



Sunrise Birding LLC

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# AMAZON RIVER CRUISE

## Species List March 2018

Local Guide: Juan Tejada Expedition Leader: Guillermo Knell  
Sunrise Birding Leader: John Kricher

### BIRDS (143 species total)

UNDULATED TINAMOU, *Crypturellus undulatus*: Heard on a few river outings, a plaintive whistle in the forest. Never seen.

HORNED SCREAMER, *Anhima cornuta*: Observed on 6 days and often heard. Great looks!

MUSCOVY DUCK, *Cairina moschata*: Seen on 3 separate days, usually flying.

SPECKLED CHACHALACA, *Ortalis guttata*: Heard a few times but never observed.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*: Seen on 5 days, sometimes in small flocks.

ANHINGA, *Anhinga anhinga*: Seen on 4 days, usually high in a riverside tree.

COCOI HERON, *Ardea cocoi*: The Neotropical version of Great Blue Heron, observed on 4 days and seen very well.

GREAT EGRET, *Ardea alba*: Very common, seen daily, and seen very nicely as flocks came to roost on one of our boat outings.

SNOWY EGRET, *Egretta thula*: Common throughout, observed on 7 days.

LITTLE BLUE HERON, *Egretta caerulea*: Seen on 2 days by most of us.

WESTERN CATTLE EGRET, *Bulbulcus ibis*: Seen twice during the trip, at Iquitos and once on one of our river outings (when Ed photographed a flock).

STRIATED HERON, *Butorides striatus*: This is the equivalent species in the Neotropics to our Green Heron. We saw it commonly, all 8 days in the field.

CAPPED HERON, *Pilherodius pileatus*: Recorded on 6 days, we saw this elegant heron extremely well.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, *Nycticorax nycticorax*: Seen on 3 days at various locations. Always an immature.

GREEN IBIS, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*: We observed this solitary Neotropical ibis, usually in flight, on 3 different days.

BLACK VULTURE, *Coragyps atratus*: Very common, observed on all days of the trip.

TURKEY VULTURE, *Cathartes aura*: Likely seen daily but identified on 6 days of the trip.

LESSER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE, *Cathartes burrovianus*: Common and seen closely in the air and perched on 4 different days.

GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE, *Cathartes melambrotus*: Likely seen almost daily but clearly identified on 2 different days and seen well.

OSPREY, *Pandion haliaetus*: Encountered on 2 different days.

BLACK-COLLARED HAWK, *Busarellus nigricollis*: This is the “osprey” of the Neotropics and we saw it often and superbly well, on 5 days. We even watched Juan “feed it.”

GRAY-HEADED KITE, *Leptodon cayanensis*: Seen once, quite well, atop a riverside snag.

PLUMBEOUS KITE, *Ictinia plumbea*: The “Mississippi Kite of the Neotropics.” We saw this species quite well on 4 days.

CRANE HAWK, *Geranospiza caerulescens*: This tropical hawk of uniquely long legs was spotted on 2 days perched and in flight.

SLATE-COLORED HAWK, *Leucopternis schistaceus*: An elegant raptor, we saw this species well, encountering it 4 times.

GREAT BLACK HAWK, *Buteogallus urubitinga*: Superb looks at several adults and one immature along the riversides. Seen on 4 days.

ROADSIDE HAWK, *Buteo magnirostris*: Should be called “Riverside Hawk” on our trip but we saw this widespread tropical raptor on 5 days.

PURPLE GALLINULE, *Porphyrio martinica*: We saw this species along the river in Iquitos on the first day and again on the final day on our morning boat excursion.

SUNGREBE, *Heliornis fulica*: The high water did not help us because this skulker stays under shaded vegetation and was a home in the shady flooded forest. We briefly glimpsed one along the river and heard it several times.

WATTLED JACANA, *Jacana jacana*: We saw this long-toed species often, on each day of the trip, including immatures.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER, *Actitis macularius*: Observed on 3 different days, this migrant is not uncommon along the Amazon and its tributaries.

YELLOW-BILLED TERN, *Sternula superciliaris*: The “Least Tern” of the Neotropics, we saw this common species on 6 days.

LARGE-BILLED TERN, *Phaetus simplex*: A unique tern indeed, we enjoyed watching this species every day of our trip.

ROCK PIGEON, *Columba livia*: Doing well in Iquitos.

PALE-VENTED PIGEON, *Patagioenas cayennensis*: Observed on 2 days, some high atop a tree, some flying over the river.

RUDDY PIGEON, *Columba subvinacea*: Heard often and observed on 4 days, usually flying across the river or stream.

HOATZIN, *Opisthocomus hoazin*: Superb long and close looks at this iconic bird of the Neotropics, in its own family, a mystery bird in many ways. Seen on 3 days.

GREATER ANI, *Crotophaga major*: Seen on six days, often close looks at this largest of the anis.

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI, *Crotophaga ani*: Seen on three days, usually in groups in shrubby vegetation along the riversides.

SQUIRREL CUCKOO, *Piaya cayana*: Seen on three days and good views in the open on the final boat trip.

TROPICAL SCREECH OWL, *Megascops choliba*: First heard by Ed and by Juan, good looks were had on our night boat excursion.

FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL, *Glaucidium brasilianum*: We heard one clearly but it never responded to playback.

PAURAQUE, *Nyctidromus albicollis*: We heard this common nightjar of the tropics during our night boat ride but did not see it.

SAND-COLORED NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles rupestris*: Nice looks at flying birds during our night boat ride.

LADDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR, *Hydropsalis climacocerca*: We had exceptional looks at one bird roosting during the day.

COMMON POTOO, *Nyctibius griseus*: Outstanding looks at one perched during our night boat ride.

GREAT POTOO, *Nyctibius grandis*: Superb views of one perched on a stump and several others, as well as flying birds, during our night boat ride. Also one perched during the day at the terra firme forest.

SHORT-TAILED SWIFT, *Chaetura brachyura*: Seen on at least three days flying over the river.

FORK-TAILED PALM-SWIFT, *Tachornis (Reinarda) squamata*: Seen in flight on three different days.

REDDISH HERMIT, *Phaethornis ruber*: Good looks at one bird hovering repeatedly around a cluster of red bromeliads.

BLACK-THROATED MANGO, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*: Brief look (for some) at one bird.

GREEN-BACKED TROGON, *Trogon viridis*: Seen briefly by some of us in the *terra firme* forest and photographed well by Ed.

RINGED KINGFISHER, *Ceryle torquata*: Observed on a daily basis along the various rivers and watercourses.

AMAZON KINGFISHER, *Chloroceryle amazon*: Seen on 6 days, often briefly perched or flying along the riversides.

GREEN KINGFISHER, *Chloroceryle americana*: Seen on 4 days, good looks.

AMERICAN PYGMY KINGFISHER, *Chloroceryle aenea*: Briefly seen by a few of us before it disappeared into the flooded forest.

BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD, *Monasa nigrifrons*: Seen extremely well on 4 days.

SWALLOW-WINGED PUFFBIRD, *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*: Seen on 3 days, always perched high in a tree, sometimes flying out to try and capture prey.

PIED PUFFBIRD, *Notharchus tectus*: First spotted by Sylvia, we all got good looks at this smallish puffbird.

WHITE-EARED JACAMAR, *Galbalcyrrhynchus leucotis*: Great views of two birds when we first encountered this species and then two further sightings on different days.

BLuish-Fronted JACAMAR, *Galbula cyanescens*: Seen once but good looks.

SCARLET-CROWNED BARBET, *Capito aurovirens*: Several sightings on 3 different days including along the river bank in Iquitos.

LEMON-THROATED BARBET, *Eubucco richardsoni*: Seen once when we were also watching a flock of Paradise Tanagers along with a pair of White-eared Jacamars.

CHESTNUT-EARED ARACARI, *Pteroglossus castanotis*: Observed on 5 days, our only rhamphastid, but seen very well.

YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER, *Melanerpes cruentatus*: Seen on 3 days, usually along riverside. Seen well on our first morning aboard the *Zafiru*.

SPOT-BREASTED WOODPECKER, *Colaptes punctigula*: Seen on 4 days, including some outstanding, close, long looks.

CREAM-COLORED WOODPECKER, *Celeus flavus*: Seen well on 2 days, once at nest hole. Both sexes observed.

CHESTNUT WOODPECKER, *Celeus elegans*: Seen on two days, both very well. Second sighting was of a pair at a nest hole.

CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER, *Campephilus melanoleucos*: Seen on four days, great looks, including at nest hole.

BLACK CARACARA, *Daptrius ater*: Seen three times, once perched in the open along the riverside.

RED-THROATED CARACARA, *Ibycter americanus*: Seen and heard once, briefly, in flight.

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA, *Milvago chimachima*: Seen daily and often, very common throughout.

LAUGHING FALCON, *Herpetotheres cachcinnans*: Seen twice, perched and in flight.

BAT FALCON, *Falco ruficularis*: Seen twice, including among a flock of White-winged Parakeets.

PEREGRINE FALCON, *Falco peregrinus*: Seen once, very well, perched in a tree along the riverside.

TUI PARAKEET, *Brotogeris sactithomae*: Small flocks seen twice, always in flight.

WHITE-WINGED PARAKEET, *Brotogeris versicolurus*: We saw thousands in flocks throughout the trip, including "murmurations" of flocks coming to roost.

COBALT-WINGED PARAKEET, *Brotogeris cyanaptera*: Seen on three days, usually in flight.

BLUE-HEADED PARROT, *Pionus menstruus*: Seen once, in flight.

SHORT-TAILED PARROT, *Graydidascalus brachyurus*: Observed on 3 days, once at nest hole.

FESTIVE PARROT, *Amazona festiva*: Seen on three days including a pair in courtship behavior.

ORANGE-WINGED PARROT, *Amazona amazonica*: Seen on 5 days, usually in flight but we also observed some perched along the riverside.

DUSKY-HEADED PARAKEET, *Aratinga weddellii*: Observed on two days, in flight and perched at nest hole.

RED-BELLIED MACAW, *Orthopsittaca manilata*: We saw small flocks, always in flight, on 2 different days.

BLUE-AND-YELLOW MACAW, *Ara ararauna*: Excellent looks in flight and perched. Seen on two days.

SCARLET MACAW, *Ara macao*: We observed a pair of briefly land in a cecropia along a river channel but they took to the air before we could really enjoy them. But we saw them well in flight.

CHESTNUT-FRONTED MACAW, *Ara severus*: Observed on 3 days, once a single bird perched in the open atop a tree, great looks.

WHITE-EYED PARAKEET, *Aratinga leucophthalma*: Seen on 5 days, usually small flocks flying over, often very good looks.

BLACK-CRESTED ANTSHRIKE, *Sakesphorous canadensis*: Observed on one day, along a river channel, singing.

BARRED ANTSHRIKE, *Thamnophilus doliatus*: Head almost daily and observed very well on our first morning outing, a pair in the open.

AMAZONIAN STREAKED-ANTWREN, *Myrmotherula multostriata*: This furtive species was only seen once and only seen well by John and Julie.

BAND-TAILED ANTBIRD, *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*: Some of us were lucky to get a brief view of a pair perched low along the river channel.

LONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER, *Nascia longirostris*: Observed on three days, once very nicely near where we were observing Night Monkeys.

STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER, *Dendroplex picus*: Seen once, briefly, and only by a few of us.

PALE-LEGGED HORNERO, *Furnarius leucopus*: Heard on a few occasions but never observed.

RED-AND-WHITE SPINETAIL, *Certhiaxis mustellina*: Excellent looks on our first outing along the riverside, a pair. Briefly seen on one other day.

SPOTTED TODY-TYRANT, *Todirostrum maculatum*: Briefly seen once along one of the river channels.

DRAB WATER-TYRANT, *Ochthornis littoralis*: Outstanding close looks at this well-named species on two occasions.

WHITE-HEADED MARSH-TYRANT, *Arundinicola leucocephala*: Excellent views of both sexes on our first day on the river. Seen once after that.

CINNAMON ATTILA, *Attila cinnamomeus*: Seen and heard once, on our first day.

SHORT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus ferox*: Seen only once but perched in the open.

LESSER KISKADEE, *Pitangus (Philohydor) lector*: Seen on three days and likely overlooked on some others. Common along the river channels.

GREAT KISKADEE, *Pitangus sulphuratus*: One of the most widespread and characteristic birds of the Neotropics, we observed this species on all but one day and we heard it daily.

BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER, *Megarhynchus pitangua*: Seen well in Iquitos on our riverside excursion on Saturday afternoon, our first day.

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER, *Myiozetetes similis*: Very common along the river and channel edges, seen almost daily.

STEAKED FLYCATCHER, *Myiodynastes maculatus*: Seen only once but reasonably good view.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus*: The “TK” is arguably the most commonly observed species on most Neotropical trips. Our trip was no exception.

EASTERN KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus tyrannus*: This migrant from North America (or “to” North America) was seen by some on our first day birding in Iquitos.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER, *Tyrannus savanna*: This is an austral migrant and we saw hundreds of them on some days and at least a few on every day of our trip.

PLUM-THROATED COTINGA, *Cotinga maynana*: Seen on two days, being a typical cotinga, perched high in a tree.

BARE-NECKED FRUIT-CROW, *Gymnoderus foetidus*: A riverside species, we saw pairs of this species on 3 days.

WHITE-BEARDED MANAKIN, *Manacus manacus*: Seen by most of us on the *terra firme* walk.

BLACK-CROWNED TITYRA, *Tityra inquisitor*: Seen only once but very well atop a tree with a large insect in its beak.

MASKED TITYRA, *Tityra semifasciata*: Seen on two days, this widespread tityra was, not unsurprisingly, perched in the open atop a tree snag.

VIOLACEOUS JAY, *Cyanocorax violaceus*: Heard well on one day (and pointed out by Juan) but it did not choose to show itself.

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*: Observed daily along the river and the various channels.

WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW, *Tachycineta albiventer*: Individuals and groups were common daily along the river and channels.

WHITE-BANDED SWALLOW, *Atticora fasciata*: Several observed well on the Rio Momon on our final morning of birding, in Iquitos.

BARN SWALLOW, *Hirundo rustica*: We observed a sizeable flock of this North American migrant along the river on our first day aboard the *Zafiro*. They were likely heading north.

HOUSE WREN, *Troglodytes aedon*: A widespread species indeed, some of us saw House Wrens in Iquitos on our first day.

MUSTACHED WREN, *Thryothorus genibarbis*: Often heard and seen once by some of us. A skulker.

THRUSH-LIKE WREN, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*: Another “voice in the flooded forest,” this species was heard well several times but never seen.

BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIOUS, *Conacobius atricapilla*: Just a great Neotropical bird, we saw the Donacobius very well on several occasions and recorded it on 4 days.

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH, *Turdus ignobilis*: This somewhat inconspicuous relative of the American Robin was recorded on 3 days and seen well, including in Iquitos along the river.

RED-CAPPED CARDINAL, *Paroaria gularis*: Once considered to be a cardinal and now considered to be a “tanager,” we saw this striking species on 6 days, often flying along the channel but sometimes perched in the open.

ORANGE-HEADED TANAGER, *Thlypopsis sordida*: Seen well in Iquitos on our first day, at the riverside.

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER, *Rhamphocelus carbo*: A common edge species, we saw it on 6 days of the trip.

MASKED CRIMSON TANAGER, *Rhamphocelus nigrogularis*: We saw this spectacular tanager at close range, great looks. We encountered it on 4 different days.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER, *Thraupis episcopus*: This is a widespread Neotropical tanager and we saw the Amazon subspecies on four days.

PALM TANAGER, *Thraupis palmarum*: Another widespread tanager species, we saw it very closely on one occasion and recorded it twice.

PARADISE TANAGER, *Tangara chilensis*: A spectacular *Tangara*, we saw the species on 3 days but one occasion enjoyed watching a small flock foraging close to us, making for nice looks.

YELLOW-BELLIED DACNIS, *Dacnis flaviventer*: Seen only once and not by all of us.

BLUE DACNIS, *Dacnis cayana*: Seen once, on our first day aboard the *Zafiro*.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEEDEATER, *Sporophila castaneiventris*: We got nice looks at this species, common in shrubby riverside habitats, on our first outing and saw it several other places on 4 days.

CAQUETA SEEDEATER, *Sporophila mulallae*: We had good looks at this black-and-white seedeater on our first skiff ride.

GRAYISH SALTATOR, *Saltator coerulescens*: We saw this species on 2 days, always in the open in a tree.

YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW, *Ammodramus aurifrons*: Seen briefly by some on our first skiff ride.

ORIOLE BLACKBIRD, *Gymnomystax mexicanus*: This is a common and strikingly handsome riverside species and we saw it well on 6 days.

YELLOW-HOODED BLACKBIRD, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*: We had good looks at many of these blackbirds on 3 different days. Most memorable was near sunset after we saw our first Hoatzins, a large flock of Yellow-hooded Blackbirds roosting in a marsh.

SHINY COWBIRD, *Molothrus bonariensis*: Observed on 2 different days. This species is a brood parasite of cacique nesting colonies.

YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE, *Cacicus cela*: Well observed and common, seen on 7 days, including nesting colonies.

RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA, *Psarocolius angustifrons*: Observed on 8 days, usually flying, but on a few occasions perched. We saw many of the colony trees laden with pendulous nests.

GOLDEN-BELLIED EUPHONIA, *Euphonia chrysopasta*: Seen only once and briefly, on our first day aboard the boat.

## **MAMMALS (15 species total)**

BROWN-THROATED THREE-TOED SLOTH, *Bradypus variegatus*: We found sloths on 3 different days, usually tucking in deeply in foliage but one we came upon a male in the open in a tall cecropia.

PYGMY MARMOSET, *Cebuella pygmaea*: Juan was sharp to notice a group of this smallest of monkeys, affording wonderful looks.

SADDLEBACK TAMARIN, *Saguinus fasciollis*: We had nice looks at this small monkey, but only once.

COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY, *Saimiri sciureus*: Several good sightings, seen on 4 days, sometimes with babies clinging to their parents.

BROWN CAPUCHIN, *Cebus apella (hirsute)*: Seen once and somewhat challenging, back among the foliage, but most got good, if brief views.

EQUATORIAL SAKI MONKEY, *Pithecia aequatorialis*: Observed very well along the river on one of our first skiff outings.

MONK SAKI MONKEY, *Pithecia monachus*: Seen extremely well on 2 different days.

COMMON WOOLLY MONKEY, *Lagothrix lagothricha*: Seen on 2 days, these animals seemed as curious about us as we were about them.

NIGHT MONKEY (OWL MONKEY), *Aotus vociferans*: This hard to find species afforded wonderful looks on 2 different days. We got very lucky on this species.

RED HOWLER MONKEY, *Alouatta seniculus*: Observed once, deep in foliage, but visible as they moved through the trees.

AMAZONIAN BAMBOO RAT, *Microsciurus flaviventer*: The odd sound made by this animal was part of our night outing. We never saw it.

LONG-NOSED BAT, *Rhynchonycteris naso*: These small bats roost along riverside trees and fly off as a flock when disturbed. We saw them flying on our night ride.

FISHING BAT, *Noctilio leporinus*: This large bat species gaffs fish from the surface of ponds and slow streams. We saw many of them in the lights during our night excursion.

PINK RIVER DOLPHIN, *Inia geoffrensis*: Another highly iconic species of the Amazon River and its tributaries, we had amazing and frequent looks on 4 different days including having some feeding off the stern of the *Zafiro* as we were enjoying breakfast.

GRAY RIVER DOLPHIN, *Sotalia fluviatilis*: We observed this species often, on 5 days, sometimes just around the *Zafiro*. Great looks.

## **REPTILES**

COMMON (GREEN) IGUANA, *Iguana iguana*: We had great looks at sunning iguanas of various sizes on 3 days of the trip.

AMAZON WHIPTAIL, *Ameiva ameiva*. This colorful green and brown lizard with a “dinosaur-like” head was common around the villages. We saw several.



SPECTACLED CAIMAN, *Caiman crocodilus*: Juan presented us with a small version of this common and widespread “alligator of the Amazon” during our night excursion. Nice grab Juan.

YELLOW-FOOTED TORTOISE, *Chelonoidis denticulate*: We saw one of these Amazonian tortoises as we began our walk in the terra firme forest, a “rescue animal.”

## **FISH (all captured)**

RED-BELLIED PIRANHA, *Pygocentrus nattereri*: Several caught on our “fishing excursion.”

SPOTTED PIRANHA, *Serrasalmus* spp.: As above.

SILVER DOLLAR FISH, *Metynnis* spp. This was the fish Juan arranged to successfully offer to the local Black-collared Hawk.

## **NOTABLE INVERTEBRATES**

PINK-TOED TARANTULA, *Avicularia versicolor*: We saw one on the first of the Village walks.

TARANTULA SP.: A small black tarantula shared our skiff.

BLUE MORPHO BUTTERFLY, *Morpho melelaus*: Seen well on the terra firme walk.

OWL BUTTERFLY, *Caligo* spp. Seen well on the terra firme walk.

HELICONIUS BUTTERFLY, *Heliconius* spp., Seen various places including the orangy butterflies at the zinnias and other flowers in the Village.

SULPHUR BUTTERFLY, *Phoebis* spp. The yellow butterflies seen throughout.

SWALLOW-TAILED MOTH (species unknown): Seen well on the flowers in the village gardens.

SCARLET-TAILED DRAGONFLY (species unknown): Seen here and there including on our skiff.

WALKING STICK (too many possible species to even speculate): One seen well on a leaf on the terra firme walk.

CICADA: There are a gazillion species and we saw one sizeable example on the *terra firme* walk.



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