INTRODUCTION:

This tour is designed as an introduction to the avian marvels of the Andes of Ecuador, and therefore showcases the myriad of colorful birds found there, in addition to getting a healthy number of endemic birds, for which this part of northwest Ecuador is particularly rich in. The starting point of the tour was the nation’s capital, Quito, from where we drove up higher into the Andes, to first bird the temperate forest within Yanacocha Reserve. As this site, at an elevation of around 11,150ft/3400m, was to be the highest one on the main tour, it brought us many species we were not to see again, like Buff-breasted and Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers, Rufous Antpitta, and the strange Sword-billed Hummingbird. A real surprise there was to be able to see a daytime White-throated Screech-owl too. Our next stop was the Tandayapa Valley, at lower altitude in the subtropics, where we saw 14 species of hummingbirds in ten
minutes at Tandayapa Bird Lodge feeders, including the ever-popular Booted Racket-tail, and local specialties like Violet-tailed Sylph, Western Emerald, and Purple-bibbed Whitetip. Also in the same valley, we found Grass-green Tanager, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Toucan Barbet, and the rare Tanager Finch. This tour dips into different altitudes each day, in order to gain different species of birds that are peculiar to the subtle changes in elevation. And so, after our day in the cloudforest, we dropped into the humid lowlands of Rio Silanche, where a different suite of birds awaited, and highlights included Hook-billed Kite, Laughing Falcon, White-tailed and Black-throated Trogons, Broad-billed Motmot, Gray-and-gold and Golden-hooded Tanagers, Guayaquil Woodpecker, and the rarely seen Black-tipped Cotinga. Our next site, Milpe, was in the foothills of the Andes, a little higher than we’d been at Silanche, but lower than the other sites visited before, and therefore, once again, offered plenty of new birds. Highlights there, were Collared (Pale-mandibled) Araçari, Choco Toucan, Rufous Motmot, Rufous-throated Tanager, Red-headed Barbet, White-whiskered Puffbird, Lanceolated Monklet, and Choco Trogon. The next day saw us a little higher up in much wetter forest at Mashpi, while this site offered us some species we’d previously seen, it also brought us some local species very hard to find elsewhere in the region, like Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Indigo Flowerpiercer, and Glistening-green Tanager, Black-chinned Mountain, and Moss-backed Tanagers. The hummingbird feeders at this site were also superb, as always, attracting Velvet-purple Coronet and Empress Brilliant, not only localized species, but incredibly beautiful too. For our last major stop on the main tour we returned to the cloudforest, and the very special private reserve Refugio Paz de Aves, where unique forest feeding stations allowed us to see Dark-backed Wood-Quail, and Yellow-breasted and Chestnut-crowned Antpittas. We also saw the dawn time displays of the Andean Cock-of-the-rock there too. On our return journey to Quito we made a short stop in some dry open country in Calacali, where we managed to add a handful of new birds to end the main tour, which included the stunning Black-tailed Trainbearer, colorful Golden-rumped Euphonia, and the scarce and very local White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant.
The following day we started the short High Andes Extension, which visited three sites, Antisana, Guango Lodge, and Papallacta. We started at Antisana National Park, a site above the treeline, where the paramo grasslands provided some of easiest birding of the entire tour, due to the open nature of the habitat. This is the best site in Ecuador for Andean Condor, and we saw these resting on a rock face, as well as Carunculated Caracara, Black-faced Ibis, Andean Gull, Andean Lapwing, and Silvery Grebe. Lunch at a small café in the park allowed us to view their hummingbird feeders, which drew in Shining Sunbeam and Giant Hummingbird. From there we moved to another set of feeders at Guango Lodge, set within temperate forest lower down, where we added Collared Inca, Long-tailed Sylph, White-bellied Woodstar, and Tourmaline Sunangel to the list and were reacquainted with Sword-billed Hummingbird. Our last stop of the extension was at Papallacta, the highest site of the entire trip, which brought us Blue-mantled Thornbill, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Red-crested Cotinga, and the rare Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, before we returned to Ecuador’s capital city for one final night.

TOUR SUMMARY: MAIN TOUR

Day 1 (of birding): Yanacocha to Tandayapa Bird Lodge

Most people on the tour arrived the day before, or earlier, and so this morning was the time when we all got to meet as a group together for the first time. Our first port of call was Yanacocha Reserve, an area of protected temperate forest, owned by an Ecuadorian NGO, the Jocotoco Foundation. The drive from the hotel took around 90 minutes, as we drove up and out of Ecuador’s capital city, Quito, getting wonderful views down onto the city as we did so. We stopped well before the reserve though to pick up our first birds of the tour,
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which included some spectacular openers, like **Scarlet-bellied and Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanagers**, **Red-crested Cotinga, Brown-bellied Swallow**, in addition to some less colorful fare, like **Crowned and Brown-backed Chat-Tyrants, Black Flowerpiercer**, and the aptly-named **Plain-colored Seedeater**. We also got our first raptors of the tour, with a flying **Aplomado Falcon** and a soaring **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle**. All-in-all, this was a great start to the trip, considering we had not yet reached the main site!

On arriving at the reserve, there was no letup in the action though, as some new fruit feeders on site lured in **Scarlet-bellied and Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers** (*photo page 2 and 3 respectively*), **Yellow-breasted Brushfinch**, and an **Andean Guan**. Alongside the banana feeders, beside the reserve parking area, the hummingbird feeders had attendees of their own, which included one of the largest of the hummingbirds, **Great Sapphirewing**, as well as a tiny one too, **Tyrian Metaltail**, along with **Buff-winged Starfrontlet**, and **Shining Sunbeam**. Not all the birds at the hummingbird feeders were the intended species, as “nectar parasites”, like **Glossy and Masked Flowerpiercers** also came, and **Cinereous Conebill** featured in the same area too.

After we’d had a decent look at all the feeder birds, we hit the trail. Even though the altitude of 11,150ft/3400m is noticeable here, the flat trail made this relatively easy work for us, and we took it slow as we walked it. One of the classic birding experiences in the Andes, is to encounter a mixed species feeding flock, which were fortunate to do, as we walked the trail. This held birds like **Blue-backed Conebill, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Rufous Wren**, the absurdly named **Superciliaried Hemispingus**, and **White-throated and White-banded Tyrannulets**. The explosive calls of an **Ocellated Tapaculo** coming from the trailside led us to this smart, and often elusive bird, and another potential skulker, **Rufous Antpitta** also showed along there too. After a 2-mile
walk, we reached the centerpiece of the reserve, another set of hummingbird feeders, which are typically the liveliest ones in the reserve. This day was no different in this regard, bringing us additional species, not present at the earlier feeders, like **Sapphire-vented and Golden-breasted Pufflegs**, and the incredible **Sword-billed Hummingbird** at the feeders, which boats the longest bill size of any bird, (relative to body size). After some feeder action, it was time to head back to the reserve entrance for lunch at their small local restaurant. The walk back was taken slowly though, and was far from quiet, as we managed to call in a nocturnal bird, **White-throated Screech-Owl (photo page before)** near an area where another Tropical Birding guide, Andres Vasquez had recently seen it! This was very unexpected, and not likely to be repeated any time soon! Other notable finds on our return journey included two stunning hummingbirds, **Rainbow-bearded and Purple-backed Thornbills**, **Hooded Mountain-Tanager**, and **Smoky Bush-Tyrant**, a subdued flycatcher.

Following our hot lunch in the reserve, we set off for **Tandayapa Bird Lodge**, taking the remainder of the afternoon to get there, as we made multiple stops along the forested **Old Nono-Mindo Road**, a known birding site in its own right. The journey produced plentiful birds, such as **Spectacled Whitestart**, **White-crested Elaenia**, a **Plain-tailed Wren** skulking in the **chusquea** bamboo, **Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant (photo above)** singing from a creek-side, and a small mixed feeding flock with **Golden and Golden-naped Tanagers**, **Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager**, **Smoke-colored Pewee**, and **Cinnamon Flycatcher**. Just before we rolled into the lodge in the late afternoon, we also found the beautifully colored **Turquoise Jay**, and a female **Andean Cock-of-the-rock** coming into roost under the bridge in the **Tandayapa village**.
This day was spent entirely within the Tandayapa Valley, a place revered amongst world birders, as it is home to many bird species, and many stunning bird species at that. Our base for five nights of the tour was Tandayapa Bird Lodge, located in the heart of this valley, and the place where our exploration of the area began. We started out, before dawn was yet fully risen, by walking to a forest blind, a short distance from the lodge. After dawn had come, a handful of birds came into to feed on the insects attracted to a nightlight alongside the blind. Although the list of birds attracted daily is not long, this does allow extraordinary close ups of some forest birds. On this day, this involved Rufous Motmot, Zeledon’s Antbird, Three-striped and Russet-crowned Warblers, White-throated Quail-Dove, Spotted Barbtail, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, and even the usually shy and very difficult, Scaled Antpitta. Typically, the blind was active in the very early morning, but the activity quickly died once the early birds had feasted on most of the insects. At this time, we made the short walk back to the lodge and took breakfast, while a group of other birds foraged in insects attracted to the lodge building in the night, like Tricolored Brushfinch, Streak-capped Treehunter, Golden-crowned Flycatcher, Uniform Antshrike, and a colorful endemic of the Chocó region, the outlandish Toucan Barbet. Our next focus was the feature that Tandayapa Bird Lodge is perhaps best known for, the hummingbird feeders. Right from the porch we admired 14 different species of hummingbirds coming and going from these, and involving hundreds of individuals. This was not a set of hummingbirds to be sniffed at either, with some real thrillers in there, like Purple-bibbed Whitetip, Violet-tailed Sylph, Purple-throated...
Woodstar, and the cartoon-like Booted Racket-tail, always one of the most popular birds on this tour for good reason. The hummingbird tally was completed by Buff-tailed Coronet, Green-crowned and Fawn-breasted Brilliants, Andean and Western Emeralds, Brown Inca, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and Lesser, Sparkling and Brown Violetears. The rest of our morning was spent birding around the lodge, and on some of its trails, which brought us a pair of Red-headed Barbets chasing each other energetically, in addition to Crimson-rumped Toucanet (photo page 6), Red-billed Parrot, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Black-capped and White-winged Tanagers, White-winged Becard, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Montane Woodcreepers. Lineated Foliage-Gleaner, Andean Solitaire, Masked Trogon, Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant, and the furtive Nariño Tapaculo, an inconspicuous endemic species to the region.

Our post lunch plan was to bird the Upper Tandayapa Valley, only some 4.5 miles/7 km above the lodge, and about 2000 ft/600 m higher in elevation. Although a small change in altitude, it is significant, and offered up some different species to that found right around the lodge. The journey there is normally straightforward, but an unseasonal landslide blocked the most direct route, and so we left right after lunch, so that we would get enough time there, in light of our unplanned extra journey time. Some of the most wanted birds in this region of Ecuador dwell in this area, and we were gifted two of these on this very afternoon, with a Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan feeding in a fruiting tree, and the rare Tanager Finch (photo above), which had been very difficult of late, and so especially pleasing to find. The area is also rich in mixed feeding flocks, which produced other birds like Beryl-spangled, Grass-green, and Blue-and-black Tanagers, Dusky Chlorospingus, Pearled Treerunner, Flavescent Flycatcher, Black-crested Warbler, Turquoise Jay, Strong-billed Woodcreepers, and Green-and-black Fruiteater. Keeping a lookout on some roadside shrubs
also led us to two different hummingbirds which rarely make it as low as the lodge, and so were new for the trip: the endemic Gorgeted Sunangel, and diminutive Speckled Hummingbird. As we drove back down towards the lodge, we encountered three different Golden-headed Quetzals, then near the lodge, we found a pair of Lyre-tailed Nightjars at dusk to round off a classic day in this incredibly bird rich part of the Andes.

**Day 3: Rio Silanche**

So far, we had covered two major altitudinal zones in the Andes, each with a distinct set of birds, the temperate zone at Yanacocha, and the subtropics around Tandayapa. Today we descended into the lowlands, and took our longest day trip from the lodge, to Rio Silanche, a 90-minute drive from our base. We took a breakfast in the field, and then set off birding along the entrance road into Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary. Although much of this area has been cleared of forest, fragments remain, and these patches can be very birdy indeed. Making regular stops along the road led to sightings of Silver-throated, Blue-necked, and Bay-headed Tanagers, Bronze-winged Parrot, Black-winged Saltator, Pacific Antwren, Pacific Parrotlet, Bay Wren, Maroon-tailed Parakeet, Yellow-tailed Oriole, Slaty and Red-faced Spinetails, Thick-billed Seedfinch, Plain-brown and Streak-headed Woodcreepers, Sooty-headed and Yellow-crowned Tyrannulets, Little Cuckoo, and a couple of Guayaquil Woodpeckers. A stop initiated by the spotting of a Striped Cuckoo, ended up being even more fortuitous when we not only located the cuckoo again, but noticed a white bird flying towards us that turned out to be a male Black-tipped Cotinga, a very rare bird for this area in recent years. Bizarrely, this forest bird was seen perched in a palm plantation with only a few trees! With all of this action along the road in, we did not get to the reserve until near lunchtime, when we took our packed lunch up to the top of the small canopy tower, from which we spotted some stellar birds, like Yellow-tufted and Blue Dacnis, Masked Tityra, Dot-winged Antwren, Lesser Greenlet, Choco Tyrannulet, and White-shouldered and Gray-and-gold Tanagers, sitting in trees near the platform. Following our time on the tower, we went for a walk along one of the easygoing trails in the area, which then added the following birds to our list: Black-throated and White-tailed Trogons, Broad-billed Motmot, Cinnamon and One-colored Becards, Lineated Woodpecker, White-bearded Manakin, Black-crowned Antshrike, Purple-crowned Fairy, and Blue-chested Hummingbird. All too soon it was time to head back east to Tandayapa, but not before picking up Hook-billed Kite, Bat and Laughing Falcons, and Long-tailed Tyrant on the road out.

**Day 4: Milpe and the Upper Tandayapa Valley**

Today we dropped down from Tandayapa into the foothills of the Andes, where we visited Milpe Bird Sanctuary and Milpe Garden, both sister reserves managed by the Mindo Cloud Forest Foundation. First of all, we birded near the parking lot, where we found Choco Toucan, Collared (Pale-mandibled) Araçari, Rufous Motmot, Chestnut-backed Antbird, and at the hummingbird feeders we saw Green Thorntail, Green-crowned Brilliant, White-necked Jacobin, Crowned Woodnymph, and White-whiskered Hermit. Following this, we birded along the road nearby, and found Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan, Choco Tyrannulet, Fawn-breasted and Rufous-throated Tanagers, Yellow-throated Chlorospingus, and Ruddy Pigeon. The rest of the morning was spent walking some of the forest trails at Milpe, finding two scarcities in Lancelated Monklet and White-whiskered Puffbird, in addition to a slew of other new birds for us, which included Choco Warbler, Tawny-breasted, Slaty-capped and Ornate Flycatchers, Russet Antshrike, Buff-fronted and Scaly-throated Foliage-Gleaners, Wedge-billed and Spotted Woodcreepers,

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and Ochre-breasted Tanager. Lunch was taken in a local restaurant with bird feeders, in the nearby town of Los Bancos. The feeders were active during our visit, and right from the restaurant we enjoyed watching a procession of birds coming in, with Silver-throated, Blue-gray, Palm and Golden Tanagers, Orangebellied and Thick-billed Euphonias, Ecuadorian Thrush, and Orange-billed Sparrow all featuring there. Following lunch, we decided to drive back to the lodge via a different route, driving up a forested back road from the tiny town of San Tadeo. This worked out well, as we added some other birds of the diverse subtropics that we had missed during our earlier time in the Upper Tandayapa Valley. This included Dusky Chlorospingus, Montane Woodcreeper, Western (Black-eared) Hemispingus, Streak-headed Antbird, and two spectacular woodpeckers, Crimson-mantled and Powerful Woodpeckers.

Day 5: Mashpi

Today we visited Mashpi, a site sitting somewhere between Milpe and Tandayapa in altitude, but the special nature of the wet forest in the area is home to a number of regional endemics that are either very difficult or impossible anywhere else in the area. The sheer quality of birds in this area was immediately obvious, when we were forced to stop before we had even reached the main birding spot, and quickly racked up Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Beryl-spangled Tanager, and Scaled and Orange-breasted Fruiteaters. Then, once we had arrived at the main birding spot along the road we added Pacific Tuftedcheek, Cinnamon and Barred Becards, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Rufous-rumped Antwren, Rufous-throated Tanager, and three further specialties of this site, Indigo Flowerpiercer, and Moss-backed and Glistening-
green Tanagers. Continuing along the road, this short walk also revealed Green-fronted Lancebill, Black-striped Sparrow, Golden-winged and Club-winged Manakins, and a nesting Lyre-tailed Nightjar (photo below) near the end of the walk. We also stopped in at the excellent Amagusa Reserve, a small privately-owned sanctuary, with both fruit and hummingbird feeders.

The fruit feeders were lively, with Black-winged Saltator, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Golden, Lemon-rumped, Golden-naped, and Flame-faced Tanagers all in attendance. The nearby hummingbird feeders had quality of their own in abundance too, with stunners like Empress Brilliant and Velvet-purple Coronet visiting, along with White-whiskered Hermit, Green Thorntail, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, and Violet-tailed Sylph. After taking our packed lunch in the field, we birded the forest patches along the dirt road towards Mashpi village, finding an excellent mixed feeding flock with Blue Dacnis, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Yellow-bellied Siskin, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, Green and Purple Honeycreepers, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Blue-necked, Bay-headed, Emerald, Scarlet-browed and Gray and gold Tanagers, and Orange-fronted Barbet within the heady mix of birds foraging together. Also in the surrounding we noted other quality species like Broad-billed Motmot, Collared Trogon, and Barred Puffbird.
Empress Brilliant and Orange-breasted Fruiteater at Mashpi
Day 6: Refugio Paz de Aves and Calacalí

After several days at lower elevations in the foothills of the Andes, we returned to the subtropical forests on this day, but to a special reserve called Refugio Paz de Aves. An early start was needed, so that we could get in place at a forest blind for the dawn-time displays of the shocking red Andean Cock-of-the-rock (photo above). We were guided by the amazing Paz brothers, who lured in a number of normally difficult birds for our viewing pleasure. This started off with a family of tame Dark-backed Wood-Quail, which was followed by another daytime Lyre-tailed Nightjar, Wedge-billed Hummingbird, and some of the antpittas that made this place famous, Yellow-breasted and Chestnut-crowned Antpittas. Away from the feeding stations, the forest was productive with Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Sickle-winged Guan, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Toucan Barbet, Tyrannine Woodcreeper, and Black-capped and Golden-naped Tanagers.

Out time in the bird rich Tandayapa region finally came to an end, and we drove back to Quito, stopping off in some dry open country at Calacalí on the way back. While this habitat is depauperate compared with the forested regions we had been in, it still brought us new birds, as we had not birded in anything like this before. Highlights included Black-tailed Trainbearer, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Common Ground-Dove, Band-tailed Seedeater, Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch, Golden-rumped Euphonia, Blue-and-yellow Tanager, and the rare and local White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant. Our final stop of the main tour was a small pond near the
airport that held a few waterbirds, which were thin on the ground in this forest-based tour, like Slate-colored (Andean) Coot, Andean Gull, and Yellow-billed Pintail.

Flame-faced Tanager at the Mashpi feeders

HIGH ANDES EXTENSION

Day 7: Antisana National Park and Guango Lodge

This short extension was very different from the main tour, spending most of its time above the treeline in the high Andes, where arguably the most spectacular scenery of the entire tour was seen, and a slew of new high Andean birds were seen. An hour’s drive from our airport hotel brought us to Antisana National Park, known to local birders as the best place in the country for Ecuador’s massive national bird, the Andean Condor. The site’s reliability for this species was proven quickly, when we stopped at a designated viewpoint for the species, and found a condor resting on the cliffs. The same area also held Black Flowerpiercer, Sedge (Grass) Wren, Variable Hawk, and Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle. A short drive further on led us to an area of scrub, where some flowering Chuquiragua shrubs attracted both male and female Ecuadorian Hillstars to its orange blooms, a species that is largely confined to Ecuador. Birding the same area also led us to find Andean Tit-Spinetail, Streak-backed Canastero, and both Chestnut-winged and Stout-billed Cinclodes. We continued higher into the heart of the reserve, where scrub gave way to open paramo grasslands, above the timber line. As we emerged up on to the plateau, we enjoyed cracking looks at some of the surrounding
volcanos, Cotopaxi and Antisana, after which the park was named. Up there we located Paramo Pipit, Black-winged Ground-Dove, Andean Lapwing, Brown-bellied Swallow, Carunculated Caracara (photo next page), and a few of the locally threatened Black-faced Ibis (photo below) foraging among the grasslands.

After enjoying all these wonderful birds, we visited La Mica Lake to find some high Andean waterbirds. The usual suspects were in evidence, like Andean Teal, (Andean) Ruddy Duck, Slate-colored (Andean) Coot, and best of all, fantastic looks at the cute Silvery Grebe that appears a little like a piece of floating cotton.

To finish off our time in this wonderful national park, we took a lunch of local cuisine at a café within the park, which comes complete with hummingbird feeders. Shining Sunbeam, Black-tailed Trainbearer, Tyrian Metaltail and the largest of them all, Giant Hummingbird, all visited over our lunchtime vigil. Following lunch with yet more hummingbirds for company, we set off for our final lodge of the tour, Guango Lodge, where there was just enough light on arrival to enjoy their own set of hummingbirds, which featured new species for us like Long-tailed Sylph, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Collared Inca, Tourmaline Sunangel, and White-bellied Woodstar, along with repeats from the main tour, such as Speckled Hummingbird, Buff-tailed Coronet, and Tyrian Metaltail.
Day 8: Guango Lodge and Papallacta

It seemed a long time, and many birds, ago that we were seeing our first birds of the tour, with tanagers on the edge of Quito; but the last day of the tour had finally come around. Having arrived with minimal time to bird Guango Lodge itself the afternoon before, we decided to see something of the lodge property and its birds first thing this morning. As hoped, we found a small feeding flock a short walk from the lodge, with Pale-naped Brushfinch, Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager, White-banded Tyrannulet, Pearled Treerunner, Mountain Wren, Spectacled (Whitestart) Redstart, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, Turquoise Jay, Black-eared Hemispingus, Cinnamon Flycatcher and some noisy (Northern) Mountain Caciques among the birds present. We also took a short walk along the Papallacta River, where we found a White-capped Dipper hopping among the rocks. Our final time at Guango was spent at their hummingbird feeders again, getting our last major fix of hummingbirds for a tour that had showed us many from this stunning family of birds.

The final few stops of the tour were around Papallacta, first along a road that leads to one of the entrances to Cayambe-Coca National Park that resulted in us finding Black-backed Bush-Tanager (new for the trip), Black-chested and Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers, Glossy Flowerpiercer, Black-capped and Black-headed Hemispingus (also new for the trip), as well as Blue-backed Conebill, and an amazing striking view of another new species for us, Agile Tit-Tyrant. Further up the same road we also saw Tawny Antpitta, Great...
Sapphirewing, Shining Sunbeam, and Viridian Metaltail. After this successful run, we drove on towards Quito, making our final birding stop around Papallacta Pass where we found Andean Tit-Spinetail, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Andean Condor, Chestnut-winged and Stout-billed Cinclodes, Variable Hawk, and Carunculated Caracara, all of which we had seen previously at Antisana. However, White-chinned Thistletail, Blue-mantled Thornbill, and Many-striped Canastero were new, as was the rare Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, a great final bird for the trip, (and one that was voted for as one of the birds of the tour), before we drove back to Quito for one more night before departures out.

After our final checklist that night we found we had recorded 381 species for the tour, with 355 of these seen. The overall birds of the trip were varied, as always within a region so laden with spectacular and colorful birds, and included Flame-faced Tanager, Black-tipped Cotinga, Andean Condor, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Lanceolated Monklet, Golden-naped Tanager, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Whitethroated Screech-Owl, the striking Andean Cock of the Rock, Tanager Finch, Toucan Barbet, Carunculated Caracara, Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, Choco Toucan, Orange-fronted Barbet, Black-faced Ibis, and Beryl-spangled and Scarlet-browed Tanagers.
Giant Hummingbird the largest of them all, at Antisana

**BIRD LIST:**


This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until August 2016.

(H) indicates a species that was HEARD only.

(G) indicates a species recorded by the GUIDE ONLY.

**TINAMOUS**

Tawny-breasted Tinamou
Berlepsch's Tinamou
Little Tinamou
Curve-billed Tinamou

**TINAMIDAE**

Nothocercus julius
Crypturellus berlepschi
Crypturellus soui
Nothoprocta curvirostris

H
DUCKS, GEESE, & WATERFOWL

Yellow-billed Pintail
Andean Teal
(Andean) Ruddy Duck

CRACIDS

Andean Guan
Sickle-winged Guan

NEW WORLD QUAIL

Dark-backed Wood-Quail

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe
Silvery Grebe

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS

Neotropic Cormorant

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNs

Snowy Egret
Cattle Egret

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS

Black-faced (Andean) Ibis

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Andean Condor

OSPREY

Osprey

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES

Hook-billed Kite
Swallow-tailed Kite
Barred Hawk
Roadside Hawk
Harris’s Hawk
Variable Hawk
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS

White-throated Crake
Slate-colored (Andean) Coot

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS

Andean Lapwing

GULLS, TERNs AND SKIMMERS

Andean Gull

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon
Pale-vented Pigeon
Band-tailed Pigeon
Plumbeous Pigeon

ANATIDAE

Anas georgica
Anas andium andium
Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea

CRACIDAE

Penelope montagnii
Chamaepetes goudotii

ODONTOPHORIDAE

Odontophorus melanotus

PODICIPEDIDAE

Podilymbus podiceps
Podiceps occipitalis

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

ARDEIDAE

Egretta thula
Bubulcus ibis

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Theristicus melanocephalus branickii

CATHARTIDAE

Coragyps atratus
Cathartes aura jota
Vultur gryphus

PANDIONIDAE

Pandion haliaetus

ACCIPITRIDAE

Chondrohierax uncinatus
Elanoides forficatus
Morphnarchus princeps
Rupornis magnirostris
Parabuteo unicinctus
Geranobus polyosoma
Geranohus melanoleucus

RALLIDAE

Laterallus albigularis
Fulica ardesiaca

CHARADRIIDAE

Vanellus resplendens

LARIDAE

Croicocephalus serranus

COLUMBIIDAE

Columba livia
Patagioenas cayennensis
Patagioenas fasciata
Patagioenas plumbea
Ruddy Pigeon  
Patagioenas subvinacea

Dusky Pigeon  
Patagioenas goodsoni

Common Ground-Dove  
Columbina passerina

Black-winged Ground-Dove  
Metriopelia melanoptera

White-tipped Dove  
Leptotila verreauxi

Pallid Dove  
Leptotila pallida

White-throated Quail-Dove  
Zentrygon frenata

Eared Dove  
Zenaida auriculata

**CUCKOOS**

Smooth-billed Ani  
Crotophaga ani

Striped Cuckoo  
Tapera naevia

Little Cuckoo  
Coccycua minuta

Squirrel Cuckoo  
Piaya cayana

**BARN-OWLS**

Barn Owl  
Tyto alba contempa

**OWLS**

White-throated Screech-Owl  
Megascops albogularis

**NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES**

Rufous-bellied Nighthawk  
Lurocalis rufiventris

Lyre-tailed Nightjar  
Uropsalis lyra

**SWIFTS**

Chestnut-collared Swift  
Streptoprocne rutila

White-collared Swift  
Streptoprocne zonaris

Gray-rumped Swift  
Chaetura cinereiventris

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift  
Panyptila cayennensis

**HUMMINGBIRDS**

White-necked Jacobin  
Florisuga mellivora

White-whiskered Hermit  
Phaethornis yaruqui

Tawny-bellied Hermit  
Phaethornis syrmatophorus

Stripe-throated Hermit  
Phaethornis striigularis

Green-fronted Lancebill  
Doryfera ludovicae

Wedge-billed Hummingbird  
Schistes geoffroyi

Brown Violetear  
Colibri delphinae

Lesser (Green) Violetear  
Colibri cyanotus

Sparkling Violetear  
Colibri coruscans

Purple-crowned Fairy  
Heliotheryx baroti

Gorgeted Sunangel  
Heliangelus strophianus

Tourmaline Sunangel  
Heliangelus exortis

Green Thorntail  
Discosura conversii

Speckled Hummingbird  
Adelomyia melanogenys

Long-tailed Sylph  
Aglaiocercus kingii

Violet-tailed Sylph  
Aglaiocercus coelestis

Ecuadorian Hillstar  
Oreotrochilus chimborazo

Black-tailed Trainbearer  
Lesbia victoriae

Purple-backed Thornbill  
Ramphocinclus microhynchum
Blue-mantled Thornbill  
Rainbow-bearded Thornbill  
Tyrian Metaltail  
Viridian Metaltail  
Sapphire-vented Puffleg  
Golden-breasted Puffleg  
Shining Sunbeam  
Brown Inca  
Collared Inca  
Buff-winged Starfrontlet  
Mountain Velvetbreast  
Sword-billed Hummingbird  
Great Sapphirewing  
Buff-tailed Coronet  
Chestnut-breasted Coronet  
Velvet-purple Coronet  
Booted Racket-tail  
Purple-bibbed Whitetip  
Fawn-breasted Brilliant  
Green-crowned Brilliant  
Empress Brilliant  
Giant Hummingbird  
White-bellied Woodstar  
Purple-throated Woodstar  
Western Emerald  
Crowned (Green-crowned) Woodnymph  
Andean Emerald  
Purple-chested Hummingbird  
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird  

**TROGONS**  
Golden-headed Quetzal  
Crested Quetzal  
Blue-tailed (Chocó) Trogon  
(Western) White-tailed Trogon  
Black-throated Trogon  
Collared Trogon  
Masked Trogon  

**MOTMOTS**  
Rufous Motmot  
Broad-billed Motmot  

**KINGFISHERS**  
Ringed Kingfisher  
Green Kingfisher  

**PUFFBIRDS**  
Barred Puffbird
White-whiskered Puffbird
Lanceolated Monklet

**JACAMARS**
Rufous-tailed Jacamar

**NEW WORLD BARBETS**
Orange-fronted Barbet
Red-headed Barbet

**TOUCAN-BARBETS**
Toucan Barbet

**TOUCANS**
Crimson-rumped Toucanet
Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan
Collared (Pale-mandibled) Aracari
Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan
Choco Toucan

**WOODPECKERS**
Olivaceous Piculet
Black-cheeked Woodpecker
Smoky-brown Woodpecker
Bar-bellied Woodpecker
Golden-olive Woodpecker
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker
Lineated Woodpecker
Powerful Woodpecker
Guayaquil Woodpecker

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS**
Carunculated Caracara
Laughing Falcon
American Kestrel
Aplomado Falcon
Bat Falcon

**NEW WORLD AND AFRICAN PARROTS**
Red-billed Parrot
Speckle-faced (White-capped) Parrot
Blue-headed Parrot
Bronze-winged Parrot
Pacific Parrotlet
Maroon-tailed Parakeet
Red-masked Parakeet

**TYPICAL ANTBIARDS**
Rufous-rumped Antwren
Black-crowned (Western Slaty-) Antshrike
Uniform Antshrike
Russet Antshrike
Checker-throated Antwren

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Malacoptila panamensis
Micromonacha lanceolata

**GALBULIDAE**
Galbula ruficauda

**CAPITONIDAE**
Capito squamatus
Eubucco bourcierii

**SEMNORNITHIDAE**
Semnornis ramphastinus

**RAMPHASTIDAE**
Aulacorhynchus haematopygus
Andigena laminirostris
Pteroglossus torquatus erythropygus
Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii
Ramphastos brevis

**PICIDAE**
Picumnus olivaceus
Melanerpes pucherani
Picoides fumigatus
Veniliornis nigriceps

**FALCONIDAE**
Phalcoboenus carunculatus
Herpetotheres cachinnans
Falco sparverius
Falco femoralis
Falco rufiligeris
Psittacidae
Pionus sordidus
Pionus tumultuosus seniloides
Pionus menstruus
Pionus chalcopterus
Forpus coelestis
Pyrrhura melanura pacifica
Psittacara erythrogenys

**THAMNOPHILIDAE**
Euchrepomis callinota
Thamnophilus atrinucha
Thamnophilus unicolor
Thamnistes anabatinus
Epinecrophylla fulviventris
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<tr>
<th>Bird Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Antwren</td>
<td>Myrmotherula pacifica</td>
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<td>Drymophila striaticeps</td>
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<td>Chestnut-backed Antbird</td>
<td>Poliocrania exsul</td>
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<td>Esmeraldas Antbird</td>
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<td>Hafferia zeledoni</td>
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<td><strong>ANTPITTA</strong></td>
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<td>Yellow-breasted Antpitta</td>
<td>Grallaria flavotincta</td>
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<td>Rufous Antpitta</td>
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<td>Tawny Antpitta</td>
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<td>Ocellated Tapaculo</td>
<td>Acropternis orthonyx</td>
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<td>Ash-colored Tapaculo</td>
<td>Myornis senilis</td>
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<td>Blackish (Unicolored) Tapaculo</td>
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<td>Nariño Tapaculo</td>
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<td>Spillmann's Tapaculo</td>
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<td>Rufous-breasted Antthrush</td>
<td>Formicarius rufipectus</td>
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<td>Tawny-throated Leaf tosser</td>
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<td>Pseudocolaptes lawrencii johnsoni</td>
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<td>Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii</td>
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<td>Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero</td>
<td>Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus</td>
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<td>Chestnut-winged (Bar-winged) Cinclodes</td>
<td>Cinclodes albidiventris</td>
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<td>Pearled Treerunner</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andean Tit-Spinetail</td>
<td>Leptasthenura andicola</td>
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<td><strong>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</strong></td>
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<td>Brown-capped Tyrannulet</td>
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<td>Choco (Golden-faced) Tyrannulet</td>
<td>Zimmerius (chrysops) albicollaris</td>
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<td>Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant</td>
<td>Cnemarchus erythopygius</td>
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<td>Masked Water-Tyrant</td>
<td>Fluvicola nengeta</td>
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<td>Crowned Chat-Tyrant</td>
<td>Ochthoea frontalis</td>
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</table>
Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant
Long-tailed Tyrant
Boat-billed Flycatcher
Rusty-margined Flycatcher
Golden-crowned Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird

**COTINGAS**
Green-and-black Fruiteater
Orange-breasted Fruiteater
Scaled Fruiteater
Red-crested Cotinga
Andean Cock-of-the-rock
Purple-throated Fruitcrow
Black-tipped Cotinga

**MANAKINS**
Golden-winged Manakin
White-bearded Manakin
Club-winged Manakin
Red-capped Manakin

**TITYRAS AND ALLIES**
Masked Tityra
Barred Becard
Cinnamon Becard
White-winged Becard
One-colored Becard

**VIREOS AND ALLIES**
Black-billed Peppershrike
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo
Lesser Greenlet
Brown-capped Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo

**CROWS JAYS AND MAGPIES**
Turquoise Jay

**SWALLOWS**
Blue-and-white Swallow
Brown-bellied Swallow
White-thighed Swallow
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Gray-breasted Martin

**WRENS**
Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren
House Wren
Mountain Wren

**COTINGIDAE**
*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*
*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*
*Ochthoeca fumicolor*
*Colonia colonus*
*Megarynchus pitangua*
*Myiopetetes cayanensis*
*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*
*Tyrannus melancholicus*

**PIPRIDAE**
*Pipreola riefferii*
*Pipreola jucunda*
*Ampelioides tschudii*
*Ampelion rubrocristatus*
*Rupicola peruvianus*
*Querula purpurata*
*Carpodectes hopkei*

**TITRIDAEC**
*Tityra semifasciata*
*Pachyramphus versicolor*
*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*
*Pachyramphus polychopterus dorsalis*
*Pachyramphus homochrous*

**VIREONIDAE**
*Cyclarhis nigrirostris*
*Vireolanius leucotis*
*Pachysylvia decurtata*
*Vireo leucophrys*
*Vireo olivaceus*

**CORVIDAE**
*Cyanolyca turcosa*

**HIRUNDINIDAE**
*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*
*Orochelidon murina*
*Atticora tibialis*
*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*
*Progne chalybea*

**TROGLODYTIDAE**
*Microcerculus marginatus*
*Trogodytes aedon*
*Trogodytes solstitialis*
Sedge (Grass) Wren
Plain-tailed Wren
Stripe-throated Wren
Bay Wren
Rufous Wren
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren
DIPPERS
White-capped Dipper
THRUSHES AND ALLIES
Andean Solitaire
Spotted Nightingale-Thrush
Pale-eyed Thrush
Pale-vented Thrush
Ecuadorian Thrush
Great Thrush
Glossy-black Thrush
MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS
Tropical Mockingbird
WAGTAILS AND PIPITS
Paramo Pipit
NEW WORLD WARBLERS
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat
Tropical Parula
Three-striped Warbler
Black-crested Warbler
Buff-rumped Warbler
Golden-bellied (Chocó) Warbler
Russet-crowned Warbler
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart)
Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart)
TANAGERS AND ALLIES
Black-capped Hemispingus
Superciliaried Hemispingus
Black-eared Hemispingus
Black-eared (Western) Hemispingus
Black-headed Hemispingus
Gray-hooded Bush Tanager
White-shouldered Tanager
White-lined Tanager
Flame-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Tanager
Moss-backed Tanager
Hooded Mountain-Tanager
Black-chested Mountain-Tanager
Grass-green Tanager
Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager

Cistothorus platensis aequatorialis
Pheugopedius euophrys
Cantorchilus leucopogon
Cantorchilus nigricapillus
Cinnycerthia unirufa
Henicorhina leucophrys
Cinclus leucocephalus
Catharus dryas
Turdus leucops
Turdus obsoletus
Turdus maculirostris
Turdus fuscater
Turdus serranus
Mimus gilvus
Anthus bogotensis
Geothlypis semiflava
Setophaga pitiayumi
Basileuterus tristriatus
Myiothlypis nigrocristata
Myiothlypis fulviauda
Myiothlypis chrysogaster chlorophrys
Myiothlypis coronata
Myioborus miniatus
Myioborus melanochepalus
Hemispingus atropileus
Hemispingus superciliaris
Hemispingus melanotis melanotis
Hemispingus melanotis ochraceus
Hemispingus verticalis
Cnemoscopus rubirostris
Tachyphonus lucutosus
Tachyphonus rufus
Ramphocelus flammigerus icteronotus
Bangsia edwardsi
Buthraupis montana
Cnemathraupis eximia
Chlorornis riefferii
Anisognathus igniventris
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<td>Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rufous-throated Tanager</td>
<td>Tangara rufigula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-and-black Tanager</td>
<td>Tangara vassori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beryl-spangled Tanager</td>
<td>Tangara nigroviridis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metallic-green Tanager</td>
<td>Tangara labradorides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay-headed Tanager</td>
<td>Tangara gyrola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flame-faced Tanager</td>
<td>Tangara parzudakii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Tanager</td>
<td>Tangara arthus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald Tanager</td>
<td>Tangara florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver-throated Tanager</td>
<td>Tangara icterocephala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swallow Tanager</td>
<td>Tersina viridis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-faced (Yellow-tufted) Dacnis</td>
<td>Dacnis lineata aequatorialis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Dacnis</td>
<td>Dacnis cayana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Honeycreeper</td>
<td>Cyanerpes caeruleus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Honeycreeper</td>
<td>Chlorophanes spiza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet-browed Tanager</td>
<td>Heterospingus xanthopygius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinereous Conebill</td>
<td>Conirostrum cinereum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-backed Conebill</td>
<td>Conirostrum sitticolor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossy Flowerpiercer</td>
<td>Diglossa lafresnayii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Flowerpiercer</td>
<td>Diglossa humeralis</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-sided Flowerpiercer</td>
<td>Diglossa albilatera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigo Flowerpiercer</td>
<td>Diglossa indicotica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masked Flowerpiercer</td>
<td>Diglossa cyanea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-backed Bush Tanager</td>
<td>Urothraupis stolzmanni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbeous Sierra-Finch</td>
<td>Phrygilus unicolor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch</td>
<td>Phrygilus plebejus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-black Grassquit</td>
<td>Volatinia jacarina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thick-billed (Lesser) Seed-Finch</td>
<td>Sporophila funerea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable Seedeer</td>
<td>Sporophila corvina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Seedeer</td>
<td>Sporophila nigricollis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band-tailed Seedeer</td>
<td>Catamenia analis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plain-colored Seedeer</td>
<td>Catamenia inornata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bananaquit</td>
<td>Coereba flaveola</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dusky-faced Tanager
Buff-throated Saltator
Black-winged Saltator
Slate-colored Grosbeak

**BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS**

Taner Finch
Yellow-throated Chlorospingus (Bush-Tanager)
Dusky Chlorospingus (Bush-Tanager)
Black-striped Sparrow
Gray-browed (Stripe-headed) Brushfinch
Orange-billed Sparrow
Cheated-capped Brushfinch
Rufous-collared Sparrow
Tricolored Brushfinch
Pale-naped Brushfinch
Yellow-breasted (Rufous-naped) Brushfinch
White-winged Brushfinch

**CARDINALS AND ALLIES**

White-winged Tanager
Ochre-breasted Tanager
Golden Grosbeak

**TROUPIALS AND ALLIES**

Scrub Blackbird
Shiny Cowbird
Yellow-tailed Oriole
Scarlet-rumped Cacique
(Northern) Mountain Cacique

**FINCHES, EUPHONIAS AND ALLIES**

 Thick-billed Euphonia
Golden-rumped Euphonia
Orange-bellied Euphonia
Yellow-bellied Siskin
Hooded Siskin

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

House Sparrow

**MAMMAL LIST:**

Brown-throated (Three-toed) Sloth
Red-tailed Squirrel
Central American Agouti
Tapeti (Brazilian Rabbit)
Long-tailed Weasel

**Tropical Birding Trip Report**

**ECUADOR: Andes Introtour June 2017**

www.tropicalbirding.com  +1-409-515-9110  info@tropicalbirding.com