

## BOLIVIA 20 August -7 September 2022

A few years ago I watched a video online about research being done in Bolivia for the Rio Beni Titi monkey. The research was being done in the Beni region on a private cattle ranch. I had read trip reports from Nick McPhee from Nick's Adventures Bolivia, and thought to myself, in the future I will contact him and see if visiting the ranch was possible. Fast forward to last year and Justin Brown contacted me about joining him on a trip to Bolivia focused on some of the endemic and near endemic Bolivian primates. Justin had been working with Nick previously on some of the plans. Ian Thompson had similar ideas, and did the initial run of the trip last year (with a fantastic trip report).

Day 1- I used Copa Air to fly from Washington, D.C. to Santa Cruz via Panama City. Bolivia requires visas for US citizens. I was able to do this at the airport. There are no signs for the counter to get visas, and they require you to go through the customs line before they send you to a desk to receive the visa. I was then transferred to the Aparthotel Tryp by Wyndham. Each of the rooms is decorated with different neotropical animals. Mine was with a female Black and Gold Howler Monkey, my favorite mammal on the planet.

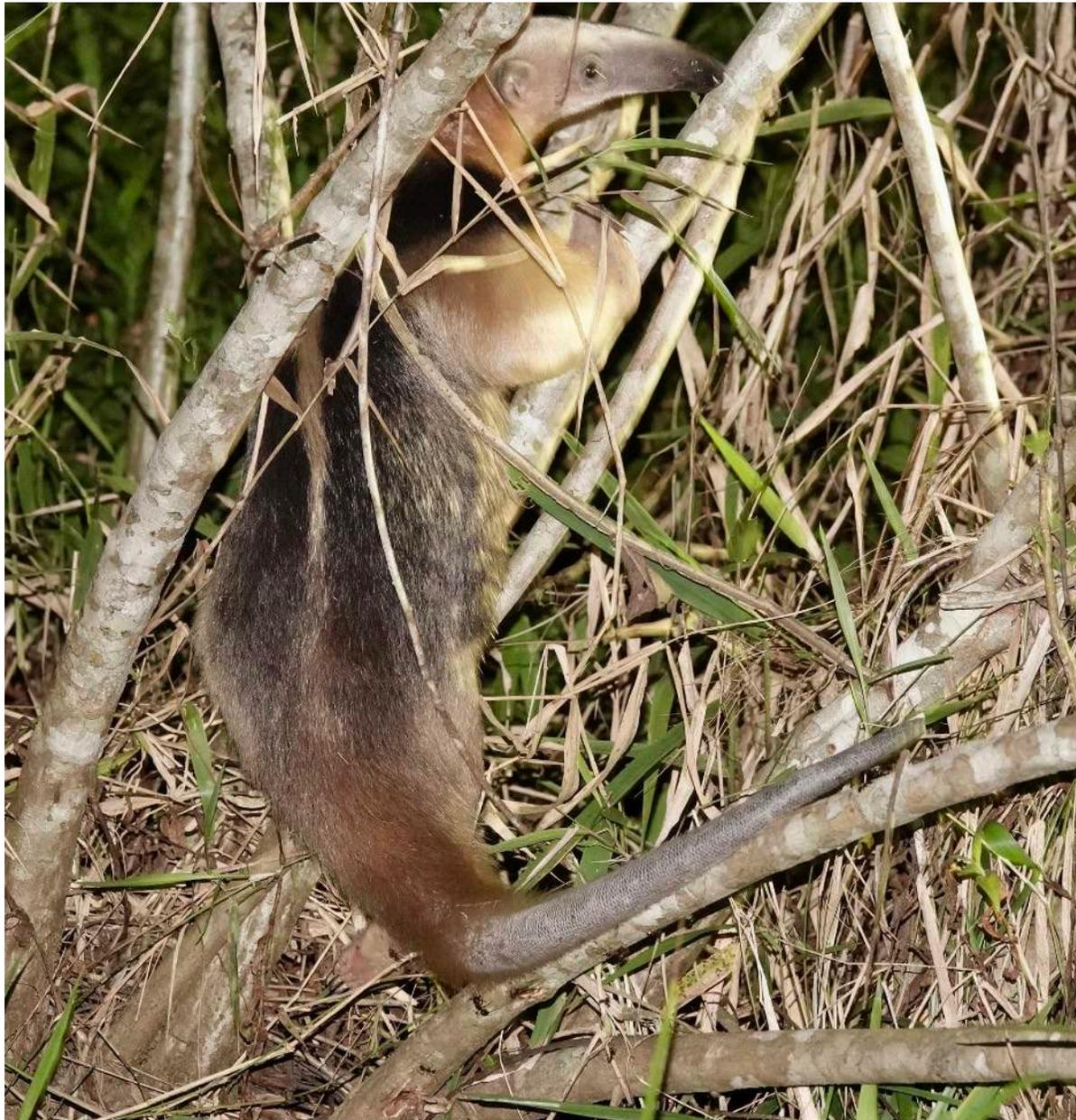
Day 2 - Nick suggested I sleep in and start my day with a 14:00 pick up from the hotel to go look for White -Eared Titi Monkey. There are a few forest fragments in and around Santa Cruz that still have small populations of the monkey. I met up with Justin in the hotel lobby and we were connected with a local guide transfer to the Reserva Municipal Curichi La Madre. The reserve was actually closed for the day, but Nick was able to get us access anyway. We were greeted by a large troop of Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys who were making their way along the trees by the main path. We then walked towards the mid section of the park and Justin quickly found me three titi monkeys by some buildings. Not only was I excited about this being my first lifer of the trip, but also my 200th species of primate I have seen in the wild. We continued to walk around the park and found two other families of titi monkeys, a single Bolivian Squirrel, as well as two Brown-Throated Three - Toed Sloth.





Day 3 - Justin and I were picked up from the hotel and transferred to the airport for an early morning flight to Trinidad via Cochabamba. We were picked up by our first guide, Marcelo Arze who had driven from his home in Santa Cruz to meet us. From Trinidad we drove mainly along dirt roads for about eight hours to the Monte Carlo community. Along the way we saw MULTIPLE capybara along the roadways and small waterways adjacent to the road. We did a ferry crossing at one point and Justin called out “dolphin” when he saw a Bolivian Pink River Dolphin surfacing behind the ferry. We made a brief stop at the Tijamuchi Bridge to have lunch. This is one of the spots that Marcelo takes people to see the dolphins.

Unfortunately the water was too low at that time of day, so no dolphins were seen. Along the way we picked up Dorita who would be our cook for the next few days. About 1.5-2 hours before entering Monte Carlo, we stopped at a small forest fragment to look for mammals. We saw a large troop of Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys followed by a few scattered Brown Capuchins that were traveling with them. By the time we entered the community it was already dark and it took us another 30 minutes to get to the community fragment we would be camping in. We did see a very relaxed Southern Tamandua walking along the road. Once we got to where





we would be camping, a few members of the community were there to greet us. We stayed at the same covered community hall that Ian did, with the adjacent toilet block that was usually used by a small school. While I did not see the snakes that Ian saw, I did see a large tarantula above the shower block, and this guy that I almost touched hiding behind the toilet handle.

Day 4 - We were awoken by the beautiful serenade of Howler Monkeys in the distance. We were met by one of the members of the community who took us first to a forest fragment to look for the Olalla Brother's Titi Monkeys, the main target for the area. He had seen the monkeys in this fragment three days prior, however a cold spell had occurred and the monkeys would not make it easy for us. We hiked around the fragment and saw multiple Bolivian Squirrels, but no monkeys. We did not even hear any groups calling. It was then decided to go to another farther off fragment that was owned by the community members father to look. On the way in we saw more Squirrel Monkeys. Marcelo had a recording of the titi monkeys so he played that and we got a family to call back. We ended up having brief views of one individual, followed by longer views of a second individual (however in dense foliage and higher up which made photography difficult).



On the way back to our camp we saw a South American Coati, and later a Crab Eating Fox running across an open forest patch. The local guide's wife told us shortly after leaving the first forest fragment, the titi monkeys started calling. We did briefly look for them but could not find them. In the afternoon we did a short canoe ride on one fragment of the Yacuma River to look for dolphins. Marcelo and Justin had a brief view of a Neotropical River Otter as it was running up the bank of the river. After not seeing one and after I had gotten out of the canoe, a Bolivian Pink River Dolphin finally surfaced. We ended up watching about four individuals close to the canoe. In the late afternoon we did a second canoe ride in a different fragment of the river that did not have the dolphins. It was an amazing experience, as we went past Yacare Caiman after caiman with fish jumping out of the water non stop. I have never seen anything like it. We also saw multiple Capybara, a few Brown Capuchin, and more Squirrel Monkeys. We watched the sunset as we were going back to the community which Justin really seemed to enjoy. We did some brief spot lighting close to the community center and did not see any mammals. During the middle of the night a small group of the community pigs were able to break down the barricades into our shelter and starting running amuck around the tents. The sounds of Marcelo and Dorita trying to "persuade" them to leave was also a highlight of the day.

Day 5 - Justin found a Brown Agouti in the small field behind the community center in the morning. We walked back to the forest fragment owned by the father and saw another coati, some White lipped Peccary, a very relaxed Southern Tamandua that climbed a tree then fell asleep, and more squirrel monkeys. While watching a family of Bolivian Red Howler Monkeys, we heard the titi monkeys, and proceeded to have better views of them, however some views being back lit and again some being high up in trees. We then went back to the community center for lunch.

A primate researcher had been coming to Monte Carlos to study the family groups of the titi monkeys there, but as time goes on the research is less and less which means the financial benefits can be less and less. This community went out of their way to make activities for us. Watching them getting the canoes ready for us to get into and going the extra mile to help us spot the titi monkeys was wonderful. They were in the hopeful infancy of tourism and they wanted everything to be perfect. I think spotting wildlife for yourself is great and I realize that not everyone has a budget to travel and use guides for an entire trip, but at the end of the day these are

the people that live in the communities where the wildlife lives. Even if you can not afford a local guide, a tip to the community is helpful. Paying a little extra to use a local guide in my opinion however is crucial for small areas like this so they can see that the monkeys have value to them. Otherwise those areas might get chopped down for cattle and farming, and then there are no monkeys for the future. The current estimate is that there are only 100-150 of this species left in the wild, it would not take much to lose them. There is always the opportunity to spot things before the guides. I am super pro ecotourism for primate watching. But a huge part is not just watching the wildlife with ecotourism in my opinion, but setting up job opportunities for local people.





From Monte Carlos we drove to the town of Santa Rosa. On the way out we saw LOTS of Capybara, a tayra running across the road and a few family groups of Bolivian Red Howler Monkeys. Justin spotted a female Howler sitting in a tree with a small infant near a house. We got out of the car to watch her and a man walked up to us, then watched us watch the Howler. He at one point asked Marcelo what we were doing, and asked were we there to take the Howler with us.... (the trip program did not



mention this as an option!) Justin also spotted a Nine Banded Armadillo along the road.

Once we got into Santa Rosa, Marcello told us there was a small dock area that people used for a starting point for a Pampas Wildlife Experience. There were multiple river lodges that targeted generalist tourists who wanted to see some wildlife. At the dock Marcelo had often seen dolphins, and sure enough once we got there an individual Bolivian Pink river dolphin was weaving in and around some of the docked boats. Once back into Santa Rosa proper, I saw a woman sitting on the side of a road with a Brown Capuchin sitting next to her. We stayed at the Hostel Sofia and Camila for the night.

Day 6 - We woke up early to drive into the community of Agua Sal to look for our next target the Rio Beni Titi monkey. As we were driving into the community Justin spotted a family group of what looked like three Rio Beni Titi monkeys that were in the process of waking up. When we got out of the car we realized three, were actually four as a neonate was in the process of climbing from its mother to its father who would carry it for the day. We ended up watching the family as they woke up for the day, and climbed down from their perch into the forest. As we started to drive into the community we heard multiple titi families calling. We walked along a small trail and had brief views of another two titi monkeys.





From there we drove into the community and started to look for our guide. We were then told that our guide unfortunately had to work cattle for the day, so he would be unable to join us until the following morning. We decided to walk a trail to the back of the community to a roost site for Azara's night monkey. Unable to find them, we went back to the community to eat breakfast. At this point I felt that we would not have been able to top the view we had of the first Titi family. Thinking back on the dock in Santa Rosa with the dolphins, I asked Justin what his thoughts were on spending the night in one of the lodges along the river for a "Pampas experience". I figured we might see more species and would be able to spend the night in a bed. Justin was keen to do this as well, so



Marcelo started the process of finding a boat driver and lodge for us to spend the night.

On the way out of Agua Sal, I spotted another family of Titi monkeys along the forest patch by the road.

At 14:00 we met our boat driver and local guide Roger Banegas who took us for a 2.5 hour boat ride to the Dolphin Lodge One where we would spend the night. I can highly recommend him. I can see why this would be the perfect trip for an enthusiast wildlife watcher. During that time of year

the only water source for wildlife was right along the river edge itself. So basically I felt I was on an Animal Kingdom Disney boat ride because there was never a moment that we were not looking at turtles, caiman, capybaras and multiple bird species along the river edge. We had excellent prolonged views of three pods of Bolivian Pink River Dolphins.





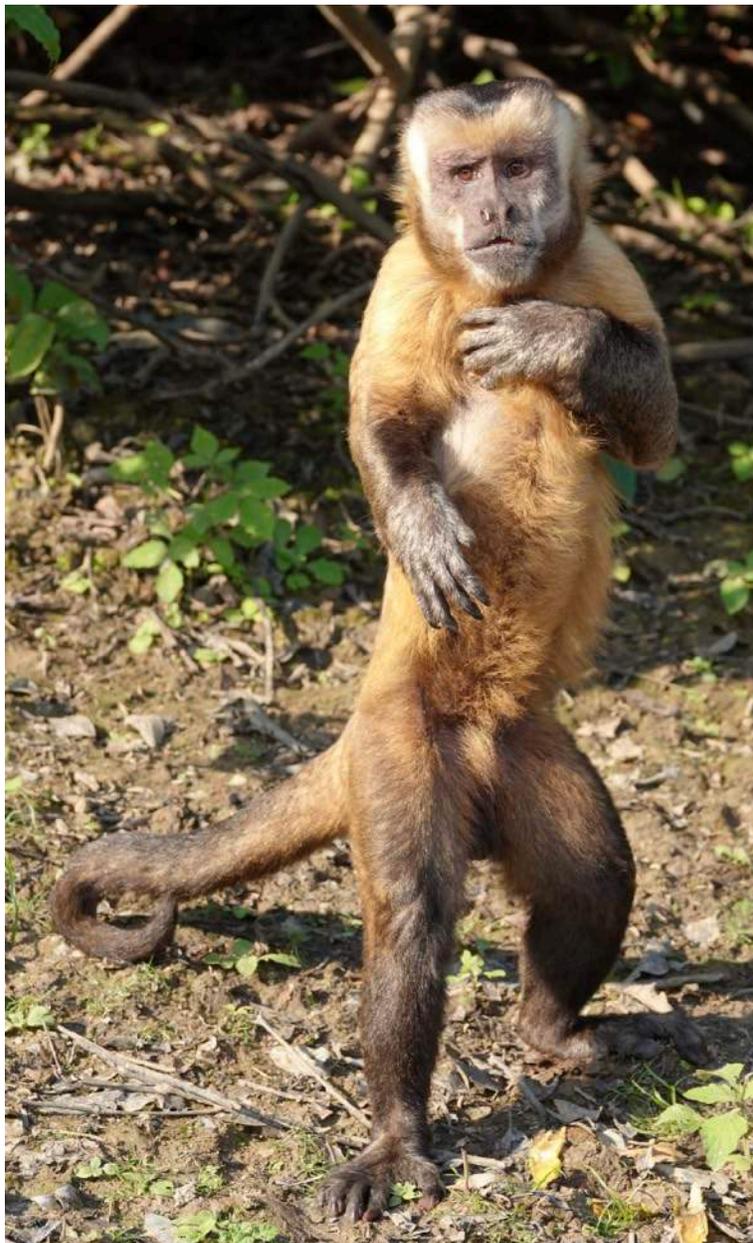
We saw two troops of Black and Gold Howler Monkeys along the river edge. We also saw multiple troops of Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys that would



jump into the boats at a given chance looking for snacks. One of the troops had a lone, very cheeky, Brown Capuchin traveling with it.







After settling into the lodge, we did a quick walk on a trail and saw a lone Bolivian Red Howler monkey. We did another boat ride before dinner and saw more dolphins, Black and Gold Howler Monkeys, and Greater Fishing Bats hunting along the river at dusk. After dinner Roger told us that

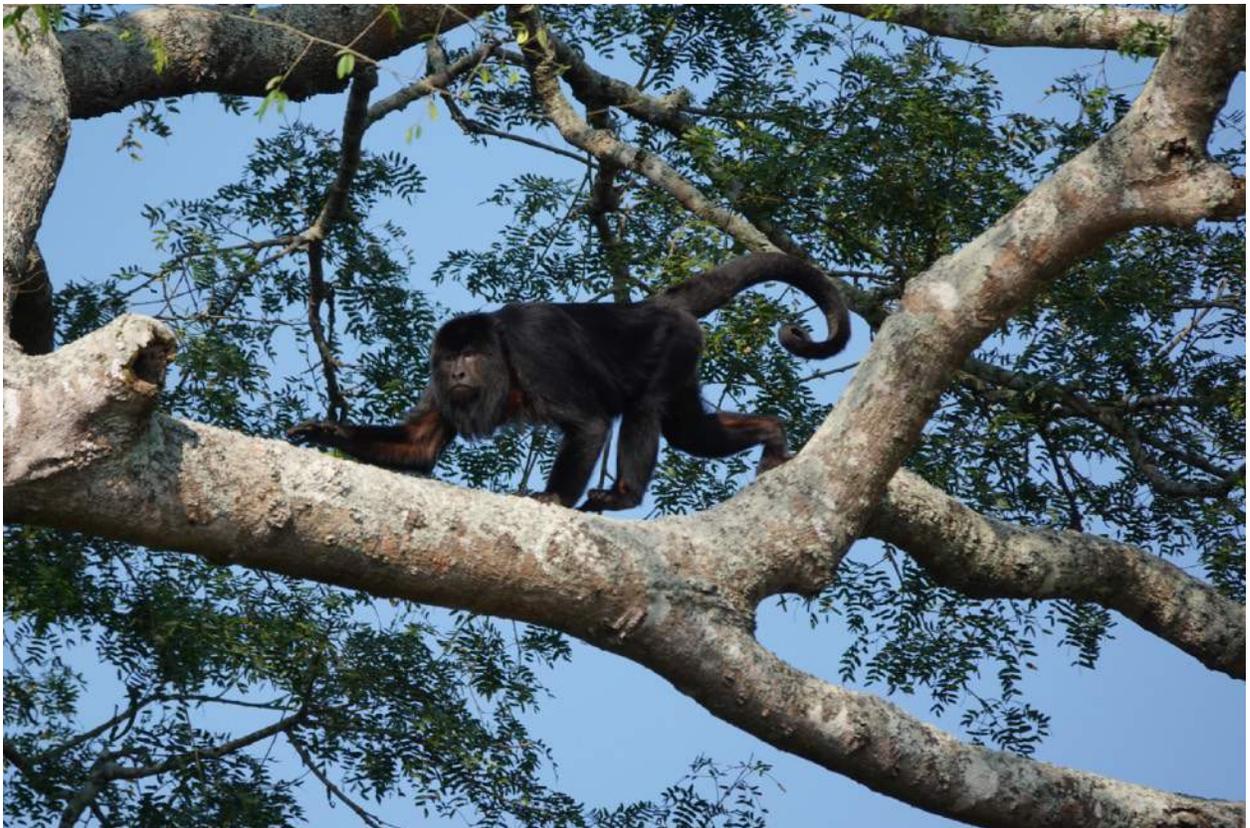


porcupines like to feed in the apple fruiting trees in front of the room section towards the back of the lodge. We did a walk and Roger quickly heard the sound of fruit being eaten, then was able to locate a Bicolored Porcupine for us that was obliging for photos.

Day 7 - We decided to leave the lodge around 6:30 am to see if we could see any other mammals along the river edge in the morning. While we did not see anything new, we did see more Capybaras, Squirrel Monkeys, and two male Black and Gold Howlers. We also saw two other pods of



dolphins, one with an individual that I was worried was sick based on the discharge coming out with its blow, and the sound associated with it.



By the afternoon we arrived in Rurrenabaque and dropped Dorita off. We stayed at the very comfortable Maya de la Amazonia hotel. Prior to dinner I met up with Noel who was to be our guide for the first night in Madidi National Park, the next segment of our trip. We would then be handed off to his brother Pedro for the last three nights. That night we had dinner with Marcelo and parted ways with him. I really enjoyed his company on the first leg of the trip, and he was keen to change things and accommodate whatever Justin and I needed and wanted.

Day 8 - Noel picked us up from the hotel around 8:30 and flagged down a tuk-tuk to take us to a river edge where his boat was waiting. From there we left Rurrenabaque for an approximate 4.5 hour boat trip upriver to the first camp site in the national park where his brother Pedro had staked out Madidi Titi monkey families a year prior. We picked up his wife Sandra who would be our cook. As we were just leaving where we picked up the boat, Noel called out “Jaguar”. At first I thought to myself “How could there be a jaguar with all these people around and buildings”, so I sort of ignored the comment. He then proceeded to casually say “Jaguar” again. At this point I looked up and walking along the river edge were two men walking a female jaguar with a leash on the river edge. She seemed very relaxed (not so sure she would have been if a dog had showed up). We were told there was a rescue center nearby and part of the activities there was to walk the jaguar along the beach...



The rest of the boat ride went up a variety of rapids first from the Beni River then the Tuichi River. No additional mammals were seen. The brothers had picked a spot with a moderate sized scree slope (my least favorite thing to climb on) and a small sandy ledge to camp on. There was a small outlet of the river to the left of the camp and we were told we would concentrate our efforts there in the morning to look for the titi monkeys.

We did a small walk through a bamboo thicket so that a trail could be made towards the river outlet, and looked around the area for the evening. We also heard a titi family across the river. Noel told us the plan for the next day was to wait and listen for the titi monkeys to call, then we would go find them. Pedro visited us and told us he would meet us the next day at 15:30.

Day 9 - We woke up early and Justin, Noel and I stood on a sandy section near the trail that was made the night before and tried to listen for the titi monkeys. After maybe 30 minutes, Noel opted to take us across the river where we had heard the monkeys the previous night. After walking around a dense forested fragment and seeing nothing, Noel heard Sandra making noises from across the river. We went back to the camp site and Sandra had told us that not only had the titi monkeys started calling after we left, but she had watched a family group of three at close range in a tree by the river outlet. Noel then called out "Sandra is the guide now" and we proceeded to follow her to the tree where she had seen the family. We ended up walking a trail up and down near the tree, and in a forest fragment by the tree for at least 1.5 hours. After seeing nothing and the day becoming hotter and hotter, we decided to go back to the camp site and pack our things and move on. The next camp site was about two hours from the first also up river.

When we finally arrived it was 16:30 ish. This camp was in a more forested fragment than the first, with a small dirt hill leading up to where we would camp. There was also a small river outlet to the left of the camp where we were told we would focus looking for the titi monkeys the next day with Pedro. At this point Noel, Sandra and the boat driver were setting up the campsite. Justin told me he was going to explore the small river outlet and be "right back". I was tired from hiking earlier in the day and being in the direct sun on the boat for two hours. I thought to myself "it

will be fine, its 16:30, Justin will see nothing.....". Rookie mistake. Within 30-40 minutes I heard a guttural call from Justin near the river outlet . Sandra, thinking he was injured, screamed out "JUSTIN" and then leaped down the dirt slope, then started running towards the sound. To the non mammal watcher the sound was similar to someone in pain, however to the mammal watcher it was not a cry of pain, but a cry of triumph. I knew at that point he had seen the titi without me, and after vomiting in my mouth a little, a piece of me died with the stress that I would not see them. I have been around ALOT of mammal watchers and guides at this point in my life. Justin is in my top three spotters that I have been around. It got to the point where even if I spotted something, seconds before, Justin had already seen it. That should have been an indication for me to go with him. After catching up to him, Justin showed me the tree that he had watched a single titi in, then showed me the video he had taken. He felt confident that the tree he saw the titi in was the roost site and that it was still there. The tree was at the end of a smallish peninsula that went into the river outlet. It was above ground level by about 3-4 meters, and dense vegetation surrounded the margins. Justin, Sandra, Noel and I watched around the tree and tried to look at it from as many angles as possible, but as the light faded, so did my hope in finding the titi. Justin briefly went into the peninsula and saw nothing. Justin told me not to worry as he would help me find them the next day. As we walked back to the camp site, Noel told us that it was time for him to go and his brother Pedro would be there soon. I was a little nervous as Pedro had told us that he would meet us at 15:30 at the previous camp. I asked if he would stay until Pedro showed up, but he was concerned with getting back at night and told me it would be fine. Noel's phone did not work where we were, so there was no way to contact Pedro. After they left we walked around the small beach. One hour later and still no sign of Pedro I started to get a little nervous that something might have happened to him. We were pretty much out in the middle of no where with no form of communication and we had not at this point seen a boat go by. I went up to the food supply and looked at the small gas stove to see if I could get it to work if needed. I also placed as much food as possible in bins so that no wildlife would have easy access to it. Justin and I started half joking around that at least in three days when we were supposed to be back in Rurrenabque it would be noticed that we were stranded. I figured that gave me three morning chances to find the titi monkeys. After another 1.5 hours and still nothing, it was dark and I decided I would just go to sleep. Justin stayed vigil, and finally after another 30 minutes Pedro, his wife Rosa and the boat driver showed up.

They told us that the boat had broken down earlier and they had to go back to Rurrenabque to get spare pieces. Rosa then cooked dinner and Justin saw a Common Opossum walking towards the cooking site.

Day 10 - We woke up just before dawn. Pedro, Justin and I stood at the base of the peninsula close to the tree where Justin had seen his titi the day before. After watching the remainder of the sun rise, then doing titi playback we heard and saw nothing. We decided to walk around the margins of the peninsula and still nothing. My heart sank. Pedro told us about 15 minutes away there was a small lodge called Santa Rosa that was owned by his community. He had seen the monkeys around this lodge in the past. We proceeded to the lodge where at the time no one was staying. It was in a beautiful location in a forest clearing and looked like a nice alternative for someone that wanted to see the titi but did not want to camp. We saw a large Southern Amazon Red Squirrel on the trail towards the lodge. After walking the margins we heard and saw nothing. At this point it looked like it was getting to rain so Pedro suggested that we take a break, then walk back to the peninsula and machete our way up and into it to find the titis. We went back to the campsite and it started pouring rain. I sat in my tent thinking do I really want to machete my way up into that peninsula, did I think it would even work, and would I ever really make it back to this area to see this species again if it failed? After the rain broke we walked back to the peninsula and Pedro looked at me and said "Come on!" I looked back at Justin who decided he did not want to do that, and he would stay on the perimeter for awhile.

Pedro helped me get up one of the lower dirt walls to get to the peninsula floor, then he started cutting a small path. The whole floor was covered with either palm branches or leaves and I kept thinking to myself that I was going to wake up a venomous snake with my foot. After about ten minutes of walking Pedro asked me to do some play back. I had brought three different calls with me that I had made with the Coppery Titi Monkeys I work with. Two being territorial calls of different caliber (which I had been using), and one being some chortle type conversation that a family group was doing with each other. I decided to play the chortle conversation, and almost immediately the Madidi Titi's chortled back. Pedro was very excited, and at first I did not believe it and started doubting what I had heard. The "conversation" went back and forth with the Titis as we cut ourselves a new path trying to find them. After another 20 or so minutes we could not get to them with how dense it was, so we decided to climb back down the mud wall and try from the outside. In one of my happiest



primate watching moments, the family group of three was foraging on the forest edge right out in the open. Justin had decided to leave so as I photographed and watched one of the adults, the younger family member



sat in the semi open watching me while sucking his foot and playing with his tail while Pedro went to find Justin.

Relaxed and elated (well at least I was), we packed up a portion of the camp and traveled upriver to a permanent tented camp that Pedro had made called Barraco Lodge. There was a bathroom block with a shower, raised wooden platforms with tents with mattresses, and a kitchen and dining room block. The lodge was in a beautiful patch of forest. After we arrived Justin found a family group of four Bolivian Red Howlers in a large tree behind the restaurant area. We did a walk on one of the trails that Pedro had made down to a beach on the river and sat awhile while seeing no mammals. We walked back to the restaurant and saw a large family group of Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys. Pedro has showed us videos and picture of a Giant Armadillo that is seen off an on during night walks. He told us that his back hurt (I would imagine from all the earlier machete action) and we would do a night walk the following evening.



Day 11 - we did an am walk to a clay lick and along the way saw Brown Capuchin Monkeys and more squirrel monkeys. We had a brief view of a Red Brocket Deer. In the afternoon we walked a perimeter trail that went parallel to a large section of beach. We saw a small troop of Brown Capuchin. Along both trails we saw diggings from the Giant Armadillo. In the late afternoon we did a short boat ride upriver but did not see any mammals. Pedro had told us that he had seen Short eared dog in the past several times, but always walking along the river. At night Pedro decided that we should do the clay lick trail. The walk involved a lot of standing in the pitch dark and trying to hear the armadillo. When we got to the clay lick there were a fair number of bats flying over it. We did not see the armadillo (but the lodge does seem like a good spot for it) but did see another brocket deer and a single Eastern Lowland Olingo.

Day 12 - we left the lodge after breakfast and made the four hour river cruise back to Rurrenabque. Along the way we saw more capybara. Just prior to our trip into the National Park Justin and I were contacted by Gladys who works with Nick. We had been booked on a direct flight to La

Paz. The flight was cancelled and she was trying to figure out a way to get us to La Paz. Multiple options were given, including staying another night in Madidi. Gladys was able to work to out that we would have a driver take us direct to La Paz the following day.

Day 13 - We were met in the morning by Fernando. Fernando took on the entire 9 hour drive up into la Paz. As the drive was on VERY windy roads I decided to medicate myself heavily with meclizine and I slept a large portion of the drive. Fernando did stop multiple times to offer us a variety of things to eat. While I was sleeping, Justin saw two Southern Viscacha on a hillside close to La Paz. Fernando dropped us off at the Ritz Aparthotel not far from the airport. We met Nick later that evening in the hotel restaurant for a quick briefing as he would join us for the remainder of the tour. The change of starting my day at sea level and ending it at 3,625 meters above sea level caused me to have some mild to moderate altitude sickness so I called it an early night.

Day 14 - The next morning Nick, Justin and I flew from La Paz to Cobija. Cobija sits right on the border of Brazil and most likely sees zero tourists. At baggage claim two police officers were waiting to check random peoples passports. Obviously sticking out from the crowd, I got “picked” near baggage claim. Probably never having seen a Bolivian travel visa before, the officer looked at the entry date of the visa and proudly pointed it to me telling me my visa was expired. After showing him the rest of the visa and Nick helping explain, the officer finally backed off and apologized to me. Nick then got his turn, and when they got eyes on Justin, he got tagged as well. We were picked up by Miguel who had worked with the biological station we would be staying at. He drove us to his house and gave us two small books about the primates that are seen at the station. It had a few primates that I was excited to see, but top of my list was what I considered to be the Holy Grail of Neotropical primate watching, the Goeldi’s Monkey. I had worked with the species in the past and loved their feisty spirit. I had known that the Pando region of Bolivia was where research had been done on the species in the past after reading articles from the San Diego Zoo. In the days before I left for Bolivia, I re-read many of the articles that I had to see if there were any tips on seeing the species. One common thread from all the papers was that the best way to see them was to use call back. Two days before I left I found a You Tube Video that someone had taken in a zoo with some excellent Goeldi's vocalizations. Since I did not have the time to download any proper

recordings, I made a loop of the vocalizations from the video onto my phone. When we got to Cobija Justin bought a small speaker at the one electronic store in town. After making sure my phone's Bluetooth could sync with it, we were on our way. It took us about two hours to get to the entrance sign for the Estacion Biologica Tahuamanu Station.



The station is run by the Pando University and Nick worked hard to get us permits to access it. Right before we left, one of the individuals from the university told Nick she would be there and she was unhappy we would be there at the same time. Luckily we were still allowed to go. We drove by large patches of cut down forest until we finally reached some primary patches of forest. The road into the station had some rough areas that required some navigational skills. Once we got into the station we were greeted by Canela who had guided Ian. As Ian had commented he had worked with some of the researchers in the past and knew the forest like the back of his hand. Since the cook for the area was sick, Canela was also our chef. I cannot say enough great things about him. He had a very gentle nature and was always willing to help us. I rarely saw him without a

smile on his face. When we told him we really wanted to see a Goeldi's, he did do the guide grimace face which usually translates into "You and everyone else". He told us he had guided people in the weeks before with the same goal and they did not see them. However when I let him listen to the playback recording I had made, he gave me the thumbs up and the grimace turned into a smile. He told us that currently there are three possibilities to see it. There was a single Goeldi's that had been traveling with a mixed White-Lipped and Saddle Back tamarin troop for ten years, a group of three, then a larger group of 12 close to the river. In the past a large storm had destroyed a large part of the preferred Goeldi's habitat. There also use to be a very habituated family the lived there, but Canela feared the people that come into the reserve to harvest Brazil nuts ate them, as they hunt there way through the forest at the same time. Since I wanted to see the White -Lipped Tamarins as well we opted to focus our attention on the single Goeldi's in the morning when the troop usually passes close to the lodge buildings. We had booked five nights there so hoped for the best. Ian did describe the buildings at the station to be so bad that calling them decrepit would be a slanderous insult to decrepitude. I had planned for the worse place I had ever stayed. Maybe I had just done so many nights of camping recently, maybe as I have gotten older and staying in a palace or castle doesn't get listed enough as a lodging option, maybe my love for primates is greater than my love for nice things now,







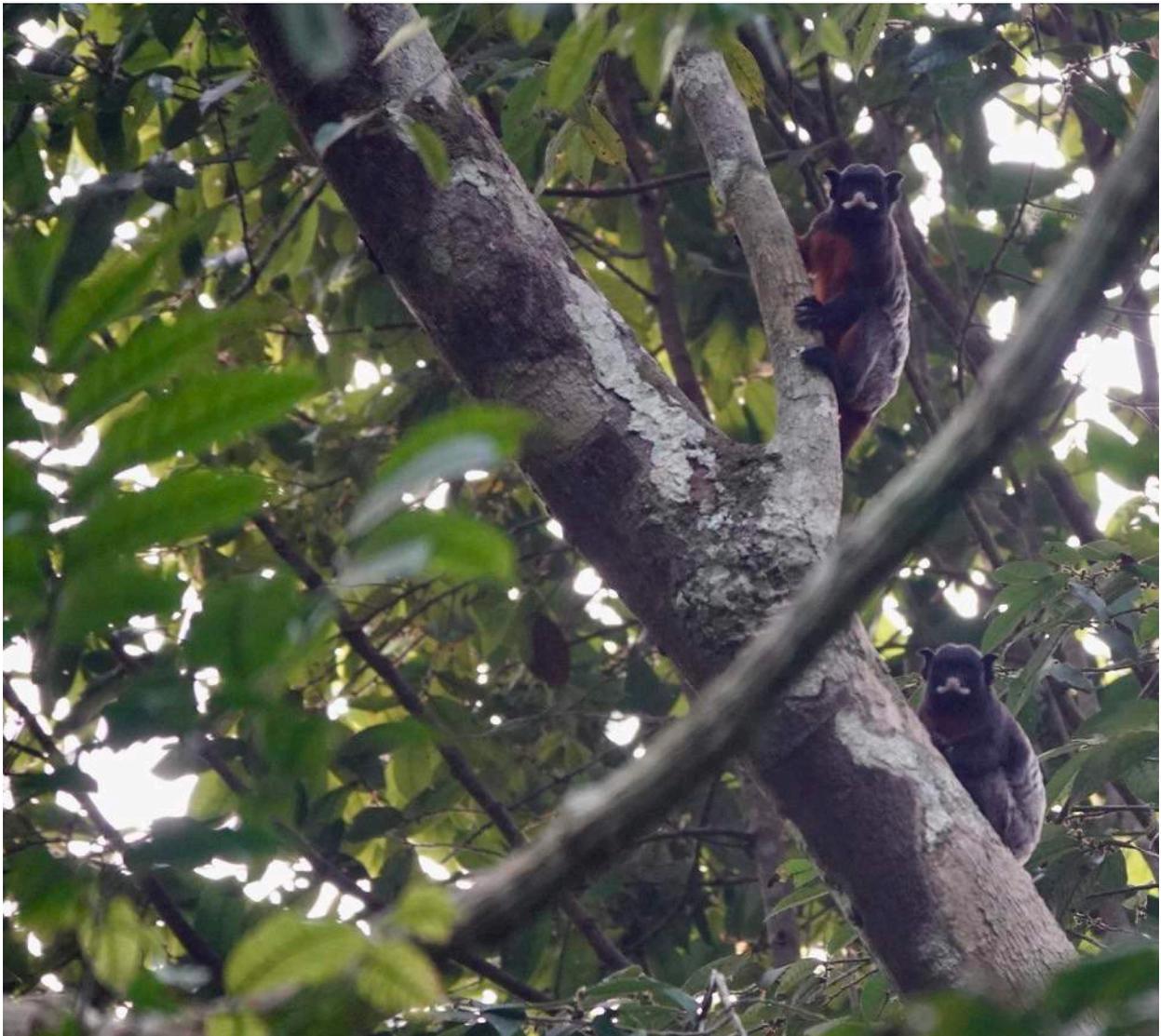
but I found the buildings to be much better than expected. Canela had cleaned up the bathroom block, and the room I slept in had fresh mosquito

nets and sheets. I saw no evidence of bed bugs on the mattress. There was only a single bat species in the room above me ( Some common long-tongued bats - thanks Fiona Reid!) and the smell of bat urine was not overpowering. Nick ended up camping in the clearing in front of my room, and Justin on the porch next to my room.

Nick and I ended up watching a small troop of Large Headed Capuchin behind the lodge in the afternoon. Justin walked down to a small river ( I did not know or I would have followed him!) and he saw the same

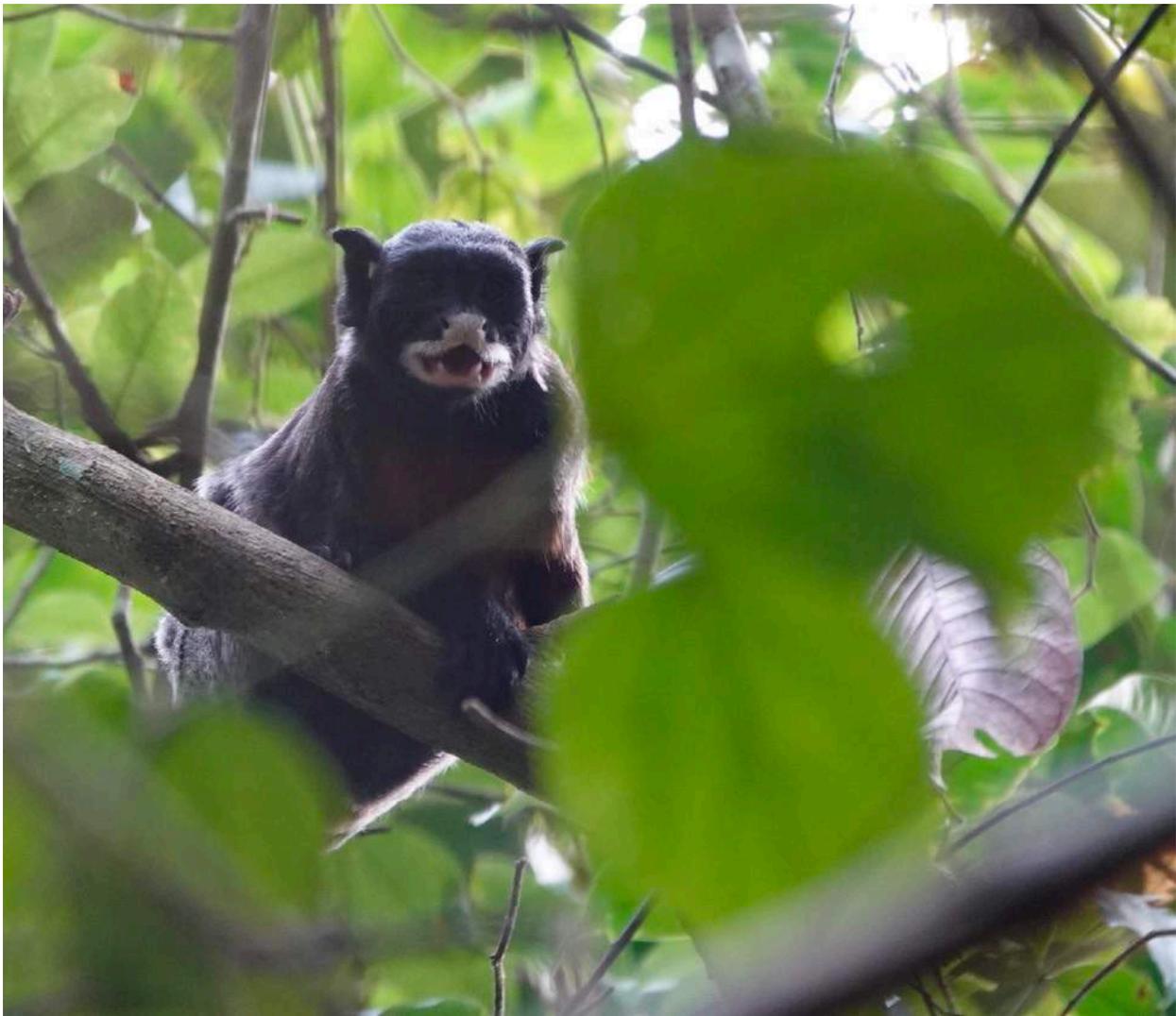
capuchins, a White -Lipped Peccary and a large troop of Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys. That night we did a small spotlighting session along the entrance road. After seeing nothing for awhile I decided to walk back by myself. Within five minutes, I saw something sitting on a fallen tree branch and was shocked to see an Ocelot staring at me. It quickly jumped into the forest however after I started to raise my camera. I also saw a large red and white rat on the road and a smaller gray mouse species.

Day 15 - We walked onto the main entrance road and started to scan and listen for any primates. Nick had told us that he wanted to see three things while there. A saki monkey, a Black Jaguar and a Green Anaconda. All of which have been reported there. Canela told us that there should be two troops of mixed species tamarin that would go by us. One of them (which he was not sure which) had the Goeldi's in it. He told us they would have a



small monkey battle secondary to territorial disputes, then would go deep into the forest. Within a short period of time, we heard the shrill call of a tamarin. Justin and I positioned ourselves towards the sound and watched two White-Lipped Tamarin staring at us.

Nick started saying, wow they are so big. We then realized that he was staring at two Ryland's Saki Monkeys at the same time that we were staring at the tamarins. Once we all tried to get on them the sakis, in typical saki fashion, they ran off into the canopy. A few Weddell's Saddle Back tamarins then showed up. Justin then lifted the speaker in the air and asked me to start using the playback. In what now seems like seconds, I watched a darker larger small primate come into the light and out of the group with an angry look on its face as if beckoned by the noise. I raised my bins and could not believe I was staring at a wild Goeldi's monkey. I said Goeldi's to the group, then to Nick's sheer delight proceeded to do my happy mammal lifer dance after the Goeldi's left. I was unable to get a photo. I then turned to Justin, and my heart sank just a smidge. He had a scowl on his face as he was unable to video, which is a crucial segment to his mammal watching. Canela and Justin then proceeded to follow the



Goeldi's, while Nick and I watched the other primates. Justin had additional brief views of the Goeldi's, but was still unable to get his video. The "Monkey battle" really just consisted of the tamarins screaming at each other, a lot of scent marking on trees, and some gentle chasing. We then walked another trail near the back of the lodge and had excellent views of a Ryland's Saki staring at us.



We went back to the lodge, had lunch and rested until 3 pm. We did a walk along another section of trails but only had quick views of some White-

Lipped Peccary. When we got back to the lodge, knowing that Justin still wanted better Goeldi's views, Canelo suggested we wake up early and hike 11 km to a river where the other two groups frequented. We decided to not do a night walk that evening. Overnight around 2 am I was awoken by a god-awful screaming sound coming from the woods behind my room. Nick has also heard the noise. I thought maybe something was getting eaten. We found out the next morning that a Bicolored Porcupine usually chews on the wood holding up the kitchen and dining building and often liked to scream on his way while walking towards it.

Day 16 - We woke up early and started walking towards the river. We crossed the forest segment we had been walking in the day before, crossed through a cow field with tall grass, then came across a second more degraded forest fragment. Shortly after getting into the segment we heard the shrill call of tamarins and watched as a small troop of White-Lipped Tamarins started moving through the trees. I played my playback while watching them. At that point Justin told me "Come on now, the Goeldi's are behind us". What I think happened is that they had been traveling with the tamarins and had moved on. When they heard the playback, they had double backed to check out the intruders. We





walked into the forest behind us and watched the three member group of Goeldi's jumping around the trees above us and around us. Justin was able to get some videos and Nick and I were able to get some record shots as they were moving so fast around us.



After this we walked back to the lodge and by 9 am we were celebrating with a warm beer in hand. I was also secretly celebrating not walking 22 km round trip so early in the morning. Justin then suggested we only stay one more evening and spend one night in a comfortable hotel room in Cojiba. By the afternoon 12 Pando University students and a very friendly Professor showed up to spend the night. They were there to try to rebuild the lodge and brought a worker with them. Nick talked to the professor about the importance of Eco tourism and how they could attract tourists. Canela had already told us his frustrations with being there and that he thinks he may only work there for a few more years. Considering how well Canela knew where all the primates were, and how often we walked off

trail, keeping him there IMO is integral. There was also a picture of an Emperor Tamarin on the books we were given. Turns out they live on the opposite side of the river and with enough planning, seeing them would also be a possibility. Canela has a piece of land in his native Brazil where he said he has large numbers of White - Lipped Tamarin and going there in the future also could possibly set up. This place has so much possibility for wildlife watchers!

We did a night walk and saw nothing. One of the University students around dinner time did tell us he saw an Anaconda close to the river while he was fishing for the students dinner that night.

Day 17 - We decided to try to see the Toppin's Titi Monkeys that also are on the property. At sunrise we had brief views of two Titi Monkeys, as well as an Amazon Dwarf Squirrel. We walked deeper off trail and found a third



titi. We walked back along the entrance road and had brief views of a troop of Shock Headed Capuchin and two juvenile Large Headed Capuchin. In the afternoon Justin spotted another Amazon Dwarf Squirrel. We also happened across an adult Harpy Eagle with a yellow snake in its talons before it flew off. In the evening ,while looking for the porcupine, Justin spotted a mouse under the dining building.

Day 18 - we casually got up and went to the dining building. While Nick and I were talking, Justin called out PORCUPINE! It turned out to be the most beautiful Bicolored porcupine I had ever seen. Nick was able to get the photo below in all the excitement.



The porcupine had been a little late to leave the building for the morning and we had wonderful views of him on the ground, and then him climbing up a tree. He did growl at us several times as we were watching him. Adorable! While waiting to be picked up to go back to Cojiba we did a brief walk on the main road and saw more White-Lipped and Weddell's Saddleback tamarin, as well as Large-Headed Capuchin.



We drove back to Cojiba in the early afternoon, had lunch, then went to Brazil for dinner. The University professor had also “persuaded” Nick to come to the University to talk to professors (including the one that did not want us there) and students about ecotourism and its importance. Nick did this prior to us going to dinner.

Day 19 - We flew back to Santa Cruz, got a day room at the Wyndam, had dinner then were transported to the airport at 22:30 for our flights home.

I can not thank Nick McPhee and his staff enough for helping pull together all the logistics for a great trip. I know some people like to be more spontaneous and not have structure, but so much went into all aspects of this trip that I was happy I went in this direction. Also not having huge chunks of time off at once with my job, having some structure is helpful for me for time management. Nick was also one of those guides that made you feel like you were traveling with a friend. There was a lot of laughing, and at one point despite him not seeing his Black Jaguar or Green Anaconda, I heard him mumbling under his breath that primates were in fact cool.

I do think with how dense a lot of the places we hiked in was, and some of the forest windows we had to look at the mammals, this particular itinerary is better with a small group, maybe four people at the most. I think larger numbers of people would miss stuff frequently. For example, Nick missed the Harpy Eagle and he was directly behind me.

Thanks to Justin Brown for thinking about me for joining him on this trip. Especially since even on a good day with high blood caffeine levels circulating, I can only walk at 1/10 his normal speed. As usual his wonderful videos are on his Thug Hamster Youtube site.

If you really want to see a Goeldi's where I did, I think following the researchers advice and using playback is beneficial. I know some people do not use playback but they moved SO fast, and it was enough to get their attention and interest. After using it the thrupple stuck around for awhile so that we could watch them. When I have used playback in the past (usually just with titi monkeys and not for extended periods of time) I try to be respectful of how the animals are responding. Canela also knows

the general locations of the three groups you have to see there , so having his guiding expertise was also a key factor. There are many trails in many directions, and as stated above we did a lot of off trail walking and without him we would have easily gotten lost.

I decided to not go into detail about all the insects that fed off me on the trip, some that hoped to feed off me, and some that continued to be feeding on me when I got home to my partner's slight horror. That would take an another entire trip report.

### Mammals seen

1. White-eared Titi Monkey - *Plecturocebus donacophilus*
2. Bolivian Squirrel - *Sciurus ignitus*
3. Bolivian Squirrel (Black - Capped) Monkey - *Saimiri boliviensis*
4. Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth - *Bradypus variegatus*
5. Bolivian Pink Dolphin - *Inia boliviensis*
6. Brown Capuchin - *Sapajus paella*
7. Southern Tamandua - *Tamandua tetradactyla*
8. Olalla Brother's Titi Monkey - *Plecturocebus olallae*
9. South American Coatimundi - *Nasua nasua*
10. Crab - Eating Fox - *Cerdocyon thous*
11. Neotropical River Otter - *Lontra longicaudis*
12. Brown Agouti - *Dasyprocta variegata*
13. White -Lipped Peccary - *Tayassu pecari*
14. Bolivian Red Howler Monkey - *Alouatta sara*
15. Tayra - *Eira barbara*
16. Nine- Banded Armadillo - *Dasyopus novemcinctus*
17. Rio Beni Titi Monkey - *Plecturocebus modestus*
18. Black and Gold Howler Monkey - *Alouatta caraya*
19. Greater Bulldog (Fishing) Bat - *Noctilio leporinus*
20. Bicolored porcupine - *Coendou bicolor*
21. Madidi Titi Monkey - *Plecturocebus aureipalatti*
22. Common opossum - *Didelphis marsupialis*
23. Southern Amazon Red Squirrel - *Hadroskiurus spadiceus*
24. Red Brocket Deer - *Mazama americana*
25. Eastern lowland Olingo - *Bassaricyon alleni*
26. Southern Viscacha - *Lagidium viscacia*
27. Common long-tongued bat - *Glossophaga soricina*
28. Large - Headed Capuchin - *Sapajus macrocephalus*

- 29. Ocelot - *Leopardus paralis*
- 30. Ryland's Saki Monkey - *Pithecia irrorata rylandsi*
- 31. White-lipped (Red-Bellied) Tamarin - *Saguinus labiatus*
- 32. Weddell's Saddle Back Tamarin - *Leontocebus weddelli*
- 33. Goeldi's monkey - *Callimico goeldii*
- 34. Toppin's Titi Monkey - *Plecturocebus toppini*
- 35. Amazon Dwarf Squirrel - *Microsciurus flaviventer*
- 36. Shock - Headed Capuchin - *Cebus cuscinus*

