Ecuador is one of the best countries in South America for bird photography. The biodiversity is spectacular, there are a number of great lodges and reserves well set up for the needs of photographers, and many of them can be reached without driving for many hours. We visited lowland rainforest, lush cloudforest, and even scenic paramo at over 4000 meters (13000 feet) above sea level. This ten day tour featured a variety of colorful targets including tanagers, barbets, motmots, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, as well as several days largely devoted to multiflash hummingbird photography.
15 January: The weather was great as we headed up into the mountains and spent most of the day at Antisana National Park. Some of the birds we were after included Carunculated Caracara, Buff-necked Ibis, Andean lapwing, Andean Gull, Silvery Grebe, Andean Coot, Andean Teal, Andean Condor, Giant Hummingbird, and Andean Condor.
Carunculated Caracara

Laguna La Mica – good for waterbird photography
Andean Coot

Silvery Grebe
16 January: We spent most of the day doing multiflash hummingbird photography at Guango Lodge, using 4 or 5 flashes, getting some nice shots like the Sword-billed Hummingbird at the start of this report. We had great chances to get shots of perched hummers too. A few shots are below but others we also shot included Tourmaline Sunangel and Tyrian Metaltail.
Buff-winged Starfrontlet

Long-tailed Sylph
Chestnut-breasted Coronet

White-bellied Woodstar
17 January: This morning we spent a few hours over 4000 m. (13000 ft.) at Papallacta Pass, where you can feel that it is possible to touch the sky with one of your fingers. It’s one of the most incredible landscapes in Ecuador. Some of our target birds were Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Tawny Ampita, Stout-billed Cinclodes, and Bar-winged Cinclodes. We spent the afternoon back at Guango shooting hummers.
18-19 January: After our last breakfast in Guango, we headed over to the west side of the Andes and spent a few nights based in Tandayapa Bird Lodge. That afternoon and the next morning were mostly devoted to hummingbird photography. This is a truly special place for hummers! Here are a few shots, but other species we got were Brown Inca, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Booted Racket-tailed, and Green-crowned Brilliant.
Shooting an Andean Emerald...

...and one of the results!
Violet-tailed Sylph

Western Emerald
Buff-tailed Coronet

Brown Violetear
20 January: Today we headed down to lower elevations and spent the morning photographing some different hummingbirds at Milpe Bird Sanctuary. Later on we stopped at a private reserve near San Tadeo, and some terrific activity at the feeders. Me managed to get some very nice shots of tanagers, toucanets, barbets and thrushes.

Green Thorntail (male left and female right)

Green-crowned Woodnymph (female left and male right)
Green-crowned Brilliant

View over the Rio Blanco
Blue-gray Tanager

Black-capped Tanager (female)
Ecuadorian Thrush

Summer Tanager
Dusky Bush-Tanager

Black-striped Sparrow
Rufous-collared Sparrow

Golden-naped Tanager
Male Black-capped Tanager

Crimson-rumped Toucanet

Red-headed Barbet

Toucan Barbet
21 January: On our fourth day on the west slope of the Andes, we took a day trip to lower elevation rainforest, spending most of our time at Rancho Suamox. This is a private reserve with great feeders, and we nailed some shots of woodpeckers, tanagers, motmots, euphonias, and others.
Golden-olive Woodpecker

Orange-bellied Euphonia
Dusky-faced Tanager

Rufous Motmot
22 January: We spent our last shooting day at Refugio Paz de las Aves, going after antpittas and other shy species that are virtually impossible to photograph anywhere else. Starting extra-early gave us a chance to try for Andean Cock-of-the-rock (below), before chasing some antpittas and getting good shots of Yellow-breasted and Ochre-breasted.
For more info on this tour please see our website: http://www.tropicalbirding.com/photo-tours/ecuador-photo-safari/