

Trip Report — Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge II 2024

July 31-August 9, 2024 with Willy Perez & local guide



Many-banded Aracari was one of several Toucans that we saw from the towers and Paul Demkovich managed to get this great photo.

This summer tour to Sacha lodge was simply wonderful, and after meeting the group at the charming and very birdy San Jose de Puenbo Hotel the first day in the afternoon for a briefing, we were very prepared to start our adventure the next day. We took the half-hour flight to Coca in the morning from Quito with stunning views of Cotopaxi and Cayambe volcano. We took different sources of transport (bus, canoe, etc) to get to Sacha Lodge in the Amazon basin for lunch. Fausto, the manager, gave us a nice introduction to the rainforest, we had an amazing lunch and after seeing our rooms, we geared up for our first birding outing.

We stayed at Sacha the whole week, so every day we had something different. I teamed up with our local guides (Oscar Tapuy and Donaldo) and they did a great job taking us around and unfolding some of the secrets of this magic place.



Hoatzins are the most iconic birds of the Amazon rainforest and they are found close to water. Paul Demkovich got this superb photo from the dining room.

The canoe rides were perfect to explore the Pilchecocho lagoon and some of the creeks, where we found birds like Agami, Boat-billed and Black-crowned Night Herons. The Igapo forest (flooded by black water) had some unique species that we managed to see very well; Orange-crowned Manakin was one of the very special ones.

The walks that we did through the primary forest were excellent to see some of the secretive animals, such as Spix's Night Monkeys at their roosts and the smallest primate in the world, the Pygmy Marmosets were very impressive. Birds also were

very active and several showed up nicely. Broad-billed Motmot, Crested Owl, Plain-throated Antwren, Plain Xenops and even Wire-tailed Manakin were around.



At Sacha Lodge, you never know where you will find the wildlife. Paul Demkovich found it in the most unexpected place.

The visits that we did to the Parrot clay licks were incredible. The one along the Napo River had Mealy, Yellow-crowned, and Blue-headed Parrot and hundreds of Dusky-headed Parakeets. In the Yasuni National Park, we saw Scarlet Macaws and hundreds of Cobalt-winged Parakeets. Visiting the Sani community was also productive because three species of Macaws were eating wood from a dead tree.

Our visit to the river island in the very early morning was very active before the sun came out, and I am glad that we got there early. I have to say that the experience was really pleasant and birds behaved nicely. Black-and-White Antbird was seen well, followed by Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, White-bellied Spinetail, Castelnau's Antshrike and the elusive Gray-breasted Crake were spotted.



Scarlet Macaws gather together to get minerals at the clay lick, and we were lucky enough to see several of them doing it, photo by Willy Perez.

A couple of mornings, we came face to face with a lot of birds when we went to the canopy towers. Here, being at the same level as the canopy, we enjoyed the colors of some of the birds that are impossible to see from the ground. It was like children in a candy store, with Dacnis, Honeycreepers, Cotingas, Vultures, Toucans, Woodpeckers, Kites, Hawks, Vultures, Parrots, Woodcreepers, Potoos, etc, etc, etc! People enjoyed different birds, and here are some that were favorites: Lemon-throated Barbet, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Golden-collared Toucanet, Green-and-gold and Paradise tanagers, but the best one for me was a Gould's Jewelfront male that showed so nicely at the Kapok tower.

The rainforest also has a lot of other animals and we did great with mammals. Several occasions during lunch time we had Giant Otters that came to feed in the lagoon, Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth and six species of monkeys.

The week went quickly but I have to say that it was a wonderful trip, full of amazing birds in a very comfortable lodge with delicious food and great hosts. I hope that all of you enjoyed the trip, and thank you for joining me to explore the Amazon Rainforest.



Michael Scheibel got this great shot of White-necked Puffbird from the metal tower, the only way to see these birds face to face.

Other animals seen on the trip.

Mammals:

White-bellied Slender Opossum

Long-nosed Bat
White-lined Sac-winged Bat
Pygmy Marmoset
Black-mantle Tamarin
Common Squirrel Monkey
Spix's Night Monkey
Red Howler Monkey
White-fronted Capuchin
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth
Black Agouti
Giant Otter

Reptiles:

Caiman Lizard
Yellow-spotted Amazon River Turtle
Spectacled Caiman
Common House Gecko
Whiptail Lizard
The very noisy Smoky Jungle Frog

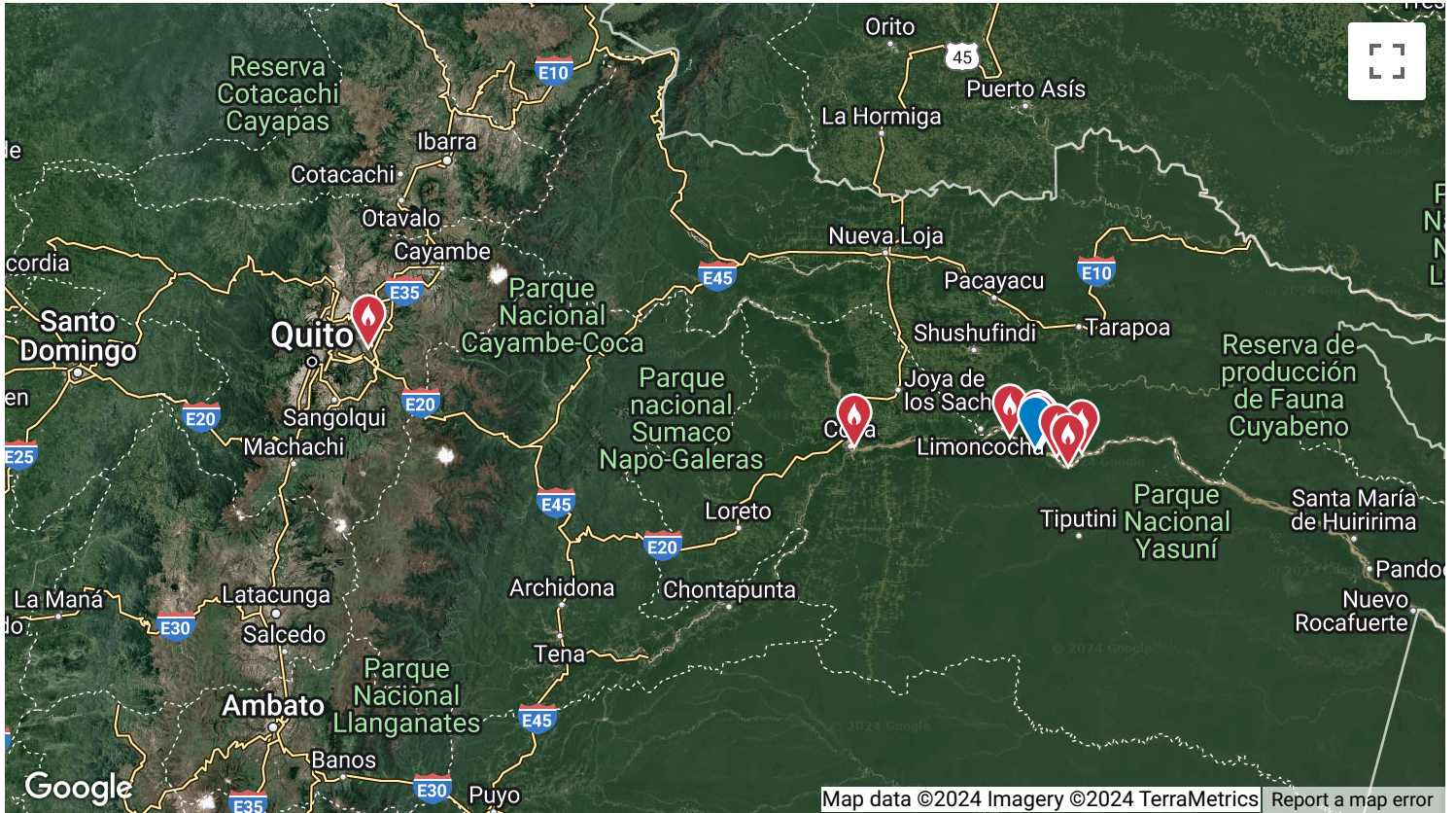
You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/279509>

Hasta pronto, Willy

Field Guides Birding Tours -AMAZONIAN ECUADOR-SACHA LODGE (with Willy Perez)



1 – 8 Aug 2024 (8 days) Link-only



Ecuador

Orellana | Pichincha | Sucumbíos

Willian Perez

fieldguides[®]

Birding Tours

For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional...

 238

Species Observed

 20





















Checklists


LIFERS  5 


Species Observed



[Show all details](#)


- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Great Tinamou <i>Tinamus major</i> |  1 |
| 1 | Cinereous Tinamou <i>Crypturellus cinereus</i> |  1 |
| 5 | Speckled Chachalaca <i>Ortalis guttata</i> |  4 |
| 5 | Spix's Guan <i>Penelope jacquacu</i> |  3 |
| 1 | Blue-throated Piping-Guan <i>Pipile cumanensis</i> |  1 |
| 11 | Pale-vented Pigeon <i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i> |  5 |
| 4 | Ruddy Pigeon <i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i> |  3 |
| 3 | Ruddy Ground Dove <i>Columbina talpacoti</i> |  1 |
| 1 | Gray-fronted Dove <i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i> |  1 |


- 11 **Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* ▶  1
- 8 **Greater Ani** *Crotophaga major* ▶  4
- 15 **Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* ▶  5
- 1 **Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* ▶  1
- 1 **Ladder-tailed Nightjar** *Hydropsalis climacocerca* ▶  1
- 3 **Great Potoo** *Nyctibius grandis* ▶  3
- 2 **Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus* ▶  2
- 15 **Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyura* ▶  4
- 16 **Fork-tailed Palm Swift** *Tachornis squamata* ▶  5
- 3 **White-bearded Hermit** *Phaethornis hispidus* ▶  3
- 2 **Great-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis malaris* ▶  1
- 2 **Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans* ▶  1
- 2 **Black-tailed Trainbearer** *Lesbia victoriae* ▶  1
- 1 **Tyrian Metaltail** *Metallura tyrianthina* ▶  1
- 1 **Gould's Jewelfront** *Heliodoxa aurescens* ▶  1
- 2 **White-bellied Woodstar** *Chaetocercus mulsant* ▶  1
- 2 **Western Emerald** *Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus* ▶  1
- 1 **Fork-tailed Woodnymph** *Thalurania furcata* ▶  1
- 2 **Olive-spotted Hummingbird** *Talaphorus chlorocercus* ▶  1
- 1 **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl* ▶  1


- 29 **Hoatzin** *Opisthocomus hoazin* ▶  9


- 2 **Gray-breasted Crane** *Laterallus exilis* ▶  1


- 2 **Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica*  ▶  1


- 9 **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* ▶  2


- 2 **Collared Plover** *Anarhynchus collaris* ▶  1


- 4 **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* ▶  2


- 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* ▶  1


- 1 **Large-billed Tern** *Phaetusa simplex* ▶  1


- 1 **Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* ▶  1


- 2 **Rufescent Tiger-Heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum* ▶  2


- 6 **Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* ▶  4


- 1 **Agami Heron** *Agamia agami* ▶  1


- 6 **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* ▶  4


- 2 **Capped Heron** *Pilherodius pileatus* ▶  2


- 2 **Whistling Heron** *Syrigma sibilatrix* ▶  1






















- 3 **Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* ▶  2





















- 2 **Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* ▶  1





















- 34 **Great Egret** *Ardea alba* ▶  6






















- 8 **Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi* ▶  6





















- 1 **Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* ▶  1





















- 3 **King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa* ▶  3
- 24 **Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* ▶  9
- 5 **Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* ▶  3
- 20 **Greater Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes melambrotus* ▶  7
- 12 **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* ▶  4
- 2 **Slender-billed Kite** *Helicolestes hamatus* ▶  1
- 8 **Double-toothed Kite** *Harpagus bidentatus* ▶  4
- 4 **Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* ▶  4
- 1 **Bicolored Hawk** *Accipiter bicolor* ▶  1
- 3 **Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* ▶  3
- 1 **White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis*  ▶  1
- 1 **Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* ▶  1
- 2 **Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl** *Megascops watsonii* ▶  2
- 1 **Crested Owl** *Lophotrix cristata* ▶  1
- 1 **Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* ▶  1
- 2 **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum* ▶  2
- 4 **Green-backed Trogon** *Trogon viridis* ▶  3
- 1 **Amazonian Trogon** *Trogon ramonianus* ▶  1
- 1 **Amazonian Motmot** *Momotus momota* ▶  1
- 1 **Broad-billed Motmot** *Electron platyrhynchum* ▶  1





















- 8 **Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* ▶  7
- 3 **American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* ▶  3
- 2 **Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle inda* ▶  2
- 1 **White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* ▶  1
- 3 **Pied Puffbird** *Notharchus tectus* ▶  2
- 2 **Black-fronted Nunbird** *Monasa nigrifrons* ▶  1
- 8 **Swallow-winged Puffbird** *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* ▶  4
- 2 **White-eared Jacamar** *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis* ▶  1
- 1 **Brown Jacamar** *Brachygalba lugubris* ▶  1
- 2 **Purplish Jacamar** *Galbula chalcothorax* ▶  1
- 1 **Scarlet-crowned Barbet** *Capito aurovirens* ▶  1
- 10 **Gilded Barbet** *Capito auratus* ▶  3
- 4 **Lemon-throated Barbet** *Eubucco richardsoni* ▶  2
- 4 **Lettered Aracari** *Pteroglossus inscriptus* ▶  2
- 2 **Chestnut-eared Aracari** *Pteroglossus castanotis* ▶  1
- 12 **Many-banded Aracari** *Pteroglossus pluricinctus* ▶  2
- 1 **Ivory-billed Aracari** *Pteroglossus azara* ▶  1
- 2 **Golden-collared Toucanet** *Selenidera reinwardtii* ▶  1
- 2 **White-throated Toucan** *Ramphastos tucanus* ▶  1
- 6 **Channel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos vitellinus* ▶  2





















- 9 **Yellow-tufted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes cruentatus* ▶  4
- 1 **Little Woodpecker** *Dryobates passerinus* ▶  1
- 4 **Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucos* ▶  2
- 1 **Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* ▶  1
- 1 **Ringed Woodpecker** *Celeus torquatus* ▶  1
- 3 **Cream-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus flavus* ▶  2
- 1 **Chestnut Woodpecker** *Celeus elegans* ▶  1
- 1 **Spot-breasted Woodpecker** *Colaptes punctigula* ▶  1
- 12 **Yellow-headed Caracara** *Daptrius chimachima* ▶  4
- 14 **Black Caracara** *Daptrius ater* ▶  6
- 2 **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* ▶  1
- 3 **Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet** *Touit huetii* ▶  1
- 205 **Cobalt-winged Parakeet** *Brotogeris cyanoptera* ▶  3
- 52 **Blue-headed Parrot** *Pionus menstruus* ▶  3
- 6 **Yellow-crowned Parrot** *Amazona ochrocephala* ▶  1
- 28 **Mealy Parrot** *Amazona farinosa* ▶  3
- 8 **Orange-winged Parrot** *Amazona amazonica* ▶  4
- 2 **Riparian Parrotlet** *Forpus crassirostris* ▶  1
- 2 **Black-headed Parrot** *Pionites melanocephalus* ▶  1
- 144 **Dusky-headed Parakeet** *Aratinga weddellii* ▶  4





















- 28 **Red-bellied Macaw** *Orthopsittaca manilatus* ▶  7
- 25 **Blue-and-yellow Macaw** *Ara ararauna* ▶  3
- 10 **Chestnut-fronted Macaw** *Ara severus* ▶  3
- 21 **Scarlet Macaw** *Ara macao* ▶  2
- 1 **Fasciated Antshrike** *Cymbilaimus lineatus* ▶  1
- 1 **Fulvous Antshrike** *Frederickena fulva*  ▶  1
- 1 **Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* ▶  1
- 1 **Plain-winged Antshrike** *Thamnophilus schistaceus* ▶  1
- 1 **Castelnau's Antshrike** *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus* ▶  1
- 2 **Dusky-throated Antshrike** *Thamnomanes ardesiacus* ▶  1
- 1 **Plain-throated Antwren** *Iseria hauxwelli* ▶  1
- 1 **Ornate Stipplethroat** *Epinecrophylla ornata* ▶  1
- 2 **White-flanked Antwren** *Myrmotherula axillaris* ▶  1
- 2 **Peruvian Warbling-Antbird** *Hypocnemis peruviana* ▶  1
- 1 **Gray Antbird** *Cercomacra cinerascens* ▶  1
- 1 **Black-faced Antbird** *Myrmoborus myotherinus* ▶  1
- 2 **Black-and-white Antbird** *Myrmochanes hemileucus* ▶  1
- 4 **Silvered Antbird** *Sclateria naevia* ▶  2
- 2 **Plumbeous Antbird** *Myrmelastes hyperythrus* ▶  2
- 2 **White-shouldered Antbird** *Akletos melanoceps* ▶  2

- 1 **Spot-backed Antbird** *Hylophylax naevius* ▶  1
- 1 **Dot-backed Antbird** *Hylophylax punctulatus* ▶  1
- 1 **Common Scale-backed Antbird** *Willisornis poecilinotus* ▶  1
- 1 **White-lored Antpitta** *Myrmothera fulviventris* ▶  1
- 1 **Rusty-belted Tapaculo** *Liosceles thoracicus* ▶  1
- 2 **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* ▶  2
- 2 **Plain-brown Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* ▶  2
- 1 **Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper** *Dendrexetastes rufigula* ▶  1
- 1 **Long-billed Woodcreeper** *Nasica longirostris* ▶  1
- 1 **Black-banded Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* ▶  1
- 6 **Striped Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus* ▶  4
- 1 **Elegant Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus elegans* ▶  1
- 2 **Buff-throated Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* ▶  2
- 1 **Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex picus* ▶  1
- 1 **Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* ▶  1
- 1 **Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner** *Philydor pyrrhodes* ▶  1
- 2 **White-bellied Spinetail** *Mazaria propinqua* ▶  1
- 2 **Dark-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albigularis* ▶  1
- 2 **Azara's Spinetail** *Synallaxis azarae* ▶  1
- 2 **Orange-crowned Manakin** *Heterocercus aurantiivertex* ▶  1

- 4 **Wire-tailed Manakin** *Pipra filicauda* ▶  2
- 3 **Purple-throated Fruitcrow** *Querula purpurata* ▶  1
- 2 **Amazonian Umbrellabird** *Cephalopterus ornatus* ▶  1
- 4 **Plum-throated Cotinga** *Cotinga maynana* ▶  3
- 4 **Spangled Cotinga** *Cotinga cayana* ▶  2
- 4 **Bare-necked Fruitcrow** *Gymnoderus foetidus* ▶  2
- 6 **Black-tailed Tityra** *Tityra cayana* ▶  3
- 4 **White-browed Purpletuft** *Iodopleura isabellae* ▶  2
- 2 **White-winged Becard** *Pachyramphus polychopterus* ▶  1
- 2 **Pink-throated Becard** *Pachyramphus minor* ▶  1
- 1 **Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant** *Lophotriccus vitiosus* ✓ ▶  1
- 3 **Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum* ▶  2
- 2 **Yellow-margined Flatbill** *Tolmomyias assimilis* ▶  2
- 3 **Olive-faced Flatbill** *Tolmomyias viridiceps* ▶  1
- 2 **White-lored Tyrannulet** *Ornithion inerme* ▶  1
- 2 **Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum* ▶  1
- 2 **Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet** *Tyrannulus elatus* ▶  1
- 2 **Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant** *Stigmatura napensis* ✓ ▶  1
- 1 **Fuscous Flycatcher** *Cnemotriccus fuscatus* ▶  1
- 4 **Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* ▶  2

- 5 **Drab Water Tyrant** *Ochthornis littoralis* ▶  2
- 1 **Rufous-tailed Flatbill** *Ramphotrigon ruficauda* ▶  1
- 1 **Cinnamon Attila** *Attila cinnamomeus* ▶  1
- 1 **White-rumped Sirystes** *Sirystes albocinereus* ▶  1
- 1 **Grayish Mourner** *Rhytipterna simplex* ▶  1
- 1 **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* ▶  1
- 3 **Short-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus ferox* ▶  1
- 8 **Lesser Kiskadee** *Philohydor lictor* ▶  5
- 13 **Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* ▶  6
- 3 **Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* ▶  2
- 1 **Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* ▶  1
- 5 **Gray-capped Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes granadensis* ▶  3
- 1 **Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* ▶  1
- 4 **Crowned Slaty Flycatcher** *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus* ▶  3
- 16 **Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* ▶  10
- 17 **Violaceous Jay** *Cyanocorax violaceus* ▶  5
- 3 **Black-capped Donacobius** *Donacobius atricapilla* ▶  2
- 29 **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* ▶  1
- 20 **White-winged Swallow** *Tachycineta albiventer* ▶  9
- 11 **Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* ▶  5

- 2 **Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera* ▶  1
- 5 **White-banded Swallow** *Atticora fasciata* ▶  3
- 6 **Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* ▶  2
- 1 **Long-billed Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* ▶  1
- 1 **Scaly-breasted Wren** *Microcerculus marginatus* ▶  1
- 2 **House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* ▶  1
- 2 **Thrush-like Wren** *Campylorhynchus turdinus* ▶  1
- 1 **Coraya Wren** *Pheugopedius coraya* ▶  1
- 1 **Buff-breasted Wren** *Cantorchilus leucotis* ▶  1
- 2 **Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* ▶  1
- 5 **Great Thrush** *Turdus fuscater* ▶  1
- 1 **Golden-rumped Euphonia** *Chlorophonia cyanocephala* ▶  1
- 7 **Golden-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia chrysopasta* ▶  3
- 1 **Thick-billed Euphonia** *Euphonia laniirostris* ▶  1
- 3 **Orange-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia xanthogaster* ▶  1
- 2 **Hooded Siskin** *Spinus magellanicus* ▶  1
- 2 **Yellow-browed Sparrow** *Ammodramus aurifrons* ▶  1
- 19 **Russet-backed Oropendola** *Psarocolius angustifrons* ▶  5
- 1 **Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* ▶  1
- 2 **Solitary Black Cacique** *Cacicus solitarius* ▶  1

- 20 **Yellow-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus cela* ▶  7
- 3 **Orange-backed Troupial** *Icterus croconotus* ▶  1
- 2 **Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* ▶  1
- 4 **Oriole Blackbird** *Gymnomystax mexicanus* ▶  1
- 1 **Amazonian Grosbeak** *Cyanoloxia rothschildii* ▶  1
- 3 **Red-capped Cardinal** *Paroaria gularis* ▶  2
- 3 **Magpie Tanager** *Cissopis leverianus* ▶  1
- 2 **Orange-headed Tanager** *Thlypopsis sordida* ▶  1
- 5 **Flame-crested Tanager** *Loriotus cristatus* ▶  2
- 2 **Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* ▶  1
- 16 **Masked Crimson Tanager** *Ramphocelus nigrogularis* ▶  6
- 18 **Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* ▶  6
- 13 **Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* ▶  6
- 1 **Scrub Tanager** *Stilpnia vitriolina* ▶  1
- 2 **Masked Tanager** *Stilpnia nigrocincta* ▶  1
- 7 **Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara mexicana* ▶  3
- 4 **Paradise Tanager** *Tangara chilensis* ▶  2
- 10 **Opal-rumped Tanager** *Tangara velia* ▶  3
- 6 **Opal-crowned Tanager** *Tangara callophrys* ▶  2
- 4 **Green-and-gold Tanager** *Tangara schrankii* ▶  2

- 3 **Black-faced Dacnis** *Dacnis lineata* ▶  1
 - 5 **Yellow-bellied Dacnis** *Dacnis flaviventer* ▶  2
 - 4 **Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* ▶  2
 - 9 **Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus* ▶  3
 - 9 **Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* ▶  2
 - 2 **Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* ▶  1
 - 1 **Chestnut-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila castaneiventris* ▶  1
 - 2 **Wing-barred Seedeater** *Sporophila americana* ▶  1
 - 2 **Bluish-gray Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* ▶  1
-