

Brazil
August 7th-29th, 2019
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You can visit my YouTube channel for videos of the mammals in this report:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqHcMc_YH8BPPkEMFnjNI2Q

Wied's marmoset: Found at Ecoparque de Una, Serra Bonita Reserve, and around towns and cities. It's very easy to see. Like Jon described in his report, the marmosets visit the bird feeder almost every morning at Serra Bonita, and you get a nice, up-close view.

Golden-headed lion tamarin: Found at Ecoparque de Una. See Jon's report for details about this place. It seems to be very reliable for seeing the tamarins. We had two sightings here: one on the road where Jon had his sighting and one on a trail that starts right before the bridge mentioned by Jon (on the right side of the road). Our guide told us that he usually encounters the tamarins on said trail, which is about two kilometers long. The tamarins are used to seeing people from the nearby fazendas (the trail goes to a fazenda) and are consequently pretty relaxed, in a jittery tamarin-sort-of-way.

Yellow-breasted capuchin: Found at Ecoparque de Una. This species is very difficult; your chances of seeing it are low. We spent a lot of time searching and fortunately found a big troop along the river that borders Una Biological Reserve, which isn't open to the public. The capuchin also occurs at Serra Bonita Reserve, but sightings are not at all common. Vitor, the owner of the reserve, told us that a troop is seen around the lodge once or twice a month, and that he thinks it roams over a very large area. In the past, he had a few rescued capuchins that stayed close to the lodge with the marmosets, but he assumes that they were killed by pumas because they never really learned the dangers of the forest and were spending too much time on the ground.

Coastal black-handed titi: Found at Ecoparque de Una. Follow the road on the right side of the sign (the left side is the road for the tamarins) for quite a while until you get to a plantation of rubber trees. Describing the exact location is a bit

difficult, but you'll see several small homes/buildings next to the road where the latex workers stay, and these guys have a bunch of pigs that wander about. The titi monkeys seem to have a big presence in this area, as the latex workers confirmed that they hear multiple groups every morning. We had a fantastic sighting here, and heard several other groups as well.

Blond capuchin: Found at Gargaú Private Reserve. The reserve is a forest fragment in the middle of fields upon fields upon fields upon fields of sugarcane. It probably supports multiple troops of capuchins, but we encountered the same troop twice: once on our first morning and then the following morning. The troop is big, consisting of at least 30 individuals, and is quite habituated. One of the capuchins has a collar, so they're being studied by someone. They seem to have a routine where they feed on palm nuts in the trees at the edge of the forest next to the road first thing in the morning, and that's a great time to observe them.

Common marmoset: Found at Gargaú Private Reserve. I had seen this species before in Rio de Janeiro state, but the population there is not native.

Atlantic forest red-handed howler: Found at Centro de Endemismo Pernambuco. It's another forest fragment about an hour's drive from Gargaú Private Reserve, and it is loaded with howlers. They were vocalizing from every direction, and the groups we saw were very, very habituated. There's a village next to the forest and the howlers are accustomed to seeing people. We received conflicting information about the presence of capuchins in this forest patch.

Robust capuchin: Found at Vale Reserve. This is an easy one, as several troops hang around the hotel grounds feeding on fruit and pine nuts, and are very habituated.

Masked titi: Found at Vale Reserve. The main road going from the visitor center to the reception building (about two kilometers) is productive for the titi. We heard several groups vocalizing along this stretch each day, and saw the titis here four or five times. Even though these titis are seeing cars and people all day, they're very shy. As soon as they knew they had been spotted, they just melted into the forest.

Geoffroy's marmoset: Found at Vale Reserve. It's easy to see here.

Black lion tamarin: Found at Fazenda Garibaldi Pousada. This is a terrific new option for seeing the black lion tamarin. Located about four hours from Sao Paulo by car, the place is being run by two biologists who previously worked with black lion tamarins in a state park. The forest is very small, basically consisting of two narrow strips of secondary growth on each side of a river. There are two groups of tamarins, one of which being more habituated than the other, and we had the good fortune of observing some territorial interactions between them. No tamarins are collared here, but finding them isn't too difficult on account of the forest being so small. I do recommend allocating at least two full days to look for them, as they tend to stay hidden with cold, wet, and/or windy weather. One of our days was windy and we were unable to find the tamarins in both the morning and the afternoon.

Tayra: Found at Trilha dos Tucanos. This is mainly a birding lodge, but two tayras have been visiting regularly to take bananas from the feeders. After getting glimpses of tayras on previous trips, I was excited for the opportunity to really watch one. It arrived at about 8:30 am and hung around for at least 15 minutes. Its mannerisms and movements reminded me of a wolverine. The lodge is located approximately three hours by car from Sao Paulo.

Giant armadillo: Found at Fazenda Baia das Pedras. We tagged along with a biologist and a veterinarian from The Giant Armadillo Project. Gabriel and Danilo, respectively, were so welcoming and so willing to answer all of our questions, and really went the extra mile to show us a giant armadillo (we saw two). I was so impressed with these guys: their passion, their commitment, their humor, and their willingness to bring us into their world. From what I've heard, the director of the project, Arnaud Desbiez, shares these same qualities. They all really embrace tourism, understanding its importance for conservation. We felt like we were part of the team during our time with Gabriel and Danilo, and not just annoying tourists asking too many questions! Needless to say, I'm a huge fan of The Giant Armadillo Project: the people involved, the research/conservation work they're doing, and the unique opportunity for tourists to see a giant armadillo.

Other mammals: maned sloth, brown-throated three-toed sloth, lowland tapir, southern tamandua, ocelot, paca, crab-eating raccoon, crab-eating fox, coati, collared peccary, white-lipped peccary, capybara, pampas deer, and black-horned capuchin.