

Trip Report — Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge II 2025

July 3-12, 2025 with Willy Perez & Oscar Tapuy and Gerardo Illanes



The group smiling after a very productive morning from the metal tower, this was one of the highlights of Sacha lodge. Photo by guide Willy Perez.

What a trip! Our second Sacha tour of the year was another incredible adventure into one of the most biodiverse places on planet earth. It's hard to describe just how special this place is, but I'll try my best to bring you along on this journey.

We kicked off the adventure with a night in Quito, where I met the group and gave them a bit of a rundown on what was to come. Early the next morning, we boarded a short flight to Coca, and as soon as we landed, the excitement kicked into high gear. Oscar, our local guide, greeted us with a smile, and we

made our way to the Sacha headquarters to get ready and prepare for the rainforest magic that awaited us.



Celeus Woodpeckers are the most attractive ones in the group. Colleen Stubbs got this great photo of a Ringed from the Kapok tower.

After a couple of hours by boat, a short walk, and then a peaceful paddling trip, we finally reached the lodge just in time for a delicious lunch. Fausto, the manager, gave us a thorough introduction to the place, and before long, we were settling into our cozy rooms and getting ready for the action-packed week ahead.

Each day began early—because when the rainforest wakes up, so do we. I teamed up with Oscar and Gerardo (our local guides), and together, we made sure each day was packed with new discoveries. We began by exploring Pilchecocha Lagoon and the Orquidea Creek in a dugout canoe, gliding through the flooded forest in search of its hidden gems. It was a perfect way to start the trip, and we spotted some amazing birds there.



We really enjoyed watching Scarlet Macaws at the mineral lick, and here is one just getting ready to get down. Photo by Colleen Stubbs.

Some highlights of this habitat included Silvered and Dot-backed Antbirds, Elegant and Plain Brown Woodcreepers, and the elusive Zigzag Heron. We even got superb views of the Orange-crowned Manakin, Rufous-tailed Flatbill, and a whole range of other species exclusive to the flooded forest. But it wasn't just the birds—each afternoon we would take the canoe out again, and it seemed like a new set of wildlife was always waiting to surprise us, including a Green Anaconda.

One of the best parts of the trip was visiting the metal tower twice. Each time felt like a whole new experience. The first morning was foggy, and we had to wait a bit for the view to clear, but when it did, we were treated to an amazing display. Macaws, Toucans, Tanagers, and a host of other birds filled the air. But the real treat was the Puffbirds—three species in total, including the rare Chestnut-capped, and the stunning Purplish Jacamar. Oh, and let's not forget the gorgeous tanagers—Masked, Opal-rumped, Opal-crowned, Turquoise, and Green-and-Gold. The variety of colors was simply breathtaking.



We saw several species of monkeys but this Red Titi came close to us when we visited the metal tower, and Colleen Stubbs got a superb picture.

Our visits to the Kapok Tower were also a highlight. There, we spotted some magnificent woodpeckers—Crimson-crested, Lineated, Yellow-tufted, Chestnut, and Ringed. And let's not forget the several Cotingas that showed up, too. Our visit to the parrot clay licks, where colorful parrots and parakeets come down to the side of the river for their daily mineral fix, was mesmerizing. Blue-headed, Mealy, Yellow-crowned Parrots, along with Dusky-headed and White-eyed Parakeets, added to the spectacle. Inside the Yasuni National Park, hundreds of Cobalt-winged Parakeets and several Scarlet Macaws joined the party.



Colleen Stubbs managed to get this beautiful photo of a colourful male Yellow bellied Dacnis.

The weather treated us well during a visit to a river island, which was a bit of a challenge to get to, but the rewards were well worth it. We saw the Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Fuscous Flycatcher, and Oriole Blackbird, to name a few. The well-maintained trails and boardwalks were prime spots for finding Antbirds—Spot-backed, White-shouldered, Peruvian Warbling, Black-faced, and Sooty, just to name a few. One of our special hikes took us to search for the Wire-tailed Manakin, one of the most colorful of the group, and the Northern Pygmy Marmoset, the smallest primate in the world!

But, of course, the birds weren't the only stars of the show. The wildlife was incredible all week. We were lucky enough to spot seven species of monkeys, a sloth, agoutis, bats, and even Giant Otters. It was truly a wildlife lover's paradise.



Zigzag Herons are very secretive birds but Colleen Stubbs was ready to get this nice image just before the bird disappeared in the forest.

The food? Absolutely outstanding. We even got the chance to see how chocolate is made—from the cocoa tree to the finished product. It was a delicious experience in every sense of the word.

I'm also incredibly grateful to have had Oscar and Gerardo by my side on this journey. Oscar's knowledge of birds is second to none, and Gerardo's expertise in butterflies added so much depth to the experience. Thank you both for showing us the incredible creatures of this place.

And of course, a huge thank you to the group. You all embraced the rainforest wholeheartedly—especially with those early mornings. Your enthusiasm made every moment even more enjoyable. I'm so grateful to have shared this experience with such a fantastic team.



Capped Herons are uncommon but this one showed nicely along a river bank. Photo by Colleen Stubbs.

Here's a list of other wildlife we saw along the way—birds aside—that made the trip even more special. Enjoy!

Mammals:

- Proboscis Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*)
- Northern Pygmy Marmoset (*Cebuella pygmaea*)
- Black-mantled Tamarin (*Saguinus nigricollis*)
- Guianan Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)
- Spix's Night Monkey (*Aotus vociferans*)
- Red-bellied Titi (*Plecturocebus moloch*)
- Colombian Red Howler (*Alouatta seniculus*)
- White-fronted Capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*)
- Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*)
- Black Agouti (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*)
- Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*)

Reptiles:

Green Anaconda

Caiman Lizard

Yellow spotted Amazon River Turtle

Spectacled Caiman

Black Caiman

Yellow tongued Anole

South American spotted Skink

Amazonian Salamander

The very noisy Smoky Jungle Frog.

Other creatures:

Whip Scorpion, Pink footed Tarantula, Banana Spider, Lichen Mantis and many stunning butterflies, like Blue Morpho, Owl-eyes and Swallowtails.



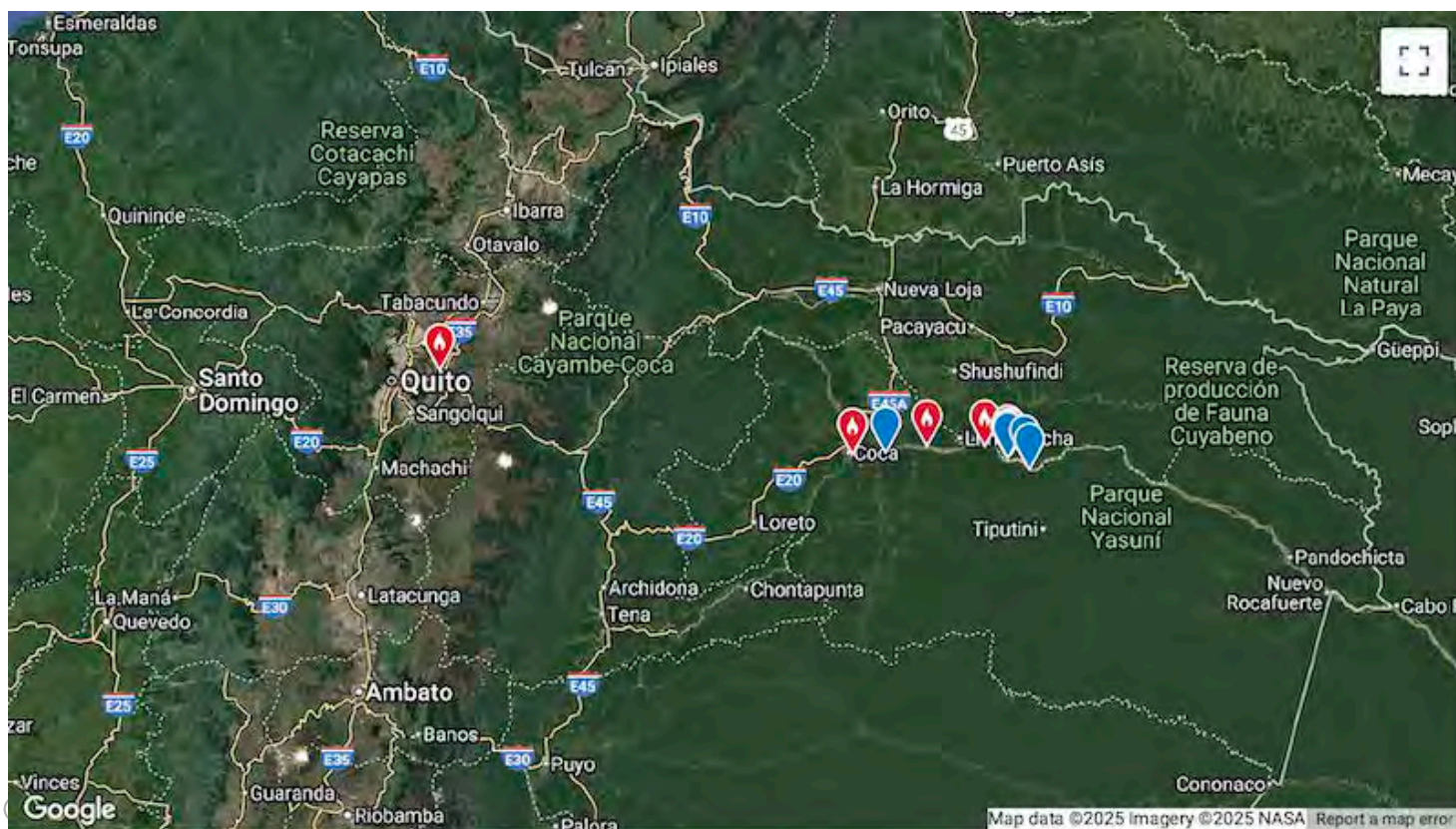
Most of the time Sloths are just a ball of hair on a tree, or that is how mostly you see them, but here Colleen Stubbs got this nice photo of one going down a tree.

You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/402665>

Enjoy the report and keep birding, Willy

Field Guides Birding Tours- Ecuador Sacha Lodge 2025b (With Willy Perez)

4 – 11 Jul 2025 (8 days) Link-only



 Ecuador

Orellana | Pichincha | Sucumbíos

 Willian Perez



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

 236

 29

Species Observed

Checklists

LIFERS

✓

4

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Species Observed

Show all details

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| 2 | Great Tinamou | ▶  2 |
| 3 | Cinereous Tinamou | ▶  3 |
| 2 | Undulated Tinamou | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Variegated Tinamou | ▶  1 |
| 10 | Speckled Chachalaca | ▶  4 |
| 1 | Spix's Guan | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Pale-vented Pigeon | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Plumbeous Pigeon | ▶  1 |
| 7 | Ruddy Pigeon | ▶  4 |
| 2 | Ruddy Ground Dove | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Gray-fronted Dove | ▶  2 |
| 7 | Eared Dove | ▶  1 |
| 21 | Greater Ani | ▶  8 |
| 22 | Smooth-billed Ani | ▶  4 |
| 4 | Squirrel Cuckoo | ▶  3 |
| 2 | Short-tailed Nighthawk ✓ | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Ladder-tailed Nightjar | ▶  2 |
| 2 | Great Potoo | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Common Potoo | ▶  1 |
| 1 | White-collared Swift | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Gray-rumped Swift | ▶  1 |

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|----|-----------------------------|--|
| 7 | Short-tailed Swift | ▶  2 |
| 4 | Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift | ▶  1 |
| 7 | Fork-tailed Palm Swift | ▶  3 |
| 1 | White-necked Jacobin | ▶  1 |
| 1 | White-bearded Hermit | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Great-billed Hermit | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Sparkling Violetear | ▶  1 |
| 4 | Black-throated Mango | ▶  2 |
| 2 | Black-tailed Trainbearer | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Blue-tailed Emerald | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Fork-tailed Woodnymph | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Olive-spotted Hummingbird | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Glittering-throated Emerald | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Gray-breasted Crake | ▶  1 |
| 14 | Southern Lapwing | ▶  5 |
| 3 | Collared Plover | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Greater Yellowlegs | ▶  1 |
| 4 | Large-billed Tern | ▶  2 |
| 47 | Hoatzin | ▶  10 |
| 2 | Zigzag Heron | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Black-crowned Night Heron | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Capped Heron | ▶  2 |
| 9 | Striated Heron | ▶  3 |
| 4 | Great Egret | ▶  1 |






















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| 1 | Cocoi Heron | ▶  1 |
| 4 | King Vulture | ▶  1 |
| 55 | Black Vulture | ▶  9 |
| 2 | Turkey Vulture | ▶  1 |
| 11 | Greater Yellow-headed Vulture | ▶  4 |
| 22 | Swallow-tailed Kite | ▶  4 |
| 1 | Ornate Hawk-Eagle | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Crested Eagle | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Double-toothed Kite | ▶  2 |
| 9 | Plumbeous Kite | ▶  4 |
| 1 | Crane Hawk | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Slender-billed Kite | ▶  3 |
| 1 | Slate-colored Hawk | ▶  1 |
| 10 | Roadside Hawk | ▶  5 |
| 2 | Harris's Hawk | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Crested Owl | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Black-tailed Trogon | ▶  1 |
| 6 | Green-backed Trogon | ▶  4 |
| 1 | Amazonian Trogon | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Broad-billed Motmot | ▶  1 |
| 8 | Ringed Kingfisher | ▶  5 |
| 3 | Green Kingfisher | ▶  3 |

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|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 2 | Green-and-rufous Kingfisher | ▶  1 |
| 1 | White-necked Puffbird | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Pied Puffbird | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Chestnut-capped Puffbird | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Lanceolated Monklet | ▶  1 |
| 5 | Black-fronted Nunbird | ▶  3 |
| 9 | Swallow-winged Puffbird | ▶  4 |
| 1 | Purplish Jacamar | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Scarlet-crowned Barbet | ▶  1 |
| 17 | Gilded Barbet | ▶  6 |
| 3 | Lemon-throated Barbet | ▶  2 |
| 5 | Lettered Aracari | ▶  3 |
| 8 | Chestnut-eared Aracari | ▶  2 |
| 22 | Many-banded Aracari | ▶  4 |
| 6 | Ivory-billed Aracari | ▶  2 |
| 3 | Golden-collared Toucanet | ▶  2 |
| 11 | White-throated Toucan | ▶  4 |
| 2 | Channel-billed Toucan | ▶  1 |
| 22 | Yellow-tufted Woodpecker | ▶  5 |
| 2 | Little Woodpecker | ▶  1 |
| 6 | Crimson-crested Woodpecker | ▶  4 |
| 4 | Lineated Woodpecker | ▶  4 |
| 1 | Ringed Woodpecker | ▶  1 |





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| 2 | Cream-colored Woodpecker | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Rufous-headed Woodpecker | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Chestnut Woodpecker | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Spot-breasted Woodpecker | ▶  1 |
| 5 | Laughing Falcon | ▶  3 |
| 2 | Red-throated Caracara | ▶  1 |
| 7 | Yellow-headed Caracara | ▶  4 |
| 7 | Black Caracara | ▶  3 |
| 1 | American Kestrel | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Bat Falcon | ▶  2 |
| 5 | Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet | ▶  2 |
| 334 | Cobalt-winged Parakeet | ▶  8 |
| 58 | Blue-headed Parrot | ▶  4 |
| 7 | Yellow-crowned Amazon | ▶  2 |
| 9 | Mealy Amazon | ▶  2 |
| 58 | Orange-winged Amazon | ▶  6 |
| 4 | Black-headed Parrot | ▶  1 |
| 105 | Dusky-headed Parakeet | ▶  2 |
| 24 | Red-bellied Macaw | ▶  8 |
| 4 | Blue-and-yellow Macaw | ▶  1 |
| 16 | Chestnut-fronted Macaw | ▶  7 |
| 17 | Scarlet Macaw | ▶  2 |
| 13 | White-eyed Parakeet | ▶  3 |


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| 1 | Fasciated Antshrike | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Castelnau's Antshrike | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Dusky-throated Antshrike | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Plain-throated Antwren | ▶  1 |
| 1 | White-flanked Antwren | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Peruvian Warbling-Antbird | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Gray Antbird | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Black-faced Antbird | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Black-and-white Antbird | ▶  1 |
| 4 | Silvered Antbird | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Plumbeous Antbird | ▶  1 |
| 3 | White-shouldered Antbird | ▶  2 |
| 1 | White-cheeked Antbird | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Spot-backed Antbird | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Dot-backed Antbird | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Common Scale-backed Antbird | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Plain-brown Woodcreeper | ▶  3 |
| 1 | Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Long-billed Woodcreeper | ▶  2 |
| 2 | Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper ✓ | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Striped Woodcreeper | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Elegant Woodcreeper | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Buff-throated Woodcreeper | ▶  2 |

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| 3 | Point-tailed Palmcreeper | ✔ | ▶  2 |
| 1 | White-bellied Spinetail | | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Dark-breasted Spinetail | | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Azara's Spinetail | | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin | | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Orange-crowned Manakin | | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Wire-tailed Manakin | | ▶  1 |
| 11 | Purple-throated Fruitcrow | | ▶  4 |
| 1 | Amazonian Umbrellabird | | ▶  1 |
| 8 | Plum-throated Cotinga | | ▶  4 |
| 4 | Spangled Cotinga | | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Screaming Piha | | ▶  1 |
| 31 | Bare-necked Fruitcrow | | ▶  4 |
| 4 | Black-tailed Tityra | | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Black-crowned Tityra | | ▶  1 |
| 7 | White-browed Purpletuft | | ▶  3 |
| 2 | White-winged Becard | | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Pink-throated Becard | | ▶  1 |
| 1 | White-eyed Tody-Tyrant | ✔ | ▶  1 |
| 4 | Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher | | ▶  2 |
| 2 | Orange-eyed Flatbill | | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Olive-faced Flatbill | | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet | | ▶  1 |

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| 1 | Slender-footed Tyrannulet | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Fuscous Flycatcher | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Vermilion Flycatcher | ▶  1 |
| 8 | Drab Water Tyrant | ▶  4 |
| 2 | Rufous-tailed Flatbill | ▶  1 |
| 4 | Cinnamon Attila | ▶  3 |
| 1 | Bright-rumped Attila | ▶  1 |
| 2 | White-rumped Sirystes | ▶  1 |
| 4 | Dusky-capped Flycatcher | ▶  2 |
| 3 | Short-crested Flycatcher | ▶  2 |
| 3 | Lesser Kiskadee | ▶  2 |
| 18 | Great Kiskadee | ▶  9 |
| 5 | Boat-billed Flycatcher | ▶  2 |
| 13 | Social Flycatcher | ▶  5 |
| 3 | Gray-capped Flycatcher | ▶  3 |
| 3 | Streaked Flycatcher | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Piratic Flycatcher | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Variegated Flycatcher | ▶  2 |
| 6 | Crowned Slaty Flycatcher | ▶  3 |
| 3 | Sulphury Flycatcher | ▶  1 |
| 20 | Tropical Kingbird | ▶  9 |
| 2 | Fork-tailed Flycatcher | ▶  1 |
| 9 | Violaceous Jay | ▶  4 |

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| 4 | Black-capped Donacobius | ▶  2 |
| 40 | White-winged Swallow | ▶  14 |
| 14 | Gray-breasted Martin | ▶  7 |
| 14 | White-banded Swallow | ▶  4 |
| 2 | Blue-and-white Swallow | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Long-billed Gnatwren | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Scaly-breasted Wren | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Southern House Wren | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Thrush-like Wren | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Coraya Wren | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Tropical Mockingbird | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Black-billed Thrush | ▶  1 |
| 4 | Great Thrush | ▶  1 |
| 9 | Golden-bellied Euphonia | ▶  4 |
| 4 | Thick-billed Euphonia | ▶  1 |
| 5 | Orange-bellied Euphonia | ▶  3 |
| 3 | Rufous-bellied Euphonia | ▶  2 |
| 4 | Rufous-collared Sparrow | ▶  1 |
| 44 | Russet-backed Oropendola | ▶  9 |
| 9 | Crested Oropendola | ▶  4 |
| 2 | Solitary Black Cacique | ▶  1 |
| 31 | Yellow-rumped Cacique | ▶  6 |
| 3 | Epaulet Oriole | ▶  1 |

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|----|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Orange-backed Troupial | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Giant Cowbird | ▶  3 |
| 5 | Oriole Blackbird | ▶  2 |
| 4 | Red-capped Cardinal | ▶  2 |
| 4 | Magpie Tanager | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Orange-headed Tanager | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Flame-crested Tanager | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Silver-beaked Tanager | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Masked Crimson Tanager | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Blue-and-yellow Tanager | ▶  1 |
| 13 | Blue-gray Tanager | ▶  5 |
| 9 | Palm Tanager | ▶  4 |
| 2 | Scrub Tanager | ▶  1 |
| 10 | Masked Tanager | ▶  3 |
| 4 | Turquoise Tanager | ▶  1 |
| 12 | Opal-rumped Tanager | ▶  4 |
| 10 | Opal-crowned Tanager | ▶  3 |
| 8 | Green-and-gold Tanager | ▶  3 |
| 6 | Black-faced Dacnis | ▶  3 |
| 6 | Yellow-bellied Dacnis | ▶  3 |
| 6 | Blue Dacnis | ▶  4 |
| 7 | Purple Honeycreeper | ▶  3 |
| 8 | Green Honeycreeper | ▶  4 |

- 1 Cinereous Conebill ▶  1
- 2 Rusty Flowerpiercer ▶  1
- 3 Saffron Finch ▶  1
- 2 Chestnut-bellied Seedeater ▶  1
- 1 Wing-barred Seedeater ▶  1
- 3 Buff-throated Saltator ▶  2
- 2 Bluish-gray Saltator ▶  1

