

May 19 would be our last full day in the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve. We began the day with a 6:30-8 am skiff ride into Supay cañon not more than ½ mile from the Delfin II. By now many of us were quite adept at spotting animals and birds. Although different lists of sightings were made from different skiffs, all lists were remarkably long. I saw a Green Ibis, an Umbrella Bird, several flying Macaws, White-winged Parakeets squabbling loudly, Orange-winged Parrots, Yellow-headed Caracara, a Troupial, Muscovy Ducks, a Jacana, another White-eared Jacamar, a Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, several Greater Anis, White-banded Swallows, a Hummingbird not specifically identified, Green Kingfishers and others. The list of *others*, had I been able to record it, was also long.

After breakfast we went back to Supay cañon but much farther into it. We saw Toucans, Sloths and Monkey troops. Many bird species were seen. This was a fitting way to end our excursions into the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve.

For the whole week we had warm sunny weather. The little rain that fell in this rainforest while we were there fell at night or during one of our meals. At no time did we cancel or alter the timing of a skiff ride. Even more surprising was the number of mosquitoes we saw. I saw ONE. Many of us took daily doses of Malarone to ward off malaria. The predominant source of infection by the malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*, is a bite from a mosquito in the genus *Anopheles*.



During the afternoon I took a break and relaxed on board the Delfin II while Lynn and the others visited Flor de Castaña, a riverine community. I was treated to a Yellow-tufted Woodpecker in a tree near to where we were moored. Lynn got to see close-up how life is lived in a native village.

This village is on *terra firme* but boardwalks and/or stone pathways help keep one's feet dry.



Even the dogs use them. Sometimes nothing beats galoshes.



The children look both happy and healthy and there are a lot of them. Girls a mere 14 years old are mothers and large families are desired to support family activities such as fishing. There are lots of animals around such as dogs and chickens. While the chickens seem to be concerned that they may be someone's next meal the dogs are more serene. Here is a rather Zen dog.



The barefoot children run a risk of infection by parasites. Below is a picture of a dog playing with a boy.



Here are two happy children just playing.



Education and health are important to these people. The expedition has provided them with some school supplies provided by the participants. Schooling is interrupted by the rainy season.



Today the children have gathered to sing to the visitors. They sing Spanish children's songs. Our group reciprocates with English songs.

The houses are usually on stilts, for obvious reasons, and also to prevent easy access by spiders and snakes. They have thatched roofs and although cooking is done inside them there is no chimney. The smoke permeates the thatching making its way out and thereby keeps insects, especially mosquitoes to a minimum. Thatching is made from readily available palm fronds.





Fishing is still performed using dugout canoes. Below we see such a canoe and one of our skiffs waiting to leave.



In the evening after dinner, members of the naturalist staff and of the serving staff once again serenade us with a medley of songs, some Peruvian and some not. They play guitar, one of which has 10 strings, panpipe, recorder flute, bongos and “the box.” Adonay was a professional musician and singer in an earlier life, Wilson, the bongo player, is superb and a young, gifted Ivan, our cabin boy, plays panpipe, recorder flute and guitar, sometimes all at once.