



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Ecuador Trip Report

Andes to the Amazon

*5<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (15 days)*



Giant Antpitta by Luis Segura

**Tour Leader:** Forrest Rowland

**Some of our tour highlights included:**

1. ZigZag Heron
2. Giant Antpitta
3. Dark-backed Wood Quail
4. Lunulated Antbird
5. Toucan Barbet
6. Plate-billed Mountain Toucan
7. Rusty-belted Tapaculo
8. Orange-breasted Fruiteater
9. Long-tailed Potoo
10. Collared Puffbird

## Tour Intro

Ecuador is quite simply incredible! In the past 15 years, this humble country has become the most traversed and well-known of all South American nations by birders, and for good reason. Despite being no larger in size than the state of Colorado (USA), and occupying less than one-quarter the size of the Republic of Colombia, Ecuador has 30% more bird species than the whole of North America and only 16% less than Colombia. This is no doubt due to the fact that Ecuador's political boundaries include some of the highest peaks in the Andean chain, perpetually snow-bound, and, of course, the humid rainforests of the Amazon, while two distinct Andean chains result in a dry Inter-Andean Valley with separate rainshadows on the outer slopes, and every habitat that such a varied and rich equatorial topography could possibly harbor. The goal of this tour was to provide an introduction to these incredible birding zones. In most countries, 14 days would fall far short in terms of adequately representing such diversity: distances would be too great, travel times prohibitive and, quite often, infrastructure in rural South America just doesn't allow for any visitors. This is why Ecuador is such an amazing country to explore - it suffers none of these ails! The following is an account of our birding travels in this enchanting land whilst simultaneously enjoying its wondrous scenery, warm hospitality, and mind-boggling diversity.

This tour was unique in a great many ways. Due to various La Nina effects and generally late nesting times, we found ourselves among birds sitting on nests and feeding their young. This situation presented some obvious difficulties, as due to the same effects, we ended up wet on a few occasions, which in turn then presented other difficulties. These hindrances bear mentioning for a tour that met with success beyond expectation under such conditions, more so than a tour that merely meets expectation under perfect conditions. What's more, we also noted many commonly-sought birds as nearly absent, while normally gregarious species were often solitary and elusive; behavior appropriate for a nesting parent. These instances were balanced by numerous close encounters with rare, skulking species coming nearer than I had personally ever experienced in 8 years of birding in Ecuador! In 14 days we logged 568 bird species, 12 species of mammals and 25 species of "herps", despite being rained out for the equivalent of 2 days of birding!



## Day of the Condor (Day 2)

As day one was primarily an arrival day, our experience really began on the famed Andean slopes above Mindo, in the endemic-rich Choco region on the flank of the very active Vulcan Pichincha. Setting out early from our hotel to avoid Quito traffic, we were well on our way to Yanacocha when our driver and I looked up at a large soaring bird. As it spiraled over the ridge in front of us, some 3 or 4 seconds lapsed before recognizing the emarginated look to the primaries, the deep, even, steady wings, and short tail. It took less time for everyone to pile out of the van than it did to ID it as an Andean Condor! We enjoyed fine views of this magnificent, iconic creature, Ecuador's national bird, which was only slated for the final day of our tour at a site where it is more regularly seen. This patriotic adult served as a fine welcoming committee for us, and our 4<sup>th</sup> species of the Tour. What an auspicious start!

Yanacocha, managed by the Jocotoco Foundation, is the most easily accessed birding site from Quito. At a little over an hour away, it harbors some wonderful temperate forest species and some of the most breathtaking views on the continent. Here we encountered several special birds including White-capped Parrot, White-browed Spinetail, Crowned Chat-Tyrant and an exceedingly



tame Tawny Antpitta. An excited pair of Bar-bellied Woodpeckers came within 4 or 5 meters for excellent viewing and provided one of the highlights for the morning. Though no Black-breasted Puffleg surfaced (unrecorded at this location for over 2 years now), the hummingbird show was spectacular, including glittering Shining Sunbeams, Great Sapphirewings, Golden-breasted and Sapphire-vented Pufflegs, and eye-level views of Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, a true temperate forest special.

After a fine picnic lunch we then proceeded down the slope towards our lodging at Bellavista. On the way we had flocks and flocks along the Nono-Mindo track, causing us to arrive later than we had originally planned. Keeping our birding to select sites and species, we collected some real gems including White-capped Dipper, a pair of smart Torrent Ducks and a Masked Trogon that perched cooperatively for photos. The height of our excitement, however, was when an Andean Guan ran right in front of the bus. It was so close we almost struck it! As we piled out of the vehicle, I searched the bamboo for this adult, but instead found two sneaking fledglings clambering along the poles. Fortunately for us, the adult resurfaced long enough to usher the youngsters into the denser brush and out of harm's way, allowing us further views of this great species. Our eventual arrival at Bellavista was met with more hummingbirds, a fine meal and Ecuador's delicious national drink – hot Canelazo!

### Plate-billed Mountain Toucans (Day 3)



One can usually tell if it's going to be a good day by the way it starts. For us, the day began with granola, fresh fruit, eggs to order, locally-grown coffee, and Strong-billed Woodcreepers. It was going to be a good day!

We began by birding the ridge along the Research Station Road after breakfast. As it was already bright and sunny, flock activity was restricted to the shadier edges. This part of the Tandayapa Valley is known as the place to see Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Toucan Barbet and the elusive (mostly Colombian) Tanager Finch. Unfortunately we were unable to locate the latter during the course of the morning, but in less than 10 minutes we were viewing our first of twelve Plate-billed Mountain Toucans that day! In fact they were at nearly every stop, sometimes in groups of up to 5 individuals. We observed them flying, eating fruit, croaking, hanging upside down, and generally watched them from every

conceivable angle.

Our second target followed shortly thereafter. While filling our eyes with Green-and-Black Fruiteaters, Gorgeted Sunangels, Rufous Spinetails and some other goodies, someone asked, "So what's this bird sitting in the back?" It was a stunning adult Toucan Barbet sitting quietly on a mossy branch some 20 meters away! After we all had great looks in the scope, I played a few seconds of audio and the bird flew in, calling, right over our heads. I then tried to indicate a few other species moving about in the understory nearby, and while they were briefly noted, everyone was instead totally absorbed with this beautiful barbet. Those other less-worthy individuals in the brush included Dusky Bush Tanager and Flavescent and Streak-necked Flycatchers.

Before leaving the ridge, with the sun now high in the sky, we scanned the rising flocks of swifts and were rewarded with Spot-fronted Swifts mixed in with the White-collareds! Several flocks of parrots came by as well, allowing looks at both Scaly-naped and Red-billed Parrots. Nearing our



moment of departure, a small raptor then came into view, banked, and showed the distinctive field marks of the seldom seen White-rumped Hawk!

Heading downhill to La Casa Nunnery, we managed great views of a pair of Powerful Woodpeckers on the way. A visit to Tony and Barbara Nunnery's property is always an eye-opener: living as minimalists, they have built their beautiful home with their own hands, cleared the scrub and replanted the forests, restored former cow pasture to viable habitat, and have some 30 hummingbird feeders strategically placed near their home amongst numerous flowering plants. We observed a fantastic 16 species of hummers on this property, highlights being the tiny, glowing Western Emerald and two Wedge-billed Hummingbirds.

After lunch and a bit of downtime, we set out along the San Tadeo Road to search for flocks. Unfortunately, however, the bright sun and warmth brought about the expected alternate conditions in the afternoon, with the result that we were rained out save for one flock that included some great birds such as Rusty-winged Barbtail, Streaked Tuftedcheek and a Sickle-winged Guan.

#### **Feeder Madness (Day 4)**

Nothing in Ecuador is very far, and today we were looking at a mere 3 hours worth of transfer time. We therefore birded the trails near Bellavista Lodge before breakfast and packing. In little over an hour we saw Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Ocellated Tapaculo, Golden-headed Quetzal, more Masked Trogons, one White-throated Quail-Dove that literally followed us around, Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, Long-tailed Antbird, Grass-green Tanager, Black-and-White Becard and Striped Treehunter, to name only the rarer species! The birds were also buzzing at the feeders, though it was the gorgeous Violet-tailed Sylph that stole the show.



Rather than stopping at the Nunnery's again, we instead visited Alambi. This relatively new and little-known property is owned and operated by an enthusiastic birder. Not only did Alambi have the most spectacular diversity of hummingbirds at their feeders, but they also had a great variety of passerines coming to their fruit feeders – we had 22 species before we left!

Arriving at Sachatamia, we were greeted by a new host of hummingbirds. Violet-tailed Sylphs, Purple-bibbed Whitetips, Brown Incas, Empress Brilliants and richly colored Velvet-purple Coronets covered the feeders. Our final species of the day was perhaps the most exciting. While we were seated, eating dinner, two guests at Sachatamia alerted us to the presence of owls feeding near the lamplight of the parking lot. Hearing the birds before we even left the porch, it turned out to be two young Black-and-White Owls that were responsible for the cacophony of screeches, howls and hoots. We ended up having good looks at these gorgeous owls, courtesy of Roberto Urduena who had his scope set up. Apparently, after a four-year absence, the resident pair of these owls had finally returned, bred, and been a daily occurrence ever since. Fantastic!

#### **Andean Cock-of-the-Rock and Maria (Day 5)**

For anyone who has ever attempted to view an antpitta in the bush, there is no preparation for the sights that await at the Paz de las Aves Nature Preserve. From its humble beginnings as a Tree Tomato farm/Cock-of-the-Rock lek, through its transformation into the world-renowned spectacle that we were privileged to witness, Angel Paz has maintained that his property belongs equally to its wildlife. His benevolent attitude towards nature is both obvious and endearing. The rules and



respect shown to the birds, which seem more like friends to Angel and his brother, add to the charm of Paz de las Aves.

Arriving early we headed directly to the Cock-of-the-Rock lek. We weren't disappointed, with 6 males displaying in front of us. I put the scope on a few individuals, allowing all of us to observe the colored iris and deep shine of this gorgeous species. After some time, Angel motioned us to start moving towards the main antpitta feeding area where we were going to see the most-viewed individual antpitta in the world – Maria! However, before we arrived and got settled in, two Rufous-breasted Antthrushes came out into the trail and allowed relaxed views. Just then, Angel's brother came up the path by the feeding area with a Giant Antpitta following him! We then watched two Giant Antpittas being hand-fed for the next 15 minutes. What an incredible spectacle! Angel and Rodrigo had called them in by name! First the Giant Antpittas, then we went to an upper trail and fed "Shakira", the gyrating Ochre-breasted Antpitta. We also set the scope on a Common Potoo while waiting for an Olivaceous Piha to return to its nest. We didn't have to wait long, and soon had great looks at this elusive species. Thereafter we headed back near the edge of the forest to feed the Moustached Antpitta, Chestnut-capped Brush Finches, and a covey of 8 Dark-backed Wood Quails!!! This was then followed by some delicious Bolones de Verde and Empanadas de Queso for breakfast, after which we drove to a newly acquired property. Before long, we were watching Orange-breasted Fruiteaters while Angel summoned his final subject for the morning – the wary Yellow-breasted Antpitta. A visit to Angel Paz's Tree Tomato (now Blackberry) and Bird Farm is something no birder should miss!



After such an overwhelming and fantastic morning, Milpe then provided us with some fine afternoon birding. Some of the wonderful species we found amongst the mixed flocks included Scaly-throated and Slaty-winged Foliage-gleaners, Striped Woodhaunter, Russet Antshrike, Rufous-rumped Antwren, Rufous-winged Tyrannulet, Yellow-collared Chlorophonia and Yellow-green Bush Tanager.

### The Big Day (Day 6)

Every birding tour has a "Big Day". This is usually the day in which you see the most species, or else stay out (birding your head off!) until stimuli overload. This was our Big Day in both respects; we literally had to drive away from the birds. It was phenomenal!

Rio Silanche is part of the same preserve system that owns and manages Milpe and Milpe Gardens. This entity, the Mindo Cloud Forest Foundation, chose properties based on the health of the forest and its relative accessibility. Rio Silanche is a fine patch of preserved Choco Foothill forest situated at about 2100 feet (650m) elevation, and is home to species known only from pacific lowland habitats and Choco Foothills. No more than 90 minutes drive from Sachatamia, Rio Silanche was our only exposure to this low-elevation habitat and our one chance for many fine species. Aside from the special nature of the habitat and birds, being set in a lowland forest also allows for heightened diversity, with the Rio Silanche bird list boasting over 300 species. In our 9 hours there, we tallied 114 species on the Preserve and the access road leading in. It was truly a remarkable day, with flock after flock coming by! The only downside was that the canopy tower was not very productive, as none of the nearby trees were fruiting. Nonetheless, we still gawked at two of the best birds of the trip from atop the 80 feet (25m) tower; namely, the impressive Guayaquil Woodpecker and the extremely rare and beautiful Rose-faced Parrot. Given that most of the species we saw were from the ground, the day was thick with antwrens, flycatchers, flatbills, woodcreepers,



antbirds, and other great skulkers. Some of the better finds on the trails and road included Pallid Dove, Rose-faced Parrot, Pacific Parrotlet, Striped Cuckoo, Blue-chested and Purple-chested Hummingbirds, Purple-crowned Fairy, Snowy-tailed Trogon, Rufous Motmot, Orange-fronted Barbet, Scarlet-backed, Crimson-bellied and Choco Woodpeckers, Black-striped Woodcreeper, Checker-throated, White-flanked and Dot-winged Antwrens, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Choco Tyrannulet, Black-headed Antthrush, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, Thrush-like Schiffornis, Sulphur-rumped Myiobus, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Scarlet-browed Tanager and Fulvous-vented Euphonia, to name just some!



### Relaxation Day (Day 7)

After a fun, exhausting day at Rio Silanche, I figured that a few hours of R&R, after a return visit to Milpe and Milpe Gardens, would be the best plan for everyone's health and happiness. It was a good call; we ended up getting more birds than expected, yet again, and returned to Sachatamia happy and ready for a siesta!

Milpe Gardens was the star site of the morning, though Snowy-throated Kingbird at the Milpe Preserve parking area might have been the surprise bird of the day. I had never birded Milpe Gardens trails, nor was I familiar with the terrain; nonetheless, things worked out well as we didn't have to travel far to hit two mega-flocks. With the birds maintaining low- to mid- height in the forest, we had incredible looks at nearly all the species that we encountered. What started off as a toucan search along the road ended up being a much more exciting and successful walk in the woods!

The toucan search was successful, though, and we managed to view several Choco Toucans at a distance, singing and cavorting through the scope. A defensive pair of Plumbeous Hawks also made themselves evident along the road near Milpe Gardens, and was one of the most exciting finds of the day. Before entering the Milpe Gardens property, we came across our first massive flock of the day, including a suspect *furnariid* in the middle canopy that was possibly a Pacific Tuftedcheek. We quickly identified a group of Choco Warblers, two Tawny-breasted Myiobus, Purple Honeycreeper, Guira Tanager and Yellow-tufted Dacnis, amongst others.

Our second flock experience, after we had wandered a few hundred meters into the forest, was another memorable one. From woodcreepers to foliage-gleaners, tanagers to tyrannulets, antshrikes to an uncommonly cooperative Scaled Fruiteater and even a Broad-billed Motmot, this flock had everything – and with everything being close! And then, just when we thought it was all over, out popped an Immaculate Antbird in the underbrush, with a Smoky-brown Woodpecker hammering overhead. 30 minutes of mayhem!

Thereafter we retired to Sachatamia for a sit-down lunch and some well-deserved rest. Our plan was to finish the day at an old quarry near Mindo, with the hopes of seeing our first nighthawk or nightjar. We arrived a bit early at the site and, just as the sunlight was fading, found a Crested Guan! We managed great looks at this reclusive tree-dweller as it foraged in nearby trees and called to other individuals higher up the slopes. Shortly thereafter we had our first flyby: Lyre-tailed Nightjar!!! Having been playing the tape on and off for the past 20 minutes, and with hope rapidly fading, the first of two individuals came sailing off the quarry wall towards us – another great end to a very fine day!



### Inti-Nan and the Middle of the World (Day 8)

We had crossed the equator 8 times during the course of our travels thus far, but we had yet to address it! After birding around the eco-hamlet of Mindo in the morning, picking up several new species and fine second looks at others, we made our way to El Mitad del Mundo. The most common method of visitation to this tourist area is to visit a large pyramid, the planetarium, and perhaps get on a small roller coaster constructed in reverence of this spiritual ground – and for only slightly-inflated prices. The drawback is: none of these fine features actually lie ON the equator! So it was that we opted for Inti-Nan, the true equatorial museum that (as the tour guide proves repeatedly) does, in fact, lie on the equator.



During our time here we saw shrunken heads, Anaconda skins and traditional Huaorani spears. We witnessed eggs being balanced on the head of a nail, watched silently as leaves spiraled clockwise down a watery drain whilst standing south of the line, but spiraled counter-clockwise standing north of it. To our

incredulity, we witnessed a grown man rendered utterly incapable of providing the resistance necessary to withstand the physical force of our tiny cultural guide. All this due to the mysterious and inexplicable effects of standing directly on the Equator. What an amazing and informative time!

### Waiting and a Heron (Day 9)

Plans go smoothly most of the time, but not all of the time. We arrived at the Quito airport with more than sufficient time for our flight to Coca. Everyone was excited as we were on our way to Sacha Lodge! Unfortunately, TAME (TransAereo Militar Ecuador), had different plans, alternate plans, or perhaps no plans at all, and we spent the next 5 hours in the Quito airport before eventually leaving the ground for the mighty Amazon. Everyone kept in high spirits, however, staying entertained with books, Kindles, iPads and music, and when we finally landed we were ready to bird.

Among guides and ornithologists that have worked in the Amazon, there are a few species that really stand out as being of particular allure. Some are notorious because of their colors or their scarcity; others become myth due to their peculiar habits and enigmatic nature. One of the most infamously difficult species to find is the Zigzag Heron. Not everyone knows about the Zigzag Heron and its nocturnal, enigmatic ways. Seemingly present in appropriate (limited) habitat, the Zigzag is never numerous, consistent, or even detectable at the same season from year-to-year. Perhaps water levels affect its activity? Or maybe it has to do with rainfall amounts or larval hatches? Who knows? The fact is that this bird is always in the back of our minds with a fleeting glimmer of hope for an encounter. So it was that as we walked through pristine Varzea forest towards sunset light at the end of the swampy canopy, I was shocked when we heard a clear, near response to our tape.

What ensued was vague, but I remember a lot of shuffling between spaces and standing areas on the skinny boardwalk as I went back and forth between various calls and responses I had on audio. Somehow I ended up laid out, whispering as loud as I could without speaking, as a male Zigzag Heron climbed up a vine and into full view a mere 7 meters from us! As it was almost dark, our local guide got out a small, brilliant flashlight, and brought the beam onto the bird. There it lingered for all of us to see: a fine male, and an incredible view!!!



While eventually getting back to my feet, I wondered why no one else was as ecstatic as I was. I then remembered what I'd forgotten to do: I hadn't explained what I was playing for, and how special a bird it was. Instead, whilst exclaiming that everyone needed to get behind me, get set up, be quiet and focus, all anyone heard was "heron". Why all this trouble for a heron?!?!? Later we had a wonderful laugh about it; and upon learning how green the other birders at our lodge became at our success, we laughed doubly. The bird of the day, perhaps the bird of the entire trip, was without a doubt this outstanding Zigzag Heron!

### **“Antbird in the Scope” (Day 10)**

We set out, pre-dawn, for an early start. The trip up Shipati Creek is always a highlight of the tour. Being in the canoe motoring up the small waterway, seeing the forest from the river, always provides an important, new perspective. And the birds are outstanding!

The family *Thamnophilidae* is usually what comes to mind when birders think of rainforest. Antbirds! These difficult, interesting birds spend most of their time submerged in thick undergrowth, surfacing only to sing, feed or defend their territory. Yasuni National Park, to which Providencia belongs, is the best place for antbirds in the Sacha Lodge repertoire. We had a wonderful morning, walking the trails through prime *terra firma* forest, upland swamp edge, and racking up an impressive list of difficult and exciting birds.



On the walk from the lodge to the Napo River, we picked up great views of White-shouldered, Spot-backed (*Varzea*) and Peruvian Warbling Antbird, among others, while some of the highlights of our boat ride up the Shipati included Common Piping Guans, troupials, Cinnamon Attila and Chestnut-crowned Foliage-gleaner.

We arrived at Providencia with an impressive assortment of species – and the birds kept coming. Antbirds were cooperative, and we hit two nice mixed-species flocks. Scope views were had of Black-tailed Trogon, Red-throated Caracara, singing Black-faced Antbird, Plain-throated Antwren, Dusky-throated Antshrike, White-flanked Antwren, and many other greats. Both Coraya and the amazing Musician Wren were completely cooperative. The most spectacular bird of the morning, however, was a female Lunulated Antbird that circled us numerous times, coming within 5 meters of our group! One upper canopy flock rounded out our morning diversity with views of Pygmy and Dugand's Antwrens, Dusky-capped Greenlet and several species of tanagers.

What with all the fantastic birding, we didn't arrive back at Sacha Lodge until after 3pm. A break was in order. The group scattered to enjoy siestas, swimming with the piranhas and caiman in Pilchicocha lagoon, and some downtime to digest the morning's sights. After reconvening at 5pm, we then walked to the metal towers, looking for undergrowth species and roosting birds. Scale-backed Antbird, Great Tinamou, Marbled Wood Quail and Short-billed Leaf-tosser added further quality to our exceptional day. The best bird of the day was also one of the last: we had leisurely views of a Long-tailed Potoo on its roost. Unbeatable!

### **Islands in the Rain (Day 11)**

As anyone who has ever spent time in this region well knows, rain in the Amazon can vary greatly. Sometimes it comes down in short spurts of heavy rain; often it will sprinkle lightly for hours. Today, on the 15th of September, the skies let out a deluge of Biblical proportion! It was



impressive, to put it mildly. It would have been even more impressive had we not planned to visit the parrot licks!

These licks along the Napo River provide acid- and toxin-neutralizing minerals for up to 10 species of *Psittacids* that flock by the hundreds to these landslides and groundwater upwellings. The parrots come early in the morning from all directions, sometimes travelling over 50 miles (80 km) to attend this gathering that seems to provide as much digestive nutrition as it does a venue for these intelligent, gregarious creatures to convene. Unfortunately, the one condition under which they will not attend is heavy rain. Nonetheless, we drove up the river in the downpour, hoping it would clear, passing the time sighting roosting Ladder-tailed Nightjars, foraging Drab River Tyrants and



perched kingfishers along the way. After an hour or two of this, we decided to wait out the rains in the shelter of the nearby Selva Lodge's boathouse. Finally, at almost 11am, the rains stopped, and a beautiful day began. By this time, however, the parrots were lost, and we stopped instead at the nearest river island. Our hope was to salvage the morning by searching out difficult river island species that might be more active than usual after a heavy rain. This was a great call, netting us Orange-headed Tanager, Black-and-White Antbird, Parker's, White-bellied and Dark-breasted Spinetails, Fuscous Flycatcher, Olive-spotted Hummingbird, as well as a

few species of North American migrant shorebirds.

Next it was off to the Anangu property, site of the inner-forest parrot lick. By now the sun was getting a bit lower in the mid-afternoon sky. We risked the time and effort of hiking up Hill Trail, adjacent to the inactive lick. It turned out to be the pivotal decision of the day. Collared Puffbird, Brown Nunlet, Grey Antbird, 2 species of manakin and amazing looks at the flashy Yellow-browed Antbird were the fruits of our effort. And then, on our return walk to the boat, we found two Rusty-belted Tapaculos foraging leisurely in full view! Employing the green laser to get people on to the birds, one individual actually commenced chasing the laser point...it was incredible!!! Though nothing could top this fantastic sighting, a pair of Spot-backed (Terra Firma) Antbirds and a Black-spotted Bare-eye tried. We concluded our day's birding activity with Hoatzins, Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher, and one Common Potoo perched with a nestling at its feet.

### **The Two Towers (Day 12)**

Sacha Lodge has garnered attention from travelers for two main reasons – amazing accommodation (including food), and the Canopy Towers. I call these the “Two Towers”, but in fact 2 structures contain 4 towers. One “tower”, the Torre de Madera (Tower of Wood in Spanish) is a spiraling staircase built around a Kepok tree towering above the surrounding forest. The viewing platform built near the crown of this magnificent tree stands 150 feet (46 m) above the forest floor! The second structure is the Canopy Walkway. Three towers, connected by suspended gangplank walkways 138 feet (42m) above the ground, dominate the skyline and can be seen from the Napo River several kilometers away. This free-standing structure was built amongst numerous fruiting trees and along a slight rise, providing views over 2 Igapo Swamps and the Terra Firma forest below.

Today was spent entirely on the Sacha Lodge property with a focus on the “Two Towers” and canopy species. It was a hot day, with some high cloud cover but relatively little flock activity. Nonetheless, we pulled out several amazing species that included Ivory-billed and Many-banded Aracaris, Common Piping Guan (right beneath us!), Black-capped Becard, Zimmer's Flatbill, Opal-



rumped, Opal-crowned, Paradise, Green-and-Gold, Yellow-bellied, Masked and Turquoise Tanagers, Sulphury, Dusky-chested, Piratic and Crowned Slaty Flycatchers, White-necked Puffbird and more. The most spectacular species to be sought out in the canopy, however, are the cotingas, and we were fortunate to have several looks at gorgeous male Plum-throated Cotingas, one Spangled Cotinga and a few massive Bare-necked Fruitcrows.

We then birded our way back to the lodge for lunch and some piranha fishing in the lake. The best find on the way back was a pair of Crested Owls on a roost near the Metal Towers. What a gorgeous bird! One mixed flock provided Pink-throated Becard and Purplish Jacamar, while a silent male Wire-tailed Manakin allowed amazing looks through the scope. We went to lunch well satisfied, but also hungry in a different way!

We spent the afternoon wet. Before an impressive thunderstorm caught us atop the Torre de Madera, we paddled up the serene Orchid Creek, where crippling views of the endemic Orange-crested Manakin were a highlight. This boat ride, if only to view the amazing false mangrove trees and multitude of blooming orchids, is well worth it. Other new species added this afternoon included wonderful views of a responsive Rufous-tailed Flatbill. After dinner, a few of us then ventured forth into the night in search of...well, whatever we come across. The rain broke, and frogs were out in force. 16 of the 20 frog species we saw on this tour were seen in just 40 minutes during this walk!



### **The Joys of Flying (Day 13)**

In order to catch the TAME flight out of Coca, guests must depart Sacha Lodge fairly early in the morning. Departing earlier than required to make a last attempt to bird along the boardwalk, with little effort we had great views of Silvered Antbirds, a male Plumbeous Antbird, and a huge surprise – Citron-bellied Attila! This rare species of flycatcher is seldom recorded north of the Rio Napo, and even less frequently recorded away from competitive (slim-trunk) Terra Firma or Sandy Soil Forests. Yet here we had it respond right off the boardwalk, where it even stayed long enough for other departing birding groups to enjoy.

The rest of the day was spent attempting to arrive in Quito. Due to bad weather, we had a 3 hour delay in Coca. Our first attempt to land in Quito was thwarted by a recurrence of severe weather after we were in the air. We therefore diverted to Manta, on the Pacific Coast, which explains why 15 Magnificent Frigatebirds magically appear in the species list below. As it turned out, this was a lifer for most participants! After a short time on the ground we took off once again for Quito, where we eventually landed successfully at about 5pm. It was quite a day...

### **Papallacta Pass and the Sword-billed Hummingbird (Day 14)**

High Andean birding is always fascinating. Depending almost entirely on the weather, it can be gorgeous and sunny one minute, or blowing freezing rain at 44 miles (70kph) the next! Luckily for us, we enjoyed a mostly sunny morning above 2500 feet (4000m) elevation.

Birds were responsive and cooperative at Papallacta. We spent nearly the entire morning watching Red-rumped Bush Tyrants, Ecuadorian Hillstars, Blue-mantled Thornbills, and a host of incredibly confiding (bordering ridiculous) *furnariids* that included White-chinned Thistletail, Many-striped Canastero, Stout-billed Cinclodes and Andean Tit-Spinetail. We finished up by dropping down to Guango Lodge, in the upper temperate forests of the east Andean slope, where we contented



ourselves by warming up to coffee and tea while watching the hummingbird show. Sylphs, coronets and the rare Mountain Avocetbill were all entertaining, but it was the incomparable Sword-billed Hummingbird that will stand out most in our minds.



Though wishing to spend some time birding the grounds at Guango and above the Termas de Papallacta, rain unfortunately kept us indoors. We therefore headed back to Quito to pack, thus ending the birding portion of our tour. Our final meal in Quito was complete with wine, good conversation and expressions of mutual happiness. So it was that our tour of Ecuador, from the Andes to the Amazon, came to an end, and we bid one another a fond adieu. Some folks had flights the following morning, others a day excursion to Antisana. I heard murmurs of shopping in Otavalo, visiting the Guayasamin museums, and so on. As is often the case, we were reluctant to leave Ecuador and all the fascination it holds.

My personal thanks to the participants, who were all fun, resilient, wonderful people! While the birds certainly bring us together, it is people who make such tours fun and exciting. It was my pleasure to meet you all. Rather than goodbye: until next time....

**Photo credits:** Andean Condor by Luis Segura, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan by David Hoddinott, Long-tailed Sylph by David Shackelford, Andean Cock-of-the-rock by Adam Riley, Dot-winged Antwren by David Shackelford, Lyre-tailed Nightjar by Adam Riley, Black-faced Antbird & Hoatzin by David Shackelford, Blue-crowned Manikin by Adam Riley & Sword-billed Hummingbird by David Hoddinott.

## List of birds recorded

### **Total species recorded (including heard): 568**

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC List of Gill, F. and M. Wright, 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

(NE = Near Endemic)

### TINAMOUS Tinamidae

Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>
Cinereous Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus cinereus</i>
Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>
Undulated Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus undulatus</i>

### CURASSOWS, GUANS & CHACHALACAS Cracidae

Speckled Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis guttata</i>
Andean Guan	<i>Penelope montagnii</i>
Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>
Common Piping Guan	<i>Pipile pipile</i>
Wattled Guan	<i>Aburria aburri</i>
Sickle-winged Guan	<i>Chamaepetes goudotii</i>

### NEW WORLD QUAILS Odontophoridae

Marbled Wood Quail	<i>Odontophorus gujanensis</i>
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Dark-backed Wood Quail (NE) *Odontophorus melanonotus*

**FRIGATEBIRDS Fregatidae**

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

**DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS Pelecanidae**

Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*

Andean Teal *Anas andium*

**HERONS, BITTERNs & EGRETS Ardeidae**

Zigzag Heron *Zebriulus undulatus*

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

Western Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**CORMORANTS Phalacrocoracidae**

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

**NEW WORLD VULTURES Cathartidae**

Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus*

**OSPREYS Pandionidae**

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

**KITES, EAGLES, HAWKS Accipitridae**

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*

Crane Hawk *Geranoospiza caerulescens*

Slate-colored Hawk *Leucopternis schistacea*

Plumbeous Hawk *Leucopternis plumbea*

White Hawk *Leucopternis albicollis*

Barred Hawk *Leucopternis princeps*

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*

White-rumped Hawk *Buteo leucorrhous*

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*

Variable Hawk *Buteo polyosoma*

Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle *Spizastur melanoleucus*

Black-and-chestnut Eagle *Oroaetus isidori*



**FALCONS & CARACARAS Falconidae**

Black Caracara	<i>Daptrius ater</i>
Red-throated Caracara	<i>Ibycter americanus</i>
Carunculated Caracara	<i>Phalcoboenus carunculatus</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
Barred Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>
Collared Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>

**RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS Rallidae**

Grey-breasted Crake	<i>Laterallus exilis</i>
Rufous-sided Crake	<i>Laterallus melanophaius</i>
Black-banded Crake	<i>Anurolimnas fasciatus</i>
Chestnut-headed Crake	<i>Anurolimnas castaneiceps</i>

**LIMPKIN Aramidae**

Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
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**PLOVERS & LAPWINGS Charadriidae**

Pied Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cayanus</i>
Collared Plover	<i>Charadrius collaris</i>

**SANDPIPERS, SNIPES & PHALAROPES Scolopacidae**

Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>

**GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS Laridae**

Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sterna superciliaris</i>
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**PIGEONS & DOVES Columbidae**

Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Columba fasciata</i>
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Columba cayennensis</i>
Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Columba subvinacea</i>
Plumbeous Pigeon	<i>Columba plumbea</i>
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>
Pallid Dove (NE)	<i>Leptotila pallida</i>
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Grey-fronted Dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>
Ruddy Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>
White-throated Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon frenata</i>

**PARROTS Psittacidae**

Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>
Chestnut-fronted Macaw	<i>Ara severa</i>
Red-bellied Macaw	<i>Orthopsittaca manilata</i>
White-eyed Parakeet	<i>Aratinga leucophthalmus</i>
Dusky-headed Parakeet	<i>Aratinga weddellii</i>
Maroon-tailed Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura melanura</i>
Barred Parakeet	<i>Bolborhynchus lineola</i>
Pacific Parrotlet (NE)	<i>Forpus coelestis</i>
Cobalt-winged Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris cyanopectera</i>
Rose-faced Parrot (NE)	<i>Pionopsitta pulchra</i>
Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
Red-billed Parrot	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>
Speckle-faced (White-capped) Parrot	<i>Pionus seniloides</i>
Bronze-winged Parrot	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i>
Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>
Scaly-naped Amazon	<i>Amazona mercenaria</i>

### **CUCKOOS & ANIS Cuculidae**

Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus lansbergi</i>
Little Cuckoo	<i>Piaya minuta</i>
Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>

### **HOATZIN Opisthocomidae**

Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>
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### **OWLS Strigidae**

Tropical Screech Owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>
Tawny-bellied Screech Owl	<i>Megascops watsonii</i>
Cloud-forest Pygmy Owl (NE)	<i>Glaucidium nubicola</i>
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
Crested Owl	<i>Lophotrix cristata</i>
Black-and-white Owl	<i>Strix nigrolineata</i>

### **POTOOS Nyctibiidae**

Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>
Long-tailed Potoo	<i>Nyctibius aethereus</i>
Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>

### **NIGHTJARS Caprimulgidae**

Short-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Lurocalis semitorquatus</i>
Ladder-tailed Nightjar	<i>Hydropsalis climacocerca</i>
Lyre-tailed Nightjar	<i>Uropsalis lyra</i>

### **SWIFTS Apodidae**

White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonoris</i>
Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Cypseloides rutila</i>
Spot-fronted Swift	<i>Cypseloides cherrei</i>
Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>



Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>
Neotropical Palm Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>

### **HUMMINGBIRDS Trochilidae**

White-whiskered Hermit	<i>Phaethornis yaruqui</i>
Tawny-bellied Hermit	<i>Phaethornis syrmatorphorus</i>
Great-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis malaris</i>
White-bearded Hermit	<i>Phaethornis hispidus</i>
Straight-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis bourcieri</i>
Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>
White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>
Brown Violet-ear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>
Green Violet-ear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>
Sparkling Violet-ear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>
Green Thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>
Western Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus</i>
Fork-tailed Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania furcata</i>
Green-crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania fannyi</i>
Golden-tailed Sapphire	<i>Chrysuronia oenone</i>
Olive-spotted Hummingbird	<i>Leucippus chlorocercus</i>
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>
Andean Emerald	<i>Agyrtria franciae</i>
Blue-chested Hummingbird	<i>Polyerata amabilis</i>
Purple-chested Hummingbird (NE)	<i>Polyerata rosenbergi</i>
Speckled Hummingbird	<i>Adelomyia melanogenys</i>
Purple-bibbed Whitetip	<i>Urosticte benjamini</i>
Empress Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa imperatrix</i>
Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>
Fawn-breasted Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa rubinoides</i>
Ecuadorian Hillstar	<i>Oreotrochilus chimborazo</i>
Giant Hummingbird	<i>Patagona gigas</i>
Shining Sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis cupripennis</i>
Mountain Velvetbreast	<i>Lafresnaya lafresnayi</i>
Great Sapphirewing	<i>Pterophanes cyanopterus</i>
Brown Inca	<i>Coeligena wilsoni</i>
Collared Inca	<i>Coeligena torquata</i>
Buff-winged Starfrontlet	<i>Coeligena lutetiae</i>
Sword-billed Hummingbird	<i>Ensifera ensifera</i>
Buff-tailed Coronet	<i>Boissonneaua flavescens</i>
Chestnut-breasted Coronet	<i>Boissonneaua matthewsii</i>
Velvet-purple Coronet (NE)	<i>Boissonneaua jardini</i>
Gorgeted Sunangel (NE)	<i>Heliangelus strophianus</i>
Tourmaline Sunangel	<i>Heliangelus exortis</i>
Sapphire-vented Puffleg	<i>Eriocnemis luciani</i>
Golden-breasted Puffleg	<i>Eriocnemis mosquera</i>
Booted Racket-tail	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>
Black-tailed Trainbearer	<i>Lesbia victoriae</i>
Green-tailed Trainbearer	<i>Lesbia nuna</i>
Tyrian Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>
Rainbow-bearded Thornbill	<i>Chalcostigma herrani</i>



Blue-mantled Thornbill	<i>Chalcostigma stanleyi</i>
Mountain Avocetbill	<i>Opisthoprora euryptera</i>
Long-tailed Sylph	<i>Agelaiocercus kingi</i>
Violet-tailed Sylph	<i>Agelaiocercus coelestis</i>
Wedge-billed Hummingbird	<i>Augastes geoffroyi</i>
Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliothryx barroti</i>
Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>
Purple-throated Woodstar (NE)	<i>Calliphlox mitchellii</i>
White-bellied Woodstar	<i>Chaetocercus mulsant</i>
Gorgeted Woodstar	<i>Chaetocercus heliodor</i>

### **TROGONS & QUETZALS Trogonidae**

Crested Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus antisianus</i>
Golden-headed Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>
Black-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanurus</i>
Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon colaris</i>
Green-backed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>
Snowy-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon chionurus</i>
Masked Trogon	<i>Trogon personatus</i>

### **KINGFISHERS Alcedinidae**

Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>
American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>

### **MOTMOTS Momotidae**

Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>
Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>
Amazonian Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>

### **JACAMARS Galbulidae**

White-chinned Jacamar	<i>Galbula tombacea</i>
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>
Purplish Jacamar	<i>Galbula chalcothorax</i>

### **PUFFBIRDS Bucconidae**

White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharchus macrorhynchos</i>
Collared Puffbird	<i>Bucco capensis</i>
Brown Nunlet	<i>Nonnula brunnea</i>
Black-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa nigrifrons</i>
White-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa morphoeus</i>
Swallow-wing Puffbird	<i>Chelidoptera tenebrosa</i>

### **NEW WORLD BARBETS Capitonidae**

Scarlet-crowned Barbet	<i>Capito aurovirens</i>
Orange-fronted Barbet	<i>Capito squamatus</i>
Gilded Barbet	<i>Capito auratus</i>
Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>



**ATYPICAL BARBETS Semnornithidae**

Toucan Barbet (NE) *Semnornis ramphastinus*

**TOUCANS Ramphastidae**

Crimson-rumped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*  
 Golden-collared Toucanet *Selenidera reinwardtii*  
 Pale-mandibled Aracari *Pteroglossus erythropygius*  
 Many-banded Aracari *Pteroglossus pluricinctus*  
 Ivory-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus azara*  
 Plate-billed Mountain Toucan (NE) *Andigena laminirostris*  
 Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*  
 Choco Toucan (NE) *Ramphastos brevis*  
 Chestnut-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos swainsonii*  
 White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*

**WOODPECKERS & PICULETS Picidae**

Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus*  
 Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula*  
 Crimson-mantled Woodpecker *Piculus rivolii*  
 Golden-olive Woodpecker *Piculus rubiginosus*  
 Chestnut Woodpecker *Celeus elegans*  
 Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*  
 Cream-colored Woodpecker *Celeus flavus*  
 Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*  
 Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus*  
 Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*  
 Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Veniliornis fumigatus*  
 Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus*  
 Choco Woodpecker (NE) *Veniliornis chocoensis*  
 Bar-bellied Woodpecker *Veniliornis nigriceps*  
 Scarlet-backed Woodpecker *Veniliornis callonotus*  
 Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*  
 Guayaquil Woodpecker (NE) *Campephilus gayaquilensis*  
 Powerful Woodpecker *Campephilus pollens*  
 Crimson-bellied Woodpecker *Campephilus haematogaster*

**OVENBIRDS Furnariidae**

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus*  
 Stout-billed Cinclodes *Cinclodes excelsior*  
 Pacific Hornero *Furnarius cinnamomeus*  
 Andean Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura andicola*  
 Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae*  
 Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura*  
 Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis*  
 White-bellied Spinetail *Synallaxis propinqua*  
 Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa*  
 White-browed Spinetail *Hellmayrea gularis*  
 Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythrops*  
 Parker's Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpecula*  
 White-chinned Thistletail *Schizoeaca fuliginosa*



Many-striped Canastero	<i>Schizoeaca fuliginosa</i>
Streaked Tuftedcheek	<i>Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii</i>
Pearled Treerunner	<i>Margarornis squamiger</i>
Spotted Barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>
Rusty-winged Barbtail	<i>Premnornis guttuligera</i>
Lineated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>
Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>
Striped Woodhaunter	<i>Hyloctistes virgatus</i>
Slaty-winged Foliage-gleaner	<i>Philydor fuscipenne</i>
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner	<i>Philydor rufus</i>
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>
Chestnut-crowned Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus rufipileatus</i>
Striped Treehunter	<i>Thripadectes holostictus</i>
Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>
Short-billed Leaftosser	<i>Sclerurus rufigularis</i>
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>
Long-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Nasica longirostris</i>
Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrexetastes rufigula</i>
Strong-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>
Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes certhia</i>
Black-banded Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes picumnus</i>
Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus picus</i>
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>
Black-striped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i>
Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>
Montane Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger</i>

### **ANTBIRDS Thamnophilidae**

Uniform Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus unicolor</i>
Plain-winged Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus schistaceus</i>
Western Slaty-Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>
Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>
Dusky-throated Antshrike	<i>Thamnomanes ardesiacus</i>
Cinereous Antshrike	<i>Thamnomanes caesius</i>
Pygmy Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula brachyura</i>
Plain-throated Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula hauxwelli</i>
Checker-throated Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula fulviventris</i>
White-flanked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris</i>
Slaty Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>
Grey Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula menetriesii</i>
Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhopias quixensis</i>
Dugand's Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus dugandi</i>
Long-tailed Antbird	<i>Drymophila caudata</i>
Rufous-rumped Antwren	<i>Terenura callinota</i>
Grey Antbird	<i>Cercomacra cinerascens</i>
Black-faced Antbird	<i>Myrmoborus myotherinus</i>
Peruvian Warbling Antbird	<i>Hypocnemis cantator</i>
Yellow-browed Antbird	<i>Hypocnemis hypoxantha</i>



Spot-backed (Varzea) Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevia</i>
Spot-backed (Terra Firme) Antbird	<i>Hylophylax theresea</i>
Scale-backed Antbird	<i>Hylophylax poecilinota</i>
Black-and-White Antbird	<i>Myrmochanes hemileucus</i>
Silvered Antbird	<i>Sclateria naevia</i>
Plumbeous Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza hyperythra</i>
White-shouldered Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza melanoceps</i>
Sooty Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza fortis</i>
Immaculate Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza immaculata</i>
Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>
Esmeraldas Antbird (NE)	<i>Myrmeciza nigricauda</i>
Bicolored Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys leucaspis</i>
Lunulated Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys lunulata</i>
Black-spotted Bare-eye	<i>Phlegopsis nigromaculata</i>

### **ANTTRUSHES Formicariidae**

Black-headed Antthrush	<i>Formicarius nigricapillus</i>
Rufous-breasted Antthrush	<i>Formicarius rufipectus</i>

### **ANTPITTAS Grallariidae**

Giant Antpitta (NE)	<i>Grallaria gigantea</i>
Moustached Antpitta (NE)	<i>Grallaria alleni</i>
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	<i>Grallaria ruficapilla</i>
Yellow-breasted Antpitta (NE)	<i>Grallaria flavotincta</i>
Rufous Antpitta	<i>Grallaria rufula</i>
Tawny Antpitta	<i>Grallaria quitensis</i>
Ochre-breasted Antpitta	<i>Grallaricula flavirostris</i>

### **TAPACULOS Rhinocryptidae**

Rusty-belted Tapaculo	<i>Liosceles thoracicus</i>
Blackish Tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus latrans</i>
Spillman's Tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus spillmanni</i>
Ocellated Tapaculo	<i>Acropternis orthonyx</i>

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS Tyrannidae**

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias griseiceps</i>
Black-capped Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias nigrocapillus</i>
Ashy-headed Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias cinereiceps</i>
Choco Tyrannulet (NE)	<i>Zimmerius albigularis</i>
Slender-footed Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius gracilipes</i>
Brown-capped Tyrannulet	<i>Ornithion brunneicapillus</i>
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	<i>Tyrannulus elatus</i>
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>
Mottle-backed Elaenia	<i>Elaenia gigas</i>
White-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>
Sierran Elaenia	<i>Elaenia pallatangae</i>
White-throated Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus leucophrys</i>
White-banded Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus stictopterus</i>
White-tailed Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus poecilocercus</i>
Rufous-winged Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus calopterus</i>



Streak-necked Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes striaticollis</i>
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>
Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant	<i>Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus</i>
Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Myiornis ecaudatus</i>
Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>
Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum</i>
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Rufous-tailed Flatbill	<i>Ramphotrigon ruficauda</i>
Yellow-olive Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>
Zimmer's Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias assimilis</i>
Yellow-margined Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias flavotectus</i>
Grey-crowned Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias poliocephalus</i>
Olive-faced Flatbill	<i>Tolmomyias viridiceps</i>
Golden-crowned Spadebill	<i>Platyrrinchus coronatus</i>
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca fumicolor</i>
Crowned Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca frontalis</i>
Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant	<i>Silvicultrix diadema</i>
Drab Water Tyrant	<i>Ochthornis littoralis</i>
Red-rumped Bush Tyrant	<i>Ochthornis littoralis</i>
Streak-throated Bush Tyrant	<i>Myiotheretes striaticollis</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Philohydor lictor</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
Grey-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>
Dusky-chested Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes luteiventris</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</i>
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
Variiegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>
Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus</i>
Sulphury Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannopsis sulphurea</i>
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Snowy-throated Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus niveigularis</i>
Flavescent Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus flavicans</i>
Ornate Flycatcher	<i>Myiotriccus ornatus</i>
Cinnamon Flycatcher	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea</i>
Smoke-colored Pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>
Fuscous Flycatcher	<i>Cnemotriccus fuscatus</i>
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
Masked Water Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola nangeta</i>
Citron-bellied Attila	<i>Attila citriniventris</i>
Cinnamon Attila	<i>Attila cinnamomeus</i>
Greyish Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>



**TITYRAS, BECARDS Tityridae**

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Terenotriccus erythrurus</i>
Sulphur-rumped Myiobus	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>
Tawny-breasted Myiobus	<i>Myiobius villosus</i>
Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>
White-winged Becard	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>
Black-capped Becard	<i>Pachyramphus marginatus</i>
Black-and-white Becard	<i>Pachyramphus marginatus</i>
One-colored Becard	<i>Pachyramphus homochrous</i>
Pink-throated Becard	<i>Pachyramphus minor</i>
Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>
Thrush-like Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis turdinus</i>

**COTINGAS Cotingidae**

Red-crested Cotinga	<i>Ampelion rubrocristata</i>
Barred Fruiteater	<i>Pipreola arcuata</i>
Green-and-black Fruiteater	<i>Pipreola riefferii</i>
Orange-breasted Fruiteater (NE)	<i>Pipreola jucunda</i>
Scaled Fruiteater	<i>Ampelioides tschudii</i>
Cinereous Mourner	<i>Laniocera hypopyrra</i>
Olivaceous Piha	<i>Snowornis cryptolophus</i>
Screaming Piha	<i>Lipaugus vociferans</i>
Plum-throated Cotinga	<i>Cotinga maynana</i>
Spangled Cotinga	<i>Cotinga cayana</i>
Bare-necked Fruitcrow	<i>Gymnoderus foetidus</i>
Purple-throated Fruitcrow	<i>Querula purpurata</i>
Andean Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola peruviana</i>

**MANAKINS Pipridae**

Club-winged Manakin (NE)	<i>Machraopterus deliciosus</i>
Golden-headed Manakin	<i>Pipra erythrocephala</i>
Wire-tailed Manakin	<i>Pipra filicauda</i>
Blue-crowned Manakin	<i>Pipra coronata</i>
Blue-backed Manakin	<i>Chiroxiphia pareola</i>
White-bearded Manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>
Orange-crested Manakin (NE)	<i>Heterocercus aurantiivertix</i>

**VIREOS & GREENLETS Vireonidae**

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius leucotis</i>
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Brown-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>
Dusky-capped Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus hypoxanthus</i>
Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>

**CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES Corvidae**

Turquoise Jay	<i>Cyanolyca turcosa</i>
Violaceous Jay	<i>Cyanocorax violaceus</i>



**SWALLOWS & MARTINS Hirundinidae**

Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>
Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>
Brown-bellied Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon murina</i>
Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
White-banded Swallow	<i>Atticora fasciata</i>
White-thighed Swallow	<i>Neochelidon tibialis</i>
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>

**BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIUS Donacobiidae**

Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>
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**WRENS Troglodytidae**

Thrush-like Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus turdinus</i>
Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>
Bay Wren	<i>Thryothorus nigricapillus</i>
Plain-tailed Wren	<i>Thryothorus euophrys</i>
Whiskered Wren	<i>Thryothorus mystacalis</i>
Coraya Wren	<i>Thryothorus coraya</i>
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Mountain Wren	<i>Troglodytes solstitialis</i>
Grey-breasted Wood Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>
Musician Wren	<i>Cyphorhinus aradus</i>
Southern Nightingale-Wren	<i>Microcerculus marginatus</i>

**GNATCATCHERS Polioptilidae**

Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>
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**THRUSHES Turdidae**

Andean Solitaire	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>
Great Thrush	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>
Glossy-black Thrush	<i>Turdus serranus</i>
Black-billed Thrush	<i>Turdus ignobilis</i>
Lawrence's Thrush	<i>Turdus lawrencii</i>
Pale-vented Thrush	<i>Turdus obsoletus</i>
Hauxwell's Thrush	<i>Turdus hauxwelli</i>
Ecuadorian Thrush	<i>Turdus maculirostris</i>

**DIPPERS Cinclidae**

White-capped Dipper	<i>Cinclus leucocephalus</i>
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**FINCHES Fringillidae**

Yellow-bellied Siskin	<i>Carduelis xanthogastra</i>
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**NEW WORLD WARBLERS Parulidae**

Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>
Slate-throated Whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>



Spectacled Whitestart	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>
Black-crested Warbler	<i>Basileuterus nigrocristatus</i>
Choco Warbler (NE)	<i>Basileuterus chlorophrys</i>
Three-striped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>
Russet-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus coronatus</i>
Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus fulvicauda</i>

### **ORPENDOLAS, ORIOLES & BLACKBIRDS Icteridae**

Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>
Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
Russet-backed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius angustifrons</i>
Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
Orange-backed Troupial	<i>Icterus croconotus</i>
Scrub Blackbird	<i>Dives warszewiczi</i>
Oriole Blackbird	<i>Gymnomystax mexicanus</i>

### **BANANAQUIT Coerebidae**

Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
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### **TANAGERS & ALLIES Thraupidae**

Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>
Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Black-faced Dacnis	<i>Dacnis lineata</i>
Yellow-tufted Dacnis	<i>Dacnis egregia</i>
Yellow-bellied Dacnis	<i>Dacnis flaviventer</i>
Cinereous Conebill	<i>Conirostrum cinereum</i>
Blue-backed Conebill	<i>Conirostrum sitticolor</i>
Capped Conebill	<i>Conirostrum albifrons</i>
Bluish Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossopsis caeruleascens</i>
Masked Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossopsis cyanea</i>
Glossy Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa lafresnayii</i>
Black Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa humeralis</i>
White-sided Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa albilatera</i>
Guira Tanager	<i>Hemithraupis guira</i>
Orange-headed Tanager	<i>Thlypopsis sordida</i>
Fawn-breasted Tanager	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>
Yellow-collared Chlorophonia (NE)	<i>Chlorophonia flavirostris</i>
Thick-billed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia lanirostris</i>
Orange-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
Orange-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia saturata</i>
Fulvous-vented Euphonia	<i>Euphonia fulvicrissa</i>
Rufous-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia rufiventris</i>
Golden-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia chrysopasta</i>
Glistening-green Tanager (NE)	<i>Chlorochrysa phoenicotis</i>
Rufous-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara rufigula</i>
Gray-and-gold Tanager	<i>Tangara palmeri</i>
Golden Tanager	<i>Tangara arthus</i>
Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>



Flame-faced Tanager	<i>Tangara parzudakii</i>
Golden-naped Tanager	<i>Tangara ruficervix</i>
Metallic-green Tanager	<i>Tangara labradorides</i>
Beryl-spangled Tanager	<i>Tangara nigroviridis</i>
Black-capped Tanager	<i>Tangara heinei</i>
Blue-necked Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>
Masked Tanager	<i>Tangara nigrocincta</i>
Turquoise Tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>
Opal-rumped Tanager	<i>Tangara velia</i>
Opal-crowned Tanager	<i>Tangara callophrys</i>
Paradise Tanager	<i>Tangara chilensis</i>
Green-and-gold Tanager	<i>Tangara schrankii</i>
Yellow-bellied Tanager	<i>Tangara xanthogastra</i>
Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara xanthogastra</i>
Golden-crowned Tanager	<i>Iridosornis rufivertex</i>
Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager	<i>Anisognathus igniventris</i>
Blue-winged Mountain Tanager	<i>Anisognathus somptuosus</i>
Hooded Mountain Tanager	<i>Buthraupis montana</i>
Grass-green Tanager	<i>Chlorornis riefferii</i>
Swallow Tanager	<i>Creurgops verticalis</i>
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Blue-capped Tanager	<i>Thraupis cyanocephala</i>
Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>
Masked Crimson Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus nigrogularis</i>
Lemon-rumped Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus icteronotus</i>
White-winged Tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>
Ochre-breasted Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis stolzmanni</i>
Grey-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>
White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>
Flame-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>
White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>
Scarlet-browed Tanager	<i>Heterospingus xanthopygius</i>
Dusky Bush-Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus semifuscus</i>
Yellow-throated Bush Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus flavigularis</i>
Yellow-green Bush Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus flavovirens</i>
Superciliaried Hemispingus	<i>Hemispingus superciliaris</i>
Western Hemispingus	<i>Hemispingus ochraceus</i>
Magpie Tanager	<i>Cissopis leveriana</i>
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>
Dull-colored Grassquit	<i>Tiaris obscura</i>
Lesser Seed-Finch	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>
Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila murallae</i>
Yellow-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila castaneiventris</i>
Plain-colored Seedeater	<i>Catamenia inornata</i>

### **Buntings, New World Sparrows & Allies Emberizidae**

Plumbeous Sierra Finch	<i>Phrygilus unicolor</i>
Rufous-naped Brush Finch	<i>Atlapetes rufinucha</i>



White-winged Brush Finch	<i>Atlapetes leucopterus</i>
Chestnut-capped Brush Finch	<i>Buarremon brunneinucha</i>
Yellow-browed Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus aurifrons</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>

### **SALTATORS, GROSBEAKS & ALLIES Cardinalidae**

Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Black-winged Saltator	<i>Saltator atripennis</i>
Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>
Red-capped Cardinal	<i>Paroaria gularis</i>
Southern-Yellow Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus chrysogaster</i>

## **Mammals**

### **New World Monkeys Cebidae**

Red Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta bebezul</i>
White-fronted Capuchin	<i>Cebus albifrons</i>
Squirrel Monkey	<i>Aotus vociferans</i>
Spix's Night Monkey	<i>Aotus vociferans</i>
Pygmy Marmoset	<i>Cebuella pygmaea</i>
Black-mantled Tamarin	<i>Saguinus nigricollis</i>

### **Bats Chiroptera**

Fishing Bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>
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### **Squirrels Sciuridae**

Western Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus igriventis</i>
Red-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sciurus sanfordii</i>

### **Rabbits Leporidae**

Brazilian Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>
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### **Ungulates Cervidae**

White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
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### **Sloths Bradypodidae**

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>
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