lunch.

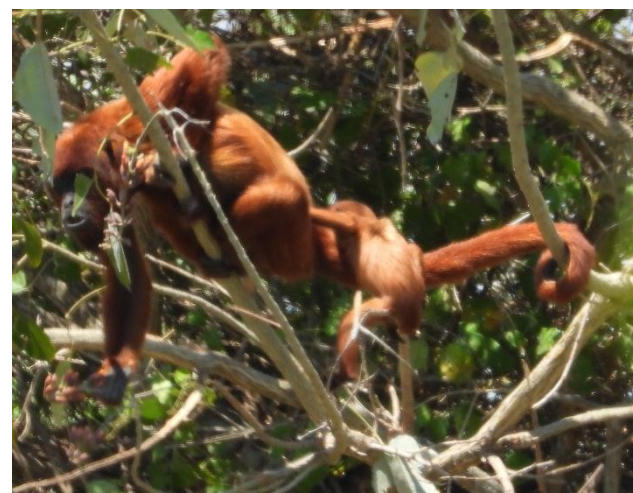
At 15:00 we met Nick and rode to the botanical gardens. Over the next couple of hours, we would see many **sloths**, many **Hooded capuchins**, a *ferruginous pygmy owl* and other birds, and finally a **capybara**. But we missed the black and gold howlers and Black-tailed marmosets frequently seen in the park, as well as the better views of the titi monkeys we hoped for. But having seen 7 identified mammal species in the city of Santa Cruz was definitely a great start!



Day 2

We were picked up at 8:30 and split into 2 vehicles, going to Jaguarland. The first few hours were rather uneventful, but with some colorful roadside birds like *toco toucans* and *burrowing owls*.

After lunch, a **6-banded armadillo** dashed across the road in front of my vehicle, crashing into the ditch on the right, quickly gathering itself and disappearing into the bushes for good. Many **sloths** later, I spotted something that seemed redder than a capuchin. We stopped the vehicle and indeed were some **tufted capuchins** in one tree, and **Bolivian red howlers** in another. The other car would



also see the latter, and both were common in Jaguarland. Both cars independently also came across **South American coatis** on the way in.



Once we arrived, we divided into 2 teams (something I was horrified of, and for a good reason): Jonathan, Uri and Marc would be "team jaguar", since they have never seen one, and would mainly target it until they find it. Meanwhile Judy, Luc and I were "team jaguarundi". Team Jaguar were also all photographers and birders so that worked out as well.

Since there's only 1 Nick, we would alternate days between having him plus Jose the driver, and Mauricio who is a stellar guide and a driver.

There are many trip reports from Jaguarland, but few mention what a beautiful place it is, with macaws, toucans and other colorful birds constantly flying overhead, *Yacare Caymans* and **capybaras** at the lush Riversides, *tegus* and *snakes* on occasion, and **sloths** and **monkeys** if you search for them.

But an important thing to note is that mammal-wise, this is still the neotropics and not East Africa. When you look at reported species lists, remember that actual sightings can be hours apart. Some long, tiring, HOT days yield very little... you just need to keep going, be patient, stay focused and keep a positive vibe until you see cool stuff.

I thought jaguarundi was pretty much a guarantee here, and some groups indeed encounter 1-2 over the course of 3-4 days. But it's still a hard cat, and in fact (spoiler alert!), both our groups failed to see it in Jaguarland, despite many hours of trying, dedicated searching on the best roads where they've been recently seen, and utilizing different tactics including driving fast, driving slowly, and waiting at known locations. All these tactics often yield results, but not in our case.

My team had Nick on the first day. On the first afternoon we got a **red brocket**, **marsh deer**, a brief **Azara's agouti** on the road, more **squirrel monkeys**, **capybaras**, *caymans*, *tegus*, and a bunch of colorful birds including 3 species of *macaws*, *toucans* and *aracaris*, *piping guans* and others.



The other car drove on different roads of this huge property and got mostly **crab-eating foxes** and a **marsh deer**.

At night, we found many **crab-eating foxes**, and then I thermal-spotted a single **crab-eating raccoon**, a species which is not very common in Jaguarland. Further down I found



Azara's night monkeys using the thermal

scope, before Nick found our first cat of the trip: an **Ocelot**! This was a far better view than I had in the Pantanal, and I was very excited. Further down the road, a **Lowland tapir** crossed leisurely and made its way into the bush, allowing some photographs and videos



before disappearing. Finally, we had 2 more **ocelot** sightings, the last of which was a fairly relaxed individual hunting on the road, oblivious to our presence.

Back at camp, the other vehicle told us they only got **foxes** but worry not - they would eventually catch up. Before retiring for the night, we photographed many **Greater bulldog bats** and some





Lesser bulldog bats snatching insects in the camp spotlight. I proceeded to an ungodly cold shower (but whyyyyyyyyyyy??? 🥰) and off we were.

Greater bulldog bat (left) and lesser bulldog bat (right) courtesy of Jonathan Ben Simon

Day 3

The day started optimistic, with beautiful sights and sounds of birds and common mammals as daylight got brighter. The bird diversity here is remarkable for farmland! But apart from **crab-eating foxes**, **capuchins**, **capybaras**, the odd **red howler** and even **squirrel monkeys**, we got nothing new.

Mid-morning we crossed paths with the other vehicle, who were delighted to tell us they found their first **Jaguar**, and what a sighting!! We were very happy for them, as that was their first big goal! Now we're basically all searching for jaguarundi. At one point we had a medium, dark animal walk through a dry roadside ditch, but unfortunately it turned out to be a **crab-eating fox**. Damn.



In the afternoon, we started again in the scorching heat of 15:30, and found more **capuchins** as well as our first **jaguar**, which was almost half a kilometer up the road, and I spotted it by sitting in the chair on the roof. It was far but exciting, as it's my first **jaguar** since 2009. Otherwise, no new mammals were added.

Back at camp, the other vehicle who had Nick today showed us beautiful pictures of a pair of **Tayras** they had on the road! Damn, I was super happy for them but also jealous!



Night activities were cancelled due to a heavy storm that hit the area, and we decided we would all start super early the next morning, around 4am

Day 4

Today we had Nick again. Both cars went out at 4am and were to stay out until lunch.

Driving in Jaguarland is done half-way between planted soy

fields and half-way between natural forest and marsh areas. While at its highest, the soya is only 3ft tall (ish), but that's more than sufficient to hide most animals including the small cats. Even jaguars can sneak through the soy fields with only their heads bobbing above. Luckily, there are always at least some fields that are freshly cut, providing large areas with clear visibility.

Nick mentioned that this year there was a very late wet season, which affected the soya growth, making sightings of animals in the fields more challenging than usual during this time. But there are plenty of roads, rivers, roadside ditches and cleared fields.

This morning was cold, and we used the thermal scope from the roof of the vehicle. Nick and I spotted *great potoos* and *striped owls* again,



capybaras, foxes, and Jose called out an **Ocelot**, but I never saw it.

Upon daylight, we explored the “back corners” of the property, near a lake Nick claimed ‘for sure’ has dolphins. At 7:30ish, Nick thought he spotted a jaguar wayyy up the road, over a kilometer away. He had Jose speed up, and indeed, we had a nice view of a **jaguar** running through the soy field and looking back a couple of times before disappearing into the forest.



Just after that, we waited at a crossroad where jaguarundi are sometimes seen, and we had a little scare with an animal that turned out to be a **crab-eating fox**. Throughout this day, we drove for hours-on-end, in the heat and sun, but only saw the usual animals throughout the day: **red howlers, brocket deer, capuchins, squirrel monkeys, capybara, South American coatis, 3-toed sloth and crab-eating foxes.**

We did find fresh jaguarundi tracks and spent a long time waiting and scanning all roads from this 4-way intersection. We did this in the morning and again in the afternoon but came



out empty-handed. The only sighting of note in the afternoon was a pair of *South American whip snake* that Nick found at the side of the road. But they sneaked away (snaked away?) before we could get any good photos.



At night we saw the **Azara's night monkeys** again and a cool **crab-eating fox** that was suspiciously eyeing a turtle that was nearly its own size, but they both ended up walking away unharmed. Jose spotted a beautiful and venomous *coral snake*, so we got out to look closely. I also had my first-ever **jaguar** encounter at night, but through an ungodly dense cloud of insects my camera couldn't focus... and my mind did even worse ("Ew!!! FUCK!!! Arghh!! Get away from me!!! Ewww!!!")

The other crew, "Team Jaguar", also saw a **Tapir** that day, as well as **gray brocket**, in addition to the species I mentioned above.

Day 5

Starting pre-dawn, we went back to yesterday's fresh jaguarundi footprints but struck out. We saw another **Azara's agouti** in the morning, but not much else.

After a late breakfast, we slowly made our way out of Jaguarland in 2 different routes again, meeting only for lunch. We changed things up, with Jonathan joining Judy and I in the vehicle. The other vehicle got one last great sighting of a **jaguar** on their way out, while we mostly saw the usual stuff. The rest of the day was uneventful, as we headed to Santa Cruz. I was actually getting over a few days of fever, and an afternoon rest in the hotel was great before dinner, regaining energies for Kaa Iya.

Day 6

We left at 8:30 for Kaa Iya, where we shuffled things, and I was with Jonathan and Uri in one car, while Luc, Marc and Judy were in the other.

We made it to a Brazilian-style lunch in San José de Chiquitos before starting the semi game drive to Kaa Iya. Along the way, you cross over a scenic rocky escarpment through another



nature reserve, a good place for red-legged seriama, among other things. No seriama on the way in, but nice selfies with the awesome view. The drive in was quiet, as it was the hottest part of the day. The 3 of us and Mauricio made bets on what our first Kaa Iya mammal would be... I think I said brocket deer or foxes, while the others said guessed pale titis. But we were in for a surprise. Stay tuned 😊

We arrived at the Tucavaca ranger station and had down time until 16:30, during which I wanted to start exploring. I hiked to the beginning of the long road in the blazing, unforgiving heat, to see if something cool would cross. Uri and Jonathan went birding around the lodge, and the rest enjoyed the air-conditioned main cabin.

There are a few important notes to be made about Kaa Iya:

1. It gets so hot during the day, like 45+°C (into the 110s °F) and the sun during the dry season is very unforgiving.
2. The rooms in the main cabin thankfully have AC, but the sink doesn't have water, and only the shower has a thin stream of cold water to shower brush your teeth/wash your face... at least there's a working toilet.
3. Each room can sleep 3 people. Uri, Jonathan and I had no problem sharing a room, but the others slept in separate rooms on the first night due to a conflict – despite Nick's usual double-triple-quadruple checking, the park messed things up and had a BBC photographer guide using one of the rooms. It was fixed the following night, so that the rest of the crew could all sleep in another, air-conditioned room as opposed to individual huts but with only fans.
4. Thanks to Nick's adventure, plenty of food, water, snacks and fruit were available around the clock, including afternoon treats such as Acai shakes, etc.
5. Kaa Iya is TOUGH. It's amazing because the possibilities are endless, and mammalwatching can be amazing. But on the other hand, you can drive for hours and see literally nothing except caracaras and vultures. With the odd **gray brocket** crossing the road for 4-5 seconds. But it's worth it for when the magic happens!
6. On our specific trip, we clearly had a 'lucky' group and a 'less lucky' group. We tried changing vehicles, swapping Nick+Jose and Mauricio, taking different routes, alternating departure times... it didn't matter. My group in this park was the luckier one. Such is the luck of the draw at times, and you can't help but feel bad for each other, or alternatively, feel unfortunate and frustrated when you're in the unlucky team. It's not for the lack of skill or effort. It just happens sometimes.

So, at 16:30 we were all in our vehicles, eager to start. Nick was with Judy, Luc and Marc, while the 3 of us kept going with Mauricio. You aren't allowed to sit on top of the roof in front of the Gas Company staff. So, you drive out the gate for 100-200m, then stop and get on the roofs. It's an unspoken agreement.

At 17:00 Mauricio stopped for us to get on the roof. Jonathan was the first up, while I still had to apply sunscreen and put my hat on, which was interrupted when Mauricio yelled **“SOMETHING ON THE ROAD! A TAYRA!”** Having missed Tayra in Jaguarland, and having been traumatized by a similar situation when I didn’t respond in time (in Borneo), I literally dropped everything out of my hands and looked up. A far-away smallish dark animal was casually making its way across the road, but it was already about half-way across when I looked up. “Phew, I saw it. Now I need to raise my camera and get it!”

By the time I threw my sunscreen aside and grabbed my camera, I raised it to see the animal already finishing its crossing and slowly disappearing into the left side of the road. Damn!

I had a hunch where I wasn’t sure this was a tayra, but my inner thoughts had no time to contemplate since Jonathan, who was already on the roof announced, with an almost saddened look on his face: “guys, this wasn’t a tayra”. WHAT??!!! ARE YOU SAYING WHAT I THINK YOU’RE SAYING????

Jonathan zoomed in on one of 3 quick photos he managed and revealed my biggest target of the trip: a fucking **Jaguarundi!!!!!!** And I actually saw it!!!! I mean, granted, this wasn’t the closeup sighting I was hoping for, like the great pictures you see at eye-level from Jaguarland. But regardless, this was a fucking **jaguarundi**, and I fucking saw it! And we actually have a couple of pictures – thank you Jonathan Ben-Simon for being such a quickdraw with your camera! Thank you!!!!

This also brings me back to our earlier bet of what our first species in the park would be. None of us imagined it would be the absolute top target for me, for the entire Bolivia trip (though there are many more important targets to come).

I was still elated and in disbelief up on the roof,



Photo curtesy of Jonathan Ben-Simon



telling Jonathan “Can you fucking believe this?? We saw a jaguarundi!”, which prompted him to take a quick ‘jaguarundi’ selfie in the excitement. The excitement was disrupted when we realized Uri downstairs in the front seat did not look up in time and

missed the animal. Damnit! We vowed to try really hard to find him another one. For him, and for all of us.

Realizing Uri missed it, we encouraged him to get up on the roof with us, making an uncomfortable but manageable trio of mammalwatchers on the roof. Soon thereafter, we spotted **black-tailed marmosets**, which were hanging out very close to a group of **pale titis**. The marmosets disappeared very quickly, but luckily the titis stayed for pictures. I



had seen the pale titis in Paraguay, but the marmosets were a lifer, so I hoped we would see them again for longer.

We had another encounter with a relaxed pair of **pale titis**, then a **gray brocket** quickly crossing before it started getting dark.

On this drive it occurred to me that Uri and Jonathan's deep desire to see all the endemic birds COULD interfere with the mammalwatching, and after my

Paraguayan Chaco experience turned full-birding, I assertively reminded them that we would not play bird calls on our guided excursions (but do whatever you want during "down times"). Luckily, despite their bird-love, they are my friends from back home and they went along. I also reminded them that on my invitation email to any tour participant, the 'no bird call playback' rule was something everyone had agreed to, before joining. Also, Nick, who is more mammal-watchy than bird-watchy, was a great supporter of the cause 😊.

As it got dark, I pulled out my thermal scope, but Jonathan suggested the ground is too hot to see mammals through a scope. Skeptic, and with a great love for thermal scoping, I tested his theory on a pair of **crab-eating foxes** and realized he was right; they were completely invisible against the hot road. So, with great sadness I resorted to just spotlighting.

Heading back and skipping through crab-eating foxes (and damn nightjars) we spotted a cat in the bushes on the side of the road. In a typical Chacoan fashion, it immediately disappeared, but we were told that there was a house cat that hangs out not far from the air strip, so it could be it... or not – who knows.

At one point, I spotted a *neotropical screech owl*. Jonathan and Uri briefly saw it, but it flew away with a typical screeching sound. Uri and Jonathan wanted to call it back in, so again, we had to hammer-in the 'no-birdcall' rule...

Further down the road, Jonathan spotted some eyeshine on the road, which turned out to be a far-away **ocelot** walking towards us. Mauricio had us turn off all spotlights, turn off the engine, and just wait. As he predicted, the cat kept walking nonchalantly towards us until it was only 20m from us or less. This ended up being my best ocelot sighting to date. We had a good 10-15ish minute encounter which was great! 2 cat species on a single game drive in the Chaco is always something to write home about!



Back at the lodge, we caught up with the other half of the group, who found nothing except **tapetis** that night. Nick's sheer happiness upon hearing about my jaguarundi sighting may have slightly surpassed my own 🥳

After dinner, Judy wasn't finished for the night, as she said in the beginning: "we'll sleep when the trip is over!". She meandered just outside the accommodation and found a cat, which, based on conversations with Nick about the size and characteristics, she's pretty sure this was a **Geoffroy's cat**! I wish she had a picture so that we could include it on our official trip list, but as it was just her and no photos, I'll add it as a 'probable'. Really cool stuff!

Day 7

This was a long day. The prime target was Chacoan peccary: a species that wants you to suffer for it. And by that, I mean that it likes to come out only after the temperatures are well into the 40's Celsius (110s F), and then they're shy so you need to sit and wait in the sun and the heat. Then they tease you with quick views and you need to walk closer to them...

Both vehicles would go to the same area (KM205 – KM200 on the gas pipeline road). To space out the vehicles, Judy, Luc and Marc would start by going the opposite direction

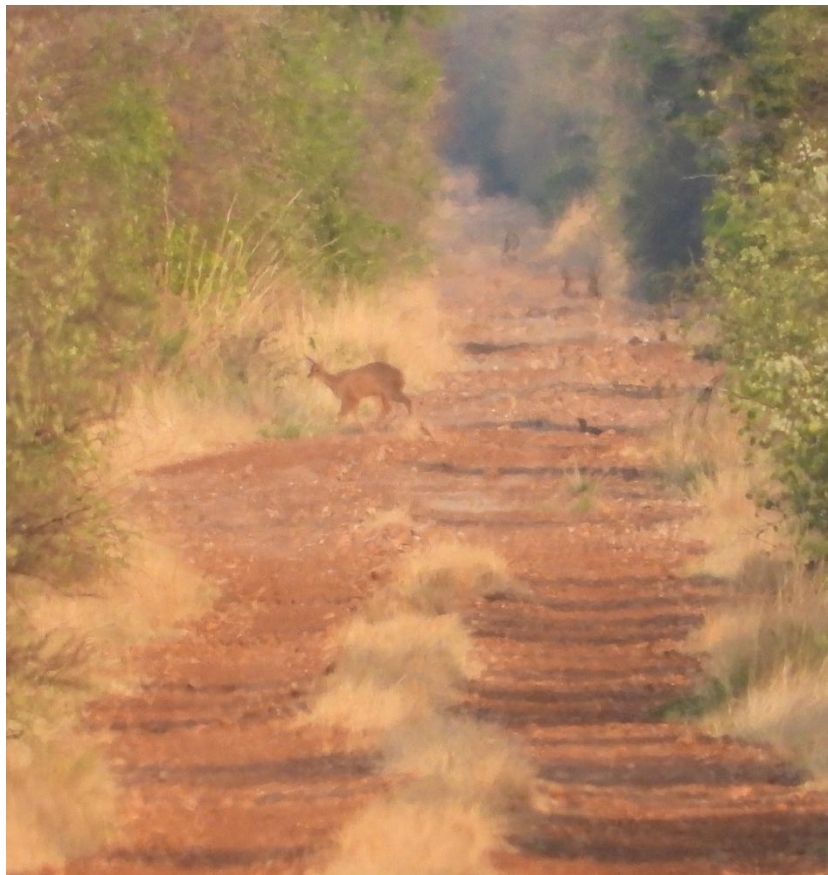
early morning, to where we saw ocelot and jaguarundi, then make it towards Peccary hot zone by 9am.

Our day started with Nick finding a **tayra** in a semi-clear bushy area at the roadside. We stopped the vehicle and saw the animal sneaking around for several seconds, even stopping at the base of a tree once it got into the forest. I was just about to snap a picture, when a tiny miscommunication led to a small near-death experience: Uri, down in the car, thought he heard Nick say “reverse”, and had Jose back the car up. What Nick said was for Jonathan and I to “stand up” to get a better view. But the sudden backing up caused Jonathan to launch forward onto the windshield of the vehicle. A small but painful hit for Jonathan that could have ended much worse. Uri missed the tayra, but he’d seen 2 in Jaguarland. Either way, we urged him to come up on the roof, so he doesn’t end up missing anything else.

Before 8:30-9:00am (Peccary time), we would drive up the road and look for wildlife, ensuring we’re back in the “hot zone” by 9. Our hopes were for puma this morning, but all we saw were **Azara’s agouti**, a few **gray brockets** and a more obliging group of **Pale titis**. I think Jonathan would be disappointed with me if I didn’t at least mention the *red-footed tortoise* that we found crossing the road. Of course, I enjoyed filming it from the top of the vehicle, but Jonathan would have no such shenanigans. He had to get down, pick up the tortoise and inspect it closely, since he’s an ecology master’s student with a special interest in herps.

When we returned towards KM200-201, we waited for a while to see if peccaries cross the road anywhere in the visible distance. Nick and the team really have this down: there are 3 peccary families that hang out in this area, and their behavior is somewhat predictable. You first find individuals crossing the road briefly, then get out of the vehicle and silently sneak up closer until, if the wind conditions are in your favor (so that they can’t smell or hear you), you can get reasonably close. But the peccary gods really wanted us to work for it, so we

would appreciate them when we finally saw them. Specifically, they wanted us to suffer and wait in vain. So that if we see them the following day, we would be REALLY grateful.



You can try to describe with words the feeling of waiting in the scorching sun with no shade at 45°C dry Chacoan weather and hoping a pig crosses the road. But I have a strong feeling that words wouldn't do justice. (Also, Uri, please don't kill me... I know peccaries are not pigs!)

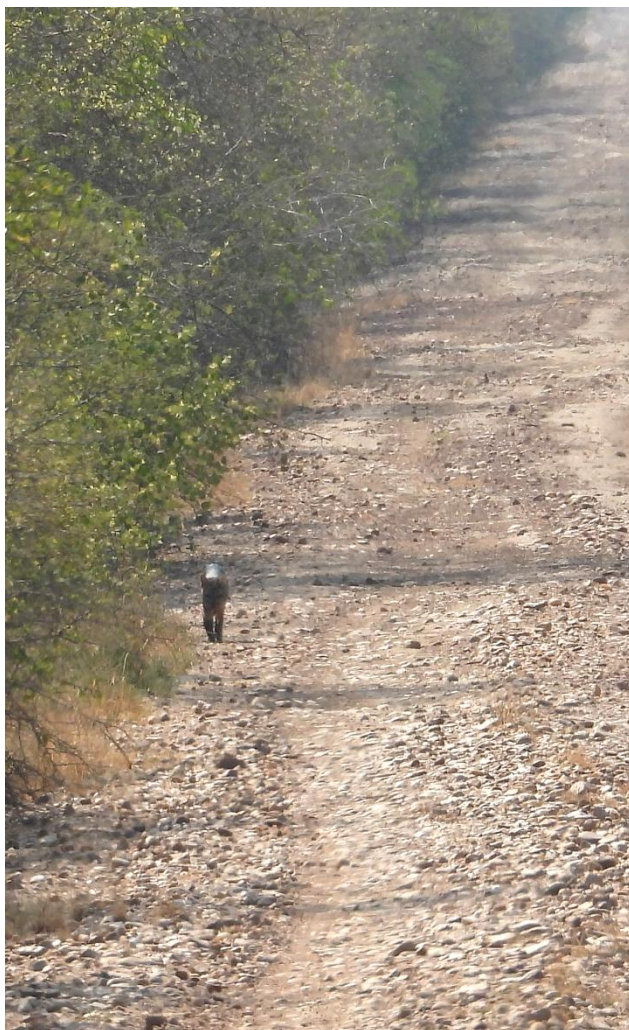
What makes the waiting even just a little more exhausting is seeing the second vehicle 1.5km away in the distance, and seeing Luc, Marc and Judy all getting out – meaning they definitely found the **peccary**! Long minutes later, after failing to see our own peccaries, we drove over and confirmed with them that they had brief but definite views of 2 animals crossing the roads. Damn! I mean, Good for Dem! 🤔

Since the painful burden of seeing peccaries in the scorching heat was behind them, they carried on, while we would wait 2 more hours before declaring defeat for today, as it got too late in the morning.

We drove back to the lodge for lunch, an hour and a half on top of the car in the scorching heat, seeing very little. A **crab-eating fox** in the middle of the day in the right angle in the shade for sure looked like a jaguarundi for several seconds, and many suspicious far-away shapes on the road looked promising until they split into 2 caracaras or chachalacas when we got closer. Luckily,

despite the heat and the lack of mammals, Uri and Jonathan were quite entertaining and provided safe space to go “full Tomer” with dark and sarcastic humor, so we had a great time.

In the evening went back towards Peccary hot zone but didn't see much. After it got dark, we continued in the same direction. We saw a **lowland tapir** on the road walking towards us and



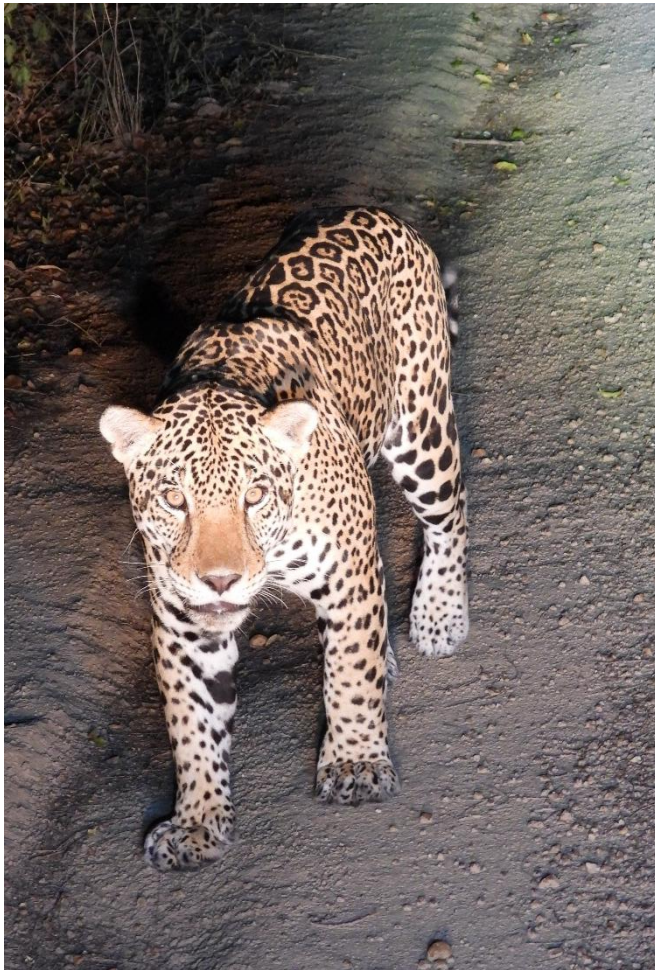
spent a few minutes observing it. Nick mentioned to us that the previous year, a huge, unprecedented drought killed 10s of tapir, and he would see them dead and dying on the sides of the road. It was quite saddening, and Nick spoke with the park authorities in order to intervene, as this was exceptionally unusual.

The only other mammal that was ubiquitous throughout the night **were Mexican free-tailed bats**, which Jonathan tried consistently to take photos of mid-flight. But this activity was cut off by forward-facing eye-shines far on the road. We could make up the shape of a big cat but couldn't decide which one. Until he got closer and we could make out a beautiful, large male Chacoan **jaguar**. Like last night, the tactic of turning off spotlights and the engine worked, and the jaguar kept creeping in until it was just at the base of the vehicle. Everyone was elated – we were all quiet and just in awe, taking pictures, videos, and soaking in the moment. At one point the jaguar looked like it had contemplated joining us on the roof, so Jose turned on the vehicle and gave it a little light



flickering to scare it away. The whole thing lasted for close to 15 minutes, out of which at least 5-6 minutes were at 0-distance. Uri and Jonathan were in such awe, as this is still their first proper mammalwatching trip to the neotropics, and this was their dream

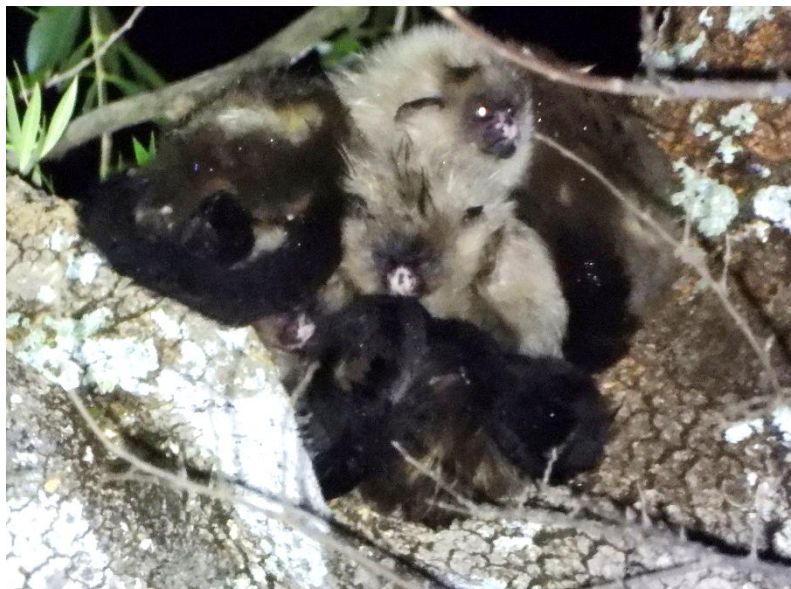
mammal. Their adrenaline rush was definitely contagious, that even though I was slightly disappointed at first that this wasn't a puma, I couldn't not share the excitement...



Nick announced that a rainstorm was expected, and indeed the sky beautifully lit up with dramatic lightnings in a very picturesque manner in such open and remote scenery. Kaa Iya is a place where one could easily get stuck for days on a muddy road. So, we drove fast, but this didn't stop Uri from spotlighting another **ocelot** at the side of the road, in the same place as the tayra from earlier. But this was a quick encounter.

It finally started raining and we got back to the accommodation around 22:00. We scheduled to regroup at 5:30am. But the rain was light, and I wanted to take the opportunity to explore a little on foot with my thermal scope since temperatures dropped. Judy joined me for the first 15 minutes, as we only walked to the gas company station.

After she left, and after having just seen a fearless jaguar up-close earlier, I got a little creeped out standing alone in the dark, moonless forest. So, I decided to head back, but luckily right there – on a tree overhanging the ranger station, I got a strong-ish thermal signature. It was still drizzling, but upon close inspection with my camera I realized I found a sleeping family of **Black-tailed marmosets**! Despite briefly seeing them the previous afternoon, this was my first prolonged encounter with this species, and I was happy! I proudly walked back to the room and announced to my two sleepy roommates (Jonathan and Uri): “Get up. Marmosets sleeping just up the road!”. I knew Jonathan couldn't resist, as he missed them yesterday, and this was a guaranteed lifer for him... but the guys were tired.

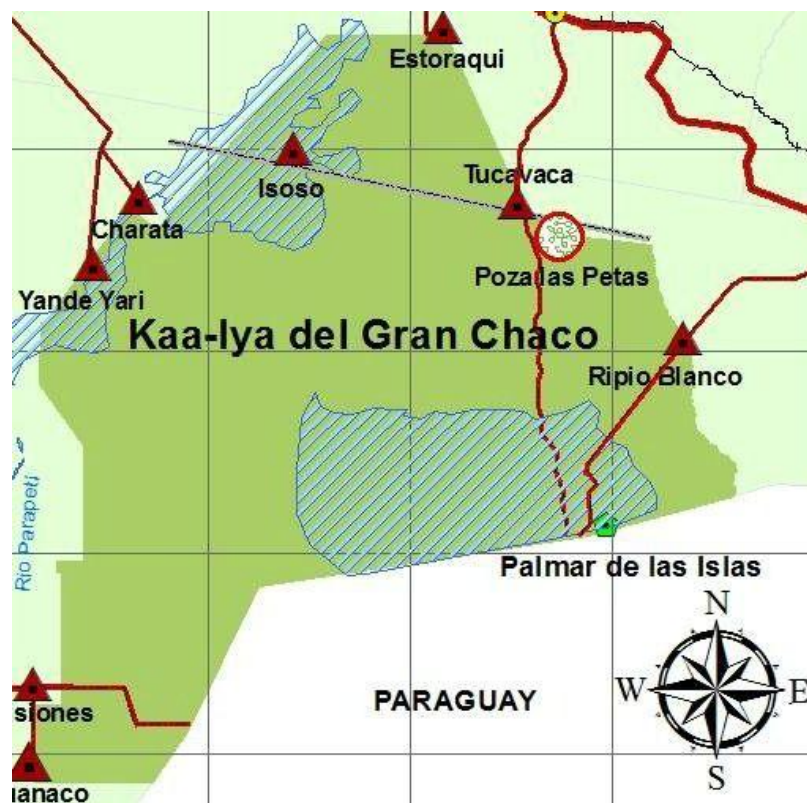


It was mid-shower when he knocked on my door and said “alright, where are those bastards?” I was happy and proud to take them out and relocate the sleeping monkeys.

An interesting anecdote is that while the monkeys were still there the following morning (just after the rain), they did not stay the following night, and so it seems that this was not particularly a usual sleeping site. Perhaps the rain caused them to settle there.

Day 8

Today we were going to nail down the Peccaries! Luc, Marc and Judy had already seen them and were going a different direction to try their luck with new things, while Uri, Jonathan and I were going back to KM205-200 on the road toward Isoso. Here is a map of Kaa Iya for your reference. For several reasons, Nick’s tour only focuses on the gas company pipeline road:



We had Muricio today, and he was as determined as we were! We gave the second half of the group directions where to see the **black-tailed marmosets**, and off we were.

We also stopped for a couple of pre-dawn pictures of the **marmosets**, before continuing to the right. This morning was quiet. Although it rained last night the road conditions didn’t really change. A brief **Azara’s agouti** is all we saw early morning.

Approaching 8am, Mauricio decided to play no games: he drove straight to the middle of ‘hot zone’ at the KM203 sign and waited. After 20 minutes, and Jonathan and Uri chance-

birding from the top of the car, Mauricio called out “Peccary on the road!”. We all missed it! Damn birds!

Luckily, today the **Chacoan peccaries** were back to their usual zig-zagging routine across the road, so we had several road crossings back & forth. We got out and walked quietly, but the wind was not in our favor, meaning they probably heard and smelled us before we got too close. Mauricio thinks we actually passed the first group we initially spotted (a known pair), and saw a distant, larger family of 6-7 individuals in the yet-further distance. I got some hazy video footage of a couple animals crossing the road, but their crossing became quicker when we got closer, until they completely disappeared.



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Ben-Simon

We decided to drive up the road, then come back against the wind. This worked somewhat, and we ended up seeing several animals crossing again, the closest of which was less than 50m away. Of course, the quickdraw Jonathan managed a decent picture before it disappeared into the thick bushes.

Our quest for Chacoan peccary was successful, but this goes to remind readers that when you see lists of species from Kaa Iya, don't forget the hours of empty driving in the scorching sun, before seeing a single jaguarundi for 5 seconds and a tayra for 30-40 seconds, a few 3-10 second encounters with Chacoan peccaries, etc. So come prepared!

With the top 2 targets of my Bolivia trip in my pocket, we started driving back to camp. We had a long afternoon break where we could rest. Jonathan and Uri could birdwatch to their hearts' content, searching and calling for that endemic antshrike etc.

Me – I was going to nap and then leave at 15:30 toward the point on the road where it kind of crests the top of a gentle hill, just enough to see a couple kilometers to either side of the super-straight road. Judy was the only other person crazy enough to join as 15:30 is still the peak of the heat. The road also goes East to West, meaning that the tropical sun is always directly overhead with practically no shade. With 2 people, we could each look in one direction and tell the other if anything shows up. This heat-stroking activity yielded nothing but a **gray brocket** on my side of the road about 16:20ish.

At 17:05 Mauricio came to pick us all up from the pre-agreed-upon spot where Uri and Jonathan entered the trail that leads to a watering hole. The trailhead was close to where

I was standing so this worked well. Uri and Jonathan got their *antshrike*, I got my heat stroke (almost), and we were all happy to start our afternoon and night activity together.

We drove toward the air strip, same as the first evening, where another **brocket** was hanging out. When it became dark, Uri and Jonathan defaulted to photographing nightjars, when suddenly an eyeshine-less small mammal strolled up the road. In retrospect, it's a good fit for **Southern 3-banded armadillo**, which I was surprised we hadn't seen yet, considering how common they were just across the border. However, we have no proof. A persistent recollection from Jonathan insisting that this was this species, combined with his close inspection of one in the Santa Cruz Zoo at the end of the trip, suggests he's probably right. But since we didn't get a picture, Mauricio couldn't identify it clearly, and the fact that this species was high on Jonathan's wish list always leaves a tiny room for speculation. So, I will add this one to the "probable" list.

Further down the road we saw another small animal with no eyeshine crossing the road. After staying quiet for a minute, a pair of **tapeti** appeared on the road. Strangely, these were the first tapetis our car saw on the trip. But this became the only species we saw throughout most of the evening, with the odd pair of **crab-eating foxes**.

We drove back to the station and then out of the main gate back onto the entrance road. Jonathan was inside the car this time, while Uri and I kept rocking it on the top. Around 21:30ish we turned around, and shortly thereafter, Mauricio noticed eyeshine on the road again. We tried to identify the far-away cat again, me hoping it was finally a puma, but what materialized was a total repeat of the previous night's encounter – just this time with a much smaller female **jaguar**. Just like yesterday's jaguar, she came all the way to the vehicle when we turned off the lights. This encounter lasted for several minutes again. At one point she kind of followed us, and Mauricio had to get out of the car and close the gate. I could see both the jaguar's and Mauricio's thermal signature in almost a single frame, but luckily, she wasn't particularly hungry for young stud meat. I guess she was, after all, a jaguar, and not a cougar 🐾👁️.



On the drive back, Uri wanted to stop and properly photograph a tapeti. He tried to tell us to stop the vehicle, but instead, he practiced a new, record-breaking tongue-twister of how fast a human can say “**tapetitapetitapeti!**” 12 times in a row. A stroke, a late outburst of severe Tourette’s, or just sheer excitement? We will never know. But that tapeti went unphotographed to this day.

We arrived back around 22:30, but we weren’t done! Jonathan and Uri wanted to go back to the water hole to try to find herps and owls. I wanted to walk up the road and see if I can thermal scope any interesting mammalian additions to our list. We walked to the trailhead together, but when Uri and Jonathan disappeared into the trail, I regretted my decision. I stood by myself in complete darkness at the edge of the road, on a moonless night, and was scared that a jaguar would surprise-attack me from any direction. There was thick bush on both sides of the road, and we had already seen 2 completely curious and unafraid large cats – I couldn’t stop thinking my name would end up on the news as “that dumb tourist who thought it was a good idea to wait alone in the dark in the middle of the Chaco with no light, and ended up being killed by a jaguar”.

“I only have to survive for 30 minutes,” I told myself. I still scanned with the scope and also occasionally turned my torch on to do a 360° to ensure I was “safe”. But I wasn’t having fun. Once the guys got back, we photographed a *Tropical screech owl* on hike back.

When we got back, we exchanged notes with Marc, Judy and Luc and heard that they saw an **ocelot** pre-dawn, and a **collared peccary**, but otherwise had another slow day.

Day 9

Staring pre-dawn, we went in opposite directions: Luc, Judy and Marc went back in the direction of Peccary hot zone, while we went out of the park towards where we saw last night’s jaguar. I was tired and decided to stay in my shorts and flip flops, but I quickly regretted my decision 🥶. Pre-dawn in the Chaco can be cold...

Soon after daylight we saw our first **Collared peccary** of the trip, followed by **pale titi monkeys** again. We also saw fresh signs from large groups of white-lipped peccary, they weren’t around.

After breakfast we had an hour of Nick’s team preparing for departure. I walked to the gas company ranger station, leaned against one of the gates, and just stared at the endless road going West. I saw no mammals but photograph a few birds. One thing that was interesting to me is that we saw *Toco toucans* inside Kaa Iya, as well as 6-7 species of *parrots* including yellow-collared *macaws*. This was quite different than the ultra-dry Defensores del Chaco in Paraguay, where there was no sign of toucans, and only 2 species of parrots were present throughout the trip.

Just before we left, Marc told us that they finally saw see a **tayra**, a desired lifer for Luc, which I was happy about. Though it was pretty far away up the road.

All things considered, after mixing up the groups between Jaguarland and Kaa Iya all 6 of us ended up seeing the same species with jaguarundi being the only exception, though a painful one, undeniably. And we can't ignore the fact that between the two groups, one group just ended up having better luck here than the other. Despite switching between vehicles and guides every day. Such is nature, sometimes.

On the way out we spaced our departures 20 minutes apart again, with hopes for anything new. The only thing to note were 2 *red-legged seriama*s that I found for Uri and Jonathan while on the escarpment road. Nick says that camera trapping in the area revealed it still holds ocelots, tayras which he occasionally sees here, and other medium-sized animals. But no jaguars.

We made it to our favorite lunch spot at San Jose de Chiquitos after photographing a *white woodpecker* outside the restaurant, and from there we drove straight back to Santa Cruz.

I want to mention some observations regarding the Paraguayan and Bolivian Chaco

The Paraguayan side seemed more arid, and in my experience, typical species differed: Monkey-wise, **Pale titis** and **Black-tailed marmosets** seemed scarce in Paraguay but common in Bolivia. **Azara's night monkeys** can easily be found in the right places on either side of the border. Carnivore-wise, **Pampas fox**, **Molina's hog-nosed skunks** and **Geoffroy's cats** were practically guaranteed in Paraguay but absent from Bolivia. On the other hand, **ocelots**, **jaguars**, **jaguarundis** and **pumas** seem common in Kaa Iya, but not in Paraguay, the latter-most being the most frequently sighted cat, though we missed it. Specifically, **Jaguarundi**, along with **tayra**, are reliable in Bolivia, though often brief. I think they're harder in Paraguay, though Andrey and Karina seem to have nailed down **tayra**. **Lesser grison** can be targeted in Paraguay but is rare in Bolivia. **Chacoan Peccary** is reliable in Bolivia thanks to Nick, and much harder in Paraguay, while **collared peccary** is easy in both. **White-lipped peccaries** reasonable on either side, with a 50% success rate in Kaa Iya according to Nick. **Brocket deer** and **tapirs** were abundant on both sides. Xenarthra-wise, both **Southern tamandua** and **giant anteaters** seemed guaranteed in Paraguay but absent from Kaa Iya, though Nick sees the latter in other places if targeted. But **3-toed sloth** were abundant in Bolivia and even present in Kaa Iya, but we didn't see it there. I was surprised to see no armadillo in the Bolivian Chaco vs. 4 species of **armadillos** abundantly in the southern parts of the Paraguayan Chaco. **Giant, naked-tailed** and **fairy armadillos** are very rare on both sides. Kaa Iya has lots of **giant armadillo** diggings. If you specifically want to try for this species – talk to Nick. Other than that, **Chacoan mara**, **mouse opossums** and **Paraguayan punare** were abundant in Paraguay and completely absent from Kaa Iya. Though it should be noted that if one were to visit the southern parts of Kaa Iya, closer to the border, these species get more

common there. Also, we could have tried for punare, as they're frequently seen near the ranger station. **Plains viscacha** can be targeted in Paraguay, and **Conover's tuco-tuco** burrows are abundant there, neither seen in Bolivia – where viscachas don't occur. All-in-all, I'd say that visiting both "sides" of the Grand Chaco ecosystem is complementary to each other to get the full array of species. I also visited Paraguay for 12 days across 4 locations, all in the Chaco, vs. 3 nights in Bolivia in just 1 location; Paraguay in July and Bolivia in September. So take this all with a grain of salt 😊

Day 10

We had a leisurely breakfast and sadly said our goodbyes to Luc, who only joined the first half of the tour.

We flew to Trinidad in the Beni department, arriving at the hotel at 14:00ish. We'd explore the city on foot before returning for the night tour that starts at 16:30.

There's a backstory behind this night tour: originally, we were scheduled to land in Trinidad in the morning, then do all-day dolphin cruise. Then an early flight to La Paz the next morning, with an afternoon excursion outside the city for Andean mammals. But due to airlines' schedule changes, arrival in Trinidad was changed to the afternoon and La Paz the following night. This meant no mammalwatching out of La Paz, since our flight to Pando was at 6:00 the following morning. So, I asked Nick what we could do around Trinidad to not lose out on both nights. Initially, he suggested either taking a night river cruise or driving some roads outside of town. But 2 weeks before the trip he voice-messaged me excitedly, saying he received access, for the first time, to a university research program outside of Trinidad, where they've recently discovered a population of short-eared dog. They also have a Pantanal cat 'visiting the area'. Of course, Nick clarified: "But obviously don't expect to see either. They see each, like, once a year. Make sure you communicate this to the group". But he reckoned there was a chance to find other good mammals in the habitat and booked the excursion for us. With the caveat that this is a first-time tour and could be a total flop. In fact, he mentioned that Jon Hall's group took a first-time mammalwatching excursion out of La Paz for which they had high hopes, but they ended up seeing no mammals. So, it could go either way.

Well.

After a 20-minute refresher break, we went out to the city. We saw the 'main square' and then went to the fish museum, that's highly recommended, before returning in time for the evening's excursion.

To get to the museum we each took a motorcycle taxi, with Uri and Marc, our representative Spanish speakers staying behind and making sure everyone's ride took them to the right place. This was a little adventure on its own, riding through the Trinidad

traffic on the back of a bike, hoping to be taken to the right place. Lo and behold, we all arrived! Well done – Uri and Marc!



We took a free, guided tour of the Museo Ictícola CIRA UABJB (fish museum), which was very interesting. They have >500 species of preserved fish and reptiles from the Beni department, and a pink river dolphin, and all in an air-conditioned space!

At 16:00 we were met by Geraldine Gonzalez and Adriana Palicio, who were our translators and tour operators for tonight's excursion. Of course, Nick pre-arranged specifically for them to look for mammals and gave them a "menu" of the mammals we were interested in: mainly, rare and interesting ones, With emphasis on short-eared dog and Pantanal cat.

We really didn't know what to expect. I was expecting a university campus, but no. It turns out this is a private ranch where university students came to research short-eared dogs, following observations by the owners. The first part of the excursion included a short lecture in Spanish (with Geraldine and Adriana translating) about how the owner identified the dog, which turned to be part of an unknown population, some 400km from their currently recognized distribution range. This also gave us hope that these guys actually know what they're doing, and that we wouldn't be searching aimlessly for a ghost of an animal.

So, after an early, greatly fulfilling dinner arranged by Geraldina's and Adriana's excursion package, we set out toward the area where the dogs had been seen. Before darkness, hundreds of **Mexican free-tailed bats** and fewer **greater bulldog bats** flew over. We then crossed a fence into grazing fields that were visually reminiscent of the Pantanal. I will



keep this part of the evening short here, even though in reality it was long. Basically, we searched aimlessly through over-grazed farmlands, completely covered by hardened cow footprints. Between small patches of forest and low bushes, the only mammal we saw over 3.5 hours of walking was a pair of **red brockets**. I believe the guys know what they're doing, and this is where short-eared dogs have been seen – but to us this was a desolate. We did stumble (almost literally) upon 3 separate *Painted lance-headed snakes* which was cool. But where are the mammals?

When we crossed the fence back toward the dining building, I thermal-spotted an animal in the barn / parking area. Uri announced it was a **cat!** But as we sneaked closer, this quickly morphed into a very ginger house cat. Damn!

We came back to the main dining building exhausted, and the group was a little 'down' from the long, humid, fruitless search. Jonathan fell asleep sitting up and Marc retired his camera to the back of the jeep. Judy and Uri were quiet, sipping on coffee, as I chugged coffee and got myself ready for round 2. For some reason, my hopes were still up. I was having fun in general and was optimistic.

The entire crew REALLY wanted to show us some animals. Geraldine and Adriana were speaking intensely in Spanish with the owners and conservationists – I saw on their faces how bad they wanted better results second half. Altogether there was a team of 6-7

people accommodating us on this excursion. It was decided that we would try a forested area for the rest of the night.

We drove a couple kilometers to another area on the property, then started walking. In this area there was forest on both sides, but the smell of smoke, and the general black burned ground didn't give us high hopes.

But within a few minutes, things turned around as I thermal-scoped a **Northern black-eared opossum** on a roadside palm tree. A lifer! Phew. My hopes weren't for nothing – stuff is happening!



Within a few minutes the crew found what they thought were night monkeys but turned out to be sleeping **brown capuchins**. I then found another animal in a palm tree, a little deeper into the forest. After a few moments of excitement, they turned out to be a pair of **South American coatis**. Further up the road we found a surprisingly active **brown-throated 3-toed sloth** that was probably climbing back up after defecating. At one kind of intersection with a side-trail, I found a family of 3 **crab-eating raccoons**, a species which Jonathan, Uri and Marc missed in Jaguarland, so they were particularly excited.

We went to the side trail, then hiked through the bush

before circling back to the main road. We walked along a fence and I thermal-scoped another **Northern black-eared opossum**. We briefly photographed it as Jonathan woke up some angry bees and got stung. So, we left quickly back toward the main road. On the way, I thermal-scoped yet another opossum, but it turned out to be another lifer for me: **Gray four-eyed opossum**. Boom!

We got back on the main road and were going to start heading back. But the ranch owner suggested we go just a little further up, into the more open Pantanal-like area across the fence. I think this was the next property over, but they basically told us we could go only like 100m into it. Why not..



To my absolute dismay, my thermal scope battery died, and I had no spare. Luckily, Jonathan still had his. He scoped large cattle grazing on the right, but a lone animal on the left side looked promising. We spotlit it, and Jonathan managed to snap a single picture. “Oooh, another crab-eating racoon!” he announced. “I wanna get more pictures.”

So, everyone put their lights on it, and I examined it through my new binoculars. “It’s not a racoon, it’s a cat.” I said, confidently. But Jonathan persisted: “No, I have a picture of it, it’s a raccoon”

“No, it’s 100% a cat, man!” I insisted.

Judy joined: “I’m looking at a cat as well!”

Jonathan concluded: “then it must be a Pantanal cat, because it has rings on what I thought was its tail. It must be its legs.”

We all looked at the picture – holy shit! **A Pantanal cat!!**

Ok, it was still in the middle of the open field, walking nonchalantly. Two of the guides immediately started walking toward it. But I was worried that they would scare it toward the forest on the left. So, I directed them with my flashlight to circle around, and come behind it, so if it moves, it would come toward us. But the left side was still open. I asked Geraldine to tell the other guys to circle from the left, which Uri volunteered to help. I urged Uri not to join and sacrifice his sighting for us, but he was determined. So, Uri and the ranch owner started circling around from left, while 2 of the other guys were circling from the right. I was waiting for a cat to start coming toward us, but suddenly, a camera flash went off... And then again.

“Fuck!” I announced, “Uri is taking pictures of it! It must be right there! Let’s go!”

Without thinking twice, I started to follow Uri’s tracks, with Jonathan and Marc beside me. Flashes were still shotting off. We all started running, and within two minutes, we reconnected with Uri and the rest of the guides, looking at a fucking **Pantanal cat** sitting chill inside a tall grass patch. There were like 6 of us standing in half a circle, viewing the



cat through an opening in the tall grass. It had plenty of room to escape, but luckily, it was still chill, almost curious.

While we were watching the cat, the guides also found a group of **Azara’s night monkeys** in the forest just behind the field. They announced:

“Monos!” but we were all like “No monos, gato!” as we were still in the midst of the high 🥳.

After a few minutes of taking videos, pictures and just embracing the moment with my bare eyes, the adrenaline skyrocketed and it hit me: there’s a totally relaxed fucking Pantanal cat sitting in front of me; it doesn’t care that I’m there, and I’m just hanging out with it! And it’s a super-rare cat that’s been seen alive only a few times in Bolivia. Nick recently published a paper on his own sighting because this is the edge of its known distribution. And all-in-all, it’s one of those obscure little cats that nobody really sees. Which is not surprising: it’s small, lives in tall grass, and there are no reliable places to look for it. Maybe Parque des Emas but only 1 trip report has a confirmed sighting, so we’ll see. Nick is working on trying to make these reliable in this area.



Once everyone had plenty of photos, I was basically jumping up and down: “Do you guys realize how rare this is??? I just can’t fucking believe it! I just can’t fucking believe it! Holy shit! This is insane! I just can’t fucking believe it!”... In retrospect, Pantanal cat, along with short-eared dog, were specifically targeted, but we thought we had forfeited both when we moved to the second area. So, it was almost off our radar at this point.

Everyone was ecstatic, and to say that Geraldina and Adriana, along with the ranch owner and his family, were more excited than us would not be an exaggeration. In the excitement, Jonathan, and Uri and I chanted a dumb Hebrew children’s song about a cat

while walking back. But within a few minutes we remembered it's not over yet: one of the guys signaled to us with his flashlight. I was the only one who noticed. I hurried towards him and found him pointing at a largish animal drinking from a pond. I first thought was a white-lipped peccary, but upon closer, prolonged inspection, it was an awkwardly-positioned **collared peccary** drinking.



At this point, my flashlight battery also died, and I was powerless to find any more mammals. Also, it was almost 1am. The guys and girls certainly put in their time and effort!

Before leaving, the crew wanted to get a group pic, where we all smile and yell “*Leopardus braccatus*!” They were all so cool and enthusiastic and awesome. Seriously – what a turn this evening took.



On the drive back to our hotel in Trinidad I used Judy's flashlight to spotlight from the window and saw a pair of **crab-eating foxes** and an owl which went unidentified while we tried to get the attention of the front car. A couple more roadside animals weren't 100% ID'ed, as we drove too fast and it was 1:30am. But the crab-eating fox put us at 12 mammal species tonight. Not bad!

We reached our hotel at 2am. Jonathan facetime-called Alex Meyer to tell him the exciting news, and then we all gathered by the pool for a beer to celebrate tonight's success.

Day 11

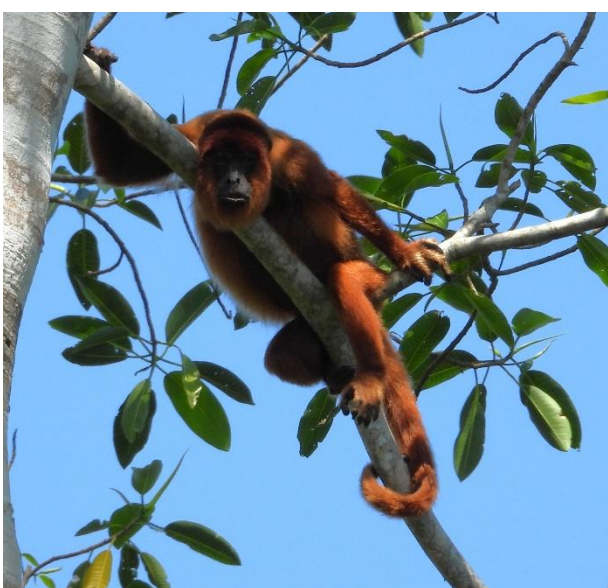
After a short night's sleep and breakfast, we set out to the river for our Bolivian pink river dolphin cruise. Before descending to the river, we actually spotted our first **Bolivian pink river dolphin** from the platform. Boom!



Photo curtesy of Judy Parrish



The boat driver drove straight upstream to where we saw the dolphins from the platform, and we had several surfacing encounters with at least 3 individuals, one of which was a baby. Satisfied, we drove downstream, seeing many *kingfishers*, *vultures*, *screamers*, *blue and yellow macaws* and other parrots, other shore birds, *tegus*, and **Bolivian red howler monkeys**.



Intently searching for new species, I found a single black howler (a.k.a. **black-and-gold howler monkey**). We had more **dolphin** encounters downstream, and we stopped for lunch on a sandbank surrounded by noisy *black skimmers*. On the way back I also spotted a mammal on the ground which I thought could be another *tayra*, but it ran too quickly, and we wrote it off as a possible *coati*.

We were at the airport around 15:30, and after a connection

in Cochabamba we landed in La Paz around 18:20, making it to the hotel by 19:00. I immediately felt the altitude and the cold. But we had no time to acclimate as we went for dinner in our VERY pampering Ritz hotel, followed by a 6am take-away breakfast box on the way back to the airport.

Day 12

After an early flight to Cobija in Pando, we stopped for Acai while Nick and the crew got supplies for the next few days, then we were off to Tahuamanu Biological Station.

Nick arranged with Ericka that we wouldn't have to lecture to students, so we could get straight to it. The drive took about 2-ish hours, with a good portion of it through beautiful landscape between farmland and rain forest, but we didn't see anything to note.

Tahuamanu Station is really remote – no phone reception, no running water, and shower is a wooden platform over the river. The wooden cabins are all rotting, but Nick's adventures set up personal tents with mattresses, pillows, sheets and blankets in the rooms and on the "balcony" of the most in-tact old cabin, where all tents are at least protected from rain from the in-tact roof.



This is fun and adventurous on one end, and on the other end – I'm totally fine with only having 3 nights here 😊. Add to this, the fact that midway through the first afternoon I felt



my temperature rising and my stomach acting up. At first, I thought it had to do with the altitude from La Paz, but now I think it's unrelated. Anyway, over the next 3 days I would visit the non-flushing toilets 7-8 times a day... but at least this didn't affect my mammalwatching activities, and my general feeling greatly improved by the following morning.

When we arrived, we met Canela and Ericka and then checked out the rotten old cabins for bats and rats. I found some **Pallas's Long-tongued Bats** first inside an old closet and then hanging from the roof of one cabin. Then we also found some **Greater sac-winged bats** in the roof of the 2nd floor of our own building. In addition to the bats, a pair of **Simons's Spiny-rat** (I think) lived in the second floor of our cabin.

After lunch, Judy and I walked quietly on the main road in search of primates but didn't see any. We heard what I think were capuchins but never saw them. Other team members were just birdwatching from the station complex.



At 15:30 we met Canela and walked up the main road in search of sakis and tamarins, but the forest was very quiet, and we found no mammals. Apparently, on the way in Canela saw Saki monkeys. And actually, a few minutes into the trail we heard and kind of caught a silhouette of what was probably that pair of sakis that Canela saw.

Sweaty but motivated, we started our first night walk after dinner. We hiked the main road as well as the side trails for well over 3 hours but saw no mammals. This was really strange; I've never experienced complete lack of mammals, even "common" stuff over so many hours with thermal scopes and spotlighting, in such pristine rain forest habitat. I figured maybe it was due to the new moon, which meant longer night, meaning animals have so many hours to start their night later. I was hoping tomorrow we would have better

luck. I did find some sleeping birds in the thermal scope, including *collared trogon* and *white-throated tinamou*.

After the official night hike was over, Jonathan and I went to the shower platform to look for mammals or snakes but didn't find any. I came back by myself to shower but also brought my scope and torch. I saw **fishing bats** in the scope and then in the torch light flying over the water and briefly dipping in. On the way back to the 'room' I spotlit briefly around the station clearing and found a juvenile *garden tree boa*.

Day 13

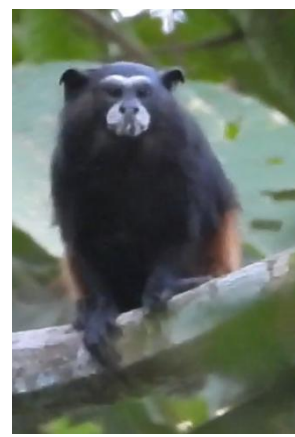
With Goeldi's monkeys being the prime target of this leg of the trip, we started at 5:30am with Canela, heading South-Westwards to an area where a few family groups are usually present. Pre-dawn, we saw a *pale-winged trumpeter* and no mammals. As it got light out, we crossed a small stream that leads to a clearing, after which is the 'prime' habitat for the monkeys. The clearing was very 'distracting' for the birders in the group, with *channel-billed* and *white-throated toucans*, many parrots, jacamars and trogons. But I was very content on making everyone ignore the birds at this time and search for the rare mammals we're after.

Everybody aligned, and within minutes Canela heard Goeldi's monkeys as well as the tamarins that usually hang out with them. We kept following the sounds while also seeing **brown capuchins** and **black-capped squirrel monkeys**. Canela stopped to listen for a several seconds, and pretty much lost sound of the Goeldi's, but we followed a group of **White-lipped, red-bellied tamarins** into the forest off the trail. We had several brief but



clear encounters with these hyperactive little guys, and followed them back to the main trail, at which point Canela completely lost sound of the Goeldi's monkeys. Note that the Goeldi's usually hang out with the (white-lipped) red-bellied tamarins so following them was a good bet. We stayed on the main trail to listen for monkeys calling, but only added **Weddle's saddleback tamarins**, with which we had a several-minute encounter.

Other than that, the rest of the morning was searching for Goeldi's monkeys while some of the boys frequently stopped to bird. We had a strange encounter with **brown capuchins** eating a dead **Black-headed night monkey**, which was

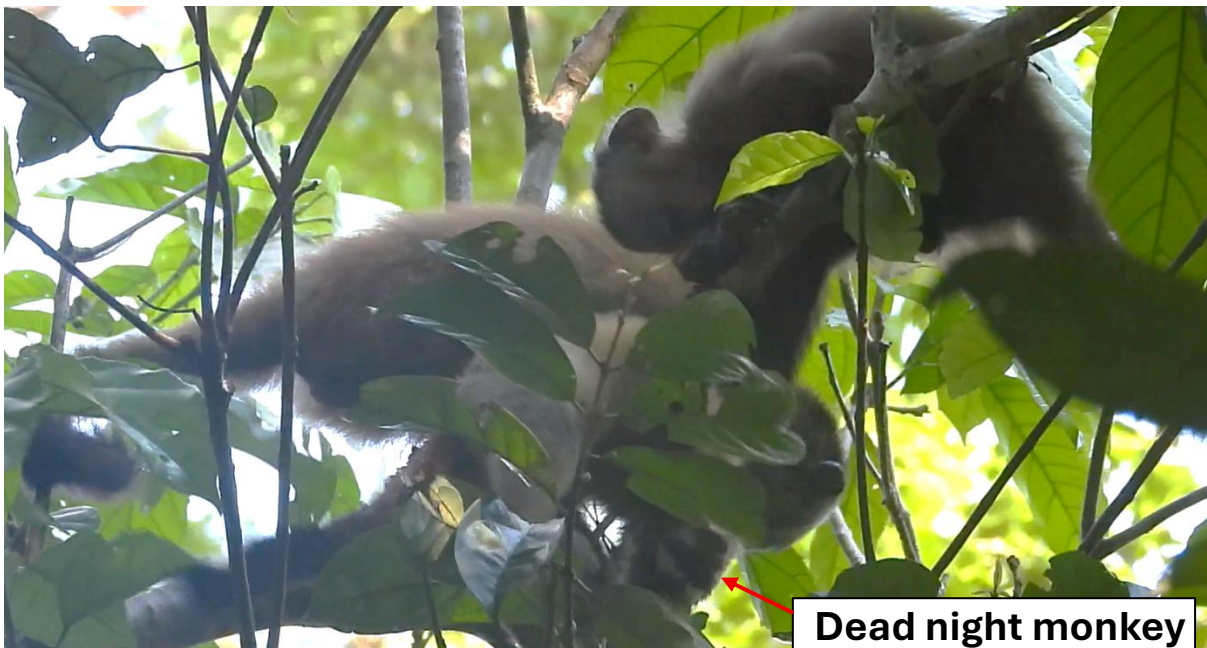




extremely surprising to see. But while we were watching this and pondering the strange behavior, Nick spotted a huge raptor flying overhead which must have been either *crested eagle* or *Harpy eagle*. We figured this monkey-eating eagle must have hunted the night monkey and dropped it, then the capuchins scavenged on it – but it's just a theory.

Despite being impressive in its own right, *harpy eagle* is no good news for monkey searchers. Later in the morning it became uncomfortably hot, and we only saw birds. But many of them were cool, including *gilded barbet* (my first ever neotropical barbet.. #nojudging), 3 species of *trogons*, 3 *jacamars*, many *tanagers*, *parrots* and other birds, and heard but didn't stick around to find a blue-backed manakin.

Mark pointed out a huge raptor in the sky which I got a glimpse of – which must have been the *crested-or-harpy eagle*. Mostly, I was focused on mammals, still, but did stop to photograph some of the colorful birds, I must admit.



I asked Nick if we would try again for the Goeldi's in the afternoon, since it was the absolute #1 target of the area, and my overall #2 target for Bolivia, after jaguarundi. (Well, tied with pink river dolphins and Chacoan peccary). But he explained that mornings are the best times, and we would try for the sakis this afternoon (which was my #2 target for Pando). Nick was right, but I was worried since we only had 1 additional full day to try to look for Goeldi's monkeys.

We met Canela again at 3:30pm and walked back up the main road (Northeastwards) and explored the side trails. Judy sat this one out, as the prime target was Ryland's saki, which she saw before.

Again, we saw no mammals in the heat of the afternoon for well over an hour. We then shined a torch into a big tree hole and found an additional **Greater sac-winged bats**. Suddenly, Canela stopped and listened very intently. God knows how he does it, between the constant cricket chirping, tons of birds and other rainforest noises, he just detects things like a bat. He signaled me over, and I saw him looking intently in a certain direction. He then suddenly pointed at a tree and said "There!". I raised my binoculars and saw a **Ryland's bald-faced saki** monkey sitting in the open on a high branch. Not moving at first. I announced "Saki!", but as everyone rushed closer, the monkey and another one, started jumping off. Boom! My first-ever Saki species!



Photo courtesy of Uri Wolkowski

Uri and Jonathan got them as they jumped then paused briefly on another tree, but Mark totally missed them. I was super excited since this species was high on my wish list, but I wouldn't let myself celebrate until we get Marc a proper sighting.

After a slightly stressed 25-minute hike, I stopped to examine what I thought was a night monkey roost that ended up being an awkwardly-shaded hole in a tree. But thanks to my unrelated stopping, Marc and Nick quickly spotted another **Saki monkey** clearly visible out in the open. Boom! Marc got his saki, and I even got a brief video of it running across the canopy.

Happy with the Saki monkeys, we headed back for dinner, followed by a

night walk. Long-story-short, despite another 4-hour walk, we added no mammals! I thermal-scoped and we clearly saw 2 rodents, one of at the trail side which looked like another **Simons's Spiny-rat** to me, and a climbing mouse which we saw briefly, and could be a potential vesper mouse based on size and colors, but we have no record. Walking 2 nights quietly without seeing any mammals at all was understandably demotivating, and it seemed everyone was quite tired. At one point, I looked up from my thermal scope, and noticed 5 flashlights ahead of me all pointing down at the trail ahead, so I jokingly said "Hey, does anyone else feel like mammalwatching?", hinting that they shouldn't give up and keep scanning the trees as opposed to just walking forward with all lights down. But

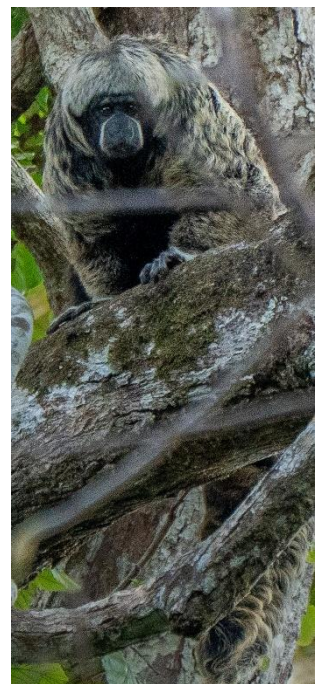


Photo courtesy of Uri Wolkowski

it had been a long day, indeed, and despite renewed attempts to spotlight into the trees and Jonathan joining forces with his thermal scope, we found no mammals. I found a *mottled owl* on way back to the lodge, and then another large *garden tree boa* high up a tree.

I was really bothered by the fact that we had spotlit and thermal-scoped so many hours without seeing literally anything – a kinkajou, a peccary, even porcupines, possums, sloths, coatis or night monkeys, the latter-most which we heard a couple of time... nothing! What was going on? I made 2 new hypotheses:

1. right after new moon, maybe pre-dawn could be better, or
2. this area has been impacted by local communities and we should try the trail that goes towards 'Goeld's' hotspot.

The reason hypothesis 2 came up was that Nick mentioned he didn't see any footprints on the 'main road' once we passed the entrance road. We decided to change the strategy for tomorrow night: to sleep early and wake up 3-ish for a pre-dawn hike. But tonight was over.

Day 14 – Final full mammalwatching day of the trip!

We started at 5:30 again and walked towards Goeldi's hot zone. Before dawn, Canela pointed some fresh giant armadillo diggings. Then, just as it got light enough to see, well before we got to the hot zone area, he stopped for a second to listen intently, then called out and pointed: "Callimico!" (Latin name of Goeldi's monkey genus). WHERE?

Nick urged us to stay very quiet and follow the dark shapes that bounced between vines. I caught sight of a **red-bellied tamarin** through my binoculars. But Canela and Nick insisted there were Goeldi's monkeys too. "There!! There!!" Nick physically grabbed me and pointed me at a different group of monkeys that was moving through the same vines. I raised my binoculars – shit! It's a **Goeldi's monkey**!!! Then another one! We played back the call and slowly a family of 6-8 individuals appeared more regularly, including a very



young one. For the next 15 minutes, it got brighter out, we had increasingly better and more relaxed views of this awesome monkey. Fuck yeah! I'd been wanting to see them ever since I researched them in a completely non-engineering-related primatology



course I took during my bachelor's degree (long story). I was so happy to see these guys, which also meant that all my trip's top targets have now been accomplished. The only exception was a 'better puma sighting'. I'll leave that for another trip.

Further down the trail and quickly found a group of **Toppin's titis**, a species I had seen before in Manu National Park. It also occurred to me that considering my trips to Tampobata with my parents in 2004 and Manu NP in 2007, I have now seen all the primates that

occur in this forest, which is a cool accomplishment! Though I would love better views of pygmy marmosets and black-headed night monkeys.

We hung around the main trail of the Goeldi's 'hot zone' area past the clearing. It seems that they're building a much nicer, 2-cabin accommodation at the edge of the clearing, with what looks like will be running water and air conditioning. I'd try to catch up with Nick if I come back to this region and ask if it's available. But during our 2-hour hike up and down the trail we only saw another **Bolivian squirrel**. Through all the bird-watching that our



friends did while also trying to search for mammals, Uri pointed out to me that what I called out as 'just another woodpecker flying across the trail' was actually a *golden-collared toucanet* when zooming-in with his camera. That was cool because I'd wanted to see any species from the *Selenidera* genus of toucanets.

In the afternoon, we explored yet another area of the forest that requires crossing a bridge over a little

stream. I was wearing Nick's waterproof boots since the sneakers I brought had both their soles ripped off



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Ben Simon



Photo courtesy of Uri Wolkowski

Photo courtesy of Jonathan Ben Simon

throughout our jungle hikes (but worry not, by the time I'm writing this, I bought proper jungle hiking). So, I got into the water and helped everyone else cross. But we found no mammals, except I briefly saw what I thought could be an Amazon dwarf squirrel. Throughout the hike, we found a *North-eastern puffing snake* that Jonathan caught with no hesitation, and I spotted a *crested owl* landing right in front of the trail 'between 2 thin trees', which I thought was obvious and everyone saw it. But I realized most people didn't see it and by the time I tried to explain, it flew away. Birder #1, Uri, was disappointed by this coincidence and we later took this picture to express how he felt about me seeing it while he missed it:



We planned to sleep early and then wake up pre-dawn. But Nick informed us that a rainy

cold front was coming as early as 3-4am. This changed our plans, and we opted to try one last 'regular' night hike. But again, to our outmost disappointment – we found literally no mammals for hours.

It was so strange. At one point I said: it's either the time of the night or the location. I insistently suggested we try the other area, where we had to cross the stream, towards the Goeldi's hot-zone, where we saw fresh giant armadillo diggings. We made our way there and almost instantly heard a large-ish mammal crashing through the vegetation, which was a good sign. We hiked another hour or so, and saw another probable **Simons's Spiny-rat**, a supposed brocket deer according to Canela, a sleeping *Amazonian dwarf kingfisher*, and Jonathan got a brief glimpse of **black-headed night monkeys** leaping across trees. But other than that, we still went mammal-less all nights in Pando! This was a huge shame, and I couldn't understand what would cause this to happen.

When we arrived back in the station clearing, Canela and his assistant found a cool-looking *banded cat-eye snake* and another immature *tree boa*.



I decided to wake up pre-dawn, and if there's no rain yet, or just light rain, I would give it one last shot.

Day 15

Jonathan's alarm went off at 3-something-AM, but it wasn't until my own alarm went off at 4:15, that I got myself up. I grabbed my stuff and walked silently by myself on the main trail. Within less than 100m I found a thermal signature in the trees. Aiming the light and taking a photo at the same time, I clearly saw the quills of a hiding **Amazonian long-tailed porcupine**, which is (perhaps embarrassingly, but excitingly) my first neotropical porcupine! I had promised Jonathan 2 nights ago I'd wake him up if I saw anything, so I was a man of my word. Jonathan took about 10 minutes to get up and gear up. During this time, I waited for him outside, in the clearing, and found another clear mammalian thermal signature that quickly disappeared toward the stream. I took him to the exact porcupine spot which I marked with



an X, but the porcupine was gone! We confirmed the species from a photo, but it was gone. Luckily, I then took him to the place where I saw the additional thermal signature while I waited for him, and we had better luck. We were able to chase it by going slightly into the forest, and luckily we found another **Amazonian long-tailed porcupine**. This one thankfully posed for pictures and even stayed still for the rest of the group to catch up



with us. At the end, everyone saw it!

It also goes to show that as far as our complete lack of mammals for 3 nights totaling over 10 hours of searching, vs. 2 mammals found in less than half an hour – it's really either the time of night during this phase of the moon (or during this season, or weather, or whatever), or, again, maybe the early evening after such hot

days isn't optimal for thermal scoping. Or perhaps the very dry leaf litter made a group of 6-7 of us including Nick and Canela too noisy? We will never know for sure, but at least we found 1 cool nocturnal lifer as opposed to none, so we ended on a high note.

The rainy cold front made an appearance at 5:30am, causing us to cancel all our activities until we had to leave. I took the time to catch up on sleep. Before noon, it started clearing up, and Marc, Jonathan and Uri did some birding from the station. On the way out, one of the cars had problems which took about 30 minutes to fix, during which Judy, Uri, Jonathan and I did some hiking and found another troop of **brown capuchins**.

On the drive back I was fantasizing about a better tayra or jaguarundi, both which Nick has seen en-route. But we saw no mammals, while the other car did a lot of birdwatching and saw a **brown agouti**. Nick, Judy and I's vehicle found a huge *king vulture* hanging on a roadside tree, which we saw really nicely (though against the very gray, murky sky).

Uri, Marc and Jonathan arrived about an hour after us to the hotel. After an afternoon coffee by the pool, we went out to dinner to celebrate the awesome trip we had, with such great people, and one awesome guide that we owe these successes to!



Things we missed

I'll start with Pando. As I mentioned, I was super surprised to have 3 nights so devoid of mammals. Others have seen so much, from 2-toed sloths, opossums and porcupines, to ocelots, kinkajous and white-lipped peccary. I mentioned a few hypotheses in the report, we'll have to see after more reports. I wonder if, on the last day, instead of leaving right after lunch, it would be worth it to wait until around 15:00 because most of the road back to Cobija has no cars, lots of open farmland that's not over-grazed, surrounded by pristine forests with toucans, macaws, king vultures and others. It seems as good a place as any for tayra, jaguarundi, or rarer surprises.

Going backwards up the itinerary – I feel like Beni and Trinidad are yet to be discovered. We didn't believe we had any chance for Pantanal cat, but lo and behold, there it was. I think Nick will attempt to make this a 'regular' species there, so stay tuned. I wonder if the researchers succeed in making short-eared dog semi-reliable. Nick was almost surprised we didn't see any giant anteaters in the areas around town, and there are countless other lowland species to be found in the area.

In kaa Iya most see pumas consistently, even just before us. I made a comparison of species above for Paraguayan vs. Bolivian Chaco, so check that out for other species.

In Jaguarland we missed jaguarundi, but it still remains a good place for this species. There are giant anteaters there too, and less commonly, Southern tamanduas. I'm actually surprised we saw neither species throughout the entire trip, though personally, I've already seen both so they weren't high on my radar. Lesser grisons are very rare but present in Jaguarland, and Nick has a single record of Greater grison from there.

Altogether I consider our trip very successful! I secretly wished to 'knock out' kinkajou out because it's embarrassing that I still haven't seen it... and to a lesser extent, white-lipped peccary.

I'll end this report with a little cliff hanger: Nick just texted me the other day with some fresh photos of a short-eared dog. He's working on a reliable spot for them and considering building a hide. Follow him for more details!



Mammal Species Seen on the Trip (my lifers in bold):

Number	Common Name	Scientific Name	Santa Cruz	Jaguarland	Kaa Iya	Trinidad	Cobija/Pando
1	Azara's Night Monkey	<i>Aotus azarae</i>		X		Heard <-- (seen by guides)	
2	Black-headed Night Monkey	<i>Aotus nigriceps</i>					X <-- Jonathan only
3	Goeldi's Monkey	<i>Callimico goeldii</i>					X
4	Black-tailed Marmoset	<i>Mico melanurus</i>			X		
5	White-lipped Tamarin	<i>Saguinus labiatus</i>					X
6	Weddell's Saddle-back Tamarin	<i>Saguinus weddelli</i>					X
7	Rylands' Bald-faced Saki	<i>Pithecia rylandsi</i>					X
8	White-eared Titi	<i>Plecturocebus donacophilus</i>	X				
9	White-coated (Pale) Titi	<i>Plecturocebus pallescens</i>			X		
10	Toppin's Titi	<i>Plecturocebus toppini</i>					X
11	Azara's Capuchin	<i>Sapajus cay</i>	X			X	
12	Brown Capuchin	<i>Sapajus apella</i>		X			X
13	Bolivian Squirrel Monkey	<i>Saimiri boliviensis</i>	X	X			X
14	Bolivian Red Howler	<i>Alouatta sara</i>		X		X	
15	Black Howler	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>				X	
16	Northern Black-eared Opossum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>				X	
17	Gray Four-eyed Opossum	<i>Philander opossum</i>				X	
18	Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>	X	X		X	
19	Six-banded Armadillo	<i>Euphractus sexcinctus</i>	On the way to Jaguarland				
Possible	Southern 3-banded Armadillo	<i>Tolypeutes matacus</i>			Possible		
20	South American Coati	<i>Nasua nasua</i>		X		X	
21	Crab-eating Raccoon	<i>Procyon cancrivorus</i>		X		X	
22	Crab-eating Fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>		X	X	X	
23	Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>		X	X		
24	Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>		X	X		
25	Pantanal Cat	<i>Leopardus braccatus</i>				X	
Probable	Geoffroy's Cat	<i>Leopardus geoffroyi</i>			Judy only		
26	Jaguarundi	<i>Herpailurus yagouaroundi</i>			X <-- Tomer and Jonathan only		
27	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>		X	X		
28	South American Tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>		X	X		
29	Collared Peccary	<i>Dicotyles tajacu</i>			X	X	
30	Chacoan Peccary	<i>Catagonus wagneri</i>			X		
31	Marsh Deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomus</i>		X			
32	Red Brocket	<i>Mazama americana</i>		X			
33	Gray Brocket	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>		X	X	X	
34	Bolivian River Dolphin	<i>Inia boliviensis</i>				X	
35	Azara's Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>	X	X	X		
36	Brown Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta variegata</i>					X
37	Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>	X	X			
Possible	Brazilian cavy	<i>Cavia aperea</i>	Possible				
38	Bolivian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus ignitus</i>	X				X
39	Simon's Spiny Rat	<i>Proechimys simonsi</i>					X
40	Amazonian Long-tailed Porcupine	<i>Coendou longicaudatus</i>					X
41	Tapeti	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>			X		
42	Greater Bulldog Bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>		X		X	
43	Lesser Bulldog Bat	<i>Noctilio albiventris</i>		X			?
44	Greater Sac-winged Bat	<i>Saccopteryx bilineata</i>					X
45	Pallas's Long-tongued Bat	<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>					X
46	Mexican Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>			X	X	



List of birds (from Uri and Jonathan):

1	Greater Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>	61	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
2	Red-winged Tinamou	<i>Rhynchotus rufescens</i>	62	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
3	White-throated Tinamou	<i>Tinamus guttatus</i>	63	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
4	Undulated Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus undulatus</i>	64	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
5	Southern Screamer	<i>Chauna torquata</i>	65	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>
6	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	66	Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sternula superciliaris</i>
7	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	67	Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>
8	Orinoco Goose	<i>Oressochen jubatus</i>	68	Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>
9	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	69	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>
10	Ringed Teal	<i>Callonetta leucophrys</i>	70	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>
11	Brazilian Teal	<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>	71	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
12	White-throated Piping-Guan	<i>Pipile grayi</i>	72	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
13	Spix's Guan	<i>Penelope jacquacu</i>	73	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>
14	Razor-billed Curassow	<i>Mitu tuberosum</i>	74	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>
15	Bare-faced Curassow	<i>Crax fasciolata</i>	75	Bare-faced Ibis	<i>Phimosus infuscatus</i>
16	Chaco Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>	76	Plumbeous Ibis	<i>Theristicus caerulescens</i>
17	Speckled Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis guttata</i>	77	Buff-necked Ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>
18	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	78	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
19	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	79	Rufescent Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>
20	Picazuro Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>	80	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
21	Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>	81	Capped Heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
22	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	82	Whistling Heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
23	Picui Ground Dove	<i>Columbina picui</i>	83	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
24	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	84	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
25	Grey-fronted Dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>	85	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
26	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	86	Western Cattle-Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
27	Guira Cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>	87	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
28	Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>	88	Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
29	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	89	King Vulture	<i>Sarcorampus papa</i>
30	Common Squirrel-Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	90	American Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
31	Nacunda Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles nacunda</i>	91	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
32	Little Nightjar	<i>Setopagis parvula</i>	92	Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>
33	Scissor-tailed Nightjar	<i>Hydrosalis torquata</i>	93	Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes melambrotus</i>
34	Ocellated Poorwill	<i>Nyctiphrynus ocellatus</i>	94	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
35	Rufous Nightjar	<i>Antrostomus rufus</i>	95	Long-winged Harrier	<i>Circus buffoni</i>
36	Silky-tailed Nightjar	<i>Antrostomus sericocaudatus</i>	96	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>
37	Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albigollis</i>	97	Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>
38	Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>	98	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>
39	Sick's Swift	<i>Chaetura meridionalis</i>	99	Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>
40	Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>	100	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>
41	Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	101	Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
42	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	102	Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>
43	Reddish Hermit	<i>Phaethornis ruber</i>	103	Tropical Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>
44	Gould's Jewelfront	<i>Heliodoxa aurescens</i>	104	Crested Owl	<i>Lophotrix cristata</i>
45	Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>	105	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
46	Glittering-bellied Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon lucidus</i>	106	Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
47	Gilded Hummingbird	<i>Hylocharis chrysura</i>	107	Mottled Owl	<i>Strix virgata</i>
48	White-chinned Sapphire	<i>Chlorestes cyanus</i>	108	Striped Owl	<i>Asio clamator</i>
49	Black-throated Mango	<i>Anthracothonax nigricollis</i>	109	Black-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanurus</i>
50	Blue-tufted Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster furcifer</i>	110	Amazonian Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon ramonius</i>
51	Grey-cowled Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>	111	Blue-crowned Trogon	<i>Trogon curucui</i>
52	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	112	Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>
53	Pale-winged Trumpeter	<i>Psophia leucoptera</i>	113	Green-backed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>
54	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	114	Amazonian Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>
55	Pied Plover	<i>Hoploxypterus cayanus</i>	115	Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>
56	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	116	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>
57	Collared Plover	<i>Anarhynchus collaris</i>	117	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>
58	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	118	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>
59	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	119	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
60	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	120	Black-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa nigrifrons</i>



181	Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrexetastes rufigula</i>
182	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>
183	Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>
184	Chaco Earthcreeper	<i>Tarphonomus certhioides</i>
185	Rufous Hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>
186	Ochre-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>
187	Sooty-fronted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis frontalis</i>
188	Screaming Piha	<i>Lipaugus vociferans</i>
189	White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>
190	Pink-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus minor</i>
191	Chestnut-crowned Becard	<i>Pachyramphus castaneus</i>
192	Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer</i>
193	Grey-crowned Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias poliocephalus</i>
194	Yellow-olive Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>
195	Large Elaenia	<i>Elaenia spectabilis</i>
196	Plain Tyrannulet	<i>Inezia inornata</i>
197	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
198	Black-backed Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola albiventer</i>
199	Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
200	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
201	Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
202	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
203	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
204	Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
205	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
206	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
207	Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus</i>
208	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
209	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
210	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
211	Dusky-capped Greenlet	<i>Pachysylvia hypoxantha</i>
212	Chivi Vireo	<i>Vireo chivi</i>
213	Violaceous Jay	<i>Cyanocorax violaceus</i>
214	Purplish Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cyanomelas</i>
215	Plush-crested Jay	<i>Cyanocorax chrysops</i>
216	White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>
217	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
218	Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>
219	White-thighed Swallow	<i>Atticora tibialis</i>
220	Tawny-headed Swallow	<i>Alopocheilidon fucata</i>
221	Masked Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila dumicola</i>
222	Southern House Wren	<i>Troglodytes musculus</i>
223	Thrush-like Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus turdinus</i>
224	Chalk-browed Mockingbird	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>
225	White-banded Mockingbird	<i>Mimus triurus</i>
226	Creamy-bellied Thrush	<i>Turdus amaurochalinus</i>
227	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
228	Yellowish Pipit	<i>Anthus chii</i>
229	Purple-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>
230	Yellow-browed Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus aurifrons</i>
231	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
232	Golden-winged Cacique	<i>Cacicus chrysopterus</i>
233	Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>
234	Variable Oriole	<i>Icterus pyrrhopterus</i>
235	Screaming Cowbird	<i>Molothrus rufoaxillaris</i>
236	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
237	Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
238	Scarlet-headed Blackbird	<i>Amblyramphus holosericeus</i>
239	Chopi Blackbird	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>
240	Greyish Baywing	<i>Agelaioides badius</i>

121	White-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa morphoeus</i>
122	Swallow-winged Puffbird	<i>Chelidoptera tenebrosa</i>
123	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>
124	Bluish-fronted Jacamar	<i>Galbula cyanescens</i>
125	Paradise Jacamar	<i>Galbula dea</i>
126	Great Jacamar	<i>Jacamerops aureus</i>
127	Gilded Barbet	<i>Capito auratus</i>
128	Chestnut-eared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>
129	Golden-collared Toucanet	<i>Selenidera reinwardtii</i>
130	Toco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>
131	White-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i>
132	Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>
133	White Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>
134	Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes cruentatus</i>
135	White-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes cactorum</i>
136	Little Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis passerinus</i>
137	Cream-backed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus leucopogon</i>
138	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
139	Cream-coloured Woodpecker	<i>Celeus flavus</i>
140	Pale-crested Woodpecker	<i>Celeus lugubris</i>
141	Campo Flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>
142	Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>
143	Red-legged Seriema	<i>Cariama cristata</i>
144	Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>
145	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>
146	Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
147	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Daptrius chimachima</i>
148	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
149	Tui Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris sanctithomae</i>
150	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chiriri</i>
151	Cobalt-winged Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris cyanopectera</i>
152	Scaly-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>
153	Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
154	Yellow-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>
155	Turquoise-fronted Amazon	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>
156	Mealy Amazon	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>
157	Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>
158	Dusky-billed Parrotlet	<i>Forpus modestus</i>
159	Cobalt-rumped Parrotlet	<i>Forpus xanthopterygius</i>
160	Green-cheeked Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura molinae</i>
161	Peach-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula aurea</i>
162	Dusky-headed Parakeet	<i>Aratinga weddellii</i>
163	Blue-crowned Parakeet	<i>Thectocercus acuticaudatus</i>
164	White-eyed Parakeet	<i>Psittacara leucophthalmus</i>
165	Yellow-collared Macaw	<i>Primolius auricollis</i>
166	Blue-and-yellow Macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>
167	Chestnut-fronted Macaw	<i>Ara severus</i>
168	Red-and-green Macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>
169	Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>
170	Great Antshrike	<i>Tabara major</i>
171	Barred Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>
172	Bolivian Slaty-Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus sticturus</i>
173	Spot-winged Antshrike	<i>Pygiptila stellaris</i>
174	Stripe-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmorchilus strigilatus</i>
175	Black-bellied Antwren	<i>Formicivora melanogaster</i>
176	Mato Grosso Antbird	<i>Cercomacra melanaria</i>
177	Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>
178	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>
179	Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>
180	Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris</i>



241	Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	<i>Habia rubica</i>
242	Red-crested Cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>
243	Red-capped Cardinal	<i>Paroaria gularis</i>
244	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>
245	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
246	Sayaca Tanager	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>
247	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
248	Paradise Tanager	<i>Tangara chilensis</i>
249	Green-and-gold Tanager	<i>Tangara schrankii</i>
250	Swallow Tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>
251	Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
252	Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>
253	Guira Tanager	<i>Hemithraupis guira</i>
254	Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
255	Grassland Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>
256	Red-crested Finch	<i>Coryphospingus cucullatus</i>
257	Golden-billed Saltator	<i>Saltator aurantirostris</i>
258	White-browed Purpletuft	<i>Iodopleura isabellae</i>
259	Cinereous Tyrant	<i>Knipolegus striaticeps</i>
260	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
261	Black-faced Tanager	<i>Schistochlamys melanopsis</i>
262	Rusty-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila collaris</i>
263	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>
264	Spectacled Tyrant	<i>Hymenops perspicillatus</i>
265	Sulphury Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannopsis sulphurea</i>
266	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>



List of Reptiles:

- Yacare caiman
- Argentinian tegu
- Red-footed tortoise
- Chaco tortoise
- North-eastern puffing snake
- Banded cat-eyed snake
- Painted lance-head
- South American whip snake
- Coral snake
- Garden tree boa
- 2 terrapin species
- Giant ameiva