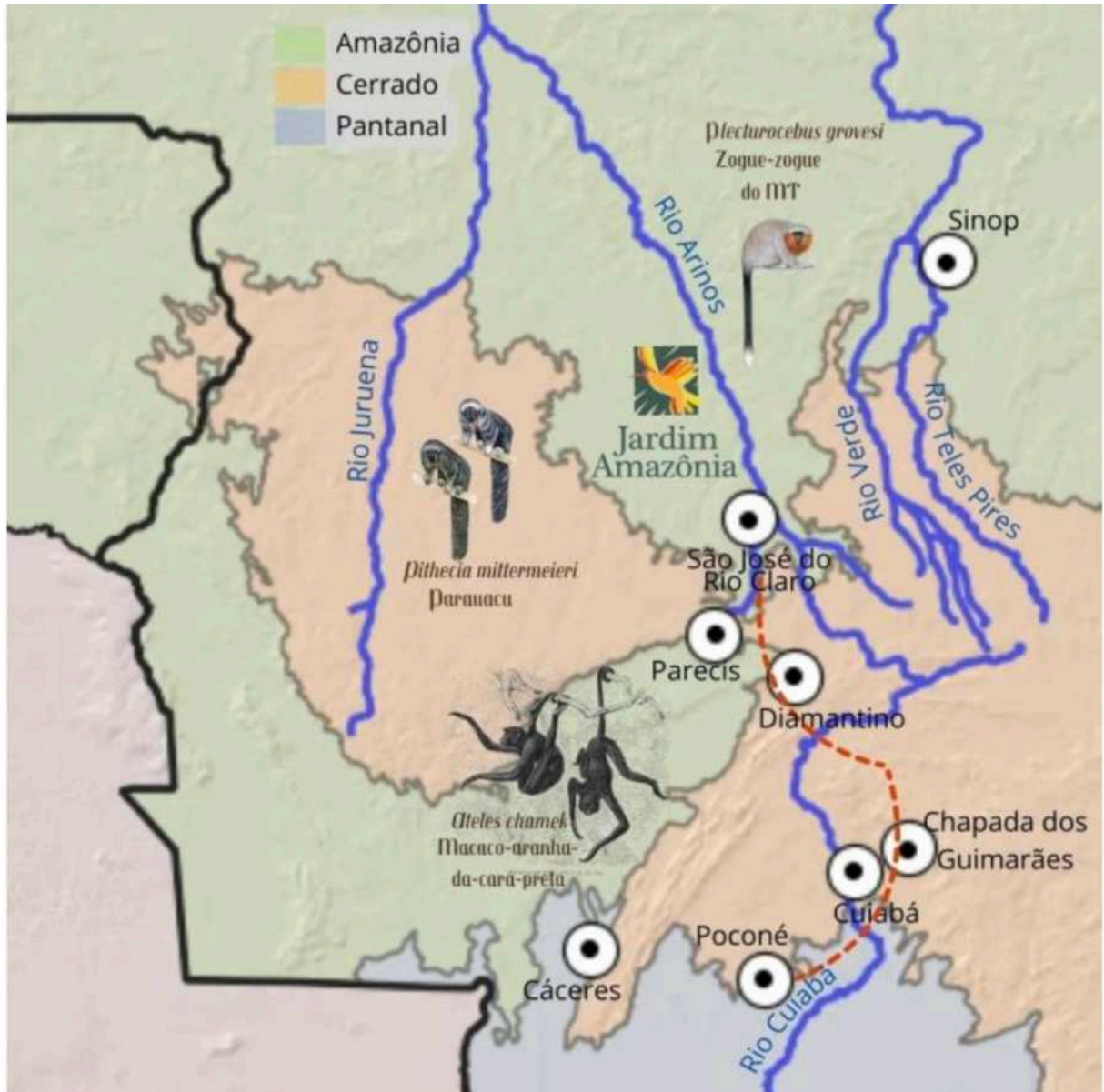


## BRAZIL 5-21 AUGUST 2024

This is my 2024 entry of my quest to see all the primate species that live in Brazil. As usual I used the services of the impeccable Regina Ribeiro, the top Neotropical primate guide in my opinion, with the logistic help of Marluce Boute from Boute Expeditions. My trip consisted of three separate legs. My primate loving travel companion Judy Parrish joined me once again in my quest.

1. The first part of the trip we were in Northeastern Brazil in the states of Piaui where we spent time in the National Forest of Palmares.
2. Then to Acailandia in the state of Maranhao, and finally a forest fragment near Ulianopolis in the state of Para.
3. The final part of the trip we spent time in the state of Mato Grosso. A current conservation project has been set up via a collaborative effort from Russ Mittermeier and Anthony Rylands from Re-Wild, Christine Steiner and Gustavo Canale from Instituto Ecotono and Leandro Jerusalinsky from the National Center for the Research and Conservation of the Brazilian Primates linked to Chico Mendes Institute, the Brazilian Environmental Agency and Social Movements MST and MAB. The project is to make primate watching in Mato Grosso a priority as they have 16 species of primate, ten of which are threatened with extinction. The project is set up as primate watching trail, similar to bird watching trails in other places. Three excellent lodges Fazenda Anaca and Jardim da Amazonia Ecolodge (where we spent time at) and Cristalino Lodge (where I had traveled in the past)

along with a park in Sinop and several community based projects make up the trail. We were the first tourists to do the trail.



Day 1 - I did an overflight that landed in Sao Paulo around 12 am. After a few hours of sleep at an airport hotel, I took an early morning flight with Judy to the city of Teresina and met my main guide for this part of the trip, Eugenio Souza. I have

traveled with Eugenio several times before and he is great fun and always up for anything! From there we drove about 30 minutes to the National Forest of Palmares and met our local guides Sara Silver and her husband Lucas Alencar that live at the reserve. The reserve was set up in 2005 and Lucas's father Gaspar has been living there and helping protect the wildlife for years. They do not speak English (I do not speak Portuguese...) but worked hard to find us wildlife when we were there. My main reason for visiting was to see one of the ten families of Maranhao Red-handed Howler Monkeys that live there. Black-striped capuchins (the famous tool using monkeys) and Common Marmosets also live there. We were the first tourists to come for the howlers (mainly birders go there) and they are keen to have more mammal watchers visit. The forest is VERY dry and we went long periods of time seeing nothing, but the trails were in good condition and except for one hill that you use ropes to climb up, the hiking was easy. There is a large jail close to the reserve and on occasion we could hear loud music and the occasional gun shot noise coming from it.... There is also a condominium complex on the opposite site of the reserve so this is definitely another example of a fragmented forest in Brazil.

After a briefing about the reserve we were shown a map of all the trails you could use. We then started walking away from the main buildings along the Trilha Trail. While Judy went to get her heat scope from the car, I saw a very shy Common Marmoset that quickly fled when it saw me watching it. Around the same time we started hearing the sound of capuchins smashing rocks into coconuts (the tool use they do there) inside one of the forest fragments. We walked off trail and watched a small troop of Black-Striped Capuchins,



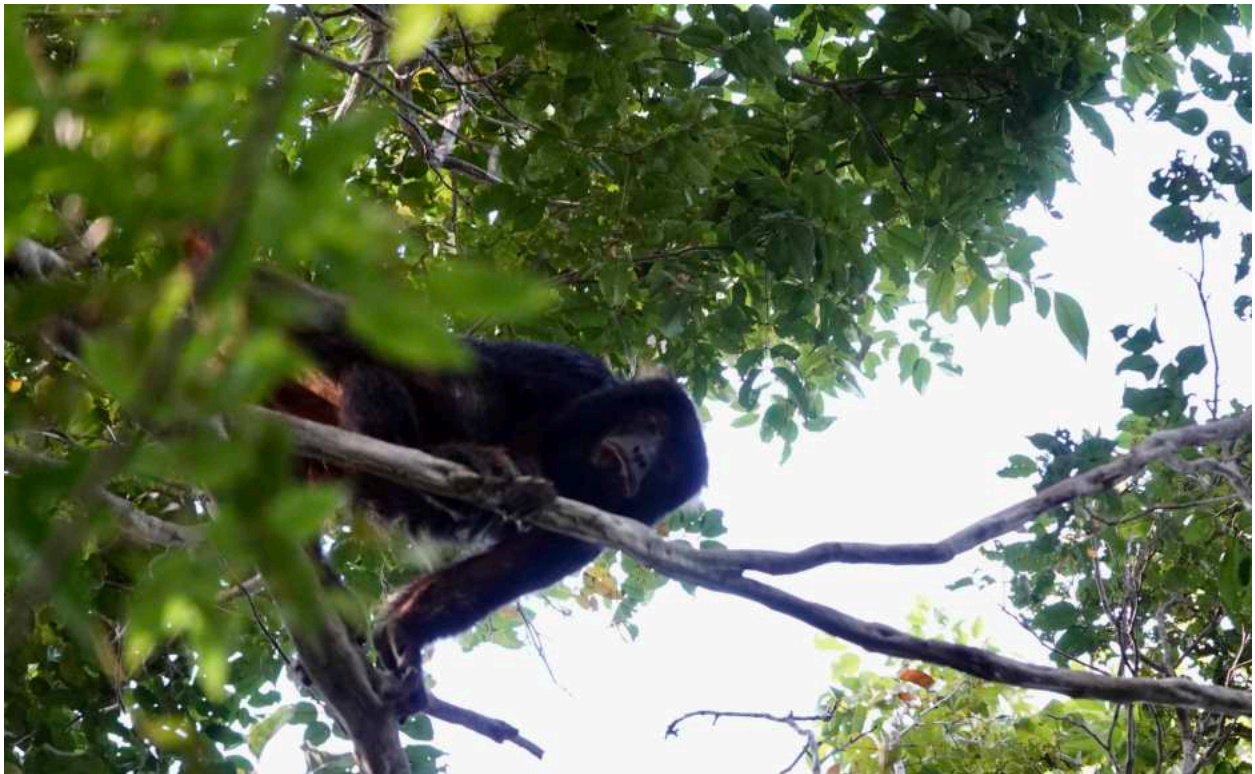
run up trees then away, except for a few sub adult males that watched us cautiously from a distance. We could hear howlers vocalizing, but at this point it was dusk and they were too far to try to find. We went back to our hotel in Teresina, the nice business hotel, Uchoa Teresina, for the night.

Day 2 - we left our hotel at 4:30 am so we could get to the forest in time to hopefully hear the howlers, well howling. We

were told the day before that they do not always hear them every day, but with ten groups in the forest I thought we had good odds. When we got to the parking lot there were many small bats flying in and out of fruiting mango trees near the education center. We then started doing the Trilha da Aroeira Trail . Close to leaving the parking lot I heard some loud thrashing noises at my feet. When I looked down there was a False Coral Snake actively in the death throws with a native Anole Spp.



By 8:30 am we had not seen or heard the howlers and I was getting nervous. We were already trying to see if we did not see them, would we have time the next morning to return back to the forest before our flight. But just as we were brainstorming, one of the workers from the main forest buildings came running down the trail to tell us the Howlers were heard on the opposite side of the park. Judy took off and I think I saw some of her dust trail, as I pushed myself to try to keep up with her and the worker. Finally after running by the buildings we made it to the start of the Ype Trail and could hear the beautiful chorus of the howlers. We went to the base of the tree where they were vocalizing and they were initially too high to see. Lucas then went to the right of the tree and frantically moved his arms to get my attention to come next to him. As I moved over two adult male howlers stopped vocalizing when they saw me and moved off in the canopy. I was able to get this record shot. We followed the two males,



then saw one female and a subadult howler high in the canopy, but too hidden for good photos. After this we had lunch and Eugenio called out that capuchins were behind us watching us. Of course when I turned around they walked off. We followed them along the Taturuba Trail and saw a small bachelor group actively picking small coconuts. They initially would run off when they saw us watching them, but after leaving and coming back three times, a few of the troop gave up and tolerated us. After watching them off and on for



almost an hour, we walked to three separate areas around the forest that Lucas often sees Howlers but were unsuccessful. We did at dusk see a close up Common Marmoset near the trail. Exhausted we went back to our hotel to sleep for the night.

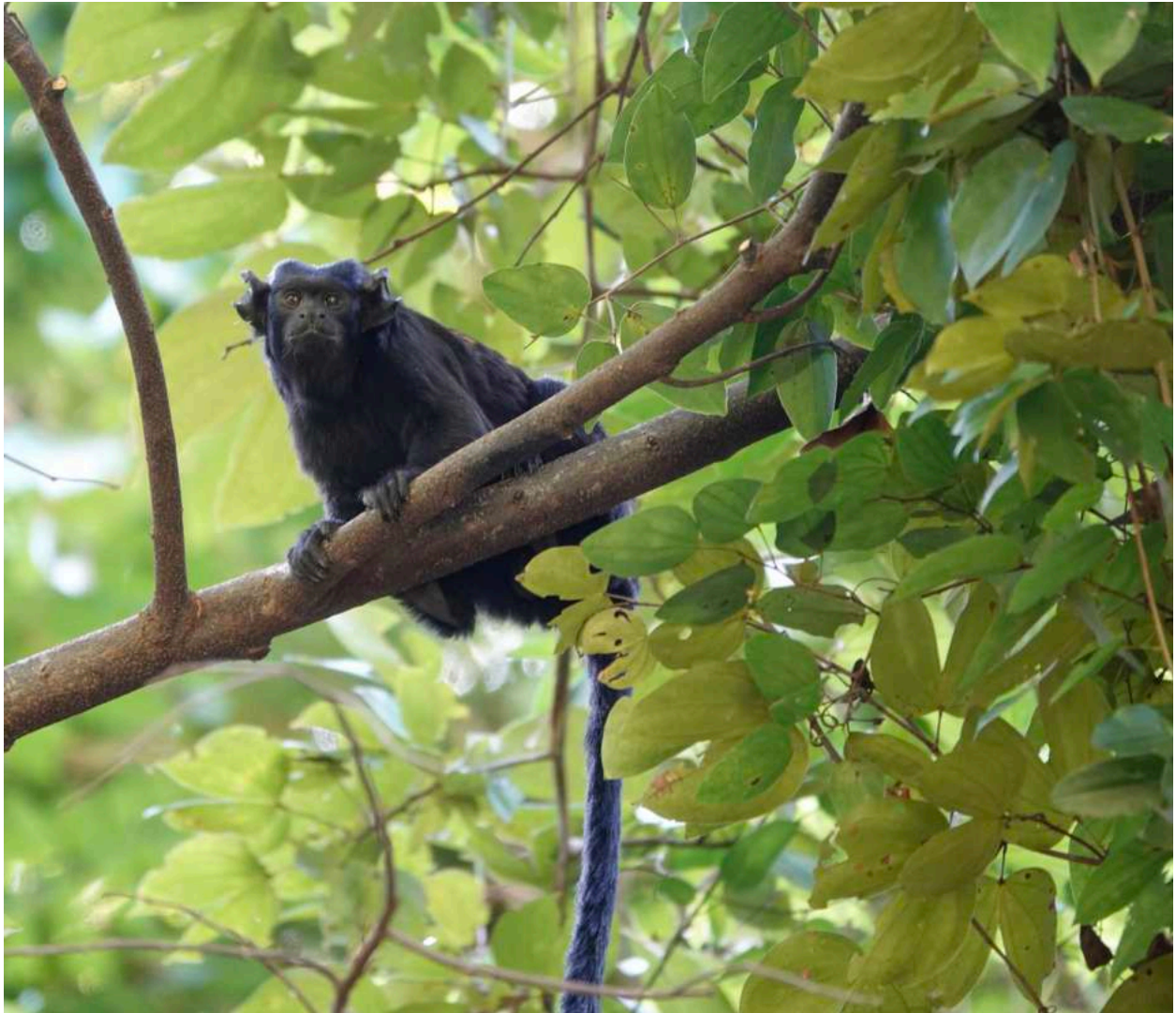
Day 3 - During the planning part of my trip, Regina has heard about a young bird guide in northeastern Brazil named Luis Morais. Luis had befriended some local land owners in his guiding areas and found ways to see many rare bird species, especially Ground Cuckoos. Just like many bird guides he was by catching some special primates including Black-Bearded Saki, Eastern black-handed Tamarin, and the icing on any primate watchers cake, the very range restricted and sensitive to habitat destruction Ka'apori capuchin. Luis was planning to start a PhD program in Rio (which he will be doing in January so his guiding is on hold) and was not sure when his start date was, so it was not until close to the trip that he could commit to guiding us. We flew into the city of Imperatriz that evening and Luis picked us up at the airport and took us to the basic Vera Cruz Business Hotel for the night in the town of Acailandia where he lives. Luis speaks excellent English.

Day 4 - Luis had access to a Eucalyptus plantation in Acailandia where we would spend the first morning looking for the tamarins and the saki monkeys. Surrounding the plantation is nice secondary forest with a long trail through it. Luis took us to the end of the trail where there was a playground. We had brief views of a single Eastern Black-handed Tamarin, then heard Brown Capuchins and Squirrel Monkeys vocalizing. We walked through a dense, dimly lit trail and saw the capuchins and a large troop of Collins Squirrel Monkeys, something Luis told us was rare for the area. We also heard distant Red-handed Howlers and an Agouti.





On the way out of the trail we were rewarded with very close and low views of three separate troops of tamarins.



After a break mid day, Luis then drove us to the city of Ulianopolis about 3 hours away. We drove through cattle ranch after cattle ranch with barely any trees in sight. At one point Luis told us we were actually in the Amazon and this area was the first part of the Brazilian Amazon that had been deforested.

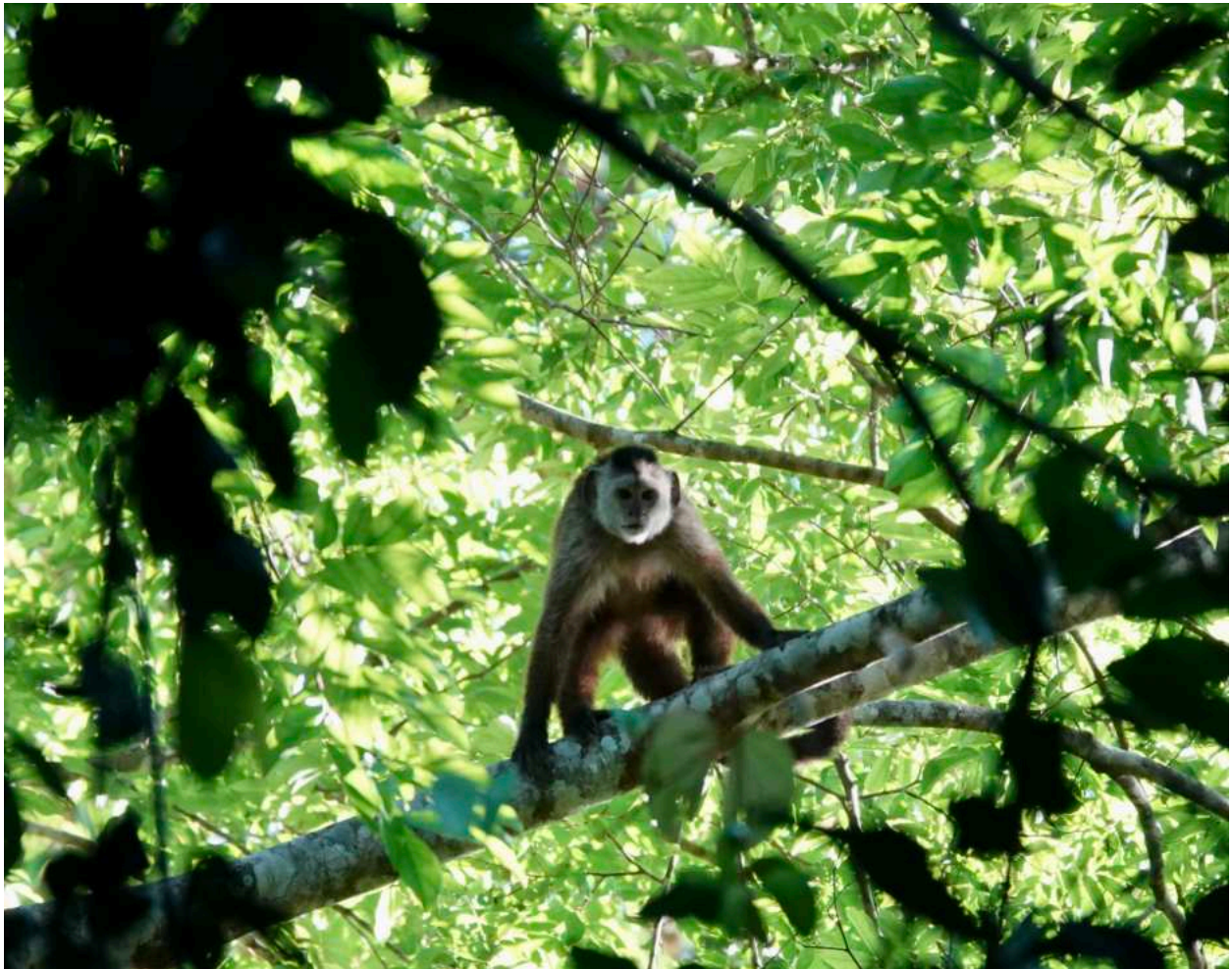
It was shocking. After checking into the Hotel e Restaurante Araujo, Luis took us to a local gas station/restaurant for dinner to discuss the plans for the next day. He told us that the tamarins would be common, but higher views that what we had seen in the morning. The Black-Bearded Saki would be difficult, but he had an area where he often saw them. For the capuchin he just laughed and told us he had only seen them twice before in the forest we were going to, and he was birding in that forest almost week for the past year. Judy and I just looked at him and I told him we were excited to see the capuchins without skipping a beat.

Day 5 - Luis had been granted access to a logging concession about 2 hours from Ulianopolis to watch wildlife. The area was gated with a guard and Luis had to hand over paper work each time we went in and out. The owner, per the government, had set aside a portion of his land to not be currently logged. The forest was beautiful primary forest with huge trees and full of bird sounds. There were several small ponds and well kept trails throughout. I kept thinking this would be an amazing spot to build a lodge for wildlife watchers, sadly not all land owners think this way. Luis then parked his car along a road and told us the plan was to hike for awhile, then have Eugenio go get the car as we walked

on. We then started walking and were quickly rewarded with another troop of tamarins.



So after 40 minutes (I had looked at my watch as we exited the car), Luis asked Eugenio to go get his car. After he walked off, we heard the classic capuchin vocalization calls next to the road. I called out CAPUCHIN!!! And Luis quickly repeated this with some swear words of excitement added in. Then in front of us, three very badly back lit, but staring at us Ka'apori Capuchins materialized from the forest.



After watching them for several minutes and adding in our own swear words of excitement followed by my primate lifer dance, the capuchins went into the forest deeper. Eugenio

then showed up and his look of “I can not believe I missed that” was met with Luis grabbing his machete from the back of his car and telling us to stand 3 meters back from him because he was going to make us a trail, and he was going to do it fast. I have watched many men use machetes and sure enough Luis was the best. He cleared a path to get us into the center of the troop. Unfazed, but again in low light, the troop went about its business above us. At one point a Crested Eagle landed on a tree right next to the troop. I tried in vain to look for a stick to throw at the mammal killer to get it off the primates while Luis then started saying he could not believe he did not have his camera, and that the Eagle was also an amazing sight as well. Luckily the smart capuchins were able to get away.



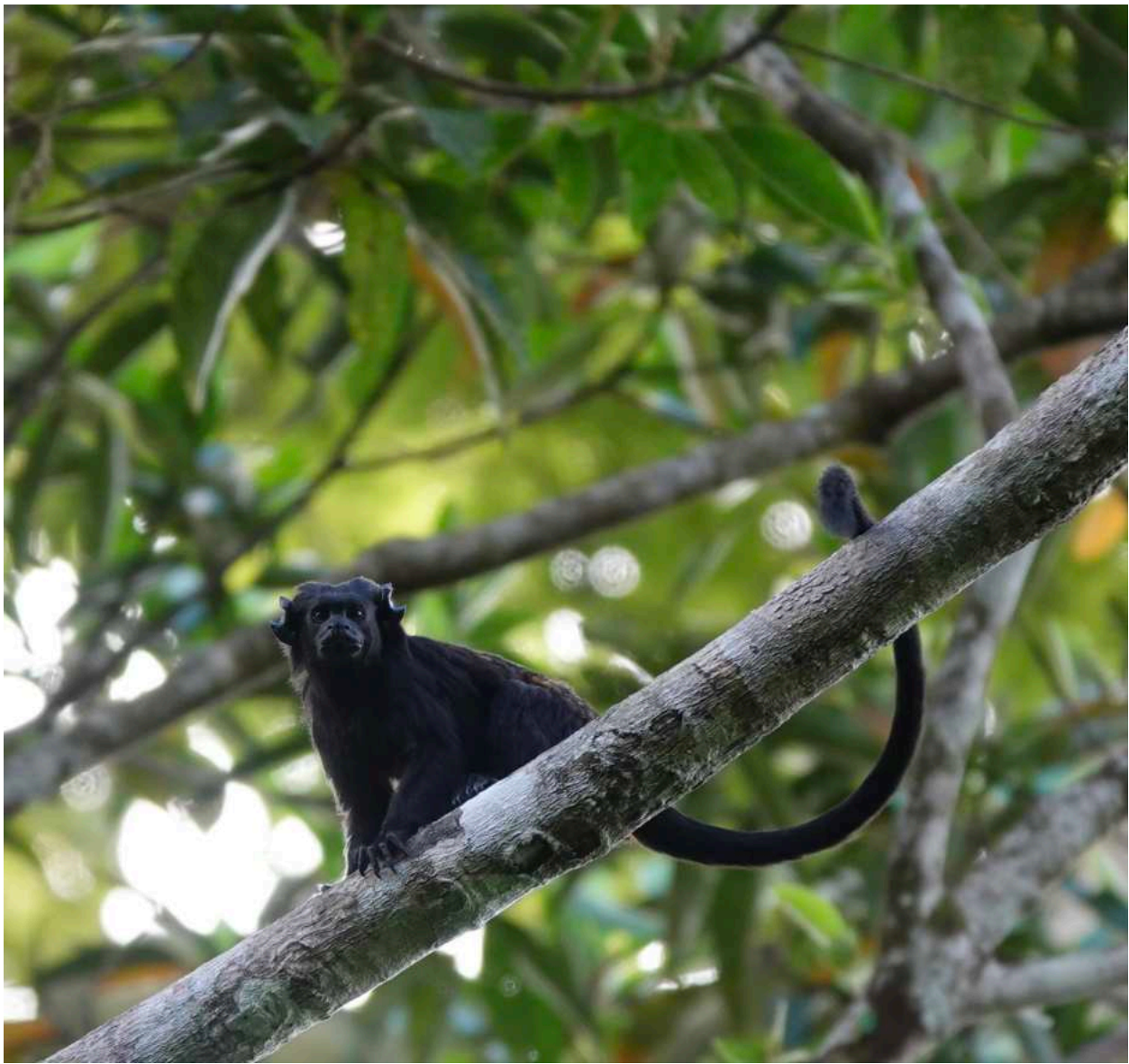
After this we went down a smaller trail and saw two nervous Collared Peccary as well as a squirrel spp run across the trail. Luis had told us that he usually only stays in the forest until mid day as the heat becomes oppressive and he never sees wildlife after that. Sure enough by close to noon, the heat became oppressive and we were not even hearing birds so we headed back to Ulianopolis.

Day 6 - we again left early in the morning to get to the forest at dusk. On the main road into the forest a lone Brazilian Tapir was slowly walking.



We then saw a crab eating fox running along the road. Luis decided to take us to a separate area of the forest along a trail where he had often seen the Black- bearded saki monkeys. He also told us that it was his “lucky trail” for his clients to get a lifer. He did warn us however that two weeks prior he found two dead saki monkeys that had been shot laying in the middle of the trail. People had come to clear debris from the trail and we were told that sometimes they take pot shots at wildlife just for fun.

Before we got on the trail, we watched a small flock of Black - Winged Trumpeters (which I was told was a special bird) with a Red Rumped Agouti in front of it. As we walked down the trail we saw more tamarins.

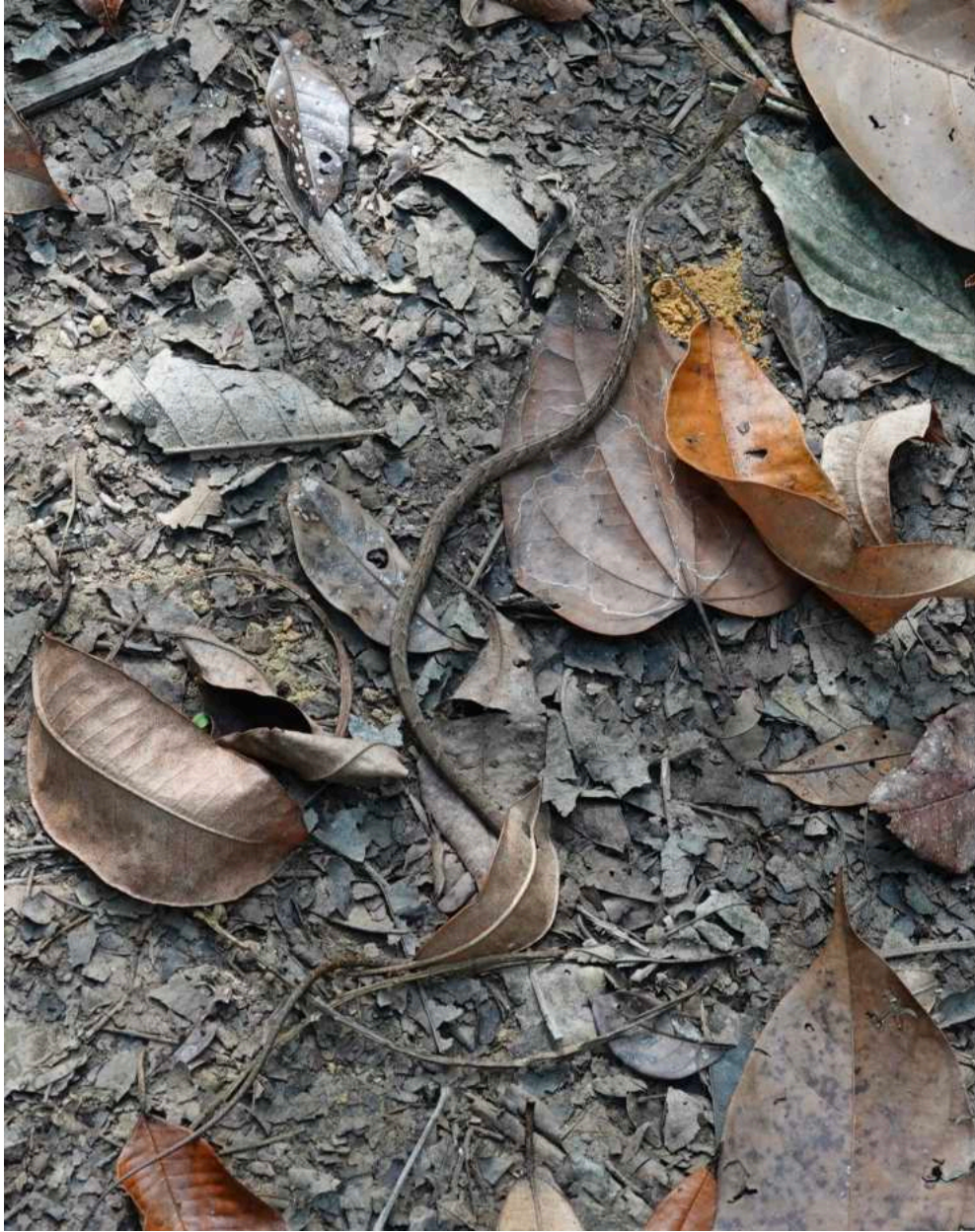




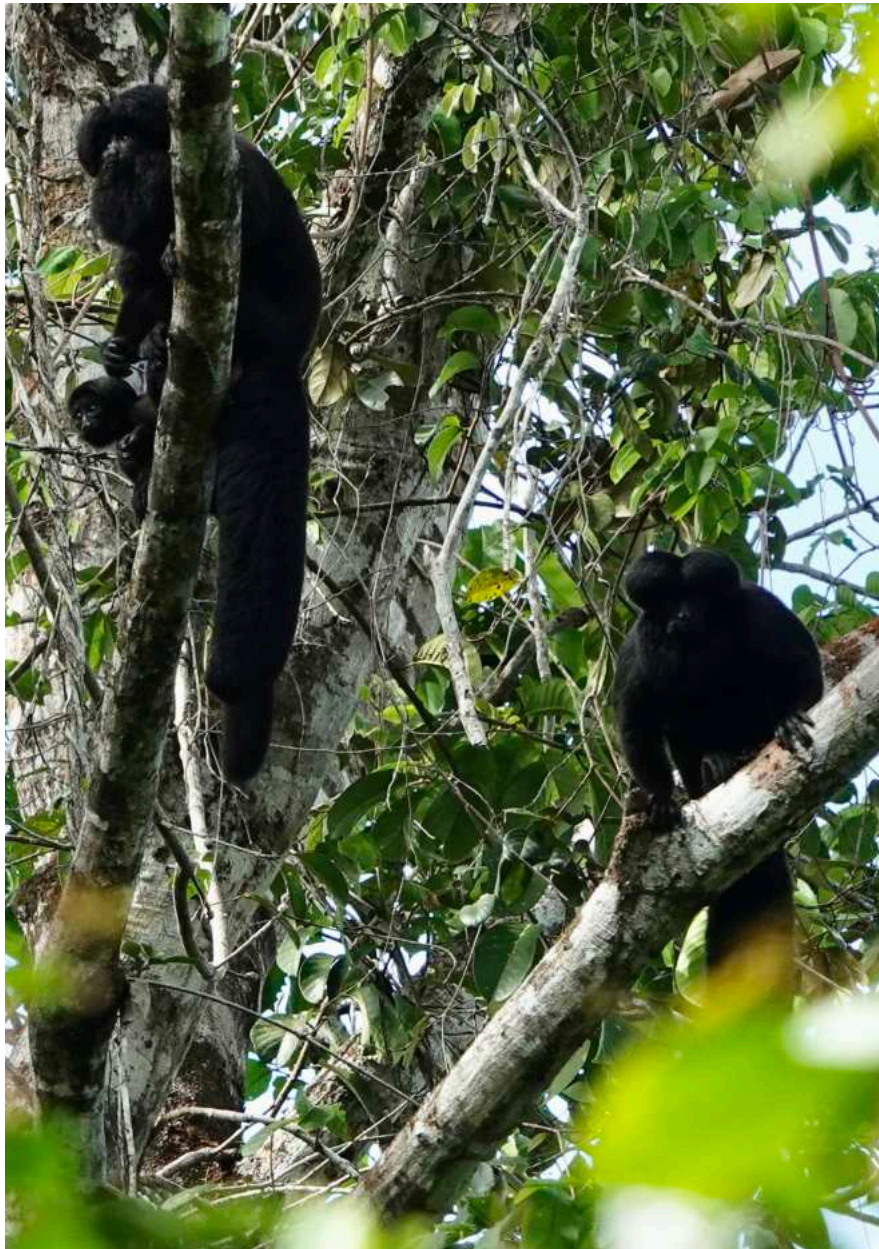
We then came across the body of the first slaughtered saki already in decay.



Quickly followed by the second body. While Bearded Sakis tend to be very territorial I became nervous that with two troop members being killed, the troop would have moved on. After walking for about 50 minutes, I saw some frantic motions at my feet and saw a small brown snake. Luis and Judy were in front of me and I called then back to see it.



Eugenio was at a slight distance behind me and he called something out in Portuguese to Luis. Luis then said the sakis are behind us as Eugenio had heard the sakis as we walked off. We then heard bearded saki alarm calls and were rewarded with nice views of a small troop. Judy got the following two photos while I was busy taking a video.



Probably the most beautiful of all the bearded sakis I have seen to date!



On the way out we saw a lone South American Coati cross the road. After this we went back to our hotel.

Day 7 - Luis decided to take us this morning to a soy/corn/eucalyptus plantation called Fazendia Anca about 40 minutes from our hotel. It had a small area of forest that Luis had seen many primates in. As soon as we parked we were greeted with a large troop of Brown Capuchins jumping over the path from tree to tree.



Luis and I then had brief views of a lone bearded saki and Eugenio found us a small troop of Red-handed Howler



Monkeys that Judy got a picture of. After this we drove back to Acalilandia and got a day room before our 2 am flight.



As the norm, Judy and I were the first mammal watchers Luis had guided, and by the end we were told that primate watching was easier than he expected as compared to the rare birds his clients want him to show them. Hopefully when he is finished with his PhD he will take on more mammal watchers to guide.

Day 8 - Brazil does love an early morning flight. Luis took us to the airport as he was meeting another client, then after a delayed first flight, we landed in Belo Horizonte and said our goodbyes to Eugenio. We then flew to Cuiba and said our hellos to Regina who had been on another tour. A final flight to Alta Floresta for our first stop in the primate watching trail, the Fazenda Anaca. This has to be one of my favorite places I have stayed in Brazil. It is on a cattle farm, where the owner's son loved wildlife and made the fazenda with a few comfortable well appointed rooms, a pool and large meeting area and restaurant with wildlife themed handicrafts. The owners wife cooked gourmet food which for me was an added bonus. He was also like many land owners that love wildlife, was planting trees for wildlife corridors. The three primates of interest for me at this spot were the Schneider's Marmoset, the critically endangered Groves Titi Monkey and the Purus Red Howler Monkey. All three like secondary forest which is mainly what you find there. It had been thought before that the marmosets in Alta Floresta were Emilian Marmosets, but DNA research showed otherwise. So after settling into the lodge, the lodge guide Gilberto Alves Tavares met us. Gilberto has worked at the lodge for years on

the cattle. He took a keen interest in wildlife and when birders started showing up, he started showing them where to look. Again as the norm, we were the first tourists that wanted to look for primates, and he had collected some marmoset and titi calls and staked out several areas on the property prior to our arrival. He does not speak English, but still was able to communicate with us. His guiding skills are top notch and he definitely knows the lodge grounds like the back of his hand. One thing that the owner did was place signs around the property with the local names of the animals.



This included my beloved Howler monkeys (Bugio), the marmosets (Sagui) and the titi monkeys (Zogue-zogue).





So Gilberto first took us to the trail by the Bugio sign and we were quickly rewarded with a family of Groves Titi Monkeys with a very small baby. Sadly they were very back lit so my photos came out horrible. By the mid section of the trail, we could hear the marmosets, and we played a game of cat and mouse trying to get on them while they sounded like they were all around us. Finally at the end of the trail a few stragglers were sitting in some trees casually looking at us.



We also saw a lone Guianan Squirrel on the trail as well. Gilberto then drove us by a large water body on the property where we saw Capybaras in the water and several Long Nosed Bats on trees. From there it was back to the lodge for amazing food, caipirinhas and sleep.

Day 9 - Gilberto picked us up early and we then went towards a trail with a Spider Monkey sign. Along the road we saw a Brazilian Tapir. When we got out of the car we were greeted by the beautiful chorus of the titi monkeys calling. At the start of the trail we saw a few Brown Capuchins. We then found in the middle of the trail a very freshly dead Eastern Amazon Dwarf Porcupine.



I examined it and could find no obvious signs of the cause of death, including no obvious predation marks, other signs of trauma or signs of external disease. After this we went back to the Bugio Trail and saw two quick moving titi monkeys. We then turned a corner and Judy stopped and started making a weird almost choking noise like she could not speak. Regina and I turned to look at her and she was staring and pointing up at some tall trees. We both said, WHAT, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?? Then as we went around the corner we saw what she had spotted. A big beautiful male Purus Howler Monkey with another male walking in the canopy. We followed them for a moment and they then stopped, did half howling noises at us for awhile, then walked off. Cue primate



lifer dance. While I was excited of course to see them as

howler monkeys are the best mammals on the planet, the real excitement for me was this was my final howler monkey species I needed for the set!! I think this location is probably the most reliable in Brazil for this species.

After this we had prolonged views of two marmoset troops vocalizing at each other.



We went back to the lodge for lunch, I enjoyed the pool, then in the afternoon we were out again. We saw a lone collared peccary on the road and a Southern tamandua digging up insects on the side of the road. We were then taken to a point where several species of macaws roost to watch them come in for the night. There were several Capybaras also walking down the road towards the macaw point.



Gilberto had a few days prior found a spot for Azaras Night Monkey in a large dense vine area next to a tree when a troop of capuchins startled them at day when they entered their roost spot. Gilberto was keen to see if we could see them coming out at night, as it was something he had not done before. After getting to the tree, Judy used her heat scope and confirmed they were there. So at dark, a pair of night

monkeys bolted out of the roost and walked around a tree across from it briefly looking at us. From there it was back to the lodge.

Day 10 - Another early morning. We saw several Collared Peccary raiding a manioc field followed by a large number of Capybara in the road.

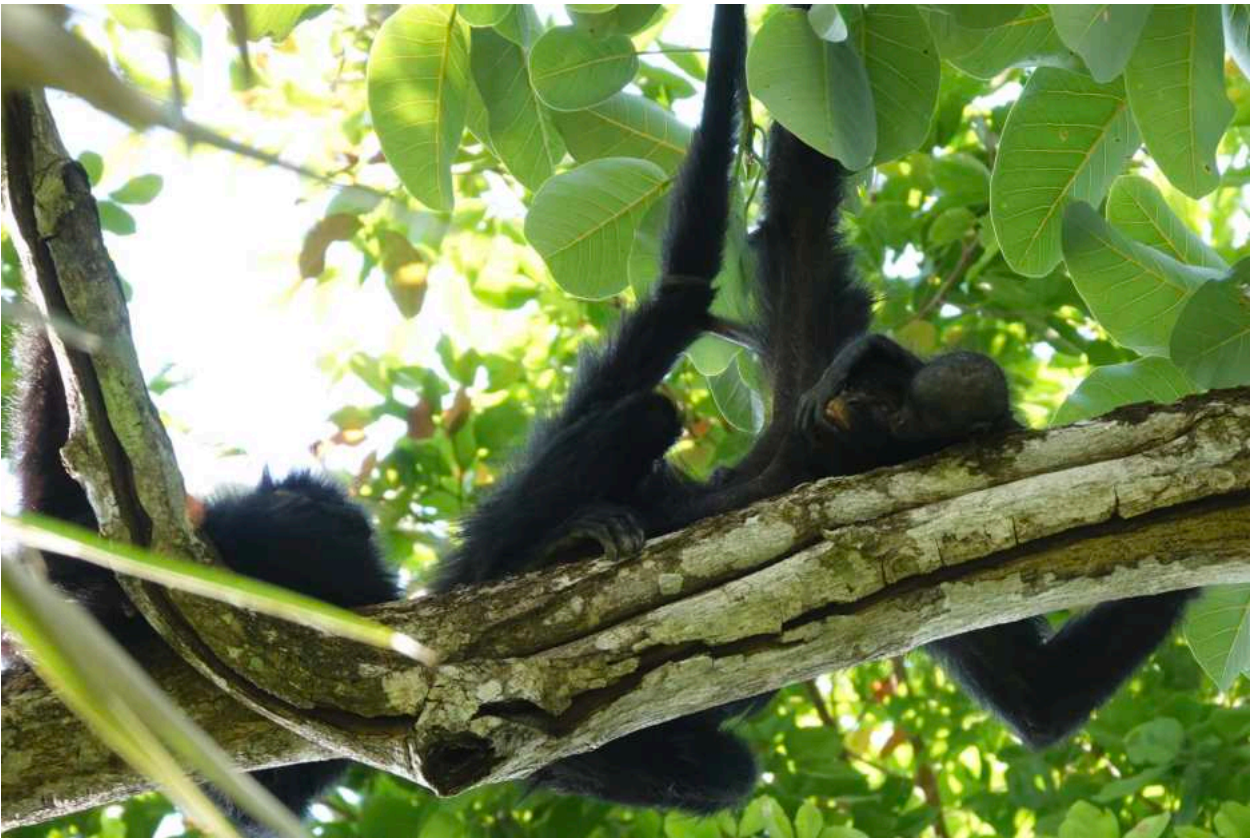
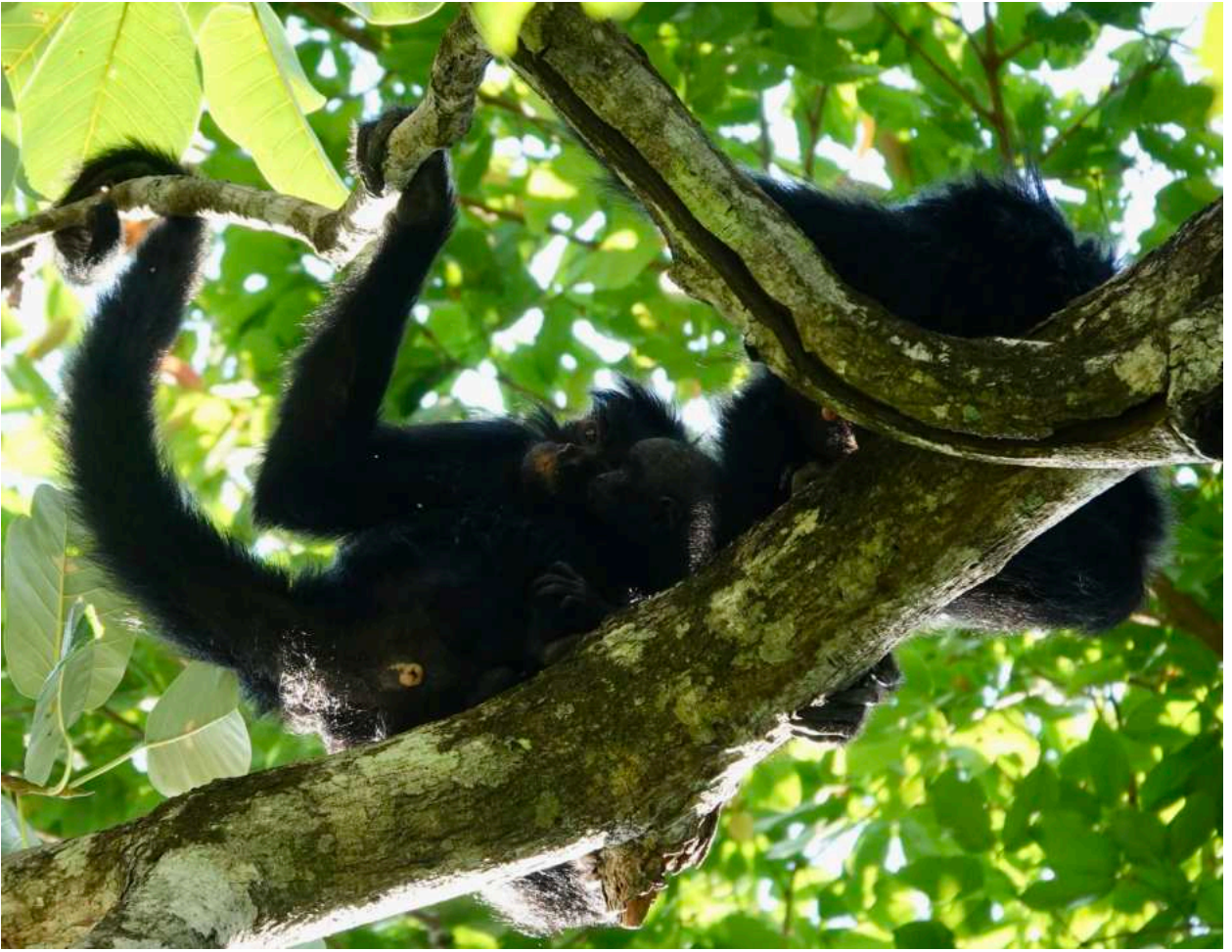


I had hoped to see some Groves Titi Monkeys actually calling, but unfortunately after hearing multiple troops we could not get eyes on them. We went to the Spider Monkey trail first and saw another curled up Howler Monkey. We then heard some trees crashing close to us and Regina called out “Spider Monkey!”. We initially had several adult Black Spider Monkeys alarm call at us.



Gilberto suggested we walk to the other side of the trail to get better looks at them. This would end up being my best Black Spider Monkey viewing of my life, a species I had seen several times before. The spiders had three babies with them of various ages. My favorite was an infant that proceeded to climb all over its mother and another female for about 30 minutes. It looked like an almost hairless goblin.





We went back to the Bugio Trail, saw another Howler and more distant Brown Capuchin. On the way back to the lodge we saw an Azara's Agouti, and two very chill marmosets relaxing in a tree right next to the road.



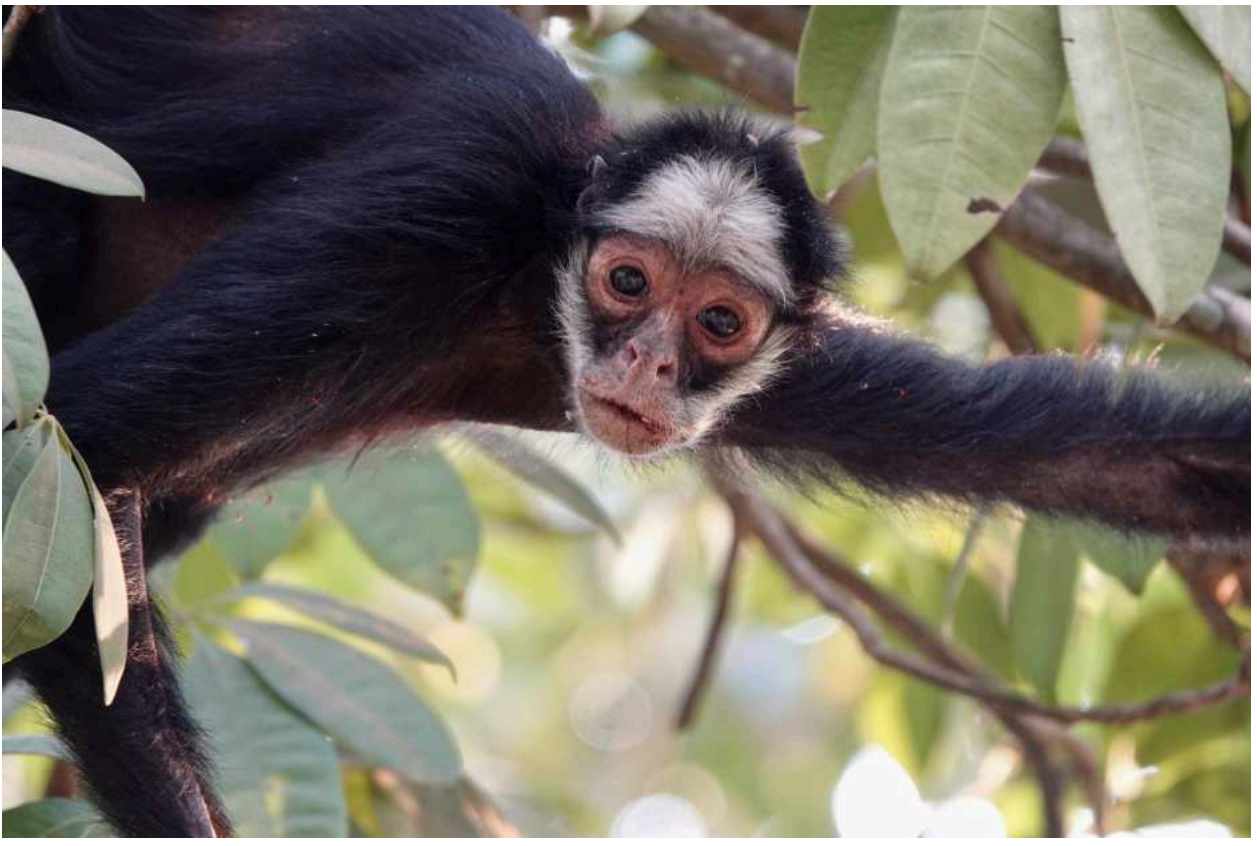
In the afternoon we were taken to another property, the Fazenda Rancho which is a working cattle and Brazil Nut farm. There are not accommodations on the property. We saw more Black Spider monkeys and Brown Capuchins. They also had what appeared to be a nice river/water way

through the forest that I think would be interesting to do river trips on in the future. It was then back to the lodge for our final amazing dinner and rest.

Day 11 - we woke up early and were picked up by our driver Marlon Mendes who also works as a guide. He has excellent spotting skills and speaks English.

We drove about four hours to the next stop on the trail, the city of Sinop. Along the way we crossed the Teles Pires River. This river acts as a barrier with the splitting of the spider monkeys, titis, and the marmosets. On the right side are the Schneiders Marmoset, Groves Titi and Black Spider monkeys. We were headed to on the left side of the river for the Emilia's Marmoset, Viera's Titi and White -Whiskered Spider Monkey. Regina spotted a very shy troop of White - Whiskered Spider Monkeys feeding in a flowering tree next to the road. We also saw a Six Banded Armadillo walking across the road into a large field. We checked into the very nice business hotel, Hotel Ucayali for a break, then at 2 pm we headed to the Parque Florestal Sinop. This would be my dream park to have where I live, loaded with primates and other wildlife along easy trails. Half of the park is open to locals and the other is gated off for researchers. We were met by two vet students that had formally been students of Gustavo Canale and Christine Steiner who are instrumental in the primate watching trail and work with the Instituto Ecotono. One of them was Bruna Vivian who definitely is one of the best younger people I have seen spot wildlife. We were met right at the gate by some cheeky Brown Capuchins walking across the top of one of them, followed by several White Whiskered Spider monkeys of various ages in the trees next to the gate.





With the marmoset and the titi monkeys as my main target, and Judy needing to see a White-nosed Bearded Saki (there is one lonely male currently living there), Bruna set off to find them for us. Regina gave her a walkie talkie as well as one to Marlon who also split from us to search the park. There is a small river with a bridge that splits the park and Bruna quickly found us the saki on the opposite side of the river.



It did not take her long to find more spider monkeys feeding in some fruiting and flowering trees.



When you enter the park and go past the administration building with the public restrooms, there is a trail on your right that goes through a small forested segment. This is where the titi monkey monkey is mainly found. So Regina, Judy, Bruna, the other student and myself started walking the trail. Bruna quickly found us some Emilia's marmosets. One that posed nicely. While making a video of the marmosets the Viera's Titi Monkeys (a family of five) appeared.





After watching the Titi Monkeys, Marlon came and told us he had found a Nine Banded Armadillo close to the river. We went and watched one going in and out of some leaf brush, watched more Spider Monkeys, then were taken to a gazebo along a bridge on the river where Black Bonneted Bats were roosting.



The park also has a large number of Yellow-footed and Red-footed Tortoise that started to come out of the woods close to dusk.



After an amazing primate filled afternoon, we went back to the hotel and met up with Gustavo and Christine for dinner to talk to them about the Primate watching trail, the state of primates in Brazil and the hopes for the future. I can not even put down in words how amazing the two of them are and Brazil and the world is a better place with them in it. It was wonderful to sit and talk to people that love the primates in Brazil as much as I do. Also, as professors at the University in Sinop, they are helping to encourage the students to care about and work with the wildlife in their country (like Bruna!).

Day 12 - before dawn, Gustavo met us to the hotel and we went to the first private community based project on the trail in the rural settlement of Gleba Mercedes V. This is a very important spot for Gustavo as there are several families of Grove's Titi Monkeys that are cut off from each other in small forest fragments. His goal is to plant trees between the

islands to make corridors for the titis. The forest fragment we went to has six family members currently which is large by titi standards. There are also three Schneiders marmosets there that we did not see. Gustavo quickly found us the family (they did not call) and we watched them off and on in various parts of the forest. We did hear multiple families calling however



from other close by forest fragments. The owner of the

community made us an amazing barbecue lunch and we met



more of Gustavo's students working on the property.

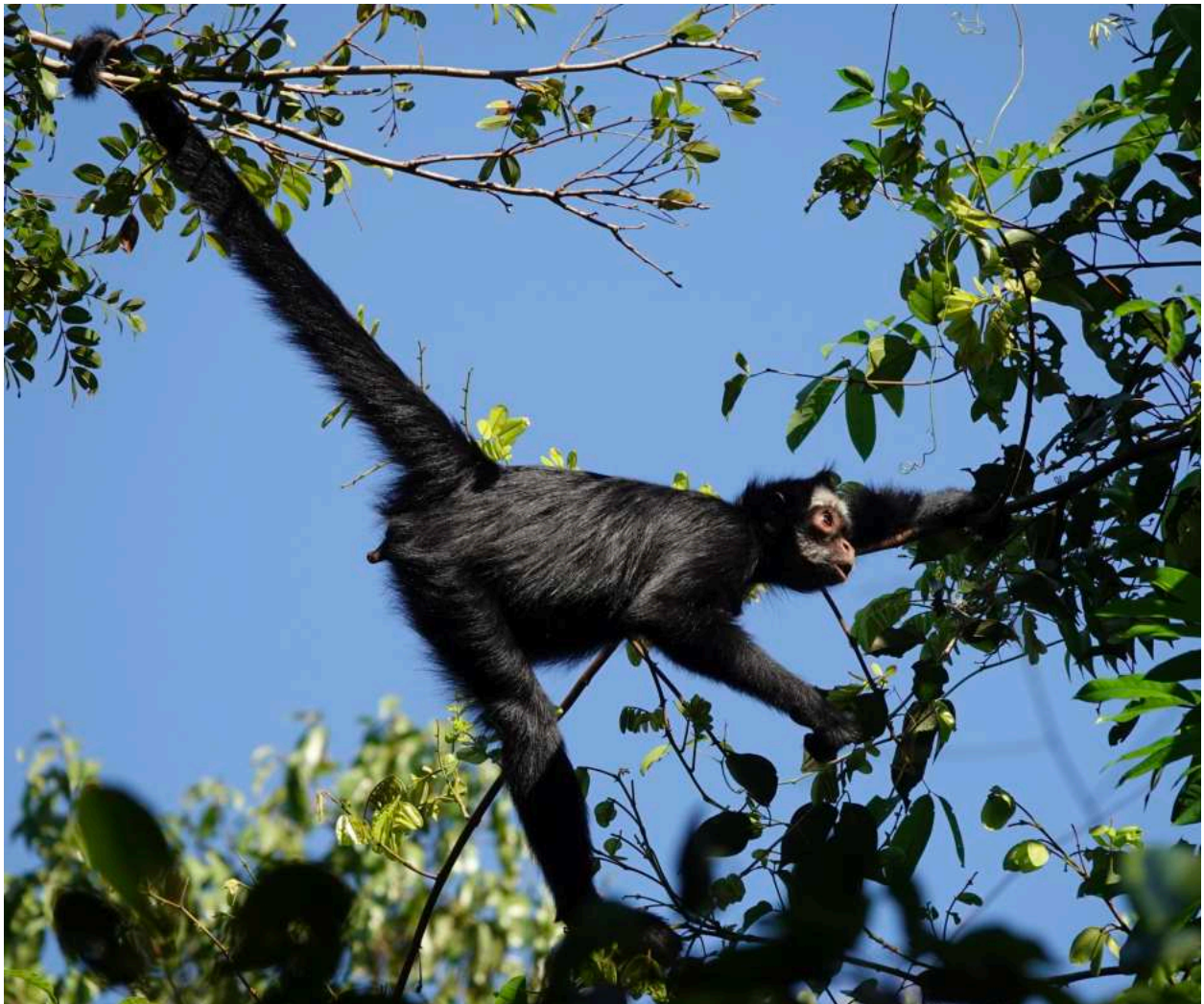
From there we went back to the park in Sinop for the afternoon and watched the capuchins and spider monkeys again as well as another Nine Banded Armadillo.



Day 13 - We then went to the second rural property of Doze de Outubro that has the Emilius Marmosets, White Whiskered Spider Monkeys and Viera's Titi Monkeys. The property is owned by Pablo Diniz who use to be a restaurant chef (cue amazing lunch there). His wife and mother help manage the

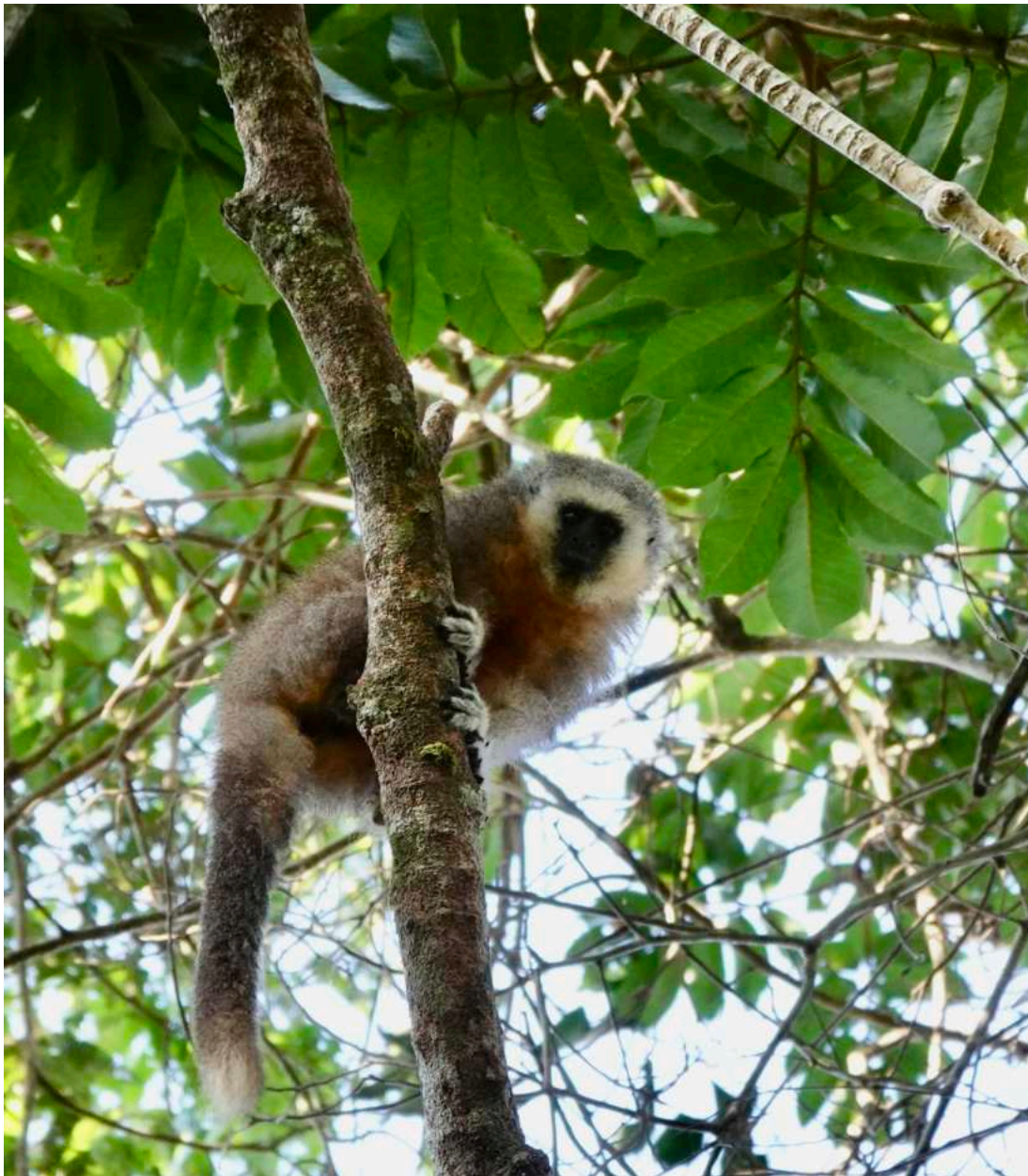
property, and his brother, a lawyer, lives on the adjacent property with his wife who also helped us look for primates. Pablo is raising vegetables as well as sheep for meat and has a large beautiful expanse of forest. Where we ate lunch he has a small building with a bedroom, bathroom and small kitchen. I told Pablo his property was someplace that he should set up for people to spend the night as I think it has a potential to find other wildlife as well. Pablo often sees the marmosets in the trees next to this building.

Pablo and his brother, Regina, Judy and myself then headed out to look for primates. We quickly found some marmosets, followed by Brown Capuchins and then more marmosets. At this point Pablo found a large number of seed ticks on him so went to change his shirt. We then started watching a small



troop of White - whiskered Spider Monkeys that were feeding. At one point I backed up to watch them and I ran into a dead dry tree. At this point I did not think much of it. Pablo's brother then went ahead and came running back to tell us he found some Viera's titi monkeys. We quickly went and watched a family of four individuals above us. They were much larger than the ones in the park in Sinop.





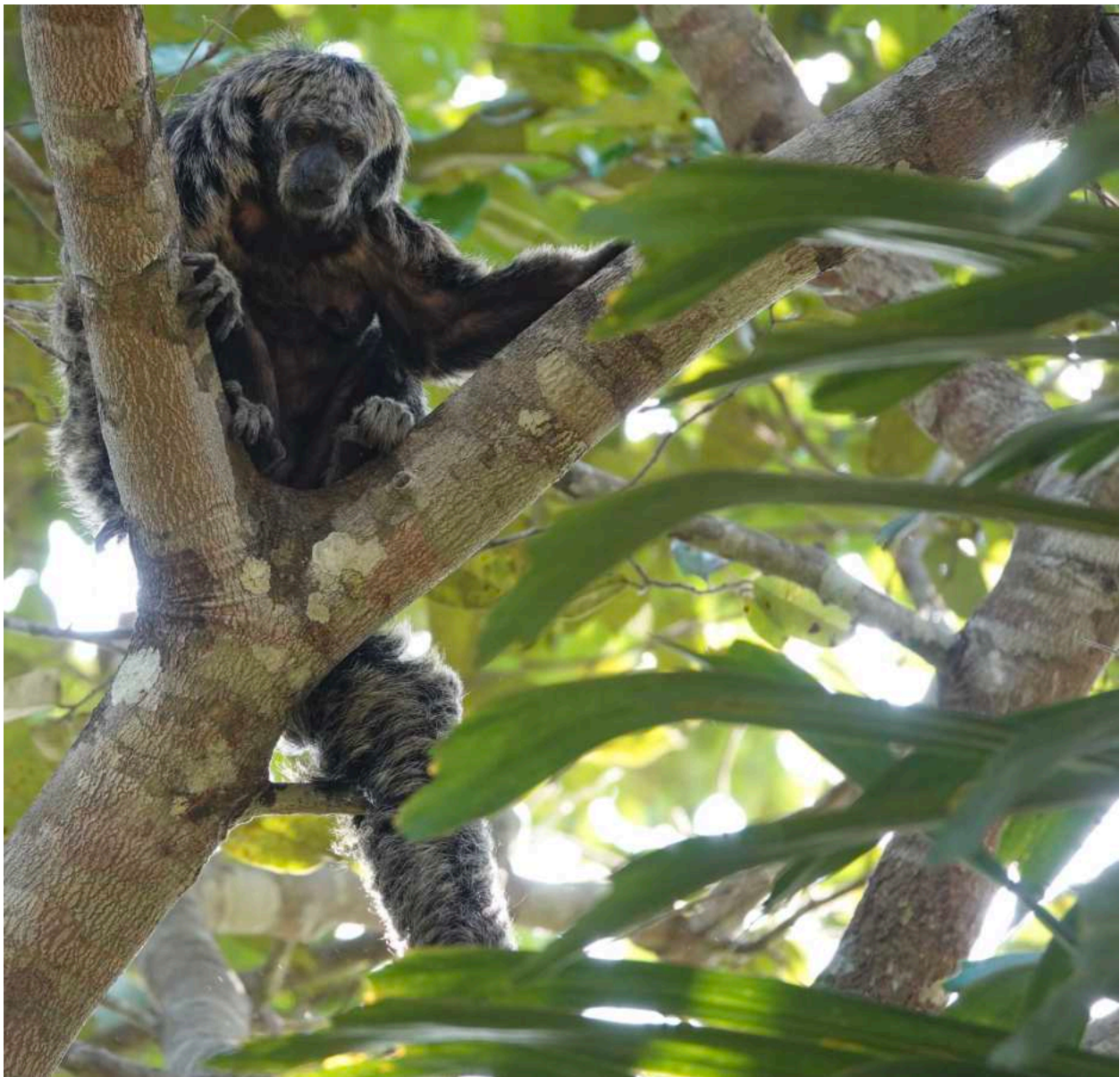
We started walking back to the house and I casually looked down at my right arm. Along my long sleeved shirt were thousands and I mean thousands of seed ticks crawling around. I quickly took this shirt off and initially did not see any more. But, I had encountered them most likely when I hit the tree and they had time to mobilize. We went back to the building where we would eat lunch and I asked Judy and Regina to check my back. I think the noises made by them



and the swear words that followed told me all I needed to hear, my back was covered and some ticks were actively feeding. Regina tried to get as many off me as she could, then Pablo's mother brought me a dress to wear so I could take a shower and get more off me. All my clothes were covered, so she also washed my clothes to remove more ticks. I ended up taking I think three showers and pulled hundreds off by myself. After eating my amazing lunch in my dress, I checked my clothes and they looked tick free so put them back on and we headed back to Sinop. Regina brought me to a pharmacy to get some Ivermectina (ivermectin) to deworm/deparasite myself. Within two hours all the ticks I had missed were dead. I (and thankfully Regina who I am now bonded more to) did at the end of that night and the next morning end up picking out dead ticks. I have in my life never been so itchy. Regina told me the Ivermectina would last about 2 weeks in my system. I figured I had considered deworming myself in the past with all the places I go so it had the added bonus of that. But despite this, the property is amazing and the people are amazing. Pablo's brother's wife at one point tried to find us as a large troop of marmosets were at her house as we were walking. If they can open to building to tourism I would hands down recommend it, just don't bump into any dead trees...

Day 14 - We left and drove about five hours south to Sao Jose de Rio Claro, the next spot on the trail, to the lovely Jardim da Amazonia lodge on the banks of the Rio Claro river. Along the way we saw a young Marsh Deer walking down the road. The property is owned by the Zanchet family, with Almor and Carmelita as the founders (and still live and work there) and their daughter Raquel who is managing the

project. A good number of birders come there, as well as Brazilian day trippers who use a large spring fed pool on the property. But for the trail, the property has a large population of Mittermeier's Tapajos Saki Monkey, Black Spider Monkeys, Azara's capuchins, Black and Gold Titi Monkeys and Black-tailed Marmosets. Currently one of the saki families (with currently a very young baby), uses the Moriche Palms in a swamp section close to the pool daily to feed. So after a gourmet lunch, we headed towards the pool and walked an elevated pathway through the swamp. Judy and I stayed at the pool side and Regina stayed lodge side around 3 pm. It did not long for the saki family to show up in the trees right





next to the pool. The females went off towards the swamp, while a large and smaller male family member stopped to stare at us.

We met up with Regina and also watched a few shy Azara's capuchins go by. At this time we lost sight of the sakis and we went back to the lodge. The lodge naturalist then came and found us as he had found the saki's in a palm tree feeding. We watched them for almost 45 minutes before walking off.

We were told that the sakis tend to show up in the swamp in the late afternoon on a daily basis. This had to be some of the most relaxed saki watching that I have ever done. But to

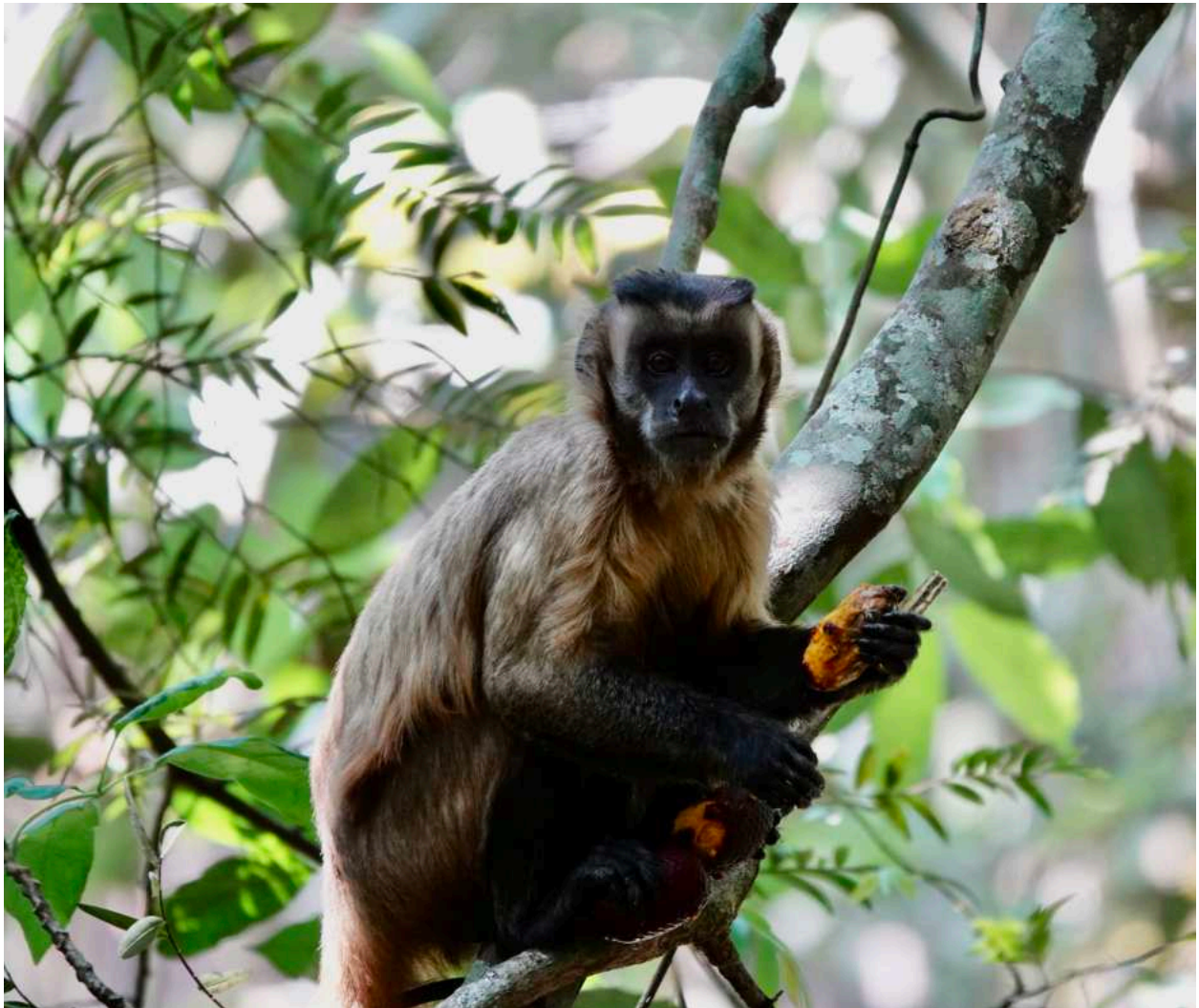


note as I am sitting and writing this report this is a full species. A paper is coming out either at the end of this year or the start of next years that will question that, and pending the results of the IUCN, this species, the Rylands Bald Faced and the Pissinatti's Saki monkey may get clumped with the Gray's Bald Faced.. we will see. Also to note I had thought this would be a lifer for me, but found out recently the saki monkeys I saw on the grounds on the University last year in Porto Velho was this species.

Before dusk we drove along the road exiting the lodge across a highway to a dirt road along some farm land. Sadly a large portion of the forest next to the road was on fire. There were people along one section of the road trying to contain it. After driving past the fire, we saw Collared Peccary crossing the road and what we thought (and is still a mystery) was a Giant Anteater in some distant farmland. When we drove closer we could not find it. On the way back to the lodge while spotlighting Regina found us a tapir next to the road. We then went back to the lodge to sleep.

Day 15 - an early morning drive back to the forest with the fire (that was still going), we drove onwards back to the other side of Teles Pires River to look for the Groves Titi Monkeys again. Unsuccessful, we did hear distant howler monkeys and on the ride back to the lodge saw more Collared Peccary. We briefly walked down one of the trails by the lodge, but after I picked the sixth tick off me, I backed off. After this I did some quality time watching a large group of Cabybara that walk around various spots on the lodge grounds, then I decided to go swimming. While in the pool, I saw a few Azara's capuchins go towards the swamp. I went





and watched them as they picked up palm fruits that had fallen on the ground. I also radioed Regina and Judy to come see them.

I went back towards the trees where I had seen the sakis the day before and they were already in trees feeding! We spent a long time watching various members and had great views of the female with the young baby.



At this point Judy and Regina kept slapping at themselves saying they were being bit by mosquitos. I was wearing a bathing suit at this point and nothing was biting me.

Mosquitos love me, my blood is a favorite of mosquitos across the globe, however nothing here. I suspected the Ivermectina, still in my blood stream, was to thanks. Cue me wanting to “deworm” myself in any mosquito rich travel destination.

After lunch I went back on the boardwalk and found a coati eating some palm fruit that quickly ran off, but not before I got Judy on it. Almor then asked us if we would be interested in a river cruise. We did a cruise down the river for about an hour but did not see any mammals. We did go to several spots where he sees Neotropical River Otters, but could not find them. In the late afternoon Almor drove us around different parts of the property. We did another night drive and saw a Red Brocket deer in the same field that we had seen the Tapir in the night before.

Day 16 - Almor offered us another boat ride in the morning. As we had enjoyed the ride the night before, we opted for a second one. There is a trail that you access from the river where you can sometimes see Black and Gold Howler Monkeys. Almor warned us that there could be a lot of ticks, so after we parked, he ran along to the trees where he sees them, then came back telling us they were not there. Regina found us a family of saki monkeys feeding in a fruiting that were not as relaxed as the one by the lodge.



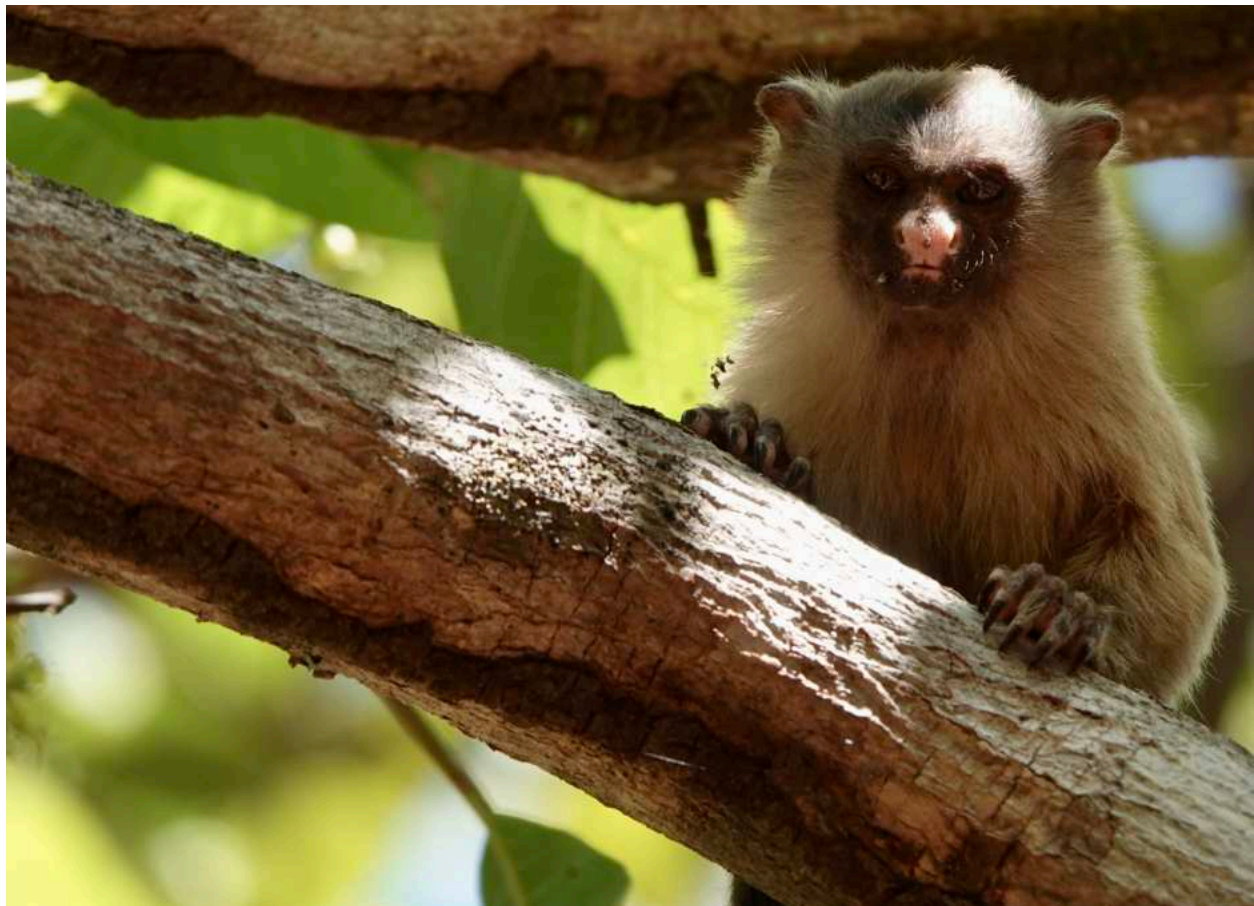


Later I spotted a large brown object quickly go under the water in front of the boat. I initially suspected that it was an otter, until a large tapir surfaced first closer front of us, then right next to the boat before it swam to a river bank to get away. Almor told us he often sees tapirs in the river.

We went back to the lodge and Marlon left us to lead another tour. We walked back to the swamp, did not see the sakis, then Regina and I tasted one of the palm fruits that the sakis seemed to love. When I saw it tasted like nothing, it pretty much had zero taste at all. After our final lunch our new driver Milson picked us up. We then drove to our final destination of the trip Cuiba and spent the night at the Hotel Amazon Aeroporto. Along the drive we saw a Gray Brocket Deer in a field close to the road. We had dinner at the hotel and Regina and I were kept up most of the evening by a “festive” business party below our rooms.

Day 17 - We had breakfast with Regina and said our goodbyes as she left on an early flight. Marlon then took us to the Parque Mae Bonifacia that has a wild population of Black - tailed Marmosets. Regina had told him to ask “anyone” for help in finding them. He does not speak English, but we had no problems figuring things out with him. We ended up walking the entire length of the park, stopping and asking at least 40 people, until one of the people we had stopped came running back to get us as he had found the marmosets. We spent about 40 minutes with the very relaxed

troop before heading back to the hotel to get out things, then head to the airport to fly home.





As usual for Brazil the perfect trip in the perfect country. As usual I can not thank Regina for all the leg work and Marluce for all the logistics!

Trip List - Lifers with a \*

1. Black Striped (Bearded) Capuchin - *Sapajus lipidinosus* \*
2. Common Marmoset - *Callithrix jacchus*
3. Maranhao Red-Handed Howler Monkey - *Alouatta ululate*\*
4. Eastern Black-Handed Tamarin - *Saguinus ursulus*\*
5. Collins Squirrel Monkey - *Saimiri collinsii*
6. Brown Capuchin Monkey - *Cebus apella*

7. Ka'apor Capuchin - *Cebus kaapori*\*
8. Collared Peccary - *Dicotyles tajacu*
9. Crab eating Fox - *Cerdocyon thous*
10. Red- rumped Agouti - *Dasyprocta leporina*
11. Black Bearded Saki Monkey - *Chiropotes satanas*\*
12. South American Coati - *Nasua nasua*
13. Brazilian Tapir - *Tapirus terrestris*
14. Red - Handed Howler Monkey - *Alouatta belzebul*
15. Groves Titi Monkey - *Plecturocebus grovesi*\*
16. Schneider's Marmoset - *Mico schneideri* \*
17. Guianan Squirrel - *Guerlinguetus aestuans*
18. Azara's agouti - *Dasyprocta azarae*
19. Capybara - *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*
20. Purus Red Howler Monkey - *Alouatta puruensis* \*
21. Southern tamandua - *Tamandua tetradactyla*
22. Azara's Night Monkey - *Aotus azarae*
23. Black Spider Monkey - *Ateles chamek*
24. White Whiskered Spider Monkey - *Ateles marginatus*
25. Six Banded Armadillo - *Euphractus sexcinctus*
26. White (Red) Nosed Bearded Saki Monkey - *Chiropotes albinasus*
27. Snethelage's (Emilia's) Marmoset - *Mico emiliae*\*
28. Viera's Titi Monkey - *Plecturocebus vieirai*\*
29. Nine - Banded Armadillo - *Dasypus novemcinctus*
30. Black bonneted bat - *Eumops auripendulus*
31. Long nosed Bat - *Rhynchonycteris naso*
32. Marsh Deer - *Blastocerus dichotomus*
33. Mittermeier's Tapajos Saki Monkey - *Pithecia mittermeieri*
34. Azara's Capuchin - *Sapajus cay*
35. Red Brocket Deer - *Mazama americana*
36. Gray Brocket Deer - *Mazama gouazoubira*
37. Black -tailed Marmoset - *Mico melanurus*

