

**ECUADOR:
AMAZONIA AT NAPO WILDLIFE
CENTER**

JANUARY 9 – 18, 2014



Hoatzin ©David Wolf

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TOUR REPORT
ECUADOR: AMAZONIA AT NAPO WILDLIFE CENTER
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By David Wolf

To visit the Napo Wildlife Center is to enter another realm, one so totally different from our own that it is easy to feel “lost.” Here we left the familiar behind and entered the world of the Amazonian rainforest. For our local guide, Jorge Rivanideira, however, this forest is home and he knows it intimately. As soon as we arrived he began to put his knowledge and formidable skills to work for us, and for the next week he found one spectacular bird after another. Each excursion produced memorable sightings, small pieces of a very complex puzzle, and by the time we left we had begun to understand this unique environment a bit more.

The Amazonian rainforest is a place of many moods, sometimes dark and mysterious, perhaps even a bit threatening, yet at other times bright and breezy. Sometimes it was absolutely still as we drifted along in silence, wondering whether there really were any birds and animals out there in the amazing mass of tangled roots and epiphyte-laden trees. Then, suddenly, there “it” was, a stunning Agami Heron hiding in the swampy understory, or a spectacular Long-billed Woodcreeper with a large prey item, a guan sneaking through the canopy, or a troop of Giant Otters popping up beside our canoe. The frenetic activities of troops of monkeys provided comic relief, while the brilliant blue flashes of passing morpho butterflies always elicited an “ooh” of appreciation. Who could ever forget the thrill of finally spotting the well-concealed Zigzag Heron on its nest, or watching displaying male umbrellabirds for 20 minutes, or the pastel sunsets just before a luminous moon rose over the lake? Such are the serendipitous pleasures of birding in these magical forests!

Visits to the very sturdy tower took us into another realm, one of brightness and light, as we gazed out upon the endless green carpet of the forest canopy. Here, in the early morning hours, birds were active everywhere that we looked, from noisy oropendolas to colorful cotingas, Gilded Barbets, and tanagers sitting up. All seven local members of the spectacular toucan family provided us with scope views, as did five members of the odd cotinga family, including the rarely-seen Purple-throated Cotinga. White-necked Puffbirds joined us in “our” tree, while pairs of tiny and colorful Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatchers and Golden-bellied Euphonias worked on nests only a few feet from us. Later, down below, we walked the never-flooded forest, bumping into small mixed-flocks of antbirds and woodcreepers as they faded back into the forest. A Rufous-capped Antthrush paraded across the open forest floor, male Golden-headed Manakins displayed in the midstory, and Jorge’s incredible eyes spotted a close roosting Long-tailed Potoo, camouflaged to look like a dead leaf. How he ever saw this bird we will never understand.

Hikes into the high-ground forests proved to be our most challenging excursions, yet in many ways they were the most special. In this realm of towering trees and muddy trails we found a nice variety of antbirds, including the recently-described Brown-backed Antwren, plus stunning forest interior species like the Yellow-billed Jacamar and Black-throated Trogon. The most

special of all was a brilliant male Black-necked Red-Cotinga that sat in full view in the open midstory for a few brief moments.

Every day here brought wonderful surprises, from well-concealed Crested Owls at their day roost to a motionless Gray-breasted Crake on a young river island, to jewel-like Green-and-rufous Kingfishers zipping along the creek, and to spider monkeys swinging through the treetops. The parrot show at the clay licks was simply amazing, first with dozens of Mealy, Yellow-crowned, and Blue-headed parrots coming to banks on the great Napo River, and then at the forest interior cave where shy Scarlet Macaws sat in the trees overhead, watching as hundreds of Cobalt-winged Parakeets and a smattering of gorgeous Orange-cheeked Parrots and Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlets came down to the salty mud.

All too soon our week in this amazing place came to an end, but the memories will linger forever. Our special thanks go to Jorge and all of the members of the Anangu community who made this visit possible.

Itinerary:

January 9: night at the Hotel Quito in Quito.

January 10: a mid-morning flight to Coca, where upon arrival we transferred to the dock on the Napo River and boarded the motorized boat for the trip downriver to the landing for YasuniEcoLodge. After checking in we spent the late afternoon birding the community trail and clearings.

January 11: a big day along the Napo River, beginning with the umbrellabirds and then visiting the parrot clay licks on the Napo River and nearby, including an elegant lunch delivered to us in the forest blind. We also birded a young river island in the mid-morning.

January 12: morning canoe trip birding our way upstream to Napo Wildlife Center and an afternoon canoe cruise along the lakeshore and a quiet side stream.

January 13: morning visit to the Tower until 10 a.m. and then nearby along the Tower Trail. Afternoon canoe cruise on the lake and creek.

January 14: most of the day spent hiking the Tiputini Trail into the upland terra firme forest.

January 15: morning hike in the transitional forest on the Cotinga Trail and an afternoon canoe cruise on the creek.

January 16: a return trip to the Tower and nearby on the Tower Trail and in the afternoon a final canoe cruise on the lake and creek.

January 17: early morning departure for the return trip to Coca. For those departing a late morning flight back to Quito. Participants continuing on the “East-slope of the Andes” tour met the incoming participants and drove to Wild Sumaco after lunch in Coca.

Bird List: a few highlights, group favorites and rare sightings are bolded.

Cinereous Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinereus*) – heard only

Undulated Tinamou (*Crypturellus undulates*) – heard only (often!); the only tinamou that was very vocal right now.

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)

Spix’s Guan (*Penelope jacquacu*)

Blue-throated Piping-Guan (*Pipile cumanensis*)

Salvin’s Curassow (*Mitu salvini*) – a great indicator of well-protected habitat.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Zigzag Heron (*Zebrilus undulatus*) – amazing looks at an incredibly well-camouflaged bird as it sat on its nest with neck and bill stretched upright; seen several times.

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoa*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*)

Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*) – two sightings of stunning adults in full breeding finery, both of them lurking in the shadows of the tangled swamp forest along the creeks.

Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*)

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*)

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) – in flight along the Napo River; a local rarity.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*)

King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*)

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)

Slender-billed Kite (*Helicolestes hamatus*) – several sightings of this very localized swamp inhabitant.

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*)

Bicolored Hawk (*Accipiter bicolor*) – nice scope study of an adult perched on the canopy in the early morning, from the Tower.

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*)

Gray-breasted Crake (*Laterallus exilis*) – Jorge did an amazing job of rounding this up for us on a young river island; it sat in view for minutes until we all spotted it.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

Azure Gallinule (*Porphyrio flavirostris*) – glimpsed.

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) – more than usual and seen often.

Gray-winged Trumpeter (*Psophia crepitans*) – seen by a few on the Cotinga Trail.

Pied Lapwing (*Vanellus cayanus*)

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*)

Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*)

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*)

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)

Gray-fronted Dove (*Leptotila rufaxilla*) – heard only

Sapphire Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon saphirina*) – heard only (but close).

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*) – heard only

Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) – a comical favorite that was common and conspicuous.

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)

Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*) – large numbers along the creek and lakeshore.

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)

Tropical Screech-Owl (*Megascops choliba*) – a very responsive bird at the lodge.

Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl (*Megascops watsonii*) – called up like magic as darkness fell.

Crested Owl (*Lophotrix cristata*) – a well-hidden pair at their day roost.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) – a rare surprise on the young river island and a recent addition to the Napo area list.

Short-tailed Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*)

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)

Ladder-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)

Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*)

Long-tailed Potoo (*Nyctibius aethereus*) – an incredibly well-hidden bird at its dayroost in the forest understory; an amazing find by Jorge.

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*)

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift (*Tachornis squamata*)

Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsutus*)

White-bearded Hermit (*Phaethornis hispidus*)

Straight-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis bourcieri*)

Great-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis malaris*)

Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)

Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)

Olive-spotted Hummingbird (*Leucippus chlorocercus*) – decent looks at this rather drab specialist found only on the young river islands.

Glittering-throated Emerald (*Amazilia fimbriata*)

Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*)

Green-backed (Amazonian White-tailed) Trogon (*Trogon viridis*)

Amazonian (Amazonian Violaceous) Trogon (*Trogon ramonianus*) – heard only

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*)

Amazonian Motmot (*Momotus momota*) – heard only

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*)

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazon*)

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle inda*) – this flighty gem was seen a number of times along the creek.

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*)

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*) – they joined us in “our” Tower tree.

Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*)

Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)

White-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa morphoeus*)

Swallow-winged Puffbird (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)

Yellow-billed Jacamar (*Galbula albirostris*) – scope studies of this hard-to-find species in the lower midstory of the terra firme forest.

White-chinned Jacamar (*Galbula tombacea*)

Purplish Jacamar (*Galbula chalcothorax*) – heard only

Great Jacamar (*Jacamerops aureus*) – a real neck-breaker.

Scarlet-crowned Barbet (*Capito aurovirens*)

Gilded Barbet (*Capito auratus*) – almost close enough to touch when a family group of 4 joined us in the Tower tree.

Lettered Aracari (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*)

Chestnut-eared Aracari (*Pteroglossus castanotis*)

Many-banded Aracari (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*)

Ivory-billed Aracari (*Pteroglossus azara*)

Golden-collared Toucanet (*Selenidera reinwardtii*) – beautiful looks at this toucan with the unusual colors and patterns; the hardest-to-find of the 7 species of toucans that we saw.

White-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus*)

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)
 Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)
 Little Woodpecker (*Veniliornis passerinus*)
 Spot-breasted Woodpecker (*Colaptes punctigula*)
 Scale-breasted Woodpecker (*Celeus grammicus*)
 Chestnut Woodpecker (*Celeus elegans*)
Cream-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus flavus*) – a much-desired bird.

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)
 Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)
 Black Caracara (*Daptrius ater*)
 Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*)
 Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*)
 Dusky-headed Parakeet (*Aratinga weddellii*)

Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) – scope looks at several sitting in the trees just above the forest interior salt lick, but they never came down.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*)
 Red-bellied Macaw (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)
 Cobalt-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris cyanopectera*)

Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet (*Touit huetii*) – an uncommon little psittacid rarely seen away from the forest interior salt lick.

Black-headed Parrot (*Pionites melanocephala*)
 Orange-cheeked Parrot (*Pyrilia barrabandi*)
 Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)
 Yellow-crowned Parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala*)
 Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*)
 Orange-winged Parrot (*Amazona amazonica*)
 Fulvous Antshrike (*Frederickena fulva*) – heard only
 Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*)
 Plain-winged Antshrike (*Thamophilus schistaceus*) – heard only
 Mouse-colored Antshrike (*Thamophilus murinus*)
 White-shouldered Antshrike (*Thamophilus aethiops*)
 Dusky-throated Antshrike (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)
 Cinereous Antshrike (*Thamnomanes caesius*)
 Plain-throated Antwren (*Isleria hauxwelli*)

Brown-backed (Yasuni) Antwren (*Epinecrophylla fjeldsaai*) – a recently-described species seen very well on the high-ground Tiputini Trail.

Ornate Antwren (*Epinecrophylla ornata*)
 Pygmy Antwren (*Myrmotherula brachyuran*)
 Moustached (Short-billed) Antwren (*Myrmotherula ignota obscura*)
 Amazonian Streaked-Antwren (*Myrmotherula multostriata*)
 White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)
 Long-winged Antwren (*Myrmotherula longipennis*)
 Gray Antwren (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*)

Banded Antbird (*Dichrozona cincta*) – great looks at this peculiar little antbird of the open forest floor.

Peruvian Warbling-Antbird (*Hypocnemis peruviana*)
 Black-faced Antbird (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*)
 Silvered Antbird (*Sclateria naevia*)
 Spot-winged Antbird (*Schistocichla leucostigma*)
 White-shouldered Antbird (*Myrmeciza melanoceps*)

Plumbeous Antbird (*Myrmeciza hyperythra*) – an antbird that was especially responsive and close

Sooty Antbird (*Myrmeciza fortis*)

Lunulated Antbird (*Gymnopathys lunulatus*)

Dot-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax punctulatus*) – attractive specialty of the flooded swamp forest.

Common Scale-backed Antbird (*Willisornis poecilinotus*)

Black-spotted Bare-eye (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*) – a very beautiful – and sneaky – large antbird seen well our first afternoon.

Ochre-striped Antpitta (*Grallaria dignissima*) – heard only

Rusty-belted Tapaculo (*Liosceles thoracicus*)

Rufous-capped Antthrush (*Formicarius colma*) – parading around on the open forest floor.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper (*Dendrexetastes rufigula*)

Long-billed Woodcreeper (*Nasica longirostris*) – spectacular when it appeared down low in the understory right beside our canoe, with a large prey item in the incredible bill.

Black-banded Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*)

Striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*)

Ocellated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus ocellatus*)

Buff-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)

Point-tailed Palmcreeper (*Berlepschia rikeri*) – heard; glimpsed.

Parker's (White-breasted) Spinetail (*Cranioleuca vulpecula*)

White-bellied Spinetail (*Synallaxis propinqua*) – heard; glimpsed.

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

River Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga hypoleuca*)

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant (*Stigmatura napensis*) – a river island specialist not often seen this well.

Spotted Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum maculatum*)

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*) – eye-level looks at a nest-building pair in the Tower tree.

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*) – heard; glimpsed.

Black-tailed Flycatcher (*Myiobius atricaudus*)

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*)

Drab Water-Tyrant (*Ochthornis littoralis*)

Rufous-tailed Flatbill (*Ramphotricon ruficauda*)

Cinnamon Attila (*Attila cinnamomeus*) – beautiful pair in the swamp forest.

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*)

Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*)

Lesser Kiskadee (*Pitangus lector*)

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*)

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)

Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*)

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Black-necked Red-Cotinga (*Phoenicircus nigricollis*) – we hiked a long way to get our look at this stunning bird, but eventually it sat out in full view.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*)

Amazonian Umbrellabird (*Cephalopterus ornatus*) – it was an unforgettable experience to watch at least displaying males (in two trees) for almost 30 minutes! So very, very strange...

Plum-throated Cotinga (*Cotinga maynana*)

Spangled Cotinga (*Cotinga cayana*)

Screaming Piha (*Lipaugus vociferans*)

Purple-throated Cotinga (*Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema*) – distant bird from the Tower; a very rarely-seen species.

Bare-necked Fruitcrow (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin (*Tyrannetes stolzmanni*)

Blue-backed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia pareola*)

Striped Manakin (*Machaeropterus regulus*) – heard only

White-crowned Manakin (*Dixiphia pipra*) – female-plumaged only

Golden-headed Manakin (*Ceratopipra erythrocephala*) – males displaying in the midstory.

White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*) – female-plumaged only

Orange-crowned Manakin (*Heterocercus aurantiivertex*) – great looks at a drab species that is almost an Ecuador endemic.

Wire-tailed Manakin (*Pipra filicauda*) – sneaky male watched in the understory.

Blue-crowned Manakin (*Lepidothrix coronata*)

Black-tailed Tityra (*Tityra cayana*)

Pink-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus minor*)

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*)

Violaceous Jay (*Cyanocorax violaceus*)

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) – at the dock in Coca

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)

White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*)

Bank Swallow (Sand Martin) (*Riparia riparia*)

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon musculus*)

Thrush-like Wren (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)

Coraya Wren (*Pheugopedius coraya*) – heard only

Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapilla*) – a vocal and conspicuous favorite seen often around the lakeshore and along the creek.

Lawrence's Thrush (*Turdus lawrencii*) – one of the world's most talented mimics and heard often, but only one distant bird was seen (from the Tower).

Black-billed Thrush (*Turdus ignobilis*)

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*) – Quito

Red-capped Cardinal (*Paroaria gularis*)

Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leverianus*)

Orange-headed Tanager (*Thlypopsis sordida*)

Flame-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus cristatus*)

Masked Crimson Tanager (*Ramphocelus nigrogularis*) - stunning!

Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)

Masked Tanager (*Tangara nigrocincta*)

Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)

Opal-rumped Tanager (*Tangara velia*)

Opal-crowned Tanager (*Tangara callophrys*)

Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*)

Yellow-bellied Dacnis (*Dacnis flaviventer*)

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)

Yellow-browed Sparrow (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*)

Oriole Blackbird (*Gymnomystax mexicanus*) – colorful and conspicuous on the river island.

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)

Red-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus haemorrhous*)

Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*) – the most conspicuous bird around the lodge, with several nesting colonies in full swing.

Russet-backed Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)

Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

Olive (Amazonian) Oropendola (*Psarocolius bifasciatus*)

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)

Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonia (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)

Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)

Mammal List:

Golden-mantled Tamarin (*Saguinus tripartitus*)

Dusky Titi Monkey (*Callicebus moloch*) – an especially calm animal that allowed a long look.

Common Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)

White-fronted Capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*)

Night (Owl) Monkey (*Aotus sp?*)

Red Howler Monkey (*Aloatta seniculus*)

White-bellied Spider Monkey (*Ateles belzebuth*) – a great indicator of well-protected forest.

Capybara (*Hydrochoeris hydrochoeris*) – tracks only, on the river island

Long-nosed Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*) – roosting under the dock

Fishing Bat sp? (*Noctilio sp?*)

Insectivorous bats

puma (*Puma concolor*) or jaguar (*Panthera onca*) – tracks only, on the Tiputini Trail

Neotropical Otter (*Lutra longicaudus*)

Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) – great close encounters with a family group of 8 on several occasions, including right beside our canoe.

Brazilian Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) – tracks only, on the creekbanks and Tiputini Trail

White-lipped Peccary (*Tayassu pecari*) – tracks only; on the Tiputini Trail

brocket deer sp? (*Mazama sp?*) – tracks only

Reptiles & Amphibians: very little information is available for this group of vertebrates in this region.

“tiny forest frog”

“small forest toad”

Black Caiman (*Caiman (Melanosuchus) niger*) – including a couple of very big ones!

Yellow-spotted River Turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*)

“small brown anole” – on the Tower tree

“medium-sized anole” – on the Tower tree

“other lizards”

“very slender snake”

And a few other creatures of note:

“huge orange tarantula” – on the trail to the forest interior salt lick; almost crab-like.

“big brown tarantula” – on the Tower platform

big millipedes

lemon ants – tasty!

army ants – no large swarms
leaf-cutter ants
morpho butterflies – spectacular
giant-owl butterflies

(and many other smaller butterflies – the best reference book that I know of for this region is
“Butterflies of Southern Amazonia” by Garwood and Lehman).