

AMAZONIAN ECUADOR: SACHA LODGE I

January 15, 2010 to January 23, 2010

Guided by
Dan Lane

What a great way to start 2010! A fun tour with a great group of folks in a fine corner of Amazonia, surrounded by great birds and impressive forest, and with a superb lodge at our disposal. Sacha is a great place to experience the Amazon: even though it's not exactly in the middle of nowhere (only 3 hours from Coca), it feels detached and you can immerse yourself in the humid, green, lush world of the teeming rainforest. Smell the smells, hear the sounds, and see the sights. Only occasionally is this world interrupted by reminders that we are still part of the greater outside world (by an overflying plane, or the sound of a boat on the broad Napo River nearby). And let's not forget our fine leadership by Oscar and Elias, who shared their knowledge and expertise with us!

Among the many experiences we had while enjoying this little corner of paradise were: observing a small troop of puppet-sized Pygmy Marmosets grooming one another; watching ungainly Hoatzins as they staggered around on perches over the lakeside marsh; witnessing tens, if not hundreds, of parrots descending on a clay lick beside the Napo and bicker over who got first dibs on the best clay; enjoyed the antics of the singing pairs of Donocobius, who jiggled their tails and inflated their orange neck sacs as they tooted their car-alarm songs; we marveled at the incredible color of the Cream-colored Woodpecker that gazed back at us from high in the flooded forest; and we were awe-struck by the sheer bulk of a "small" Anaconda that was discovered within the lodge grounds! These were only a few of the many sights that greeted us in the eight days we were at Sacha. And there were so many more!

As always, a great tour is not only made up of great sights, but also by great folks, and you all certainly qualify as such! Thanks to all of you for having shared these experiences with me. I was pleased to have several new folks to Field Guides along, and I certainly hope that you enjoyed your experience fully (and will consider coming along again!). Saludos y espero que nuestros caminos se crucen de nuevo! -Dan

List total: 269 bird taxa and 13 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

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Tinamidae

GREAT TINAMOU (*Tinamus major*)

As hard as it usually is to see a tinamou, we had spectacular, leisurely views of a single Great as it wandered along the entrance boardwalk.

* CINEREOUS TINAMOU (*Crypturellus cinereus*)

* LITTLE TINAMOU (*Crypturellus soui*)

UNDULATED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus undulatus*)

A few lucky souls got glimpses of two of these river-edge tinamous near the Napo landing area.

* VARIEGATED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus variegatus*)

* BARTLETT'S TINAMOU (*Crypturellus bartletti*)

I'm not positive about this identification, but the birds we heard along the entrance boardwalk sure sounded like this species.

Phalacrocoracidae

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

One along the Napo our last day as we headed back to Coca.

Anhingidae

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Gail spotted this bird as we motored back to Coca our last day.

Ardeidae

CAPPED HERON (*Pilherodius pileatus*)

A single bird, seen by most as it flew. The species is strangely rare along the Napo... in Peru, it's a fairly common river-edge bird.

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*)

An attractive cousin of the Great Blue Heron. We saw a fair number.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)

One bird accompanying two flying Snowy Egrets as they moved up the Napo.

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*)

A few seen, most notably an immature along the entrance trail.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)

A few views of this attractive tropical heron were had along Orquidea creek and the lake edge.

* ZIGZAG HERON (*Zebrilus undulatus*)

An odd, nocturnal heron that we only heard one morning.

Cathartidae

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes melambrotus*)

The common vulture over humid forest in Amazonia.

KING VULTURE (*Sarcoramphus papa*)

A few distant views from the towers.

Pandionidae

b OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Several wintering along the Napo.

Accipitridae

HOOK-BILLED KITE (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*)

A pair flew over the metal towers on our second visit: a gray male and a black (presumed) female.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*)

SNAIL KITE (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)

One was hanging around the lake, including looking quite bedraggled after one of the bigger rains.

SLENDER-BILLED KITE (*Rostrhamus hamatus*)

DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE (*Harpagus bidentatus*)

The "usual" pair around the metal towers were in evidence.

PLUMBEOUS KITE (*Ictinia plumbea*)

SLATE-COLORED HAWK (*Leucopternis schistaceus*)

A pair was at the metal towers... and... well, there was some hanky-panky.

WHITE HAWK (*Leucopternis albicollis*)

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*)

No roads around... maybe the hawks were hopeful that construction crews might be coming?

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*)

Two distant hawks along the Napo the day we returned to Coca were likely this species.

BLACK-AND-WHITE HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizastur melanoleucus*)

Oscar picked out a perched bird that later took to the air only to be dive-bombed by some passing Swallow-tailed Kites.

BLACK HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)

Falconidae

BLACK CARACARA (*Daptrius ater*)

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima*)

BAT FALCON (*Falco ruficularis*)

Cracidae

SPECKLED CHACHALACA (*Ortalis guttata*)

SPIX'S GUAN (*Penelope jacquacu*)

Odontophoridae

* MARBLED WOOD-QUAIL (*Odontophorus gujanensis*)

Barbara caught a glimpse of movement, but mostly we just heard this secretive forest quail.

Opisthocomidae

HOATZIN (*Opisthocomus hoazin*)

One of the world's more bizarre birds. Thought for a while to be related to pheasants and such, then to cuckoos, but now it's believed to be related to African touracos.

Aramidae

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna*)

One seen along Orquidea Creek.

Rallidae

* BLACK-BANDED CRAKE (*Anurolimnas fasciatus*)

RUFIOUS-SIDED CRAKE (*Laterallus melanophaius*)

A remarkably responsive pair near the canoe landing on the entrance boardwalk.

Jacaniidae

WATTLED JACANA (*Jacana jacana*)

One bird was along the lake edge most days.

Charadriidae

PIED LAPWING (*Vanellus cayanus*)

A handsome plover we saw along the Napo several times.

COLLARED PLOVER (*Charadrius collaris*)

Scolopacidae

b SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*)

b GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

b LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*)

Sternidae

YELLOW-BILLED TERN (*Sterna superciliaris*)

Columbidae

I ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

In Coca.

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)

PLUMBEOUS PIGEON (*Patagioenas plumbea*)

The pigeon we regularly saw from the metal towers.

RUDDY PIGEON (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)

The pigeons we saw allopreening from the wooden tower.

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*)

In Quito.

GRAY-FRONTED DOVE (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)

Heard often enough, but a pair was on the entrance boardwalk one day.

* RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon montana*)

Psittacidae

SCARLET MACAW (*Ara macao*)

A pair seen over the interior parrot lick.

RED-BELLIED MACAW (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)

Always in flight...

DUSKY-HEADED PARAKEET (*Aratinga weddellii*)

MAROON-TAILED PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura melanura*)

A species that usually is seen flying through the canopy. We had one in the scope briefly, though.

COBALT-WINGED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*)

A disappointment that they didn't descend to the interior parrot lick, but we saw plenty of flybys.

SCARLET-SHOULDERED PARROTLET (*Touit huetii*)

One was in the scope near the interior parrot lick.

BLACK-HEADED PARROT (*Pionites melanocephala*)

An attractive parrot we saw from the towers.

BLUE-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus menstruus*)

YELLOW-CROWNED PARROT (*Amazona ochrocephala*)

ORANGE-WINGED PARROT (*Amazona amazonica*)

Only as flybys at the riveredge parrot lick.

MEALY PARROT (*Amazona farinosa*)

The dominant parrots at the riveredge parrot lick.

Cuculidae

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*)

LITTLE CUCKOO (*Piaya minuta*)

Like a miniature Squirrel Cuckoo, we had nice views of one at the edge of the lake.

GREATER ANI (*Crotophaga major*)

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

Strigidae

TROPICAL SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops choliba*)

A pair was on their dayroost: a branch overhanging the Napo near the boat landing.

TAWNY-BELLIED SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops watsonii*)

Oscar showed us a well-hidden bird just off the trail near the wooden tower.

CRESTED OWL (*Lophotrix cristata*)

One seen along the trail to the interior parrot lick ranked in the top 5 birds for Ellen.

* FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)

Nyctibiidae

GREAT POTOO (*Nyctibius grandis*)

A fine, honking big bird on a branch over the entrance boardwalk. A favorite with the group.

COMMON POTOO (*Nyctibius griseus*)

Silhouetted birds in flight seen on two occasions.

Caprimulgidae

* PAURAUQUE (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)

LADDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)

A bird on a stick beside the river was our first... but we flushed up several females from the growth on the young river island we visited.

Apodidae

WHITE-CHESTED SWIFT (*Cypseloides lemosi*)

A few birds in that big swift kettle over the river islands were nice. This species was first described in 1969, and was thought to be a Colombian endemic (meaning, only known from that country) until they started being found in Ecuador and Peru in the 90s and 2000s. Hence my interest in seeing them...

WHITE-CHINNED SWIFT (*Cypseloides cryptus*)

Also in the big swift flocks over the river, towers, and lake. This species also is a poorly-known one that is probably often overlooked.

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

b CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*)

A few over the lake the day we left for Coca.

SHORT-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura brachyura*)

FORK-TAILED PALM-SWIFT (*Tachornis squamata*)

LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT (*Panyptila cayennensis*)

Trochilidae

GREAT-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis malaris*)

Nice views of this hermit at its lek as various individuals sang, wagging their tails.

STRAIGHT-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis bourcieri*)

One bird was very obliging, investigating us as we walked Liana Chica trail.

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*)

BLUE-TAILED EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*)

A male was seen perched along the lake edge.

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania furcata*)

The female bird we saw from the metal towers.

GOLDEN-TAILED SAPPHIRE (*Chrysuronia oenone*)

Brief glimpses of a bird in the tower tree.

Trogonidae

WHITE-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon viridis*)

A startled male was the object of predawn spotlighting on a few different mornings.

VIOLACEOUS TROGON (*Trogon violaceus*)

COLLARED TROGON (*Trogon collaris*)

* BLACK-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon melanurus*)

Alcedinidae

RINGED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle torquatus*)

Fine views our last day.

GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana*)

GREEN-AND-RUFOUS KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle inda*)

The larger of the two "dark" kingfishers we saw along Orquidea Creek.

AMERICAN PYGMY KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle aenea*)
Lynn and Gail managed to see this one.

Momotidae

BLUE-CROWNED MOTMOT (*Momotus momota*)
Common, but often hard to see, we had reasonable views of at least two birds.

BROAD-BILLED MOTMOT (*Electron platyrhynchum*)
The same morning we saw the first Blue-crown, we also had a Broad-billed for comparison.

Galbulidae

WHITE-CHINNED JACAMAR (*Galbula tombacea*)
The green jacamar we saw in the flooded forest along the Pantano trail.

PURPLISH JACAMAR (*Galbula chalcothorax*)
The largely coppery jacamar we saw on our first visit to the metal tower.

Bucconidae

WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*)
Seen from the metal towers, we enjoyed close views our last visit there.

PIED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus tectus*)
Also seen from the metal towers.

CHESTNUT-CAPPED PUFFBIRD (*Bucco macrodactylus*)
ANOTHER puffbird seen from the metal towers (popular place for puffbirds!).

WHITE-CHESTED PUFFBIRD (*Malacoptila fusca*)
The "streaky, puffy" with an orange bird we spotted in the understory on an afternoon walk.

LANCEOLATED MONKLET (*Micromonacha lanceolata*)
A rare puffbird of the canopy that we glimpsed our first morning out.

BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD (*Monasa nigrifrons*)
The river-edge nunbird.

WHITE-FRONTED NUNBIRD (*Monasa morphoeus*)
The upland forest nunbird.

SWALLOW-WING (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)
Common along the river edge.

Capitonidae

SCARLET-CROWNED BARBET (*Capito aurovirens*)
One of the first birds we saw upon arriving at the Napo landing.

GILDED BARBET (*Capito auratus*)

Ramphastidae

IVORY-BILLED ARAÁARI (*Pteroglossus azara*)
An impressive lineup on the cables supporting the metal tower!

CHESTNUT-EARED ARAÁARI (*Pteroglossus castanotis*)
A brief view by some along the entrance boardwalk.

MANY-BANDED ARAÁARI (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*)
The aracari we saw well from the wooden tower.

GOLDEN-COLLARED TOUCANET (*Selenidera reinwardtii*)

RED-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos tucanus cuvieri*)
This is the big toucan that (ahem) doesn't have a red bill in western Amazonia. I prefer calling it "White-throated Toucan".

Picidae

YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)
The candy-colored woodpecker we saw from the towers.

* LITTLE WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis passerinus*)

RED-STAINED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis affinis*)
One seen from the metal towers.

SCALY-BREASTED WOODPECKER (*Ceelus grammicus*)
The brown, crested woodpecker with the markings on the breast.

CHESTNUT WOODPECKER (*Ceelus elegans*)
The brown, crested woodpecker we saw along Orquidea Creek.

CREAM-COLORED WOODPECKER (*Ceelus flavus*)
One of those really astonishing-looking birds of Amazonia. We enjoyed fine views of a fine male.

CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

Furnariidae

LESSER HORNERO (*Furnarius minor*)
This and the next two species are specialists of river islands.

DARK-BREASTED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis albigularis*)

WHITE-BELLIED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis propinqua*)

ORANGE-FRONTED PLUSHCROWN (*Metopothrix aurantiacus*)
The "warbler" of the furnariid family.

* CINNAMON-RUMPED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Philydor pyrrhodes*)
SHORT-BILLED LEAFTOSSER (*Sclerurus rufigularis*)
We heard one at dawn one day, but saw it at a roost one evening.

BLACK-TAILED LEAFTOSSER (*Sclerurus caudacutus*)

Dendrocolaptidae

PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)

OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)

WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

LONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Nasica longirostris*)
A bit frustrating to see, but worth the effort!

CINNAMON-THROATED WOODCREEPER (*Dendrexetastes rufigula*)

AMAZONIAN BARRED-WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocolaptes certhia*)

* BLACK-BANDED WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*)
STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus picus*)
The woodcreeper we were seeing around the lake edge.

STRIPED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*)

* SPIX'S WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus spixii*)
BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

Thamnophilidae

CASTELNAU'S ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*)
The big black antshrikes we saw on the river island.

DUSKY-THROATED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)

CINEREOUS ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnomanes caesius*)

MOUSTACHED (SHORT-BILLED) ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula ignota obscura*)
The cute little black-and-white warbler-like bird we saw as we descended the metal tower the first visit.

N PLAIN-THROATED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula hauxwelli*)
I don't think we ever saw the adult birds, but we saw the nest well!

RUFIOUS-TAILED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula erythra*)
This and the next two species were in the understory flock we saw on the trail to the interior parrot lick.

WHITE-FLANKED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)

GRAY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*)

* DUGAND'S ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus dugandi*)

GRAY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra cinerascens*)

BLACK-FACED ANTBIRD (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*)

* PERUVIAN WARBLING-ANTBIRD (*Hypocnemis peruviana*)

YELLOW-BROWED ANTBIRD (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*)

An attractive antbird we saw on the hill above the interior parrot lick.

SILVERED ANTBIRD (*Sclateria naevia*)

The white-bellied antbird that is always just above the surface of water.

SPOT-WINGED ANTBIRD (*Percnostola leucostigma*)

PLUMBEOUS ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza hyperythra*)

Mostly heard along Orquidea Creek.

WHITE-SHOULDERED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza melanoceps*)

After several frustrating bouts, a male finally responded well, perching on the hand-rail of the entrance boardwalk.

SOOTY ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza fortis*)

After passing under the towers, we encountered some antbirds that must have been attending a swarm of army ants. This is the one that was very responsive to playback, but rarely perched in the open.

DOT-BACKED ANTBIRD (*Hylophylax punctulata*)

The cute, streaky antbird that was along Orquidea Creek.

BLACK-SPOTTED BARE-EYE (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*)

The other antbird that was with the Sooty near the base of the towers.

* REDDISH-WINGED BARE-EYE (*Phlegopsis erythroptera*)

Formicariidae

RUFOUS-CAPPED ANTTHRUSH (*Formicarius colma*)

A fine view on the trail to the interior parrot lick.

BLACK-FACED ANTTHRUSH (*Formicarius analis*)

Barbara and Rita managed to see this with me.

STRIATED ANTTHRUSH (*Chamaeza nobilis*)

Two different attempts netted brief glimpses of sneaky birds.

Rhinocryptidae

RUSTY-BELTED TAPACULO (*Liosceles thoracicus*)

Cotingidae

WHITE-BROWED PURPLETUFT (*Iodopleura isabellae*)

Yup, that's its name :)

SCREAMING PIHA (*Lipaugus vociferans*)

One of the signature sounds of Amazonia.

PLUM-THROATED COTINGA (*Cotinga maynana*)

These two cotingas have super-striking electric blue males that elicit gasps every time... the females are still attractive in my mind, but they may not win as many votes...

SPANGLED COTINGA (*Cotinga cayana*)

BARE-NECKED FRUITCROW (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)

A lovely female was at the wooden tower.

PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW (*Querula purpurata*)

AMAZONIAN UMBRELLABIRD (*Cephalopterus ornatus*)

Two of these large, strange cotingas were seen, one from the young river island, the other from the wooden tower.

Pipridae

* BLUE-BACKED MANAKIN (*Chiroxiphia pareola*)

WIRE-TAILED MANAKIN (*Pipra filicauda*)

Seen as we hiked in the forest our first full day, this fiery yellow, red, and black manakin is an eye-catcher.

GOLDEN-HEADED MANAKIN (*Pipra erythrocephala*)

Entertaining to watch as they danced in the mid-story on the hill above the interior parrot lick.

WESTERN STRIPED MANAKIN (*Machaeropterus striolatus*)

Jessica was the only lucky one to see this attractive little manakin.

ORANGE-CRESTED MANAKIN (*Heterocercus aurantiivertex*)

Oscar's sharp eyes spotted this muted-colored manakin along Orquidea Creek only feet from the canoe.

DWARF TYRANT-MANAKIN (*Tyrannetes stolzmanni*)

Favored candidate for "bird most stuck in a rut"... it sings from the same perch aaaalllllll dayyyy longggggg.

Tyrannidae

WHITE-LORED TYRANNULET (*Ornithion inerme*)

* YELLOW-CROWNED TYRANNULET (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

YELLOW-CROWNED ELAENIA (*Myiopagis flavivertex*)

A fairly rare flycatcher of flooded forest, such as that along the Pantano trail.

MOTTLE-BACKED ELAENIA (*Elaenia gigas*)

This and the next species were on the young river island we visited.

RIVER TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga hypoleuca*)

* OCHRE-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes oleagineus*)

SLENDER-FOOTED TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)

LESSER WAGTAIL-TYRANT (*Stigmatura napensis*)

A bit of a stinker to see well.

WHITE-EYED TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus zosterops*)

A real eye-popper of a bird... it's olives, grays, and washed out yellows are like a little bit of rainbow in bird shape.... a verrrrry little bit of rainbow.

YELLOW-BROWED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*)

This little cutie would sit in the canopy of our tree where the wooden tower was.

RUFIOUS-TAILED FLATBILL (*Ramphotrigon ruficauda*)

Too late in the day to see color well, we only saw silhouettes.

* YELLOW-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)

b* EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus virens*)

b WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*)

Near the very southern limit of its distribution, this is a nice bird to see in the Amazon!

DRAB WATER-TYRANT (*Ochthornis littoralis*)

Despite its name, I actually like this little bird. Understatement is all the rage.

CINNAMON ATTILA (*Attila cinnamomeus*)

Fine views of this often skulky bird were had from the wooden tower.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

SHORT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus ferox*)

GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarhynchus pitangua*)

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*)

GRAY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes granadensis*)

DUSKY-CHESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes luteiventris*)

PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*)

Rather common and vocal this time of year.

* SULPHURY FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannopsis sulphurea*)

Heard, and silhouettes above the canopy were seen over Orquidea Creek.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

b EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

So out of context, it's hard to believe these are the same Eastern Kingbirds that sit on fence-lines in the fields of North America!

WHITE-WINGED BECARD (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)

BLACK-TAILED TITYRA (*Tityra cayana*)

An attractive white, black, and red flycatcher relative.

Hirundinidae

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*)

WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW (*Tachycineta albiventer*)

This and the following species are open-water swallows that are rarely found away from rivers and lakes.

WHITE-BANDED SWALLOW (*Atticora fasciata*)

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)

b BANK SWALLOW (SAND MARTIN) (*Riparia riparia*)

Troglodytidae

BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIUS (*Donacobius atricapilla*)

The funny wren-like bird that did the tail-shiver dance when they duetted.

* THRUSH-LIKE WREN (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

One of the most widespread birds in the Americas.

WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucosticta*)

SCALY-BREASTED WREN (*Microcerculus marginatus*)

Also called "Southern Nightingale-Wren".

Turdidae

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH (*Turdus ignobilis*)

Sounds remarkably like our American Robin... but that's where the similarities end...

LAWRENCE'S THRUSH (*Turdus lawrencii*)

An amazing mimic. We were treated to an extended concert as one sang from the tree next to the metal tower. Among the birds it mimicked were a few we had almost no hope of finding where we were, which suggests that that bird must have traveled far and wide to learn all those voices!

HAUXWELL'S THRUSH (*Turdus hauxwelli*)

A brown blur as it crossed the trail, it didn't really respond well to playback.

WHITE-NECKED THRUSH (*Turdus albicollis*)

The forest interior thrush we saw rather well our first full day at the lodge.

Corvidae

VIOLACEOUS JAY (*Cyanocorax violaceus*)

Vireonidae

b RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Almost certainly the few birds we saw were wintering migrants from North America.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO (*Vireo flavoviridis*)

Migrants from Central America, this species seems to travel in small flocks through the canopy.... interesting behavior for a migrant.

Fringillidae

WHITE-LORED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)

A pair of these euphonias appeared to be searching for nest sites around the wooden tower.

WHITE-VENTED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia minuta*)

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)

RUFIOUS-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia rufiventris*)

Parulidae

b* YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)

In retrospect, I think it's quite likely we heard a Yellow Warbler on that river island after all... even though we saw a Blackpoll shortly thereafter.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*)

Perhaps winner of "greatest change between breeding and wintering habitats of any songbird"... we saw one perched in a Cecropia on an Amazonian river island... in six months, it will probably be in a stunted spruce bog in the taiga of northern Canada or Alaska. Wow.

Thraupidae

GRAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Eucometis penicillata*)

One bird along Orquidea Creek responded well (almost too well!) to playback, flying across the creek repeatedly and singing strongly.

FLAME-CRESTED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus cristatus*)

A female briefly seen from the wooden canopy tower.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*)

Barbara spotted a fine male that was molting into breeding plumage (mottled red and green).

MASKED CRIMSON TANAGER (*Ramphocelus nigrogularis*)

A real "stonker" that impressed all who saw it. The pattern deep red and velvet black really make for a handsome plumage.

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

Lives up to its name!

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*)

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)

Rather common, and often seen on the towers.

PARADISE TANAGER (*Tangara chilensis*)

Remarkably scarce, we had only one from the wooden tower.

GREEN-AND-GOLD TANAGER (*Tangara schrankii*)

MASKED TANAGER (*Tangara nigrocincta*)

OPAL-RUMPED TANAGER (*Tangara velia*)

This and the next were seen well from the towers.

OPAL-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tangara callophrys*)

BLACK-FACED DACNIS (*Dacnis lineata*)

An attractive turquoise species we saw from the towers.

YELLOW-BELLIED DACNIS (*Dacnis flaviventer*)

BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*)

GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

Emberizidae

BLACK-AND-WHITE SEEDEATER (*Sporophila luctuosa*)

On the young river island. Probably altitudinal migrants from the Andes.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)

The common river island seedeater.

RED-CAPPED CARDINAL (*Paroaria gularis*)

YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

In Quito.

Cardinalidae

GRAYISH SALTATOR (*Saltator coerulescens*)

BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator maximus*)

Icteridae

RED-BREASTED BLACKBIRD (*Sturnella militaris*)

The blackbird along the runway at the Coca Airport.

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis*)

GIANT COWBIRD (*Scaphidura oryzivora*)

The huge blackbirds we saw along the Napo.

MORICHE ORIOLE (*Icterus chryscephalus*)

At one point, while we were on the wooden tower, this small black bird with a yellow head grew into a larger black bird with a yellow head... or else a Greater Yellow-headed Vulture replaced it on the same perch!

YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus cela*)

CRESTED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

The blacker oropendola with a yellow bill.

RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)

The more olive oropendola with the blackish bill.

AMAZONIAN OROPENDOLA (*Gymnostinops bifasciatus*)

Oscar spotted one of these large oropendolas flying past the metal tower. Another name for it is "Olive Oropendola".

ORIOLE BLACKBIRD (*Gymnomystax mexicanus*)

The large yellow and black birds we saw on river islands.

MAMMALS

LONG-NOSED BAT (*Rhynchonycteris naso*)

FISHING BAT SP. (*Noctilio leporinus*)

PYGMY MARMOSET (*Cebuella pygmaea*)

Seen well, and at many sites, particularly from the metal tower.

BLACK-MANTLE TAMARIN (*Saguinus nigricollis*)

Quite possibly the source of the "tamarin foam" we had for dessert one day... hmmm,

COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY (*Saimiri sciureus*)

Holy monkeys, there were a lot of these!

THREE-STRIPED NIGHT MONKEY (*Aotus trivirgatus*)

Oscar pointed out two as they peeked out their roost hole at us.

DUSKY TITI MONKEY (*Callicebus moloch*)

Seen on both sides of the Napo; the peltage is a rich rufous red on the underside.

RED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta seniculus*)

Heard more than seen, but eventually we saw some quite well.

WHITE-FRONTED CAPUCHIN (*Cebus albifrons*)

BROWN-THROATED THREE-TOED SLOTH (*Bradypus variegatus*)

Shortly after Jane asked if we'd see sloths, one must have heard the request and popped its head up above the canopy to see where it came from!

BLACK AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*)

KINKAJOU (*Potos flavus*)

Jane and I saw one, thanks to some other guests of the lodge, one evening after the checklist session.

COUGAR (MOUNTAIN LION) (*Puma concolor*)

Folks at the front of the line as we hiked out from the interior parrot lick got a quick glimpse of a puma! How lucky they are!

Additional Comments

Reptiles and amphibians of note:

Ecuadorian Poison-dart frog (*Epidobates bilineatus*)

Smoky Jungle Frog (*Leptodactylus* sp.)

Anole sp.

Skink sp. ()

Caiman lizard (*Dracaena paraguayensis*)

Spectacled Caiman ()

Green Anaconda ()

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