

Tropical Birding Eastern Ecuador Tour November-December 2010



Eastern Ecuador Tour:
High Andes to Vast Amazon



This rare Andean Potoo, here on a nest, was one of the tour highlights.

27 November - 12 December, 2010

Guided by Andrew Spencer

The Amazon. Merely hearing that word conjures up images of vast, unbroken rainforests teeming with life to an extent unequaled anywhere else on the planet. To a birder it means hundreds of bird species of exotic colors, shapes, and behaviors. It is, in short, one of the ultimate wildlife (and birding) experiences in the world, not to be missed, and hopefully experienced time after time.

Ecuador has a good share of this natural cornucopia. In fact, the Amazonian forests in Ecuador are among the best in the entire basin, and it is not unusual to rack up a large trip list when visiting the area. This tour was no exception, and when combined with the wide variety of habitats from the high *páramo* of Papallacta Pass through the temperate and subtropical forests of the Andes, we had a highly successful trip. Highlights ranged from the ptarmigan-esque **Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe** to the rarely seen **Greater Scythebill** to the glowingly red **Black-necked Red-Cotinga**. In total we scored just over 600 species on this excellent tour of Ecuador's east that covered everything from the chilly high Andes right down into the steamy lowland jungles of the Amazon Basin.



Day 1: Quito to Guango

Somewhat bizarrely, Ecuador was conducting a census on the first day of the tour, and as a result the roads throughout the country were completely off limits to everyone during most of the daylight hours. As a result we were confined to the area around Guango Lodge and unable to visit the Antisana Reserve as on the original itinerary. But we managed to make lemonade out of lemons, and had a fairly productive day despite the inconvenient restriction.

As with any trip to Guango, one of the main highlights of the morning was a very cooperative pair of the charismatic **Torrent Duck**, (*above*) more easily found here than just about anywhere else in Ecuador. In addition to this bizarre *Anatid* we scoured the abundant passerine flocks for temperate tanagers and their kin, pulling a trio of high-elevation Hemispinguses (or Hemispingii?), **Black-capped**, **Black-eared**, and **Superciliaried**. The large and colorful mountain-tanagers stole the show, though, with the huge **Hooded**, gorgeous **Scarlet-bellied**, and teary-eyed **Lacrimose** being seen multiple times. More subtly colored but no less beautiful were the good variety of *Furnariids* on offer at Guango, with **Pearled Treerunner**, the boldly patterned **Streaked Tuftedcheek**, and **Montane Woodcreeper** easily found, and a shy **Rufous Spinetail** eventually showing itself in a bamboo patch. Other skulkers we pulled out of the brush included **Slaty** and

Pale-naped Brush-Finches, and a cooperative **Green-and-black Fruiteater** was a crowd-pleaser as always.

Guango also has some of the best hummingbird feeders in the temperate zone in Ecuador, and between bouts of trail birding we sat and admired the excellent mix of species that graced this site. The favorite was, as usual, the incomparable **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, but the flashy **Collared Inca**, **Tourmaline Sunangel**, **Long-tailed Sylph**, and shy **Mountain Velvetbreast** were also much appreciated.

Day 2: Papallacta Pass to Cabañas San Isidro

We began the second morning of the tour with a drive back uphill to the highest portions of the trip, at Papallacta Pass and the bizarre *páramo* habitat covering it. First off, though, we stopped at a roadside patch of *Polylepis* forest, where we quickly found our two targets, the nuthatch-like **Giant Conebill**, and the weird **Black-backed Bush-Tanager**.



Buoyed by our success, we headed straight up to the top of the pass, and then onwards to the radio antennas that dot the highest point above the highway. Here we spread out in search of our main quarry of the day, **Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe**, (*above*) which looks far more like a grouse than the shorebird it really is. This species has been harder to find in recent years, and it took us a couple of hours, but eventually we scored: two of these tame, bizarre shorebirds foraged right in front of us, unconcerned by our presence.

During the search we also managed to find a few other high-value targets, including a close fly-by from a **Carunculated Caracara**. Our luckiest find of the day, though, was when Mark spotted a *very* distant **Andean Condor** fly in and land on a far away slope. Closer scrutiny with the scope revealed as many as five Condors on the ground, probably at a kill that we couldn't see due to the distance. This was a huge piece of luck of us, given that we were unable to visit the Antisana Reserve, due to the inconvenient census, the day before.



Heading down from the top we stopped at a few places in the brushy *páramo*, and cleaned up on the birds we hoped to see. Quirky **Tawny Antpittas** (*left*) competed with a slew of interesting *Furnariids*, including **White-chinned Thistletail**, **Andean Tit-Spinetail**, and both **Chestnut-winged** and **Stout-billed Cinclodes**. Rounding out the high-elevation cast was a wheatear-like **Plain-capped (Paramo) Ground-Tyrant**, and the skulking **Paramo Tapaculo**. A few hummingbird species also brightened up our morning on the Paramo. Chief among these was surely the stunning **Ecuadorian Hillstar**, but **Blue-mantled Thornbill**, **Shining Sunbeam**, and **Great**

Sapphirewing (the latter two lower down) were also new for the trip.

A quick jaunt up a side road above some hot springs also produced **Viridian Metaltail**, and a few passerines including the handsome **Masked Mountain-Tanager** and **Agile Tit-Tyrant**. Our final high-elevation site of the day was a small lake, accessed from behind the *Polylepis* grove we had visited earlier. Here we managed to get some of the ducks we had missed by not going to Antisana, and, most importantly, the rare **Silvery Grebe**. A **Paramo Pipit** on the shoreline of the lake was an added bonus.

The later part of the afternoon was spent driving to San Isidro, our lodging for the next two nights. After dinner we were able to enjoy the night-bird highlight of the area, the enigmatic "**San Isidro**" **Owl** coming to eat moths at the lights near the cabins. This bird has still not been completely sorted out taxonomically, and could be a highland subspecies of

Black-banded Owl, or something new entirely. Whatever it was there was no complaining about the spectacular looks it gave us!

Day 3: Cabañas San Isidro

This day was spent exploring the areas around San Isidro, birding along trails and a road through moist subtropical forests. First thing in the morning we headed out onto the trails behind the lodge to try to find the rare and local **Peruvian Antpitta**, but the best we could manage was hearing it call. A small but colorful **Yellow-vented Woodpecker** and the canopy-loving **Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet**, though, made the early excursion worth the trouble.



Right at 8am we had an appointment with a different antpitta. And right on cue, there it was! A furtive, but at the same time bold, **White-bellied Antpitta**, coming in to worms the lodge staff put out for it, allowing amazing looks for all. Before the antpitta feeding phenomenon this bird was a very rare sight indeed, but today we got to watch it to our heart's content. And the antpitta wasn't the only highlight – a blindingly green male **Crested Quetzal** (*above*) serenaded us from nearby, and a little searching gave us amazing views at eye level of this iconic Andean bird.

Finishing with the morning antpitta feeding we were back out on the trails, a different loop trail this time. A number of flocks kept us well occupied, with a plethora of colorful tanagers and the tiny yet beautiful **Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia** highlighting the show. Further on we found one of the harder targets of the area in the form of a **Bicolored Antvireo** that showed briefly but well, and a huge, hulking **Powerful Woodpecker** was a

welcome addition. A **Tyrannine Woodcreeper**, a somewhat uncommon and at times hard to find species rounded out the morning.

As is usual in the subtropics, the afternoon was much quieter. New for the trip include what must be some of the highest elevation **Lemon-browed Flycatchers** in the country, hard won but excellent looks at **Long-tailed Tapaculo**, and the amazing-sounded **Wattled Guan**. Another attempt at **Peruvian Antpitta** again produced only audio encounters, though. As nighttime fell we were serenaded by **Rufous-banded Owls** and again got to admire the mystery owl around the cabins.

Day 4: Guacamayos Ridge to WildSumaco

An early morning start from San Isidro brought us up to the famed Guacamayos Ridge, one of the best-known birding locations on the east slope of Ecuador. Birding here is along a trail through excellent subtropical forests, and the flock birding on a good day can be spectacular. Luckily for us this was a good day!

The highlight of the early morning hours came not long after we started, in the form of a day-roosting **Andean Potoo**. This small, rare nightbird is among the hardest to find in Ecuador, and seeing it in the daytime at quite close range was a treat that was hard to beat! It turns out (as I discovered on a later visit) that this bird was actually sitting on a nest and probably incubating while we were watching it. It certainly didn't seem to mind our presence, and we got to drink it in to our heart's content.

Working our way down the trail we checked every flock we came across, and coaxed shy bamboo-loving species out of the brush. **Plain-tailed** and **Rufous Wrens** fell in to that latter category, and a **Spillman's Tapaculo** cooperated uncharacteristically well, scuttling across a wide opening more than once. Alas the **Ocellated Tapaculos** we could hear in the distance did not do the same. Some cooperative **Dusky Pihás**, though, more than made up for it.

Our best find of the day (and highlight of the trip for me at least), though, came mid-morning, when Laura spotted a large woodcreeper low on a trunk. To see I was ecstatic to see that it was the rare and almost mythical **Greater Scythebill** when I put my binoculars on it would be a huge understatement! We all got excellent looks at this spectacular bird as it foraged nearby, before dropping down off the trunk and in to the forest, never to be seen again.

A large bamboo patch not much lower down contributed another rare *Furnariid*, this time the boldly patterned and sought after **Flammulated Treehunter**, which cooperated better than is usual for this shy, skulking species and showed itself very well to the group. A few rare hummingbirds visited some flowers in the same area, including **Green-fronted Lancebill** and the very local (in Ecuador) **Greenish Puffleg**, but some distant calling **Black-billed Mountain-Toucans** would not come in no matter how much coaxing we gave them.

Turning around and heading back up to the ridge a light drizzle began to envelop us. We chased after some calling **Bicolored Antvireos**, but as the rain began to strengthen we started to make a beeline back to the car, and from there downslope towards our next destination, WildSumaco.

But before we headed to the lodge we did some birding along the famous Loreto Road. In years past this used to be one of the best birding areas along the lower east slope, but deforestation has chipped away at it's potential. There were still some forest patches left,



though, and some roadside birding was quite productive. A quick stop in heavy rain gave us our only **Cliff Flycatchers** of the trip (*left*), and shortly thereafter a raptor perched on a snag right by the road proved to be the rare and highly sought after **Orange-breasted Falcon**. Screeching to a halt we were rewarded with walk-away views of this fierce and hard to find raptor, which would sally out from its perch occasionally but always return, sometimes calling as it would land. A few **Chestnut-eared Aracaris** nearby were

also our only sighting of the trip.

At a newly built trail into a forest patch we found a few small flocks, which included our first **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Cerulean Warblers** of the trip, two uncommon boreal migrants for which Ecuador is an important wintering area. A distant soaring **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle**, though, was a bit rare fare, and our first of two for the tour.

Wrapping up with the Loreto Road, we finally made it to WildSumaco. But not before stopping a couple of times along the lodge entrance road to admire a perched **Scaled Pigeon** (surely the most handsome pigeon in Ecuador). At the lodge itself we checked in, and spent the last bit of daylight watching the feeders and porterweed around the buildings.

Day 5: WildSumaco

This was the day our luck with the weather finally ran out. It rained – hard – for almost the entire day, confining us to the lodge and surroundings for a goodly part of the day and only breaking long enough for a few brief walks onto the nearby trails. Luckily for us the area right around the lodge at WildSumaco is still good birding, and we took full advantage of that fact.

The morning started out well, bird-wise, with male **Wire-crested Thorntails** and a few **Gorgeted Woodstars** on the porterweed by the dining room, shortly followed by a few small flocks that included a glowing **Blue-naped Chlorophonia** and the unique **Golden-collared Honeycreeper**. Braving a lighter spell in the rain we walked the driveway, where some playback gave us nice views of a **Dusky Spinetail**, a rather local and uncommon species, and a small flock had our first **Olivaceous Greenlet** and an out of place **Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner**.

A short break in the rain allowed us to walk down a nearby trail, where a larger flock was quite productive, producing the outrageously billed **Red-billed Scythebill**, the newly described **Foothill Elaenia**, and our only **Chestnut-tipped Toucanets** of the trip (*below*). A stolid **Coppery-chested Jacamar** was a welcome addition as well, the first of its family we were to see on the tour. Alas the rain started up again, though, and we soon had to retreat back to the lodge.



All was not lost, though, for soon after we arrived back Laura struck again, asking what a large perched raptor in the distance was. Some scrutiny in the scope and consultation of the field guides showed it to be a juvenile **Solitary Eagle!** This large, rare, and seldom seen raptor sat on a dead snag for almost an hour, looking almost as miserable in the rain as we did, until a passing fog bank obscured it from our sight.

The rain finally started to clear late in the afternoon, and feeling a touch of cabin fever we rushed out to make the most of the remaining hours of blessedly rainless daylight. The trail we chose was fairly close to the lodge, allowing us to get into the forest quickly, and we were soon rewarded with a female **Rufous-vented Whitetip**, and soon thereafter a good flock in a fruiting tree. Here we scored both male and female **Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater**, and Richard even saw the

diminutive and rare **Fiery-throated Fruiteater**. A **Blue-browed Tanager** made a brief appearance, and a nice variety of other fruit-eating birds entertained us for the next half hour or so.

Further down the trails the forest was mostly quiet. A heard-only **Gray-throated Leaf-tosser** was the only one of the trip, but a calling **Black-billed Treehunter** was more

cooperative. In the evening we ate dinner to the sound of **Band-bellied Owls** singing behind the lodge and hoped that the next day would be a little drier.

Day 6: Wild Sumaco

And dawn drier it did. With nary a cloud in the sky we quickly ate breakfast and headed to a trail further afield, hoping for better luck in the forest than the day before. And luck was indeed with us; the forest birding on this day was among the best of the trip.

It started off with brief but good views of a recalcitrant **Wing-banded Wren**, followed shortly by similar views of a similarly behaving **Short-tailed Anthrush**. Compared to the day before we had more understory birds, which was helpful for the trip list and the target list, and we soon found **Blue-rumped** and the foothills subspecies (almost certainly a separate species) of **White-crowned Manakins**, a rare **Plain-winged Antwren** and not too rare **Plain Antvireo** amid the more common fare.



Canopy flocks were also in evidence, with such highlights as another **Foothill Elaenia**, **Strong-billed Woodcreeper**, and the rare **Rough-legged (White-fronted) Tyrannulet**. A vocal and unusually visible **Chestnut-crowned Gnateater** livened up the later morning as well, once the flock birding had begun to slow down.

Once we had been going down the trail for a while I heard a sound I had been listening for all morning, the far carrying (and not very often given) song of the **Gray-tailed Piha**. It took some searching and a lot of patience as we waited between songs, but finally there it was! We got to enjoy this local and hard to find species as long as we wanted as it fed on some low-lying fruit and sallied around in the mid-canopy. A lekking **Napo Sabrewing (left)** rounded out the morning, and we began to work our way back up to the car.

Before we called it a morning, though, we had one last appointment. At Wild Sumaco the best hummingbird feeders are actually located quite a ways from the lodge, and it was there that we spent the last hours before lunch. The numbers of hummingbirds zooming all

around us was nothing short of staggering, proving that these are clearly the best feeders on Ecuador's east slope. Amid the more common offerings were species that are often hard to find elsewhere, including **Ecuadorian Piedtail**, **Napo Sabrewing**, **Many-spotted Hummingbird** (*below*), and **Black-throated Brilliant**.



After lunch a side-affect of no clouds and no rain became apparent as it heated up dramatically and the activity died off in the same way. Never the less we soldiered on, birding the road below the lodge. We managed to pull out some goodies, including our only **Yellow-cheeked Becard** of the trip. Later in the afternoon we visited a small bamboo patch a few kilometers from the lodge, and here our birding was more productive. Bamboo is a rare habitat in the foothills of Ecuador, as are the birds that depend on it, so point blank views of the charismatic **Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher** were quite a treat. Duller, but no less appreciated, were two more flycatchers hard to find in Ecuador: **Large-headed (Bamboo) Flatbill** and **Euler's Flycatcher**.

The last hour or so of the day was spent walking up the road from the lodge, looking for some edge birds as the day wound down. Not much was happening, but we did hear our only **Rufous-breasted Wood-Quails** and got better looks at **Dusky Spinetail** before the day finished.

Day 7: WildSumaco to Sacha Lodge

Blessed by yet another rainless morning, the birding started even before breakfast when a **Barred Forest-Falcon** started calling right by our rooms. Some quick use of playback and we were enjoying point-blank views of this shy raptor, which stared angrily at us and seemed to demand we produce the intruder he thought was in the area. A distantly calling

Buckley's Forest-Falcon was, unfortunately, not so cooperative, so on to breakfast we went.

We only had a few hours this morning to bird the lodge property, since we had to be in Coca, in the lowlands, by lunch time. So we decided to head back to one of the closer trails and look for birds at the fruiting tree we had found a couple of days earlier. Unfortunately the said tree wasn't so productive on this day, but we did find our only **Foothill Antwren** of the trip, and tried desperately to see a calling **Buff-throated Tody-Tyrant** that just wouldn't cooperate.

The walk out of the trails did produce a quick last hurrah for WildSumaco in the form of a **Short-tailed Antthrush** sauntering lazily down the trails, and another brief glimpse of a Gnateater, but then it was time to leave and head down to the steamy lowlands.

Arriving in Coca, we met with the representatives from Sacha Lodge and boarded the boat, heading to our first real taste of the Amazon. The ride down the Napo River was mostly uneventful – the heavy boat traffic along the river makes it hard to see much – but we did see our first **Slender-billed Kite**, and a few common river species like **Yellow-headed Caracara** and **Cocoi Heron**.

We arrived at the Sacha boat landing after a couple of hours, and worked our way down the wide, flat trail to the lodge itself. As it was the middle of the day we didn't see too much, except for our first **White-shouldered Antbird** of the trip.

After lunch we made our first foray into the legendary Amazonian forest. As always with the Amazon the early afternoon was a bit slow, but we didn't let this deter us, and soon our efforts were rewarded with a decent view of a singing **Striated Antthrush**, a notoriously difficult bird to get a look at. We decided to spend a little bit of time on the canopy walkway in the afternoon, giving us our first **Ivory-billed** and **Many-striped Aracaris**, a splendid **Spangled Cotinga**, and a diminutive **Wing-barred Piprites**.

Walking back in the evening our local guide, Oscar, surprised us by taking us off-trail a bit, and shining his light on a large tree root. It took a moment to register what he was showing us, but there, right in the open at close range, was a **Black-tailed Leaf-tosser**! Of all the times I've seen a leaf-tosser (which is never enough), this was by far the most unexpected! A check afterwards of a few known Owl territories turned up empty, unfortunately, and the forest was surprisingly silent, bird-wise, so we headed in to dinner.

Day 8: Sacha Lodge, Napo River Islands, and the Providencia Trail

This day was one of the busier of the tour. One never has enough time in the Amazon, and there are a plethora of different micro-habitats to hit. One of those microhabitats is the river islands – a surprisingly large number of species specialize on these islands, often segregating based on how tall the growth on said islands is. We started off early on a young island, with dense, short stands of *Tessaria* and *Gynerium*, where we quickly scored a **Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant**, but could only hear the persistently calling **White-bellied Spinetail**. A

Mottle-backed Elaenia was our only one of trip, though, and a few fly-bys **Blue-winged Teal** gave us a nice taste of boreality.

Switching to an older island we attempted to lure in some different island specialists. The one that cooperated best was a jet-black male **Castelnau's Antshrike**, but alas our attempts to get Rufous-headed Woodpecker proved fruitless.

Switching over to the mainland, we decided to walk a long trail on the south side of the Rio Napo, which entered drier *Terra Firme* forest than available around the lodge. Our main target here was flocks, which can be the key to Amazonian birding. Canopy flocks, mid-story flocks, ant-thing flocks, we'd take them all.

It was hard work, but we did manage to find a few good ones, including a nice antswarm flock. A pair of **Lunulated Antbirds** gave cause for much elation here; normally this is one of the harder species to find at an antswarm. A nearby pair of **Sepia-capped Flycatchers** seemed torn as to whether they wanted to stick with a fast-moving understory flock, which also had our first **Plain-winged** and **Mouse-colored Antshrikes**. A territorial **Spot-backed Antbird** came in very nicely, while a similarly territorial **Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-Gleaner** was less obliging, allowing only quick looks.

Nearing mid-day, Oscar heard some distant **Chestnut-headed Crakes**, and we were off. Nearing the calling birds I grabbed a quick recording, and some judicious playback and we were soon enjoying incredible looks at this shy forest rail. The action was definitely beginning to slow down, though, so we started our way back to the boat, taking some time out to admire an **Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper** before going on a short ride up a small creek in the canoe.

Here the activity was livelier, and we soon found one of our rarest species during our stay at Sacha, an **Ecuadorian Cacique**. This species is notably hard to find anywhere in its range, and it was only the second time I had seen it. A calling **White-lored Antpitta** refused to show itself, unfortunately, but we did get spectacular views of **Lettered Aracaris**, the smallest of the many Amazonian Aracaris, and often the hardest to find.

By the time we had made it back to the boat landing at Sacha it was getting to be mid-afternoon. We birded our way back along the entrance path to the lagoon, stopping often when we heard a flock or interesting bird. A calling **Black-banded Crake** was tried for – a lot – but alas would not come out into the opening we had made for it. Nearby, though, a beautiful male **Cream-colored Woodpecker** cooperated much better. Both **Silvered** and **Plumbeous Antbirds (below)**, two specialists of *varzea* forests, showed themselves nicely, and a **Black-spotted Bare-eye** shot across the path a few times but was a bit less friendly.



As we neared the lodge the day started winding down, and after a little bird more birding on the lagoon we got back to the lodge near the end of the day.

Day 9: Sacha Lodge

This was a day we had all been waiting for: the Canopy Walkway for a morning, where we hoped to see elusive canopy specialists, rare cotingas, and the chance at a distant raptor.

And the Canopy Walkway did not disappoint. While, as is usual in the canopy, the activity wasn't continuous, what we did have was quality. A pair of **Double-toothed Kites** was nesting near the last platform and allowed us continued spectacular looks at them. A distant raptor proved to be our second **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle** of the trip, while a pair of the rare **Purple-throated Cotingas** was significantly closer. Another distant lump was one of our best mammals of the trip, a sleeping **Three-toed Sloth**. A few canopy flocks also passed by during the morning, bringing in such delights as the gaudy but ever popular **Paradise Tanager**, as well as their slightly less gaudy but still beautiful **Opal-crowned** and **Opal-rumped, Green-and-gold**, and **Yellow-backed Tanagers**. Trogons were also well represented, with **Green-backed, Amazonian**, and **Black-tailed** all seen well.

As the morning heated up and the activity died down we descended to the coolness of the forest floor. Our first stop was a lek of **Wire-tailed Manakin (below)**, where a bright male sat for us, allowing extended scope views. A small antswarm was attended only by a **Black-spotted Bare-eye**, but this individual was far more cooperative than the one the day before. The super-skulking **Rusty-belted Tapaculo** held out a little bit longer, but in the end could not withstand the sharp eyes of Oscar, and yet again we had a scope view of an amazing species. By this point the morning was drawing to a close, the activity had died down, and as it was nearly lunchtime we called it a morning.

After lunch we went out again on a canoe, this time up a small creek near the lodge, and around the lagoon on which Sacha is built. A family group of **Rufous-sided Crakes** gave exemplary views, somewhat unusually for this shy species, and we called in a singing **Little Cuckoo** that than sat up in the open and allowed us to soak it in. Working our way up a small, windy creek, Oscar pulled out a perched **Orange-crowned Manakin**, a rare species endemic to a small area in Ecuador and northern Peru.



At the far end of the creek we set off on foot to another canopy tower, this one built around a huge *kapok* tree with a platform near the top. The experience on this tower is different than that on the canopy walkway. You don't see as much, or as far, but it has a far more intimate feel to it, with birds often right above your head in the tree on which you're standing, or birds singing nearby, much closer than on the walkway. Today was no exception, with a vocalizing (**Eastern**) **Sirystes** right overhead, a family group of **Purple-throated Fruitcrows** would come by regularly, bubbling and rasping their amusing calls, and we got to watch the spectacular display of a **Crested Oropendola** who decided to call the *kapok* his.

As evening fell we descended the tower, and as our last bit of birding before dinner Oscar brought us to a cooperative **Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl** territory, where we soon had excellent looks at this little forest owl.

Day 10: Sacha Lodge to Napo Wildlife Center

Today was to be a transfer day, as we bid Sacha Lodge goodbye and changed to the other side of the Napo River to the Napo Wildlife Center. But before we could leave we had to get a little bit of last birding in at Sacha. There were still a few riverside species we were missing, and concentrating on those we found ourselves on the banks of the Napo, watching a male **Scarlet-crowned Barbet** investigating nest cavities, and playing hide and seek with a stubborn **Black-banded Crake**. Keeping a careful eye out on the river island immediately opposite the boat landing we spied a couple of **Amazonian Umbrellabirds** flying around and perching on some tall *cecropias*, a fitting end to our time at Sacha.

Soon afterwards the boat from the Napo Wildlife Center came to pick us up, and we were off, heading downstream first to some parrot clay-licks. There are two parrot clay-licks near the lodges we were visiting, one right on the banks of the Napo, and another a short walk through the forest. We first visited the one along the river, where hundreds of large, loud **Mealy** and **Blue-headed Parrots** were in attendance.

Not wanting to miss the show at the other clay-lick, we made our way to the trailhead, and then down the short, well-kept, trail to the hide. Here the lick was quite different – as opposed to large, dirt cliffs along the river there was a small cave in a clay bank where water seeped out, and the parrots would come down to drink the water



and eat the clay. When we first arrived there was nothing happening, so while we waited we walked a bit along the trails nearby.

Rounding a bend, we quickly stumbled onto one, then another, of the tiny **Lanceolated Monklet (above)**, the smallest puffbird in the world and one of the rarest in Ecuador. Somewhat unusually they were near the ground and allowed very close approach, leading me to suspect they were excavating a nest somewhere in the area. Another trail gave us good looks at **Golden-headed Manakin** and frustratingly brief ones at **Striped Manakin**, and a **Great-billed Hermit** lek provided some good views of this communally displaying hummingbird.

Returning to the blind by the clay-lick, we found that the parrots had come in *en masse*, and hundreds upon hundreds of **Cobalt-winged Parakeets** were swirling over the opening. As we watched they slowly, warily descended to the clay-lick, and were joined by a smattering of other species. First there was the rare **Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet**, which one rarely if ever sees perched except at a clay-lick like this one. Then it was the larger **Orange-cheeked Parrot**, more wary than the parakeets and much less abundant. Then, finally, a few screaming, huge **Scarlet Macaws** descended, adding some bright crimson to the sea of green. It was a surreal and spectacular sight; a feeding frenzy, Amazon style.

Suddenly all the parrots panicked, and flew straight *through* the blind we were in, disappearing into the forest. It was loud, shocking, and awesome all at the same time. Looking back at the end of the trip, the in-forest parrot clay-lick was my favorite experience of the tour, by far.

The show being over, we walked back out to the boat, but not before stopping to admire a **White-chested Puffbird** beside the trail. We grabbed a quick bite of lunch on the banks of the Napo before switching to a smaller, hand-paddled canoe that would bring us up the smaller creek to the Napo Wildlife Center.

Paddling along this quiet, black-water creek was a magical experience. It was also a bird-filled one, with everything from roosting nightbirds (including a giant **Great Potoo** and a very unexpected **Oilbird**), the bizarre **White-cheeked** and more mundane **White-chinned Jacamars**, an angry **Dot-backed Antbird**, and a pair of the tiny and very nearly cute **American Pygmy-Kingfishers**.

Arriving at the lodge as the afternoon was drawing to a close, we settled in, admired the abundant **Yellow-rumped Caciques** by the buildings and **Hoatzins** on the large lagoon, and contemplated our plans for the next day.

Day 11: Napo Wildlife Center

An early morning start saw us on the longest trail we were to do this trip, heading deep into *Terra Firme* forest. Bird song filled the air, and the potential of the day seemed boundless.

And right off the bat the potential showed itself. A singing **Citron-bellied Attila**, quite a rare bird in Ecuador, called not long after disembarking onto the trail. Shortly thereafter a **White-plumed Antbird**, surely one of the more ridiculous, yet cool, birds of the Amazon, showed itself beautifully, and not long after we found a large antswarm that it may have been in search of. Not too many birds were attending it yet, this early in the morning, but we marked the place and had high hopes for our return journey.

We didn't have much time to dawdle on the way out for one reason. One very red reason. The main target of the morning was **Black-necked Red Cotinga**, one of the star birds of the upper Amazon basin. Napo Wildlife Center had a lek of this rare and elusive species on its property, and it was here that we were aiming.



Redder than red: a male Black-necked Red Cotinga

Luckily for us, no sooner had we arrived and we heard the distinctive call of the cotinga. Some searching, and then we had it! Gorgeous scope views of a male, calling occasionally and hoping a lonely female would answer; it was an amazing experience and one of the trip highlights. As if somehow showing that a bird with the caliber of the cotinga would not pick just anywhere to lek, the area was teeming with other good birds as well. An **Ochre-striped Antpitta** sang in the distance, while a **Brown-backed (Yasuni) Antwren** did so much closer. And not too far back along the trail Mariano, our local guide, picked up on the soft song of a **Brown Nunlet**, another small, hard to find puffbird.

Distracted for a while trying to see the Nunlet (in the end only Laura succeeded), we also heard the plaintive calls of an **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** overhead, but alas could not see it through the canopy. A **Black Hawk-Eagle**, though, was more cooperative as it soared through some small openings an hour or so later.

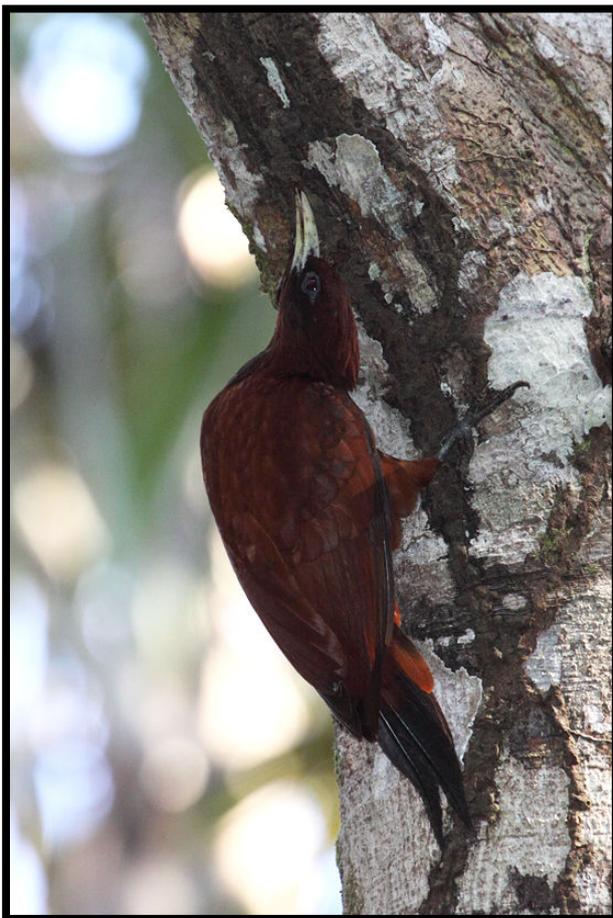
Finding ourselves back at the spot where we had earlier found an antswarm, we decided to stake out the roaming mass of insects and see what popped up. And boy was that a good idea! First one, then another **Lunulated Antbird** showed itself, followed closely by a slew of **Bicolored Antbirds**, an expressive **Hairy-crested Antbird**, and the boldly patterned **Reddish-winged Bare-eye**. It was a superb antswarm flock!

Unfortunately, soon after sorting through the antbirds at the antswarm, it began to rain. So wet, yet elated, we headed back to the boat and then the lodge, taking a short break before heading out for an afternoon along a small side creek. Here the birding was quite different than the morning, but no less exciting with a close view of a **Sungrebe**, its black and yellow striped feet visible for all to see, and the elegant **Agami Heron** stalking the shoreline. A surprise small raptor perched along the edge of the lagoon proved to be an adult **Tiny Hawk**, and a few flyover **Blue-and-yellow Macaws** brightened up the early evening hours.

Day 12: Napo Wildlife Center

Another Amazonian lodge, another canopy tower. The tower at the Napo Wildlife Center was fashioned a bit like the *kapok* tower at Sacha, with a platform situated high in an emergent tree, but unlike that tower you ascend via a set of metal stairs set to the side of the tree. But it is no less productive than the Sacha tower, and our morning there showed that admirably.

Things started off well when Mariano spotted a **Slate-colored Hawk** in a distant tree, while another raptor flying by turned out to be an adult **Bicolored Hawk**. Per usual for an



Amazonian canopy tower, cotingas featured prominently, with the glowingly blue **Spangled** and **Plum-throated Cotingas** stealing the show, while the bizarre **Bare-necked Fruitcrow** was, as always, a crowd-pleaser. A distant dot on top of a tree was shown through the scope to be a **White-browed Purpleuft**, and another distant white spot was our first, and only, **King Vulture**.

As the morning heated up we descended to the forest floor, in search of understory flocks that contained the majority of the species we still needed. For whatever reason they had been in somewhat short supply recently, so we felt lucky when we found one that had some ant-things, including **Dusky-throated** and **Mouse-colored Antshrikes**, and the diminutive **Pygmy Antwren**. A long plaintive call drew our attention to a distant **Great Jacamar**, and after a little bit of playback we were enjoying excellent views of this largest of Jacamars, a good wrap-up to the morning.

For the afternoon we headed out in a canoe again, this time further up the same side-stream we had birded the day before. Not long after starting up the stream Mariano spotted a perched **Collared Puffbird** right along the side of the boat, a very auspicious start to the afternoon.

Our main target was a distant grove of *Mauritia* palms, where a few specialists make their home. We found one of these, **Sulphury Flycatcher**, without too much trouble, but another, the unique **Point-tailed Palmcreeper** was a bit more recalcitrant. The best we were able to do was a brief glimpse after much playback. A singing **Short-billed Antwren** was new for the trip, though, and a pair of **Chestnut Woodpeckers** (*above*) were quite entertaining while waiting for the palmcreeper to show.

As we returned back downstream and the light began to fade we heard the first sounds of the night, in the form of a **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl**. Once full dark descended the sound we were really hoping for came out of the darkness: the deep, hooting call of a **Zigzag Heron**. A little bit of maneuvering, and a little bit of luck, and we soon had our lights on a pair right off the boat! We probably watched them for 20 minutes, including seeing them allopreen and counter-call – in short, it was my best experience with this charismatic bird ever!

Day 13: Napo Wildlife Center to Quito

Our last day of birding was a little more relaxed than the rest of the trip. An early breakfast and a slow canoe ride back to the Napo was all we had time for, but we still managed to add a few new birds to the trip list. A **Limpkin** along the edge of the lagoon was first, and not far down the creek a pair of noisy **Buff-breasted Wrens**, quite local in Ecuador, were second. A plaintive whistle alerted us to the presence of a **Rufous-tailed Flatbill**, also quite uncommon in the country, and the last new species of the trip.

But even without new species we enjoyed some of the old favorites. Seeing an **Agami Heron** is always worth noting, and **Slender-billed Kites**, with their thin, reedy voices and weirdly proportioned bodies are always a delight. As we neared the Napo, where we were to meet our boat transfer to Coca (and from there the plane to Quito), a **Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** flew across the bow of the canoe, as if to bid us farewell to the Amazon, and all the amazing things we had seen there. It was an amazing time, and I can't wait to go back!

Bird List

The taxonomy of the list follows: **Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007.**

We had a total of 602 species, with 51 of those being heard only (marked with an "H").

TINAMOUS

Great Tinamou (H)	<i>Tinamus major</i>
Cinereous Tinamou (H)	<i>Crypturellus cinereus</i>
Little Tinamou (H)	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>
Undulated Tinamou (H)	<i>Crypturellus undulatus</i>
Variegated Tinamou (H)	<i>Crypturellus variegatus</i>

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS

Torrent Duck	<i>Merganetta armata</i>
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>
Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>
Andean Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris andium</i>
(Andean) Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis andina</i>

GUANS, CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS

Speckled Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis guttata</i>
Spix's Guan	<i>Penelope jacquacu</i>
Blue-throated (Common) Piping-Guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>
Wattled Guan	<i>Aburria aburri</i>

NEW WORLD QUAIL

Marbled Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus gujanensis</i>
Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail (H)	<i>Odontophorus speciosus</i>

GREBES

Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>
ANHINGAS	
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS

Capped Heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Agami Heron	<i>Agamia agami</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>

Rufescent Tiger-Heron
Zigzag Heron

Tigrisoma lineatum
Zebrilus undulatus

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture
Andean Condor
King Vulture
OSPREY
Osprey

Coragyps atratus
Cathartes aura
Cathartes melambrotus
Vultur gryphus
Sarcoramphus papa

Pandion haliaetus

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES

Swallow-tailed Kite
Snail Kite
Slender-billed Kite
Double-toothed Kite
Plumbeous Kite
Tiny Hawk
Sharp-shinned (Plain-breasted) Hawk
Bicolored Hawk
Slate-colored Hawk
White Hawk
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle
Solitary Eagle
Roadside Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Variable Hawk
Black Hawk-Eagle
Ornate Hawk-Eagle (H)
Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle

Elanoides forficatus
Rostrhamus sociabilis
Helicolestes hamatus
Harpagus bidentatus
Ictinia plumbea
Accipiter superciliosus
Accipiter striatus ventralis
Accipiter bicolor
Leucopternis schistaceus
Leucopternis albicollis
Geranoaetus melanoleucus
Harpyhaliaetus solitarius
Buteo magnirostris
Buteo platypterus
Buteo polyosoma
Spizaetus tyrannus
Spizaetus ornatus
Spizaetus melanoleucus

FALCONS AND CARACARAS

Black Caracara
Red-throated Caracara
Carunculated Caracara
Yellow-headed Caracara
Laughing Falcon
Barred Forest-Falcon
Buckley's Forest-Falcon (H)
Bat Falcon
Orange-breasted Falcon
Peregrine Falcon

Daptrius ater
Ibycter americanus
Phalcoboenus carunculatus
Milvago chimachima
Herpetotheres cachinnans
Micrastur ruficollis
Micrastur buckleyi
Falco rufigularis
Falco deiroleucus
Falco peregrinus

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS

Chestnut-headed Crake

Anurolimnas castaneiceps

Black-banded Crake (H)
Rufous-sided Crake
Gray-necked Wood-Rail (H)
Slate-colored (Andean) Coot

Anurolimnas fasciatus
Laterallus melanophaius
Aramides cajanea
Fulica ardesiaca

FINFOOTS

Sungrebe

Heliornis fulica

SUNBITTERN

Sunbittern

Eurypyga helias

LIMPKIN

Limpkin

Aramus guarauna

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS

Pied Lapwing (Pied Plover)
Southern Lapwing
Collared Plover

Vanellus cayanus
Vanellus chilensis
Charadrius collaris

JACANAS

Wattled Jacana

Jacana jacana

SANDPIPERS

Spotted Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs

Actitis macularius
Tringa melanoleuca

SEEDSNIPES

Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe

Attagis gayi

GULLS

Andean Gull

Chroicocephalus serranus

TERNS

Yellow-billed Tern

Sternula superciliaris

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon
Scaled Pigeon
Band-tailed Pigeon
Pale-vented Pigeon
Plumbeous Pigeon
Ruddy Pigeon
Eared Dove
Gray-fronted Dove
Sapphire Quail-Dove
White-throated Quail-Dove (H)
Ruddy Quail-Dove (H)

Columba livia
Patagioenas speciosa
Patagioenas fasciata
Patagioenas cayennensis
Patagioenas plumbea
Patagioenas subvinacea
Zenaida auriculata
Leptotila rufaxilla
Geotrygon saphirina saphirina
Geotrygon frenata
Geotrygon montana

PARROTS

Maroon-tailed Parakeet
White-eyed Parakeet
Dusky-headed Parakeet
Chestnut-fronted Macaw
Scarlet Macaw
Blue-and-yellow Macaw
Red-bellied Macaw
Cobalt-winged Parakeet
Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet
Spot-winged Parrotlet (H)
Black-headed Parrot
Orange-cheeked Parrot
Blue-headed Parrot
Red-billed Parrot
Speckle-faced (White-capped) Parrot
Scaly-naped Parrot (Amazon)
Mealy Parrot (Amazon)
Yellow-crowned Parrot (Amazon) (H)
Orange-winged Parrot (Amazon)

Pyrrhura melanura
Aratinga leucophthalma
Aratinga weddellii
Ara severus
Ara macao
Ara ararauna
Orthopsittaca manilata
Brotogeris cyanoptera
Touit huetii
Touit stictopterus
Pionites melanocephalus
Pyrilia barrabandi
Pionus menstruus
Pionus sordidus
Pionus tumultuosus seniloides
Amazona mercenaria
Amazona farinosa
Amazona ochrocephala
Amazona amazonica

HOATZIN

Hoatzin

Opisthocomus hoazin

CUCKOOS

Little Cuckoo
Squirrel Cuckoo
Greater Ani
Smooth-billed Ani

Coccyua minuta
Piaya cayana
Crotophaga major
Crotophaga ani

OWLS

Tropical Screech-Owl (H)
Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl
Band-bellied Owl (H)
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl
"San Isidro" Owl
Rufous-banded Owl (H)

Megascops choliba
Megascops watsonii
Pulsatrix melanota
Glaucidium brasilianum
Ciccaba sp.
Ciccaba albitarsis

NIGHTJARS

Rufous-bellied Nighthawk
Band-winged Nightjar (H)
Ladder-tailed Nightjar

Lurocalis rufiventris
Caprimulgus longirostris
Hydropsalis climacocerca

POTOOS

Great Potoo

Nyctibius grandis

Andean Potoo

Nyctibius maculosus

OILBIRD

Oilbird

Steatornis caripensis

SWIFTS

White-collared Swift

Streptoprocne zonaris

Short-tailed Swift

Chaetura brachyura

Gray-rumped Swift

Chaetura cinereiventris

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift

Tachornis squamata

HUMMINGBIRDS

Rufous-breasted Hermit

Glaucis hirsutus

White-bearded Hermit

Phaethornis hispidus

Green Hermit

Phaethornis guy

Tawny-bellied Hermit

Phaethornis syrmatophorus

Great-billed Hermit

Phaethornis malaris

Black-throated Hermit

Phaethornis atrimentalis

Gray-chinned Hermit

Phaethornis griseogularis

Green-fronted Lancebill

Doryfera ludovicae

Gray-breasted Sabrewing

Campylopterus largipennis

Napo Sabrewing

Campylopterus villaviscensio

White-necked Jacobin

Florisuga mellivora

Brown Violetear

Colibri delphinae

Green Violetear

Colibri thalassinus

Sparkling Violetear

Colibri coruscans

Violet-headed Hummingbird

Klais guimeti

Wire-crested Thorntail

Discosura popelairii

Fork-tailed Woodnymph

Thalurania furcata

Golden-tailed Sapphire

Chrysuronia oenone

Many-spotted Hummingbird

Taphrospilus hypostictus

Speckled Hummingbird

Adelomyia melanogenys

Ecuadorian Piedtail

Phlogophilus hemileucurus

Black-throated Brilliant

Heliodoxa schreibersii

Gould's Jewelfront

Heliodoxa aurescens

Fawn-breasted Brilliant

Heliodoxa rubinoides

Violet-fronted Brilliant

Heliodoxa leadbeateri

Buff-tailed Coronet

Boissonneaua flavescens

Chestnut-breasted Coronet

Boissonneaua matthewsii

Shining Sunbeam

Aglaeactis cupripennis

Ecuadorian Hillstar

Oreotrochilus chimborazo

Mountain Velvetbreast

Lafresnaya lafresnayi

Bronzy Inca

Coeligena coeligena

Collared Inca

Coeligena torquata

Buff-winged Starfrontlet

Coeligena lutetiae

Sword-billed Hummingbird

Ensifera ensifera

Great Sapphirewing
Tourmaline Sunangel
Greenish Puffleg
Rufous-vented Whitetip
Booted Racket-tail
Tyrian Metaltail
Viridian Metaltail
Long-tailed Sylph
Long-billed Starthroat
White-bellied Woodstar
Gorgeted Woodstar

Pterophanes cyanopterus
Heliangelus exortis
Haplophaedia aureliae
Urosticte ruficrissa
Ocreatus underwoodii
Metallura tyrianthina
Metallura williami
Aglaiocercus kingi
Heliomaster longirostris
Chaetocercus mulsant
Chaetocercus heliodor

TROGONS

Golden-headed Quetzal
Crested Quetzal
Black-tailed Trogon
Green-backed (Amaz. White-tailed) Trogon
(Amazonian) Violaceous Trogon
Collared Trogon
Masked Trogon

Pharomachrus auriceps
Pharomachrus antisianus
Trogon melanurus eumorphus
Trogon viridis viridis
Trogon violaceus crissalis
Trogon collaris
Trogon personatus

MOTMOTS

Blue-crowned Motmot
Blue-crowned (Highland) Motmot

Momotus momota microstephanus
Momotus momota aequatorialis

KINGFISHERS

Ringed Kingfisher
Amazon Kingfisher
Green Kingfisher
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher
American Pygmy Kingfisher

Megaceryle torquatus
Chloroceryle amazona
Chloroceryle americana
Chloroceryle inda
Chloroceryle aenea

PUFFBIRDS

White-necked Puffbird
Chestnut-capped Puffbird
Collared Puffbird
White-chested Puffbird
Lanceolated Monklet
Brown Nunlet
Black-fronted Nunbird
White-fronted Nunbird
Swallow-winged Puffbird

Notharchus hyperrynchus
Bucco macrodactylus
Bucco capensis
Malacoptila fusca
Micromonacha lanceolata
Nonnula brunnea
Monasa nigrifrons
Monasa morphoeus
Chelidoptera tenebrosa

JACAMARS

White-eared Jacamar
White-chinned Jacamar

Galbalcyrrhynchus leucotis
Galbula tombacea

Coppery-chested Jacamar
Purplish Jacamar
Great Jacamar

Galbula pastazae
Galbula chalcothorax
Jacamerops aureus

NEW WORLD BARBETS

Scarlet-crowned Barbet
Gilded Barbet
Red-headed Barbet

Capito aurovirens
Capito auratus
Eubucco bourcierii

TOUCANS

Emerald Toucanet
Chestnut-tipped Toucanet
Black-billed Mountain-Toucan (H)
Lettered Aracari
Ivory-billed Aracari
Chestnut-eared Aracari
Many-banded Aracari
Golden-collared Toucanet
Black-mandibled Toucan
White-throated Toucan
Channel-billed Toucan

Aulacorhynchus prasinus
Aulacorhynchus derbianus
Andigena nigrirostris
Pteroglossus inscriptus
Pteroglossus azara
Pteroglossus castanotis
Pteroglossus pluricinctus
Selenidera reinwardtii
Ramphastos ambiguus
Ramphastos tucanus
Ramphastos vitellinus

WOODPECKERS

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker
Smoky-brown Woodpecker
Little Woodpecker
Yellow-vented Woodpecker
Golden-olive Woodpecker
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker
Spot-breasted Woodpecker
Scale-breasted Woodpecker (H)
Chestnut Woodpecker
Cream-colored Woodpecker
Lineated Woodpecker
Powerful Woodpecker
Crimson-crested Woodpecker

Melanerpes cruentatus
Picoides fumigatus
Veniliornis passerinus
Veniliornis dignus
Colaptes rubiginosus
Colaptes rivolii
Colaptes punctigula
Celeus grammicus
Celeus elegans
Celeus flavus
Dryocopus lineatus
Campephilus pollens
Campephilus melanoleucos

OVENBIRDS

Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser (H)
Black-tailed Leaf-tosser
Gray-throated Leaf-tosser (H)
Stout-billed Cinclodes
Bar-winged Cinclodes
Andean Tit-Spinetail
White-chinned Thistletail
Azara's Spinetail

Sclerurus mexicanus
Sclerurus caudacutus
Sclerurus albigularis
Cinclodes excelsior
Cinclodes fuscus
Leptasthenura andicola
Schizoeaca fuliginosa
Synallaxis azarae

Dark-breasted Spinetail
Rufous Spinetail
White-bellied Spinetail (H)
Dusky Spinetail
Ash-browed Spinetail
Many-striped Canastero
Spotted Barbtail
Pearled Treerunner
Streaked Tuftedcheek
Point-tailed Palmcreeper
Montane Foliage-gleaner
Lineated Foliage-gleaner
Chestnut-winged Hookbill (H)
Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner
Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner
Black-billed Treehunter
Striped Treehunter (H)
Flammulated Treehunter
Olive-backed Foliage-gleaner
Ruddy Foliage-gleaner (H)
Streaked Xenops

WOODCREEPERS

Tyrannine Woodcreeper
Plain-brown Woodcreeper
Olivaceous Woodcreeper
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper
Long-billed Woodcreeper
Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper
Strong-billed Woodcreeper
Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper
Striped Woodcreeper
Elegant (Spix's) Woodcreeper
Buff-throated Woodcreeper
Olive-backed Woodcreeper
Montane Woodcreeper
Greater Scythebill
Red-billed Scythebill

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS

Great Antshrike
Lined Antshrike
Plain-winged Antshrike
Mouse-colored Antshrike
Castelnau's Antshrike
Plain Antvireo

Synallaxis albigularis
Synallaxis unirufa
Synallaxis propinqua
Synallaxis moesta
Cranioleuca curtata
Asthenes flammulata
Premnoplex brunnescens
Margarornis squamiger
Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii
Berlepschia rikeri
Anabacerthia striaticollis
Syndactyla subalaris
Ancistrops strigilatus
Philydor ruficaudatum
Philydor pyrrhodes
Thripadectes melanorhynchus
Thripadectes holostictus
Thripadectes flammulatus
Automolus infuscatus
Automolus rubiginosus
Xenops rutilans

Dendrocincla tyrannina
Dendrocincla fuliginosa
Sittasomus griseicapillus amazonus
Glyphorhynchus spirurus
Nasica longirostris
Dendrexetastes rufigula
Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus
Dendrocolaptes certhia
Xiphorhynchus obsoletus
Xiphorhynchus (spixii) elegans
Xiphorhynchus guttatus guttatoides
Xiphorhynchus triangularis
Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger
Campylorhamphus pucherani
Campylorhamphus trochilirostris

Taraba major
Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus
Thamnophilus schistaceus
Thamnophilus murinus
Thamnophilus cryptoleucus
Dysithamnus mentalis

Bicolored Antvireo
Dusky-throated Antshrike
Cinereous Antshrike
Brown-backed (Yasuni) Antwren (H)
Foothill Antwren
Ornate Antwren
Pygmy Antwren
Moustached (Short-billed) Antwren
Plain-throated Antwren
White-flanked Antwren
Slaty Antwren
Plain-winged Antwren
Yellow-breasted Antwren
Rufous-winged Antwren
Long-tailed Antbird
Blackish Antbird (foothills)
White-backed Fire-eye
Black-faced Antbird
Peruvian Warbling-Antbird
Silvered Antbird
Spot-winged Antbird
White-shouldered Antbird
Plumbeous Antbird
Sooty Antbird
White-plumed Antbird
Bicolored Antbird
Lunulated Antbird
Hairy-crested Antbird
Spot-backed Antbird
Dot-backed Antbird
Scale-backed Antbird
Black-spotted Bare-eye
Reddish-winged Bare-eye

ANTTHRUSHES

Rufous-capped Antthrush
Black-faced Antthrush
Short-tailed Antthrush
Striated Antthrush

ANTPITTAS

Plain-backed Antpitta (H)
Ochre-striped Antpitta (H)
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (H)
Chestnut-naped Antpitta (H)
White-bellied Antpitta

Dysithamnus occidentalis
Thamnomanes ardesiacus
Thamnomanes caesi
Epinecrophylla fjeldsai
Epinecrophylla spodionota
Epinecrophylla ornata
Myrmotherula brachyura
Myrmotherula (obscura) ignota
Myrmotherula hauxwelli
Myrmotherula axillaris
Myrmotherula schisticolor
Myrmotherula behni
Herpsilochmus axillaris
Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus
Drymophila caudata
Cercomacra nigrescens aequatorialis
Pyriglena leuconota
Myrmoborus myotherinus
Hypocnemis (cantator) peruviana
Sclateria naevia
Schistocichla leucostigma
Myrmeciza melanoceps
Myrmeciza hyperythra
Myrmeciza fortis
Pithys albifrons
Gymnopathys leucaspis
Gymnopathys lunulatus
Rhegmatorhina melanosticta
Hylophylax naevius
Hylophylax punctulatus
Willisornis poecilinotus
Phlegopsis nigromaculata
Phlegopsis erythroptera

Formicarius colma
Formicarius analis
Chamaeza campanisona
Chamaeza nobilis

Grallaria haplonota
Grallaria dignissima
Grallaria ruficapilla
Grallaria nuchalis
Grallaria hypoleuca

Tawny Antpitta
White-lored Antpitta (H)
Thrush-like Antpitta (H)
Peruvian Antpitta (H)

Grallaria quitensis
Hylopezus fulviventris
Myrmothera campanisona
Grallaricula peruviana

GNATEATERS

Chestnut-crowned Gnateater

Conopophaga castaneiceps

TAPACULOS

Rusty-belted Tapaculo
Blackish (Unicolored) Tapaculo
Long-tailed (Eq. Rufous-vented) Tapaculo
(Northern) White-crowned Tapaculo
Spillmann's Tapaculo
Paramo Tapaculo
Ocellated Tapaculo (H)

Liosceles thoracicus
Scytalopus (unicolor) latrans
Scytalopus micropterus
Scytalopus atratus
Scytalopus spillmanni
Scytalopus canus
Acropternis orthonyx

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

White-lored Tyrannulet (H)
White-tailed Tyrannulet
White-banded Tyrannulet
White-throated Tyrannulet
Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet
Agile Tit-Tyrant
Yellow Tyrannulet
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet
Foothill Elaenia
White-crested Elaenia
Mottle-backed Elaenia
Sierran Elaenia
Torrent Tyrannulet
Streak-necked Flycatcher
Olive-striped Flycatcher
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher
Sepia-capped Flycatcher
Slaty-capped Flycatcher
Rufous-breasted Flycatcher
Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant
Ecuadorian Tyrannulet (H)
Rough-legged (White-fronted) Tyrannulet
Ashy-headed Tyrannulet
Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet
Slender-footed Tyrannulet
Golden-faced Tyrannulet
Ornate Flycatcher
Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant

Ornithion inerme
Mecocerculus poecilocercus
Mecocerculus stictopterus
Mecocerculus leucophrys
Mecocerculus minor
Anairetes agilis
Capsiempis flaveola
Tyrannulus elatus
Myiopagis olallai
Elaenia albiceps
Elaenia gigas
Elaenia pallatangae
Serpophaga cinerea
Mionectes striaticollis
Mionectes olivaceus
Mionectes oleagineus
Leptopogon amaurocephalus
Leptopogon superciliaris
Leptopogon rufipectus
Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus
Phylloscartes gualaquizae
Phyllomyias burmeisteri leucogonys
Phyllomyias cinereiceps
Phyllomyias uropygialis
Zimmerius gracilipes
Zimmerius chrysops chrysops
Myiotriccus ornatus
Stigmatura napensis

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>
Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus vitiosus</i>
White-eyed Tody-Tyrant (H)	<i>Hemitriccus zosterops</i>
Buff-throated Tody-Tyrant (H)	<i>Hemitriccus rufigularis</i>
Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilotriccus ruficeps</i>
Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilotriccus capitalis</i>
Spotted Tody-Flycatcher (H)	<i>Todirostrum maculatum</i>
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum</i>
Gray-crowned Flycatcher (Flatbill)	<i>Tolmomyias poliocephalus</i>
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Terenotriccus erythrurus</i>
Cinnamon Flycatcher	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus</i>
Cliff Flycatcher	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>
Tawny-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius villosus</i>
Flavescent Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus flavicans</i>
Orange-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus phoenicomitra</i>
Handsome Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus pulcher</i>
Olive-chested Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus cryptoxanthus</i>
Euler's Flycatcher	<i>Lathrotriccus euleri</i>
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>
Smoke-colored Pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Drab Water Tyrant	<i>Ochthornis littoralis</i>
Plain-capped (Páramo) Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola alpinus</i>
Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant (H)	<i>Ochthoeca diadema</i>
Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris</i>
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca rufipectoralis</i>
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca fumicolor</i>
Large-headed Flatbill	<i>Ramphotricon megacephalum</i>
Rufous-tailed Flatbill	<i>Ramphotricon ruficauda</i>
Cinnamon Attila	<i>Attila cinnamomeus</i>
Citron-bellied Attila (H)	<i>Attila citriniventris</i>
Bright-rumped Attila (H)	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>
(Eastern) Sirystes	<i>Sirystes sibilator albocinereus</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Pale-edged Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cephalotes</i>
Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus lictor</i>
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Gray-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>
Dusky-chested Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes luteiventris</i>
Lemon-browed Flycatcher	<i>Conopias cinchoneti</i>

**Piratic Flycatcher
Sulphury Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird**

COTINGAS

**Green-and-black Fruiteater
Black-chested Fruiteater
Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater
Fiery-throated Fruiteater
Red-crested Cotinga
Black-necked Red-Cotinga
Gray-tailed Piha
Purple-throated Fruitcrow
Amazonian Umbrellabird
Plum-throated Cotinga
Spangled Cotinga
Dusky Piha
Screaming Piha
Purple-throated Cotinga
Bare-necked Fruitcrow**

MANAKINS

**Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin
Blue-crowned Manakin
Blue-rumped Manakin
Orange-crowned (Orange-crested) Manakin
White-crowned Manakin
Wire-tailed Manakin
Golden-headed Manakin
Wing-barred Piprites**

TITYRAS AND ALLIES

**Black-tailed Tityra
Masked Tityra
White-browed Purpleuft
Green-backed (Yellow-cheeked) Becard
Barred Becard
White-winged Becard
Black-and-white Becard
Pink-throated Becard**

VIREOS

**Brown-capped Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Yellow-green Vireo**

***Legatus leucophaeus*
Tyrannopsis sulphurea
Tyrannus melancholicus
*Tyrannus tyrannus***

***Pipreola riefferii*
Pipreola lubomirskii
Pipreola frontalis
Pipreola chlorolepidota
Ampelion rubrocristatus
Phoenicircus nigricollis
Snowornis subalaris
Querula purpurata
Cephalopterus ornatus
Cotinga maynana
Cotinga cayana
Lipaugus fuscocinereus
Lipaugus vociferans
Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema
*Gymnoderus foetidus***

***Tyranneutes stolzmanni*
Lepidothrix coronata
Lepidothrix isidorei
Heterocercus aurantiivertex
Pipra pipra
Pipra filicauda
Pipra erythrocephala
*Piprites chloris***

***Tityra cayana*
Tityra semifasciata
Iodopleura isabellae
Pachyramphus viridis xanthogenys
Pachyramphus versicolor
Pachyramphus polychopterus nigriventris
Pachyramphus albogriseus
*Pachyramphus minor***

***Vireo leucophrys*
Vireo olivaceus
*Vireo flavoviridis***

Rufous-naped Greenlet
Olivaceous Greenlet
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo
Black-billed Peppershrike

Hylophilus semibrunneus
Hylophilus olivaceus
Vireolanius leucotis
Cyclarhis nigristrostris

CROWS JAYS AND MAGPIES

Green (Inca) Jay
Violaceous Jay
Turquoise Jay

Cyanocorax yncas yncas
Cyanocorax violaceus
Cyanolyca turcosa

SWALLOWS

Blue-and-white Swallow
Brown-bellied Swallow
White-thighed Swallow
White-banded Swallow
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Gray-breasted Martin
Brown-chested Martin
White-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow

Pygochelidon cyanoleuca
Orochelidon murina
Atticora tibialis
Atticora fasciata
Stelgidopteryx ruficollis
Progne chalybea
Progne tapera
Tachycineta albiventer
Hirundo rustica

WRENS

Thrush-like Wren
Rufous Wren
Plain-tailed Wren
Coraya Wren
Buff-breasted Wren
House Wren
Mountain Wren
Sedge (Grass) Wren
White-breasted Wood-Wren (H)
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren
Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren (H)
Wing-banded Wren
Musician Wren

Campylorhynchus turdinus
Cinnycerthia unirufa
Thryothorus euophrys
Thryothorus coraya
Thryothorus leucotis
Troglodytes aedon
Troglodytes solstitialis
Cistothorus platensis aequatorialis
Henicorhina leucosticta
Henicorhina leucophrys
Microcerculus marginatus
Microcerculus bambla
Cyphorhinus arada

DIPPERS

White-capped Dipper

Cinclus leucocephalus

DONACOBIUS

Black-capped Donacobius

Donacobius atricapilla

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

Andean Solitaire
Spotted Nightingale-Thrush (H)
Swainson's Thrush

Myadestes ralloides
Catharus dryas
Catharus ustulatus

Pale-eyed Thrush (H)
Hauxwell's Thrush
Lawrence's Thrush (H)
Black-billed Thrush
Great Thrush
Glossy-black Thrush
White-necked Thrush (H)

Turdus leucops
Turdus hauxwelli
Turdus lawrencii
Turdus ignobilis
Turdus fuscater
Turdus serranus
Turdus albicollis

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS

Paramo Pipit
NEW WORLD WARBLERS
Tropical Parula
Blackburnian Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Canada Warbler
Slate-throated Redstart
Spectacled Redstart
Citrine Warbler
Black-crested Warbler
Russet-crowned Warbler
Three-striped Warbler
Buff-rumped Warbler
BANANAQUIT
Bananaquit

Anthus bogotensis

Parula pitiayumi
Dendroica fusca
Dendroica striata
Dendroica cerulea
Mniotilta varia
Setophaga ruticilla
Wilsonia canadensis
Myioborus miniatus
Myioborus melanocephalus
Basileuterus luteoviridis
Basileuterus nigrocristatus
Basileuterus coronatus
Basileuterus tristriatus
Phaeothlypis fulvicauda

Coereba flaveola

TANAGERS AND ALLIES

Magpie Tanager
Rufous-crested Tanager
Black-capped Hemispingus
Superciliaried Hemispingus
Black-eared Hemispingus
Gray-hooded Bush Tanager
Cinereous Conebill
Blue-backed Conebill
Capped Conebill
Giant Conebill
Black-backed Bush Tanager
Common Bush-Tanager
Short-billed (Yellow-whiskered) Bush-Tanager
Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager
Yellow-backed Tanager
Gray-headed Tanager
White-shouldered Tanager

Cissopis leverianus
Creurgops verticalis
Hemispingus atropileus
Hemispingus superciliaris
Hemispingus melanotis melanotis
Cnemoscopus rubrirostris
Conirostrum cinereum
Conirostrum sitticolor
Conirostrum albifrons
Oreomanes fraseri
Urothraupis stolzmanni
Chlorospingus ophthalmicus
Chlorospingus parvirostris
Chlorospingus flavigularis
Hemithraupis flavicollis
Eucometis penicillata
Tachyphonus luctuosus

White-lined Tanager
Masked Crimson Tanager
Silver-beaked Tanager
Blue-gray Tanager
Palm Tanager
Hooded Mountain-Tanager
Masked Mountain-Tanager
Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager
Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager
Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager
Grass-green Tanager
Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager
Orange-eared Tanager
Turquoise Tanager
Paradise Tanager
Green-and-gold Tanager
Golden Tanager
Saffron-crowned Tanager
Golden-eared Tanager
Flame-faced Tanager
Yellow-bellied Tanager
Spotted Tanager
Bay-headed Tanager
Golden-naped Tanager
Blue-browed Tanager
Blue-necked Tanager
Masked Tanager
Beryl-spangled Tanager
Blue-and-black Tanager
Black-capped Tanager
Opal-rumped Tanager
Opal-crowned Tanager
Black-faced Dacnis
Yellow-bellied Dacnis
Blue Dacnis
Green Honeycreeper
Purple Honeycreeper
Golden-collared Honeycreeper
Swallow Tanager
Grayish Saltator
Slate-colored Grosbeak

SPARROWS AND SEEDEATERS

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch
Black-and-white Seedeater
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater

Tachyphonus rufus
Ramphocelus nigrogularis
Ramphocelus carbo
Thraupis episcopus
Thraupis palmarum
Buthraupis montana
Buthraupis wetmorei
Anisognathus lacrymosus
Anisognathus igniventris
Anisognathus somptuosus
Chlorornis riefferii
Dubusia taeniata
Chlorochrysa calliparaea
Tangara mexicana
Tangara chilensis
Tangara schrankii
Tangara arthus
Tangara xanthocephala
Tangara chrysotis
Tangara parzudakii
Tangara xanthogastra
Tangara punctata
Tangara gyrola
Tangara ruficervix
Tangara cyanotis
Tangara cyanicollis
Tangara nigrocincta
Tangara nigroviridis
Tangara vassorii
Tangara heinei
Tangara velia
Tangara callophrys
Dacnis lineata lineata
Dacnis flaviventer
Dacnis cayana
Chlorophanes spiza
Cyanerpes caeruleus
Iridophanes pulcherrimus
Tersina viridis
Saltator coerulescens
Saltator grossus

Phrygilus unicolor
Sporophila luctuosa
Sporophila castaneiventris

Plain-colored Seedeater
Glossy Flowerpiercer
White-sided Flowerpiercer
Deep-blue (Golden-eyed) Flowerpiercer
Bluish Flowerpiercer
Masked Flowerpiercer
Red-capped Cardinal
Pale-naped Brush-Finch
Slaty Brush-Finch
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch
Orange-billed Sparrow
Yellow-browed Sparrow
Rufous-collared Sparrow

GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES

Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
White-winged Tanager
Blue-black Grosbeak (H)

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES

Oriole Blackbird
Shiny Cowbird
Giant Cowbird
Epaulet (Morange) Oriole
Orange-backed Troupial
(Northern) Mountain Caci que
Ecuadorian Caci que
Scarlet-rumped (Subtropical) Caci que
Yellow-rumped Caci que
Russet-backed Oropendola
Green Oropendola (H)
Crested Oropendola
Casqued Oropendola

SISKINS AND ALLIES

Thick-billed Euphonia
Golden-rumped Euphonia
Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonia
Bronze-green Euphonia
Orange-bellied Euphonia
Rufous-bellied Euphonia
Blue-naped Chlorophonia
Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia
Olivaceous Siskin

Catamenia inornata
Diglossa lafresnayii
Diglossa albilatera
Diglossa glaucus
Diglossa caerulescens
Diglossa cyaneus
Paroaria gularis
Atlapetes pallidinucha
Atlapetes schistaceus
Arremon brunneinucha
Arremon aurantirostris
Ammodramus aurifrons
Zonotrichia capensis

Piranga rubra
Piranga olivacea
Piranga leucoptera
Cyanocompsa cyanoides

Gymnomystax mexicanus
Molothrus bonariensis
Molothrus oryzivorus
Icterus cayanensis chrysocephalus
Icterus croconotus
Cacicus chrysonotus leucoramphus
Cacicus sclateri
Cacicus uropygialis uropygialis
Cacicus cela
Psarocolius angustifrons
Psarocolius viridis
Psarocolius decumanus
Clypicterus oseryi

Euphonia laniirostris
Euphonia cyanocephala
Euphonia chrysopasta
Euphonia mesochrysa
Euphonia xanthogaster
Euphonia rufiventris
Chlorophonia cyanea
Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys
Spinus olivaceus