



*The fantastic Rufous-crowned Pittasoma was voted the 'Bird of the trip' on this record breaking tour (János Oláh)!*

# ULTIMATE ECUADOR

7 – 24 / 31 OCTOBER 2016

## LEADER: JÁNOS OLÁH

This year saw a new itinerary for this already amazing tour, which included a visit to Playa de Oro in the Choco lowlands helping us to see even more localised and hard-to-find birds than ever. This new location also yielded two new birds for Birdquest in the form of Choco Woodpecker and Yellow-green Bush Tanager, both of which are very difficult to track down unless at one of the very few new sites they have been reported from recently. Our Ultimate Ecuador tour concentrates on the northern part of the country and together with the Amazonia extension it offers a big bird list – usually over 800 species! This year we set a new record for Birdquest in Ecuador recording 891 species of which 825 were seen! Even the main tour itself with a mere 16 full days of birding recorded 720 species and the two-base Amazonia extension had a good number of additions. We certainly had an amazing list of special birds with over 215 Birdquest 'diamond' birds. The very best highlights this year included birds like Salvin's Curassow, Wattled Guan, Agami Heron, Zigzag Heron, Ecuadorian Rail, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, San Isidro and Crested Owls, Oilbird, Rufous and Andean Potoos, Swallow-tailed and Lyre-tailed Nightjars, Choco Poorwill, Buff-tailed and White-tipped Sicklebills, Tooth-billed Hummingbird, Fiery Topaz, Blue-headed Sapphire, Hoary Puffleg, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Choco and Slaty-tailed Trogons, Purplish Jacamar, Lanceolated Monklet, Black-breasted, Chestnut-capped and Collared Puffbirds, Five-coloured Barbet and Toucan Barbet, Plate-billed-, Black-billed and Grey-breasted Mountain Toucans, Choco, Lita, Cinnamon and Ringed Woodpeckers, Rose-faced Parrot, Great Green Macaw, Sapayoa, Brown-billed Scythebill, Cocha and Fulvous Antshrikes, White-streaked Antwren, Yasuni-

Foothill, Rio Suno and Yellow-breasted Antwrens, Banded-, Yellow-browed-, Stub-tailed-, Lunulated-, Spotted- and Dot-backed Antbirds, Black-spotted and Reddish-winged Bare-Eyes, Giant, Streak-chested and Plain-backed Antpittas, Chestnut-belted Gnateater, Rufous-crowned Pittasoma, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, Foothill Elaenia, Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, Olive-chested Flycatchers, Dusky-chested Flycatcher, Citron-bellied Attila, Orange-breasted and Fiery-throated Fruiteaters, Black-tipped-, Black-necked Red-, Purple-throated-, Plum-throated and Blue Cotingas, Grey-tailed and Dusky Pihás, Blue-rumped-, Green-, Wire-tailed- and Orange-crested Manakins, Amazonian Royal Flycatcher, White-browed Purpletuff, Rufous-naped and Olivaceous Greenlets, Beautiful Jay, Grey-mantled-, Buff-breasted-, Wing-banded and Musician Wrens, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Spotted Nightingale Thrush, Lawrence's and Hauxwell's Thrushes, Casqued Oropendola, Yellow-green Bush Tanager, Fulvous-crested, Moss-backed, Golden-chested, Black-chested Mountain-, Golden-crowned, Purplish-mantled, Glistening-green, Blue-whiskered, Blue-browed, Lemon-spectacled and Scarlet-and-white Tanagers, Scarlet-breasted Dacnis and Indigo Flowerpiercer.



*Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe gave absolutely amazing looks in 2016 (János Oláh).*

Undoubtedly Ecuador is one of the top birding destinations in South America. Nowadays Colombia is safe to travel in and a lot of birders go there for all the endemics, however, for relative size, travelling distances and habitat access nothing matches Ecuador! Our itinerary is continuously changing and will be different again next year as we will have a new extension visiting the remote Shiripuno Lodge and Sani Lodge. The nowadays world famous antpitta farm, which is now much more than just antpitta feeding, was started by the legendary Angel Paz and as usual our visit to his reserve was a tour highlight! Another new location was the Mashpi Chocolate Farm, on the west slope, where the enigmatic Rufous-crowned Antpitta or Pittasoma has been fed for almost a year now. We managed to see it but it was not as 'easy' as most people would expect with a 'habituated' bird as after hours of searching we had to wade into an ant-swarm to see him!

In the Andes and especially in western and eastern lowlands we found a great diversity of antpittas, anthruses, antshrikes, antwrens and antbirds and recorded a staggering total of 80 species of them. Especially numerous the antwrens were with 18 species. Hummingbirds were a main feature too and certainly Birdquest records the biggest numbers of these tiny jewels on this particular tour from all our destinations around the New World. Visiting various elevations and many different habitats and a multitude of hummingbird feeders resulted a total of 77 species of hummingbirds! This list included species like scarce Hoary Puffleg, the localised Blue-headed Sapphire, the diminutive Wire-crested Thorntail, the amazing

Sword-billed Hummingbird, the difficult-to-find Tooth-billed Hummingbird, the shiny Velvet-purple Coronet, the lovely Violet-tailed Sylph, the huge Giant Hummingbird and the heliconia specialist White-tipped Sicklebill. Other 'family' totals to highlight this year's tour were 5 species of kingfishers; 22 species of woodpeckers including Choco; 14 species of toucans which included three species of mountain toucans, 18 species of cotingas with outstanding views of Black-tipped, Blue and Purple-throated Cotingas; a total of 96 flycatchers excluding becards nowadays. The most amazing group this year however was the tanagers and allies as we recorded 107 species and seen such sought-after ones like Golden-chested, Blue-whiskered, Blue-browed Tanagers and Scarlet-breasted Dacnis. We also managed to see 21 species of nightbirds, which included Oilbird, four potoos, ten nightjars and six owls.



*Rufous-breasted Anthrush in the western foothills near Mindo (János Oláh).*

Our first base was the well-known Septimo Paraiso Lodge in the western Andes close to the famous town of Mindo. We visited the Mashpi area again where White-throated Quail-Dove, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Moss-backed Tanager, Glistening-green Tanager, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Slaty and Rufous-rumped Antwrens were the highlights. The morning experience at Angel Paz was slower than usual but still amazing. Seeing Giant and Yellow-breasted Antpittas with supporting cast of Crested Quetzal, Rufous-breasted Anthrush and lekking Andean Cock-of-the-rocks. The Bellavista area did not disappoint with good views of Tanager Finch and Plate-billed Mountain Toucan. Leaving Mindo behind we visited the Mashpi Chocolate Farm where Lanceolated Monklet and Rufous-crowned Pittasoma were the top birds. Our next stop was the Playa de Oro area in deep Choco lowland where Choco Poorwill, Great Green Macaw, Five-coloured Barbet, Sapayoa, Black-tipped and Blue Cotingas, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Blue-whiskered and Scarlet-and-white Tanagers and Scarlet-breasted Dacnis were the major highlights. Around Lita and the foothills we added Hoary Puffleg, Choco Woodpecker, Beautiful Jay, Golden-chested and Purplish-mantled Tanagers and Yellow-green Bush Tanager to our fine list while near Ibarra Ecuadorian Rail and Blue-headed Sapphire were real goodies! On the east slope the next lodge was the fantastic Wild Sumaco set amidst perfect lower elevation eastern foothill forest with many specialities. The best birds here included Band-bellied Owl and Napo Screech Owl, Ecuadorian Piedtail, White-tipped Sicklebill, White-streaked Antwren, Foothill Antwren, Plain-backed and Ochre-breasted Antpittas, Grey-tailed Piha, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Wing-banded Wren, Blue-rumped Manakin and Blue-browed Tanager. After the foothills we were down in rolling 'terra firme' Amazonian forest at the rather basic Gareno Lodge, where the birding was absolutely superb with several male Fiery Topaz, Yellow-browed Antbird, Purple-throated Cotinga, Western Striped Manakin and daytime

views of roosting Rufous Potoo and Crested Owl. Following this short stay we were back into the cool montane forests of San Isidro. This year's highlights were San Isidro Owl, Andean Potoo, Gorgetted Woodstar, Black-billed Mountain Toucan, White-bellied Antpitta, Dusky Piha and Swallow-tailed Nightjar. After the main tour we had an Amazonia extension and this included visits to La Selva and Napo Wildlife Centre Ecolodge. This extension gave us great specialities like Salvin's Curassow, Zigzag and Agami Herons, Fulvous and Cocha Antshrikes, Dot-backed, Banded and Lunulated Antbirds, Black-spotted and Reddish-winged Bare-Eyes, Chestnut-belted Gnatcatchers, Chestnut-capped and Collared Puffbirds and Orange-crested Manakin.



*Giant Antpitta and Hoary Puffleg were superb birds on the west (János Oláh)!*

We started the tour in Hosteria El Jardin in the suburbs of Quito, which is a delightful hacienda where our ground agent and guide Juan Carlos is based with his friendly family. Although we did not have a chance for much birding in his garden as early next morning we left for Yanacocha Reserve on the slopes of Pichincha Volcano. This fantastic place is managed by the Jocotoco Foundation and allows easy access to superb high altitude forest. While walking the easy trail towards some great hummingbird feeders we saw a variety of high altitude birds like Andean Guan, Variable Hawk, Pearled Treerunner, White-browed Spinetail, White-throated and White-banded Tyrannulets, Crowned Chat-Tyrant, a lovely female Barred Fruiteater, Golden-crowned Tanager, Superciliated Hemispingus, Scarlet-bellied and Black-chested Mountain Tanagers, Spectacled Whitestart and Blue-backed Conebill. When we arrived at the main hummingbird feeders we had a wonderful time with the amazing Sword-billed Hummingbird, and various other highland species like Sapphire-vented and Golden-breasted Pufflegs, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Tyrian Metaltail and Great Sapphirewing. It was a remarkable hummingbird experience! After the high altitude birding we made our way towards Mindo stopping en route in dry interandean habitat to pick up Tufted Tit-Tyrant and Ash-breasted Sierra Finch however the much hoped for White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant did not show up. Later we drove to the Septimo Paraiso Lodge near Mindo, our base for the next four nights. We got there in time to see the last 'attack' of the hummingbirds on the feeders and picked up White-whiskered Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Brown and Sparkling Violetears, Crowned Woodnymph, Andean Emerald, Rufous-tailed hummingbird, Empress and Green-crowned Brilliant, Velvet-purple Coronet, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, Booted Rocket-Tail and Violet-tailed Sylph. Our final count was an amazing 19 species of hummingbirds for the day! As dusk came we tracked down a calling Barred Forest Falcon and Strong-billed Woodcreeper. It was a truly action-packed day and a great start!



*Black-breasted Mountain Tanager was seen at Yanacocha and at Papallacta this year (János Oláh)!*

On our next day on the west slope we visited the Mashpi Road, which appeared on the birding scene just a few years ago with a whole range of special Chocó birds. We were amongst the first birding companies to visit this area in 2010 but nowadays it is a must if somebody wants to see the foothill Chocó birds. The road cuts through very good forest in the special 1400 to 800 meter mist belt elevation. We started our birding on the higher parts of the road and the special birds just kept appearing one after another starting with a fine White-throated Quail-Dove, Golden-headed Quetzal and Golden-winged Manakin while having our field breakfast. The next bird we spotted was an Orange-breasted Fruiteater which was followed by Narino Tapaculo and the localised Indigo Flowerpiercer. In the Amagusa Reserve the feeding station produced great looks of Glistening-green Tanager and Moss-backed Tanagers, two of the real specialties of the area. A calling Zeledon's Antbird was coaxed into view and magnificent Velvet-purple Coronets and Empress Brilliants showed well. Other birds in the area included superb eye-level looks of Rufous-rumped and Slaty Antwrens, Sharpe's Wren and Chocó Warbler.



*Male Slaty Antwren and Rufous-rumped Antwren at Mashpi (János Oláh)!*

In the late afternoon the clouds built up to a long and steady rain. We gradually worked our way to lower elevation and we picked up some birds in the rain like Guayaquil and Lineated Woodpeckers, Barred

Puffbirds, Rose-faced and Bronze-winged Parrots, Spotted Barbtail, Spotted Woodcreeper, Choco Brushfinch and Yellow-throated Bush Tanager. We were back in the garden of our lodge for the last hour and we managed to find a noisy but shy Wattled Guan and Rufous-bellied Nighthawk to finish yet another great day!



*Moss-backed Tanager is a real special 'Bangsia' in the Mashpi area (János Oláh).*

Our second day on the west slope started at the famous Angel Paz private reserve. This morning is usually a tour highlight and even if it was a bit slow this year we had an amazing experience! We arrived in time to meet Angel and his brother Rodrigo and quickly descended deep into a gully where we positioned ourselves in a little hide to watch several bright red males of the *sanguinolenta* race of Andean Cock-of-the-Rock at the height of their full display. What a bird and what a sight! Regardless how many times one has experienced it before you cannot get enough of these beauties in action. The supporting cast in this area was a male Crested Quetzal for some and a breeding Chestnut-capped Brushfinch. Our antpitta experience started with waiting for Yellow-breasted Antpittas by a stream but they had a day off. So we decided to quit and tried the main star: Giant Antpitta. It was seen very well indeed and everybody could enjoy this young individual with pristine plumage for as long as we wanted. Not far on a forest trail we were soon watching a pair of Rufous-breasted Antthrushes but there was no sign of Ochre-breasted Antpitta – another one on holiday. We changed position and from the 'visitor centre' we took another trail where we waited for the skulking Moustached Antpitta. Unfortunately he did not show up either so we decided to look for something else at a new location. This time an adult and a juvenile Yellow-breasted Antpitta gave us very nice looks though the Chestnut-crowned Antpitta also remained heard-only. At the end of the forest birding session we were treated to coffee, tea, biscuits, local maze-balls filled with chicken and cheese empanadas. We still picked up lots of goodies from the balcony such as Short-tailed Hawk, Golden, Beryl-spangled, Flame-faced and Golden-naped Tanagers and a selection of Chocó hummingbirds like Brown Inca and Velvet-purple Coronet. Best of all we had a pair of Yellow-vented Woodpecker and Toucan Barbets too! Following Angel special treat we were back to reality! It was also very interesting however as after a bumpy ride we arrived to Chontal and visited a roosting area of Oilbirds. We had about 20 Oilbirds in a narrow gorge and could watch them in daylight as long as we wanted – quite a magical experience. In the last hour of the day we birded a short section of the old Nono-Mindo road where we had good looks of Dusky Bush Tanager and a lovely Crimson-mantled Woodpecker.



*Giant Antpitta (top) and Toucan Barbet were the major highlights at Angel this year (János Oláh).*

Very early next morning we drove to the well-known Bellavista area in the Tandayapa Valley. Our first target was the highly localised and skulking Tanager Finch. We spent some time looking for it by small gully but as we had no success we drove to another spot. We had our first Gorgetted Sunangels and a calling Ocellated

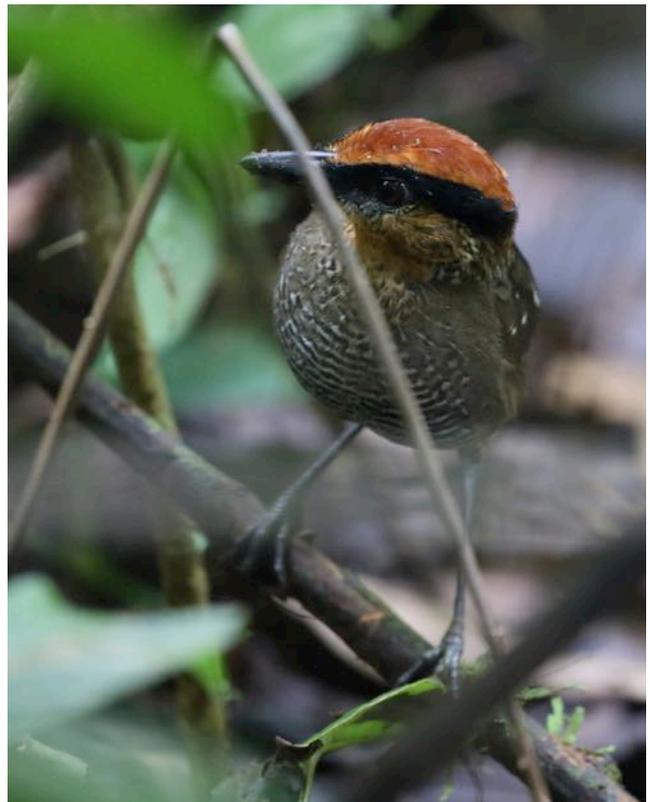
Tapaculo came close to us but just not close enough for a view when somebody spotted a slight movement in a nearby bush and it was indeed a Tanager Finch. There was a pair very close to us and quietly feeding on some fruits and just allopreening inside a dark tangle. Nevertheless we had great looks of them as long as we wanted. This bird is patchily distributed and very local hence the few places they occur in Ecuador is very well known and has a big 'eco tourist pressure' so nowadays it is not easy to see here at all. It is usually easier to see on our Colombia tour nowadays. Following this success we drove to the top of this range and walked down to the well-known Bellavista Lodge. On the short walk we saw a pair of Powerful Woodpecker and many Toucan Barbets. The hummingbird feeders by the lodge had many Andean Emeralds, Speckled Hummingbirds, Fawn-breasted Brilliants, Brown and Collared Incas, Buff-tailed Coronets, Gorgeted Sunangel, Booted Racket-tail, Violet-tailed Sylph, White-bellied and Purple-throated Woodstars.



*Tanager Finch was one of the star birds at Bellavista (János Oláh).*

A juvenile Red-crested Cotinga was a surprise here while a showy Striped Treehunter and Blue-capped Tanager was more expected. Around the lodge itself we saw a wide range of other montane birds such as Masked Trogon, White-tailed Tyrannulet, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Dusky Bush-Tanager and Russet-crowned Warbler. Along the trails we heard several Ocellated Tapaculos but none of them wanted to play at all so we decided to change location and walked along a more quiet forest track where we finally found the much hoped for Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Torquise Jays, Rufous-chested and Fawn-breasted Tanagers. In the dark bamboo understorey we managed to see Spillman's Tapaculo and a mixed flock gave us Plushcup and Western Hemispingus. After a picnic lunch we were lookoing for the shy Beautiful Jay at various locations but we have not had a sniff and then it soon started to rain so we decided to drop to lower elevation in the hope of better weather. First we visited some feeders near Mindo where we had many Crimson-rumped Toucanets, Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, White-lined and Metallic-green Tanager as well as Ecuadorian Thrush. In the Milpe area it was dry and we added many new birds to our list like Ruddy Pigeon, Red-headed Barbet, Choco Toucan, Snoy-throated Kingbird, Spotted Nightingale Thrush and Ochre-breasted Tanager while a mixed bird flock held Red-faced Spinetail, Buff-fronted and Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaners, Plain Xenops, Cinnamon, One-coloured and Black-and-white Becards, Lesser greenlet and both Silver-throated and Rufous-throated Tanagers. Later we carefully selected a roadside area in the forest which had a landslide and waited until dusk. We soon heard the unmistakable mysterious call of the Lyre-tailed Nightjar and we had great view of a fine male with long tail streamers! Great!

It was time to leave Mindo area behind and next day we drove to the Mashpi Chocolate Farm to try our luck with the rare Rufous-crowned Pittasoma. We had a last pre-breakfast owling in the garden but Colombian Screech Owl remained heard only however we saw a Central American Woolly Opossum and a Kinkajou. This morning Juan Carlos joined us for the next few days so our group had two guides now to face the tough lowland Choco birding to come! This chocolate farm is a great example of sustainable agriculture and habitat management. The owner is a birder and they turned a cattle pasture into a cocoa plantation to increase diversity and make a living. The project working very well as many birds now coming back to the area. He also has a patch of primary forest where he started to feed the Rufous-crowned Antpitta or Gnateater or Pittasoma back in August 2015. It was slow work but now he has pretty good success rate so we were hoping to see this mega bird. Upon arrival we had Maroon-tailed Parakeets and Streak-headed Woodcreeper before we hit the forest trail. After a fair climb we arrived into the Pittasoma area and our guide disappeared to look for it. It was a nervous wait but produced Chestnut-backed Antbird and three Lanceolated Monklets! Our guide returned and we continued walking as he has not seen or heard 'Shungito' as they call the male Pittasoma. We met the owner along the trail doing a bird survey and he informed us the the bird was calling in one particular area this morning. We rushed to this location and also heard our target bird down in a deep gully. In the next hour we tried to get him closer but it did not come so our guide disappeared and minutes later came back with the good news that he found the bird but he is with an ant-swarm and reluctant to move. So we went off trail into the ant-swarm to track him down. Eventually we had great views of this stunning bird, what a relief! Back in the farm we happily munched away on some complimentary chocolates (amazingly good) before we embarked on the long drive to Selva Alegre. We had a quick lunch stop on the cost near Esmeraldas adding several write-ins for the tour (as we have never been on the cost before) such as Blue-footed Booby, Magnificent Frigatebird, Royal Tern and Croaking Ground Dove to name just a few. We arrived to Selva Alegre just an hour before dark so we immediately got into the boat and started cruising towards Playa de Oro on the Santiago River. We had a few Little Blue Herons, Cooi Herons, Hook-billed Kites and Western Osprey. It was dark by the time we arrived to the basic but newly refurbished lodge. So we made it to the prime lowland Choco site in Ecuador.



*Lanceolated Monklet (left) and Rufous-crowned Pittasoma at the Mashpi Chocolate Farm (János Oláh).*

Still in the dark next morning we were out in the forest to look for a calling Choco Poorwill. This small and dark forest nightjar is not very easy to see but with a bit of tactical positioning and luck we got great looks already on our first morning! This was followed by a quick breakfast and as it was getting light we were standing in front of the lodge to soak in the dawn chorus of the Choco. We were very lucky as one of the biggest tree was fruiting and the activity was amazing. We could hardly believe our luck as a splendid male Blue Cotinga was also on this fruiting tree! We also had fly by Rose-faced Parrots and Scarlet-rumped

Caciques. As soon as it get properly light we boarded our canoe and sailed upstream to the beginning of the Cascada trail. A fine Fasciated Tiger Heron was seen on the boatride. After we were dropped off the proper forest birding in the primary Choco forest started. The trees are very tall and birds are thin on the ground! Our first speciality was a confiding male Stub-tailed Antbird which was followed by a Spotted Antbird and a Tawny-crowned Greenlet. Further up the slope we tracked down a Rufous Piha and some of us got to see a shy pair of Ocellated Antbirds. There were more Spotted Antbirds around and then we found a party of Bicolored Antbirds in the thick understorey. It started to rain – not surprisingly as this is the second wettest place on earth after Cherrapunji in India – but the bird activity was still very good. It took us a while but finally we connected with a mixed bird party and it did not take long to find our ultimate target for this location, the Sapayoa! In the same flock we also had Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Stripe-throated Wren and Lemon-spectacled Tanagers. We arrived to a nice lookout area by lunch and we found a few goodies like five Great Green Macaws, three Black-tipped Cotingas and several Dusky Pigeons.



*Male Stub-tailed Antbird (left) and Choco Tody (right) at Playa de Oro (János Oláh).*

In the afternoon we were slowly walking back towards our lodge on this mirador trail and had several mixed bird parties which included goodies like Cinnamon Woodpecker, Gartered Trogon, Black-striped Woodcreeper, more Rufous Pihás, White-ringed and Ruddy-tailed Flycatchers, Yellow-margined and Pacific Flatbills, Slate-throated Gnatcatchers, Blue-whiskered, Scarlet-browed, Rufous-winged and Scarlet-and-white Tanagers and Fulvous-vented Euphonia. We also heard a Five-coloured Barbet but all we could achieve is to see one in flight at the top of a huge tree. We had very good looks of some understorey birds as well like Stripe-throated Hermit, Checker-throated Antwren, Southern Nightingale Wren, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, Dusky-faced and Tawny-crested Tanagers. It was a memorable day indeed!



*Singing Southern Nightingale Wren at Playa de Oro (János Oláh).*

The following day we had another pre-breakfast walk in the forest where we managed to find a roosting Great Tinamou and saw two Choco Poorwills. After breakfast we watched the fruiting tree again and got to see an Orange-fronted Barbet, male Blue Cotinga again, Snowy-throated Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, White-vented Euphonia and best of all both sexes of Scarlet-breasted Dacnis. We also had Purple-chested Hummingbird and Purple-crowned Fairy in the garden. Another forest trail was very slow and hard work but finally we got to see a male Five-coloured Barbet, Cinnamon and Lita Woodpeckers, Band-tailed Barbthroat, Western Woodhaunter, Black-crowned Antshrike, Zeledon's and Dusky Antbirds, Dot-winged Antwren, White-tailed and Black-throated Trogons, a Green Manakin, Black-tailed Myiobius, three more Sapayoas and Lemon-spectacled Tanagers. It was a pretty good list finally! We were back for lunch and in the afternoon we tried the loop trail around lodge. We found a Moustached (Griscom's) Antwren, a Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant and a pitviper in the middle of the trail before it started to rain heavily. It was pouring down for a good hour and everything was wet so we decided to take a canoe ride upstream. We had several Fasciated Tiger Herons, Western Osprey, Swallow-tailed Kite and a few guans on a cecropia tree but unfortunately they disappeared faster than we could positively identify them however they were most likely Baudo Guans. In the last hour of the day we were back to the lodge and the loop trail again where we tracked down a Streak-chested Antpitta to finish yet another action-packed day in the Chocó.



*A roosting Great Tinamou of the latifrons race at Playa de Oro (János Oláh).*

The following day we had another morning at the fruiting tree where we had two male Blue Cotingas, a pair of Scarlet-breasted Dacnis and a pair of Pacific Streaked Antwrens! After breakfast we had to leave and take the canoe back to Selva Alegre. The boat journey was uneventful but we had Fasciated Tiger Heron, Grey-lined Hawk and Western Osprey. When we got to the jetty we had a few minutes before our bus arrived and we had Black Hawk Eagle, Hook-billed Kites and a rather scarce Tennessee Warbler. Our next stop was at the rather degraded Humedal de Yalaré forest – which was still in excellent shape 10 years ago – where we quickly found White-necked, Pied and Black-breasted Puffbirds and Slaty-tailed Trogon. This was followed by a lunch at Tudaloma and our afternoon was spent near Lita along the muddy trail of the La Union road. This track is going through foothill forest and holds a few very rare and localised birds. Luckily the weather was good and we had a few hours of birding with a great selection of amazing Choco birds like Tooth-billed Hummingbird, a male Choco Trogon, Choco Toucan, a male Choco Woodpecker – which was a new bird for Birdquest – Lita Woodpecker, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Rose-faced Parrots in flight, Brown-billed Scythebill, Choco Tapaculo, a stunning male Black-tipped Cotinga, Emerald Tanager and the scarce Golden-chested Tanager.



*Cinnamon Woodpecker (top), the Birdquest lifer Choco Woodpecker (left) and Golden-chested Tanager near Lita (János Oláh).*

The following morning we were back for a morning session along this amazing road again. However it was more typical weather with low clouds and mist plus a little bit of drizzle. Nevertheless we had another look of Tooth-billed Hummingbird, finally saw perched Rose-faced Parrots, Northern Tufted Flycatcher, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo and Grey-and-gold Tanager. The Black-headed Antthrush remained heard only but we

also heard Rufous-crowned Pittasoma calling in the distance. However the undoubted star bird of the morning was another Birdquest lifer, the subtle looking Yellow-green Bush Tanager! Sadly we had to leave this remarkable area and continue toward Quito. We had one more detour before lunch and we made a flying visit to the Chical road. Our prime target was the Purplish-mantled Tanager, which we easily found but also managed to see a pair of Beautiful Jays and Hoary Puffleg. The supporting cast included Empress Brilliant, Velvet-purple Coronet, Brown Inca, Handsome Flycatcher, Green-and-black Fruiteater, Andean Solitaire, Black-billed Peppershrike, Black-chinned Mountain Tanager and Glistening-green Tanager. A pretty good selection for a short lunch stop!



*The Birdquest lifer Yellow-green Bush Tanager (top) and Beautiful Jay on our way back from the Choco (János Oláh).*

After some driving we had yet another quick stop along the road but this time in very dry interandean habitat. We quickly found our hoped-for target a Blue-headed Sapphire as well as Harris's Hawk, Merlin and Scrub Tanager. Near Ibarra we had time to stop in a wetland habitat where we had superb views of two Ecuadorian Rails! It was dark by the time we rolled into Juan Carlos's house near Quito but it was certainly a very successful travelling day!



Ecuadorian Rail near Ibarra (János Oláh).

It was time to visit the eastern slope of the Andes but this morning first we had to climb over the Papallacta Pass. We dressed as warmly as we could to face the cold of this high altitude Andean habitat as we were to ascend up to 4300 meters above sea level. The weather was perfect, clear and more or less windless so we first visited a *Polylepis* woodland in search of some localised birds. Luck was on our side and not only with weather but with birds as well as we quickly found a nice Giant Conebill as well as Blue-mantled Thornbill and Viridian Metaltail, Tawny Antpitta, a skulking Paramo Tapaculo, Andean Tit-Spinetail, White-chinned Thistletail, both Chestnut-winged and Stout-billed Cinclodes, Spectacled Whitestart, Pale-naped Brushfinch and a Red-crested Cotinga. After this great birding we climbed to the top where the antennas are located and spread out to look for the Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe. In such a fantastic sunny weather it did not take long to find this amazing shorebird and we got excellent looks of this local *latreillii* race which is sometimes called 'Ecuadorian Seedsnipe' though none of the new taxonomy would split it. The hummingbird feeders at Guango Lodge was our next stop where we could enjoy a variety of these small birds while having a picnic lunch. The hummingbird selection included Buff-tailed and Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Collared Inca, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Sword-billed Hummingbird and Tourmaline Sunangel. We continued to lower elevation but it started to rain as it often happens in the afternoon so we could not do any birding in the Guacamayos area. After a longish drive we reached the Loreto Road which used to be the main birding area at this foothill elevation (about 15 years ago). It stopped raining and we made several short stops towards Wild Sumaco which was our final destination for the day. We picked up some special birds with roadside birding like Ash-browed Spinetail, Russet Antshrike, Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant, Cliff and Olive-chested Flycatchers, Grey-mantled Wren, Bronze-green Euphonia, Cerulean Warbler, Golden-eared Tanager and Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer but Coppery-chested Jacamar sadly remained heard-only. A final stop produced some common eastern lowland birds like Red-headed Barbet, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Channel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Violaceous Jay and Crimson-crested Woodpecker. It was dark by the time we arrived at the fantastic Wild Sumaco lodge.



*Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe in its full glory at Papallacta Pass (János Oláh).*

Our next two and a half days were spent on the property of Wild Sumaco Lodge, which gives access to excellent east slope foothill forest with an amazing network of trails. This fantastic area holds several range-restricted and threatened species, which were very difficult to see before the opening of this place. The various hummingbird feeders and the *Verbena* bushes in the lodge garden had a fine selection of special hummers like Napo Sabrewing, Violet-haded Hummingbird, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Rufous-vented Whitetip, Wire-crested Thorntail, Violet-fronted Brilliant, Gould's Jewelfront and Gorgetted Woodstar. We have visited the antpitta feeding station where we got superb looks of Plain-backed and Ochre-breasted Antpitta as well as Spotted Nightingale Thrush.



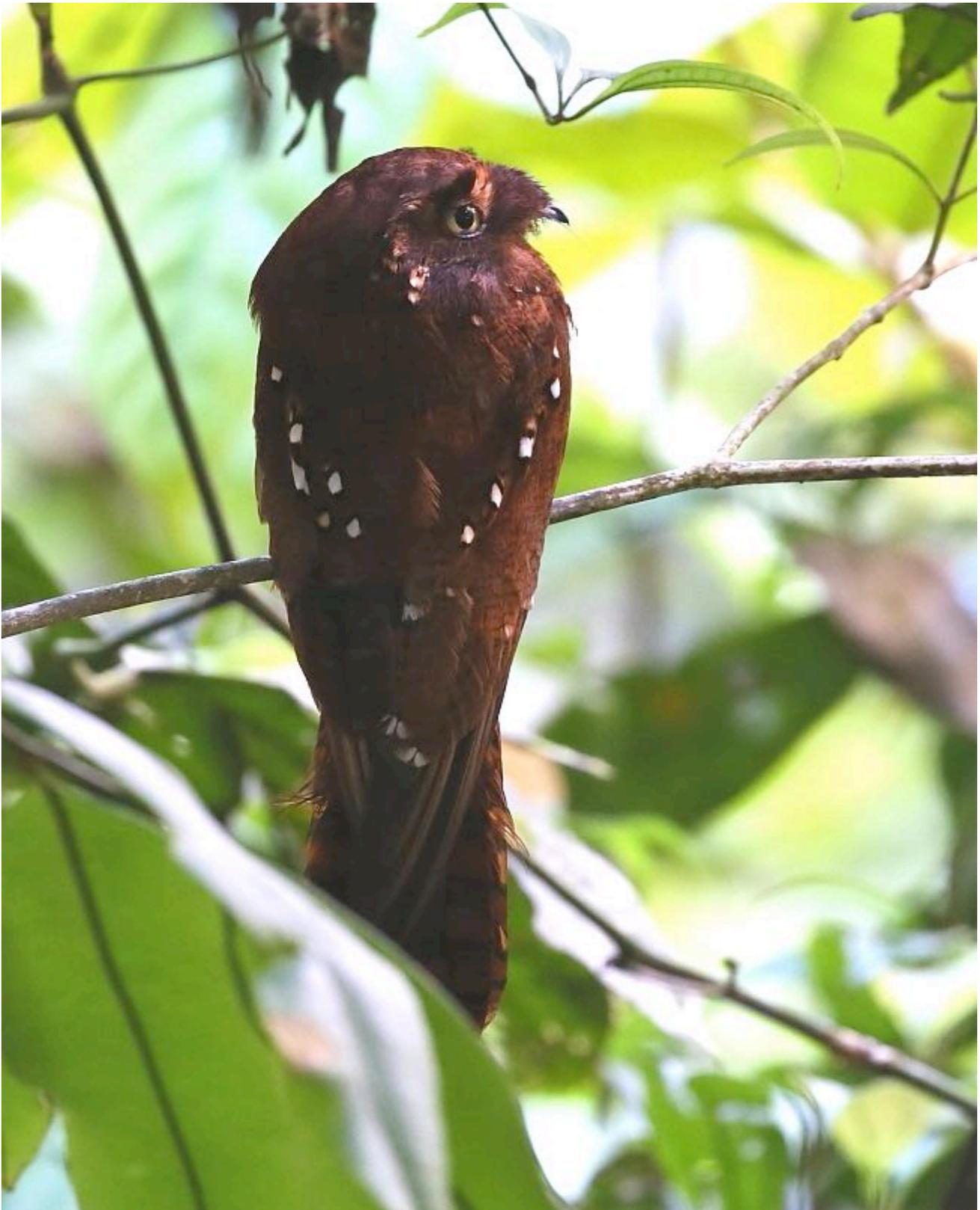
*A female White-streaked Antvireo was a very welcome bird at Wild Sumaco (János Oláh).*

On the various forest trails it was hard work as usual but we managed to get a pretty good list of the specialties such as Band-bellied and Napo Screech Owls, Grey-chinned Hermit, Ecuadorian Piedtail, the unobtrusive Black-streaked Puffbird, Lined Antshrike, Rufous-rumped and Ornate Antwrens, the very localised Foothill and Yellow-breasted Antwrens, the rare White-streaked Antwren, Blackish, Common Scale-backed and Spot-backed Antbirds, Short-tailed Antthrush, the skulking Northern White-crowned Tapaculo, Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, the recently described Foothill Elaenia, Fiery-throated Fruiteater for some, the noisy Grey-tailed Piha, the stunning Blue-rumped Manakin, Tawny-breasted Myiobius, the amazing Musician Wren, Yellow-cheeked Becard, the localised Rufous-naped and Olivaceous Greenlets. Non forest goodies included Black Hawk Eagle, Blackish Rail and Scaled Pigeon. It was a magical stay at this fantastic location this year again!



*White-tipped Sicklebill (left) and Rufous-vented Whitetip were special hummers at Wild Sumaco (János Oláh).*

After a last morning session we had to say goodbye to this great birding area. However, even on this last stroll along the magical trails we were treated to some fantastic birds such as a superb White-tipped Sicklebill feeding on some Heliconia flowers, a singing White-backed Fire-eye, extremely good views of the usually shy and retiring Wing-banded Wren and two Blue-browed Tanagers. Not a bad selection! A brief stop near the Holin River added White-tailed Hillstar to our growing hummingbird list. It was almost midday when we started our journey towards Gareno Lodge, located in Huaorani Indian Territory south of the Napo River. On our new itinerary we only had an afternoon and a morning for Gareno so we were eager to get there as soon as we could. A brief stop at a stand of *Mauritia* palms, failed for Point-tailed Palmcreeper though we had great looks at Red-bellied Macaws. Getting closer to Gareno we had a brief stop to admire a flock of the rather nomadic and usually difficult to see Casqued Oropendola. We arrived at this remote location in the early afternoon for some roadside birding, while our local guide looked for Rufous Potoo. Despite the warm weather we managed to find a good selection of scarce birds such as Grey-breasted Sabrewing, Dugand's Antwren, Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant, a male Purple-throated Cotinga and Yellow-backed Tanager. Just as we got back to our bus our excellent local guide Pedro had good news and immediately took us to see a roosting Rufous Potoo. As usual we had good looks at this smart bird doing its camouflage swinging like a 'dead leaf'. No doubt this is the most reliable place in the World for it! It was incredible to see this normally hard to see bird and certainly made our Gareno stay worthwhile! We have been coming to this place since it came on the birding scene – 10 years ago - and never missed it. After seeing our number one target of this area we tried to look for Ocellated Poorwill in the forest at dusk but not heard any. Just as we got back to our basic cabins we heard the eerie call of two Nocturnal Curassows. It was great experience even to hear them. We asked our guide about our possibilities to see it but he said it is very difficult to see them and they were calling across the river in an inaccessible area. We heard them a few more times at night as well.



*Rufous Potoo is the star bird of Gareno and one of the best birds of the tour as well (János Oláh).*

We were up early next morning and after breakfast, just as it started to get some light we positioned ourselves to a clearing where we were hoping to see our other main target for the area, the scarce Fiery Topaz. We were not disappointed as we had good views of at least three different males as they were catching insects above the stream. A calling pair of Lemon-throated Barbet were also lured into view!



*Crested Owl was a great bird at Gareno and was voted the third best bird of the tour (János Oláh)!*

On our climb back up to the access track we found a pair of lovely Yellow-browed Antbird and a party of Fulvous-crested Tanagers. This latter is essentially an understory bird and much more localised than its canopy dwelling relative the Flame-crested Tanager – which while we were birding along the road our guide disappeared again into the forest. It was an overcast morning and activity was slow but we still got a good selection of Amazonian birds like Capped Heron, Black-eared Fairy, Amazonian Trogon, White-fronted and Yellow-billed Nunbirds, Ivory-billed and Many-banded Aracaris, White-throated Toucan, a pair of Grey Antbirds, Dusky-chested Flycatcher, two male Spangled Cotingas, a pair of Purple-throated Cotinga, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, a pair of Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Green Manakin, White-browed Purpletufts, Green Oropendola, Flame-crested, Turquoise, Paradise, Green-and-gold, Yellow-bellied and Opal-crowned Tanagers. As we were back to the lodge area our local guide was smiling and took us to see a roosting Crested Owl. It was great to see this charismatic owl so well. It is often heard but being a canopy hunting owl it is usually very difficult to track down at night in primary forest. On our way down the trail to the lodge we found a fruiting tree with small berries and it turned out to be a heaven for manakins. We had the rather rare (in Ecuador) Brown-winged Schiffornis, a fine male Western Striped Manakin, several Blue-crowned and White-bearded Manakins and a Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin. While having our lunch Buff-tailed Sicklebill flew into the heliconias by the restaurant but it got away quickly as soon as it was identified. We did try half hour after lunch but it did not return. It was time for us to leave this birdy area and drive back to the cold thin air of the Andes. Unfortunately we had an obligatory two-hour 'puncture stop' on the way out as we have had one on the way in as well so we did run out of tyres. Nevertheless while our driver disappeared we managed to find a Glittering-throated Emerald, Moustached Antwren, the obligate palm specialist Point-tailed Palmcreeper and Sulphury Flycatcher, White-eared Jacamar, Olive-faced Flatbill and Thrush-like Wren. I hope I will never have a worse puncture stop! The rest of the afternoon was spent in the car but we just arrived to the Guacamayos ridge at dusk where we had a Rufous-bellied Nighthawk and somebody had seen a female Swallow-tailed Nightjar briefly. It was dark by the time we arrived to San Isidro where we quickly checked in and still before dinner we located the famous San Isidro Owl as it was catching moth around the lights and gave us stunning looks. It was very much appreciated as in the last two years we really struggled with this special bird and in fact last year we missed it for the first time! This was yet another exciting and long day and finally it was crowned by a delicious San Isidro dinner!



*Fulvous-crested Tanager (top left) and a Diactor bilineatus at Gareno; and the famous San Isidro Owl at San Isidro (János Oláh).*

Our next morning was spent around the very birdy lodge garden and back along the bamboo track. We spent an hour before breakfast around the evening lights, which attracted large number of insects overnight hence a lot of birds in the morning in the prospect of an easy meal! We saw many birds here like Montane Woodcreeper, Golden-crowned and Pale-edged Flycatchers, Glossy-black Thrush, Black-billed Peppershrike, Inca Jay, Black-eared Hemispingus, Subtropical Cacique, Black-crested and Russet-crowned Warblers. Our breakfast was eaten while watching the hummingbird feeders where Collared and Bronzy Incas, Chestnut-breasted Coronets, Fawn-breasted Brilliants, Long-tailed Sylph and two female Gorgetted Woodstars were zipping around. This was followed by a short visit to the antpitta feeding station. It was very easy this year, as soon as our antpitta men started to call it appeared on stage and took a mouthful of worms into the undergrowth – most probably feeding some hungry juveniles. The rest of the morning was spent along the bamboo track where we had scope views of two male Crested Quetzal, Golden-headed Quetzal and White-capped Parrot. We also connected with several mixed canopy flocks with goodies like Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Pearled Treerunner, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Handsome Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet, Mountain Wren, Blusih Flowerpiercer, Saffron-crowned, Flame-faced and Blue-and-black Tanagers. We also had Streak-headed Antbird and Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher in the thick bamboo undergrowth. In the afternoon first we drove to the nearby Cosanga River where we finally located a male

and a female Torrent Duck and albeit the view were not very close we could watch the male as it was displaying and chasing the female around. The afternoon was mostly spent along the Guacamayos Ridge trail. Birding is usually slow along this trail but we did pick up Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Green-and-black Fruiteater, Dusky Piha, Rufous Wren, Yellow-whiskered Bush Tanager, Hooded Mountain Tanager, Grass-green Tanager and Northern Mountain Cacique and Black-capped Hemispingus. Towards dusk we all managed to see a female Swallow-tailed Nightjar – probably the same as last night. For those who were interested the San Isidro Owl was showing well this evening as well!



*Black-eared hemispingus (top left), Black-billed Peppershrike (top right) and a fine Andean Potoo at San Isidro (János Oláh).*

It was heavily raining all night but stopped just as we embarked on a pre-breakfast night birding session. The San Isidro Owl was not around the lights but we managed to find the sought-after Andean Potoo as it was ‘flycatching’ from a prominent perch high up in the canops. A pretty good start of the day! Following a quick breakfast we left this fine lodge behind and drove to the lower parts of the Guacamayos. Unfortunately we did not find any big mixed flocks we were hoping for but still coaxed a Long-tailed tapaculo into view and tried to locate some calling Black-billed Mountain Toucans without success. We decided to try the ridge trail again where we got to see a very shy and sneaky Black-billed Mountain Toucan as well as Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant and Spotted Barbtail. As we were driving back to Quito we had a brief stop at Guango and

visited the muddy Chalpi trail. We got lucky and located a mixed flock with three Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan – the second mountain toucan for the day and the third for the tour – Slaty Brushfinch, Grey-hooded Bush Tanager and Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager. We continued towards Quito and visited the Thermals area close to Papallacta. Unfortunately the ultimate prize Masked Mountain Tanager did not show up despite our efforts but we had Shining Sunbeam, Agile Tit-Tyrant, Black-chested Mountain Tanager and Black-backed Bush Tanager. It was getting late so left the high altitude habitat and drove towards Quito. Our last stop of the day was in a deep river valley in dry interandean habitat where a Band-winged Nightjar was our final bird of the day.



*Black-backed Bush Tanager is a high altitude species which was seen near Papallacta (János Oláh).*

Our last day of the main tour was spent in the higher parts of Antisana National Park. Our first stop was close to a newly opened restaurant from where we had seen adult Andean Condors on their roosting cliffs. We also had Carunculated Caracaras, Tawny Antpitta, Paramo Pipit, Black Flowerpiercer and some high altitude hummers like Giant Hummingbird, Sparkling Violet-ear, Black-tailed Trainbearer and Shining Sunbeam. Around the entrance gate of the national park we had Black-winged Ground Doves and many Plain-coloured Seedeaters. Further along the road we had more Andean Condors, a few Variable Hawks and Black-chested Buzzard Eagle as well as several near-endemic male Ecuadorian Hillstars, Grass Wrens and Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant by a rushing stream. While driving towards the higher elevation we also seen both Streak-backed and Many-striped Canasteros, Andean Lapwings, a few Paramo Ground-Tyrant and many Plumbeous Sierra-Finches. The weather was excellent and we glimpsed a few times the snowy peaks of Antisana too. Finally we spotted a lone Andean Ibis before we got to a reservoir which held several Silvery Grebes, a few Andean Ruddy Ducks and Andean Teals. On the way back we spotted Cinereous Harrier as well. Back in the restaurant area we visited a nearby lagoon with more Yellow-billed Pintails and an out of the place Muscovy Duck which was there apparently for some time. This was followed by a very nice traditional four-course meal and a Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant. After leaving Antisana behind we drove to the airport and visited the nearby ponds which is a favorite wetland for the local birders and added a lot of migrant birds, mainly shorebirds to our triplist. It was a very birdy place and we had Blue-winged Teals, Pied-billed Grebes, Andean Coots, a Semipalmated Plover, a Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, Spotted, Least, Baird and Pectoral Sandpipers, a Wilson's Phalarope and a local rarity in the form of a Ruddy Turnstone! After this little listpadding the tour officially ended and we dropped a few of us at the airport where they could start their long way home!

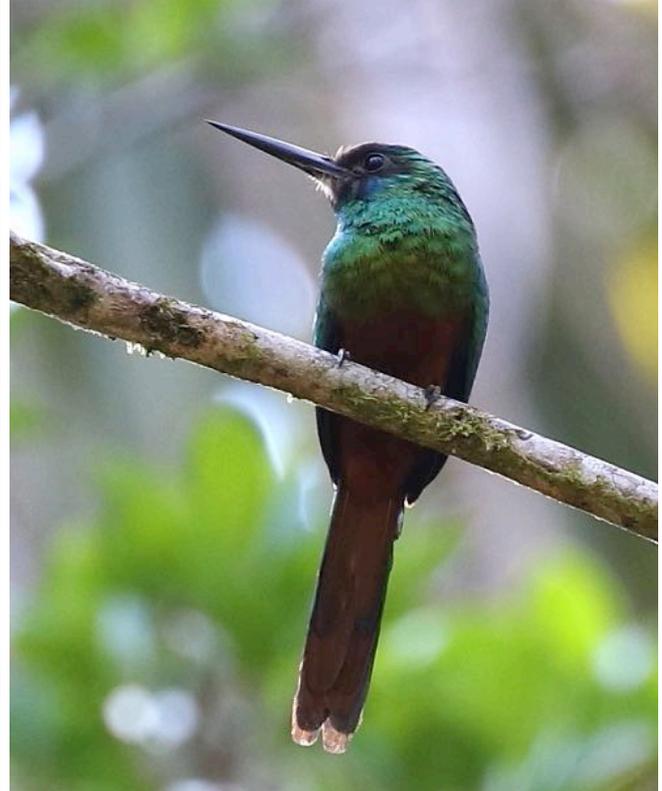
Those who continued to the Amazonia extension were back to our base at Juan Carlos's house and got prepared for the next week in lowland Amazonia! The following morning we had a 'lie-in' and only started birding when there was light in the garden. First we tracked down several male Western Emeralds, then a Rusty Flowerpiercer and finally a pair of Golden-rumped Euphonias. A late morning flight took us to Coca from where we embarked upon the two-hour boat journey to one of the oldest Amazonian Lodge in Ecuador, the mighty La Selva. The water level was very low on the Napo and it took some navigation to get to the jetty of La Selva. It was midday so most of our boat journey was rather birdless with only a few Greater Yellow-headed Vultures seen until we were very close to our final destination when we did get close views of Large-billed Tern. Upon arrival at the jetty it was nice to see our good friend José whose knowledge of the area is unbeatable and has been our local guide in La Selva for 20 years! It was still hot so we were not in a rush. Around the landing area we called in a White-winged Becard and had excellent looks of Swallow-winged Puffbirds. It was time to change our motorized boat to smaller canoes and we slowly started to drift down in a channel through superb varzea forest towards Garzacochoa – the lagoon where the lodge is located. The canoe ride even in the rather hot early afternoon hours produced many prehistoric looking Hoatzins, Greater Ani, Black-tailed and Green-backed Trogons, American Pygmy Kingfisher, a fine White-chinned Jacamar, Crimson-crested Woodpeckers, a superb Long-billed Woodcreeper and a Hauxwell Thrush. When we arrived to the lodge we were greeted by welcome drinks and a big thunderstorm. It was pointless to go on a canoe ride for the last hour of the day in the pouring rain so we watched the Sand-coloured Nighthawks from the balcony and amazingly picked up a rare Orange-crested Manakin on a fruiting tree by the . The nighthawks flew off as it started to get dark and we counted 53 birds as they were hawking insects over the lagoon after the rain.



*Sand-colored Nighthawks were seen daily at La Selva (János Oláh).*

On our first full day in Amazonia we started early from La Selva and were heading towards the Mandicocha Lake. We heard several interesting birds but we did not stop as we were on a mission! As soon as we got into our canoe at Mandicocha we quickly moved down the Madiyacu channel to try for Zigzag Heron. Unfortunately we did not hear any – we were probably a touch late for this crepuscular species. A singing male Dot-backed Antbird and Striped Woodcreeper was seen however we wasted no time to return to the lagoon and off the canoe on a forest trail. Our other idea for the morning was a visit to a swampy area and try for the rare Cocha Antshrike. We were moving with fair speed through the forest passing by a few common birds but when we heard a singing Fulvous Antshrike we stopped and finally got everybody on this large and rather scarce bird. When we arrived to the swampy area it was still relatively early morning and we soon heard two male Cocha Antshrike singing. After a few nervous minutes we spotted a female in the tangly varzea habitat across a narrow channel. The female is the more distinctive, and we were very pleased as all got to see it very well. Finally a male also jumped into view before they disappeared back into the thicket. Wow, we have just seen the best antbird of the area, the undoubted star of the Ecuadorian Amazon! After this great success we walked slowly back on the trail and looked for more antbirds. A skittish pair of Spot-winged Antbirds gave only brief glimpses while a 'calling ghost' - as the Thrush-like Antpitta is also known – not even gave the briefest of a view despite a good try by our local guides. Then we flushed a pair of Marbled Wood Quails but nobody really had good views apart from the leaders in the front. Well we needed a bit of more luck now! Finally we came across a pair of singing Sooty Antbirds which gave good

looks and also tracked down Black-faced Antbird nearby. A pretty good sized understory flock gave us both Cinereous and Dusky-throated Antshrike and a great selection of antwrens which included Plain-throated, White-flanked, Grey and the rare Rio Suno. Wedge-billed, Buff-throated and Elegant Woodcreepers were also in the flock as well as an Ochre-bellied Flycatcher. We had a nice lunch back in the lodge and after an hour of siesta we hit the forest trails behind the lodge. As usual activity was slow in the early afternoon but we soon located a magnificent Collared Puffbird and a pair of Purplish Jacamars! It took us a good while but we eventually found a male Wire-tailed Manakin too.



*Purplish (left) and White-chinned Jacamars at La Selva (János Oláh).*

We decided to check out the new canopy tower and when we climbed the 227 steps of the massive tower we found ourselves in a different world. Canopy towers are excellent places to study the birdlife of the upper strata of the Amazonian Rainforest and usually every single occasion it is different with a new set of birds. Our first afternoon visit to this special place was a great introduction. The Kapok tree was in leaf but activity was rather low probably because of the late afternoon hour.



*A pair of Blue-and-yellow Macaws from the La Selva canopy tower (János Oláh).*

A roosting Short-tailed Nighthawk was pointed out by José on one of the horizontal big branches and indeed it is rare to get such a view of this species! As it was getting late afternoon birds started to fly around and we saw a Golden-collared Toucanet, Grey-headed Kite, Laughing Falcon, about six Blue-and-yellow Macaws, Yellow-crowned Amazons, Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, Crowned Slaty Flycatcher, a male Plum-throated Cotinga – which turned out to be the only sighting of the species on the tour - Spangled Cotinga, White-browed Purpletuft, Dusky-capped Greenlet and Black-faced Dacnis.



*A roosting Short-tailed Nighthawk from the La Selva canopy tower (János Oláh).*

Reluctantly we descended to the ground and walked back to the Mandicocha area and boarded our canoe again to try one more time the Zigzag Heron this time at dusk. We were slowly drifting with the current and listened for the call of this enigmatic bird. Suddenly José heard one distantly and as we were getting closer with the canoe we could all hear it now, a singing Zigzag Heron! We stopped the boat and with a careful coaxing we tried to get him into view. After several nerveous minutes the bird got silent and it was not heard again. It was rather frustrating but nothing we could do. On the canoe ride back to the trail we spotlighted a Common Potoo and two calling Great Potoos too. After a superb day we just got back to the lodge for dinner.

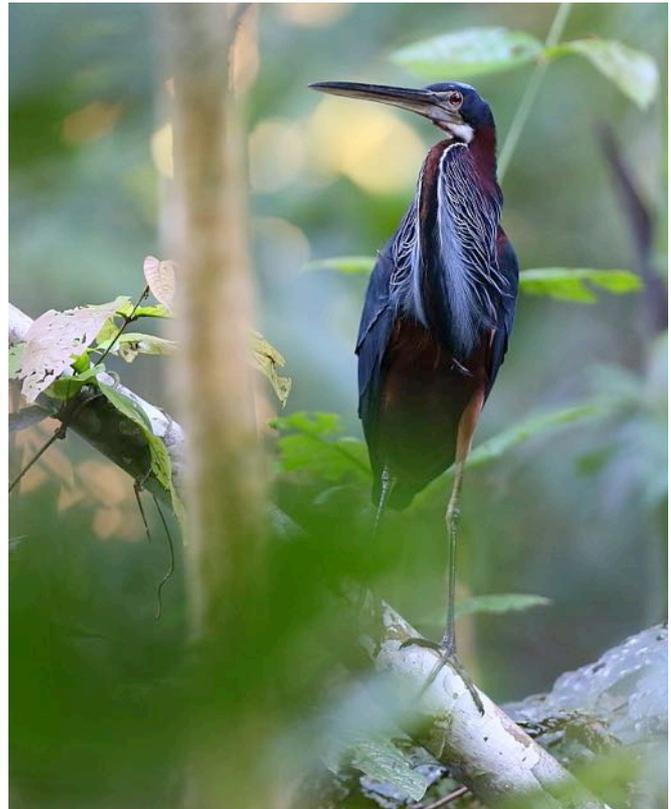
The following day a pre-breakfast owling in the garden produced Tropical Screech Owl. Our first birding place was up on the Ceiba treetop again, we decided to give a morning try for the splendid canopy tower! The Short-tailed Nighthawk was on the very same spot as last afternoon – did it move at all at night? It was good activity with lots of birds showing well. We had several Ivory-billed and Many-banded Aracaris, both Channel-billed and White-throated Toucans, a pair of Ringed Woodpeckers, Bat Falcon, Orange-winged Amazon, Blue-and-yellow and Chestnut-fronted Macaws, a male Grey Elaenia right above our heads, Slender-footed Tyrannulet, Zimmer's Flatbill, Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, Bare-necked Fruit Crows, White-browed Purpletuft, White-lored Euphonia and Paradise, Opal-rumped and Opal-crowned Tanagers. The rest of the morning was spent along the trail system of La Selva where we first tracked down a singing Rusty-belted Tapaculo which gave unusually great looks. The next goodie was a Brown Nunlet which was followed by a stunning male Chestnut-belted Gnateater. After this quick success we had a fairly long period with no birds but we had to fight some wasps instead. Finally a Spix's Guan was spotted in the high canopy as it was looking down on us and just when we were the least expecting it we hit a small ant-swarm with several White-cheeked Antbirds, at least one Sooty Antbird, a fantastic Reddish-winged Bare-eye and two fast-moving Black-spotted Bare-eyes! It was great! Both Plain-brown and Black-banded Woodcreeper were

seen and finally a very sleepy Tawny-bellied Screech Owl was found as it was looking out of its roosting hole which was in a broken off tree trunk. It was an excellent morning again and we were ready for a meal after covering a few miles in the heat.



*The new canopy tower at La Selva, Ringed Woodpecker (top right) and Rusty-belted Tapaculo at La Selva (János Oláh).*

In the afternoon we took a canoe ride across Garzacochoa lagoon where a male Cream-colored Woodpecker was seen. We were heading back to the Napo River but the last section through the gallery forest we took a trail instead the boat and found Undulated Tinamou and White-rumped Syristes. Once we got to the jetty we quickly boarded our motorized canoe and made our way towards an older river islands on the Napo. We sailed downstream finding a nice Brown Jacamar and many White-banded Swallows along the steep earth banks. Despite the very low water level we managed to land on an island with more advanced vegetation - trees as well as bushes and tall grass were also present. There were not many birds around to start with except a few Pale-vented Pigeon and Oriole Blackbirds but when we moved deeper into the vegetation we located Little and Spot-breasted Woodpeckers, a pair of Castelnau's Antshrikes, a Spotted Tody-Flycatchers, a few Orange-headed Tanagers and Chestnut-bellied Seedeater. As the sun was going down we headed back to the lodge trying a few locations for Long-tailed Potoo as we were going along but we have not got any response.



*Juvenile Rufescent Tiger Heron (left) and Agami Heron on the Amazonia extension (János Oláh)!*

This morning we left La Selva as it started to rain again, following an all night long thunderstorm so we postponed our departure. When we had a small window of not lighter rain we took our canoe to the jetty by the Napo River seeing a fine Agami Heron on the way! Here we waited again but after half an hour we decided to try a different river island. Young river islands, where early successional vegetation can be found, have an avifauna of their own but we spent the next four hours in pouring rain with limited success. Some really hard work produced most of our targets and several Ladder-tailed Nightjars – we even found one on nest with one egg – the dull Olive-spotted Hummingbird, White-bellied and Parker's Spinetails, Short-crested Flycatcher, Drab Water Tyrant, River Tyrannulet, Caqueta Seedeater and a few migrants such as Eastern Kingbirds and Alder Flycatcher. Although we heard Grey-breasted Crakes very close we could not see them and Lesser Hornero also remained heard-only. There were hundreds of *hirundines* on the sandbanks, mostly Barn and Bank Swallows but a few White-winged and White-banded Swallows as well as Grey-breasted and Brown-chested Martins were also present. As we were absolutely soaking wet we decided to quit and told José to drive us to the landing area of the Napo WC. In a little inlet we saw three Roseate Spoonbills and an American Golden Plover. Upon arriving at Napo our eagle-eyed local guide Jorge was already waiting for us so we waved goodbye to José and the La Selva team. After seven hours it looked like the rain might stop so with a quick discussion with Jorge we decided to wait with our long journey to the lodge as it is through flooded 'varzea' forest and it can be very good birding! So we were back to another motorized canoe and ride up to the Yasuni Lodge for a nice lunch. Lunch stop birds included Limpkin, Southern Lapwing, Hook-billed Kite, Grey-fronted Dove, a pair of Scarlet-crowned Barbets and Orange-backed Troupial.



*Zigzag Heron at Napo WC was one of the star birds of the extension (János Oláh)!*

After lunch we had a surprise Solitary Cacique in a gingerbed by the river and we were soon back to the Napo WC arrival area. It has stopped raining and we started our seven kilometres long canoe ride to the lodge. Because of the very low water level in the Napo we had strong current so we had two extra person to help in the paddling. This was late afternoon now after a long rainy day and birds were very active. A fine Crane Hawk was our first bird still by the jetty and it was followed by a very vocal White-shouldered Antbird just as we left. We were cruising very slowly and in the first few hundred meters we found about ten Speckled Chachalacas, four Spix's Guans and three Blue-throated Piping Guans, all feeding on Cecropia fruits. Several kingfishers were seen such as Ringed, American Pygmy and Green-and-rufous Kingfishers. We heard a jacamar-like call but we were not sure what the calling bird is so we stopped and to our great suprise a fantastic Amazonian Royal Flycatcher was calling. We all had proper looks of this rare bird – it was a new bird for our local guide Jorge as well (being a native bird guide in the lodge for over 10 years). A few minutes later we heard Chestnut-capped Puffbird and although it took as a while to locate it, finally we got to see this unobtrusive bird as well. This was followed by Agami Heron, a Sungrebe and a Buff-breasted Wren. By the time light was fading we got to the Zigzag Heron area so we stopped. We soon heard the familiar call of this tiny skulker very close to us and our guides quickly navigated the canoe to the bush and within a few minutes we found a Zigzag Heron in the middle of a bush. It was constantly moving however and then flew across the channel so we temporarily 'lost' it. Everybody did get to see it but we would not mind a longer look! A pair of Plumbeous Antbirds gave some excitement and a few minutes later when it was almost dark the heron started to call again. It was not moving at all so we had to position the canoe until one of our eagle-eyed guides spotted it. This time it was stationary calling and we got full view as it was spotlighted. It was certainly an amazing experience hearing and seeing this enigmatic bird! The rest of the journey was navigated in the dark and we spotlighted several Boat-billed Herons as well as found a roosting Sungrebe so we could study even its nicely patterned feet! Finally we arrived to the seven storey, community owned Napo WC where we were greeted with snacks and drinks!

Our first full day at Napo Wildlife Center we spent ten hours on the superb 'tiputini' trail, which leads deeper into the Yasuni National Park. Our number one target was the rather localised and scarce Black-necked Red Cotinga. The trail is going through a rolling terra firme forest however the hills are not as big as it was in Gareno and along the lower parts where we had to go along streams it was very muddy. Birding was slow as usual for forest birding but very rewarding and throughout the day we managed to find an amazing

number of Amazonian goodies. We had good looks of Great Tinamou, a party of five King Vultures feasting on a stingray carcas, a Slate-colored Hawk, brief looks of a calling party of Grey-winged Trumpeters for some, Red-stained and Chestnut Woodpeckers, the scarce Speckled Spinetail, a good selection of anwrens like Yasuni, Rufous-tailed, Plain-throated, Grey, Long-winged and White-flanked Antwrens, the hard-to-find and shy Banded Antbird, walk away views of the seldom seen Lunulated Antbird, Black-faced Antthrush, the tricky White-eyed Tody-Tyarant, Greyish Mourner, Citron-bellied Attila, Screaming Piha, Blue-backed and Golden-headed Manakins, Long-billed Gnatwren, a brief Lawrence's Thrush and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager. Best of all however was the three male lekking Black-necked Red Cotingas, allowing magical views for as long as we wanted. No doubt it was voted the bird of the extension! We were rather tired by the end of the day but back in the lodge we climbed to the top of the main building which serves as a 'second' canopy tower and finished the day with watching Giant Otters and various macaws and parrots.



*Black-necked Red Cotinga (top) and female Lunulated Antbird along the Tiputini trail of Napo WC (János Oláh)!*

On our last full day in the Amazon we left the lodge in the dark again as we were heading towards the canopy tower, which is located on the top of an emergent Kapok or *Ceiba* tree. It was getting light as we were walking the trail towards the tower and the dawn chorus started up - it was fantastic! We climbed to the roof of the Amazon for the last time on this tour. Just as we got to the top we realized it is going to be a misty morning! Jorge commented that it will last about an hour. It was spectacular to watch the sunrise through the misty treetops while munching on fruits and pancakes. There are not many more unique places to have a breakfast for sure! Our viewing was restricted to the actual tree canopy we were in for some time but a breeding Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Cobalt-winged Parakeets, Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers, Pygmy Antwren and Yellow-browed Tody Flycatchers were entertaining us. When the mist finally lifted we had six Blue-and-yellow Macaws, Yellow-crowned and Mealy Amazons, a fast-flying flock of 24 Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlets and a variety of raptors such as Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, Hook-billed, Swallow-tailed, Double-toothed Kites and Slender-billed Kites. Other birds we managed to see from the tower included Many-banded and Ivory-billed Aracaris, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Crowned Slaty Flycatchers, Black-tailed and Masked Tityras, male Spangled Cotinga, displaying White-browed Purpletufts and finally scope views of Lawrence's Thrush. Down from the tower we took a trail towards the Napo as we were hoping to reach the interior parrotlick by the late morning. So we had to go with a fair speed and we only stopped for exciting wildlife which included a party of three Red-throated Caracaras, a Black-bellied Cuckoo and a few Golden-mantled Tamarins.



*Orange-cheeked Parrot (on the left) and Cobalt-winged Parakeets at the Yasuni National Park parrotlick (János Oláh)!*

We got to the parrotlick just as the first Cobalt-winged Parakeets were coming down and we spent about two hours to admire this spectacle. We had two Scarlet Macaws, about 12 Orange-cheeked Parrots and probably over a 1000 Cobalt-winged Parakeets. After a picnic lunch and a short siesta at the arrival area of Napo we took the same channel back to the lodge as on the arrival day. This time we were trying to locate the few remaining special birds of the Varzea forest. We did well as managed to find Amazonian Streaked Antwren, Yellow-crowned Elaenia, Cinnamon Attila and Orange-crested Manakins but Rufous-tailed Flatbill remained heard-only. Other birds included three Agami Herons, Rufescent Tiger Heron, Boat-billed Heron and more Sungrebes. Close to the lodge another channel eventually gave us a male Silvered Antbird and a female Plumbeous Antbird. The latter was not seen by all when we had our first sighting parallel with the Zigzag Heron on the first afternoon here. A tiny Reddish Hermit was only seen by some.

The following morning we had to say goodbye to the Amazon! However we planned something special for the last morning though we did not actually trusted much hope. We started from the lodge at night and slowly cruised along the access channel which we got to know in the last two days. We stopped at several locations to try for Black-banded Owl but we have not had a sniff of them. When it was getting light we arrived to the section of the channel where Jorge has seen the scarce Salvin's Curassow before. We were drifting with the current and it was pretty unbelievable when our guide suddenly whispered: there they are! First there was a little confusion where and what, but then we all realized that four Salvin's Curassows were right on the edge of the channel looking at us! Their white bum was glowing in the dim light. It took about 30 seconds for them to slowly walk away but sure enough we had brilliant looks and even managed some record shots. What a grand final of our stay in Amazonia this was! However the morning was not over as in the last kilometre to the jetty we had a pair of Spot-winged Antbirds in a roadside bush and funny enough while trying to get everybody on the birds a female Lunulated Antbird hopped into view in the same bush! Our second sighting of this usually tough bird. Just a few minutes later we coaxed two Black-spotted Bare-eyes into view. They were the final antbirds on the tour. Eventually we got to the jetty where we had to change to our motorized canoe but our guide Jorge was coming all the way to Coca with us. The boat journey back to Coca we saw several Western Ospreys and Cocoi Herons but the most interesting observation was an adult Savanna Hawk just a few kilometres before Coca which was apparently the first ever record of the species in the Ecuadorian east – though somehow expected as it does occur in Colombia. This was the time to bid farewell to our ffaantastic and helpful guide Jorge and the Napo team! From Coca we flew back to Quito where this amazing tour ended! This was the end of a superb three weeks odyssey to Ecuador and indeed it was a record breaking tour where we recorded 891 species in just 23 birding days and we had many rare and very special birds in this long list! Ecuador is certainly the jewel of the Bird Continent and an unbelievably bird-rich country!



*Salvin's Curassow at Napo WC (János Oláh)!*



*Black-necked-Red Cotinga was the 'Bird of the Extension' as we had magical experience with them (János Oláh)!*

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

**CR** = Critically Endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened

**Great Tinamou** *Tinamus major* The *latifrons* was seen in Playa de Oro and *peruvianus* in Amazonia. **NT**

**Cinereous Tinamou** *Crypturellus cinereus* ◊ (H) Occasionally heard on the extension in Amazonia.

**Little Tinamou** *Crypturellus soui* (H) Regularly heard on the tour but we had no sighting this year.

**Undulated Tinamou** *Crypturellus undulates* Regularly heard in Amazonia and some of us saw one briefly.

**Variegated Tinamou** *Crypturellus variegates* ◊ (H) Regularly heard on the extension in Amazonia.

**Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata* After much work pair was seen in a 'courtship chase' near Cosanga.

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* A long staying vagrant was seen in Antisana NP.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* About 24 were seen on the airport ponds.

**Andean Teal** *Anas andium* A few were seen at Papallacta and at Antisana NP.

**Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica* Good numbers were seen at Antisana NP and near airport. See note.

**Andean Duck** *Oxyura ferruginea* About 20 were seen at Antisana NP.

**Speckled Chachalaca** *Ortalis guttata* Several sightings both on the main tour and the extension in Amazonia.

**Andean Guan** *Penelope montagnii* Superb looks of a single bird at Yanacocha on our first day.

**Spix's Guan** *Penelope jacquacu* We had repeated great looks on the Amazonia extension this year.

**Blue-throated Piping Guan** *Pipile cumanensis* Several sightings on the extension south of the Napo River.

**Wattled Guan** *Aburria aburri* ◊ Regularly heard but this time we also had excellent looks at one near Mindo. **NT**

**Sickle-winged Guan** *Chamaepetes goudotii* ◊ (**H**) Interestingly we had no sightings, it remained heard-only.

**Nocturnal Curassow** *Nothocrax urumutum* ◊ (**H**) This enigmatic bird was heard in Gareno at night.

**Salvin's Curassow** *Mitu salvini* ◊ We had an amazing encounter with a flock of four at Napo WC on the extension.

**Marbled Wood Quail** *Odontophorus gujanensis* Two were flushed from the trail at La Selva. **NT**

**Rufous-fronted Wood Quail** *Odontophorus erythrops* ◊ (**LO**) A family with young chicks was seen at Playa de Oro.

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* A few were seen at Yahuracocha and 25 more near the airport.

**Silvery Grebe** *Podiceps occipitalis* Excellent close looks at the *juninensis* race at Antisana NP. See note. **NT**

**Andean Ibis** *Theristicus branickii* Just a singleton was seen at Antisana. **NT**

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* Three were seen on a Napo river island on the Amazonia extension.

**Rufescent Tiger Heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum* Regularly encountered on the extension in Amazonia.

**Fasciated Tiger Heron** *Tigrisoma fasciatum* Several were seen along the Santiago River at Playa de Oro.



*Juvenile Fasciated Tiger Heron on the Santiago River at Playa de Oro (János Oláh).*

**Agami Heron** *Agamia agami* Several sightings of this secretive heron on the extension in Amazonia. **VU**

**Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* It was common in the Napo WC area on the extension in Amazonia.

**Zigzag Heron** *Zebrilus undulatus* ◊ Finally we got amazing looks of this skulker at Napo WC on the extension. **NT**

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* About 15 were seen at Yahuarcocha.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* We had several good looks on the main tour as well as on the Amazonian extension.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* The most commonly seen egret on the tour. See note.

**Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoa* We saw three on the main tour and many on the Amazonian extension.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Regularly encountered on the main tour and on the extension too.

**Capped Heron** *Pilherodius pileatus* Two were seen in flight at Gareno.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* Three sightings on the main tour and also seen on the Amazonian extension.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Commonly encountered on the main tour and the extension.

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* About 40 were seen on the coast on our way to Playa de Oro.

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* Hundreds were seen on the coast on our way to Playa de Oro.

**Blue-footed Booby** *Sula nebouxii* Three were seen on the coast on our way to Playa de Oro.

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* It was abundant on the western lowlands.

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* We only had three sightings at La Selva on the extension in Amazonia.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* Commonly seen throughout the tour.

**Greater Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes melambrotus* Several sightings at Gareno and on the extension.

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* Commonly seen throughout the tour.

**King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa* We had superb close encounters in the forest on the Amazonian extension.

**Andean Condor** *Vultur gryphus* About ten were seen at Antisana NP – magnificent creature! **NT**

**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* Several sightings both on the main tour and on the extension in Amazonia.

**Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* Just one was seen along the main road on our way back from the west to Quito.

**Grey-headed Kite** *Leptodon cayanensis* One seen by some at Wild Sumaco and one on the Amazonian extension.

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* Repeated excellent looks this year – common around Selva Alegre.

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* We had many sightings this year throughout the tour. First at Playa de Oro.

**Black Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus* A total of three birds were seen this year at Playa de Oro and Wild Sumaco.

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus* (H) One was heard calling while on the trails at La Selva. **NT**

**Double-toothed Kite** *Harpagus bidentatus* Just a single sighting from the canopy tower of Napo WC.

**Cinereous Harrier** *Circus cinereus* Four were seen distantly by some at Antisana.

**Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* We had many excellent looks throughout the tour at the lowland locations.

**Slender-billed Kite** *Helicolestes hamatus* ◊ Two were seen from the canopy tower of Napo WC.

**Crane Hawk** *Geranospiza caerulescens* One was seen by the docking area of Napo WC.

**Slate-colored Hawk** *Buteogallus schistaceus* Two sightings on the Amazonia extension.

**Savanna Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis* One adult seen over the Napo River about 5km south of Coca. See note.

**Barred Hawk** *Morphnarchus princeps* two were seen along the Chical Road.

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* Commonly seen throughout the tour.

**Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* One was seen near Ibarra.

**Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma* A few encounters in the higher parts of the Andes. See note.

**Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* Two seen at Antisana and one more near the airport.

**Grey-lined Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* One was seen along the Santiago River at Playa de Oro.

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* One was seen in the Guacamayos area.

**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* One was seen from Angel's house and another on the extension in Amazonia.

**Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* We were lucky to get good looks on the extension both at La Selva and NWC.

**Rufous-sided Crake** *Laterallus melanophaius* (H) It was only heard near Gareno when we had the flat tyre.

**White-throated Crake** *Laterallus albigularis* (H) It was heard a few times on the west in long grassy habitat.

**Grey-breasted Crake** *Laterallus exilis* (H) We heard them on a river island on the extension but they refused to show.

**Ecuadorian Rail** *Rallus aequatorialis* ◊ Amazing looks of two birds near Ibarra.

**Blackish Rail** *Pardirallus nigricans* Amazing looks of two as they were mating in the Wild Sumaco area.



*Blackish Rails at Wild Sumaco (János Oláh).*

**Uniform Crake** *Amauriolimnas concolor* (H) One was heard at Playa de Oro but did not want to play.

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* It was common at Yahuarcocha.

**Andean Coot** *Fulica ardesiaca* It was seen at Yahuarcocha, Antisana and at the airport ponds.

**Grey-winged Trumpeter *Psophia crepitans* (LO)** A group was heard on the extension but Janos had a glimpse too.

**Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*** Just a single bird was seen on the south side of the Napo in Amazonia.

**Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*** Two were seen on the Amazonia extension.

**Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*** Just a few were seen at Antisana National Park.

**American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*** A singleton was seen on the mudflats of the Napo River in Amazonia.

**Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*** One was seen on the airport ponds and five on the Napo River.

**Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*** Just two were seen on the mudflats of the Napo River.

**Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagis gayi* ◊** One was seen very well at Papallacta Pass in superb weather conditions.

**Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*** Two were seen along the pacific coast on our way to Playa de Oro.

**Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*** We had three near Quito airport and a few sightings along the Napo River.

**Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*** About 15 were seen near Quito airport.

**Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*** One was seen on the ponds near Quito airport.

**Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*** The most commonly seen shorebird throughout the tour.

**Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*** One was seen on the ponds near Quito airport.

**Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*** About 15 were seen near Quito airport.

**Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*** Just a few were see near Quito airport.

**Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*** A rare inland sighting on the ponds near Quito airport.

**Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*** A singleton was observed on the ponds near Quito airport.

**Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*** It was seen at Yahuarcocha and Antisana National Park.

**Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*** Two were seen on the coast on our way to Playa de Oro.

**Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*** Just four were seen along the Napo River on the extension.

**Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*** Two were seen on the Napo River in Amazonia.



*Large-billed Tern on the Napo River near La Selva (János Oláh).*

**Rock Pigeon (feral) *Columba livia*** A few were seen throughout the tour.

**Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciose*** Excellent scope views at Wild Sumaco.

**Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*** A few sightings on the tour.

**Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*** Commonly seen throughout the tour in lowland habitats.

**Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea*** A few were seen on both slopes of the Andes.

**Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*** It was commonly heard and also seen a few times. **VU**

**Dusky Pigeon *Patagioenas goodsoni* ◊** Many good looks at Playa de Oro on the western lowlands.

**Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerine*** Seen twice in dry interandean habitat.

**Ecuadorian Ground-Dove *Columbina buckleyi* ◊** Several were seen on our travel day to Playa de Oro.

**Croaking Ground-Dove *Columbina cruziana*** A few were seen along the cost on our way to Playa de Oro.

**Ruddy Ground Dove** *Columbina talpacoti* It was seen twice in disturbed habitat close to Gareno.  
**Black-winged Ground Dove** *Metriopelia melanoptera* About 20 were seen on our day at Antisana National Park.  
**Sapphire Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon saphirina* ◊ (H) We heard one on the Tiputini trail of NWC but no response.  
**Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana* A male was seen well on the trail at La Selva on the extension.  
**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* At least two were seen. A common but shy bird in the west.  
**Grey-fronted Dove** *Leptotila rufaxilla* Two were seen on the extension.  
**White-throated Quail-Dove** *Zenitrygon frenata* ◊ It was seen very well on the Mashpi Road.  
**Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* Commonly seen in the dry Inter-Andean places like around Quito.  
**Hoatzin** *Opisthocomus hoazin* It was very common on the extension in Amazonia.  
**Greater Ani** *Crotophaga major* Regularly seen on the extension in Amazonia.  
**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* A common bird of open habitat and regularly seen.  
**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* Commonly seen and heard throughout the tour.  
**Black-bellied Cuckoo** *Piaya melanogaster* Finally one was tracked down in NWC on the extension.  
**Tropical Screech Owl** *Megascops choliba* One was seen at La Selva.  
**Rufescent Screech Owl** *Megascops ingens* ◊ (H) One was heard at Wild Sumaco but did not want to play.  
**Colombian Screech Owl** *Megascops colombianus* (H) One was heard at Septimo Paraiso but it was very shy. **NT**  
**Tawny-bellied Screech Owl** *Megascops watsonii* Heard at Gareno and one seen on a daytime roost at La Selva.  
**Napo Screech Owl** *Megascops napensis* ◊ Excellent views at Wild Sumaco. See note.  
**Mottled Owl** *Strix virgate* (H) It was heard at Septimo Paraiso near Mindo.  
**'San Isidro Owl'** *Strix spilonotus* ◊ This famous owl gave superb looks this year! See note.  
**Crested Owl** *Lophotrix cristata* Brilliant looks of this stunner at Gareno on a day-roost. Second best bird of the trip!  
**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* (H) One was heard at Playa de Oro.  
**Band-bellied Owl** *Pulsatrix melanota* Two were seen on a day-roost at Wild Sumaco.  
**Andean Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium jardinii* (H) A distant bird was heard calling at Yanacocha on our first day.  
**Cloud-forest Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium nubicola* ◊ (H) One was heard at Septimo Paraiso near Mindo. **VU**  
**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum* (H) Regularly heard on the extension but no sighting.  
**Oilbird** *Steatornis caripensis* Absolutely brilliant looks at this unique bird at Chontal. About 20 birds were seen.



Oilbirds were seen on the west slope (János Oláh).

**Great Potoo** *Nyctibius grandis* We had two amazing night encounters at La Selva on the extension.  
**Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus* We had several good looks at day and night throughout the tour.  
**Andean Potoo** *Nyctibius maculosus* ◊ One was tracked down at San isidro. A much-wanted bird!  
**Rufous Potoo** *Nyctibius bracteatus* ◊ Unbeatable views of this superb bird at Gareno.  
**Sand-colored Nighthawk** *Chordeiles rupestris* A flock of 56 birds were showing well at La Selva's Garzacocha.

**Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* ◇ A roosting birds seen twice from the La Selva canopy tower.  
**Rufous-bellied Nighthawk** *Lurocalis rufiventris* ◇ One was seen near Mindo and another at the Guacamayos area.  
**Blackish Nightjar** *Nyctipolus nigrescens* Just brief views of one flushed from the roadside along the Loreto Road.  
**Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* Several sightings throughout the tour.  
**Band-winged Nightjar** *Systellura longirostris* One was seen in dry habitat near Quito.  
**Swallow-tailed Nightjar** *Uropsalis segmentata* A female was seen very well along the Guacamayos Ridge.  
**Lyre-tailed Nightjar** *Uropsalis lyra* A fine male and two females were seen near Mindo. What a supern bird!  
**Ladder-tailed Nightjar** *Hydropsalis climacocerca* Several were seen nesting on a river island on the extension.  
**Choco Poorwill** *Nyctiphrynus rosenbergi* ◇ A pair was seen very well at Playa de Oro.  
**Chestnut-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne rufilinea* Several sightings on the tour.  
**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* The most common swift on the tour. A flock of 300 at Gareno  
**Grey-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris* Several sightings on the tour.  
**Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyuran* Several sightings on the east. Especially at Wild Sumaco and Gareno  
**Neotropical Palm-Swift** *Tachornis squamata* It was first seen in Gareno and later several on the extension.  
**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis* Regularly seen at Playa de Oro.  
**White-tipped Sicklebill** *Eutoxeres aquila* ◇ Finally one was tracked down on heliconias at Wild Sumaco.  
**Buff-tailed Sicklebill** *Eutoxeres condensatus* ◇ (LO) One was seen on the heliconias by the restaurant at Gareno.  
**Rufous-breasted Hermit** *Glaucis hirsutus* Just two sightings on the Amazonia extension.



Giant Hummingbird was seen on our last day of the main tour at Antisana National Park (János Oláh).

**Bronzy Hermit** *Glaucis aeneus* One was seen at Playa de Oro.  
**Band-tailed Barbthroat** *Threnetes ruckeri* Two were seen at Playa de Oro.  
**White-whiskered Hermit** *Phaethornis yaruqui* ◇ Commonly seen in the west.  
**Green Hermit** *Phaethornis guy* Several encounters in the forest at Wild Sumaco.  
**White-bearded Hermit** *Phaethornis hispidus* One was seen briefly on the extension.  
**Great-billed Hermit** *Phaethornis malaris* Three were seen at Gareno and another on the extension.  
**Tawny-bellied Hermit** *Phaethornis syrmatophorus* ◇ Our only sighting was near Mindo.  
**Reddish Hermit** *Phaethornis ruber* One was seen briefly at NWC by some.  
**Stripe-throated Hermit** *Phaethornis striigularis* One was seen at Playa de Oro.  
**Grey-chinned Hermit** *Phaethornis griseogularis* A well behaving bird was finally seen on flowers at Wild Sumaco.  
**Tooth-billed Hummingbird** *Androdon aequatorialis* ◇ One was seen along the La Union Road. Great bird!  
**Green-fronted Lancebill** *Doryfera ludovicae* (LO) One was seen along the Mashpi Road.  
**Grey-breasted Sabrewing** *Campylopterus largipennis* We had good looks of this one at Gareno.  
**Napo Sabrewing** *Campylopterus villaviscensio* ◇ Excellent looks of both sexes at this stunner at Wild Sumaco. **NT**  
**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* Small numbers were seen throughout the tour.

**Brown Violetear** *Colibri delphinae* Commonly encountered on feeders, very common at Wild Sumaco.  
**Green Violetear** *Colibri thalassinus* One was seen at Angel Paz near Mindo.  
**Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans* Commonly encountered on feeders, especially numerous at Wild Sumaco.  
**Fiery Topaz** *Topaza pyra* ◇ According to their tail streamers, a total of three different males were seen at Gareno.  
**Violet-headed Hummingbird** *Klais guimeti* We had several sightings in the Wild Sumaco area.  
**Wire-crested Thorntail** *Discosura popelairii* Charismatic species seen well at Wild Sumaco. 4th bird of the trip! **NT**  
**Green Thorntail** *Discosura conversii* ◇ Just two were seen on the feeders at Amagusa on the west.  
**Western Emerald** *Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus* ◇ Two males were seen around Quito at the start of the extension.  
**Crowned Woodnymph** *Thalurania colombica* ◇ Commonly seen in the west.  
**Fork-tailed Woodnymph** *Thalurania furcata* Common on the east slope and a few in Amazonia.  
**Blue-headed Sapphire** *Hylocharis grayi* ◇ One was seen in dry habitat near Ibarra.  
**Golden-tailed Sapphire** *Chrysuronia oenone* It was common on the feeders at Wild Sumaco.  
**Olive-spotted Hummingbird** *Leucippus chlorocercus* ◇ Superb looks of this river island bird in the heavy rain.  
**Many-spotted Hummingbird** *Taphrospilus hypostictus* ◇ Common on the feeders of Wild Sumaco.  
**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl* It was very common on the west.  
**Andean Emerald** *Amazilia franciae* ◇ Regular encounters on the west.  
**Glittering-throated Emerald** *Amazilia fimbriata* Two sightings near Gareno.  
**Purple-chested Hummingbird** *Amazilia rosenbergi* ◇ A few sightings at Playa de Oro.  
**Speckled Hummingbird** *Adelomyia melanogenys* It was seen at the Bellavista and San Isidro feeders.  
**Ecuadorian Piedtail** *Phlogophilus hemileucurus* ◇ We got good looks at this difficult bird at Wild Sumaco. **VU**  
**Black-throated Brilliant** *Heliodoxa schreibersii* ◇ A single male was seen on the feeders of Wild Sumaco.  
**Gould's Jewelfront** *Heliodoxa aurescens* ◇ Several good views on the feeders of Wild Sumaco.  
**Fawn-breasted Brilliant** *Heliodoxa rubinoides* ◇ Regular sightings at higher elevations.  
**Green-crowned Brilliant** *Heliodoxa jacula* It was the most common brilliant on the west slope.  
**Empress Brilliant** *Heliodoxa imperatrix* ◇ This Chocó bird was seen along the Mashpi Road and Amgusa Reserve.  
**Violet-fronted Brilliant** *Heliodoxa leadbeateri* About five birds were seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**White-tailed Hillstar** *Urochroa bougueri* ◇ One was seen on the east slope.  
**Buff-tailed Coronet** *Boissonneaua flavescens* ◇ It was most common on the feeders at Guango and Bellavista.  
**Chestnut-breasted Coronet** *Boissonneaua matthewsii* ◇ This handsome bird was seen at San Isidro and Guango.



*Chestnut-breasted Coronet was common at Guango and San Isidro (János Oláh).*

**Velvet-purple Coronet** *Boissonneaua jardini* ◇ Several sightings of this stunner on the west!  
**Shining Sunbeam** *Aglaeactis cupripennis* A few were seen at Papallacta and Antisana.  
**Ecuadorian Hillstar** *Oreotrochilus chimborazo* ◇ Two were seen at Papallacta and both sexes later at Antisana.  
**Bronzy Inca** *Coeligena coeligena* It was only seen on the feeders of San Isidro.

**Brown Inca** *Coeligena wilsoni* ◇ Regularly seen on the feeders of the west.  
**Collared Inca** *Coeligena torquata* This handsome bird gave us many superb looks at higher elevations.  
**Buff-winged Starfrontlet** *Coeligena lutetiae* It was common at Yanacocha and several were also seen at Guango.  
**Sword-billed Hummingbird** *Ensifera ensifera* Just one seen on the feeders of Yanacocha and another at Guango.  
**Great Sapphirewing** *Pterophanes cyanopterus* It was common at Yanacocha and others seen at Papallacta too.  
**Giant Hummingbird** *Patagona gigas* Excellent looks on our day at Antisana.  
**Gorgeted Sunangel** *Heliangelus strophanus* ◇ Several were seen on the feeders at Bellavista.  
**Tourmaline Sunangel** *Heliangelus exortis* ◇ Several were seen on the feeders of Guango.  
**Sapphire-vented Puffleg** *Eriocnemis luciani* Up to 15 were seen on the feeders at Yanacocha.  
**Golden-breasted Puffleg** *Eriocnemis mosquera* ◇ Up to 10 were seen on the feeders at Yanacocha.  
**Hoary Puffleg** *Haplophaedia lugens* ◇ Amazing views of three birds on the west.  
**Purple-bibbed Whitetip** *Urostitte benjamini* ◇ It was regularly seen around Mindo – easy in October!  
**Rufous-vented Whitetip** *Urostitte ruficrissa* ◇ Several great views of both sexes on the feeders at Wild Sumaco.  
**Booted Racket-Tail** *Ocreatus underwoodii* Regularly seen on both the east and west including some superb males.  
**Black-tailed Trainbearer** *Lesbia victoriae* Several encounters with long-tailed males in dry Inter-Andean habitats.  
**Tyrian Metaltail** *Metallura tyrianthina* A few were seen at higher elevations like Guango and Yanacocha.  
**Viridian Metaltail** *Metallura williami* We had many close looks at Papallacta.  
**Blue-mantled Thornbill** *Chalcostigma stanleyi* ◇ We had excellent views of a male at Papallacta.  
**Long-tailed Sylph** *Agelaiocercus kingie* Many good looks at this stunner on the feeders of San Isidro.  
**Violet-tailed Sylph** *Agelaiocercus coelestis* ◇ Commonly encountered on the feeders and in the forest on the west.  
**Wedge-billed Hummingbird** *Schistes geoffroyi* One was seen at Angel Paz on the west. See note.  
**Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliodytes barroti* Several excellent looks at this beauty at Playa de Oro.  
**Black-eared Fairy** *Heliodytes auritus* We had good looks of one near Garenó.  
**Long-billed Starthroat** *Heliomaster longirostris* One was seen at the Cocha Antshirke swamp at La Selva.  
**Purple-throated Woodstar** *Calliphlox mitchellii* ◇ Good numbers were seen on the feeders on the west.  
**White-bellied Woodstar** *Chaetocercus mulsant* ◇ Just a few were seen on the west slope and around Guango.  
**Gorgeted Woodstar** *Chaetocercus heliodor* ◇ A male was seen at Wild Sumaco and two females at San Isidro.  
**Golden-headed Quetzal** *Pharomachrus auriceps* We had good views on both slopes of the Andes.  
**Crested Quetzal** *Pharomachrus antisianus* A male seen by some at Angel paz and later two males at San Isidro.  
**Slaty-tailed Trogon** *Trogon massena* ◇ A pair was seen at Humedal de Yalaré.  
**Choco Trogon** *Trogon comptus* ◇ A nice male was seen along the La Union Road.



Male Slaty-tailed Trogon (left) and male Choco Trogon on the western lowlands (János Oláh).

**Black-tailed Trogon** *Trogon melanurus* We had great looks of a nice male on the extension.  
**White-tailed Trogon** *Trogon chionurus* A few were seen on the western lowlands. See note.  
**Green-backed Trogon** *Trogon viridis* We had several sightings on the extension. See note.  
**Gartered Trogon** *Trogon caligatus* Good views of a male at Playa de Oro. See note.  
**Amazonian Trogon** *Trogon ramonianus* A fine male was seen at Garenó. See note.  
**Black-throated Trogon** *Trogon rufus* A male was seen at Playa de Oro.  
**Collared Trogon** *Trogon collaris* We had good views along the Mashpi Road.  
**Masked Trogon** *Trogon personatus* We had one along the Mashpi Road and two birds at the Guacamayos.  
**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* We had four sightings of six birds on the extension in Amazonia.  
**Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle inda* We had several sightings on the extension in Amazonia.  
**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana* One was seen on the extension.  
**Amazon Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle amazon* Just one was seen on the extension.  
**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* A few sightings on the west and several on the extension.  
**Amazonian Motmot** *Momotus momota* (H) Regularly heard on the extension in Amazonia. See note.  
**Rufous Motmot** *Baryphthengus martii* Two were seen at Septimo Paraiso near Mindo.  
**Broad-billed Motmot** *Electron platyrhynchum* (H) Several heard on the west but remained unseen.  
**White-eared Jacamar** *Galbalcyrrhynchus leucotis* ◇ One was seen at our 'flat tyre' place near Garenó.

**Brown Jacamar** *Brachygalba lugubris* One was seen at La Selva on the extension.  
**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda* One was seen along the La Union Road – a rather high area.  
**Coppery-chested Jacamar** *Galbula pastazae* ◊ (H) It was heard along the Loreto road but no joy. **VU**  
**White-chinned Jacamar** *Galbula tombacea* ◊ We had good looks at one at La Selva on the extension.  
**Purplish Jacamar** *Galbula chalcothorax* ◊ A pair was seen along the trails of La Selva.  
**Great Jacamar** *Jacamerops aureus* (H) We heard it distantly at Playa de Oro and at La Selva too.  
**White-necked Puffbird** *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* Two were seen at Humedal de Yalaré on the west.  
**Black-breasted Puffbird** *Notharchus pectoralis* ◊ We had good looks of one at Humedal de Yalaré.  
**Pied Puffbird** *Notharchus tectus* About six of the subsectus western race were seen at Humedal de Yalaré.  
**Chestnut-capped Puffbird** *Bucco macrodactylus* ◊ One was seen at Napo WC on the extension.  
**Collared Puffbird** *Bucco capensis* Nice views of this handsome species at La Selva on the extension.



Collared Puffbird (left) at La Selva and Black-streaked Puffbird at Wild Sumaco (János Oláh).

**Barred Puffbird** *Nystalus radiates* Three wet birds were seen along the Mashpi Road in rain.  
**White-chested Puffbird** *Malacoptila fusca* ◊ (H) We heard it along the trails of Napo WC.  
**Black-streaked Puffbird** *Malacoptila folvogularis* ◊ Excellent prolonged looks at Wild Sumaco.  
**White-whiskered Puffbird** *Malacoptila panamensis* (NL) One was seen at Playa de Oro by some.  
**Lanceolated Monklet** *Micromonacha lanceolata* ◊ We had three at Mashpi Cochlate Farm. Unobtrusive species!  
**Brown Nunlet** *Nonnula brunnea* ◊ One was seen at La Selva on the extension in Amazonia.  
**Black-fronted Nunbird** *Monasa nigrifrons* The most commonly encountered *Monasa* species on the extension.  
**White-fronted Nunbird** *Monasa morphoeus* First seen at Gareno and then more sightings on the extension.  
**Yellow-billed Nunbird** *Monasa flavirostris* One was seen at Gareno and others heard on the extension.  
**Swallow-winged Puffbird** *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* Many nice looks at this conspicuous treetop bird on the extension.  
**Scarlet-crowned Barbet** *Capito aurovirens* ◊ A pair was seen catching swarming ants on the extension.  
**Orange-fronted Barbet** *Capito squamatus* ◊ A female was seen at Playa de Oro. **NT**  
**Gilded Barbet** *Capito auratus* The common barbet of Amazonia first seen at Wild Sumaco on the tour.  
**Five-coloured Barbet** *Capito quinticolor* ◊ A male was finally tracked down at Playa de Oro. **VU**  
**Lemon-throated Barbet** *Eubucco richardsoni* A pair was seen at Gareno and others heard on the extension.  
**Red-headed Barbet** *Eubucco bourcierii* ◊ Common bird, we had many good views of this stunning species.  
**Toucan Barbet** *Semnorhis ramphastinus* ◊ Superb looks at Angel Paz and Mashpi. **NT**  
**Crimson-rumped Toucanet** *Aulacorhynchus haematopygus* ◊ Several sightings on the west.  
**Lettered Aracari** *Pteroglossus incriptus* Three were seen on the extension.  
**Ivory-billed Aracari** *Pteroglossus azara* Two were seen at Gareno and several others from the canopy towers.  
**Chestnut-eared Aracari** *Pteroglossus castanotis* Several sightings at Wild Sumaco and in Amazonia.  
**Many-banded Aracari** *Pteroglossus pluricinctus* The most common aracari in Amazonia.  
**Pale-mandibled Aracari** *Pteroglossus erythropygius* ◊ Regularly seen in the west. See note.  
**Golden-collared Toucanet** *Selenidera reinwardtii* We had good looks at Wild Sumaco and in Amazonia.

**Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan** *Andigena hypoglauca* Three were seen along the Chalpi trail on the east slope! **NT**  
**Plate-billed Mountain Toucan** *Andigena laminirostris* ◊ We had good views at Bellavista! **NT**  
**Black-billed Mountain Toucan** *Andigena nigrirostris* ◊ We saw a sneaky bird along the Guacamayos ridge.  
**Channel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos vitellinus* It was first seen at Wild Sumaco and later on the extension.  
**Choco Toucan** *Ramphastos brevis* ◊ Several great looks on the west.  
**White-throated Toucan** *Ramphastos tucanus* It was first seen at Gareno and it was common in Amazonia. See note.  
**Yellow-throated Toucan** *Ramphastos ambiguus* ◊ Seen on both side of the Andes. See note. **NT**  
**Lafresnaye's Piculet** *Picumnus lafresnayi* We had two sightings at Wild Sumaco.  
**Yellow-tufted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes cruentatus* Many sightings of this colourful bird of the east.  
**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani* It was common in open habitats of the west.  
**Little Woodpecker** *Veniliornis passerinus* One was seen on a river island on the extension.  
**Yellow-vented Woodpecker** *Veniliornis dignus* ◊ A pair gave excellent rare eye-level views at Angel Paz.



Female Powerful Woodpecker (left) at Bellavista and Yellow-vented Woodpecker at Angel Paz (János Oláh).

**Bar-bellied Woodpecker** *Veniliornis nigriceps* ◊ (**H**) One was heard at Yanacocha.  
**Red-stained Woodpecker** *Veniliornis affinis* One was seen at Napo WC on the extension.  
**Choco Woodpecker** *Veniliornis chocoensis* A fine male along the La Union road was a Birdquest lifer!  
**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Leuconotopicus fumigatus* Two were seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**Lita Woodpecker** *Piculus litae* ◊ Two males were seen at Playa de Oro.  
**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus* A breeding pair was seen at Wild Sumaco on our way out.  
**Crimson-mantled Woodpecker** *Colaptes rivolii* Excellent views of this stunner in the Mindo and San Isidro areas.  
**Spot-breasted Woodpecker** *Colaptes punctigula* Two sightings on the Amazonia extension.  
**Cinnamon Woodpecker** *Celeus loricatus* Several sightings of this stunning bird on the western lowlands.  
**Scaly-breasted Woodpecker** *Celeus grammicus* Two were seen at Napo WC on the extension.  
**Chestnut Woodpecker** *Celeus elegans* One was seen at Napo WC on the extension.  
**Cream-colored Woodpecker** *Celeus flavus* A fine male was seen at La Selva.  
**Ringed Woodpecker** *Celeus torquatus* A pair gave excellent looks from the canopy tower of La Selva. See note.  
**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* A pair was seen along the lower Mashpi road.  
**Powerful Woodpecker** *Campephilus pollens* A pair was seen at Bellavista in the Tandayapa Valley.  
**Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucos* Regularly seen in the east and on the extension too.  
**Guayaquil Woodpecker** *Campephilus gayaquilensis* ◊ Two brief sightings on the western lowlands. **NT**  
**Black Caracara** *Daptrius ater* It was seen first at Gareno and commonly on the extension.  
**Red-throated Caracara** *Ibycter americanus* This noisy bird was heard at Gareno and later we saw them at Napo WC.  
**Carunculated Caracara** *Phalacrocorax carunculatus* ◊ A few around Papallacta and very common at Antisana.  
**Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima* Just a few sightings along the Napo River.  
**Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans* One seen at Playa de Oro and more sightings on the extension.  
**Barred Forest Falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* One was seen well at Septimo Paraiso and one briefly at Wild Sumaco.

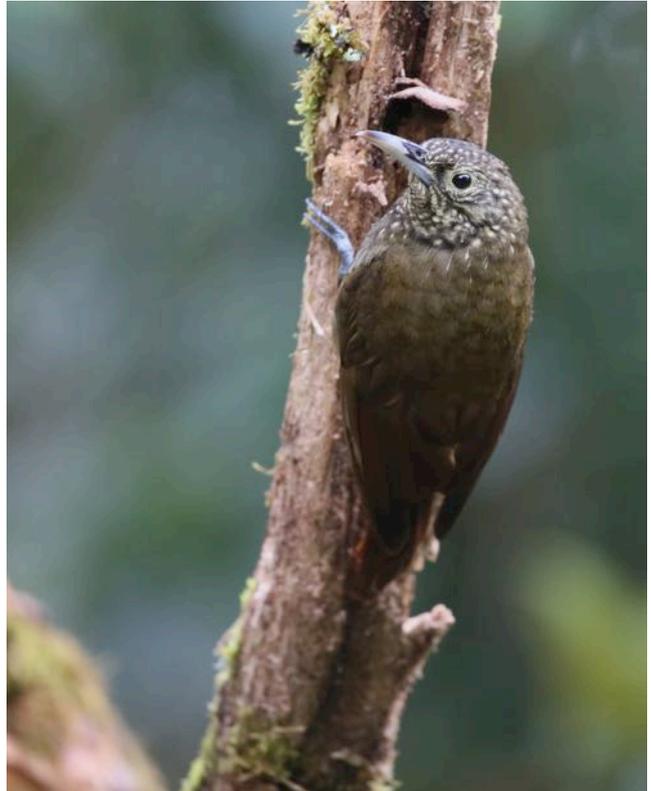
Lined Forest Falcon *Micrastur gilvicollis* (H) It was heard at Wild Sumaco.  
 Collared Forest Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* (H) It was heard calling at Wild Sumaco and in the San Isidro area.  
 Buckley's Forest Falcon *Micrastur buckleyi* ◊ (H) A pair was heard at Wild Sumaco but did not show.  
 American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* Scattered sightings at higher elevations all along the tour.  
 Merlin *Falco columbarius* One was seen near Ibarra.  
 Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* Two sightings at Playa de Oro and regular encounters on the extension.  
 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* We had six different sightings on the tour.  
 Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet *Touit huetii* ◊ A fast-flying flock of 24 were seen from the Napo WC canopy tower.  
 Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola* (H) It was heard in the San Isidro area.  
 Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanoptera* It was common in the east. The Yasúni parrotlick was a spectacle!  
 Rose-faced Parrot *Pyrilia pulchra* ◊ We had several encounters on the western lowlands.



Rose-faced Parrot (left) in the Choco and Scarlet Macaw at Napo WC (János Oláh).

Orange-cheeked Parrot *Pyrilia barrabandi* ◊ About 12 were seen at the Yasúbi parrot lick on the extension.  
 Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus* We got very good looks at Angel Paz.  
 White-capped Parrot *Pionus seniloides* We got very nice perched views in the San Isidro area.  
 Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* We saw them at Playa de Oro and more regularly on the east.  
 Bronze-winged Parrot *Pionus chalcopterus* The common parrot of the western lowlands.  
 Yellow-crowned Amazon *Amazona ochrocephala* A few were seen on the extension.  
 Scaly-naped Amazon *Amazona mercenarius* One was seen in flight at Wild Sumaco.  
 Southern Mealy Amazon *Amazona farinosa* Several sightings throughout the tour in the lowlands. **NT**  
 Orange-winged Amazon *Amazona amazonica* Several flocks were seen on the extension in Amazonia.  
 Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis* Two were seen on a roadside stop towards Playa de Oro.  
 Black-headed Parrot *Pionites melanocephalus* Two sightings from the canopy towers on the extension.  
 Maroon-tailed Parakeet *Pyrhura melanura* ◊ Both western and eastern race was seen well. See note.  
 Dusky-headed Parakeet *Aratinga weddellii* Just eight were seen on the last day of the extension.  
 Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilatus* Frequently seen in flight but we had good scope views near Gareno.  
 Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna* Several excellent views of this magical bird on the extension!  
 Great Green Macaw *Ara ambiguus* ◊ Five birds were seen very well in flight at Playa de Oro.  
 Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* Just a few sightings at the Napo WC on the extension.  
 Chestnut-fronted Macaw *Ara severus* We had several at Wild Sumaco and it was common on the extension.  
 White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus* We saw a few birds in the Gareno area.  
 Sapayoa *Sapayoa aenigma* ◊ Four were seen very well at Playa de Oro. Probably the best place in the World to see it!  
 Chestnut-winged Cincloides *Cinclodes albidiventris* We had good looks at Papallacta and Antisana. See note.  
 Stout-billed Cincloides *Cinclodes excelsior* ◊ We had good looks at Papallacta and Antisana National Park.  
 Lesser Hornero *Furnarius minor* ◊ (H) Heard only on a Napo River island on the extension.  
 Pacific Hornero *Furnarius cinnamomeus* ◊ We had many good views on the western lowlands.  
 Andean Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura andicola* Two were seen at Papallacta.  
 White-chinned Thistletail *Asthenes fuliginosa* ◊ One was seen very well at Papallacta.  
 Streak-backed Canastero *Asthenes wyatti* Just one was seen at Antisana National Park.  
 Many-striped Canastero *Asthenes flammulata* ◊ Several were seen at Antisana Park.  
 Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa* (H) We heard this bamboo bird at Bellavista but it did not show.  
 Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae* Just two sightings of this most common spinetail.  
 Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis* (H) This grass-loving bird was only heard at Wild Sumaco.  
 Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyuran* It was seen twice in the western lowlands.

**White-bellied Spinetail** *Synallaxis propinqua* This skulking species was seen well in the rain on a Napo River island.  
**Dusky Spinetail** *Synallaxis moesta* ◊ (H) One was heard at Wild Sumaco. **NT**  
**White-browed Spinetail** *Hellmayrea gularis* We had great looks of this unusual spinetail at Yanacochoa.  
**Parker's Spinetail** *Cranioleuca vulpecula* Just two of this river island specialist were seen on the extension.  
**Red-faced Spinetail** *Cranioleuca erythrops* We had two in a mixed flock near Mindo.  
**Ash-browed Spinetail** *Cranioleuca curtata* Regularly seen in mixed flocks at Wild Sumaco. **VU**  
**Speckled Spinetail** *Cranioleuca gutturata* One was seen along the Tiputini trail of Napo WC.  
**Spotted Barbtail** *Premnoplex brunnescens* We had great views along the Mashpi Road and the Guacamayos trail.  
**Pearled Treerunner** *Margarornis squamiger* This handsome bird was regularly seen in high elevation mixed flocks.  
**Streaked Tuftedcheek** *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii* Sightings at Bellavista and along the Guacamayos trail.  
**Point-tailed Palmcreeper** *Berlepschia rikeri* Striking bird which gave us excellent looks near Gareno and at La Selva.



Northern Barred Woodcreeper (left) at Playa de Oro and Montane Woodcreeper at San Isidro (János Oláh).

**Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia variegaticeps* ◊ We had good views at Milpe. See note.  
**Montane Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia striaticollis* Regularly seen in mixed flocks at Wild Sumaco.  
**Lineated Foliage-gleaner** *Syndactyla subalaris* One was seen well along the Mashpi road.  
**Western Woodhaunter** *Hyloctistes virgatus* two were seen at Playa de Oro. See note.  
**Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner** *Philydor rufum* It was seen in a mixed flocks at Milpe and at Wild Sumaco.  
**Black-billed Treehunter** *Thripadectes melanorhynchus* ◊ (H) It was only heard at Wild Sumaco.  
**Striped Treehunter** *Thripadectes holostictus* One was seen at Bellavista and another one at San Isidro.  
**Steak-capped Treehunter** *Thripadectes virgaticeps* ◊ One was seen along the Mashpi road.  
**Black-tailed Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus rufigularis* ◊ One was seen briefly at La Selva on the extension.  
**Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* Several good encounters throughout the tour.  
**Streaked Xenops** *Xenops rutilans* Just two were seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**Plain-brown Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* Several birds were seen at Playa de Oro and on the extension.  
**Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Several sightings on the east - this is the 'amazonus' race.  
**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Regularly seen throughout the tour in lowland habitat.  
**Long-billed Woodcreeper** *Nasica longirostris* Just one was seen at La Selva on the extension.  
**Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper** *Dendrozetetes rufigula* (H) Regularly heard on the extension but so sightings.  
**Strong-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus* We had our best views at Septimo Paraiso.  
**Northern Barred Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae* One was seen at Playa de Oro.  
**Black-banded Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* One was seen at La Selva on the extension.  
**Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex picus* One was seen at La Selva on the extension.  
**Striped Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus* It was seen at La Selva and Napo WC as well.  
**Elegant Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus elegans* One was seen along the trails of La Selva.  
**Buff-throated Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* Regularly seen on the extension. See note.  
**Black-striped Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus* We had good looks at Playa de Oro.

**Spotted Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius* Several sightings on the west.  
**Olive-backed Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus triangularis* two sightings on the east slope at Wild Sumaco.  
**Streak-headed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* Just two were seen on the western lowlands.  
**Montane Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* Many sightings throughout the tour at higher elevation.  
**Duida Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes duidae* (H) One of this canopy species was heard at La Selva. See note.  
**Brown-billed Scythebill** *Campylorhamphus pusillus* This scarce bird was seen very well along the La Union road.  
**Fasciated Antshrike** *Cymbilaimus lineatus* (H) We heard one along the Tiputini trail at Napo WC.  
**Fulvous Antshrike** *Frederickena fulva* ◊ Great views of a male on the trails of La Selva. See note.  
**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* (H) It was heard at Plaxa de Oro and on the Amazonia extension.  
**Lined Antshrike** *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus* Several great looks at Wild Suamco. **VU**  
**Cocha Antshrike** *Thamnophilus praecox* ◊ A pair of this hard-to-find specialty was seen very well at La Selva. **NT**



Female Cocha Antshrike at La Selva, the ultimate antbird in the Ecuadorian Amazon (János Oláh).

**Castelnau's Antshrike** *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus* A pair was seen on a Napo River island in Amazonia. **NT**  
**Plain-winged Antshrike** *Thamnophilus schistaceus* It was first seen at Wild Sumaco and later on the extension.  
**Mouse-colored Antshrike** *Thamnophilus murinus* (H) We heard it in the Gareno area.  
**Black-crowned Antshrike** *Thamnophilus atrinucha* Two sightings on the west. See note.  
**Russet Antshrike** *Thamnistes anabatinus* Singletons were seen at Wild Sumaco in mixed flocks.  
**Plain Antvireo** *Dysithamnus mentalis* Two were seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**Spot-crowned Antvireo** *Dysithamnus puncticeps* ◊ (H) Several heard at Playa e Oro but did not want to play.  
**White-streaked Antvireo** *Dysithamnus leucostictus* ◊ Superb looks of a female at Wild Sumaco. A rare species.  
**Dusky-throated Antshrike** *Thamnomanes ardesiacus* Regularly seen on the Amazonia extension.  
**Cinereous Antshrike** *Thamnomanes caesius* Regularly seen, a core member of Amazonian under-storey flocks.  
**Checker-throated Antwren** *Epinecrophylla fulviventris* A female was seen by some at Playa de Oro.  
**Yasuni Antwren** *Epinecrophylla fjeldsaaei* ◊ A fine male was seen at Napo WC on the extension.  
**Foothill Antwren** *Epinecrophylla spodionota* ◊ We had excellent looks at a female at Wild Sumaco.  
**Ornate Antwren** *Epinecrophylla ornata* A male was seen at Wild Sumaco and others heard on the extension.  
**Rufous-tailed Antwren** *Epinecrophylla erythrura* A male was seen along the trails of Napo WC on the extension.  
**Plain-throated Antwren** *Isleria hauxwelli* We had repeated sightings on the extension.  
**Moustached Antwren** *Myrmotherula ignota* ◊ A few sightings at Playa de Oro and also seen on the east at Gareno.  
**Pygmy Antwren** *Myrmotherula brachyuran* It was heard at Gareno and seen from the canopy tower of Napo WC.  
**Amazonian Streaked Antwren** *Myrmotherula multostriata* A male was seen at Napo WC.  
**Pacific Antwren** *Myrmotherula pacifica* A pair was seen at Playa de Oro.  
**White-flanked Antwren** *Myrmotherula axillaris* Several good views on both western and eastern lowlands.  
**Slaty Antwren** *Myrmotherula schisticolor* A male gave superb looks at Mashpi and a female at Wild Sumaco.

Rio Suno Antwren *Myrmotherula sunensis* ◊ A male was seen in a mixed flock at La Selva. A rare bird.  
 Long-winged Antwren *Myrmotherula longipennis* A male was seen well along the Tiputini trail of Napo WC.  
 Grey Antwren *Myrmotherula menetriesii* We had several sightings on the extension.  
 Banded Antbird *Dichrozona cincta* One was tracked down and seen well at Napo WC in Amazonia.  
 Dugand's Antwren *Herpsilochmus dugandi* ◊ A male was seen high in the canopy at Gareno.  
 Yellow-breasted Antwren *Herpsilochmus axillaris* Excellent looks of this canopy bird at Wild Sumaco. **VU**  
 Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhophias quixensis* About six were seen on the western lowland.  
 Streak-headed Antbird *Drymophila striaticeps* ◊ It was seen well at Bellavista and at San Isidro. See note.  
 Rufous-rumped Antwren *Terenura callinota* ◊ Fantastic eye-level views of a male at Mashpi also at Wild Sumaco.  
 Grey Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens* A pair was seen at Gareno and others were heard on the east.  
 Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina* Good views were obtained at Playa de Oro.  
 Blackish Antbird *Cercomacra nigrescens* two sightings of males along the trails of Wild Sumaco.  
 Black Antbird *Cercomacra serva* (H) One was heard at Gareno but did not want to play.  
 White-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena leuconota* ◊ A male showed very well at Wild Sumaco.  
 Black-faced Antbird *Myrmoborus myotherinus* Heard at Gareno and seen on the Amazonia extension.  
 Peruvian Warbling Antbird *Hypocnemis peruviana* ◊ (H) Heard at Gareno and in Amazonia but eluded us. See note.  
 Yellow-browed Antbird *Hypocnemis hypoxantha* We had great looks at this stunning antbird at Gareno.  
 Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia* Good looks finally at this common 'varzea' antbird on the extension.



Male Silvered Antbird at Napo WC (János Oláh).

Spot-winged Antbird *Schistocichla leucostigma* Fleeting views at La Selva followed by a nice pair at Napo WC.  
 Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul* A female was seen at the Mashpi Chocolate farm.  
 Stub-tailed Antbird *Myrmeciza berlepschi* ◊ Excellent looks at this specialty at Playa de Oro.  
 White-shouldered Antbird *Myrmeciza melanoceps* ◊ This loud songster was finally seen at Napo WC.  
 Plumbeous Antbird *Myrmeciza hyperythra* We had good looks at this common 'varzea' antbird on the extension.  
 Sooty Antbird *Myrmeciza fortis* We had great views at la Selva.  
 Zeledon's Antbird *Myrmeciza zeledoni* ◊ Several great views on the western lowlands. See note.  
 White-plumed Antbird *Pithys albifrons* (H) One heard along the Tiputini trail of Napo WC did not want to play.  
 Bicolored Antbird *Gymnopithys bicolor* Several great looks at Playa de Oro. See note.  
 White-cheeked Antbird *Gymnopithys leucaspis* Excellent looks with the small ant-swarm at La Selva. See note.  
 Lunulated Antbird *Gymnopithys lunulatus* ◊ Walk-away views of a female and later a pair at Napo WC.  
 Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides* ◊ Excellent looks of both sexes at Playa de Oro.  
 Spot-backed Antbird *Hylophylax naevius* ◊ A male was seen by some at Wild Sumaco.  
 Dot-backed Antbird *Hylophylax punctulatus* ◊ This 'varzea' specialty was seen very well on the extension.  
 Common Scale-backed Antbird *Willisornis poecilinotus* A female at Wild Sumaco and others on the extension.

**Black-spotted Bare-Eye** *Phlegopsis nigromaculata* We had two sightings on the extension of this loud antbird.  
**Reddish-winged Bare-Eye** *Phlegopsis erythroptera* ◊ We had excellent views at La Selva with the small ant-swarm.  
**Ocellated Antbird** *Phaenostictus mcleannani* ◊ A shy pair was seen by some and others heard at Playa de Oro.  
**Rufous-capped Antthrush** *Formicarius colma* (H) It was singing below us from the canopy tower at Napo.  
**Black-faced Antthrush** *Formicarius analis* Heard at Gareno and later seen at Napo WC.  
**Black-headed Antthrush** *Formicarius nigricapillus* ◊ (H) It was heard distantly along the La Union road.  
**Rufous-breasted Antthrush** *Formicarius rufipectus* ◊ Two were seen at Angel Paz near Mindo. Heard on the east.  
**Short-tailed Antthrush** *Chamaeza campanisona* Regularly heard and one was seen by some at Wild Sumaco.  
**Undulated Antpitta** *Grallaria squamigera* (H) One was heard at Yanacocha but unfortunately kept its distance.  
**Giant Antpitta** *Grallaria gigantea* ◊ The star bird of Angel was performing well – a juvenile bird. **VU**  
**Scaled Antpitta** *Grallaria guatemalensis* (H) Heard along the Mashpi road but the usual result - no sighting.  
**Plain-backed Antpitta** *Grallaria haplonota* This shy bird was seen on the feeder at Wild Sumaco.  
**Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** *Grallaria ruficapilla* Regularly heard and one seen along the Guacamayos trail.  
**Yellow-breasted Antpitta** *Grallaria flavotincta* ◊ An adult and a juvenile gave excellent looks at Angel Paz.  
**White-bellied Antpitta** *Grallaria hypoleuca* ◊ One was seen on the feeder at San Isidro.  
**Rufous Antpitta** *Grallaria rufula* (H) It was heard at Yanacocha and Papallacta but not showing.  
**Tawny Antpitta** *Grallaria quitensis* ◊ We had two at Papallacta and two more at Antisana National Park.  
**Streak-chested Antpitta** *Hyllopezus perspicillatus* ◊ One was seen very well at Playa de Oro. Excellent spotting JC!



*Streak-chested Antpitta at Playa de Oro (János Oláh).*

**Thrush-like Antpitta** *Myrmothera campanisona* ◊ (H) This 'ghost' was heard at Gareno and on the extension too.  
**Ochre-breasted Antpitta** *Grallaricula flavirostris* ◊ Great views at Wild Sumaco on the east **NT**  
**Slaty-crowned Antpitta** *Grallaricula nana* (H) It was heard along the Guacamayos trail but could not see it.  
**Chestnut-belted Gnateater** *Conopophaga aurita* ◊ We had excellent views of this stunning bird at La Selva.  
**Chestnut-crowned Gnateater** *Conopophaga castaneiceps* ◊ (H) We got close but remained unseen at Wild Sumaco.  
**Rufous-crowned Pittasoma** *Pittasoma rufopileatum* ◊ A male was seen with ants at Mashpi Chocolate Farm.  
**Ocellated Tapaculo** *Acropternis orthonyx* (H) Despite trying hard remained heard-only at Bellavista.  
**Rusty-belted Tapaculo** *Liosceles thoracicus* Fantastical views along the trails of La Selva this year!  
**Ash-colored Tapaculo** *Myornis senilis* (LO) It was heard at Yanacocha and brief view at Guacamayos.  
**Northern White-crowned Tapaculo** *Scytalopus atratus* ◊ One was seen very well at Wild Sumaco. See note.  
**Long-tailed Tapaculo** *Scytalopus micropterus* ◊ One was seen on the east slope.  
**Narino Tapaculo** *Scytalopus vicini* ◊ It was seen along the Mashpi road on the west.  
**Choco Tapaculo** *Scytalopus chocoensis* ◊ Superb views along the La Union road!  
**Spillmann's Tapaculo** *Scytalopus spillmanni* ◊ two were seen in the Bellavista area.  
**Paramo Tapaculo** *Scytalopus opacus* ◊ One was seen at Papallacta. See note.

**Blackish Tapaculo** *Scytalopus latrans* ◇ It was seen on our first day at Yanacocha.  
**Wing-barred Piprites** *Piprites chloris* One was seen well at Wild Sumaco  
**Sooty-headed Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias griseiceps* We had good looks near Playa de Oro.  
**Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet** *Tyrannulus elatus* Regularly heard and seen on the extension.  
**Grey Elaenia** *Myiopagis caniceps* A singing male was seen from the La Selva canopy tower, a classic canopy bird.  
**Foothill Elaenia** *Myiopagis olallai* ◇ Great looks at Wild Sumaco. It was described by Paul Coopmans. **VU**  
**Yellow-crowned Elaenia** *Myiopagis flavivertex* ◇ Excellent looks at this unobtrusive varzea species at Napo WC.



Amazonian Royal Flycatcher (left) and Yellow-crowned Elaenia at Napo WC (János Oláh).

**Sierran Elaenia** *Elaenia pallatangae* One was seen in the Bellavista area.  
**Brown-capped Tyrannulet** *Ornithion brunneicapillus* (H) Heard twice at Playa de Oro but no joy in those huge trees!  
**Southern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum* A few seen near Ibarra and also in the Quito area.  
**White-throated Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus leucophrys* We had good looks at this high elevation bird at Yanacocha.  
**White-tailed Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus poecilocercus* Many good views of this warbler-like species on both slopes.  
**Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus minor* Three were seen well at San Isidro.  
**White-banded Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus stictopterus* We had a few at Yanacocha and Papallacta.  
**Tufted Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes parulus* Two were seen along the Calacali road and two at Antisana.  
**Agile Tit-Tyrant** *Uromyias agilis* Excellent looks of one at Papallacta.  
**Torrent Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga cinerea* One was seen on the road along the Chical road.  
**River Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga hypoleuca* Good views of two on a Napo River island on the extension.  
**Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet** *Phaeomyias murina* A rather our of distribution observation near Ibarra!  
**Bronze-olive Pygmy Tyrant** *Pseudotriccus pelzelni* ◇ We got nice looks along the Mashpi road.  
**Rufous-headed Pygmy Tyrant** *Pseudotriccus ruficeps* Excellent views of this tiny skulker on the Guacamayos ridge.  
**Slender-footed Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius gracilipes* One was seen from the La Selva canopy tower.  
**Golden-faced Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius chrysops* ◇ It was regularly seen around Wild Sumaco.  
**Choco Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius albigularis* ◇ We had several sightings on the western lowlands.  
**Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant** *Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus* A few were seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**Ecuadorian Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes gualaquiza* ◇ Repeated good looks at this tiny bird at Wild Sumaco. **NT**  
**Streak-necked Flycatcher** *Mionectes striaticollis* A single sighting only in the Bellavista area.  
**Olive-striped Flycatcher** *Mionectes olivaceus* We saw one at Playa de Oro and one at Wild Sumaco.  
**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleaginous* It was first seen at Wild Sumaco and later on the extension.  
**Slaty-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon superciliosus* Regularly seen in mixed flocks in foothill habitat.  
**Rufous-breasted Flycatcher** *Leptopogon rufipectus* ◇ Just one was seen by some at San Isidro.  
**Flavescent Flycatcher** *Myiophobus flavicans* ◇ We had the best looks at Angel Paz and Mindo.  
**Olive-chested Flycatcher** *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus* ◇ We had nice views of this drab looking specialty on the east.  
**Handsome Flycatcher** *Nephelomyias pulcher* ◇ First seen along the Chical road on the west and later at San Isidro.  
**Ornate Flycatcher** *Myiobus ornatus* We had many sightings of this delightful bird all along the tour.  
**White-eyed Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus zosterops* One of this hemi'tricky' was tracked down at Napo WC.  
**Buff-throated Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus ruficularis* ◇ (H) This localised bird was only heard at Wild Sumaco. **NT**  
**Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant** *Myiornis atricapillus* Two sightings of this diminutive bird at Playa de Oro.  
**Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant** *Lophotriccus pileatus* We had several sightings on the tour.  
**Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant** *Lophotriccus vitiosus* ◇ One was seen at Gareno – such a loud little critter!  
**Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilotriccus ruficeps* Excellent looks at this colourful flycatcher at San Isidro.  
**Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilotriccus calopterus* ◇ (H) Only heard at Gareno.

**Spotted Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum maculatum*** It was seen by some on a Napo River island on the extension.  
**Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*** We had several sightings on the tour.  
**Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*** Great views from the extension canopy towers.  
**Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps*** Two sightings at Playa de Oro on the west.  
**Pacific Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus pacificus*** ◊ We had seen two birds on the trails of Playa de Oro.  
**Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurens*** One was seen along the Mashpi road.  
**Zimmer's Flatbill *Tolmomyias assimilis*** One was seen from the canopy tower at La Selva.  
**Yellow-margined Flatbill *Tolmomyias flavotectus*** We had several good looks at Playa de Oro.  
**Olive-faced Flatbill *Tolmomyias viridiceps*** First seen near Gareno and later on the extension. See note.  
**Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrhomyias cinnamomeus*** We had several sightings in the San Isidro area.  
**Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*** A few were seen along the Loreto road.  
**Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri*** One was seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*** We had several sightings on the tour.  
**Northern Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*** An adult and juvenile was seen along the La Union road.  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*** Many sightings of this boreal migrant.  
**Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigates*** A few were seen at various locations on the tour.  
**Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*** Several sightings in foothill habitat.  
**Eastern Wood Pewee *Contopus virens*** One was seen at Gareno and a few more on the extension.  
**Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum*** One was seen on a Napo River island on the extension.  
**Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*** One was seen along the cost and a few more near Ibarra.  
**Drab Water Tyrant *Ochthornis littoralis*** It was fairly common along the Napo River on the extension.  
**Paramo Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola alpines*** ◊ Two were seen at Papallacta and five more on our day at Antisana.  
**Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus*** We got good looks at this large flycatcher at Antisana.  
**Masked Water Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta*** A few were seen on the western lowland.  
**Crowned Chat-Tyrant *Silvicultrix frontalis*** ◊ One was seen at Yanacocha on our first day.  
**Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant *Silvicultrix diadema*** ◊ Three were seen in the Bellavista area.  
**Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*** ◊ (H) A singing bird was not showing near Guango.  
**Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor*** A total of three were seen in the Papallacta area.  
**Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*** Several sightings in the Choco this year.  
**Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa*** One was seen at the Napo WC on the extension.  
**Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*** This canopy flycatcher was seen several times on the lowlands.  
**Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*** Commonly seen throughout the western lowlands.  
**Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*** Commonly seen throughout the tour.  
**Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis*** First seen at Playa de Oro and later several on the east.  
**Dusky-chested Flycatcher *Myiozetetes luteiventris*** This scarce bird was seen well at Gareno.  
**Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*** Common in suitable habitat.  
**Lesser Kiskadee *Philohydor lector*** Frequently seen along the lakes on the extension.  
**White-ringed Flycatcher *Conopias albobittatus*** ◊ Two were seen in a mixed flock at Playa de Oro.  
**Golden-crowned Flycatcher *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*** We had many good views of this highland bird.  
**Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris*** Singletons were seen on the extension.  
**Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*** Several good looks on the western lowlands.  
**Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*** Several encounters on the tour.  
**Sulphury Flycatcher *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*** A very localised palm specialist seen at Gareno and at La Selva.  
**Crowned Slaty Flycatcher *Gryseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*** Despite October several seen on the extension.  
**Snowy-throated Kingbird *Tyrannus niveigularis*** We saw three birds in the western lowlands and foothills.  
**Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*** Commonly seen throughout the tour.  
**Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*** One was seen on the mega fruiting tree at Playa de Oro.  
**Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*** Several were seen along the Napo River on the extension.  
**Greyish Mourner *Rhytipterna simplex*** One was seen along the Tiputini trail in the Napo WC.  
**White-rumped Sirystes *Sirystes albocinereus*** We got good looks at a pair at La Selva. See note.  
**Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*** The most commonly encountered member of the genus.  
**Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*** Regularly seen on the Amazonia extension – usually riverside habitat.  
**Pale-edged Flycatcher *Myiarchus cephalotes*** We obtained great looks at this one at San Isidro.  
**Rufous-tailed Flatbill *Ramphotrigon ruficauda*** (H) This rarely-seen bird was only heard at Napo WC.  
**Cinnamon Attila *Attila cinnamomeus*** We saw this 'varzea' species on the extension.  
**Ochraceous Attila *Attila torridus*** ◊ (H) We heard it at Humedal de Yalaré but unfortunately not responded!  
**Citron-bellied Attila *Attila citriniventris*** ◊ We had good looks on the trails of Napo WC on the extension.  
**Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*** (H) We heard it at several locatios but somehow eluded us.  
**Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus*** One adult at Papallacta, while a juvenile at Bellavista was a surprise.  
**Green-and-black Fruiteater *Pipreola riefferii*** We had nice looks along the Chical road and at San Isidro.  
**Barred Fruiteater *Pipreola arcuata*** A pair was seen at Yanacocha.  
**Orange-breasted Fruiteater *Pipreola jucunda*** ◊ A total of eight were seen along the Mashpi road.  
**Fiery-throated Fruiteater *Pipreola chlorolepidota*** ◊ A male and a female was seen by some at Wild Sumaco. **NT**  
**Andean Cock-of-the-Rock *Rupicola peruvianus*** Our best views were lekking birds at Angel Paz. Also in the east.  
**Black-necked Red Cotinga *Phoenicircus nigricollis*** ◊ Three lekking males were seen at Napo. Bird of the extension!  
**Blue Cotinga *Cotinga nattereri*** ◊ Daily sightings on our mega fruiting tree at Playa de Oro, two males were involved.  
**Plum-throated Cotinga *Cotinga maynana*** ◊ A single male was seen at La Selva from the new canopy tower.  
**Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana*** We had very good views at Gareno and on the Amazonia extension too.

**Dusky Piha** *Lipaugus fuscocinereus* ◇ Two birds were seen along the Guacamayos ridge trail.  
**Rufous Piha** *Lipaugus unirufus* ◇ Several good views at Playa de Oro.  
**Screaming Piha** *Lipaugus vociferans* 'The call of Amazonia' was seen at Napo WC.  
**Grey-tailed Piha** *Snowornis subalaris* ◇ Finally one calling bird was tracked down at Wild Sumaco. **NT**  
**Purple-throated Cotinga** *Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema* ◇ A pair was seen at Gareno. Stunning and scarce bird!  
**Black-tipped Cotinga** *Carpodectes hopkei* ◇ Three males were seen at Playa de Oro and a male at La Union road.  
**Bare-necked Fruitcrow** *Gymnoderus foetidus* One was seen at Gareno and many sightings on the extension.



*Bare-necked Fruitcrow was breeding on the canopy tower at Napo WC (János Oláh).*

**Purple-throated Fruitcrow** *Querula purpurata* We have had our best looks at Gareno.  
**Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin** *Tyrannetes stolzmanni* One was seen on the 'manakin' tree at Gareno.  
**Golden-winged Manakin** *Masius chrysopterus* Just a female was seen on the higher part of the Mashpi road.  
**Club-winged Manakin** *Machaeropterus deliciosus* ◇ (H) Unfortunately it was only heard along the Mashpi road.  
**Western Striped Manakin** *Machaeropterus striolatus* ◇ A fine male was seen on the 'manakin' tree at Gareno.  
**Blue-crowned Manakin** *Lepidothrix coronate* First seen on the 'manakin' tree at Gareno and later on the extension.  
**Blue-rumped Manakin** *Lepidothrix isidorei* ◇ Several good looks were obtained at Wild Sumaco. **NT**  
**White-bearded Manakin** *Manacus manacus* Many good views at Playa de Oro and also seen at Gareno.  
**Blue-backed Manakin** *Chiroxiphia pareola* A male and a female was seen along the Tiputini trail of Napo WC.  
**Green Manakin** *Xenopipo holochlora* ◇ One of the *litae* race seen at Playa de Oro and nominate at Wild Sumaco.  
**Orange-crested Manakin** *Heterocercus aurantiivertex* ◇ Great views on the extension!  
**Wire-tailed Manakin** *Pipra filicauda* We had brilliant looks at a male on the Amazonia extension.  
**White-crowned Manakin** *Dixiphia pipra* Commonly seen at Wild Sumaco and a female at Napo WC on the extension  
**Red-capped Manakin** *Dixiphia mentalis* (H) We heard one at Playa de Oro but no sightings.  
**Golden-headed Manakin** *Dixiphia erythrocephala* Two male were seen well at Napo WC on the extension.  
**Amazonian Royal Flycatcher** *Onychorhynchus coronatus* ◇ An unexpected great bonus bird on the extension!  
**Tawny-breasted Myiobius** *Myiobius villosus* ◇ A single bird was seen nest building at Wild Sumaco.  
**Sulphur-rumped Myiobius** *Myiobius sulphureipygius* One was seen along the La Union road.  
**Black-tailed Myiobius** *Myiobius atricaudus* Two were seen at Playa de Oro.  
**Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher** *Terenotriccus erythrurus* One was seen at Playa de Oro.  
**Black-crowned Tityra** *Tityra inquisitor* One was seen at Playa de Oro and one on the extension.  
**Black-tailed Tityra** *Tityra cayana* We had several sightings on the east.  
**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* We had several encounters on the east.  
**Northern Schiffornis** *Schiffornis veraepacis* One was seen at the Mashpi Chochlate farm.  
**Brown-winged Schiffornis** *Schiffornis turdina* One was seen on the 'manakin' tree at Gareno.  
**White-browed Purpletuft** *Iodopleura isabellae* First seen at Gareno and others from the canopy towers in Amazonia.

**Yellow-cheeked Becard** *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* ◇ A male was seen well at Wild Sumaco.  
**Barred Becard** *Pachyramphus versicolor* Just one was seen in a mixed flock at Mashpi.  
**Cinnamon Becard** *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* Regularly seen on the lowlands and foothills of the west.  
**White-winged Becard** *Pachyramphus polychopterus* ◇ The eastern race was seen at La Selva on the extension.  
**Black-and-white Becard** *Pachyramphus albogriseus* Three sightings on both slopes of the Andes.  
**One-colored Becard** *Pachyramphus homochrous* It was commonly seen on the western lowlands.  
**Black-billed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis nigrirostris* ◇ We got good looks along the Chical road and at San Isidro.  
**Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo** *Vireolanius leucotis* We had good looks along the La Union road and at Wild Sumaco.  
**Brown-capped Vireo** *Vireo leucophrys* Several sightings at higher elevations.  
**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* Several sightings throughout the tour.  
**Yellow-green Vireo** *Vireo flavoviridis* Two sightings of probably the same bird at Gareno.  
**Lemon-chested Greenlet** *Hylophilus thoracicus* (H) It was only heard at Gareno distantly.  
**Rufous-naped Greenlet** *Hylophilus semibrunneus* ◇ Many excellent views of this canopy bird at Wild Sumaco.  
**Dusky-capped Greenlet** *Hylophilus hypoxanthus* (LO) One was seen from the La Selva canopy tower.  
**Olivaceous Greenlet** *Hylophilus olivaceus* ◇ Several good looks at this rather plain bird at Wild Sumaco. NT  
**Tawny-crowned Greenlet** *Hylophilus ochraceiceps* ◇ One was seen along the trails of Playa de Oro.



Tawny-crowned Greenlet (left) at Playa de Oro and Turquoise Jay at Guango (János Oláh).

**Lesser Greenlet** *Hylophilus decurtatus* A few were seen on the western lowlands.  
**Turquoise Jay** *Cyanolyca turcosa* ◇ We saw them in the Bellavista area and at Papallacta.  
**Beautiful Jay** *Cyanolyca pulchra* ◇ Excellent looks of this retiring species on the west.  
**Violaceous Jay** *Cyanocorax violaceus* First seen at Wild Sumaco, common at Gareno and seen on the extension.  
**Inca Jay** *Cyanocorax yncas* It was common in the garden of San Isidro.  
**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* Migrant flocks were seen along the Santiago and Napo Rivers.  
**White-winged Swallow** *Tachycineta albiventer* It was very common on the Amazonian extension.  
**Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* Commonly encountered in lowland habitats on both side of the Andes.  
**Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera* Several seen on the Amazonian extension.  
**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* It was commonly seen throughout the tour.  
**Brown-bellied Swallow** *Notiochelidon murina* This highland bird seen at several locations. Best looks at Papallacta.  
**White-banded Swallow** *Atticora fasciata* Seen in the Gareno area and later along the Napo River on the extension.  
**White-thighed Swallow** *Neochelidon tibialis* ◇ We had many excellent views of both races on the tour.  
**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* It was commonly seen throughout the tour.  
**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Just two were seen at Playa de Oro and later 300 along the Napo River.  
**Black-capped Donacobius** *Donacobius atricapilla* A few were seen on the extension. See note.  
**Band-backed Wren** *Campylorhynchus zonatus* We had one along the Mashpi road.  
**Thrush-like Wren** *Campylorhynchus turdinus* Seen on the 'flat tyre' stop near Gareno, common on the extension.  
**Grey-mantled Wren** *Odontorchilus branickii* ◇ About seven seen in mixed canopy flocks at Wild Sumaco this year.  
**Rufous Wren** *Cinnycerthia unirufa* We saw it along the Guacamayos trail.  
**Sepia-brown Wren** *Cinnycerthia olivascens* Several sightings at Mashpi and Chical.  
**Grass Wren** *Cistothorus platensis* A few seen in the Antisana area.  
**Plain-tailed Wren** *Pheugopedius euophrys* ◇ (H) This bamboo bird was heard only at Bellavista and San Isidro.  
**Coraya Wren** *Pheugopedius coraya* It was heard at Gareno, two were seen at La Selva.  
**Buff-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius leucotis* One was seen in tangly varzea forest at Napo WC on the extension.  
**Bay Wren** *Cantorchilus nigricapillus* Several seen on the west.  
**Stripe-throated Wren** *Cantorchilus leucopogon* ◇ Two encounters along the trails of Playa de Oro.  
**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* Frequently seen around human habitation.  
**Mountain Wren** *Troglodytes solstitialis* We obtained good views at San Isidro and along the Chalpi trail.  
**White-breasted Wood Wren** *Henicorhina leucosticte* The *inornata* was seen at Playa de Oro, *hauxwelli* on the east.  
**Grey-breasted Wood Wren** *Henicorhina leucophrys* Regular encounters with this species at higher elevation.  
**Southern Nightingale-Wren** *Microcerculus marginatus* Excellent looks at Playa de Oro. See note.

**Wing-banded Wren** *Microcerculus bambla* ◇ Absolutely amazing looks at Wild Sumaco! What a stunner!  
**Musician Wren** *Cyphorhinus arada* Two were seen along the trails of Wild Sumaco while busy with the mega flock.  
**Tawny-faced Gnatwren** *Microbates cinereiventris* Two were showing very well at Playa de Oro.  
**Long-billed Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Finally one was tracked down in Amazonia.  
**Tropical Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila plumbea* One was seen near Gareno.  
**Slate-throated Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila schistaceigula* ◇ This Chocó specialty was seen well at Playa de Oro.  
**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* We saw it along the Calacali road and near Ibarra.  
**Long-tailed Mockingbird** *Mimus longicaudatus* One was seen on the cost near Esmeraldas.  
**Andean Solitaire** *Myadestes ralloides* A total of seven were seen on the tour.  
**Slaty-backed Nighthingale-Thrush** *Catharus fuscater* (LO) One was seen at Bellavista.  
**Spotted Nighthingale-Thrush** *Catharus dryas* Excellent looks at Milpe and Wild Sumaco.



Spotted Nighthingale Thrush was seen on both slopes of the Andes this year (János Oláh).

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus* A common boreal migrant, most numerous at Wild Sumaco.  
**Pale-eyed Thrush** *Turdus leucops* A pair was seen on a fruiting tree at Wild Sumaco.  
**Great Thrush** *Turdus fuscater* Common bird of the higher elevations.  
**Glossy-black Thrush** *Turdus serranus* It was commonly seen at Bellavista and San Isidro this year.  
**Chestnut-bellied Thrush** *Turdus fulviventris* A singing bird gave us good looks in the Guacamayos.  
**Black-billed Thrush** *Turdus ignobilis* It was seen at Wild Sumaco, Gareno and on the extension.  
**Lawrence's Thrush** *Turdus lawrencii* ◇ We had nice scope views of this 'best mimic of Amazonia' in Napo WC.  
**Pale-vented Thrush** *Turdus obsoletus* (H) One was heard at Milpe but we could not see it.  
**Hauxwell's Thrush** *Turdus hauxwelli* ◇ Finally we saw one at La Selva on the extension.  
**Ecuadorian Thrush** *Turdus maculirostris* ◇ Commonly seen on the west at lower elevations.  
**Dagua Thrush** *Turdus daguae* (H) One was heard distantly at Playa de Oro.  
**White-capped Dipper** *Cinclus leucocephalus* Three sightings on the tour in usual habitat.  
**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* One was seen near Esmeraldas.  
**Paramo Pipit** *Anthus bogotensis* We had excellent looks on our day at Antisana.  
**Hooded Siskin** *Spinus magellanicus* We had good views at Antisana National Park.  
**Orange-crowned Euphonia** *Euphonia saturata* ◇ (NL) A male was seen by some at Playa de Oro.  
**Thick-billed Euphonia** *Euphonia lanirostris* It was regularly seen on the west and on the extension.  
**Golden-rumped Euphonia** *Euphonia cyanocephala* A pair was seen in Quito on our extension.  
**Fulvous-vented Euphonia** *Euphonia fulvicrissa* A female was seen at Playa de Oro.  
**White-lored Euphonia** *Euphonia chrysopasta* Singletons were seen from the canopy toers of Amazonia.  
**Bronze-green Euphonia** *Euphonia mesochrysa* Singing males were seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**White-vented Euphonia** *Euphonia minuta* Regularly seen at Playa de Oro.

**Orange-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia xanthogaster* It was commonly seen in a wide range of habitats.  
**Rufous-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia rufiventris* It was first seen at Gareno and later on the extension.  
**Tennessee Warbler** *Leiothlypis peregrina* One was seen at Selva Alegre. It was a write-in for this tour!  
**Olive-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis semiflava* (H) We heard it along the La union road but not showing.  
**Cerulean Warbler** *Setophaga cerulea* A total of 13 were seen at Wild Sumaco. It was more common then usual.  
**Tropical Parula** *Setophaga pitiaiyumi* Many great views of this stunning little bird.  
**Blackburnian Warbler** *Setophaga fusca* The most common boreal migrant on the tour.  
**Black-crested Warbler** *Myiothlypis nigrocristata* We had very good looks at this fine warbler at San Isidro.  
**Buff-rumped Warbler** *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* This delightful bird was seen frequently on the tour, usually near water.  
**Choco Warbler** *Myiothlypis chlorophrys* ♦ We had great views along the Mashpi road.  
**Russet-crowned Warbler** *Myiothlypis coronate* This lovely songster was seen at Bellavista and San Isidro.  
**Three-striped Warbler** *Basileuterus tristriatus* We had a few sightings around Mashpi and Chical.  
**Canada Warbler** *Cardellina canadensis* It was very common at Wild Sumaco.  
**Slate-throated Whitestart** *Myioborus miniatus* It was regularly seen in the Andean forests.  
**Spectacled Whitestart** *Myioborus melanocephalus* We had several encounters at higher elevations.  
**Russet-backed Oropendola** *Psarocolius angustifrons* Commonly seen bird on the east. One was seen on the west.  
**Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* It was common at Wild Sumaco and on the extension.  
**Green Oropendola** *Psarocolius viridis* First seen at Gareno and also regular sightings on the extension.  
**Solitary Cacique** *Cacicus solitarius* One was seen well in a gingerbed by the Napo River.  
**Yellow-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus cela* It was common at Wild Sumaco, Gareno and on the extension.  
**Scarlet-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus microrhynchus* It was common around the lodge at Playa de Oro.  
**Subtropical Cacique** *Cacicus uropygialis* We had good views in the garden of San Isidro.



Subtropical Cacique were common in the garden of San Isidro Lodge (János Oláh).

**Northern Mountain Cacique** *Cacicus leucoramphus* Two were seen on the Guacamayos ridge.  
**Casqued oropendola** *Cacicus oseryi* ♦ A flock of 35 were seen at Gareno. A nomadic bird.  
**Red-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus haemorrhous* (H) Heard once at Napo WC but no joy.  
**Orange-backed Troupial** *Icterus croconotus* Excellent looks at Napo WC as they were catching swarming ants.  
**Epulet Oriole** *Icterus cayanensis* Two were seen distantly from the lodge tower at Napo WC.  
**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* First seen at Playa de Oro, later in Gareno and common on the extension.  
**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* A few were seen in open habitat.  
**Scrub Blackbird** *Dives waczewiczi* It was seen on the western lowlands.  
**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* Two were seen on the cost near Esmeraldas. A write-in.  
**Oriole Blackbird** *Gymnomystax mexicanus* We had several good looks on the river islands of the Napo.  
**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* Regularly recorded on the tour.

**Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* Commonly seen at higher elevations.  
**Yellow-browed Sparrow** *Ammodramus aurifrons* It was seen at Gareno and on the extension.  
**Black-striped Sparrow** *Arremonops conirostris* Two were seen along the La Union road.  
**Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris* (H) Heard at Mashpi but we had bigger fish to fry.  
**Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** *Arremon brunneinucha* It was seen well at Angel Paz.  
**Pale-naped Brushfinch** *Arremon pallidinucha* Two were seen very well in *Polylepis* woodland at Papallacta.  
**Choco Brushfinch** *Atlapetes crassus* ◊ Many great views on the west.  
**Yellow-breasted Brushfinch** *Atlapetes latinuchus* We had good looks at Yanacocha.  
**Slaty Brushfinch** *Atlapetes schistaceus* Just one was seen along the Chalpi trail.



*Black-chinned Mountain Tanager was seen particularly well along the Chical road (János Oláh).*

**Common Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavopectus* It was common in the San Isidro area on the east. See note.  
**Dusky Bush-Tanager** *Chlorospingus semifuscus* ◊ It was common at Mashpi and in the Mindo area on the west.  
**Yellow-whiskered Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus parvirostris* ◊ Two seen well along the Guacamayos ridge trail.  
**Yellow-throated Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavigularis* We saw it on the west and on the east too.  
**Yellow-green Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavovirens* ◊ A Birdquest lifer seen along the La Union road.  
**Ashy-throated Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus canigularis* It was seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**Red-capped Cardinal** *Paroaria gularis* We only saw it on the Amazonia extension.  
**Maggie Tanager** *Cissopis leverianus* It was seen in disturbed habitat on the east.  
**Dusky-faced Tanager** *Mitrospingus cassinii* Common and noisy under-storey bird, seen at Playa de Oro.  
**Black-capped Hemispingus** *Hemispingus atropileus* We saw three birds in a mixed flock at the Guacamayos ridge.  
**Superciliaried Hemispingus** *Hemispingus superciliaris* Five were seen at Yanacocha.  
**Black-eared Hemispingus** *Hemispingus melanotis* We had superb looks in the garden of San Isidro.  
**Western Hemispingus** *Hemispingus ochraceus* ◊ Two flocks were encountered at Bellavista.  
**Grey-hooded Bush Tanager** *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris* Four were seen along the Chalpi trail.  
**Rufous-chested Tanager** *Thlypopsis ornate* One was seen in the Bellavista area.  
**Orange-headed Tanager** *Thlypopsis sordida* We had good looks on the Napo River islands.  
**Flame-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus cristatus* We had amazing looks at Gareno and on the extension.  
**Fulvous-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus surinamus* A total of four birds were seen at Gareno. It is rather localised.  
**White-shouldered Tanager** *Tachyphonus luctuosus* Just two were seen along the Loreto road.  
**Tawny-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus delatrii* Commonly encountered at Playa de Oro.  
**White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus* A pair was seen near Mindo.  
**Fulvous Shrike-Tanager** *Lanio fulvus* Two were seen in mixed species flock at Wild Sumaco.  
**Masked Crimson Tanager** *Ramphocelus nigrogularis* We had several good looks of this stunner on the extension.  
**Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* Commonly seen on the eastern lowlands.

**Lemon-rumped Tanager** *Ramphocelus icteronotus* Commonly seen on the western lowlands.  
**Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* It was common throughout the tour – white-shouldered ones on the east.  
**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* It was commonly seen throughout the tour.  
**Blue-capped Tanager** *Thraupis cyanocephala* Just one was seen in the Tandayapa valley.  
**Blue-and-yellow Tanager** *Thraupis bonariensis* ◊ One was seen near Ibarra.  
**Golden-chested Tanager** *Bangsia rothschildi* ◊ We got very good looks of two along the La Union road.  
**Moss-backed Tanager** *Bangsia edwardsi* ◊ Brilliant views of this specialty along the Mashpi road.  
**Hooded Mountain Tanager** *Buthraupis montana* It was seen at the Yanacocha, Bellavista and the Guacamayos.  
**Black-chested Mountain Tanager** *Buthraupis eximia* Brilliant encounters at Yanacocha and at Papallacta.  
**Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus igniventris* We had many sightings at Yanacocha and Papallacta.  
**Blue-winged Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus somptuosus* It was the most commonly seen Mountain Tanager.  
**Black-chinned Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus notabilis* ◊ We had great looks at Mindo and along the Chical road.  
**Grass-green Tanager** *Chlorornis riefferii* It was seen along the Guacamayos ridge trail.  
**Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager** *Dubusia taeniata* Just two were seen in a mixed flock along the Chalpi trail.  
**Purplish-mantled Tanager** *Iridosornis porphyrocephalus* ◊ Three were seen along the Chical road. Write-in!  
**Golden-crowned Tanager** *Iridosornis rufivertex* ◊ We had good looks of this fantastic bird at Yanacocha.  
**Fawn-breasted Tanager** *Pipraeidea melanonota* Singleton were seen at Mindo and Milpe.  
**Glistening-green Tanager** *Chlorochrysa phoenicotis* ◊ We had four at the Amagusa Reserve and one at Chical.  
**Orange-eared Tanager** *Chlorochrysa calliparaea* About ten were seen at Wild Sumaco this year, nice males too!  
**Grey-and-gold Tanager** *Tangara palmeri* ◊ We had good views along the La Union road.  
**Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara mexicana* We saw four birds at Gareno.  
**Paradise Tanager** *Tangara chilensis* We had many excellent looks at Wild Sumaco, Gareno and on the extension.



*Paradise Tanager is common in the eastern foothills and lowlands (János Oláh).*

**Blue-whiskered Tanager** *Tangara johannae* ◊ Three birds were seen at Playa de Oro.  
**Green-and-gold Tanager** *Tangara schrankii* Several were seen at Wild Sumaco, Gareno and on the extension.  
**Emerald Tanager** *Tangara florida* Just a few sightings at Playa de Oro.  
**Golden Tanager** *Tangara arthus* One of the most commonly seen tangaras on the tour.  
**Silver-throated Tanager** *Tangara icterocephala* It was only seen at Milpe.  
**Saffron-crowned Tanager** *Tangara xanthocephala* One at Chical and regular sightings in the San Isidro area.  
**Golden-eared Tanager** *Tangara chrysotis* Several were seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**Flame-faced Tanager** *Tangara parzudakii* Both the western and the eastern race was seen on the tour.  
**Yellow-bellied Tanager** *Tangara xanthogastra* We had many good looks at Wild Sumaco and on the extension.  
**Spotted Tanager** *Tangara punctata* We had several sightings at Wild Sumaco.

**Rufous-throated Tanager** *Tangara rufigula* ◊ We had a few birds along the Mashpi road, at Milpe and Chical.

**Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola* A common tangara on the tour, especially on the east slope foothills.

**Rufous-winged Tanager** *Tangara lavinia* ◊ Several were seen at Playa de Oro. Some on the mega fruiting tree!

**Scrub Tanager** *Tangara vitriolina* ◊ One was seen in dry habitat near Ibarra.

**Golden-naped Tanager** *Tangara ruficervix* We had regular sightings around Mindo.

**Metallic-green Tanager** *Tangara labradorides* Just one was seen near Mindo.

**Blue-browed Tanager** *Tangara cyanotis* ◊ Two were seen at Wild Sumaco on our last morning! Excellent!

**Blue-necked Tanager** *Tangara cyanicollis* Both eastern and western races were seen on both side of the Andes.

**Golden-hooded Tanager** *Tangara larvata* Several were seen on the western lowlands.

**Beryl-spangled Tanager** *Tangara nigroviridis* One of the most commonly seen tangara on the tour.

**Blue-and-black Tanager** *Tangara vassorii* Two unexpectedly showed up at Wild Sumaco and several at San Isidro.

**Black-capped Tanager** *Tangara heinei* Good views were obtained at Angel Paz and near Mindo.

**Opal-rumped Tanager** *Tangara velia* Just two were seen on the extension.

**Opal-crowned Tanager** *Tangara callophrys* Repeated sightings at Gareno and on the extension.

**Swallow Tanager** *Tersina viridis* We good looks at various locations.

**Black-faced Dacnis** *Dacnis lineata* We saw several birds at Gareno and on the extension.

**Yellow-tufted Dacnis** *Dacnis egregia* ◊ We saw it regularly on the western lowlands.

**Yellow-bellied Dacnis** *Dacnis flaviventer* A pair was seen at our 'flat tyre' location near Gareno.

**Scarlet-thighed Dacnis** *Dacnis venusta* Commonly seen at Playa de Oro, especially on the mega fruiting tree.

**Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* We saw it at Wild Sumaco and Gareno.

**Scarlet-breasted Dacnis** *Dacnis berlepschi* ◊ Two pairs were seen at Rio Silanche. Stunning bird! **VU**

**Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus* It was regularly encountered throughout the tour.

**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* It was regularly encountered throughout the tour.

**Golden-collared Honeycreeper** *Iridophanes pulcherrimus* ◊ We had two birds at Wild Sumaco.

**Scarlet-browed Tanager** *Heterospingus xanthopygius* ◊ We saw about six birds at Playa de Oro.

**Yellow-backed Tanager** *Hemithraupis flavicollis* We had two sightings at Gareno.

**Scarlet-and-white Tanager** *Chrysothlypis salmani* ◊ Three birds were seen at Playa de Oro, including a fine male.

**Cinereous Conebill** *Conirostrum cinereum* We had four along the Calacali road and two at Antisana National Park.

**Blue-backed Conebill** *Conirostrum sitticolor* Just a few were seen at Yanacocha and Papallacta.



*Black Flowerpiercer (left) at Antisana and Blue-backed Conebill at Papallacta (János Oláh).*

**Capped Conebill** *Conirostrum albifrons* Several were seen at Bellavista – both sexes.

**Giant Conebill** *Oreomanes fraseri* ◊ One was seen well at Papallacta. Rarely seen on this tour.

**Rusty Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa sittoides* One was seen at the hotel near Quito on our extension.

**Glossy Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa lafresnayii* We had many good views at Yanacocha and Papallacta.

**Black Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa humeralis* It was common at Antisana National Park.

**White-sided Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa albilatera* We saw a few at Bellavista and Chical.

**Indigo Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa indigotica* ◊ This once enigmatic bird was seen along the Mashpi road.

**Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa glauca* We had three sightings on the east slope.

**Bluish Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa caerulescens* A few birds were seen at San Isidro.

**Masked Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa cyanea* Definitely the most commonly seen flowerpiercer on this tour.

**Black-backed Bush Tanager** *Urothraupis stolzmanni* ◊ Three were seen well at Papallacta.

**Tanager Finch** *Oreothraupis arreonops* ◊ Finally we got superb looks at a pair near Bellavista. **VU**

**Plumbeous Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus unicolor* It was common at Papallacta and Antisana.

**Ash-breasted Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus plebejus* Five were seen along the calacali road.

**Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* A few were seen near Quito on the first morning of the extension.

**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* Just a few were seen on our travels.  
**Variable Seedeater** *Sporophila corvina* We had several on the west.  
**Caqueta Seedeater** *Sporophila muralae* ◊ This year we had a pair on a Napo River island.  
**Yellow-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila nigricollis* Commonly seen on the west.  
**Chestnut-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila castaneiventris* Many were seen on the extension.  
**Thick-billed Seed Finch** *Oryzoborus funereus* A male was seen along the La Union road. See note.  
**Band-tailed Seedeater** *Catamenia analis* One was seen at Antisana National Park.  
**Plain-colored Seedeater** *Catamenia inornata* It was seen at Papallacta and Antisana.  
**Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* We saw several along the Chical road.  
**Plushcap** *Catamblyrhynchus diadema* Just one was seen at Bellavista in a mixed species flock.  
**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* A few sightings on both sides of the Andes.  
**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* It was fairly common in the Wild Sumaco area and one was seen in Amazonia.  
**White-winged Tanager** *Piranga leucoptera* A pair was seen at Wild Sumaco.  
**Red-crowned Ant Tanager** *Habia rubica* The *rhodinolaema* race was seen at Napo WC on the extension.  
**Lemon-spectacled Tanager** *Chlorothraupis olivacea* ◊ Excellent looks at Playa de Oro.  
**Ochre-breasted Tanager** *Chlorothraupis stolzmanni* ◊ One was seen along the Mashpi road and another at Milpe.  
**Golden Grosbeak** *Pheucticus chrysogaster* Three sightings in semi dry inter Andean habitat. See note.  
**Slate-coloured Grosebeak** *Saltator grossus* One seen at Wild Sumaco by some.  
**Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus* Regularly seen throughout the tour.  
**Black-winged Saltator** *Saltator atripennis* ◊ Regular sightings on the west.  
**Greyish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* Three were seen at Wild Sumaco.



*White-necked Puffbird at Humedal de Yalaré on the west (János Oláh).*

## MAMMALS

**Central American Woolly Opossum *Caluromys derbianus*** One was spotlighted at Septimo Paraiso near Mindo.

**Southern Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus didactylus*** We saw one on the extension at Napo WC.

**Forest Rabbit *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*** One was seen at Papallacta and several at Antisana.

**Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*** We had several sightings on the tour.

**Amazon Dwarf Squirrel *Microsciurus flaviventer*** We saw probably the same individual twice at Wild Sumaco.

**Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*** One was seen by some at Playa de Oro.

**Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis*** Two were seen at Napo WC.

**Tayra *Eira barbara*** One was seen by some at Playa de Oro.

**Kinkajou *Potos flavus*** One was spotlighted at Septimo Paraiso and one seen every evening at La Selva.

**Greater Fishing Bat *Noctilio leporinus*** Regular sightings on the extension.

**Black-mantled Tamarin *Saguinus nigricollis*** Superb looks at Wild Sumaco and La Selva.

**Golden-mantled Tamarin *Saguinus tripartitus*** We had two encounters with this stunner at Napo WC.

**Pygmy Marmoset *Callithrix pygmaea* (H)** One was heard at La Selva but no joy.

**Common Squirrel-Monkey *Saimiri sciureus*** We had many great views on the extension.

**Brown Pale-fronted Capuchin Monkey *Cebus albifrons*** Several sightings on the extension.

**Dusky Titi Monkey *Callicebus moloch*** One was seen at La Selva and two at Napo WC.

**Common Woolly Monkey *Lagothrix lagothricha*** Excellent looks at Napo WC on the extension.

**Venezuelan Red Howler *Alouatta seniculus*** Several great views on the extension.

**White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*** We saw two at Papallacta and six on our day at Antisana.

**White-lipped Pecari *Tayassu pecari* (H)** We heard them very close along the Tiputini trail at Napo WC.



*Kinkajou (left) and Dusky Titi Monkey at La Selva (János Oláh).*

## NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird List (v6.4). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/ioc-lists/master-list/>

### **Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica*

South American mainland birds are sometimes split off as a separate species *A. spinicauda*, keeping the same English name. The residual *A. georgica*, endemic to South Georgia, is then re-named South Georgia Pintail.

### **Silvery Grebe** *Podiceps occipitalis*

The new HBW illustrated checklist splits this race as Northern Silvery Grebe *P. juninensis*.

### **Savanna Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis*

The bird we saw on the boat journey back to Coca from Napo WC on the extension is probably the first record for eastern Ecuador. It was already 'expected' as it is spreading in Colombia and with deforestation there is enough habitat.

### **Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma*

The form concerned is often split off as a separate species: Puna Hawk *B. poecilochrous*. The residual *B. polyosoma* is then renamed Red-backed Hawk.

### **Napo Screech Owl** *Megascops napensis*

This form was formerly lumped in Middle American (or Guatemalan or Vermiculated) Screech-Owl *O. guatemalae*. This form occurring in eastern Ecuador, *napensis*, is sometimes lumped with Rio Napo Screech-Owl *M. roraimae* then being renamed Roraima or Roraiman Screech-Owl.



*Napo Screech Owl at Wild Sumaco (János Oláh).*

**San Isidro Owl** *Strix spilonotus*

Originally described as a distinct species, this east slope form was later lumped in Black-and-white Owl *S. nigrolineata*. However, it is vocally and morphologically distinct and has a different altitudinal range and species status seems to be warranted. The San Isidro Lodge has been sponsoring scouting expeditions to locate San Isidro type owls in similar altitude and habitat so hopefully if more population is found the description of species will be more straightforward.

**Wedge-billed Hummingbird** *Schistes geoffroyi*

The new HBW illustrated checklist splits this race as Western Wedge-billed Hummingbird *S. albogularis*.

**White-tailed Trogon** *Trogon chionurus*

Western White-tailed Trogon *T. chionurus* is not sister species of Amazonian White-tailed Trogon *T. viridis* and the English name has been changed to simpler White-tailed Trogon.

**Green-backed Trogon** *Trogon viridis*

Amazonian White-tailed Trogon *T. viridis* is not sister species of *T. chionurus* and the tentative English name is Green-backed Trogon at the moment (SACC).

**Gartered Trogon** *Trogon caligatus*

It is a split from *T. violaceus* which was a historical name for the Violaceous Trogons 'group'.

**Amazonian Trogon** *Trogon ramonianus*

It is a recent split from *T. violaceus* which also includes the crissalis race. The split has also changed the English name of *T. violaceus* to Guianan Trogon to reflect limited range after split of *T. ramonianus* and to avoid misapplication of historical 'group' name.

**Amazonian Motmot** *Momotus momota*

The English name of Blue-crowned Motmot *M. momota* was changed to Amazonian Motmot with break up of this species complex into five different species.

**Pale-mandibled Aracari** *Pteroglossus erythropygius*

This form is split from Collared Aracari *P. torquatus*.

**White-throated Toucan** *Ramphastos tucanus*

The form concerned is often split off as a separate species: Cuvier's Toucan *R. cuvieri*. The residual *R. tucanus* is then renamed Red-billed Toucan.

**Yellow-throated Toucan** *Ramphastos ambiguus*

Also includes Chestnut-mandibled Toucan *R. swainsonii* which was sometimes split as a separate species. When it is split the eastern form is sometimes called Black-mandibled Toucan.

**Ringed Woodpecker** *Celeus torquatus*

The new HBW illustrated checklist splits this race as Amazonian Black-breasted Woodpecker *C. occidentalis*.

**Maroon-tailed Parakeet** *Pyrrhura melanura*

The subspecies *pacifica*, inhabiting the western lowlands and foothills, may represent a distinct species, the Chocó Parakeet.

**Chestnut-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes albidiventris*

This form is split from Buff-winged Cinclodes *C. fuscus*.

**Scaly-throated (or Scaly-breasted or Spectacled) Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia variegaticeps*

The race concerned, *temporalis*, has sometimes been regarded as a subspecies of Montane Foliage-gleaner *A. striaticollis*. Alternatively, it may represent a distinct species: Spot-breasted Foliage-gleaner.

**Western Woodhaunter** *Hyloctistes virgatus*

This form is split from Eastern Woodhaunter *H. subulatus*, with the name Striped Woodhaunter (or Striped Foliage-gleaner) being used for the enlarged species.

**Buff-throated Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*

The form concerned is sometimes split off as a separate species Lafresnaye's Woodcreeper *X. guttatoides*.

**Duida Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes duidae*

This species (along with other closely related species) was formerly lumped in Guianan Woodcreeper *L. albolineatus* with the name Lineated Woodcreeper being used for the enlarged species.

**Fulvous Antshrike** *Frederickena fulva*

Some authorities lump this species in Undulated Antshrike *F. unduliger*.

**Black-crowned Antshrike** *Thamnophilus atrinucha*

The English name was changed from Western Slaty Antshrike to Black-crowned Antshrike.

**Streak-headed Antbird** *Drymophila striaticeps*

This and three other newly described species were formerly lumped in Long-tailed Antbird *D. caudata* with the name Long-tailed Antbird being used for the enlarged species. This form includes *occidentalis*, *peruviana*, and *boliviana* races.

**Peruvian Warbling-Antbird** *Hypocnemis peruviana*

This and five other newly described species were formerly lumped in Guianan Warbling Antbird *H. cantator* with the name Warbling Antbird being used for the enlarged species.

**Zeledon's Antbird** *Myrmeciza zeledoni*

Zeledon's Antbird is split from Immaculate Antbird *M. immaculate*.



Male Zeledon's Antbird along the Mashpi road (János Oláh).

**Bicoloured Antbird** *Gymnopithys bicolor*

The forms in Central American and South America west of the Andes is split off as a separate species under the name Bicoloured Antbird *G. bicolor*. The residual *G. leucaspis* is then renamed White-cheeked Antbird.

**White-cheeked Antbird** *Gymnopithys leucaspis*

The forms east of the Andes were renamed White-cheeked Antbird *G. leucaspis* following the split off Bicoloured Antbird *G. bicolor* as a separate species.

**Northern White-crowned Tapaculo** *Scytalopus atratus*

This form was sometimes lumped in Southern White-crowned Tapaculo *S. bolivianus*, with the name White-crowned Tapaculo being used for the enlarged species. The latter in turn was formerly lumped in the Rufous-vented Tapaculo *S. femoralis* complex. However, both *S. atratus* and *S. micropterus* (see below) occur on Ecuador's east slope and are ecologically separated.

**Paramo Tapaculo** *Scytalopus opacus*

This form is split from *S. canus* based on vocal and pronounced genetic differences. The *S. canus* was renamed as Paramillo Tapaculo after the split.

**Olive-faced Flatbill** *Tolmomyias viridiceps*

This form was formerly lumped in Ochre-lored Flatbill (O-I Flycatcher) *T. flaviventris*, with the name Yellow-breasted Flycatcher being used for the enlarged species.

**White-rumped Sirystes** *Sirystes albocinereus*

This form is split from Eastern Sirystes *S. sibilator*. The *S. sibilator* was renamed as Sybilant Sirystes after the split of *S. albocinereus* and *S. subcanescens*.

**Black-capped Donacobius** *Donacobius atricapillus*

Donacobius is related to the Old World warblers, not wrens (*Troglodytidae*). Currently treated as a monotypic family Donacobiidae pending resolution of relationships to *Megaluridae* vs *Bernieridae*.

**Southern Nightingale-Wren** *Microcerculus marginatus*

Northern Nightingale-Wren (sometimes just called Nightingale Wren) *M. philomela* (which does not occur in Ecuador) was formerly lumped in this form, with the name Nightingale Wren being used for the enlarged species. The taxonomy of *Microcerculus* wrens is probably even more complex and *M. marginatus* itself may consist of two or more biological species.

**Common Bush-Tanager** *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*

A recent genetic study suggests that *C. ophthalmicus* comprises multiple species, at least five in Mexico and Middle America; Species in southern Central America and South America become (provisionally) *C. flavopectus* (Lafresnaye, 1840) with type locality restriction of *C. ophthalmicus* to Mexico. When treated as a single species, *C. flavopectus* (Lafresnaye, 1840) has priority over *C. ophthalmicus* (Du Bus de Gisignies, 1847).

**Thick-billed Seed-Finch** *Oryzoborus funereus*

This form is specifically distinct from Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch *O. angolensis*.

**Golden Grosbeak** *Pheucticus chrysogaster*

The English name was changed from Southern Yellow Grosbeak to Golden Grosbeak.

APPENDIX 1: overall results of the 'Bird of the tour' contest

Species	Points	Nominations
1st Rufous-crowned Pittasoma	30	3
2nd Crested Owl	26	4
3rd Giant Antpitta	22	3
4th Wire-crested Thorntail	14	2
4th Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe	14	2
4th Blue Cotinga	14	2

APPENDIX 2: overall results of the 'Bird of the extension' contest

Species	Points	Nominations
1st Black-necked Red Cotinga	38	5
2nd Zigzag Heron	30	3
3rd Salvin' Curassow	28	4



*Male Wire-crested Thorntail (top), Andean Cock-of-the-rock (left) and male Blue Cotinga (Janos Orari)*