

Early in the morning of May 18 all of us go on an excursion into the watery forest in order to have breakfast aboard the three skiffs. We had to take a short ride up the Ucayali river to Atun Poza Lake. The lake's name means "lagoon of fish." Many of the native people are in narrow dugout canoes deploying very large gill nets. Some are already harvesting their catch. Catfish are among the most prized catches. Excepting that we are out in the forest sitting in skiffs the breakfast is another gourmet meal served with elegance.

We see a lot of birds on this excursion into and out of Atun Poza. Two Crimson-crested Woodpeckers are seen working a dead tree.



They remind me of our Pileated Woodpeckers in Georgia, although not quite as large as ours. Another Roadside Hawk is seen as is another Black Hawk. All over the place flocks of Neotropical Cormorants are flying in V-formations. Jabiru Storks are seen with their red necks clearly visible. Turkey vultures and Black Vultures are also common here. A few vultures are drying their wings in the sun.

This may be due to rain during the night. I once heard a naturalist say that it is also a way for them to get rid of parasites such as lice, but I haven't confirmed that.



We also see more Horned Screemers, two more sloths and our daily quota of Black-collared Hawks.

On the way in we detoured to see Giant Lily Pads that can grow to 6 feet in diameter. Jacanas like to walk on them.



On the way back to the Delfin II we also see a Black-necked Stilt, one of the 23 or so migratory birds out of over 400 species found in Peru,



and a Laughing Falcon, noted (and named) for the sound it makes.



From 4 to 7 pm we were on the Pacaya River deep inside Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. We saw sloths again and several Squirrel Monkeys.



A first time sighting was a Brown Capuchin Monkey in a kapok tree. He was very animated by our presence.



While others had already seen the Great Potoo this was my first time and we saw three.



There were more Horned Screamers and as it got dark around 6:30 pm Fish Eating Bats came out. So did the Tarantulas, two of them climbing down trees from their lairs high up in the bromeliads. They don't get in the water but come down close to the surface to hunt. The two we saw were Pink Toad Tarantulas. A bright spotlight was used to scan the trees for animals.



Earlier we went into a large lake named Yanayacu for a swim with the dolphins. There was a Fox swimming with them too.





Here is a shot of Kathryn Dailey close to a pink dolphin in the lake.



This is what a really good photo of a Pink Dolphin looks like (shot by Jon Dailey).

