



A **Tropical Birding** SET DEPARTURE tour

Eastern Ecuador:
High Andes to Vast Amazon

1st – 15th March 2022



Over **50 species of hummingbirds** were encountered on this tour that covered everything from the high Andes to the Amazon and several varied cloud forest sites in between. This male **Gorgetted Woodstar** was a popular attraction at *Guango Lodge* near the start of the tour. (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

*Guided by **Sam Woods**
Birds in the photos within this report are denoted in **RED**.*

*Thanks to tour participants **Martin Bond** and **Kurt Hillman** for donating some photos used in this report.*

INTRODUCTION:

This incredible tour covered almost all of the habitats on the eastern side of Ecuador. We started out in the high Andes in view of Antisana Volcano, just east of Quito, where our **50-strong hummingbird list** was launched with views of a young male **Ecuadorian Hillstar** being fed by its mother, and we notched up at least 10 of Ecuador's massive national bird, the **Andean Condor**, and also found a couple of the endangered **Black-faced Ibis** patrolling the paramo. Staying in the high Andes, we also covered the wetter paramo site of Papallacta, where a pair of **Rufous-bellied Seedsnipes** (photo below) seen at the highest point of the tour (13,780ft/4200m), and the rare **Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant**, were clear highlights. Next came the site of Guango Lodge, set within rich temperate cloud forest, beside a rushing mountain river, which hosted a pair of Torrent Ducks during our visit. **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan** and the rare **Mountain Avocetbill** were further highlights there, as were **Gorgeted Woodstar** and **Sword-billed Hummingbird** at their frenetic feeders.



We visited high Andean wet paramo above *Papallacta Pass* for this **Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe**, one of a pair seen up at nearly 13,780ft/4200m (photo: **Kurt Hillman**).

From there, we moved downslope to the subtropical cloud forest site of San Isidro, where one of the regular **White-bellied Antpittas** made us wait more than an hour for it to appear at a forest feeding station. The regular **Black-banded Owl** resting beside the lodge at night in full glorious view was another standout bird there, as was a **Rufous-banded Owl** at a nearby biological station. A male **Crested Quetzal** was also noted in this area.

Continuing downslope, we next had a prolonged stay at WildSumaco Lodge in the foothills of the Andes at an elevation of around 4855ft/1480m. The hummingbird feeders were awash with birds, as usual, including **Wire-crested Thorntail**, **Black-throated Brilliant**, **Rufous-vented Whitetip**, and **Napo Sabrewing**, while in the forest, **Coppery-chested Jacamar**, a pair of **Plain-backed and Ochre-breasted Antpittas**, **White-chested and Black-streaked Puffbirds**, **Military Macaw**, **Gray-tailed Piha**, **Yellow-throated Spadebill**, **Chestnut-crowned Gnateater**, and a pair of roosting **Band-bellied Owls**, and a nighttime **Foothill Screech-Owl**, were all avian highlights.



Hoatzin was a popular bird (with *Jim* in particular) from the Amazon leg of the tour, when they featured regularly around wetland areas (photo: **Kurt Hillman**).

Then came the final leg of the trip, and arguably the one that many sign up for on this tour, the Amazon. This is often looked at as a visit to Lowland Rainforest only, but in reality, the Amazon offers more than that; we birded in flooded (Igapo) forests by canoe that yielded the common Hoatzin, the rare **Cocha Antshrike**, a surprise encounter with a group of **Gray-winged Trumpeters**, roosting **Great Potoo** and **Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl**, and a dawn time **Zigzag Heron** at point blank range. We also saw two beautiful and odd primates in this habitat too, with the bizarre fur-coated **Napo (Monk) Saki** and handsome **Golden-mantled Tamarin**. In the terra firme forest we enjoyed **Black-necked Red Cotinga** too, following a long, targeted walk for this rare species, the seldom seen **Salvin's Curassow**, spectacular male **Striolated and Wire-tailed Manakins**. The lagoons and waterways of the Amazon also produced highlights too, with an abundance of **Hoatzins** (photo above), a party of **Giant Otters**, and some close ups of **Black Caiman**. Other standout species in the Amazon included **Collared and Chestnut-capped Puffbirds** at the marvelous Napo Wildlife Center, which was a highlight in of itself too, as well as long scope views of a dusk time **Ocellated Poorwill**.

At Sani Lodge and surrounds, (our second Amazon lodge on the tour), **Sunbittern** was an unexpected find, and we also enjoyed **Agami Heron, Purplish, White-eared and White-chinned Jacamars, Golden-collared Toucanet, and Rufous-capped Antthrush**. The Amazon leg also saw us visit two different parrot clay licks, where Scarlet Macaws were the most conspicuous visitors, while trips up to the Canopy Towers wrapped around giant kapok trees at both Amazon lodges, yielded **White-necked and Pied Puffbirds, Great Jacamar, White-throated Toucans, Bare-necked Fruitcrows, Purple-throated Cotinga, Opal-rumped Tanager, and Venezuelan Red Howlers**.

For those who like to run the numbers, **more than 580 bird species were recorded**, including over 50 species of **Hummingbirds, 6 Jacamars, 10 Toucans, 7 Antpittas, 9 Owls, 8 Manakins** (including displaying **Golden-headed Manakins**), and more than 50 **Tanagers**. **More than 20 species of mammals** were also observed, including **9 species of primates**. Whichever way you look at this varied tour, it was successful with a wide range of birds and bird habitats, all accompanied by some great scenery and peppered with mammal sightings throughout.



More than **20 mammal species** featured on this tour, including this **Giant Otter** at Sani Lodge in the Amazon.
(Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

TOP 5 BIRDS OF THE TOUR:

- 1 **CRESTED OWL** (*day roost in Sani Isla Community near Sani Lodge*)
- 2 **HOATZIN** (*Napo Wildlife Center and Sani Lodge*)
- 3 **GRAY-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN** (*Guango Lodge*)
MUSICIAN WREN (*Only heard - ! – WildSumaco Lodge*)
BLACK-NECKED RED COTINGA (*Napo Wildlife Center*)

MASKED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Cayambe-Coca National Park*) and **RUFIOUS-BELLIED SEEDSNIPE** (*above Papallacta Pass*) just narrowly missed the top five and were therefore very popular also.

This list is *always* fascinating for guides (as it is far from the same every tour), and it was good to see the *Amazon* (**Crested Owl**, **Hoatzin**, **Black-necked Red Cotinga**) and the *high Andes* both well-represented (**Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan**, with both **Masked Mountain-Tanager** and **Rufous-belled Seedsnipe** also highly rated).

On the *non-bird* front, the most popular animal was clearly the **Mountain Tapir** (*photo below*) above *Papallacta* in the high Andes (as it *should* have been for both the quality of the sighting and the rarity of it!), and **Giant Otters** (*photo page before*), **Napo (Monk) Saki** and the monstrous **Green Anaconda** all seen in the Amazon.



DAILY SUMMARY:**Day 1 (of birding): 2nd March – Quito to Antisana, Papallacta & Guango.**

This **Tawny Antpitta** at *Antisana National Park* was the first of 7 antpittas seen on the tour (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

After arriving in Ecuador's bustling capital city, at a lofty 2800m/9190ft elevation, the evening before, the group met with the guide at 6:00am on this morning, and drove higher still, to *Antisana National Park*, an hour's drive away. This park offered us some high temperate scrub, and dry open grassy and scrubby paramo habitats, typical of the high Andes of northern South America. Our first stop in scrub just outside the park was not full of birds, (as this altitude is not about diversity, but about highland specialties) but we found some high-dwelling birds like **Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart)**, and **Tufted Tit-Tyrant**. Moving slowly up the road, we ran into another local birder, *Luis Perez*, who promptly shared sightings of a young **Andean Condor** and a roosting **Band-winged Nightjar** with us! The latter was a fortuitous start indeed, after the other group had been watching the condor, when it flushed the nightjar just minutes before, and they followed it to an inconspicuous roost spot. Moving up the road towards the entrance to the park, we began seeing raptors, which were highly visible that morning. We racked up 10 or so **Andean Condors**, Ecuador's massive national bird, with a wingspan of some ten feet; as well as multiple **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagles**, **Variable Hawks**, and plentiful **Carunculated Caracaras**. Our next stop was in some open grassy *paramo*, where we'd hoped to connect with two species of *canastero* but walked away with only **Many-striped Canastero** from that brace.

Our next stop was a heavily grazed area, where we managed to locate a singing **Paramo Pipit**, and also observed a young male **Ecuadorian Hillstar** (*photo below*) begging and being fed by its mother on a roadside wire. Both species of **Cinclodes** (**Stout-billed** and **Bar-winged**) hopped around on the earthy banks and grasses alongside.



A young male **Ecuadorian Hillstar** (*right*) was observed begging for food and being fed at *Antisana*. It already shows a hint of the deep purple head to come in its adult life! (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

Emerging on to a grassland plateau, we began surveying the area for a large, high Andean shorebird, and thankfully, quickly found a pair of **Andean (Black-faced) Ibis** busy foraging off of the road, in a landscape also dotted with a smattering of **Andean Gulls**. A **Culpeo (Andean Fox)** was found lurking in the grassland nearby too. We switched habitats for the most distant stop in the park, surveying a large highland lake for waterbirds, and finding **Silvery Grebes**, **Andean Ducks**, **Andean Teals**, **Yellow-billed Pintails**, and **Slate-colored (Andean) Coots**. We also finally got a decent view of a **Grass Wren** (recently split from *Sedge Wren*), that sung enthusiastically beside the lake and posed for photos. Just a few **Andean Lapwings** were seen during our morning, an unusually low return. We then walked back to the parking lot, admiring the easiest of the antpittas, **Tawny Antpitta** (*photo page 6*), standing in the open with a mouthful of food, and also managed to track down a calling **Andean Tit-Spinetail** in the same area.

On the way from the lake to lunch, we noticed the 5758m/18,891ft-high peak of *Volcan Antisana* for the first time, as it had been shrouded in cloud as we passed earlier, but its appearance was short-lived and only the lower part of the snow cone was visible by the time we finished taking photos.



An extremely obliging **White-chinned Thistlebird** was seen above *Papallacta Pass* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

On the way to lunch, we made another stop in the same area of grassy paramo habitat, successfully finding a couple of **Streak-backed Canasteros** that had eluded us before. For lunch, we stopped in at *Tambo Condor*, in view of the nearby condor cliffs, and in direct sight of their hummingbird feeders, which attracted a conspicuous **Giant Hummingbird**, as well as **Sparkling Violetear**, **Shining Sunbeam** and **Black-tailed Trainbearer** during our short visit. **Black Flowerpiercer** also foraged amongst the garden's blooms too. With new rules and regulations meaning that access to a particular section of *Cayambe-Coca National Park* may not be possible after 3pm, we made a dash for this site near *Papallacta Pass* to try for one of the highest living bird species in Ecuador. This required a drive up to a heady 4300m/c.14,000ft. There were three groups from Tropical Birding in the area that afternoon, which paid off for us on some birds and proved frustrating with others.

Andres Vasquez, leading one group, bumped into a *Jameson's (Andean) Snipe*, which we were only minutes behind from seeing, but could not find this cryptic bird after we reached the spot, hearing it downslope from us, but nothing more. Then, *Alex Luna* arrived with another group, and this time, the presence of another TROPICAL BIRDING tour in the area paid off, as he indicated a place back along the road, where he'd found a pair of **Rufous-bellied Seedsnipes**, a bird we had been very much hoping to find, and our main avian target for this, highest point of the tour. *Andres's* group backtracked ahead of us, leaving us to the proverbial snipe hunt, and so when we turned up to look for the *seedsnipe*, as a wave of low cloud obscured viewing, *Andres* was already there, and already watching the *seedsnipe*, so that we merely walked right up to a pair of these high Andean shorebirds. On the way back down to lower climes, we made a strategic stop in some scrubby paramo, where we soon found the hoped-for **White-chinned Thistletail** (photo page 8) and also got a **Blue-mantled Thornbill** (photo below) for our efforts in the cold climate. Our final stops for the day in *Papallacta* were around the pass (at 4000m/13,125ft). We'd earlier had a brief and unsatisfactory view of the rare **Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant** (here at arguably the most reliable site for it in Ecuador), and this time walked away with better views, after it was quickly relocated on a roadside cable.



A **Blue-mantled Thornbill** sitting atop a *Loracario thuyoides* shrub in shrubby paramo habitat above *Papallacta Pass* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

Our final birding stop on this day was in an area of *polylepis* woodland, that is formed of distinctive red, flaky-barked trees that live at the highest altitudes of any tree in the world. We were hoping to find one of the classic *polylepis* specialty birds, *Giant Conebill*, but in spite of locating a flock that could have held this species, we only found **Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart)**, **Pearled Treerunner** and **White-throated Tyrannulet** within it. In the late afternoon, we finally arrived at our hotel for the night, *Guango Lodge*, located beside a rushing mountain river, and in wet temperate forest at 2600m/8530ft elevation. We were greeted in the car park by an **Andean Guan** sitting beside the lodge and saw our first *hummingbird* at their feeders shortly before dark, in the form of several **Tourmaline Sunangels**. As the night chilled, we were happy to each be given a hot water bottle to retire to bed with, after an epic opening day's "battle"!

Day 2: 3rd March – [Guango & Papallacta to San Isidro](#).



This **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan** at *Guango* was one of the most popular birds of the entire tour (*Sam Woods*).

This was our second, and final, day in the high Andes. We started out in the temperate forest at *Guango Lodge* itself, then made a journey up to higher altitudes, covering several sites around *Papallacta*, before spending further time at *Guango* after lunch there, and then driving downslope to *Cabanas San Isidro* by the end of the day. Although we enjoyed a later breakfast than usual for this tour on this day (7:30am), all of us were up at the crack of the dawn all the same, as we visited the lodge blind, overlooking a moth trap and feeding area, at dawn, when the best activity is usually encountered.

Our 45 minutes there were very productive, watching birds come in one by one, which included noisy **Mountain Caciques** and **Turquoise Jays**, as well as more furtive species like 4 species of *brushfinch* (**Slaty**, **Gray-browed**, **Chestnut-capped** and **Pale-naped Brushfinches**), **Rufous Wren** (to the delight of *Martin* who had missed this at *Guango* on a previous trip), **Russet-crowned Warbler**, and **Black-eared Hemispingus**. We were then very ready for breakfast, and so we took a hot one at the lodge, before we departed for *Papallacta* for the remainder of the morning. *Sam* had decided to take a gamble on our first destination in that area, trying a place he had recently seen the rare *Crescent-faced Antpitta*. However, we had to retreat with our tails between our legs after the species was neither heard nor seen, along with not much else either! Therefore, we moved on to the road to *Cayambe-Coca National Park*, where things picked up after a time, and an encounter with *Andres Vasquez* again, who showed us a pair of **Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers**. *Andres* also later put us on to a flock that held the local **Black-backed Bush-Tanager**, and a beefy **Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager**. **Viridian Metaltail** also featured too. He also let us know that he had earlier bumped into *Alex Luna*, who had located the rare *Masked Mountain-Tanager* further up. We dearly wanted this species, which is found within scenic elfin forest at the higher reaches of the forested parts of the road. So, we headed up there and walked through this area, encountering our first rain as we did so. The group were quick to locate a feeding flock, and the appearance of more **Black-backed Bush-Tanagers** brought hope, for the *Masked Mountain-Tanager* is often found in company with that species. After *Sam* got a glimpse of our quarry, and realising we were not getting the views of the flock we needed, *Martin*, *Ken*, *Kurt* and *Sam* set off uphill through wet grass and damp bushes to try and get a better angle on the low feeding flock. Our trousers were quickly soaked through, but once the flock appeared, this was soon forgotten, as we were treated to incredible close ups of a family party of **Masked Mountain-Tanagers** (photo below) in addition to a pair of **Golden-crowned Tanagers** lurking in the elfin forest undergrowth.



PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: The first, Andean, section of the tour was rich in *tanagers*, with this **Masked Mountain-Tanager** within elfin forest near *Papallacta* being one of the rarest species seen (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

After our initial failure (with the *antpitta*), things had certainly picked up, and it was turning into somewhat of a landmark day for the tour! This was further proven, when, on the way down the road, we encountered *another* feeding flock, this time holding some very confiding **Golden-crowned Tanagers**, **Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers**, several **Lacrimose Mountain-Tanagers**, a few **Blue-backed Conebills** and a few extremely photogenic **Agile Tit-Tyrants** (*photo below*), among others. Things turned from the absurd to the sublime when, in the middle of the day, when hurrying back to the lodge for a delayed lunch, (following our flock distraction), a young **Mountain Tapir** walked slowly across the road in front of us and was very much appreciated-*Ken* picked this as his mammal of the tour, from the 20 or so species recorded.



The temperate cloud forest above *Papallacta* held a flock with several **Agile Tit-Tyrants** sharing the same trees as **Golden-crowned Tanagers**, **Blue-backed Conebills** and **Scarlet-bellied and Lacrimose Mountain-Tanagers** (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

We returned to *Guango Lodge* for lunch, and more birds after that. We started out after lunch taking time to admire the procession of hummingbirds coming to some new feeders on site, which held some regular birds there, like **Sword-billed Hummingbirds**, **Collared Inca**, **Tyrian Metaltail**, **White-bellied Woodstar**, **Long-tailed Sylph**, and **Tourmaline Sunangel**, as well as a less regular sighting of a full, adult male **Gorgeted Woodstar** (*photo page 1*) that captivated all of us. A trail walk was great, with a forest feeder attracting a host of *hummingbirds* but most notably the rare **Mountain Avocetbill** that is rarely seen at feeders anywhere in its range.

Further along this narrow, muddy trail, chaos reigned as a mixed flock and some fruiting trees made a great combination for productive birding; the flock held **Blue-and-black** and **Beryl-spangled Tanagers**, **Dusky Piha**, and more. Better still though, the fruiting trees were a magnet for a small party of **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucans** that gave repeated views in the area. Our last task at *Guango* was to check the river for Andean river species. This proved tough work, with no *ducks* or *dippers* seen where we had expected them, though *Martin* located an **Andean (Highland) Motmot** beside the same river. Then, just as *Sam and Ken* were scoping a **Torrent Tyrannulet**, *Martin* found the more significant half of the “Torrent Brace”, with a male **Torrent Duck** standing on a riverside rock. Seeing this bird in the late afternoon was our signal to leave, and we packed up and drove down to *Cabanas San Isidro*, arriving as darkness descended around 6:45pm. Once we had all assembled for dinner, we quickly saw one of the lodge’s most famous of birds, a **Black-banded Owl** (*photo below*) that was quietly sitting beside the lodge balcony for us all to admire.



Due to some diligent work and persistence from the group, we managed to see 9 different owl species on the tour, including this **Black-banded Owl** at *San Isidro*, their logo bird (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).



Hummingbirds of *Guango*: Mountain Avocetbill (TOP) & Sword-billed Hummingbird (both Sam Woods).



Day 3: 4th March – San Isidro area.

Having arrived in the darkness the evening before, the guests on the tour were not yet aware of what a nice setting we had arrived in at *San Isidro*. However, they got to appreciate this special site by the end of this day, for sure. *Ken*, in particular, had this as his favourite location of the tour, when it was all said and done at the end of it. The lodge is nestled in the cloudforest of the Andes, in the *subtropical* zone, lower than what we had been in before. While we had technically all been in cloudforest the day before (at *Guango*), the lower altitude to this one made it extremely different in terms of birds seen. We started out on the lodge balcony with coffee (and tea for *Sam*), as dawn broke around us. Conspicuous *Cecropia* trees were sighted right from the deck and immediately showed us something very different from those higher forests we had been in; the higher temperate zone does not have any of these trees. The birds themselves were further evidence of that too. A dawn time wake up was a great way to kickstart our local list, as many birds were attracted to the insects brought in by the lodge lights overnight. Birds eagerly gathered around the lodge, and provided plentiful photo opps, once the full light of the day penetrated the area. **Canada Warblers** were very conspicuous, as were **Pale-edged Flycatchers**, which both foraged for insects right beside us. As we waited on the deck birds popped in and out, and we needed to keep a sharp eye out for the changing avifauna as the morning progressed. One minute there was a **Mountain Wren** foraging in one particular local plant, but within a few minutes, this had been replaced by **Gray-breasted Wood-Wren** and then a **Black-crested Warbler**. The wet mossy trunks around the balcony hosted several **Montane Woodcreepers** and a single **Strong-billed Woodcreeper** too, while a male **Barred Becard** also popped in, as did **Cinnamon Flycatcher** and **Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant**. Several male **Blackburnian Warblers** were also wintering there and came in to catch insects off of the side of the building. However, arguably, all of these paled into insignificance when the larger conspicuous birds arrived, like gaudy **Inca (Green) Jays** (*photo below*) and a handsome male **Masked Trogon** (*photo page 17*), which impressed *Ken* with his self-confessed enthusiasm for all things *trogon*. Selfies then ensued with this absurdly bold male trogon. A calling **Black-billed Peppershrike** eventually appeared by the balcony too, as did a strident **Golden-crowned Flycatcher**.



Green (Inca) Jays were striking and conspicuous around the deck at *San Isidro* (*Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours*).

As the activity waned, we had an appointment with another very special bird, and were led into the forest nearby by one of the local rangers in the hope of seeing the shy *White-bellied Antpitta*. The rangers have been feeding this bird on and off for years, and were currently said to be regular at the feeding station, with up to three birds coming in. We had been warned that we needed some patience though, as it took a full 30 minutes for one to appear the day before. An hour went by, and we were still without a sighting. Discussions were had as to whether it would not be coming after all, but thankfully we all convinced ourselves to wait longer and at around 9am a single *White-bellied Antpitta* (photo below) hopped in and posed for long views in front of some mightily relieved people! After that, we returned to the lodge took a late breakfast, and found a few extra birds around the property, like **Southern Emerald Toucanet**. For the remainder of the morning we birded the forest lined road to *Las Caucheras*. This was rather quiet in a sunny late morning, although we did add a couple of handsome birds like **Streak-headed Antbird** and **Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher**, and a calling **Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** was noticed foraging in an area of dense bamboo.



A single, very tardy, *White-bellied Antpitta* came in to a forest feeding station at *San Isidro* (Sam Woods/Tropical Birding Tours).

For the last part of the afternoon, we visited a forested road nearby, where we quickly found a **Rufous-breasted Flycatcher**, which did not linger long enough for some, several **Blue-winged Mountain-Tanagers**, and also finally tracked down a calling male **Crested Quetzal**. A fruiting tree also held a couple of **Andean Cock-of-the-rocks**, including a fiery orange male. However, in spite of hearing some stellar birds, we were largely frustrated in our attempts at seeing them. This was heavily compensated for after dinner, when we visited nearby *Yanayacu Biological Station*, where we were rewarded by sightings of their resident *Rufous-banded Owl* (photo page 18) lurking with intent above the packed moth sheets. One of the moth sheets held a dramatic, gigantic **Hercules Beetle**, one of the largest species from this family on Earth.



This absurdly confiding **Masked Trogon** at *San Isidro* was a particular boon for *Ken*, a self-confessed Trogon fan! (*Sam Woods*).



Two large owls were seen around *San Isidro*, this **Rufous-banded Owl** at *Yanayacu* and **Black-banded Owl** at the lodge (*Sam Woods*).

Day 4: 5th March – **Guacamayos Ridge, Cascada Hollin & Papango Road to WildSumaco.**

This was a day of extreme variations in habitat. We started out by venturing higher from *San Isidro*, visiting an old Inca trail within wet temperate cloudforest along the *Guacamayos Ridge*, at an elevation of c.2300m/7545ft. Then we moved our way downhill into the *foothills* of the Andes, finally arriving at *WildSumaco Lodge*, at an altitude of 1480m/4900ft, at the end of the day. The *Guacamayos Ridge* is famed for its big bird list, but also its extreme weather, it is often shrouded in low cloud and is susceptible to heavy bouts of rain. Ewe got to see all of this first-hand by the end of the morning! We arrived to see clouds sweeping in and out but rain not yet in evidence, and so we set off along the old Inca route. Our first major success came with a calling **Slate-crowned Antpitta**, which worked its way upslope, and then appeared in the bamboo alongside us on several memorable occasions. For *Kurt*, in particular, chasing a number of new antpittas for his personal Antpitta Photo Calendar project, this was a fantastic start! Finding skulking birds was something of a specialty of ours that morning, as we managed to see three different species of tapaculo, some of the most difficult of groups to see. First, *Ken* at least, caught sight of a calling **Blackish Tapaculo** near the trailhead. Moving further down a surprise **Spillman's Tapaculo** was come upon as it was oddly at eye height, and then was identified by its loud calls. Then, finally, we managed to call in a **Long-tailed Tapaculo** to complete our *Tapaculo Triumverate* for the morning! Another early success came with another notorious skulker (*Ken* learnt pretty swiftly that *Sam* was to regularly use that term through the tour), and inhabitant of dense stands of *Chusquea* bamboo.

We heard a **Flammulated Treehunter** (*photo below*) calling and were pretty incredulous at how responsive it was and how many times it showed well for photos, a rare thing for this species, where usually only pieces of it are seen, at best!



Unusually good views were had of this **Flammulated Treehunter** on the Guacamayos Ridge, usually a notorious “skulker” (*Sam Woods*).

Thanks to several tip off from another TROPICAL BIRDING guide, *Alex Luna*, (who was at this site the day before), we also managed to locate a pair of daytime **White-throated Screech-Owls** along the trail too, as well as a nesting pair of **Sharpe’s Wrens**. Further down the trail *Ken* got some good views of a scarce and impressive cloudforest woodpecker, **Powerful Woodpecker**, but unfortunately the bird took flight before anyone but *Sam* and *Ken* had seen it. **Saffron-crowned Tanagers** were finally seen well there too, for a prolonged spell, as well as a very cooperative **Handsome Flycatcher**. Moving back to the vehicle for a packed lunch by the local virgin *Mary*, we were caught up in a heavy downpour, getting thoroughly soaked in the process! This is quite typical for the *Guacamayos Ridge*, but we were so close to narrowly avoiding it this time! Arriving back at the parking area, we quickly retreated into the warmth and sanctuary of the van and ate our lunch heartily. We decided to wait out the rain in the hope of finding a *mountain-toucan*, which we did not. However, *Martin* and *Sam*, made several forays out into the somewhat lighter rain, and were rewarded with **Grass-green Tanager**, **Lacrimose and Hooded Mountain-Tanagers**, and a male **Green-and-black Fruiteater** too.

It was then time to push ahead and drive downslope into the foothills of the Andes. Our first, brief major stop, was at *Cascada Hollin*, where the feeders and surrounding bushes produced plentiful **Green-backed Hillstars** (*photo page 47*), our main target for the site. In our short time there, we also saw **Andean Cock-of-the-rock**, **Yellow-rumped Cacique**, **Many-spotted Hummingbird**, **Black-throated Mango**, **Fork-tailed Woodnymph**, and **Violet-headed Hummingbird** too.

On the way to our next planned stop, we paused for a roadside **Channel-billed Toucan**, and a longer stop to try and find a roosting pair of *Blackish Nightjars* ended up with us not seeing the nightjars but adding our first **Cliff Flycatchers** to the trip list instead. Lastly, we stopped along the *Papango Road*, close to *WildSumaco Lodge*, and experienced a constant stream of new birds from virtually one single spot. The first bird to break us in there was a party of dazzling **Paradise Tanagers**, surely one of the very best from that brightly colored family. We stood glued to the spot as a **Lined Antshrike** called from beside us, and the male was tempted up into the open there too. **Thrush-like Wrens** called their strident songs too and were soon available to see and scope at length in a series of dead branches by the roadside. Then, things got really interesting when a small flock of bright golden birds landed in the trees besides us and showed themselves to be a small party of **Orange-fronted Plushcrows**, a handsome, scarce species in the area. We switched our attention to the undergrowth again for a calling **Dusky Spinetail** that gave uncharacteristically good looks as it moved around in the shady secondary growth on the road verge. We needed to keep switching our line of focus, one minute eye level in the understory but more often up into the canopies of the surrounding trees, where various bird parties and flocks came through. One such species found out of them was a pair of **Little Woodpeckers**, **Green-and-gold Tanagers**, and a fantastically tiny *woodpecker*, the **Lafresnaye's Piculet**, which even allowed us to train *Sam's* Swarovski spotting scope on it. **Masked Tityras** featured there too, as did **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** and some vociferous **Violaceous Jays**, complete with their impossible to ignore, raucous calls. **Chestnut-fronted Macaws** passed overhead several times, a *Golden-collared Toucanet* croaked at us from too far off to see, 3 new swifts graced the skies above (**Gray-rumped, Short-tailed and White-collared Swifts**), and some **White-thighed Swallows** were found settled on some roadside wires, before we had to leave this birdy place behind and head to *WildSumaco Lodge*, arriving shortly before dinner. After our long and eventful day in and out of rain, and with a burst of new birds in the afternoon, we decided to rest up this night and search for the *owls* of the area the next day instead...



Day 5: 6th March – WildSumaco.

Two **Ochre-breasted Antpittas** were observed and photographed at a forest feeding station in *WildSumaco* (*Sam Woods*).

Today opened with some tense, nervous excitement, it was our first morning at the wonderful *WildSumaco* after all, and our first real push for foothills birds, following our opener at *Papango* the afternoon before. We started by doing a classic activity for the lodge, visit their moth trap/blind a minute's walk from the restaurant to get the early morning birds there. There is not many species, but the mix is good, with species that can often be difficult away from this wonderful situation. First to come in was a female **Black-faced Antbird** (much more handsome than the male in *Sam's* opinion!) and a male **Plain Antvireo**, followed by a pair of **Western (White-backed) Fire-eyes**, then **Black-billed Treehunter** and a marvelous **White-chested Puffbird**. The lodge had not been idle while we were watching these birds at very close quarters. Just after dawn, one of the ranges had visited a couple of areas on nearby trails to check in on the usual roosting spots for *Band-bellied Owl*, another much wanted species for the group. He came back with positive news, and so after the blind had quietened down we walked twenty minutes up a forest trail and watched a **Band-bellied Owl** (*photo page 20*) stare down at us (by the afternoon, one owl became two, when this photo was taken). *Sumaco* was living up to the hype; things were going swimmingly....and then the wheels came off! We entered one of the best birding trails in the area, the F.A.C.E. trail with a long list of target birds, but were quickly thwarted by rain, which became heavier and heavier, leading us to flee the trail with little to show for it. However, while the chips were down, one of the great things about Ecuadorian bird lodges is, is that they always have hummingbird feeders for just such times...

...And *WildSumaco's* hummingbird feeders are pretty special, arguably the best in all of Eastern Ecuador. While it rained, we stood on the broad, sheltered veranda at the lodge, switching from end to end, covering all the feeders, with continuous action. **Brown Violetears** were one of the most abundant species, as were **Golden-tailed Sapphire** and **Many-spotted Hummingbird**. The substantial supporting cast was provided by lesser numbers of **Wire-crested Thorntails**, **Booted Racket-tails** (here, of the *eastern, buff-booted*, variety), **Napo Sabrewings**, **Black-throated Brilliants**, **Sparkling Violetears**, gorgeous **Gould's Jewelfronts**, and **Fork-tailed Woodnymphs**. A rarity even popped in (**Rufous-vented Whitetip**) and was picked out thanks to the sharp-eyed lodge guide *Byron*. A single **Green Hermit** came in too. In all, **TWENTY ONE species of hummingbird** were seen that day. Not bad, for a day where the morning was "spoilt" by rain! From the veranda, we also spotted a **Yellow-throated Toucan**, a striking male **Golden-collared Honeycreeper**, plus a small troop of **Graells's (Black-mantled) Tamarins** came in too and were the first primate see of the tour. By the end we were to rack up a *further eight monkey species* following our time in the primate-rich Amazon.



Two **Plain-backed Antpittas** were also observed and photographed at a forest feeding station in *WildSumaco* (*Sam Woods*).

After lunch, thankfully, the rain eased, and our plans were swiftly back on track. One of the highlights of our visit to *Sumaco* then featured, a visit to a forest feeding station. As we made our way there along a short trail, bids appeared around us, seemingly taking advantage of the onset of the post-rain, dry spell. Some of the highlights included some low, low looks at a pair of **Andean Cock-of-the-rocks**, **Plain-brown Woodcreeper**, and a male **Blue-rumped Manakin**. On the way out, we took another look at the **Band-bellied Owl** at the roost, where there were now *two* present, and the light was much improved from that experienced during our morning view. **Ochre-breasted Antpitta** (*photo page 21*) was quick to appear and provided plentiful photo opps. for those with cameras, and great views for those without.

We were filled with renewed vigour and confidence, only to be seemingly thwarted, when the “expected”, regular *Plain-backed Antpitta* called nearby, but failed to appear at its allotted time. As a result, we tried some repositioning, and almost instantly, the first of two **Plain-backed Antpittas** (*photo page 22*) appeared and put on a good show. Things were not all straightforward though, as the hoped for *White-crowned Tapaculo* called from closeby, but did not appear at the feeding station, (as it had done that morning). We also did some road birding that afternoon, which was productive in parts, with **Collared Trogon**, **Yellow-tufted Woodpecker**, **Yellow-breasted Antwren**, and **Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher**, but was relatively quiet overall. However, looking back on the day, in spite of the rain, we had definitely had some successes that were worth celebrating. That night an extensive search for *Foothill Screech-Owl* ended up in frustration, after we heard a very close bird but never saw a feather on it all! *Martin*, at least, vowed to try again the following night!

Day 6: 7th March – **WildSumaco Day II.**



Two different puffbirds were seen at the *WildSumaco* blind, this **Black-streaked Puffbird** and *White-chested Puffbird* (*Sam Woods*).

The day started out much as the one before, with a visit to the blind. Some of the “regulars” appeared again, like **Plain Antvireo**, this time a pair of **Black-faced Antbirds** and a **White-chested Puffbird**. However, the latter species was quickly displaced from its perch by a **Black-streaked Puffbird** (*photo above*), exactly the species we had been hoping to yield out of this second visit! After this short, though very productive period of close ups of forest birds, we set off along the road, birding the forest edge, and being rewarded by finding a pair of **Coppery-chested Jacamars** (*photo next page*) that had previously failed to locate the afternoon before. Thanks to *Martin* finding them, this time round, they were easy and cooperative. While we were by the roadside we heard several bamboo specialists calling from a nearby tall stand, and quickly located first a **Euler’s Flycatcher** and then a **Large-headed Flatbill** by following its distinctive calls. A loud call overhead soon saw us staring up at a flock of **Military Macaws**. Things were clearly going well, very well indeed!



A pair of **Coppery-chested Jacamars** were sighted at *Sumaco*, where it is the logo bird of the lodge (*Sam Woods*).



With the day now fully light and the forest not looking so dark and foreboding as it had earlier, we entered a forest trail, this time the “*Piha Trail*”. We knew that we would have to work harder for our birds there (than on the road and at the lodge), but we also knew this was the *only* way to track down some of the *interior* forest species, and specialists, which we were still seeking in the area. Quick success came with a pair of calling **Wing-barred Piprites**, which were tracked down in the forest canopy. Moving along, we heard one of the most sensational, iconic calls of the Andes, the pulchritudinous song of the **Musician Wren**. This was a species that *Ken* had requested among a discrete list of “wants”, and he was seduced instantly by hearing the song in real life. We could not tempt the bird to sing within viewing range, but that did not seem to matter to *Ken*, who had this as one of his highlights of the whole tour, based entirely on hearing its mesmerising song. This was followed up by another **Blue-rumped Manakin**, although our early overtures to try and find the tricky *Yellow-throated Spadebill* fell on deaf ears. We moved on down the steep trail, finding a foraging **Blackish Antbird**, which provided a significant upgrade to the views of the day before. We continued on down the *Piha Trail*, hoping for a sign, or more specifically a sound, of its namesake bird, the **Gray-tailed Piha**. Finally, we reached the area where they are known to loudly call for a partner, and waited, impatiently to hear its strident calls. Its “song” though was not heard, but its quieter call was, and soon *Sam* located a pair of *pihas* that were seen over and over as they visited a fruiting tree. The same area brought shock to our ears when a *Buckley’s Forest-Falcon* called, typically during mid-morning (they are generally crepuscular in their calling periods) close by. However, attempts to see this bugger of a bird quickly fell flat, when the bird called from much further away. This was not the first time this has happened to *Sam* with this nemesis bird!



This **Blackish Rail** was seen in rank grassland near the village of *Pacto Sumaco* (*Sam Woods*).

Trying to see a calling *Wing-banded Wren* further down resulted in similar lack of success, and so we decided to make our way slowly back up the trail. This is when our luck changed, with *Ken* right at the center of this. He remarked he had a bird with a bright chestnut cap, and a few of us instantly recognised, and panicked, as we knew what he was probably watching! After a rapid re-meet with *Ken* (a little further up the trail), he showed us a spectacular **Chestnut-crowned Gnateater**, which we followed and admired for some time, where it gave incredible views, but always seemed to just evade a photo capture as it actively foraged, in its typically fidgety fashion, in the dingy forest understory. Good views, but no cigar! As we made our way back to the road, we took off on a side trail (as had done before that morning), although this time with a different result. Just after *Sam* played the call of the rare and elusive **Yellow-throated Spadebill**, *Martin* announced he had the bird sitting in the open! *Ken* and *Sam* were happy to swiftly locate the bird too following his instructions. We decided to take the *Manakin Trail* back to the road but regretted this somewhat as following recent bad weather conditions (atypically heavy rains), the trail was in poor condition, and we were happy to finally see the road again a short time later! Back on the road, and just before we departed back to the road for lunch, we located another restricted range species, **Ecuadorian Tyrannulet**.



There was much relief, (following a failed first attempt the night before), when we found this **Foothill Screech-Owl** with relative ease on our last night at *WildSumaco Lodge* (*Sam Woods*).

After lunch and some further sweeps of the busy hummingbird feeders on the balcony (and a break), we returned to the road, searching for mixed flocks, where we found another local flycatcher, the **Foothill Elaenia**, which gave some prolonged views in the area. After that, we drove the short distance to a more open area on the flanks of the village of Pacto Sumaco, a few kilometers only from the lodge. We were there to try for some open country species, and quickly located a marvelous **Scaled Pigeon** sitting at the forest edge and a couple of **Blue-gray Saltators** (a recent split from *Grayish Saltator*). A little later, *Byron*, a guide from the lodge arrived and performed his next trick, laying out worms for a retiring **Blackish Rail** (*photo page 25*) that swiftly came into the open and plucked the worms out of the rank grass! Further **Maggie Tanagers** and a perched **Red-billed Parrot** were also found at the forest edge in the same area, as was another **Paradise Tanager** or two, and our first **Golden-faced Tyrannulets**. The last, short remainder to the day passed without event and so we retired for a break before another hearty dinner at the lodge. As it was our last night, we spent time settling bills, buying souvenir t-shirts with a *Coppery-chested Jacamar*, and planning for our departure to the Amazon the next day. However, that did not stop *Martin*, *Sam* and *Alex* (the leader of another TROPICAL BIRDING group staying there too), from giving one more try for that furtive **Foothill Screech-Owl** (*photo page 26*) that had been oh so close the evening before. This time, on entering the forest trail, as with evening before, the screech-owl was heard without any attempt at playback. However, knowing this had only ended “in tears” the evening before, our confidences were somewhat blunted. However, following a short burst of playback, the swift action of *Alex* with the spotlight and *Sam* quickly announcing he had the bird, an amazing, open view of the owl came quickly and surprised us all, as the species is somewhat notorious for hiding in dense foliage.

Day 7: 8th March – [WildSumaco to The Amazon \(Napo Wildlife Center\)](#).



We arrived by hand-paddled canoe, at [Napo Wildlife Center](#) at sunset, the first of two good *Amazon lodges* on the tour (*Sam Woods*).

With precious little time in *WildSumaco* and the Andean foothills left, (before we needed to depart for our Amazon “gateway city”, *Coca*), we birded at the lodge for the last time, plus took a bit of time along the road nearby, before reluctantly leaving this wonderful place behind. We took in the lodge blind for the last time for the now familiar *puffbirds* and *antbirds*, and the *hummer* feeders, if only briefly, before moving to the nearby biological station, where we found our main target, **Olive-chested Flycatcher** after a time, and also got short but decent looks at a **Dark-breasted Spinetail**. On another, more thickly-forested section of road near there too, we finally tracked down a pair of the calling **Gilded Barbets** that seemed to have been haunting us for days. Our only **Golden-olive Woodpecker** of the entire trip also showed up too. We got another brief party of **Military Macaws** that took off tantalisingly closeby, got another **Foothill Elaenia**, saw our only **Sooty-headed Tyrannulets** of the tour, and also added **Bronze-green Euphonia** and **Yellow-throated Chloropsingus** shortly after. Other last minute birds in the foothills included **Orange-eared Tanager** and **Cerulean Warbler**.



A vocal pair of **Slender-billed Kites** was seen from our canoe, as we made our way to *Napo Wildlife Center* (*Sam Woods*).

The skies had been threatening for a while, and while we drove to the oil town and port of *Coca*, they exploded, and heavy rain fell for much of the latter part of our two hour drive. We were tucked safely in the vehicle, so this was not a bother at the time. But then, disaster struck, and in spite of traveling in a modern, comfortable 15-seater van with an experienced, licensed driver, the clutch on the van gave in, and just 5 kilometres from our destination, we needed to bundle into another Tropical Birding group’s vehicle who were fortunately just behind us. We hitched a ride and arrived soon after in a rain drenched *Coca*. However, our mood was *upbeat*; by the days’ end we would be settled into the amazing setting and comfort of *Napo Wildlife Center* in the heart of Ecuador’s Amazon rainforest. *Ken* was particularly looking forward to that, and I do not blame him, so was *Sam*!

After taking our lunch out of the rain beside the broad *Napo River* alongside, which would be our route to the lodge, we waited out the rain and for other lodge passengers to fly in and join us for the motorboat part of the ride in. We finally left with rain still falling, but in a comfy boat with chairs, and covers to prevent us from being drenched. Fortunately though, the rain stopped for the last part of our journey to the lodge; (an initial 2-hour motorboat ride, followed by 2-3 hours in a hand-paddled canoe, where we travelled and birded slowly along the idyllic *Anangu Creek*, that runs through rich *Varzea and Igapo Forest* (i.e. seasonally flooded), picking up plenty of birds of this habitat on the way. Shortly after the rain stopped, our rain covers were rolled back up and we watched the banks for activity, where our local guide *Remi*, quickly located the oddball **Amazonian Umbrellabird** drying itself at the top of the tree, another much-wanted target bird for *Ken*! Several **Black Caracaras** were also seen in flight along the main river too, and **White-winged Swallows** regularly glided just above the river's surface waters. Just before we transferred from motorboat to canoe, we noted a pair **Pied Lapwings (Plovers)** on the banks, shortly after our only **Southern Lapwing** in the same area, as well as the conspicuous **Swallow-winged Puffbird** and striking **Red-capped Cardinal**. As we transferred from our large motorboat that had brought us along the *Napo River* to the smaller canoes to take us down *Anangu Creek*, we got a brief look at a vivid high-vi orange **Orange-backed Troupial**, as well as another bird of forest edge, **Magpie Tanager**. Once in the canoes, we were steadily, but gently, taken along *Anangu Creek* towards our destination, the uber-comfortable Amazon lodge of *Napo Wildlife Center*. One of the first to fall was a **Slate-colored Hawk** that allowed us to drift in our canoes right underneath it, as did a vociferous pair of **Slender-billed Kites** (photo page before). It was our first experience of the *Amazon*, and it lived up to the billing, with plentiful interesting birds, like **Hoatzins**, **toucans**, and **trogons**, as well as *mammals* like **squirrel monkeys**, **howlers**, **capuchins** and the distinctive **Proboscis Bat**. Troops of monkeys are not only followed by birders looking for a peak, but **Double-toothed Kites** keep an eye on groups to grab any insects dislodged by the marauding monkeys. One of these kites also featured during this canoe ride. We were swiftly a world away from the Andean foothills that we'd been in just that morning, and were drifting past towering *Kapok* trees, some of the true rainforest giants that had often impressively emerged well above the canopies of the other surrounding trees. This was a particular plant of interest to *Jim*, who'd previously visited the *Amazon* some time ago, and looked forward to reacquainting himself with these magnificent pillars of the rainforest. Watching for treetop activity led us to no less than **THREE** species of *aracari*, seen in the following order: **Many-banded**, **Ivory-billed** and **Lettered Aracaris**. Not long into this journey we also spotted a **Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth**. Two different sand-colored **Great Potoos** were seen at traditional day roosting sites, one of which was only a short way from the canoe dock. Another good "early" bird was a creekside **Black-bellied Cuckoo** feeding just above us. Moving our way languidly along the creek, we would stop when a vocalisation would reveal a bird nearby, which led us to sightings of **Silvered and Spot-winged Antbirds**, **Amazonian Streaked Antwren** and the scarce **Yellow-crowned Elaenia**. Other birds just showed up, like a treetop **Spix's Guan**, a canoe side **Green-backed Trogon**, a low foraging **Cinnamon Attila**, and several small, noisy groups of **Scarlet Macaws** passing overhead. Getting closer to the lodge, the **Hoatzin** count went up, as did that of **Greater Anis**, of which dozens and dozens were seen. During this period, we also saw our first riparian **Lesser Kiskadees** and a cream-colored **Capped Heron**. Very close to the section where we viewed the scenic setting of the lodge for the first time, we saw the bizarre **Long-billed Woodcreeper** to add to the **Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper** seen much earlier on the canoe ride. As the skies turned from blue to orange, with the sun setting, we checked into *Napo Wildlife Center* for a 3-night stay.

Day 8: 9th March – The Amazon – Napo Wildlife Center Day I.

Our first full day (of two) at *Napo Wildlife Center*, involved a walk along a locally famous forest trail to try and find one of *Napo's* most impressive target bird species, the spectacularly adorned *Black-necked Red Cotinga*, a bird daubed in jet black and fiery red tones. This was a bird that had been solidly written in as *Martin's* most wanted species of the entire tour, and so there was a little added pressure there! To find this scarce and local species at *Napo*, it is necessary to walk a trail at a reasonable pace, to ensure the distance of 2km or so is covered in good time, and arrival is before the birds leave their normal display area for the day. We mixed up the groups from the two Tropical Birding tours running there at the time, so that those who were not so *Cotinga*-focused could have a more relaxed morning at the canopy tower.

We started out, however, from the lodge in darkness with another specialty bird in mind. We were gently paddled to a creek, where after hearing it calling for a little while, we located a super **Zigzag Heron** (*photo below*) that froze in the spotlight at close range. A **Common Potoo** was also lit up on the way there too, but our *Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl* overtures only resulted in *Remi* and *Sam* seeing the bird but no one else, as they were blocked. After this short canoe ride, we arrived at the trailhead, where a calling *Ringed Woodpecker* would have been a great opener there, had it not disappeared shortly after appearing! **Coraya Wren** was, however, seen in that area. The trail was largely quiet, until we reached the cotinga lek area, where we quickly heard not the cotinga, but a rare *woodpecker*. We spent a few minutes trying to locate them, and then finally tempted a male **Red-necked Woodpecker** into a tree we could view clearly. Then, after a bit of chasing around, we finally locked eyes on a male **Black-necked Red-Cotinga**, glowing in the treetops. It was a short, but good look, with scope views had too. Relief all round! Several monkey species featured along the trail, including the scarce **White-fronted Spider-Monkey** and **Poepping's Woolly Monkey** too. In truth, the trail was awfully quiet that morning, aside from the species already mentioned, A **Dot-backed Antbird** and a close approach from a male **Common Scale-backed Antbird**, **Blue-crowned** and **White-crowned Manakins**, and a late, late show from a hulking **Great Jacamar**.



Under cover of darkness, we drifted up to this calling **Zigzag Heron** during a short canoe ride at *Napo Wildlife Center (Sam Woods)*.

We returned to the lakeside lodge for lunch. After a break, we set off for the *Canopy Tower* in the afternoon on the far side of the lake, which was superb during our short visit. Our first stop was just across from the lodge, where a massive **Green Anaconda** was observed curled up on the matted vegetation at the lake edge that had been found there sunning itself by another lodge group earlier in the day. During the canoe ride, we admired the inevitable and conspicuous local **Hoatzins**, a **Capped Heron**, and also took in our first **Black-capped Donacobius**. On our walk to the tower we admired a calling red-and-yellow male **Wire-tailed Manakin**. Of course, the mere experience of being way high up in a large *Kapok* tree, looking at canopy at eye level and below was something to savour alone, but the birds were good too! A **White-necked Puffbird** called and was seen in the distance initially but worked its way closer to the tower eventually. A pair of **Scale-breasted Woodpeckers** were seen foraging beside the tower too. Oddly, a **Great Jacamar** randomly flew in and landed within the tree we were positioned in, also. A pair of nesting **Red-rumped Caciques** was noteworthy, being a notably scarce species in *Ecuador*. Several **Gilded Barbets** climbed around a near canopy, the harsh cries of **Red-throated Caracaras** led us to them, and a few small treetop flocks held **Turquoise and Opal-rumped Tanagers**. The high-pitched clicking notes of the tiny **Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher** finally led to that species too. A male **Rufous-bellied Euphonia** appeared within “our” *Kapok* tree, and *Remi* spotted a marvelous male **Purple-throated Cotinga** standing sentry at the apex of a tall tree. The loud calls of **Orange-winged Parrots** alerted us to their presence too, while a party of **Many-banded Aracaris** crossed from canopy to canopy, and a couple of **White-fronted Nunbirds** also made an appearance, as did the striking **Crimson-crested Woodpecker**, which was to feature further times over the following days in the Amazon again.

Bat Falcon was also noted there perched. After this sudden burst of birds, we returned to ground level (and seeing a **Plain Xenops** there), for the close of the day, paddling to another trail, where we hoped to find *Collared Puffbird* at a known roost area. However, in spite of the birds being heard closeby, we simply could not locate them before it got too dark, and they fell silent for the



night. We vowed to return the next day and give them another try. However, there was little time to think on that, as the approach of darkness was also the time we needed for another target species, the forest dwelling **Ocellated Poorwill** (*photo above*). A couple were quickly heard and then we managed to track down a perched bird in the understory that remained for a long time, allowing us to take repeated photos and enjoy prolonged ‘scope looks! This was a great way to end an absorbing day in the Amazon.



SIX species of monkey featured on one day at *Napo Wildlife Center*, including this, the bizarre **Napo (Monk) Saki** (*Sam Woods*).

Day 9: 10th March – **The Amazon – Napo Wildlife Center Day II.**

On this day, some felt the desire to stay back and take it easy around our wonderful lodge, with its jacuzzi facilities, on site, elevator-accessible canopy tower, and all round sense of peace and calm within a wonderful lakeside setting. The rest of us visited a new trail (as yet to be named) close to the main *Napo River*. This did involve the usual early start (5am breakfast time), but also a journey to get there, along the *Anangu Creek*. This was, however, fortuitous. As we were paddled along, Remi noticed a tawny shape sitting on the tip of a snag, which was none other than a newly found roosting **Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl**, a Hell of an opening. Moments later, this journey went up a further notch still, when some calling **Gray-winged Trumpeters** were seen as they patrolled the forest edge, (a mega sighting of a scarce and elusive bird and bird family)! This was a truly cracking way to see this notoriously shy bird, and we all saw the group well, which comprised of at least four birds. Not much further along we found a **Golden-mantled Tamarin** too, the lodge's logo species. The rest of the journey to the main river was quiet by comparison, but once we reached the *Napo River*, we passed by an active parrot clay lick at just the right time to see **Blue-headed Parrots, Dusky-headed Parakeets, Yellow-crowned and Mealy Parrots** all jostling for position on the bank. It was also interesting to see how the parrots, as species, were gathered in certain sections of the wall, with the *parakeets* restricted to the upper left corner and the *Yellow-crowned Parrots* largely on the lower right of it! Leaving that noisy rabble behind we docked at the trailhead and walked inside the much quieter forest. That is when, and not for the first time that morning, we bumped into a shy forest species, which was fortunate to see, a small group of **Salvin's Curassows**! Their timidity at our sudden presence was clear, they bobbed their heads this way and that, and were quick to evaporate into the cover of the forest. However. One individual flapped clumsily into the trees, where we could watch it at length and see the odd, bulbous orange bill.

The *trumpeters* and *curassows* certainly left their mark on our memories of that day, as they were very special sightings indeed, and we all knew it! The morning's walk was very productive, in stark contrast to a largely frustrating morning during the walk the day before. We soon bumped into a swarm of army ants and found one of the obligate ant following species that spend their lives following them, **White-cheeked Antbird**. **Sooty Antbird** was not far away too. Moving slowly and deliberately along the trail, we then located another top target for *Martin*, **Yellow-billed Jacamar**. By the end of the trip we were to see *six different species of jacamar* (out of a possible seven). It was another good morning for fans of manakins too, as one productive period saw us add both a striking male **Striolated Manakin** AND watch a lengthy display of a male **Golden-headed Manakin** in the presence of a female on the same branch. The male spread its wings like a vulture, and had his bicolored, scarlet-and-white thighs revealed. To complete a sterling morning for *manakins*, *Remi* did what good Amazon guides do, making finding a tiny and motionless **Dwarf Tyrant Manakin** look easy! Other highlights along the trail that morning included **Gray Antbird**, **Pygmy Antwren**, and **Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant**. Birds were not the only animals present that morning, with *5 species of monkey* seen too.



This **Ladder-tailed Nightjar** was roosting alongside the *Napo River* (*Sam Woods*).

On the way to lunch, a roosting **Ladder-tailed Nightjar** (*photo above*) was skilfully found by our local guide resting beside the *Napo River*. We travelled to *Napo's* dock and took a cooked lunch there, to break up the day nicely, while **Violaceous Jays** posed beside the restaurant. Our journey back along *Anangu Creek* to the lodge was eventful again, with yet another monkey joining the list, with the odd **Napo (Monk) Saki** (*photo page 32*), which looks rather like a monkey wearing a fur coat! Birds featured too, of course, with our first **Cream-colored Woodpecker** and **Lineated Woodpecker**, and an unexpected **Crane Hawk** too.

We arrived back at the lodge, where *Ken* chose to stay back at the lodge rather than continue on for two final activities in the late afternoon. *Martin*, of course, (being the keenest of the group), was still present, but ensured that he put in an order by radio for his personal jacuzzi to be prepared for his return after that! Our first stop was along a narrow creek, where a **Blue-and-yellow Macaw** was found perched above us, an Amazonian classic bird if ever there was one. Then we moved on to a particular stretch of the waterway, where we managed to locate two **Chestnut-capped Puffbirds** as hoped. With that species in the bag, we needed to backtrack and try for another *puffbird* that had eluded us the evening before. However, before we left, we were pointed towards a hollow, where three cute heads were staring down at us, a group of adorable **Spix's Night-Monkeys**! We returned to the lagoon, crossed to the other side, and then walked a short way up a trail we had visited the evening before (and had held the *poorwill*). This time, we were a little earlier than the evening before and the timing paid off, as we managed to scope up a **Collared Puffbird** this time shortly before roosting time. While we were doing this, *Ken* spent a bit of time at the lodge, and photographed the only **Blue-throated Piping-Guan** of the tour.

Day 10: 11th March – The Amazon – Napo Wildlife Center to Sani Lodge.



These confiding **Scarlet Macaws** were the headline of our trip to the clay licks in *Yasuni National Park* (*Sam Woods*).

On this day, we swapped one Amazon lodge for another, moving from *Napo Wildlife Center* to *Sani Lodge*, located on the far (northern) side of the *Napo River* from there. In between the two lodges lie the famous parrot clay licks, and so we left early (in the dark) to ensure we were at the licks at the regular times for the *parrots*. As we were paddled up the creek to get there, we paused for a roosting **American Pygmy-Kingfisher** that was spotlighted.

We visited “clay lick 1”, beside the main, *Napo River*, which some of us had visited the day before. As then, the parrots were in noisy attendance, with the same species seen (i.e. **Blue-headed, Yellow-crowned and Mealy Parrots**, and **Dusky-headed Parakeet**), in addition to a small party of **White-eyed Parakeets**. A visit to a local river island was largely frustrating, with a furtive **Castelnau’s Antshrike** and a **Black-and-white Antbird** only seen by one of the participants. We did find success with several **Ladder-tailed Nightars** roosting on the island, a brace of **Collared Plovers**, plus some striking **Oriole Blackbirds** and a couple of **Blue-gray Saltators**. *Churi* our skilled local guide, also led us to a **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture**, a rare species in Ecuador that had been seen in this area of late. At “clay lick 2”, we sat in the blind and waited impatiently for the rowdy local *parrots* to descend to the ground to the lick. After a visit from a lonely **Plumbeous Pigeon**, they eventually did, with first some **Cobalt-winged Parakeets**, followed dramatically by visits from several goliath **Scarlet Macaws** (*photo page before*). Lunchtime was fast approaching, and we were taken by boat to the local *Sani Isla* community for this (noting a group of lined up **White-banded Swallows** near the docking area), which are the operators and owners of *Sani Lodge*. The visit to the community was partly about *food*, but also about *birds* and *primates*. We were hoping to find a “pocket monkey”, or *Pygmy Marmoset*, there, but after checking their favoured trees, none were found to be present. Our try for *White-lored Antpitta* was also disappointing, with this vocal bird not even heard during our attempt! Rai came in, which was our cue to retire to cover and take lunch in the community, where the local women’s group shared their crafts with us and also allowed us to sample some local dishes in addition to our scheduled lunch. This included “*maito*”, locally caught *catfish* wrapped and cooked in leaves, and “*chontacuro*”, a grilled beetle larva of the Black Palm Weevil, which was popular to only few, even if this is an Amazonian favorite! By the time we had finished dining the rain had eased, and another *Tropical Birding* group had appeared and informed us that a **Crested Owl** (*photo below*) was at its usual roost nearby.



After eating, we went straight there, and stared at this magnificent owl sleeping during the day. Our walk to and from there was also productive, with **Chestnut-eared Aracari** and **Golden-collared Toucanet** providing two new *toucan* species for the trip, while, oddly, an **Orange-fronted Plushcrown** was not new! A **Spot-breasted Woodpecker** was also located on this walk, as was a chunky **White-eared Jacamar**. In the afternoon, we made another trip to another river island, finding **Parker's Spinetail** and **Orange-headed Tanager**, although only a few saw the first species and only *Kurt* saw the *tanager*, and the same went for an **Olive-spotted Hummingbird** or two and a reclusive **River Tyrannulet**! However, we did all see **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, **Eastern Kingbird**, and **Mottle-backed Elaenia** on the island, as well as **Cocoi Heron** during the boat ride there. We, finally, arrived at *Sani Lodge* in the evening after a busy day.



This **Black-fronted Nunbird** was photographed from the bar at *Sani Lodge*! (*Sam Woods*).

Day 11: 12th March – The Amazon –Sani Lodge Day I.

We awoke early, ready for another amazing Amazon experience, but this time around the very different Sani Lodge. Our enthusiasm, however, was swiftly dampened when our plans had to be shelved by heavy rain falling. This ultimately did not turn out too bad though, as we birded from the sheltered areas at the lodge (the restaurant bar, dock etc.), and saw some good birds while we waited for some rain relief. By the dock itself some palm trees hosted a roosting **Tropical Screech-Owl**, while meters away a **Rufescent Tiger-Heron** was observed on its nest. Out the back of the lodge, beside our cabins, we found a very confiding pair of **Pink-throated Becards**, which *Kurt* made quick work of photographing well!

Beside the bar, a wet **Black-fronted Nunbird** (*photo page before*) sat nonchalantly in the rain. Occasionally jumping into action to pick an insect off of the side of the lodge building. *Churi* hit the jackpot when he found a **Sunbittern** foraging near the dock too. And, of course, **Hoatzins** were ever present, lounging around the edge of the lake like living dinosaurs! A couple of **Scarlet-crowned Barbets** were also lured into the trees by the bar too. An hour or so later, the rain had passed on, and we swiftly got into our canoe, taking a trip into some *varzea* forest where we located the only **Boat-billed Heron** of the tour, and also found our only **Straight-billed Woodcreepers** too. Crossing the lake to another forest-lined creek, *Martin*, suddenly gestured towards a chestnut bird with a near black hood, which was none other than one of the premier target species at *Sani Lodge*, **Cocha Antshrike** (*photo next page*). We watched first the female, and then a male too, forage close to our canoe. During that time of distraction, an **Orange-crowned Manakin** was also seen by some closeby too, and a low perched **Citron-bellied Attila** was watched by all. This relaxing style of birding, by canoe, was paying off well, and in the same area a male **Blue-crowned Trogon** was also found, keeping the group's "Trogon Specialist", *Ken*, happy! **Greater Anis** and **Black-capped Donacobius** featured around the lake fringes too, as usual, as were several sharp **Red-capped Cardinals**. A couple of startlingly bright **Masked Crimson Tanagers** were also found on the forest edge, close to the blackwater lagoon on which the lodge is located. The same area hosted a pair of calling **Channel-billed Toucans** that day too. Another *varzea* (seasonally flooded forest) specialist, **White-chinned Jacamar** was also spotted from our canoe. After this relatively relaxed style of birding, we docked and moved on to a forest trail for some birds more easily observed outside of a canoe. Our main quarry there was a **Chestnut-belted Gnateater** (*photo next page*), and after only around a ten minute walk to the spot, the bird showed up quickly and remained perched in some great positions for us to not only see it well but also photograph it too.



One of the resident **Black Caiman's** resting near the lodge at *Sani* (*Sam Woods*).



"Sani Stars": **Cocha Antshrike (TOP)** and **Chestnut-belted Gnateater (Sam Woods)**.



Plumbeous Antbird was also found along the trail, where water flooded the base of some trees close to the creek. **Fasciated Antshrike** capped off the morning there, before we returned to the canoes and travelled across the lake to the lodge for lunch, taking in a very popular pair of **Little Cuckoos** on the way. After lunch, and a break, (where we watched a **Black Caiman** – *photo page 37* - resting calmly near the bar), at the lodge, we set out for the lodge's private *Canopy Tower* in the afternoon by canoe. The lake crossing produced more views of **Capped Heron** and **Snail Kite** and **Yellow-bellied Dacnis** too. Once again, we took a metal stairway wrapped around a giant Kapok tree to a platform overlooking the surrounding forest. As we approached the tree a nesting bird took off from the trunk of the tree, where a small nest held an unrecognisable chick of a **Hauxwell's Thrush**. Were it not for the local guide knowing that the adult was this species we would have been unaware of the species from the appearance of the chick! Once on the tower, we finally tracked down our first **White-throated Toucan**, a bird that we had heard calling on a regular basis in the Amazon but had somehow not yet connected with. Another *toucan*, **Many-banded Aracari**, also showed up from the tower too, as did a pair of **Crimson-crested Woodpeckers**. **Venezuelan Howlers** quietly foraged in the treetops up there, and a female **Spangled Cotinga** was unfortunately the only version of that species we saw (lacking the bright blue of the male). It was good afternoon for **Bare-necked Fruitcrows**, which passed by regularly and even alighted in the nearby trees for scope views also. **Rufous-bellied and Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonias** were also seen from our lofty canopy-level platform and seeing our first handsome **Black-headed Parrots** perched was also a real treat too. More subtle, for sure, was a **Slender-footed Tyrannulet** that was in the same tree canopy as we were. Once we returned to ground level the light in the forest understory was considerably less than in the heat of the day, making seeing a **Peruvian Warbling-Antbird** a little more difficult to see than hoped, in spite of it coming in extremely close to us on several occasions! Other notable birds seen on this day included both **Green and Ringed Kingfishers** around the lake, and a **Green-backed Trogon** in some creek side forest. As we reached our cabins, with evening approaching, a **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** was head calling constantly nearby (something it apparently had done through the night before too, much to the chagrin of *Ken* and *Martin* at least!) *Kurt* and *Sam* could not resist trying to see it and had some great views as it landed next to our lodging.



A trio of **Giant Otters** were watched from our canoe at *Sani Lodge* in the Amazon (photo: **Martin Bond**).

Day 12: 13th March – The Amazon – Sani Lodge Day II.

For our final, full, day in the *Amazon*, we started out by being paddled across to the trail for the *Canopy Tower*, spending time on that treetop platform before birding the trail below before lunch. After lunch, we went further afield, checking an area near the *Sani Isla community* for some missing species. The morning worked out well, while the afternoon was rather mixed in terms of success! While traveling to the tower by canoe we added **Striped Woodcreeper** to the list. Up on the tower we saw a regular mix of *toucans*, *raptors*, *parrots* and *songbirds*, including **White-throated Toucan**, **Many-banded Aracari**, **Bat Falcon**, **Slender-billed Kite** (a regular inhabitant of the nearby *flooded forest*), **Plumbeous Kite**, and **Crane and Roadside Hawks**, **Mealy Parrot**, **Chestnut-fronted Macaw**, and some **Gilded Barbets**. Two particularly notable raptors included a marvellous clear look at a **Gray-headed Kite** and a very, very distant **Crested Eagle** that *Churi* had fly in, and thereafter was unidentifiable at that considerable range from the similar *Harpy Eagle*! We all saw it, barely! Some other more notable species from up on high were, **Red-stained Woodpecker**, another **Crimson-crested Woodpecker**, a further, vocal, **Cinnamon Attila**, our only **Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper**, another **Bare-necked Fruitcrow** or two, a glowing male **Black-faced Dacnis**, a single winter migrant **Blackpoll Warbler**. After that it was time to hit the trails, with the activity within the exposed upper areas of the forest now slowing down. While it was far from a bird-a-minute, (that is not what tropical forests are like in reality), we had a smattering of excellent species. A pair of **Purplish Jacamars** were very popular all round, and the rare and bright orangy **Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner** gave us a long look and was quite unexpected. Aside from that, we came upon another TROPICAL BIRDING working the same trail from the other end. This proved fortuitous for us, as they led us to a **Rufous-capped Antthrush**, and later too, a superb male **Fulvous Antshrike**.

After lunch back at the lodge and a short break, we were back in the canoes again, seeing a **Wattled Jacana** and better still a close **Giant Otter** (*photo page before*) surfacing near the boat! **Snail Kite**, **Hoatzin**, and **White-eared Jacamar** also featured around the lagoon. Our special trip that afternoon was to try and get *Kurt* one final antpitta, as he was working on a photo calendar for this group back home. The target species was **White-lored Antpitta**, and on arriving at the location, we were pleased to hear at least four birds calling. However, seeing them was a different matter. After our first failed attempt, our boatman called us over as he had one perched in the dense understory. The only snag was, we were to find out, was they had made an impromptu trail to get in there, with very limited viewing. Therefore, we needed to go in one-by-one. *Kurt* went first, and after some head bobbing and weaving he got some kind of view of the bird and was followed by *Martin* who fared better. Then, the next person went in, but the bird had dropped off of the branch and was no longer visible, unfortunately, in spite of further efforts to locate it as it called away nearby from dense riparian vegetation. This left a bit of unsavoury taste in the mouth, but there was nothing to be done, the bird had outfoxed us as *antpittas* so frequently do, and so we moved on. Other birds seen that afternoon included another band of **White-banded Swallows** and an **Osprey**. By the time we were on our way back to the lodge and were being paddled along the creeks dusk had fallen, so *Sam* scanned the trees above and the waters around for the hope of a last minute bonus bird/animal. This happened in the form of the long-billed **Agami Heron**, which was located perched on an open branch above the creek, a great bit of last minute fortune. That night we appreciated our last night in the peace of the *Amazon* with the capital city, and urban life beckoning again the next day!

Day 13: 14th March – The Amazon – Quito.

This day was a melancholy one, as we steered our way out of the Amazon and returned to city life, going first to the city of *Coca* by hand paddled canoe then motorboat, and then flew to the capital of Ecuador, *Quito*, by plane, just 35 minutes flight away. The post pandemic flight schedules between *Coca* and *Quito* gave us little room for birding on this day, except keeping an eye out on our journey to *Coca*. It also necessitated we leave the lodge before dawn rose, allowing us to see a Common Potoo in the darkness before daylight came up. The banks of the *Napo River* held some large waterbirds in the form of the only **Roseate Spoonbill** of the tour plus another stately **Cocoi Heron**. Some final **Fork-tailed Palm-Swifts** gliding above riverside palms featured too, as did, oddly, the *only* **Great Egret** of the tour, plus a few last **Ringed Kingfishers**!

Several **Chestnut-fronted Macaws** flew over the main river, while **Swallow-winged Puffbirds** stood sentry on a few of the taller bankside trees, as they do often do. The best sighting was a flock of **Sand-colored Nighthawks** (dozens of them) on the wing a short time after dawn broke. An **Amazonian Umbrellabird** was even seen flapping lazily by. Our last **Greater Anis**, their glossed blue plumage and broken nose look now very familiar to us, were also seen, as were the only **Barn Swallows** encountered as they hawked above some river islands. Lastly, in *Coca* airport a few final **Ruddy Ground-Doves** were seen too. We arrived in *Quito* in time for lunch at our hacienda like hotel near the airport, and took a final farewell meal together, where we reflected on some fine memories and discussed the best birds *and mammals* of the tour.

Some more photos from the *participants on the tour*:



Wire-crested Thontail from *WildSumaco Lodge* in the Andean foothills (photo: **Kurt Hillman**).



Birds of the High Andes: **Andean Condor** in *Antisana* (Kurt Hillman) & **Golden-crowned Tanager** above *Papallacta* (Martin Bond).



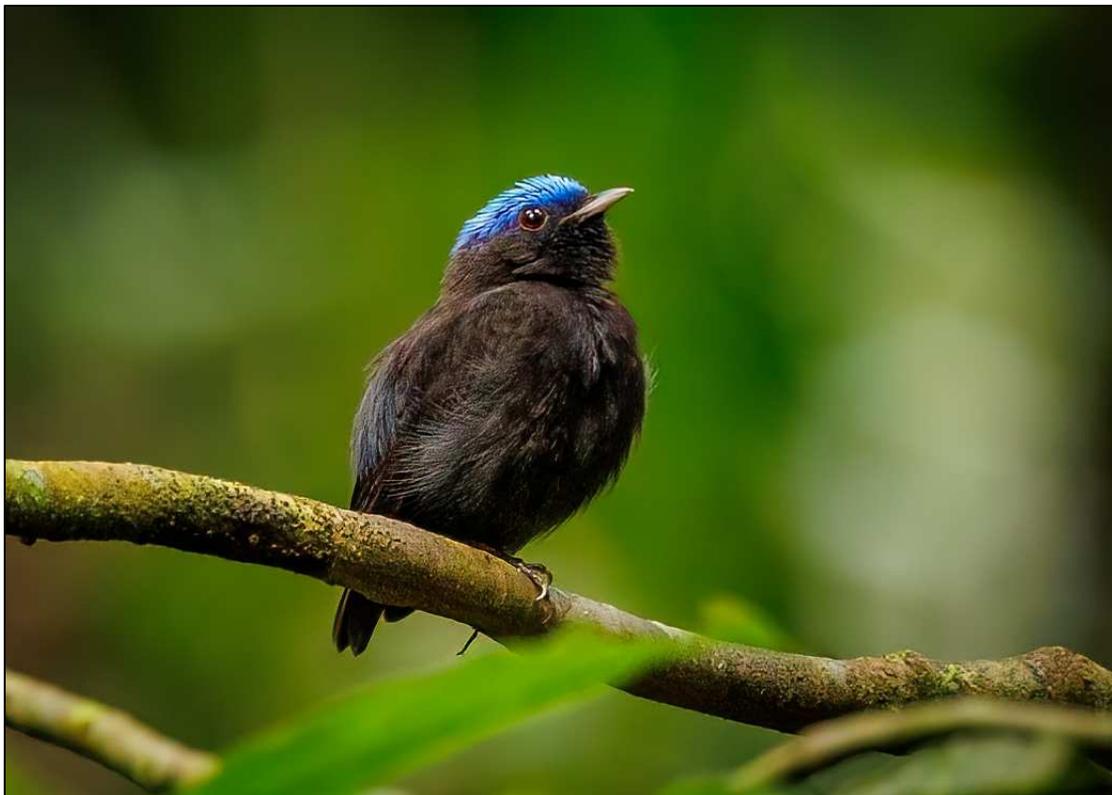


Masked Mountain-Tanager Cayambe-Coca NP & Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan Guango (both Martin Bond).





Black-headed Parrot & **Blue-crowned Manakin** both in the *Amazon* (both **Kurt Hillman**).





Black Caiman & **Rufous-bellied Euphonia** both in the *Amazon* (both **Martin Bond**).





White-throated Toucan in the Amazon & Volcan Sumaco viewed from near WildSumaco Lodge (both Kurt Hillman).





Andean highs: *Green-backed Hillstar* Rio Hollin (Kurt Hillman) & *Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher* San Isidro (Martin Bond).





Long-tailed Sylph Guango Lodge (Kurt Hillman).

CHECKLISTS:

BIRDS

The taxonomy of the bird list follows Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007. This list is up to date with changes published by Cornell in **August 2021**.

(H) - INDICATES A SPECIES THAT WAS HEARD ONLY.

(GO) – INDICATES A SPECIES RECORDED BY THE GUIDE ONLY.

NWC – Refers to Napo Wildlife Center (in the Amazon)

Sani – Refers to Sani Lodge (in the Amazon)

Sumaco – Refers to WildSumaco Lodge and not the nearby volcano!

TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Tawny-breasted Tinamou *Nothocercus Julius* (H): Heard calling repeatedly at Guango Lodge.

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* (H): Heard several times in the Amazon.

Cinereous Tinamou *Crypturellus cinereus* (H): Heard on 4 different days in the Amazon.

Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus* (H): Heard on a few occasions along river edges in the Amazon.

SCREAMERS: ANHIMIDAE

Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta* (H): 1 was heard on a river island in the Amazon.

DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE

Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*: A male was seen just before we departed Guango Lodge.

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*: 15 birds were seen resting beside Laguna Mica in the high Andes.

Andean Teal *Anas andium andium*: A few were seen around a lake in the Andean highlands at Antisana.

Andean Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis andina*: 20+ birds were seen at Laguna Mica in Antisana.

GUANS, CHACHALACAS AND CURASSOWS: CRACIDAE

Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata*: Recorded on 7 days of the tour in the foothills and Amazon.

Andean Guan *Penelope montagnii*: Seen twice at Guango Lodge.

Spix's Guan *Penelope jacquacu*: 1 was seen from the canoe, during our boat ride into the Amazon.

Blue-throated (Common) Piping-Guan *Pipile cumanensis*: Ken photographed one at Napo WC.

Wattled Guan *Aburria aburri (H)*: Heard on 2 mornings beside WildSumaco Lodge.

Sickle-winged Guan *Chamaepetes goudotii (H)*: A display flight was heard early in the morning at San Isidro.

Salvin's Curassow *Mitu salvini*: One of the standout sightings in the Amazon, along a new trail at Napo WC.

GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis*: 2 birds were seen in the highlands at Laguna Mica in Antisana.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Scattered sightings in urban areas throughout.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*: Seen regularly around the lake at Napo WC; also seen in the foothills.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*: A few were seen near the village of Pacto Sumaco.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*: 3 birds were noted on the Guacamayos Ridge trail.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea*: Recorded on 5 days of the tour.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea (H)*: Heard in the Andean foothills and the Amazon.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*: Noted on river islands in the Amazon and also at Coca airport.

Gray-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*: Seen during our boat ride into Napo WC in the Amazon.

White-throated Quail-Dove *Zentrygon frenata*: Martin saw one of these stout pigeons in a solo walk at WildSumaco.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*: Seen around Quito at either end of the tour.

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*: Abundant and conspicuous around the waterways and lakes in the Amazon.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour in the foothills and the Amazon.

Little Cuckoo *Coccyua minuta*: A popular pair was seen around the lake at Sani Lodge.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*: Recorded on 8 days of the tour.

Black-bellied Cuckoo *Piaya melanogaster*: This scarce Amazon species was seen twice around Napo WC.

NIGHTJARS & ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Band-winged Nightjar *Systellura longirostris*: A roosting bird was seen at Antisana.

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*: Two singles were seen on the tour, including at Sani Lodge.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis climacocerca*: Several roosting birds were seen in the Amazon.

Ocellated Poorwill *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus*: Excellent, long, 'scope views were had of a calling bird at Napo WC.

POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*: 2 different roosting birds were seen along Anangu Creek on the way into Napo WC.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*: 1 was seen at Napo WC in the Amazon.

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

White-chinned Swift *Cypseloides cryptus*: Some calling birds were identified at Guacamayos.

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*: A few flocks were seen in the Andean foothills.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*: Just a couple of flocks were noted.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*: Seen first in the Andean foothills, with a few more in the Amazon too.

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*: One was identified along the Papango Road in the foothills of the Andes.

Fork-tailed Palm-Swift *Tachornis squamata*: Recorded daily in the Amazon.

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga Mellivora*: A couple were seen in WildSumaco.

White-tipped Sicklebill *Eutoxeres aquila* (**GO**): 1 was seen briefly by Sam beside WildSumaco Lodge.

Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsutus*: Several sightings in the Amazon.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*: A single came into the feeders at WildSumaco Lodge, in the foothills of the Andes.

Tawny-bellied Hermit *Phaethornis syrmatorphorus*: Observed twice, at San Isidro and then on the Guacamayos Ridge.

Great-billed Hermit *Phaethornis malaris*: 1 was seen along one of the Napo WC trails in Amazon Lowland Rainforest.

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*: Abundant at the WildSumaco feeders, with at least 6 birds there.

Lesser (Green) Violetear *Colibri cyanotus*: A singleton was seen at the WildSumaco feeders, where it is a scarce visitor.

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans*: Recorded on 5 days of the tour (e.g. Antisana & WildSumaco).

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis*: A single was seen at feeders at Rio Hollin & WildSumaco.

Tourmaline Sunangel *Heliangelus exortis*: Abundant at the Guango Lodge feeders.

Wire-crested Thorntail *Discosura popelairii*: A few were visiting the feeders at WildSumaco Lodge.

Ecuadorian Piedtail *Phlogophilus hemileucurus* (**GO**): 1 was seen by Sam beside the lodge at WildSumaco.

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys*: Good numbers were visiting the feeders at Guango Lodge.

Long-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus kingii*: 4-5 birds were seen at the Guango Lodge feeders.

Ecuadorian Hillstar *Oreotrochilus chimborazo*: An immature male was seen being fed by its mother at Antisana.

Mountain Avocetbill *Opisthoprora euryptera*: This rarity was seen at Guango, where a single was regular at a forest feeder.

Black-tailed Trainbearer *Lesbia victoriae*: Excellent looks at a male in the garden at Tambo Condor, in the high Andes.

Blue-mantled Thornbill *Chalcostigma stanleyi*: Excellent views of 1 in shrubby paramo above Papallacta Pass.

Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina*: A few were seen at Tambo Condor and Guango.

Viridian Metaltail *Metallura williami*: 2 birds were seen in elfin forest just below Cayambe-Coca NP.

Shining Sunbeam *Aglaeactis cupripennis*: 5 or so birds were seen at the Tambo Condor feeders, in the high Andes.

Bronzy Inca *Coeligena coeligena*: 2 birds came into the feeders at San Isidro.

Collared Inca *Coeligena torquate*: Up to 6 birds were seen at the feeders in Guango.

Buff-winged Starfrontlet *Coeligena lutetiae*: 2 sightings, once at Guango and another at Termas de Papallacta.

Mountain Velvetbreast *Lafresnaya lafresnayi* (**GO**): 1 came into the feeders once at Guango Lodge.

Sword-billed Hummingbird *Ensifera ensifera*: 2 birds came into the feeders at Guango.

Great Sapphirewing *Pterophanes cyanopterus*: 2 were seen in elfin forest above Papallacta.

Buff-tailed Coronet *Boissonneaua flavescens*: 2 birds visited the feeders at Guango.

Chestnut-breasted Coronet *Boissonneaua matthewsii*: 2-3 individuals were visiting the feeders at Guango.

Booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii*: The buff-booted form was seen at WildSumaco Lodge.

Green-backed (White-tailed) Hillstar *Urochroa bougueri leucura*: Abundant and conspicuous at Rio Hollin.

Rufous-vented Whitetip *Urosticte ruficrissa*: A single was seen at the feeders in WildSumaco.

Black-throated Brilliant *Heliodoxa schreibersii*: 2 birds came into the feeders at WildSumaco.

Gould's Jewelfront *Heliodoxa aurescens*: This stunning species was seen at WildSumaco.

Fawn-breasted Brilliant *Heliodoxa rubinoides*: 1 at Guango and then another 4 or so at San Isidro.

Violet-fronted Brilliant *Heliodoxa leadbeateri*: Just a few were seen at WildSumaco.

Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas*: 1 was seen at Tambo Condor in the high Andes.

White-bellied Woodstar *Chaetocercus mulsant*: At least 4 individuals were visiting the feeders at Guango.

Gorgeted Woodstar *Chaetocercus heliodor*: A gorgeous male was visiting the feeders at Guango, where it is a rare visitor.

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*: 1 at Rio Hollin and then another at WildSumaco.

Gray-breasted Sabrewing *Campylopterus largipennis*: 1 was seen near the parrot lick in Yasuni NP in the Amazon.

Napo Sabrewing *Campylopterus villaviscensio*: At least 2 birds visited the feeders at WildSumaco, in the Andean foothills.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcate*: 2-3 were visiting the feeders at WildSumaco during our time there.

Many-spotted Hummingbird *Taphrospilus hypostictus*: Recorded at the feeders in Rio Hollin and WildSumaco.

Olive-spotted Hummingbird *Talaphorus chlorocercus*: Several birds were seen by some on an Amazon river island.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Chionomesa fimbriata*: 1 was seen by Jim at Sani Lodge.

Golden-tailed Sapphire *Chrysuronia oenone*: 10 or more were seen coming to the feeders at WildSumaco.

HOATZIN: OPISTHOCOMIDAE

Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin*: A classic Amazonian bird, much appreciated by *Jim*; seen regularly around the lakes and creeks there.

RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS: RALLIDAE

Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans*: Amazing, long, looks at an individual at a feeding area in Pacto Sumaco.

Slate-colored (Andean) Coot *Fulica ardesiaca*: Dozens of individuals were seen on Laguna Mica in Antisana.

Chestnut-headed Crake *Anurolimnas castaneiceps* (**H**): Heard distantly in the Andean foothills.

LIMPKIN: ARAMIDAE

Limpkin *Aramus guarana*: Heard regularly, and seen a couple of times, in the Amazon.

TRUMPETERS: Psophia crepitans

Gray-winged Trumpeter *Psophia crepitans*: One of the standout sightings was getting super looks at several calling birds along the banks of Anangu Creek, during one of our canoe rides along there.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE

Pied Lapwing (Pied Plover) *Vanellus cayanus*: A pair was seen feeding on a muddy riverbank in the Amazon.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*: Seen twice in the Amazon.

Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*: Just a few seen on this visit to Antisana in high Andean grassy paramo.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*: A couple of pairs were observed on river islands in the Amazon.

SEEDSNIPES: THINOCORIDAE

Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagis gayi*: Thanks to another TB group and guide in the area, we managed great views of a pair in fog-covered paramo above Papallacta Pass. Thanks Alex and Co.!

JACANAS: JACANIDAE

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*: 1 was seen by the lagoon at Sani Lodge in the Amazon, our sole sighting.

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*: A couple were seen on a river island in the Amazon.

Jameson's (Andean) Snipe *Gallinago jamesoni* (**H**): A calling bird was heard, and was narrowly missed being seen, in the wet paramo above Papallacta Pass.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*: A couple were seen in the Amazon.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*: A couple were seen in the Amazon.

GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS: LARIDAE

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*: 30 or so birds were seen in the high Andean paramo at Antisana.

SUNBITTERN: EURYPYGIDAE

Sunbittern *Eurypyga Helias*: A great distraction while stranded by a tropical downpour at Sani Lodge, where we were able to watch it from the sheltered dock.

ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*: Seen on 3 days in the Amazon, around Napo WC.

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum*: Recorded on 3 days of the tour.

HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNES: ARDEIDAE

Zigzag Heron *Zebrilus undulatus*: One of the trip highlights was seeing a calling bird extremely well by spotlight in an area of flooded forest, just before dawn at Napo WC.

Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*: A bird was nesting by the dock at Sani Lodge in the Amazon.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*: Sighted at least 3 times in the Amazon.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*: Recorded regularly during the Amazon leg of the tour.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Just recorded twice on the tour.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*: Recorded on 4 occasions in the Amazon.

Agami Heron *Agamia agami*: One of the latest additions, a juvenile spotlit by *Sam* on our final night at Sani Lodge.

Capped Heron *Ptilerodius pileatus*: Recorded regularly, in small numbers, at both lodges in the Amazon.

Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*: Just the one was seen near Sani Lodge.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Andean (Black-faced) Ibis *Theristicus melanopus branickii*: This endangered high Andean bird was seen at Antisana (2 birds).

NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*: Ecuador's massive national bird was seen in the highlands at Antisana, where 10 were seen.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*: Recorded on 8 days of the tour.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*: Commonly encountered in the Andean foothills.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*: A lingering Ecuadorian rarity, 1 was seen on a river island near Sani Lodge, thanks to Churi.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus*: Encountered on most days in the Amazon.

OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: Just the one was seen in the Amazon.

HAWKS, EAGLES, KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus*: A pair was seen perched by the lodge at Sani.

Gray-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*: 1 showed up by the Canopy Tower at Sani Lodge.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*: Recorded on 4 days in the Andean foothills.

Crested Eagle *Morphnus guianensis*: A very distant bird was located by Churi at Sani Lodge.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*: A few were seen around the lagoon at Sani Lodge in the Amazon.

Slender-billed Kite *Helicolestes hamatus*: A few were seen in flooded forest in the Amazon.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*: 1 was seen following a monkey troop on the way into Napo Wildlife Center.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*: About 5 sightings in the Amazon.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*: Seen twice in the Amazon, at Napo WC.

Slate-colored Hawk *Buteogallus schistaceus*: A couple of good looks at perched individuals at Napo WC.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*: Recorded on at least 6 days of the tour.

White-rumped Hawk *Parabuteo leucorrhous*: 1 was seen gliding above the Guacamayos Ridge.

Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma*: 4-5 birds were seen during our morning at Antisana in the high Andean paramo.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*: As many as 5 were seen above high Andean paramo at Antisana.

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

White-throated Screech-Owl *Megascops albogularis*: A roosting pair was seen on the Guacamayos Ridge trail, thanks to Alex Luna!

Tropical Screech-Owl *Megascops choliba*: A day roosting bird was seen by the dock at Sani Lodge.

Foothill Screech-Owl *Megascops guatemalae napensis*: Martin, Sam and Alex enjoyed clear views of one near WildSumaco.

Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl *Megascops watsonii*: A roosting bird was found by Remi along a creek near Napo WC.

Crested Owl *Lophotrix cristata*: A roosting pair was found near Sani Isla community in the Amazon.

Band-bellied Owl *Pulsatrix melanota*: A roosting pair was found by one of the local rangers at WildSumaco Lodge.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*: A regularly calling bird was seen by Kurt and Sam one evening at Sani.

Black-banded Owl (San Isidro Mystery Owl) *Ciccaba huhula*: 2 were seen one night at San Isidro.

Rufous-banded Owl *Ciccaba albitarsis*: A smashing bird was chased down successfully at a biological station near San Isidro.

TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

Golden-headed Quetzal *Pharomachrus auriceps* (**H**): Heard twice in the San Isidro area.

Crested Quetzal *Pharomachrus antisianus*: 1 was seen on an afternoon trip out from San Isidro.

Black-tailed Trogon *Trogon melanurus eumorphus* (**H**): Despite much effort, we couple not find a couple of calling birds at Sani Lodge.

Green-backed (Amaz. White-tailed) Trogon *Trogon viridis*: At least 3 females were seen in flooded forest in the Amazon.

Amazonian (Violaceous) Trogon *Trogon ramonianus*: Ken's most wanted bird, being a trogon aficionado, seen once at Napo.

Blue-crowned Trogon *Trogon curucui*: A male was observed from a canoe in flooded forest near Sani Lodge.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus* (**H**): Heard once in the Amazon.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*: A singleton was seen along the road near WildSumaco Lodge in the Andean foothills.

Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus*: Our best looks came at San Isidro, where we took selfies with one from the balcony!

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Amazonian (Blue-crowned) Motmot *Momotus momota microstephanus* (**H**): Heard twice in the Amazon.

Andean (Highland) Motmot *Momotus aequatorialis aequatorialis*: 1 was found perched by the river at Guango Lodge.

KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*: Recorded on 6 days on the Amazon leg of the trip.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*: Seen twice along Anangu Creek, near Napo WC in the Amazon.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*: 3 birds were seen by the lake at Sani Lodge.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda* (**H**): Heard before sunrise along the creek near Napo WC.

PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*: 1 from the Canopy Tower at Napo WC.

Pied Puffbird *Notharchus tectus*: This small canopy puffbird was seen from the Canopy Towers at Napo WC & Sani.

Chestnut-capped Puffbird *Bucco macrodactylus*: *Martin* was the "last man standing" for this, late in the PM near Napo WC.

Collared Puffbird *Bucco capensis*: 1 was seen at a roost site, late in the PM near Napo WC.

White-chested Puffbird *Malacoptila fusca*: Seen on a couple of dawns from the blind at WildSumaco Lodge.

Black-streaked Puffbird *Malacoptila fulvogularis*: A singleton was also seen from the WildSumaco blind, at dawn.

Black-fronted Nunbird *Monasa nigrifrons*: Seen a couple of times around the lodge property at Sani in the Amazon.

White-fronted Nunbird *Monasa morphoeus*: 2 were seen, briefly, from the Canopy Tower at Napo WC in the Amazon.

Swallow-winged Puffbird *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*: Regularly noted along river edge on the journeys to and from the Amazon.

JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

White-eared Jacamar *Galbalcyrrhynchus leucotis*: 1 in open secondary forest at Sani Isla, then another by the lake at Sani.

Yellow-billed Jacamar *Galbula albirostris*: A much wanted bird for *Martin*, we finally found it a new forest trail at Napo WC.

White-chinned Jacamar *Galbula tombacea*: This riparian species was seen once alongside a creek at Sani Lodge.

Coppery-chested Jacamar *Galbula pastazae*: *Martin* located a wonderful pair near WildSumaco in the Andean foothills.

Purplish Jacamar *Galbula chalcothorax*: A late addition along an Amazon forest trail near Sani Lodge near the tour end.

Great Jacamar *Jacameroops aureus*: A couple of good looks in the Amazon Lowland Rainforest around Napo WC.

NEW WORLD BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

Scarlet-crowned Barbet *Capito aurovirens*: A pair was seen by the bar at Sani Lodge.

Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus*: This handsome barbet was seen first at WildSumaco, then again in the Amazon.

Lemon-throated Barbet *Eubucco richardsoni*: 1 was seen by some of the group near WildSumaco.

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*: A male along the Papango Road, then a couple near WildSumaco Lodge.

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Southern Emerald-Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus albivitta albivitta*: A couple in subtropical cloud forest around San Isidro.

Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan *Andigena hypoglauca*: Some great looks at this multicolored toucan at Guango Lodge.

Black-billed Mountain-Toucan *Andigena nigrirostris* (**H**): Despite much effort, only heard at the Guacamayos Ridge.

Lettered Aracari *Pteroglossus incriptus*: Observed a couple of times in Varzea forest near Napo WC, in the Amazon.

Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis*: 1 was seen close to the Sani Isla community in the Amazon.

Many-banded Aracari *Pteroglossus pluricinctus*: The most frequently recorded toucan in the Amazon, noted on 5 days.

Ivory-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus azara*: 1 was seen during our canoe ride into Napo WC in the Amazon.

Golden-collared Toucanet *Selenidera reinwardtii reinwardtii*: A pair was watched in patchy forest beside Sani Isla.

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus ambiguus*: Just a few were seen in the foothill forest near WildSumaco.

White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos tucanus*: Around half a dozen birds were seen from the Canopy Tower at Sani Lodge.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*: Seen twice, once along the Loreto Road and again near the lodge at Sani.

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Lafresnaye's Piculet *Picumnus lafresnayi*: Seen a couple of times in the Andean foothills, including along the Papango Road.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus*: Recorded on 9 days of the tour, from the foothills to the Amazon.

Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerines*: Sighted on 3 different days in the Andean foothills.

Red-stained Woodpecker *Veniliornis affinis*: 1 was seen from the Canopy Tower in Sani Lodge, in the Amazon.

Powerful Woodpecker *Campephilus pollens*: 1 was seen by Sam and Ken on the Guacamayos Ridge trail.
Red-necked Woodpecker *Campephilus rubricollis*: A superb male was seen in Lowland Rainforest in the Amazon at Napo.
Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*: Several sightings from the Canopy Towers in the Amazon.
Lined Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*: 1 was found along Anangu Creek, near Napo WC in the Amazon.
Ringed Woodpecker *Campephilus rubricollis* (**GO**): Sam caught sight of one along a forest trail in Napo WC in the Amazon.
Scale-breasted Woodpecker *Celeus grammicus*: A pair was seen from the Canopy Tower at Napo WC.
Cream-colored Woodpecker *Celeus flavus*: Two singles were seen in the Amazon, around Napo WC.
Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*: A singleton along the road near WildSumaco in the Andean foothills.
Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula*: A pair was located in the Sani Island community.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Barred Forest-Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis* (**H**): Heard once in the Amazon.
Buckley's Forest-Falcon *Micrastur buckleyi* (**H**): Heard in two locations around WildSumaco Lodge in the Andean foothills.
Black Caracara *Daptrius ater*: A handful were seen in the Amazon.
Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus*: A few were seen around Napo Wildlife Center, including from the tower.
Carunculated Caracara *Phalcoboenus carunculatus*: Half a dozen or more were seen in the paramo at Antisana.
Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*: Seen on two days in the Amazon, in open areas along the main river.
Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* (**H**): Heard on a couple of occasions in the Amazon.
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*: Just a single sighting, in the highlands at Antisana.
Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*: Seen from the canopy towers in the Amazon.

NEW WORLD & AFRICAN PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE

Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanoptera*: Just a few of came down to the main clay lick at Yasuni NP.
Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus*: 1 was scoped up perched beside Pacto Sumaco village, near WildSumaco.
Speckle-faced (White-capped) Parrot *Pionus tumultuosus seniloides*: Just 2 were seen, flying over, at San Isidro.
Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*: One of the most regularly encountered parrots, recorded on at least 6 days.
Yellow-crowned Parrot *Amazona ochrocephala*: 15 or so birds were seen at the clay lick alongside the Napo River.
Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa farinosa*: Noted on 6 days of the tour, mostly on the Amazon leg of it.
Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica*: Sighted on 3 days in the Amazon lowlands.
Scaly-naped Parrot *Amazona mercenarias*: 3 perched birds were found in the cloud forest along the Guacamayas Ridge trail.
Black-headed Parrot *Pionites melanocephalus*: A handsome parrot seen on both of our visits to the Sani Canopy Tower.
Maroon-tailed Parakeet *Pyrrhura melanura melanura*: Around half a dozen birds were seen perched at WildSumaco.
Dusky-headed Parakeet *Aratinga weddellii*: Recorded at the first clay lick visited in the Amazon, alongside the Napo River.
Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilatus*: A conspicuous, regularly encountered parrot around Napo WC.
Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna*: Martin, Remi and Sam saw one perched in the late afternoon near Napo WC.
Military Macaw *Ara militaris*: 2 flocks were seen near WildSumaco in the foothills of the Andes.
Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*: The star attendee (6 birds) at the main clay lick in Yasuni NP in the Amazon.
Chestnut-fronted Macaw *Ara severus*: Recorded on 7 days, in both the foothills and Amazon.
White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus*: Several flocks in the Amazon, and another at Pacto Sumaco.

TYPICAL ANTIBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*: A male was seen in the Amazon, during our stay at Sani Lodge.
Fulvous Antshrike *Frederickena fulva*: We got cracking looks at a pair of these handsome Amazonian birds near Sani.
Lined Antshrike *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*: A smart male was seen along a road in the Andean foothills.
Plain-winged Antshrike *Thamnophilus schistaceus*: A female showed along a forest trail in the Amazon.
Cocha Antshrike *Thamnophilus praecox*: Martin put us onto a superb and showy pair of these near Sani Lodge.
Castelnau's Antshrike *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*: Another shy bird seen by only 1 person on an Amazon river island.
White-shouldered Antshrike *Thamnophilus aethiops* (**H**): Heard calling near the antpitta station in WildSumaco.
Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*: A male gave close ups from the blind at WildSumaco in the Andean foothills.
Dusky-throated Antshrike *Thamnomanes ardesiacus*: A couple were seen on a forest trail in the Amazon lowlands.
Cinereous Antshrike *Thamnomanes caesius*: A single male was seen near Napo WC, in the Amazon lowlands.

Plain-throated Antwren *Iseria hauxwelli*: A couple were seen along the trail to the *Black-necked Red Cotinga* at Napo WC.
Spot-winged Antshrike *Pygiptila stellaris* (**GO**): A high calling bird near Sani Lodge was only seen poorly by Sam.
Pygmy Antwren *Myrmotherula brachyura*: We managed to tempt one down low on a forest trail in the Amazon.
Moustached (Short-billed) Antwren *Myrmotherula ignota obscura* (**H**): 1 was heard in the Amazon.
Amazonian Streaked-Antwren *Myrmotherula multostriata*: We had some nice looks from the canoe ride into Napo WC.
Gray Antwren *Myrmotherula menetriesii*: We tracked down an individual along a forest trail in the Amazon.
Yellow-breasted Antwren *Herpsilochmus axillaris*: This flock following antwren was seen along the road at WildSumaco.
Rusty-winged (Rufous-winged) Antwren *Herpsilochmus frater*: Only Sam saw a calling bird in the Andean foothills.
Streak-headed (Long-tailed) Antbird *Drymophila striaticeps occidentalis*: 1 showed in a stand of bamboo near San Isidro.
Peruvian Warbling-Antbird *Hypocnemis peruviana*: Oddly, only seen the once, near the tower at Sani Lodge in the Amazon.
Blackish Antbird *Cercomacroides nigrescens aequatorialis*: A pair and a female were seen around WildSumaco Lodge.
Gray Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens*: This often-tricky species was cooperative along a forest trail near Napo WC.
Western (White-backed) Fire-eye *Pyriglena maura*: A pair showed up just in front of the WildSumaco blind.
Black-faced Antbird *Myrmochanes hemileucus*: A pair gave excellent views at the WildSumaco blind.
Black-and-white Antbird *Myrmochanes hemileucus*: Only Martin managed to see a male on one of the Napo River islands.
Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia*: A female was seen well in varzea forest, during our canoe ride into Napo WC.
Plumbeous Antbird *Myrmelastes hyperythrus*: A pair was seen within varzea forest near Sani Lodge in the Amazon.
Spot-winged Antbird *Myrmelastes leucostigma*: A male was seen on our birdy canoe ride into Napo WC.
White-shouldered Antbird *Akletos melanoceps* (**H**): This species was heard near the Amazon Sani Isla community.
Sooty Antbird *Hafferia fortis*: A vocal male was seen in the Amazon lowlands, while staying at Napo WC.
White-cheeked Antbird *Gymnopithys leucaspis castaneus*: A few were attending an army ant swarm in the Amazon lowlands. This species is an obligate ant follower.
Dot-backed Antbird *Hylophylax punctulatus*: This handsome antbird was seen on a forest trail near Napo WC in the Amazon.
Common Scale-backed Antbird *Willisornis poecilinotus lepidonota*: A male came in nice and close at Napo WC.

GNATEATERS: CONOPOPHAGIDAE

Chestnut-belted Gnatcatcher *Conopophaga aurita*: Churi came up trumps with this one, finding a superb male at Sani Lodge.
Chestnut-crowned Gnatcatcher *Conopophaga castaneiceps*: Ken got us some excellent looks on a steep forest trail at WildSumaco.

ANTPITTAS: GRALLARIIDAE

Plain-backed Antpitta *Grallaria haplonota*: 2 birds gave crippling views at the feeding station at WildSumaco.
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta *Grallaria ruficapilla*: 1 was found in the subtropical cloud forest along the road near San Isidro.
White-bellied Antpitta *Grallaria hypoleuca*: After a nerve-racking wait of more than an hour, 1 finally appeared at the San Isidro feeding station.
Equatorial (Rufous) Antpitta *Grallaria saturata* (**H**): Heard distantly on the road up to Cayambe-Coca NP.
Tawny Antpitta *Grallaria quitensis quitensis*: We got some great looks on our first morning in the high Andes, at Antisana.
White-lored Antpitta *Myrmothera fulviventris*: A well concealed bird was seen by Kurt and Martin near Sani Isla.
Thrush-like Antpitta *Myrmothera campanisona* (**H**): Several calling birds could not be found in the Amazon.
Ochre-breasted Antpitta *Grallaricula flavirostris*: 2 birds came into the antpitta feeding station at WildSumaco Lodge.
Slate-crowned Antpitta *Grallaricula nana*: Seen in a *Chusquea* bamboo stand, during a good spell on the Guacamayos Ridge.

TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Rusty-belted Tapaculo *Liosceles thoracicus* (**H**): Heard on a couple of occasions in the Amazon.
Blackish (Unicolored) Tapaculo *Scytalopus latrans*: 1 was seen on our 3-tapaculo morning on the Guacamayos Ridge.
Long-tailed (Eq. Rufous-vented) Tapaculo *Scytalopus atratus*: A calling bird was seen on the Guacamayos Ridge trail.
(Northern) White-crowned Tapaculo *Scytalopus atratus* (**H**): Heard by the feeding station at WildSumaco.
Spillmann's Tapaculo *Scytalopus spillmanni*: 1 was seen on the Guacamayos Ridge trail on a 3 tapaculo morning!
Paramo Tapaculo *Scytalopus opacus* (**H**): Heard on a couple of occasions in the high Andes around Papallacta.

ANTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE

Rufous-capped Antthrush *Formicarius colma*: Thanks to another TB group led by *Alex Luna*, we had smashing views at Sani.

Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona* (H): Several calling birds were had at Sumaco, but never close by.

Barred Antthrush *Chamaeza mollissima* (H): A distant bird was heard from the Guacamayos Ridge trail.

OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus amazonus*: Seen twice in the Andean foothills.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa phaeochroa*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*: A couple of the group had this tiny woodcreeper near WildSumaco.

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper *Dendrexetastes rufigula*: 1 was called in by the Canopy Tower at Sani Lodge.

Long-billed Woodcreeper *Nasica longirostris*: This "tree curlew" was seen along Anangu Creek, on the way into Napo WC.

Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes certhia certhia*: 2 were seen well on the boat trip into Napo WC.

Black-banded Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes picumnus Validus* (H): Heard a couple of times in the Napo area.

Strong-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus orenocensis*: 1 from the balcony at San Isidro.

Striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*: 1 was seen near Sani Lodge in the Amazon.

Elegant (Spix's) Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus elegans ornatus*: 1 was seen on an Amazon forest trail at Sani.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus guttatoides* (H): Heard a few times in the Amazon.

Olive-backed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus triangularis*: 2 singles were seen at WildSumaco.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Dendroplex picus*: A couple were seen by the lagoon at Sani Lodge, in the Amazon lowlands.

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*: A single was seen at Guango, and another couple at San Isidro.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*: We had some good looks of one in the Amazon, near the Napo tower.

Streaked Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii* (H): Oddly only heard on this trip, near Guango Lodge.

Rusty-winged Barbtail *Premnornis guttuliger* (GO): *Sam* saw one within a mixed flock along the Guacamayos Ridge.

Lesser Hornero *Furnarius minor* (H): 1 was heard on one of the river islands we visited in the Amazon.

Chestnut-winged (Bar-winged) Cinclodes *Cinclodes albidiventris*: Readily found at Antisana, on our first morning.

Stout-billed Cinclodes *Cinclodes excelsior*: A handful were seen during our first morning, at the high Andean site of Antisana.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufum*: Noted a couple of times in the Andean foothills.

Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner *Philydor pyrrhodes*: We got cracking looks at this scarce, handsome bird at Sani.

Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis*: Several were seen around WildSumaco, in the Andean foothills.

Flammulated Treehunter *Thripadectes flammulatus*: A real surprise was getting this bird so well on the Guacamayos Ridge.

Black-billed Treehunter *Thripadectes melanorhynchus*: This furtive species was seen well from the blind at WildSumaco.

Striped Woodhaunter *Automolus subulatus subulatus* (H): Heard just the once, along a trail at WildSumaco Lodge.

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens* (H): Heard along the Guacamayos Ridge trail.

Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger*: Seen in mixed flocks at Papallacta, San Isidro & Guacamayos.

Andean Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura andicola*: Another high Andean furnariid, seen at Antisana.

Many-striped Canastero *Asthenes flammulata*: Found during our first morning in the high Andes, at Antisana.

Streak-backed Canastero *Asthenes wyatti*: Seen on our second attempt, in an area of grassy paramo in Antisana.

White-chinned Thistletail *Asthenes fuliginosa*: We had 1 up close, in shrubby paramo above Papallacta Pass.

Orange-fronted Plushcrown *Metopothrix aurantiaca*: We were very fortunate to encounter this species twice, once along the Papango Road in the foothills of the Andes, and then again near the center of the Sani Isla community in the Amazon.

Parker's Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpecula*: Half of the group got good looks at this master skulker on an Amazon river island.

Ash-browed Spinetail *Cranioleuca curtata*: 1 was seen in mixed flock, along the road near WildSumaco Lodge.

White-bellied Spinetail *Synallaxis propinqua* (GO): This specialist was heard and seen by *Sam* only, on a Napo River island.

Dusky Spinetail *Synallaxis moesta*: 1 was seen along the Papango Road, in the Andean foothills.

Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis*: Seen twice, first near Pacto Sumaco, and then on a river island in the Amazon.

Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae*: We got some good looks from the balcony at San Isidro.

Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa unirufa* (H): Heard along the Guacamayos Ridge.

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin *Tyrannetes stolzmanni*: This tiny bird was heard often, and finally seen, around Napo WC.
Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata coronata*: A male was seen along an Amazon forest trail, near Napo WC.
Blue-rumped Manakin *Lepidothrix isidorei*: Several males were seen on the Andean foothills around Sumaco.
Orange-crowned (Orange-crested) Manakin *Heterocercus aurantiivertex*: 1 was seen from a canoe, near Sani Lodge.
Wire-tailed Manakin *Pipra filicauda*: Another stunning male manakin, seen at Napo WC, in the Amazon lowlands.
Striolated Manakin *Machaeropterus striolatus striolatus*: A spectacular manakin seen on a new trail close to the Napo River.
White-crowned Manakin *Pseudopipra pipra*: One or two males were seen in the lowland Amazon rainforest at Napo WC.
Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopipra erythrocephala*: One of the standout moments of the tour was being able to watch a male display at length to a female perched next to him. The male spread his wings, revealed his red-and-white things and danced around her for some time! This was on a forest trail in Napo WC.

COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE

Green-and-black Fruiteater *Pipreola riefferii riefferii*: A male was observed by *Martin* and *Sam* in the rain at Guacamayos.
Fiery-throated Fruiteater *Pipreola chlorolepidota (H)*: One of the greatest misses/frustrations of the trip was only hearing this species, in response to playback, at WildSumaco, on several occasions. Great effort was put into this failure!
Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus*: 1 in scrubby paramo at Papallacta Pass was our lone sighting.
Black-necked Red-Cotinga *Phoenicircus nigricollis*: A must-see for *Martin*, at the top of his substantial shopping list. Eventually, we had great scope looks at this bright scarlet-and-black bird at Napo WC. Predictably, *Martin's* bird of the trip!
Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus aequatorialis*: Some nice close ups of this Andean icon at WildSumaco.
Gray-tailed Piha *Snowornis subalaris*: Prolonged views of a pair on the "Piha Trail" at WildSumaco in the Andean foothills.
Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata*: Heard regularly, and seen once, around Napo WC in the Amazon lowlands.
Amazonian Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus ornatus*: A male featured early on after our arrival in the Amazon, perched out in the open at the top of a tree, whilst drying itself out after a considerable rainstorm. Ken was delighted!
Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana*: Disappointingly, a single female was all we could muster, in the Amazon.
Dusky Piha *Lipaugus fuscocinereus*: A single bird was seen in the high, temperate cloud forest behind Guango Lodge.
Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans (H)*: Only heard, distantly, on a few occasions in the Amazon.
Purple-throated Cotinga *Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema*: A single male was seen at the Napo WC Canopy Tower.
Bare-necked Fruitcrow *Gymnoderus foetidus*: Encountered regularly in the Amazon (e.g. the Sani Lodge Canopy Tower).

TITYRAS AND ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor (GO)*: *Sam* was the only one to see a pair from the Napo Canopy Tower in the Amazon.
Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*: 3 of these striking birds were seen along the Papango Road in the Andean foothills.
Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor*: A male was seen at San Isidro, and another was seen on the Guacamayos Ridge.
White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus nigriventris*: A male was seen along a forest trail in the Amazon.
Pink-throated Becard *Pachyramphus minor*: An excellent, showy, pair were photographed by *Kurt* at Sani Lodge.

SHARPBILL, ROYAL FLYCATCHER AND ALLIES: OXYRUNCIDAE

(Amazonian) Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus castelnaui (H)*: A calling bird could not be tempted in, near Napo.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris*: A pair was seen along the same Sumaco trail as the *Yellow-throated Spadebill*.
Yellow-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus flavigularis*: A rare species, masterfully located by *Martin*, along one of the WildSumaco Lodge trails in the Andean foothills.
Streak-necked Flycatcher *Mionectes striaticollis*: Recorded on 3 days of the tour in the cloud forest of the Andes.
Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus fasciaticollis (H)*: Heard near WildSumaco Lodge.
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleaginous*: 1 was seen along a deep forest trail in the Amazon.
Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris superciliaris*: 1 was seen near WildSumaco Lodge, in the Andean foothills.
Rufous-breasted Flycatcher *Leptopogon rufipectus*: A calling bird was located in a mixed flock in the San Isidro area.
Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant *Phylloscartes ophthalmicus*: A single, calling bird was seen well from the San Isidro balcony.
Ecuadorian Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes gualaquizae*: We managed to get some good views along the road near WildSumaco.
Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant *Pseudotriccus ruficeps (H)*: Heard at both San Isidro and along the Guacamayos Ridge.

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus*: 1 was seen late in the afternoon, near WildSumaco Lodge in the foothills.

Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus vitiensis*: *Remi* located one of these pygmy flycatchers near the Napo River.

Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus ruficeps*: This handsome, dinky flycatcher was popular near San Isidro.

Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus capitalis*: A male was seen in a bamboo stand near WildSumaco Lodge.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum peruanum*: A couple were seen at the forest edge along the Papango Road.

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*: A confiding bird was perched in the kapok tower at Napo.

Orange-eyed Flycatcher (Flatbill) *Tolmomyias traylori* (**H**): Frustratingly only heard, near the dock at Sani Lodge.

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (Zimmer's Flatbill) *Tolmomyias assimilis obscuriceps*: A single at the Sani tower.

Gray-crowned Flycatcher (Flatbill) *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*: 1 was above us at the Canopy Tower at Sani Lodge.

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher *Tolmomyias flaviventris viridiceps*: 1 was seen by some at Sani Isla, in the Amazon. Also known as *Olive-faced Flatbill*.

Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus pyrrhopterus*: A handful was seen in the cloud forest (e.g. San Isidro).

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*: A few were seen by a quarry along the Loreto Road in the Andean foothills.

Ornate Flycatcher *Myiobrycon ornatus phoenicurus*: This handsome flycatcher was seen in the Andean foothills.

Handsome Flycatcher *Nephelomyias pulcher*: Excellent views were had of 1 on the Guacamayos Ridge trail, near San Isidro.

White-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus stictopterus*: A single was found in a mixed flock in the cloud forest in Guango.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys*: A few in mixed flocks near the highland town of Papallacta.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus*: One of the first birds of the tour, along the entrance road to Antisana NP.

Agile Tit-Tyrant *Uromyias agilis*: A confiding pair was seen in a fantastic mixed flock above the highland town of Papallacta.

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus*: 2 were seen near the lodge at Sani in the Amazon.

Foothill Elaenia *Myiopagis olallai olallai*: We had several good looks along the road near WildSumaco Lodge in the foothills.

Yellow-crowned Elaenia *Myiopagis flavivertex*: A pair was seen very well, from our canoe, on the journey into Napo WC.

Mottle-backed Elaenia *Elaenia gigas*: A single bird was seen on a river island in the Napo River, near Sani Lodge.

Sierran Elaenia *Elaenia pallatangae*: 3 birds were seen along the road in the San Isidro area of the Andes.

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*: A riparian species, seen on the river at Guango Lodge, and again near San Isidro.

River Tyrannulet *Serpophaga hypoleuca*: A skulking individual was seen on a river island in the Napo River in the Amazon.

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseiceps caucae*: A few were seen in the Andean foothills, near WildSumaco.

Black-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*: A single turned up in a mixed flock in the San Isidro area of the Andes.

Ashy-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias cinereiceps*: 1 was seen in a mixed flock in subtropical cloud forest near San Isidro.

Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Zimmerius chrysops chrysops*: We got good looks in secondary growth near Pacto Sumaco village.

Slender-footed Tyrannulet *Zimmerius gracilipes*: Seen on both visits to the Canopy Tower at Sani Lodge in the Amazon.

Olive-chested Flycatcher *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*: This specialty was found in open country near WildSumaco Lodge.

Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus eulerei bolivianus*: A calling bird was seen in a bamboo thicket near WildSumaco Lodge.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*: A single bird was located near WildSumaco Lodge in the Andean foothills.

Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus*: Our best look came from the balcony at San Isidro.

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*: Some calling birds were identified in the Andean foothills, near WildSumaco.

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens*: A couple of calling birds were identified in the Amazon lowlands.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans angustirostris*: Seen on 3 days in the Andes, at Guango and around San Isidro.

Drab Water Tyrant *Ochthornis littoralis*: See just a couple of times in the Amazon lowlands.

Plain-capped (Páramo) Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola alpinus*: 3+ were seen in highland paramo at Antisana NP.

Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis*: 1 was seen during our first hours of birding of the tour at Antisana.

Smoky Bush-Tyrant *Myiotheretes fumigatus* (**H**): Heard calling distantly in the temperate cloud forest at Guango.

Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant *Cnemarchus erythropygius*: This rare, striking paramo flycatcher was seen close to Papallacta Pass.

Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris cinnamomeiventris* (**H**): Heard near the river at Guango Lodge.

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor fumicolor*: Seen twice in the high Andes.

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*: A popular pair were found in the Andean foothills, along the Loreto Road.

Large-headed Flatbill *Ramphotricon megacephalum*: This bamboo lover was seen near WildSumaco in the Andean foothills.

Rufous-tailed Flatbill *Ramphotricon ruficauda* (**H**): Heard along Anangu Creek, near Napo WC, in the Amazon lowlands.

Cinnamon Attila *Attila cinnamomeus*: A couple were seen in the Amazon lowlands, at both Napo WC and Sani Lodge.
Citron-bellied Attila *Attila citriniventris*: We got excellent looks at a low perched individual, from our canoe, near Sani Lodge.
Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus spadiceus* (**H**): Heard multiple times in the Amazon lowlands.
White-rumped (Eastern) *Sirystes sirystes albocinereus* (**H**): Only heard near Sani Lodge in the Amazon.
Grayish Mourner *Rhytipterna simplex*: Martin got some excellent looks (and photos), by the tower at Napo WC.
Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*: Heard more than seen, but finally seen at Sani Lodge.
Pale-edged Flycatcher *Myiarchus cephalotes*: Some great close ups beside the lodge at San Isidro.
Lesser Kiskadee *Pitangus lictor*: A wetland species, seen perched low over the water in the Amazon lowlands several times.
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*: A noisy and conspicuous bird in the Amazon lowlands, particularly around the lakes.
Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua pitangua*: Recorded on 5 days, in both the Andean foothills and the Amazon.
Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis similis*: A handful were seen in both the Andean foothills and in the Amazon lowlands.
Gray-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis*: Noted beside the dock at Napo WC in the Amazon lowlands.
Lemon-browed Flycatcher *Conopias cinchoneti*: A vocal species, seen up close by the main lodge at San Isidro.
Golden-crowned Flycatcher *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*: This noisy flycatcher was seen by the balcony at San Isidro.
Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus insolens*: 1 was seen near Napo WC in the Amazon.
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris*: 1 was seen near Sani Lodge in the Amazon lowlands.
Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*: This vocal species was seen from both Canopy Towers in the Amazon.
Crowned Slaty Flycatcher *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*: 1 was scoped at Sani Lodge in the Amazon.
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*: One of the most regularly record species, seen on at least 12 days.
Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*: Recorded on 3 days in the Amazonian lowlands.
Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana savanna*: Around 4 birds were seen on a single river island in the Napo River.

[VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABLERS AND ERPORNIS: VIREONIDAE](#)

Black-billed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis nigrirostris*: We had great looks at a single bird from the balcony at San Isidro.
Olivaceous Greenlet *Hylophilus olivaceus*: Seen twice in the Andean foothills, near WildSumaco Lodge.
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis leucotis* (**H**): Heard along the road near WildSumaco Lodge.
Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Tunchiornis ochraceiceps ferrugineifrons*: 1 was seen on a forest trail near Napo WC.
Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*: A couple of sightings in the Andean cloud forests at Guango and San Isidro.
Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*: 1 was seen beside the bar at Sani Lodge in the Amazon lowlands.

[CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: CORVIDAE](#)

Turquoise Jay *Cyanolyca turcosa*: Noisy and conspicuous in the temperate cloud forest around Guango Lodge, as usual!
Green (Inca) Jay *Cyanocorax yncas yncas*: Some exquisite looks were had by the lodge at San Isidro.
Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus*: This noisy bird was recorded on 6 days of the tour, in the foothills and the Amazon.

[DONACOBIOUS: DONACOBIIDAE](#)

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*: This charismatic Amazon bird was seen at both Napo WC and Sani.

[SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE](#)

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*: Commonly encountered, on at least 7 days of the tour.
Brown-bellied Swallow *Orochelidon murina*: Double figures were seen in the paramo of the high Andes around Antisana.
White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata*: A couple of large groups were seen around the community of Sani Isla (30+).
Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*: A couple were perched on roadside wires in the Andean foothills.
Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*: Just a few were noted in the Amazonian lowlands.
Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*: A few groups were seen around islands in the Napo River.
White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*: Encountered daily in the Amazon lowlands.

[GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE](#)

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus duidae*: 1 was seen near the Canopy Tower at Sani Lodge in the Amazon.

[WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE](#)

Wing-banded Wren *Microcerculus bambla* (**H**): Heard close, but our efforts were in vain to see one, at WildSumaco.
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*: Heard regularly and seen just a couple of times in the foothills and in the Amazon.
Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis*: Seen at both Guango and San Isidro.

Grass (Sedge) Wren *Cistothorus platensis*: We had some excellent looks by a highland lake at Antisana.

This was a recent split from the North American Sedge Wren.

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus*: Some wonderful, long views along the Papango Road in the Andean foothills.

Plain-tailed Wren *Pheugopedius euophrys longipes*: 1 was seen, briefly, in a stand of *Chusquea* bamboo near San Isidro.

Coraya Wren *Pheugopedius coraya*: Many were heard, with 1 seen, finally along a trail near Napo WC in the Amazon.

Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus leucotis* (**H**): 1 was heard from our canoe, along a creek in the Amazon.

Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa*: 2 were seen well from the blind at Guango Lodge, much to *Martin's* relief!

Sharpe's (Sepia-brown) Wren *Cinnycerthia olivascens olivascens*: Some good looks on the infamous Guacamayos Ridge trail.

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta hauxwelli* (**H**): Heard along a forest trail in the Andean foothills.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys leucophrys*: Some good views from the balcony at Cabanas San Isidro.

Musician Wren *Cyphorhinus arada salvini* (**H**): This beautiful songster was only heard along a forest trail at WildSumaco.

This alone though was enough to elevate into the top 5 birds of the tour, for *Ken* anyway! ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloides*: Views were had just as the rain started to come down in force at Guacamayos.

Speckled (Spotted) Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus maculatus* (**H**): 1 was heard in the distance along a trail at WildSumaco.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*: 1 was seen along a new trail near the Napo River, in the Amazon.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus incanus*: Recorded on 5 consecutive days in the Andean foothills.

Hauxwell's Thrush *Turdus hauxwelli*: A very young chick was seen in a nest on the side of the Canopy Tower tree in Sani.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis spodiolaemus* (**H**): Heard once during our stay in Napo WC in the Amazon.

Pale-eyed Thrush *Turdus leucops*: A couple were seen by some in San Isidro, where this species was heard regularly.

Lawrence's Thrush *Turdus lawrencii* (**H**): This master mimic was heard regularly around Napo WC.

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis debilis*: Recorded in small numbers, on all 4 days, in the Andean foothills.

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater*: Commonly encountered in the high Andean sites (e.g. Antisana, Guango).

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus*: 1 was seen at Guango and another in San Isidro.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: MOTACILLIDAE

Paramo Pipit *Anthus bogotensis*: Wonderful views of this highland Andean pipit were had on our first morning, at Antisana.

SISKINS AND ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris*: A male on the Papango Road in the Andean foothills was our only sighting.

Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonia *Euphonia chrysopasta*: A pair appeared to be nesting at the Canopy Tower in Sani.

Bronze-green Euphonia *Euphonia mesochrysa*: A few were seen around WildSumaco.

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*: Just seen twice on the tour (e.g. at San Isidro).

Rufous-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia rufiventris*: A few were seen from both of the Canopy Towers in the Amazon.

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*: 4 birds were seen during our first birding of the tour at Antisana.

SPARROWS AND ALLIES: PASSERELLIDAE

Yellow-throated Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavigularis flavigularis*: A pair seen near WildSumaco were the only ones.

Short-billed Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus parvirostris* (**GO**): *Sam* was the only one to see this species on 2 occasions.

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus flavopectus*: Seen in subtropical cloud forest in San Isidro several times.

Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons*: A few were seen in the Andean foothills, and once around Sani too.

Gray-browed (Stripe-headed) Brushfinch *Arremon assimilis*: 2 were seen from the blind in Guango.

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha frontalis*: 1 was seen from the blind at Guango.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*: Recorded on 5 days in the higher Andean parts of the tour.

Slaty Brushfinch *Atlapetes schistaceus schistaceus*: A pair of them came into the blind at Guango Lodge.

Pale-naped Brushfinch *Atlapetes pallidinucha*: 2 came into the blind at Guango Lodge.

Yellow-breasted Brushfinch *Atlapetes latinuchus spodionotus*: 3 birds were seen in high altitude scrub in Antisana.

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons angustifrons*: An abundant species, recorded daily in the Amazon.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus decumanus*: Regularly recorded in the foothills and the Amazon.

Olive Oropendola *Psarocolius bifasciatus yuracares*: 1 was seen briefly as it flapped past the Canopy Tower at Sani.
Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus uropygialis uropygialis*: Some very confiding birds were seen around the lodge at San Isidro.
Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela cela*: Seen daily during our extended time in the Amazon.
Mountain Cacique *Cacicus chrysonotus leucoramphus*: Some noisy groups were encountered in the cloud forest at Guango.
Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous haemorrhous*: A couple were nesting by the Napo WC Canopy Tower.
Orange-backed Troupial *Icterus croconotus croconotus*: 1 as seen by some by the Napo dock on the Anangu Creek.
Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis venezuelensis*: A few groups were seen in the Amazon.
Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*: 1 was seen in the community at Sani Isla in the Amazon.
Oriole Blackbird *Gymnomystax mexicanus*: A handful of these striking birds were seen on one of the Napo River islands.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Cerulean Warbler *Setophaga cerulea*: Just the one male was seen, along the roadside near WildSumaco Lodge.
Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi alarum*: A few were seen in the Andean foothills, in the WildSumaco area.
Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*: Recorded on at least 6 days of the tour at multiple sites in the Andes.
Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata*: 2 different singles were seen in the Amazon, near Napo WC.
Black-crested Warbler *Myiothlypis nigrocristata*: Oddly, just the one sighting, around San Isidro.
Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiothlypis coronata orientalis*: Seen in temperate cloud forest at Guango and at Guacamayos
Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis*: Some excellent views were had around the lodge at San Isidro in particular.
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart) *Myioborus miniatus*: Recorded on 5 days, including several times around Sumaco.
Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart) *Myioborus melanocephalus griseonuchus*: A handful were encountered in the highlands, around Antisana, Guango and Papallacta.

GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra rubra*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour.
Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*: 2 males were seen around WldSumaco.
Golden Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysogaster chrysogaster*: A single en-route to Antisana was one of the first birds of the tour.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Red-capped Cardinal *Paroaria gularis gularis*: Several groups were seen well around Sani Lodge in the Amazon.
Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus leverianus*: A dramatic tanager seen in both the foothills and the Amazon.
Oleaginous Hemispingus *Hemispingus frontalis (GO)*: A constantly calling pair was only seen by Sam near San Isidro.
Black-eared Hemispingus *Hemispingus melanotis melanotis*: A couple were seen from the blind at Guango Lodge.
Orange-headed Tanager *Thlypopsis sordida*: A bird came in well to playback on a Napo River island, but as we were all looking intently for a **Parker's Spinetail** at the time, only a few got it.
Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata penicillate*: 2 were seen from a boat near Napo WC in the Amazon.
White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*: A few were seen in the foothills, around Pacto Sumaco and near Papango.
Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo carbo*: An out-of-place 1 at Guango, then more in the foothills and Amazon.
Masked Crimson Tanager *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*: A few were seen around the lake and Canopy Tower at Sani Lodge.
Hooded Mountain Tanager *Buthraupis montana cucullate*: A few at both Guango Lodge and along the Guacamayos Ridge.
Masked Mountain Tanager *Tephrophilus wetmorei*: One of the overall tour highlights was seeing a close family group of this rare and reclusive tanager, in elfin forest in Cayambe-Coca National Park. ONE OF THE BEST BIRDS OF THE TOUR!
Black-chested Mountain Tanager *Cnemathraupis eximia*: A pair found by fellow TB guide *Andres Vasquez* above Papallacta.
Grass-green Tanager *Chlorornis riefferii riefferii*: Great looks during heavy rain at the trailhead of the Guacamayos Ridge.
Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus lacrymosus palpebrosus*: Several seen in temperate forest at Guango & the Guacamayos Ridge.
Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus igniventris erythrotus*: 5 were seen in forest above the town of Papallacta.
Blue-winged Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus somptuosus baezae*: 2 birds near San Isidro were our sole record.
Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager *Dubusia taeniata taeniata*: 1 was seen in elfin forest above Papallacta.
Golden-crowned Tanager *Iridosornis rufivertex rufivertex*: This gorgeous tanager was seen in elfin forest above Papallacta.
Orange-eared Tanager *Chlorochrysa calliparaea bourcierii*: One of the last finds before leaving for the Amazon, from WildSumaco.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus mediana*: Recorded on 3-4 days of the tour.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum melanopectera*: Recorded on 3 different days, in the foothills and in the Amazon.

Blue-capped Tanager *Stilpnia heinei*: A single was seen only briefly, along the road near San Isidro.

Yellow-bellied Tanager *Ixothraupis xanthogastra xanthogastra*: Just 1 bird was found in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Spotted Tanager *Ixothraupis punctata zamorae*: 3 birds only were found, along the road near WildSumaco Lodge.

Black-capped Tanager *Stilpnia heinei*: Just 2 birds were seen in subtropical cloud forest near San Isidro.

Blue-necked Tanager *Stilpnia cyanicollis caeruleocephala*: Recorded on 4 days in the Andean foothills, around Sumaco.

Blue-and-black Tanager *Tangara vassorii vassorii*: A single of this highland tanager was seen along a trail at Guango.

Beryl-spangled Tanager *Tangara nigroviridis nigroviridis*: A single group at both Guango and San Isidro.

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana boliviana*: 2 were seen, in the tree with us, at the Canopy Tower in Napo WC.

Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis chilensis*: An iconic tanager, seen very well on two occasions in the Andean foothills.

Opal-rumped Tanager *Tangara velia iridina*: 1 was seen from the Canopy Tower at Napo Wildlife Center in the Amazon.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*: A couple of sightings near WildSumaco Lodge in the foothills of the Andes.

Saffron-crowned Tanager *Tangara xanthocephala*: Another spectacular tanager, finally seen well on the Guacamayos Ridge.

Flame-faced Tanager *Tangara parzudakii parzudakii*: 2 singles were seen in cloud forest near San Isidro.

Green-and-gold Tanager *Tangara schrankii schrankii*: Surprisingly, just 1 was on the Papango Road in the Andean foothills.

Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus aequatorialis*: A handsome, abundant tanager, seen on 3 days around WildSumaco.

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*: A couple were seen in the Andean foothills.

Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata lineata*: A dazzling tanager seen at WildSumaco and from the canopy tower at Sani.

Yellow-bellied Dacnis *Dacnis flaviventer*: 1 near WildSumaco and a pair at Sani Lodge in the Amazon.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana glaucogularis*: 1 was seen along the Papango Road in the foothills of the Andes.

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus microrhynchus*: A male was seen in the Andean foothills at WildSumaco Lodge.

Golden-collared Honeycreeper *Iridophanes pulcherrimus pulcherrimus*: A male was seen from the veranda at WildSumaco.

Blue-backed Conebill *Conirostrum sitticolor sitticolor*: This handsome tanager was seen in elfin forest above Papallacta.

Capped Conebill *Conirostrum albifrons atrocyaneum*: A single was seen in a mixed flock in the cloud forest at Guango.

Black Flowerpiercer *Diglossa humeralis aterrima*: A few were seen at the Tambo Condor Restaurant, near Antisana NP.

Bluish Flowerpiercer *Diglossa caerulescens*: We just had 2 brief sightings, for some, in the San Isidro area.

Masked Flowerpiercer *Diglossa cyanea cyanea*: Regularly recorded around Guango and San Isidro.

Black-backed Bush Tanager *Urothraupis stolzmanni*: An excellent flock in Cayambe-Coca National Park held several individuals of this species, plus **Golden-crowned Tanager** and a family party of **Masked Mountain-Tanagers**.

Plumbeous Sierra Finch *Geospizopsis unicolor geospizopsis*: A dozen or so were seen in the paramo.

Gray-hooded Bush Tanager *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris rubrirostris*: 1 bird was seen near Guango Lodge.

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris*: A single was seen on a Napo River island in the Amazon.

Black-and-white Seedeater *Sporophila luctuosa*: A single small flock on one of the Napo River islands was our sole sighting.

Plain-colored Seedeater *Catamenia inornata minor*: Only seen on our first day, in the highlands at Antisana.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*: Recorded on 4 days in the Andean foothills.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus maximus*: Only recorded once on the tour.

Blue-gray (Grayish) Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*: A few were seen by the village of Paco Sumaco.

MAMMALS

Opossum sp.: 1 was seen around Sani Lodge in the Amazon.

Linnaeus's (Southern) Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus didactylus*: 2 singles were seen around Napo WC.

Graells's (Black-mantled) Tamarin *Saguinus graellsii*: A couple of sightings at WildSumaco, and then again in the Amazon.

Golden-mantled Tamarin *Saguinus tripartitus*: One of these gorgeous primates was seen along Anangu Creek.

White-fronted Capuchin *Cebus albifrons*: A couple of groups were seen around Napo WC in the Amazon.

Common Squirrel Monkey *Saimiri sciureus*: A few groups were seen around Napo WC in the Amazon.

Spix's Night Monkey *Aotus vociferans*: 3 were seen poking their heads out of a roosting cavity near Napo WC.

Monk (Napo) Saki *Pithecia monachus*: A pair of these bizarre monkeys were seen beside Anangu Creek.

Venezuelan Red Howler *Alouatta seniculus*: Recorded on 5 days in the Amazon.

White-fronted Spider Monkey *Ateles belzebuth*: 2 of these rare monkeys were seen along a forest trail close to Napo WC.

Poepping's (Silvery) Woolly Monkey *Lagothrix poeppigii*: 2 troops were seen in the Napo WC area of the Amazon.

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*: Seen twice around San Isidro.

Black Agouti *Dasyprocta fuliginosa*: A singleton was seen from the balcony at San Isidro.

Tapeti (Brazilian Rabbit) *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*: A few were seen in the high Andes at Antisana.

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso*: Several groups were seen in the Amazon, including by the dock at Sani.

Greater Bulldog Bat *Noctilio leporinus*: 1 was seen quartering the lake beside Napo WC.

Culpeo (Culpeo Fox) *Lycalopex culpaeus*: 1 was seen hunting in the paramo at Antisana.

Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis*: Seen in both Napo WC and Sani in the Amazon.

Mountain Tapir *Tapirus pinchaque*: The mammal sighting of the tour involved an immature that slowly crossed the road in front of our vehicle in temperate cloud forest above Papallacta.

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu* (**H**): Heard around Napo WC, where their scent was also experienced too!

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*: 30 individuals were seen in the high Andes at Antisana.

OTHERS

Green Anaconda *Eunectes murinus*: We successfully chased after a sleeping individual around the lake at Napo WC.

Brown Whipsnake *Chironius fuscus*: 1 was seen along a forest trail in the Amazon.

Malachite *Siproeta stelenes*: A few were noted in the Amazon.

Bullet Ant *Paraponera clavate*: Several were seen in the Amazon.

Amazon Tree-Boa *Corallus hortulana*: 1 was found in Sani Lodge.

Black Caiman *Melanosuchus niger*: Some great looks at Sani Lodge in particular.