

## AMAZONIAN ECUADOR: SACHA LODGE

Feb 3, 2012 to Feb 12, 2012  
Dan Lane



*A few gorgeous Orange-cheeked Parrots peer out from among the cacophonous crowds of Cobalt-winged Parakeets at the Anangu clay lick.  
(Photo by guide Dan Lane)*

Well, long story short: we now know why the rainforest is called a rainforest. Yep, there was a fair amount of rain! But it wasn't so great a deterrent. We still managed to get out, see some impressive things, and enjoy the wonders of the Amazon! Even canoeing in the rain was kind of fun (and did prove, if nothing else, that we are water-resistant!).

Indeed, the canoe rides we enjoyed on this tour were among the favorite experiences we had. Others included the visit to the wooden tower (which is always a pleasure!), and watching the Mealy, Yellow-crowned, and Blue-headed parrots (and Dusky-headed Parakeets) push, dangle, and stretch to get to the best clay at the river-side parrot lick. Several mammals figured in the list of favorites, including the howler monkeys draped over limbs as they gave their stomachs time to digest a hearty meal of leaves, the three-toed sloth who spent the week in a single Cecropia tree, and the pair of Kinkajous that JN, the local guides, and I watched staring groggily out of their roost hole at dusk.

Of course, birds also figured in our adventures, with more memorable experiences including the awkward Hoatzins at the edges of the lake, the Scarlet Macaw with its enflamed face (use more skin cream, dude!), the roosting Great Tinamou over the boardwalk, the multicolored Paradise Tanager, the still and unobtrusive Common Potoo on a stick, the large and ragged-crested Ringed Kingfisher, the electric blue Spangled Cotinga, and equally colorful Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers that we enjoyed from the canopy towers. These, and many more, were among the sights we had while in one of the most diverse

sites in the world, with good food, great company, and a fair amount of fun (and popcorn before dinner!), to boot! I certainly enjoyed the visit, and hope you all did as well! See you again out there with binoculars on.

--Dan

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at [www.fieldguides.com](http://www.fieldguides.com). And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/sac12bLIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

## KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: \* = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

## BIRDS

### Tinamidae (Tinamous)

**GREAT TINAMOU** (*Tinamus major*) – The only tinamou we saw, but we saw it pretty well... particularly its rear. As I mentioned at the time, the identification was pretty straight forward: only *Tinamus tinamous* roost off the ground, and locally, the only *Tinamus* is Great Tinamou.

**CINEREOUS TINAMOU** (*Crypturellus cinereus*) [\*]

**LITTLE TINAMOU** (*Crypturellus soui*) [\*]

**UNDULATED TINAMOU** (*Crypturellus undulatus*) [\*]

**VARIEGATED TINAMOU** (*Crypturellus variegatus*) [\*]

### Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

**SPECKLED CHACHALACA** (*Oreortyx guttatus*)

### Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

**MARBLED WOOD-QUAIL** (*Odontophorus gujanensis*) – Heard on two days, the evening JN went out with the three guides, we had a few birds get pretty close, but they always were just behind something. [\*]

### Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

**ZIGZAG HERON** (*Zebrilus undulatus*) – Nice! This is a rare, poorly known, and largely nocturnal heron that we were able to bring in for a good view! High five!

**RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON** (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) – This was the heron we saw after dark... and which moaned at us.

**COCOI HERON** (*Ardea cocoi*) – Le heron co-coi!

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*)

**SNOWY EGRET** (*Egretta thula*)

**CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*) – A small group near an petrol camp was a bit of a surprise. We don't see this species much on this tour.

**STRIATED HERON** (*Butorides striata*) – One view of this Green Heron-like bird as if flew by over the lake.

**CAPPED HERON** (*Pilherodius pileatus*) – A brief view our last morning of this rather fetching heron as it flew in by the river-side building, perched for a moment, and departed.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

**BOAT-BILLED HERON** (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) – Sharing a day roost with a night heron, this almost slipped by us, but not for Elias' eyes!

### Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*)

**GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE** (*Cathartes melambrotus*) – Pretty much all the 'TV'-like vultures I saw were this close relative.



Good thing Sacha has some wonderful canopy towers; with its preference for staying high in the canopy of terra firme forest, the 3-inch long Moustached Antwren is not a bird to be looked for from the ground! (Photo by guide Dan Lane)



**KING VULTURE** (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – One or two seen in the distance from wooden tower.

*Pandionidae (Osprey)*

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Two birds seen along the Napo were winterers from 'back home'. [b]

*Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)*

**GRAY-HEADED KITE** (*Leptodon cayanensis*) – Not an especially common raptor, and we even saw a young bird, which mimics the plumage of a Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle!

**SNAIL KITE** (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) – One was nearly always in that one tree along the lake edge.

**SLENDER-BILLED KITE** (*Helicolestes hamatus*) – Superficially similar to the last, but the body shape is different.

**DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE** (*Harpagus bidentatus*) – Seen from the metal tower and again on the Providencia Trail. Looks a bit like a Sharp-shin.

**PLUMBEOUS KITE** (*Ictinia plumbea*) – A large group over the lodge as we returned one afternoon may have been a movement of migrants.

**SLATE-COLORED HAWK** (*Leucopternis schistaceus*) – One bird was keeping watch along the handrail of the boardwalk. Hunting unsuspecting guests?

**ROADSIDE HAWK** (*Buteo magnirostris*) – Despite the lack of roads, we saw a few of these.

**BLACK HAWK-EAGLE** (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) [\*]

*Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)*

**BLACK CARACARA** (*Daptrius ater*) – A common river-side raptor.

**YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA** (*Milvago chimachima*) – Another river-side raptor. We had a few mostly up closer to Coca.

**LAUGHING FALCON** (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – Pablo managed to spot one that was several hundred miles away. We heard several as well.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*) – Two birds on the return boat ride to Coca were migrants from North America (looked like a male and female). [b]

*Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)*

**CHESTNUT-HEADED CRAKE** (*Anurolimnas castaneiceps*) – Typically a difficult rail to see, we managed to get most on it. Quite a feat!

**BLACK-BANDED CRAKE** (*Anurolimnas fasciatus*) – This rare and local rail performed very well! I hope it was worth the sore knees!

*Psophiidae (Trumpeters)*

**GRAY-WINGED TRUMPETER** (*Psophia crepitans*) [\*]

*Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)*

**PIED LAPWING** (*Vanellus cayanus*) – This and the next few shorebirds were mostly seen as they took refuge on driftwood logs that were all that remained of sand spit islands as the Napo rose.

**COLLARED PLOVER** (*Charadrius collaris*)

*Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)*

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (*Actitis macularius*) [b]

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*) [b]

*Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)*

**YELLOW-BILLED TERN** (*Sternula superciliaris*) – We had two of these Least Tern-like terns along the Napo.

**LARGE-BILLED TERN** (*Phaetusa simplex*) – One bird was seen as we headed to the lodge from Coca.

**BLACK SKIMMER** (*Rynchops niger*) – Mary spotted one of these fine birds as we headed back up the Napo to Coca.



*A handsome Slate-colored Hawk hunts for unwary tourists along the main boardwalk between the river and the lodge. (Photo by guide Dan Lane)*

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*) – In Coca. [I]

**PALE-VENTED PIGEON** (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – The common pigeon of edge habitats in Amazonia.

**PLUMBEOUS PIGEON** (*Patagioenas plumbea*) – Mostly heard, but one bird allowed us looks the final morning.

**EARED DOVE** (*Zenaida auriculata*) – In Quito.

**RUDDY GROUND-DOVE** (*Columbina talpacoti*) – These were near Coca in the cleared habitats.

**GRAY-FRONTED DOVE** (*Leptotila rufaxilla*) – Mostly heard, but I think one was seen briefly.

**RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE** (*Geotrygon montana*) [\*]

Psittacidae (Parrots)

**MAROON-TAILED PARAKEET** (*Pyrrhura melanura*) – Our very first day, we heard a flock or two, and one group flew over the lake while we birded there in the rain.

**DUSKY-HEADED PARAKEET** (*Aratinga weddellii*) – One of the parrots at the first parrot lick.

**CHESTNUT-FRONTED MACAW** (*Ara severus*) [\*]

**SCARLET MACAW** (*Ara macao*) – One bird sat over the parakeet lick.

Sadly, it looked like it had a bad case of poison ivy on its face.

**BLUE-AND-YELLOW MACAW** (*Ara ararauna*) – A pair of these handsome macaws flew by the 'museum' at the Providencia Trail.

**COBALT-WINGED PARAKEET** (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*) – The most numerous visitor to the parakeet lick.

**SCARLET-SHOULDERED PARROTLET** (*Touit huetii*) – Rather an attractive little parrot that we saw well at the parakeet lick.

**BLACK-HEADED PARROT** (*Pionites melanocephalus*) – We had nice scope view from near the dining hall.

**ORANGE-CHEEKED PARROT** (*Pyrilia barrabandi*) – The large parrot that was at the parakeet lick.

**BLUE-HEADED PARROT** (*Pionus menstruus*)

**ORANGE-WINGED PARROT** (*Amazona amazonica*) – Strangely, this species does not seem to participate in the parrot lick scene. Perhaps it does not eat seeds with the toxins that cause the others to partake?

**MEALY PARROT** (*Amazona farinosa*) – I always enjoy watching the antics of the birds at the parrot lick. Often, they hang at strange angles, or awkwardly step on one another to get to the clay.

**YELLOW-CROWNED PARROT** (*Amazona ochrocephala*)

Opisthocomidae (Hoatzin)

**HOATZIN** (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) – Chain smokers anonymous.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

**SQUIRREL CUCKOO** (*Piaya cayana*)

**GREATER ANI** (*Crotophaga major*) – Rather common on this visit. That flock of 200+ birds crossing the Napo was memorable!

**SMOOTH-BILLED ANI** (*Crotophaga ani*)

Strigidae (Owls)

**TAWNY-BELLIED SCREECH-OWL** (*Megascops watsonii*) – The bird in the scope at the foot of the wooden tower was a nice cap to the morning!

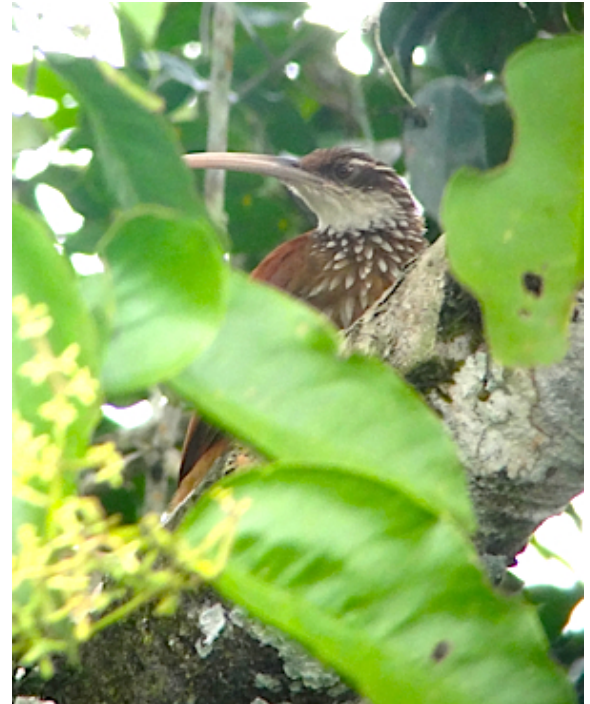
**CRESTED OWL** (*Lophotrix cristata*) – I'm amazed how 'easily' we see this species on this tour. The local guides' knowledge of day roosts is indisposable!

**FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL** (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) [\*]

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

**COMMON PAURAQUE** (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) – Eyeshine from the BBQ building's roof.

**LADDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR** (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*) – A female perched over the Napo was a nice find.



*Curious, but still wary, a Long-billed Woodcreeper peeks out from amidst thick canopy vegetation, checking out the strange group of primates in the treetops. (Photo by guide Dan Lane)*



Nyctibiidae (Potoos)

**GREAT POTOO** (*Nyctibius grandis*) – We had a fair view of one of these large 'stumps' from the metal towers.

**COMMON POTOO** (*Nyctibius griseus*) – A marvel of nature, and one we were able to see well as it sat at the lake edge (presumably on an egg or chick). [N]

Apodidae (Swifts)

**WHITE-CHINNED SWIFT** (*Cypseloides cryptus*) – A very poorly known swift that we saw a few times (probably driven over Amazonia from the mountains by the rain).

**WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT** (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – The largest swift in the region.

**SHORT-TAILED SWIFT** (*Chaetura brachyura*) – One of the most common swifts here.

**GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT** (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

**PALE-RUMPED SWIFT** (*Chaetura egregia*)

**LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT** (*Panyptila cayennensis*) – Seen a few times over the lake.

**FORK-TAILED PALM-SWIFT** (*Tachornis squamata*) – Perhaps the most common swift at Sacha... and we enjoyed watching some harassing a Pale-vented Pigeon as they tried to snag some feathers from it!

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

**WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN** (*Florisuga mellivora*) – A couple at the river-edge gave us nice views.

**RUFOUS-BREASTED HERMIT** (*Glaucis hirsutus*) – Sue spotted one from the BBQ building.

**WHITE-BEARDED HERMIT** (*Phaethornis hispidus*) – One investigated us as we waited to see the Black-banded Crape.

**STRAIGHT-BILLED HERMIT** (*Phaethornis bourcieri*) – A singing bird in the forest behind the lodge allowed good views.

**GREAT-BILLED HERMIT** (*Phaethornis malaris*) – Great scope views by the parakeet lick.

**BLUE-TAILED EMERALD** (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*) – Glimpses of two birds on our last day was all.

**GOLDEN-TAILED SAPPHIRE** (*Chrysuronia oenone*) – A male kept vigil near the wooden tower platform.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

**BLACK-TAILED TROGON** (*Trogon melanurus*) [\*]

**GREEN-BACKED TROGON** (*Trogon viridis*) – The large yellow-bellied trogon.

**AMAZONIAN TROGON** (*Trogon ramonius*) – Until recently called 'Violaceous Trogon', that species was split into three (Gartered and Guianan are the other two). The smaller yellow-bellied trogon.

**COLLARED TROGON** (*Trogon collaris*) – Another species we saw only our last day, this was the red-bellied trogon we enjoyed on the boardwalk.

Momotidae (Motmots)

**AMAZONIAN MOTMOT** (*Momotus momota*) – Drat! I think everyone 'saw' this one through the scope, but didn't realize it until I demonstrated where to look by taking a photo. Then it flew!

**RUFOUS MOTMOT** (*Baryphthengus martii*) [\*]

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

**RINGED KINGFISHER** (*Megaceryle torquata*) – Several seen on the boat ride back to Coca.

**GREEN-AND-RUFOUS KINGFISHER** (*Chloroceryle inda*) – Mostly a green flash as it blew by us, but most saw it on that rainy canoe ride up Orquidea creek.

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

**WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD** (*Notharchus hyperhynchus*) [\*]

**WHITE-CHESTED PUFFBIRD** (*Malacoptila fusca*) – One of the prizes for hiking up the ridge above the parakeet lick.

**BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD** (*Monasa nigrifrons*) – The common



*They don't call them sloths for nothing... this guy spent the entire week of our stay in a single Cecropia tree! What a life! (Photo by guide Dan Lane)*

nunbird along rivers.

**WHITE-FRONTED NUNBIRD** (*Monasa morphoeus*) – The common nunbird in the interior forest.

**SWALLOW-WINGED PUFFBIRD** (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*) – Mostly seen perching high on branches along the river.

*Galbulidae (Jacamars)*

**WHITE-EARED JACAMAR** (*Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*) – One perched along the Providencia creek offered nice views.

**BROWN JACAMAR** (*Brachygalba lugubris*) – The two birds we watched from the canoe as we returned to the river landing at the lodge.

**YELLOW-BILLED JACAMAR** (*Galbula albirostris*) – Another species we only saw on the ridge above the parakeet lick.

**WHITE-CHINNED JACAMAR** (*Galbula tombacea*) – This was the jacamar we spotted as we canoed along Anaconda creek.

**PURPLISH JACAMAR** (*Galbula chalcothorax*) – One of the first birds we saw upon arriving at the lodge entrance our first day.

**GREAT JACAMAR** (*Jacamerops aureus*) – Ella's sharp eyes found this large and colorful jacamar on the ridge above the parakeet lick.

*Capitonidae (New World Barbets)*

**SCARLET-CROWNED BARBET** (*Capito aurovirens*) – Another species we saw shortly after arriving from our boat ride in from Coca.

**GILDED BARBET** (*Capito auratus*) – A handsome bird (not that I'm partial to barbets) that we enjoyed particularly from the towers.

*Ramphastidae (Toucans)*

**CHESTNUT-EARED ARACARI** (*Pteroglossus castanotis*) – The aracari found in second growth and river edge.

**MANY-BANDED ARACARI** (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*) – The aracari in forest interior.

**IVORY-BILLED ARACARI** (*Pteroglossus azara*) – This rather striking aracari performed well from the metal towers.

**GOLDEN-COLLARED TOUCANET** (*Selenidera reinwardtii*) – Fine views of a pair as we walked trails. Unfortunately, they didn't entertain with their song and dance.

**WHITE-THROATED TOUCAN** (*Ramphastos tucanus cuvieri*) – In some guides the western Amazonian form is called Cuvier's Toucan. This is the 'yelping' toucan.

**CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN** (*Ramphastos vitellinus culminatus*) – This one looks identical to the last, but has a smaller bill. The best field mark is the croaking voice. Some guides call it Yellow-ridged Toucan.

[\*]

*Picidae (Woodpeckers)*

**YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes cruentatus*) – The candy-colored woodpecker that we had in the Ceiba with the wooden platform.

**LITTLE WOODPECKER** (*Veniliornis passerinus*) – A pair came in to playback on the Cecropia island we visited briefly on the Napo.

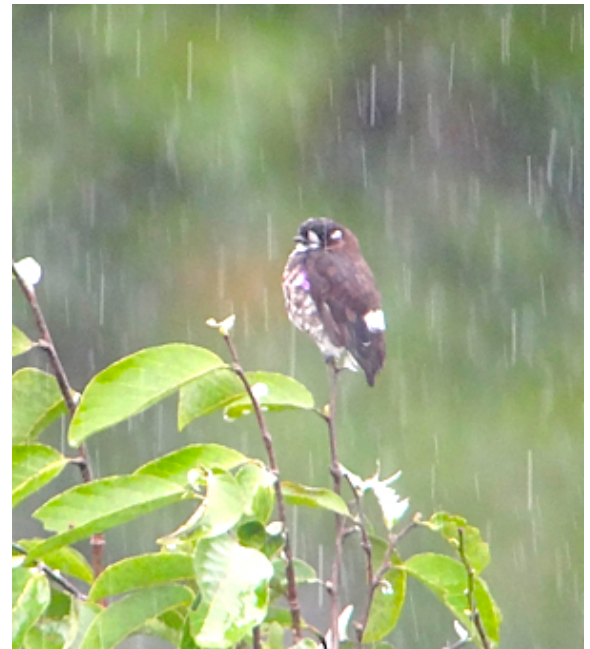
**CHESTNUT WOODPECKER** (*Celeus elegans*) – We enjoyed several of this handsome woodpecker, including one in the palm fruits right at the boat dock.

**RED-NECKED WOODPECKER** (*Campephilus rubricollis*) – The big 'Woody Woodpecker' that Pablo spotted for us near the parakeet lick.

**CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER** (*Campephilus melanoleucos*) – Seen on four different days. A big one with a red crest.

*Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)*

**TAWNY-THROATED LEAFTOSSER** (*Sclerurus mexicanus*) – This was the drab brown bird we saw in the dawn light



Formerly treated as a member of the Cotinga family, the tiny White-browed Purplethroat has recently been placed in the same family as the tityras and becards.  
(Photo by guide Dan Lane)



as we hiked out to the metal towers.

**SHORT-BILLED LEAFTOSSER** (*Sclerurus ruficularis*) – We saw this leaftosser on the hike out towards the metal towers on our second visit there.

**BLACK-TAILED LEAFTOSSER** (*Sclerurus caudacutus*) – A pair was very responsive on the south bank of the Napo.

**CHESTNUT-WINGED HOOBILL** (*Ancistrops strigilatus*) – A bird seen first thing the final full day.

**PLAIN XENOPS** (*Xenops minutus*) – The 'titmouse' of the Amazon.

**PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) – A well-named bird; we saw it on two days, but thanks to its plain brownness, it may not be so memorable.

**OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER** (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) – A tiny woodcreeper we saw from the wooden tower.

**WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) – The smallest of the woodcreepers, and one we saw in a few flocks.

**LONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Nasica longirostris*) – A large, distinctive woodcreeper that we saw from the metal towers on our second visit there.

**AMAZONIAN BARRED-WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrocolaptes certhia*) [\*]

**STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Dendroplex picus*) – The woodcreeper we saw along the edge of the lake.

**STRIPED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*) – We saw this one on Anaconda creek a few times.

**ELEGANT WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphorhynchus elegans*) – This species has been split from Spix's Wc (the latter now known only from Brazil).

**BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*) – One of the larger woodcreepers we saw a few times (and heard many more!).

**LINEATED WOODCREEPER** (*Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*) – Remember standing in the creek and looking straight up into that towering tree at a brown lizard-like bird? Well, that was this one.

#### *Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)*

**PLAIN-WINGED ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*) [\*]

**MOUSE-COLORED ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus murinus*) – One seen on the Providencia trail.

**DUSKY-THROATED ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*) – This and the following species are often the leaders of mixed-species understory flocks. We encountered them regularly inside the forest.

**CINEREOUS ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnomanes caesius*)

**BROWN-BACKED ANTWREN** (*Epinecrophylla fjeldsaai*) – All right! This is a rare species, and one only described to science in 1999 (Bret Whitney of FG's was one of the authors). The Ecuador field guide calls it Yasuni Antwren (and indeed, we saw it in Yasuni Nat'l Park). And, it was a new one for yours truly (as I assume it was for you all, too)!

**RUFOS-TAILED ANTWREN** (*Epinecrophylla erythrura*) – A pair in a flock near the parakeet lick was only somewhat responsive to playback.

**PYGMY ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula brachyura*) – Mostly heard, but one was briefly visible from the wooden tower.

**MOUSTACHED ANTWREN (SHORT-BILLED)** (*Myrmotherula ignota obscura*) – We saw this antwren really well from the metal towers on our second visit there! It's often a very hard one to see, so that was satisfying.

**PLAIN-THROATED ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula huxwelli*) – After a few unsuccessful tries, we saw this understory gray antwren well the day we walked in to the parakeet lick.

**WHITE-FLANKED ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)

**GRAY ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*) – One of the gray antwrens (of all things!) that we got to see on the Providencia trail.

**DUGAND'S ANTWREN** (*Herpsilochmus dugandi*) – A canopy antwren that we saw briefly from the wooden tower.

**BLACK ANT BIRD** (*Cercomacra serva*) – A pair was reluctant in coming in while we were on the Providencia trail.

**BLACK-FACED ANT BIRD** (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*) – We had a pretty good look at this understory antbird on the parakeet lick hike.



*If you like gaudy, and who doesn't, point-blank views of a male Spangled Cotinga from the canopy tower are pretty hard to beat! (Photo by guide Dan Lane)*

**PERUVIAN WARBLING-ANTBIRD** (*Hypocnemis peruviana*) – Seen the same day as the last.

**YELLOW-BROWED ANTBIRD** (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*) – This one too, but it was on the ridge over the parakeet lick.

**SILVERED ANTBIRD** (*Sclateria naevia*) – Eventually, we had good looks at this water-edge antbird on Anaconda creek.

**WHITE-SHOULDERED ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza melanocephala*) – A male showed near where we saw the Chestnut-headed Crake.

**PLUMBEOUS ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza hyperythra*) – After a long rain delay on our first full day at the lodge, we managed to see this bird right at your cabins.

**SOOTY ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza fortis*) – A pair was seen on the walk out to the wooden tower.

**BICOLORED ANTBIRD** (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*) [\*]

**LUNULATED ANTBIRD** (*Gymnopithys lunulatus*) – JN was the only person to join Pablo and me as we tried for this rare and local antbird near the museum at Providencia. Luckily, there was an antswarm there, and we encountered the bird.

Sadly, it didn't really show at all. [\*]

**DOT-BACKED ANTBIRD** (*Hylophylax punctulatus*) – A male showed well along Anaconda creek.

**SCALE-BACKED ANTBIRD** (*Willisornis poecilinotus*) – Strangely, a pair posed for an extended period in my scope the first full morning. That doesn't happen often.

#### *Formicariidae (Antthrushes)*

**BLACK-FACED ANTTHRUSH** (*Formicarius analis*) – Despite this bird walking around us, we never really saw it! [\*]

**STRIATED ANTTHRUSH** (*Chamaeza nobilis*) – Just before ascending the wooden tower, we managed to get everyone a view of this skulky bird.

#### *Grallariidae (Antpittas)*

**OCHRE-STRIPED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria dignissima*) – A very rare bird that we enjoyed hearing on the Providencia trail. Unfortunately, it was not an exhibitionist. [\*]

**WHITE-LORED ANTPITTA** (*Hylopezus fulviventeris*) [\*]

#### *Conopophagidae (Gnateaters)*

**CHESTNUT-BELTED GNATEATER** (*Conopophaga aurita*) – A male gave us a few brief views our first full day.

#### *Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)*

**YELLOW-CROWNED TYRANNULET** (*Tyrannulus elatus*) – This one was perched right by the BBQ building.

**SLENDER-FOOTED TYRANNULET** (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)

**GOLDEN-FACED TYRANNULET** (*Zimmerius chrysops*) – We had views of a pair of this usually Andean tyrannulet while we were at the Providencia museum clearing.

**SHORT-TAILED PYGMY-TYRANT** (*Myiornis ecaudatus*) – A teeny-weeny bird (the smallest passerine in the world!) we saw as we walked in on the boardwalk the first day of the tour.

**WHITE-EYED TODY-TYRANT** (*Hemitriccus zosterops*) – This was that staggeringly beautiful gray and olive bird we saw once we got atop the ridge behind the parakeet lick.

**YELLOW-BROWED TODY-FLYCATCHER** (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*) – One is always in the Ceiba tree with the wooden tower.

**YELLOW-MARGINED FLYCATCHER** (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) – This one also briefly visited the tower tree.

**YELLOW-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*) [\*]

**EULER'S FLYCATCHER** (*Lathrotriccus euleri*) [\*]

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** (*Contopus virens*) – An old friend from back home! [b]

**DRAB WATER TYRANT** (*Ochthornis littoralis*) – I actually like this bird, despite its name.

**RUFIOUS-TAILED FLATBILL** (*Ramphotrigon ruficauda*) – This and the next were seen from the canoe as we paddled Anaconda creek.

**CINNAMON ATTLA** (*Attila cinnamomeus*)

**CITRON-BELLIED ATTLA** (*Attila citriniventris*) [\*]

**BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTLA** (*Attila spadiceus*) [\*]

**GRAYISH MOURNER** (*Rhytipterna simplex*) – A smaller version of a Screaming Piha.

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – The *Myiarchus* flycatcher we saw from the metal tower.

**SHORT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus ferox*) – This was the baby flycatcher we enjoyed from the BBQ



building that rainy day.

**LESSER KISKADEE** (*Pitangus lictor*) – Like the name suggests: like a Kiskadee. Just smaller.

**GREAT KISKADEE** (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – This and the next few were seen most days, particularly around the lake.

**BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER** (*Megarynchus pitangua*)

**SOCIAL FLYCATCHER** (*Myiozetetes similis*)

**GRAY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiozetetes granadensis*)

**DUSKY-CHESTED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiozetetes luteiventris*) – A forest canopy flycatcher that we saw well the second visit to the metal towers.

**SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) – This is the same species you may know from Cave Creek Canyon in Arizona. They winter waaaay down here! [b]

**PIRATIC FLYCATCHER** (*Legatus leucophaeus*) – One we certainly heard every day, and saw most days.

**TROPICAL KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Daily.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) – Our last morning, we had a flock of these 'familiar' birds fly by the riverbank. [b]

#### Cotingidae (Cotingas)

**PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW** (*Querula purpurata*) – A strange bird with that purple throat patch that it can fan.

**PLUM-THROATED COTINGA** (*Cotinga maynana*) – Striking blue! Why? Nevermind, let's just enjoy the excessive gaudiness.

**SPANGLED COTINGA** (*Cotinga cayana*) – Another remarkable-looking bird!

**SCREAMING PIHA** (*Lipaugus vociferans*) – We all enjoyed hearing this loud (!) bird. Those who went to the metal tower the second time saw it well.

**BARE-NECKED FRUITCROW** (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)

#### Pipridae (Manakins)

**DWARF TYRANT-MANAKIN** (*Tyrannus stolzmanni*) [\*]

**STRIPED MANAKIN (WESTERN)** (*Machaeropterus regulus striolatus*) [\*]

**BLUE-CROWNED MANAKIN** (*Lepidothrix coronata*) – Nice views of this attractive understory denizen were had.

**BLUE-BACKED MANAKIN** (*Chiroxiphia pareola*) [\*]

**ORANGE-CROWNED MANAKIN** (*Heterocercus aurantiivertex*) – Seen with no real effort (other than to keep dry!) on Orquidea creek.

**WIRE-TAILED MANAKIN** (*Pipra filicauda*) – A male posed well in the telescope for all to enjoy!

**GOLDEN-HEADED MANAKIN** (*Pipra erythrocephala*) – Seen within spitting distance of the last. Happily, they spit relatively seldom.

#### Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

**BLACK-TAILED TITYRA** (*Tityra cayana*) – Strangely, we saw mostly females.

**WHITE-BROWED PURPLETUFT** (*Iodopleura isabellae*) – Great views on several days, we even saw the purple tufts!

#### Vireonidae (Vireos)

**YELLOW-GREEN VIREO** (*Vireo flavoviridis*) – Since we never saw a real Red-eye, I wonder if the sounds I was identifying as Red-eyed Vireo were all from this species? It breeds in Middle America and winters here. [b]

**SLATY-CAPPED SHRIKE-VIREO** (*Vireolanius leucotis*) [\*]

#### Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

**VIOLACEOUS JAY** (*Cyanocorax violaceus*)

#### Hirundinidae (Swallows)

**WHITE-BANDED SWALLOW** (*Atticora fasciata*) – An attractive swallow that likes water.

**GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN** (*Progne chalybea*) – A nest in a pipe under the BBQ building allowed us close looks. [N]

**WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW** (*Tachycineta albiventer*) – Another hydrophilic swallow.

#### Troglodytidae (Wrens)

**THRUSH-LIKE WREN** (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*) [\*]

**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*) – One of the most adaptable birds in the Americas: lives from sea level to 14000 ft, from the most arid desert in the world (the Atacama) to the Amazon (where we saw it!), and from southern Canada to Tierra del Fuego. Yo.

**WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-WREN** (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) – A loud little feller who doesn't like to show himself. Most saw it eventually.

*Donacobiidae (Donacobius)*

**BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIUS** (*Donacobius atricapilla*) – The 'prairie chicken' of the Amazon with those orange neck sacs.

*Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)*

**HAUXWELL'S THRUSH** (*Turdus hauxwelli*) [**\***]

**LAWRENCE'S THRUSH** (*Turdus lawrencii*) – Mostly heard, but one briefly showed for us on our second visit to the metal towers. This bird is perhaps the most impressive mimic in the bird world, as his song is made up of nearly nothing other than mimicry of other natural sounds in his environment (and, interestingly, I have noted that he likes to imitate rare birds!).

**BLACK-BILLED THRUSH** (*Turdus ignobilis*) – Sounds like our American Robin, but comes up a bit short in the looks department.

**GREAT THRUSH** (*Turdus fuscater*) – In Quito.

**WHITE-NECKED THRUSH** (*Turdus albicollis*) – A lazy singer in the forest understory.

*Parulidae (New World Warblers)*

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** (*Setophaga striata*) – I still find it amazing to think of the changes this bird goes through in a year. It breeds in boreal taiga forests (stunted spruce and fir), migrates out over the Atlantic from New England to northern South America (or so it's thought, anyway), and spends its winter in the canopy of Amazonian trees. So what's a 'normal day' to a Blackpoll? [**b**]

*Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)*

**MAGPIE TANAGER** (*Cissopis leverianus*) – Indeed this looks like a magpie. But it's a tanager. An impressive trick.

**GRAY-HEADED TANAGER** (*Eucometis penicillata*) – A pair of these skulky tanagers darted around over us as we canoed along Anaconda creek.

**FLAME-CRESTED TANAGER** (*Tachyphonus cristatus*) – We had a distant scope view of this striking tanager on our second visit to the metal towers.

**MASKED CRIMSON TANAGER** (*Ramphocelus nigrogularis*) – A very vibrantly-colored tanager we enjoyed in the flooded forest along the boardwalk.

**SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER** (*Ramphocelus carbo*) – This and the next two were a regular fixture along the lake-edge.

**BLUE-GRAY TANAGER** (*Thraupis episcopus*)

**PALM TANAGER** (*Thraupis palmarum*)

**PARADISE TANAGER** (*Tangara chilensis*) – One of the finer (or gaudier, if you will) plumaged birds of Amazonia. We enjoyed views from the metal towers.

**GREEN-AND-GOLD TANAGER** (*Tangara schrankii*) – This and the next few tanagers were seen on our second visit to the metal towers.

**MASKED TANAGER** (*Tangara nigrocincta*)

**OPAL-RUMPED TANAGER** (*Tangara velia*)

**OPAL-CROWNED TANAGER** (*Tangara callophrys*)

**YELLOW-BELLIED DACNIS** (*Dacnis flaviventer*)

**BLUE DACNIS** (*Dacnis cayana*)

**GREEN HONEYCREEPER** (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

**PURPLE HONEYCREEPER** (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*) – How can the skin on the legs of this bird be such an incredibly fluorescent yellow color? Amazing!

**GRAYISH SALTATOR** (*Saltator coerulescens*) – Ella spotted one of these large 'tanager-grosbeaks' singing from a Cecropia as we drifted up Providencia creek.

*Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)*

**RED-CAPPED CARDINAL** (*Paroaria gularis*) – A regular sight around the edge of the lake. Ironically, this 'cardinal' is in



fact a true tanager, whereas our North American 'tanagers' are in fact related to our cardinal!

### Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

**RED-BREASTED BLACKBIRD** (*Sturnella militaris*) – Seen along the edges of the runway at Coca.

**ORIOLE BLACKBIRD** (*Gymnomystax mexicanus*) – A fairly large group seen on river islands in the Napo.

**GIANT COWBIRD** (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) – One youngster hung around the BBQ building. Maybe it'd been raised by the caciques?

**EPAULET ORIOLE (MORICHE)** (*Icterus cayanensis chrysocephalus*) – There's been a bit of taxonomic shuffling of South American orioles of late. This form was long considered a species (Moriche Oriole), but genetic evidence suggests that it's best considered a subspecies of the Epaulet Oriole (however, the southeastern former subspecies of Epaulet is now a separate species).

**YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE** (*Cacicus cela*) – An ever-present force around the lodge. [N]

**RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA** (*Psarocolius angustifrons*) – The common oropendola of the tour.

**CRESTED OROPENDOLA** (*Psarocolius decumanus*) – A few of this darker oropendola were under the wooden tower.

**CASQUED OROPENDOLA** (*Clypicterus oseryi*) – A rare oropendola, so we were not only lucky to see them, but exceptionally lucky to see them at a pure nesting colony! [N]

### Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

**THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia lanirostris*)

**GOLDEN-BELLIED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia chrysopasta*) – Also called 'White-lored Euphonia', this was the one that was probing the moss on the branches of our Ceiba tree (where the wooden tower is).

**ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia xanthogaster*) – This and the next species were seen over Anaconda creek.

**RUFOUS-BELLIED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia rufiventris*)

---

## MAMMALS

**BLACK-MANTLE TAMARIN** (*Saguinus nigricollis*) – The small monkeys that were seen daily around the dining hall.

**COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY** (*Saimiri sciureus*) – Seen on several occasions.

**DUSKY TITI MONKEY** (*Callicebus moloch*) [\*]

**RED HOWLER MONKEY** (*Alouatta seniculus*) – Heard and seen well. the largest monkey in the area.

**WHITE-FRONTED CAPUCHIN** (*Cebus albifrons*)

**BROWN-THROATED THREE-TOED SLOTH** (*Bradypus variegatus*) – The same sloth was seen the first and last days of the tour in the same Cecropia tree. Man, they get around!

**NORTHERN AMAZON RED SQUIRREL** (*Sciurus igniventris*) – We had good looks at a red squirrel the day we went to the parakeet lick. The two species of Amazonian Red Squirrel are very difficult to distinguish, and apparently, both are possible at that site.... I'm just taking a stab in the dark at this one's identity.

**BLACK AGOUTI** (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*) – One or more was seen around the lodge grounds.

**KINKAJOU** (*Potos flavus*) – JN was the lucky winner of a view of two of these curious arboreal raccoon relatives.

---

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Spectacled (White) Caiman- *Caiman crocodilus*

River Turtle- *Podocnemis* sp.

Fer-de-lance- *Bothrops atrox*

Caiman Lizard- *Dracaena guianensis*

Guichenot's Dwarf Iguana- *Enyaloides laticeps*

---

**Totals for the tour: 252 bird taxa and 9 mammal taxa**

