



I've always been a bit intimidated by travelling in Brazil. I remember heading to Emas National Park in early 2000, being unable to find a bus, hitch-hiking a ride in the back of a pickup and not being able to understand a word the driver was saying to me, unsure of where in the world I might be dropped off. These psychic scars linger, although they were partially alleviated by an Amazon cruise in 2017 which remains one of my favourite trips ever. In any event, the lure of the numerous Atlantic rainforest endemics eventually became so great that resistance was futile and I booked a flight.

The trip started inauspiciously, as I struck my coccyx on the bedframe the morning of departure, which is not the injury one wants prior to prolonged periods of sitting. Fortunately, I managed to snag a row of three seats to myself for the Chicago to Sao Paulo leg of the flight so that I could lie down. The flight arrived about half an hour late, which put me into Sao Paulo at the height of morning rush hour, turning my Uber ride to meet Elias into an hour-and-a-half odyssey.

Elias Sadalla Filho, known to many on this site, is a physician in Sao Paulo who had decided to join me on the first leg of the trip to Superagui Island and kindly offered to drive to Ariri, the jumping-off point for the north end of Superagui. The five-hour drive passed unremarkably and we arrived in Ariri just after dusk. Waiting for us was Antoine Rabussier, another mammal enthusiast who was joining us for the Superagui portion, and Marcio, who runs a small pousada on the island and is the go-to person for folks looking for Black-headed Lion Tamarins. We had a 25-minute boat trip over to the island, dinner and then bed.

Superagui in the early morning has an almost otherworldly sense of peace and tranquility. We had a Brazilian buffet breakfast, including the almost obligatory chocolate cake, and then headed out on the trails near the village with Marcio, playing callback as we went. Our first mammal was a Guiana Squirrel, the southeastern subspecies. Then, one hour and ten minutes after setting out, we were rewarded with a couple of Black-faced Lion Tamarins who came close to the trail to investigate us. Back at the lodge, lunch was accompanied by a parade of colourful birds at the feeder, including Green-headed Tanager and Blue Dacnis. An evening walk was remarkably quiet, with no mammals apart from a few small bats flying about.





The next morning dawned sunny and cool. We departed by boat just after 8:00 AM to look for Guiana Dolphins and found several small groups which provided brief sightings only. The remainder of the day we hiked the trails running north of the village several times, including after dark, but again saw no mammals.

We departed from Superagui the following morning and Elias dropped me at the Unidas/Budget car rental office in Sorocaba. There were no English-speaking staff members, so it was great to have Elias translate some of the mysteries of car rental in Brazil, like the idea that you pay a cleaning fee in advance on the assumption that you will be bringing the car back dirty. The car rental process took over an hour, which seemed lengthy until I discovered that every time one rents a car in Brazil it takes over an hour, even if you have recently rented from the same company in Brazil. How the country that produced the lambada can have such universally sluggish car rental staff is truly a mystery.

I tried to find an ATM but was unsuccessful, so I drove over to the Sorocaba zoo instead. The zoo has free-ranging Brown Howlers (native) and Common Marmosets (introduced), both of which were easy to find. After a quick peek at a couple of the captive animals, I left the zoo and had a late lunch, then headed for Pousada Marchesin on the outskirts of Carlos Botelho State Park. Google maps took me to the town of Sao Miguel Arcanjo. Asking around revealed that no one knew where the pousada was, unsurprisingly as it turned out to be 23 km further down the road. I arrived at the pousada about 7:00 PM and was pleasantly surprised. Pousada Marchesin is invariably described as the pousada on top of a gas station, but is actually behind the gas station part of the complex and has clean and spacious rooms. I had a brief lie-down and then got up to meet Zaqueu, my guide for a night drive in the park in an electric vehicle. The electric vehicle resembled a giant golf cart for 6 passengers. We spent over two

hours driving on the road through Carlos Botelho State Park, but disappointingly saw no mammals, although we did get close views of a couple of owls.



After returning about 1:00 AM, getting up at 4:30 AM felt painful. Zaqueu and another person led me down a boardwalk near the staff housing, then over the guardrail. After a walk of perhaps 60 metres, we arrived at a vantage point from which we could see the outlines of several sleeping Southern Muriquis. They started moving about 6:30 or so and we followed them until they settled down again in some high tree branches an hour-and-a-half later. A brief walk back to the vehicle revealed some toucans and guans but no further mammals.



After a buffet lunch, I drove to Fazenda Garibaldi in Buri. I was expecting a farm outside of town, but the Fazenda includes a housing project as well as several small chalets which can be rented. A walk along a small river revealed nothing of note apart from some Capybara tracks and droppings. Few restaurants in town were open on a Sunday night and the one I did wander into was unable to accept foreign credit cards, which I found a bit unusual.

Fortunately, a large packed breakfast arrived from the pousada just before 6:00 AM and I set out with Vinicius about 6:30 AM. Vinicius speaks excellent English, trained as a veterinarian, and was a wealth of knowledge about the area and the history of the property. There are three groups of Black Lion Tamarins in the immediate area – the Three Musketeers, the Fantastic Four and the Docile Group. How the last group feels about their name I wasn't able to ascertain. We found the Docile Group and later the Three Musketeers. There are about 80 Black Lion Tamarins in the general area of Buri, the second largest extant population after Morro do Dablo in far western Sao Paulo state. We also found a South American Coati up in a tree.



Arriving back at noon, I packed up and departed for Nazare Paulista, northeast of Sao Paulo city. A traffic jam north of Sao Paulo delayed me for 1 ½ hours, reminding me just how huge a city it is, although I can't remember another time when I've been distracted by a large toucan flying overhead while stuck in traffic. Near Nazare Paulista a multi-vehicle collision delayed me yet again, so I didn't arrive in Nazare Paulista until after dark. Cheryl Antonucci had mentioned staying at a nice pousada, Pousada do Molinho, which I hadn't been able to book online, so I just drove up to the address. A locked gate greeted me. However, I didn't want to back up the extremely steep gravel driveway and, since there didn't seem to be many other options in the vicinity anyway, I climbed around the locked gate and walked up the long driveway, hoping there weren't any guard dogs in residence. The slightly puzzled-looking caretaker family greeted me and, after some hand gestures and flourishes, phoned the owner of

the property. I asked her if she spoke English or Spanish and she replied that she spoke Spanish, and agreed to rent me a room for the night, on the understanding that I wouldn't have TV, breakfast, etc. as the pousada hadn't been expecting me. She sent me a link for a payment app to transfer money. I noticed that the instructions she sent me were in English and contained some typos, so were likely not the product of a translation app. I asked her about this and was told that she thought I was Spanish and so had been speaking that, even though she thought her Spanish was awful. We had a good chuckle.

By now it was raining lightly and a brief night walk was predictably unproductive. I was up about 6:45 AM, showered and had a short walk on the property. The caretaker told me he often sees monkeys on the property but they weren't in evidence this morning, perhaps because of the cold and windy weather. I drove to the IPE to look for titi monkeys and marmosets. Despite walking the grounds and a stretch of the road several times the only mammal I came across was a Coypu in a small marshy area. I spoke with a guy who was staying at a place near the IPE for a spiritual retreat. He brought the conversation around to his belief that Jews controlled global finance and other thoughts in a similar vein, which suggested to me that the spiritual advisors clearly had their work cut out for them.

I left about 11:15 and found a restaurant on the highway for a churrasco breakfast before continuing on to Sorocaba to return the vehicle. I caught a sleeper bus that night to Rio de Janeiro, which turned out to be surprisingly comfortable. Arriving at the Novo Rio bus station, I was initially confused by the layout, which entails leaving the building, walking around the corner and re-entering in a different building, but I eventually found the ticketing desks and bought a ticket for the 5:22 bus to Unamar.

The bus arrived in Unamar about 8:00 AM and I hopped off at what I judged was the nearest point to the Parque Natural Municipal Mico Leao Dourado. A 45-minute walk brought me to the entrance to the reserve. There didn't appear to be anyone around, so I walked one of the short forest trails. I emerged at a building where a couple of security guards were hanging out. Upon questioning, I was told that one had to reserve in order to walk the trails. I explained I was really hoping to see the Golden Lion Tamarins and the guard pointed just above my shoulder. Turning around I found a small group of Golden Lion Tamarins observing me from the roof of the building. A woman, who I took to be the supervisor, came over and started chatting to me about the reserve's primates. As if on cue, she pointed to the garden where a couple of Northern Black-horned Capuchins were raiding some plants. We walked one of the short trails together and then she left me at an open-air dining area. The Golden Lion Tamarins wandered around the building, accompanied by a couple of Common Marmosets, presumably introduced to the reserve.



The sky was threatening rain and I walked back out the entrance road. A Southern Maned Sloth in a tree by the roadside crossed over the road by way of overhanging branches, then descended to the ground back in the undergrowth. A woman in a passing SUV kindly gave me a lift back to town, followed by a late lunch and a bus back to Rio. Black Rats at the Novo Rio station rounded out the day's sightings.



I awoke spontaneously at 2:30 AM, had a quick shower and headed to the airport for a 6:20 flight to Vitoria. Car rental was again painfully slow, as I had my photo taken four or five times, then waited for a chap to drive me about 100 metres to the actual car location where I again had to wait as photos of the car were taken inside and out. I was on the road about 8:30 and arrived in Sooretama about 11:30, where I met up with Brener, my guide for the next couple of days. We had lunch at a churrascaria, then drove the short distance to Vale Reserve. The reserve is funded by Vale, the mining giant, and is well-tended. Without a guide one is only allowed to access a small portion of the reserve, while having an approved guide allows one to drive on a network of forest roads within the reserve. The mammal sightings came quickly. A troop of Robust/Crested Capuchins were feeding in a plantation at the edge of the forest. After passing through a gate, we found a group of Masked Titi Monkeys, then several White-faced Marmosets, who were shy and disappeared quickly. Next up was a group of Brown Howlers calling in the rain from a tree by the side of the track. As dusk fell, we found two Common Red-rumped Agoutis, then a Common Red Brocket Deer. After leaving through the locked gate at 6:15 we parked the car and went for a walk. An arboreal rodent was too obscured for photos, but a Greater Fruit-eating Bat and a Brazilian Gracile Opossum were more accommodating. We also found a Common Brown Brocket and, back near the car, a sounder of Collared Peccaries. Feeling well-pleased with the day, I dropped off Brener, had a pizza and went to bed.



Because of our success the previous day, there were few new realistic diurnal possibilities in Vale, so Brener suggested we go to Santa Teresa to try to see Buffy-headed Marmosets there. We arrived at the Adolpho Ruschi Reserve about 9:30 and walked the road through the reserve. We managed to see one Buffy-headed Marmoset but the others in the troop remained hidden. We had good views of a Northern Maned Sloth and then came across a troop of Northern Black-horned Capuchins. While watching the group, we noticed a Northern Muriqui travelling with them, an unexpected surprise as Brener said he didn't see them often in this reserve.



Leaving Santa Teresa mid-afternoon, we drove back to Vale to spend a couple of hours there after dusk. Walking through the forest, we found another Common Red-rumped Agouti and a group of Masked Titis high in a tree. In the open area near the accommodations for researchers we came across a total of three Crab-eating Foxes and three Brazilian Tapirs in addition to a Common Brown Brocket Deer before leaving at about 7:30 PM.



The next day was a relatively relaxing one. After a leisurely breakfast and another fruitless search for an ATM indicated on Apple Maps, I drove along the Rio Doce past Ipanema to Pousada Corredeiras do Primitivo, located a few kilometres from Feliciano Miguel Abdala Reserve. The pousada is very comfortable and located on the banks of a river, about three kilometres off the highway. I walked the entrance road which runs through a nice patch of forest both before and after nightfall but didn't see any mammals, which I found a bit surprising. A group of guans were feeding alongside the chickens at a small farm out on the main road.

After yet another expansive Brazilian breakfast I was at the visitor centre in Feliciano Miguel Abdala Reserve by 8:30 AM. Roberto, the guide, took me for a short walk to the house where he was born on the edge of the reserve and pointed out a group of six Brown Howlers in a tree across the road. We walked back along the reserve's entrance road a short distance and came across a troop of Northern Black-horned Capuchins feeding and squabbling.



Finding the Northern Muriquis turned out to be simple. Researchers follow several troops, so we quickly found a troop by the road and followed them a short distance using a minor trail. On the way out of the reserve at noon, Roberto stopped his motorcycle to point out a Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth high in a tree. I headed back to Vitoria. On the way, I was passing the turnoff to Santa Teresa when I remembered Jon Hall had had an opossum-fest there years ago. I drove up to the reserve on the edge of town just before dusk and asked if I could enter. The guard said that I needed permission from the office in town, which was closed on Sundays. Clearly I don't have Jon's charm, as I pleaded to no avail. Figuring that looking pathetic might help my case, I wandered around the perimeter fence with my thermal and flashlight, seeing nothing and not getting an invite to enter the reserve either. I gave up about 6:30 and

drove back to Vitoria. I returned the rental car, tried fruitlessly to find something to eat at the airport, and fell asleep on the chairs in the waiting area until shortly after 3:00 AM.

My row on the flight consisted of the three largest folks on the plane, so I was thrilled when one of them found another seat. We arrived in Sao Paulo at 6:50 instead of the scheduled 6:25, which was a problem as my connecting flight to Ilheus was scheduled to depart at 7:20 AM. I compounded the issue by initially running madly in the wrong direction through the airport. Fortunately, the flight to Ilheus was also mildly delayed, so I arrived at the gate just as passengers from the incoming flight were deplaning. The flight to Ilheus was uneventful and we arrived only slightly late. The rental office here was able to give me a car in less than an hour, likely setting a new efficiency record for Brazil. To compound my sense of wonderment, after initially being unable to find two banks indicated on Apple Maps, I found the third one and was finally able to withdraw some cash.

I checked into the lovely Pousada do Mar, which had been recommended to me by Cheryl Antonucci. The marmosets and tamarins which come to the bird feeders there were not in evidence. I was told they typically arrive later in the afternoon. After a brief rest, I headed to the entrance to the former Una Ecoparque indicated on Apple Maps. After turning off the main road, the suggested route became rougher and rougher, with huge gullies carved across the road. About 10 km from the marked location, I got out of the vehicle and started to walk. The surrounding landscape was a mix of agriculture and bits of secondary growth forest, alive with birds but without mammals in evidence. After walking a few kilometres, it started to rain and I headed back to the car. I drove towards a road which was numbered on the map, thinking it would be better, but it turned out to be just as awful as the roads I had been on previously. I eventually made it back to the coastal road, to be greeted by a Six-banded Armadillo walking on the asphalt. After a quick dinner of a burger and fries I headed to bed.

I spent the next day with Lukas Daneu, a local guide. After the challenges of the previous day, I opted to go in his car, but in fact today's roads were much better. We turned off the coastal road and drove a short way to the edge of a large farm which borders Una Reserve. A brief walk took us into some nice forest and, before long, an inquisitive troop of Golden-headed Lion Tamarins appeared, followed not long afterwards by a group of Wied's Marmosets. A further drive took us to the abandoned visitor centre of Una Ecoparque, a reserve which had originally been set aside by a construction company in exchange for land elsewhere, but from which they had walked away, leaving the infrastructure to decay. At least two bat species were present in the abandoned buildings, including Seba's short-tailed Bats. We spent a while by the edge of the river looking for otters, but were unable to see any, although we did see a group of South American Coatis which ran across the road as we walked back to the car. We drove back to the original spot where we had first parked that morning. The tamarins were again in evidence, as was something larger in a distant tree. This turned out to be a Yellow-breasted Capuchin, often a difficult species to see in Una. We managed to walk in to the enormous tree where the troop was feeding and got quite good views.



After a quick lunch in the village of Una, we drove to a farm where we parked the car and walked through an area of mixed orchard and forest. Lukas pointed out a Bahian Hairy Dwarf Porcupine asleep in a hollow with its tail hanging out. After further tamarin sightings, we started driving out and noticed a Northern Maned Sloth high in a tree. Trying to get closer, I managed to slip off a log and collect about five kilograms of mud on my right boot. On the drive back to the hotel, we stopped at four spots where Lukas had seen the Southern Bahian Titis roosting in the past, but none were in evidence today. We had heard them once earlier but didn't manage to get views of them. Lukas dropped me off at the hotel and I went into Ilheus for pizza. It is a lovely town, set on a long beach, with a historic central area and lots of open-air restaurants.



I waited for the tamarins and marmosets to visit the feeders the next morning, but by 9:00 AM none had appeared and I knew the drive to Lencois would be a long one. I arrived in Lencois about 6:30 PM, to find another lovely historical town, this one with narrow cobblestone streets and challenging parking spots. Pousada do Tom had English-speaking staff and, on their recommendation, I walked downtown and had one of the nicest pizzas ever.

Apple Maps kept directing me down the narrowest streets it could find, so it took me about 20 minutes to find my way out of the small town of Lencois. I met Cris Prates at the gas station at the entrance to the town and we drove a short distance out of town for the first of the day's targets, Blond Titi. Using callback, a group responded and appeared in the trees around us. We tried another spot and found more titis. We could hear Black-tufted-ear marmosets but couldn't see them. We went to Cris's place and put out fruit, but without success. Having resigned myself to not seeing them, we were heading out

of town when Cris again heard the marmosets. We pulled over, and a Black-tufted-ear Marmoset appeared on the electrical wires overhead.





We then drove for an hour-and-a-half to a cave complex. Several Rock Cavies were waiting amongst the rocks by the cave entrance. Inside the cave, we quickly located the White-winged Vampire Bats and Flat-faced Fruit-eating Bats seen by Jon Hall and his group earlier this year. The restaurant at the caves was packed, so we stopped at a churrascaria on the highway and then continued on to the wind farm where Spix's Yellow-toothed Cavies are often seen. Unfortunately, the area was completely dry and the cavies were not in evidence, although a few birds, including Cactus Parrots, were still hanging around. After a short wait, the armadillo team showed up, consisting of two men who walk through the bush listening for the sounds of Brazilian Three-banded Armadillos, then catch them by hand for weighing and measuring. I was unaware of the scale of the project until Cris told me they had put microchips in about 200 armadillos. Within an hour or so, an armadillo was located. It had been previously microchipped, so Cris weighed and measured it as one more data point in the research project, before letting it go. A three-hour drive took us back to Lencois after a long but fulfilling day.





I was up the next morning at the usual early hour. My destination that night was Praia do Forte, a popular beach resort outside of Salvador. Unfortunately, it was also a holiday weekend, so virtually all the places to stay were already booked. I had managed to find a room on Booking.com the night before, but received a message over breakfast that the room had been on there by mistake, there was a large crack in the wall that needed repair, and so the room wouldn't be available for the night. I discovered it was impossible to cancel and receive a refund via the website and pleaded that I just needed a place to sleep. The owner relented, although by this stage I was starting to wonder what the accommodation would be like.

The road was filled with trucks, all engaging in one of Brazil's favourite pastimes, tailgating, which made for a long and tiring day. I arrived in Imbassai mid-afternoon. Driving to the spot indicated on Apple Maps all I could see was a marijuana dispensary. I asked a local worker and wandered over to a nearby restaurant but couldn't get any leads as to where the place might be. After leaving a message on the host's phone, I walked back to the car and was greeted by Miguel, an Argentinian who had been in the army, discovered that cannabis helped him cope with stress, and now used it in small doses to treat children with autism. My room did have a large crack in the wall, but nothing that looked structural. I had supper at a small local restaurant, wandered around the village, and went to bed early.

The next morning, I was at Arua forest early. Arua forest is a patch of Atlantic rainforest just inland from Praia do Forte where a local NGO is working to help conserve wildlife in the face of increasing construction and development. I was met by Coe, who offered me coffee and explained the foundation's

work. A feeding table of fruit attracted several bird species, along with Common Marmosets. Coe told me he knew the nighttime roost of a Broomstraw-spined/Thin-spined Porcupine, which turned out to be in the tangles of a tree very close to the house. A mother and young could be seen amongst the vegetation. We went for a walk on the surrounding roads and trails and found two Northern Maned Sloths and a Bahian Dwarf Hairy Porcupine. Back at the project, Coe showed me his apiary with native stingless bees and shared some of the honey, which was light and exceptionally flavourful. I drove into Praia do Forte for lunch and the contrast between the tranquility of the forest and the bustle of the town was extreme. All parking spots in town were occupied, so I ended up parking at a hardware store outside town and walking back. I had lunch and explored a small park on the edge of town. Returning to Arua at 5:00 PM, I discovered that my thermal imager had stopped working, a disaster when on the trail of porcupines at night. We found an Amazon Tree Boa, then a Linnaeus's Mouse Opossum. On the way back, we added a Northern Maned Sloth and a feeding Bahian Dwarf Hairy Porcupine to the tally. Traffic was still crazy in Praia do Forte, so I skipped a second visit to the park and headed back to Imbassai for the night.





The next day's drive to Santuario Da Mata was a short one, although the constant tailgating and speeding up only to have to slow down for the ever present "cabromolas" ("spring-breakers") made it feel longer. The gates to Santuario Da Mata were closed, so I continued on to the next small town for an excellent lunch before returning to meet Tito at 2:00 PM. Tito speaks good Spanish and some English, so it was nice to be able to have a lengthy conversation with him about the project. There is a large two-room tent on the property for visitors, a communal kitchen and a pleasant sitting area.

Discussing the local area, Tito mentioned there was a large and ancient church nearby. We found the caretaker and unlocked the door. Inside were at least two bat species, so we spent some time getting photos. Back at Santuario Da Mata, we went on a three-hour hike which produced zero mammals, although the area, a mix of pasture and secondary forest had looked promising.

I was up early and at the observation platform, from which I could hear titi monkeys calling but was unable to see them. We drove through the nearby village to a spot by a river where the titi calls were louder. A walk down a track brought us face-to-face with a sizable group of Coimbra-Filho Titis and a few Common Marmosets travelling with them. After watching them at our leisure, we returned to the forest around Santuario Da Mata and found another group of titis. After lunch and a rest, we drove to a couple of forest patches, then positioned ourselves at a spot where a troop of Yellow-breasted Capuchins often cross the road in the late afternoon. As if on cue, the capuchins appeared. The troop has 40 or 50 members, perhaps a sign that they are increasingly being pushed into smaller areas of suitable habitat. An evening walk again produced no mammal sightings.





I arrived at the Quilombo Park Hotel early the following afternoon. After showering and doing some laundry, I went into town for dinner and returned just before dusk. Bats were roosting in an empty room on the third floor, while others roosted under the eaves, and still more roosted in a building by the pool. Unfortunately, my thermal imager was still not working. A Greater Fishing Bat was swooping over a small pond, dragging its claws just under the surface. I asked the hipster bartender about porcupines and he informed me he had never seen one, although I'm not sure how often he had looked. Walking back up the steep hill to the rooms, I found a Brazilian White-eared Opossum, interestingly the first one I had seen on this trip.



I completed a couple of circuits of the hotel grounds, telling myself I would put in the three hours from 6:00 to 9:00 PM to try to find a porcupine. At 8:55 PM, as I was standing by the pool, I saw slight eyeshine coming from a creature descending a palm tree and climbing onto the electrical wires. The Pernambuco Dwarf Porcupine crossed overhead on the wires and clambered into a tree, where it paused for photos to be taken. Given that Jon Hall's group had found a porcupine here with a thermal imager almost as soon as they had started looking for one, I feel I can report that not having a thermal adds about three hours to the required search effort. Avery cool animal, however, and well worth the search.



The following morning, I added a couple of bat species to the tally, finding Lesser and Greater Sac-winged Bats in a dark room upstairs in the hotel. I left about 8:00 AM and stopped for churrascaria around noon. I wasn't that hungry, so I told the waitress I just wanted a plate of food, not the all-you-can-eat option. She weighed my plate, told me the all-you-can-eat-option would be cheaper and, when I declined, called over a server to cut a small slice of meat onto my plate, smiling and wishing me the Brazilian equivalent of "Bon appetit".

I arrived in Joao Pessoa a couple of hours later. My guide, Pedro Callado, was trying to track down a thermal imager. I drove over to his apartment and we headed to the local zoo, one of the few sites for free-ranging lack's Red-rumped Agoutis. Just past the tapir enclosure are some trails through a forested area where, sure enough, several agoutis were running around. A little farther, a small stream produced a couple of Broad-snouted Caimans. We looked for the Greater Capybaras that live around a small lake on the zoo grounds but were unable to find them prior to closing time.



After picking up Pedro's mother-in-law's phone (the only Android phone compatible with the thermal imager he had located), we left for the Pacatuba reserve. I had hoped to visit Cabedelo reserve after dark to look for porcupines and other creatures, but apparently there had been a security "incident" this summer and nighttime access is now forbidden, even for requests made in advance. After turning off the highway to Pacatuba, our first sighting was of a Southern Tamandua on the dirt road. After parking and walking into the forest, we found several Eastern Red-handed Howlers. An abandoned toilet block produced a number of Common Sword-nosed Bats flying around. Along the trail, we came across an Atlantic Tree Rat. Unfortunately, it then started to rain and the thermal camera stopped working, so we packed it in for the night. The drive back to town revealed a Brazilian White-eared Opossum and a Southern Tamandua, likely the same one we had seen on the drive in to the reserve.



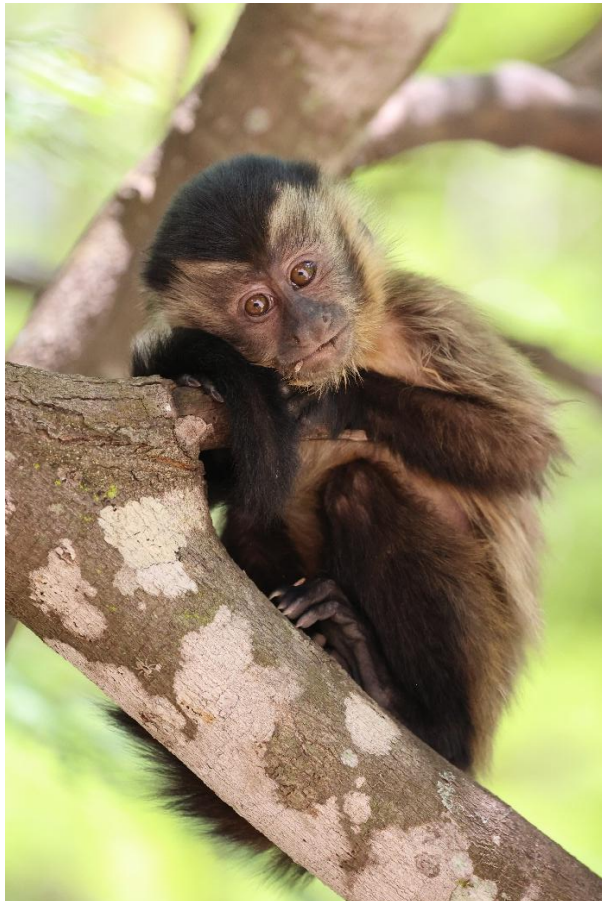


I had asked Pedro what time we should head out in the morning and he suggested 4:30 AM. Having just gotten to bed at 1:00 AM, I was somewhat unenthusiastic and managed to change it to 5:00 AM, but I had to admire his energy. We drove to Gargau reserve, owned by the same company as Pacatuba and with generally the same species, although for some reason Blond Capuchins are easier to see there, and Eastern Red-handed Howlers are easier to see at Pacatuba. Sure enough, several Blond Capuchins were quickly visible in the trees by the side of the road. Several howlers were heard, but we were unable to lay eyes on them. A Guiana Squirrel afforded a brief look and we heard something scuttling in the undergrowth but were unable to see it. We then had a quick breakfast and returned to Pacatuba for daylight views of the howlers. On the way in, we passed an old plantation house. I asked Pedro about it, and he confirmed that, not only did it contain bats, but that some bat researchers had been staying in the house recently for two weeks while surveying in Pacatuba reserve. A caretaker let us into the house and we were able to take photos of multiple bat species both in the high-ceilinged rooms upstairs, and also in the low-roofed slave quarters under the building.



We arrived back in Joao Pessoa about noon. After lunch, I picked up Pedro again and we drove to the University of Paraiba to meet with one of the bat researchers, Joao. Joao kindly showed us around the campus, where we found Lesser Dog-like Bats, Lesser Sac-winged Bats and an unidentifiable Myotis in a small opening in a wall. We also went to another place on campus where Pedro used to watch sloths and, sure enough, two Brown-throated Three-toed Sloths were visible high in the trees. Today was Pedro's son's birthday, so his friend Joao offered to take me to a site on the beach where Crab-eating Raccoons make regular visits after dark. However, I was so tired that I passed on the opportunity and went to bed early instead in preparation for early morning flights the next day.

I dropped off the car at 2:30 AM. In Brazil, rental places typically charge for cleaning the car, a fee which can be paid in advance. I had done so with this rental, but was told that the fee only covered regular cleaning and there was so much sand in the car that an additional fee would be charged. The flights to Sinop via Brasilia were uneventful. At the car rental office, I was again told the system was down and ended up spending about an hour to pick up a vehicle. I drove to the Parque Florestal Sinop, a site which Cheryl Antonucci had recommended. It is impossible to recommend this site too highly. Despite it being close to noon, Brown Capuchins were playing just inside the entrance gate. I watched them for a while, then went for lunch. Upon my return, I strolled around the park, coming across a group of Viera's Titi Monkeys on the right-hand trail just before crossing the bridge. This was followed by a troop of White-whiskered Spider Monkeys deeper in the forest. Shortly before closing time (5:00 PM), a single Red-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey appeared in a large tree close to the bridge. Greater Capybaras appeared about the same time, and Blue-and-Yellow Macaws fed in the lakeside trees.







The next morning, I spent another three hours at the Parque Florestal, hoping to see the resident Snethlage's Marmosets, but had to leave without a sighting. I drove the four-and-a-half hours to Fazenda Anaca, arriving about 3:30 PM. Fazenda Anaca is a working cattle farm located very close to the town of Alta Floresta which has maintained some of its mature forest for wildlife habitat and is working on reforestation programmes to connect the current patchwork of forest fragments. It has comfortable rooms and delicious food, prepared by the owner's wife. My before-dinner walk produced Greater Capybaras and an Azara's Agouti, while a walk after dark revealed a surprisingly speedy Nine-banded/Southern Long-nosed Armadillo.

Fazenda Anaca conveniently offers an early morning breakfast buffet, so I had a typically huge Brazilian breakfast at 5:30 AM and then was given a lift by the owner, Fernao, to a spot for the Groves's Titi monkeys. I tried some playback and walked the area a couple of times without success, although I did see some Brown Capuchins. Fernao suggested a different spot now that the sun was getting higher, a corridor of regenerating forest leading to a nice patch of mature forest. Within an hour I found a troop of Black Spider Monkeys and heard the titi monkeys, but was unable to see them. I returned to the area I had first been scouting that morning and found a single Schneider's Marmoset, which managed to disappear before I could get a photo. After another delicious meal, I went back to the RPPN (registered private conservation area) and observed more Brown Capuchins and Black Spider Monkeys but no new species. A walk after dark was also unproductive.

The next morning, I heard tit monkeys calling but was again unable to actually lay eyes on them. I returned to the RPPN area and saw more Black Spider Monkeys, followed by some nice sightings of Schneider's Marmosets. I left the forest about 11:00 am, and headed back to Sinop, arriving at the park about 4:00 pm. Unfortunately, it turned out the park was only open to the general public on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and it was now a Monday. Lots of Brown Capuchins were hanging around the entrance, so I contented myself with taking photos of them. A couple of White-whiskered Spider Monkeys were visible deeper inside the park gates. I left at dusk, had a great pizza dinner, and went to bed early.



The next day I had a flight to Sao Paulo in the morning. I had planned to spend the time prior to my flight home at the botanical gardens, but the rain and Sao Paulo traffic convinced me otherwise. I caught up on emails and started making plans for another future Brazil trip. Brazil is that kind of place.

Species seen listed below. As always, please feel free to email me at ibtson@yahoo.com if you have questions or comments.

Ian Thompson

Victoria, BC.

Mammal species seen:

1. Brazilian Gracile Opossum – *Gracilinanus microtarsus*
2. Linnaeus's/Common Mouse Opossum – *Marmosa murina*
3. Brazilian White-eared Opossum – *Didelphis albiventris*
4. Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo – *Tolypeutes tricinctus*
5. Nine-banded Armadillo – *Dasypus novemcinctus*
6. Yellow/Six-banded Armadillo – *Euphractus sexcinctus*
7. Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth – *Bradypus variegatus*
8. Northern Maned Sloth – *Bradypus torquatus*
9. Southern Maned Sloth – *Bradypus crinitus*
10. Southern Tamandua – *Tamandua tetradactyla*
11. Guianan Squirrel – *Sciurus aestuans*
12. Bahian Hairy Dwarf Porcupine – *Coendou insidiosus*
13. Pernambuco Dwarf Porcupine – *Coendou speratus*
14. Broomstraw-spined Porcupine – *Chaetomys subspinosus*
15. Common Red-rumped Agouti – *Dasyprocta leporina*
16. Lacks Red-rumped Agouti – *Dasyprocta iacki*
17. Azara's Agouti – *Dasyprocta azarae*
18. Rock Cavy – *Kerodon rupestris*
19. Greater Capybara – *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*
20. Coypu – *Myocastor coypus*
21. Atlantic Tree Rat – *Phyllomys lamarum*
22. Black Rat – *Rattus rattus*
23. Great Fruit-eating Bat – *Artibeus lituratus*
24. Flat-faced Fruit-eating Bat – *Artibeus planirostris*
25. Greater Bulldog/Fishing Bat – *Noctilio leporinus*
26. Lesser Dog-like Bat – *Peropteryx macrotis*
27. Greater Sac-winged Bat – *Saccopteryx bilineata*
28. Lesser Sac-winged Bat – *Saccopteryx leptura*
29. Gray Sac-winged Bat – *Balantiopteryx plicata*
30. White-winged Vampire Bat – *Diaemus youngii*
31. Common Long-tongued Bat – *Glossophaga soricine*
32. Common Sword-nosed Bat – *Lonchorhina aurita*

33. Common/Seba's Short-tailed Bat – *Carollia perspicillata*
34. Little Big-eared Bat – *Micronycteris megalotis*
35. Common Mastiff Bat – *Molossus molossus*
36. Black Mastiff Bat – *Molossus rufus*
37. Pygmy Round-eared Bat – *Lophostoma brasiliense*
38. Crab-eating Fox – *Cerdocyon thous*
39. South American Coati – *Nasua nasua*
40. Schneider's Marmoset – *Mico schneideri*
41. White-tufted-ear/Common Marmoset – *Callithrix jacchus*
42. Black-tufted-ear Marmoset – *Callithrix penicillata*
43. Wied's Black-tufted-ear Marmoset – *Callithrix kuhlii*
44. White-faced/Geoffrey's Marmoset – *Callithrix geoffroyi*
45. Buffy-headed Marmoset – *Callithrix flaviceps*
46. Golden Lion Tamarin – *Leontopithecus rosalia*
47. Golden-headed Lion Tamarin – *Leontopithecus chrysomelas*
48. Black Lion Tamarin – *Leontopithecus chrysopygus*
49. Black-faced Lion Tamarin – *Leontopithecus caissara*
50. Northern Black-horned Capuchin – *Sapajus nigritus*
51. Crested/Robust Capuchin – *Sapajus robustus*
52. Yellow-breasted Capuchin – *Sapajus xanthosternos*
53. Blond Capuchin – *Sapajus flavius*
54. Brown Capuchin – *Sapajus apella*
55. Vieira's Titi – *Plecturocebus vieirai*
56. Masked/Atlantic Titi – *Callicebus personatus*
57. Coimbra-Filho's Titi – *Callicebus coimbrai*
58. Blond/Caatinga Titi – *Callicebus barbarabrownae*
59. Red-nosed Bearded Saki – *Chiropotes albinasus*
60. Eastern Red-handed Howler – *Alouatta belzebul*
61. Brown Howler – *Alouatta guariba*
62. Black Spider Monkey – *Ateles chamek*
63. White-whiskered Spider Monkey – *Ateles marginatus*
64. Southern Muriqui – *Brachyteles arachnoides*
65. Northern Muriqui – *Brachyteles hypoxanthus*
66. Guiana Dolphin – *Sotalia guianensis*
67. Collared Peccary – *Dicotyles tajacu*
68. Common Brown Brocket Deer – *Mazama gouazoubira*
69. Common Red Brocket Deer – *Mazama americana*
70. Brazilian Tapir – *Tapirus terrestris*