



Suggested Readings

There are fewer good books about the Amazon than you might imagine, but here is a list of some useful or interesting books our staff recommends:

Bates, Henry Walter. 2002. *The Naturalist on the River Amazons: The Search for Evolution*. The Narrative Press.

Bernard, Hans-Ulrich. 2002. *Insight Guide Amazon Wildlife*. Insight Guides; 4th edition.
This guidebook is a great intro to the region and contains lots of practical information. It even has a picture of Mo and his boat, the Cichla Ocellaris! Moacir did a lot for the people who wrote this book.

Davis, Wade. 1997. *One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rain Forest*. Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition.
This is a very readable account of the search for medicinal and hallucinogenic drugs in the rain forest.

Denslow, Julie Sloan and Padoch, Christine. 1988. *People of the Tropical Rain Forest*. Univ. of California Press.
A real pretty book that was published to accompany a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit. It gives you some good views of the caboclo, the river people that we will visit.

Descola, Philippe. 1998. *The Spears of Twilight: Life and Death in the Amazon Jungle*. New Press.
A record of three years spent among the Jivaro Indians of Ecuador and Peru.

Ferraris, Carl. 1991. *Catfish in the Aquarium*. Tetra Press.

Gentry, Alwyn H. and Vasquez, Rodolfo. 1996. *A Field Guide to the Families and Genera of Woody Plants Northwest South America (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru)*. University Of Chicago Press; Reprint edition.
If you are into plants, this is the book.

Goulding, Michael. 1989. *Amazon: The Flooded Forest*. BBC Books.

Goulding, Michael, Smith, Nigel J.H, and Mahar, Dennis. 1994. *Floods of Fortune: Ecology and Economy Along the Amazon*. Columbia University Press.

Goulding, Michael, Barthem, Ronaldo, and Ferreira, Efre Jorge. 2003. *The Smithsonian Atlas of the Amazon*. Smithsonian Books.

Kane, Joe. 1996. *Savages*. Vintage; Reprint edition.
This is a very readable account of the recent contact and acculturation of the Huaorani Indians of Amazonian Ecuador.

Kobayagawa, Midori and Burgess, Warren E. 1991. *The World of Catfishes*. TFH Publications.

Kricher, John C. 1997. *A Neotropical Companion: An introduction to the animals, plants, and ecosystems of the New World Tropics*. Princeton Univ. Press, Second Edition.
The best one-shot overview of the ecology of the neotropics. This second edition was updated with lots of Amazonian data and pictures.

Maccreegh, Gordon. 2001. *White Waters and Black*. University Of Chicago Press; New Ed edition.

Millard, Candice. 2005. *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*. Doubleday.

Nugent, Stephen and Harris, Mark. 2004. *Some Other Amazonians: Perspectives On Modern Amazonia*. Brookings Institution Press.

Nugent, Stephen and Ocean, Humphrey. 1995. *Big Mouth: The Amazon Speaks*. Browntrout Publishers.

Plotkin, Mark. 1993. *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest*. Penguin Books.

Quammen, David. 1997. *The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinction*. Scribner; Reprint edition.

Quammen has been everywhere and this book, while a hefty 700 pages, gives you a good view of the science behind biogeography and extinction. It has lots of anecdotes from Amazonia and does a superb job of setting them in an understandable context.

Rockman, Alexis. 1996. *Guyana*. Twin Palms Press.

Alexis is a hot New York painter who has been creating incredible images of the rainforest. This book has some zingers and it's a beauty of a book.

Roosevelt, Theodore. 1914. *Through the Brazilian Wilderness*. C. Scribner's Sons, New York.

Slater, Candace. 2003. *Entangled Edens: Visions of the Amazon*. University of California Press

Smith, Nigel. 1999. *The Amazon River Forest: A Natural History of Plants, Animals and People*. Oxford University Press.

Although slightly dry seeing as it was published by Oxford, it does promise some interesting perspectives.

Spotte, Stephen. 2002. *Candiru: Life and Legend of the Bloodsucking Catfishes*. Creative Arts Book Company.

Terborgh, John. 1989. *Where Have All the Birds Gone? Essays on the Biology and Conservation of Birds That Migrate to the American Tropics*. Princeton University Press.

This is a splendid book, simultaneously fascinating and frightening.

Terborgh, John. 1992. *Diversity and the Tropical Rain Forest*. Scientific American Library.

This is a moderately readable overview of diversity in the tropics. There are enough good pictures to keep you from falling totally asleep.

Terborgh, John. 2004. *Requiem for Nature*. Island Press; New Ed edition.

Terborgh is a tropical biologist who was instrumental in the formation of the large National Park in Amazonian Peru known as Manu. This book reflects his fear that tropical biodiversity, even in remote parks, is in grave peril.

Wallace, Alfred W. 1853 (1889). *A Narrative of Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro: with an Account of the Native Tribes, and Observations on the Climate, Geology, and Natural History of the Amazon Valley*. Ward Lock and Co., New York.

Historically, the accounts of early Amazonian travel by Roosevelt, Bates, and Wallace are the most famous. I like this one by the co-discoverer of the theory of evolution by natural selection. It's probably pretty hard to find and impossible to buy but good luck.

Wallace, Alfred W. 2002. *Peixes do Rio Negro*. EDUSP; 1 edition. Language: Portuguese.

Wilson, Edward O. 1999. *The Diversity of Life*. W. W. Norton and Co; Reissue edition.

This is a readable account of the global biodiversity crisis from a well-respected Harvard biologist. This is a pretty easy way to get the big picture.