

## AMAZONIAN ECUADOR: SACHA LODGE

*June 29, 2010 to July 8, 2010*

Guided by  
**Jay VanderGaast**

The diversity of the Amazon basin is among the richest of the world, and staying for a week at a place like Sacha really illustrates that nicely. Just remember our final morning: we canoed out across the cocha, then walked the boardwalk to the finca, like we'd done a bunch of times already. And yet, we still added more than a half a dozen new species to our bird lists! Even I got a lifer on that walk, despite having walked that boardwalk 50+ times on my numerous past visits. It's that kind of diversity that make visits to Sacha exciting every time.

That excitement began the minute we landed in Coca, where the official first bird for the trip came in the form of Cattle Tyrant, a species not even mentioned in the Ecuador field guide! Though we never quite matched that one for rarity, there were certainly many more exciting birding moments throughout our stay, from the famous towers, both metal and wooden; from the beautiful streams through pristine varzea forest, from the parrot licks and terra firme trails on the south bank of the Napo; and from river islands in the Napo itself.

We kicked things off with a morning on the metal towers, where a steady stream of great canopy birds got us warmed up: Black-headed Parrot, Maroon-tailed Parakeet, Golden-collared Toucanet, Lettered Aracari, Plum-throated and Spangled Cotingas, Thrush-like Wren, and Flame-crested, Turquoise, Masked and Opal-crowned tanagers, were among the 50+ species we tallied that morning. Our other tower visits were just as productive. Our second visit to the metal towers started out much more quietly, but finished with a bang when a big canopy flock passed by at eye level, getting us up close and personal views of a great mix of birds: Purplish Jacamar, Red-stained Woodpecker, Chestnut-winged Hookbill, Moustached Antwren, Elegant Woodcreeper, Pink-throated and Black-capped Becards, and Green-and-gold Tanagers making up just part of the flock.

The wooden tower was no less exciting, especially since there were a couple of nearby fruiting trees attracting a bunch of birds in for incredible close views. A Spangled Cotinga a few feet away was amazing, but so was the scarce Purple-throated Cotinga we saw so well. Difficult species to see from the forest floor showed up just a few feet away in the canopy: Yellow-browed Tody-flycatcher, Dwarf Tyrant-manakin and Pygmy Antwren. And stunners like Ringed Woodpecker, White-browed Purpletuff, and Paradise Tanagers made the sweaty climb to the top more than worthwhile!

Though the towers provided enough highlights for the week on their own, there were a lot of wonderful birds seen elsewhere, too. Bizarre Hoatzins and noisy Donacobius frequented the margins of the cocha as did a Common Potoo that was a permanent fixture near the mouth of the channel. Elegant Agami Herons, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Chestnut-capped Puffbird, Cinnamon Attila, Long-billed Woodcreeper, and Dot-backed, Spot-backed and Silvered antbirds were among the many species seen as we lazily floated along the varzea channels, Orquidea and Anaconda.

Despite less than perfect weather on the south bank, our visits there added a bunch of great new species: the rare and beautiful Rufous-headed Woodpecker on a riverside Cecropia, a pair of lovely Sapphire Quail-doves calling softly from the forest floor, a brilliant Scarlet Macaw showering on a treetop perch. We also found a reasonable army ant swarm, which gave us nice looks at Bicolored Antbird and a young Reddish-winged Bare-eye, while an encounter with a handsome White-plumed Antbird away from any swarm was pure luck. I should also mention those wonderful views of Chestnut-headed Crake, a shy and skulking species that is rarely seen so well. That was just one of a trio of incredible crake encounters, as we also had amazing views of both Gray-breasted Crake and Black-banded Crake for a rare hat trick of difficult crakes!

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Before I forget: a big thank you to our superb local guide, Pablo, who spotted some amazing things, and hauled my scope every step of the way, always with a smile on his face. He had a great deal to do with making this such a fantastic trip! And thanks to you guys, too, without you, this trip wouldn't have happened at all, and I'm glad it did, 'cause it was a ton of fun sharing all these experiences with you all. So thanks for joining me at one of my favorite destinations. Hope we can do it again sometime soon!  
Jay.

*List total: 314 bird taxa and 11 mammal taxa*

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

*Triplist file: sac10d-JV*

### **Tinamidae (Tinamous)**

- \* GREAT TINAMOU (*Tinamus major*)  
*Along Anden one morning.*
- CINEREOUS TINAMOU (*Crypturellus cinereus*)  
*Heard regularly along Anden. We also tried calling in a close bird below the metal towers, but that was only partially successful, with only Pablo and Pat getting views.*
- \* LITTLE TINAMOU (*Crypturellus soui*)  
*Heard along Anden.*
- \* UNDULATED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus undulatus*)  
*Heard regularly in riparian forest along the Napo.*
- \* VARIEGATED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus variegatus*)  
*Heard once near the metal towers.*

### **Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)**

SPECKLED CHACHALACA (*Ortalis guttata*)  
*Great views in Cecropia trees along Anden, and Mel and Erika also had one perched on the railing of the boardwalk near their cabin. And judging by all the noise along Shipati, chachalacas are very common there too.*

SPIX'S GUAN (*Penelope jacquacu*)  
*A single, mostly hidden bird was seen and scoped from the metal towers on our second visit.*

BLUE-THROATED PIPING-GUAN (*Pipile cumanensis*)  
*Fabulous views of a lone bird in a dead tree along the Napo as we headed to the parrot licks early one morning. This bird is rarely seen in the area now, and Pablo said it was the first he'd had at that particular site.*

### **Odontophoridae (New World Quail)**

MARbled WOOD-QUAIL (*Odontophorus gujanensis*)  
*As we waited to start owling near the metal towers, a pair of quail started calling nearby, and Pablo raced off into the forest to track them down. Later when he led us into where they were roosting, there was a moment's panic when he couldn't relocate them at first, but after a couple of minutes, he did, and we all had nice looks at them.*

### **Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)**

- \* ZIGZAG HERON (*Zebrilus undulatus*)  
*Heard a couple of times along Anden, and once quite close, but not quite close enough.*
- RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)  
*Erika spotted our first, a juvenile, from the barbecue shelter as we we waited out an afternoon rainstorm. Our only other one was a beautiful close adult feeding quietly along the Orquidea stream.*
- COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*)  
*One of our final new birds in the lowlands, Suzanne found this one for us along the Napo, on our way back to Coca.*
- GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)  
*A few along the Napo.*
- SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)  
*Also a few along the Napo.*
- STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*)  
*A subadult at the Quito Botanical Gardens was the only one of the tour.*
- AGAMI HERON (*Agamia agami*)  
*This was John's most-wanted bird for the trip, and we had to fine views. First we saw one perched on an open roost right above the Anaconda creek just after dark, and then we found another along Orquidea on our way back from the wooden tower one evening. What a gorgeous heron!*
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
*A single adult flew across the cocha as we paddled towards Orquidea one morning.*
- BOAT-BILLED HERON (*Cochlearius cochlearius*)  
*Two juvenile plumaged birds along Orquidea early one morning.*

### **Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)**

- \* GREEN IBIS (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)  
*Though we saw a couple of dark shapes fly over Orquidea one evening, this was essentially a heard only bird.*

**Cathartidae (New World Vultures)**

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)  
*Common.*

GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes melambrotus*)  
*Also common, and replaces Turkey Vulture in much of the Amazon lowlands.*

KING VULTURE (*Sarcoramphus papa*)  
*A superb adult circled over Shipati as we headed back towards the lodge, and another adult (or possibly 2) was seen well from the metal towers the nest day.*

**Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)**

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*)  
*Fair numbers were seen, including a kettle of 20+ birds circling over the Napo, and another mixed group of Swallow-tailed and Plumbeous kites seen from the metal towers.*

SNAIL KITE (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)  
*A juvenile was seen along the Anaconda stream. This species is rare and local in the Amazon lowlands, though they may be increasing, as it seems like they are recorded somewhat regularly at Sacha now.*

SLENDER-BILLED KITE (*Helicolestes hamatus*)  
*Several seen through the week, but the best ones were our first sighting of 4 birds chasing each other and perching along the edge of the cocha on the rainy afternoon that we spent on the barbecue dock.*

- N** DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE (*Harpagus bidentatus*)  
*Commonly seen from the metal towers. One bird even had a nest that was easily visible from the walkway between towers #2 and #3.*

PLUMBEOUS KITE (*Ictinia plumbea*)  
*Quite a few, especially along the Napo.*

CRANE HAWK (*Geranospiza caerulescens*)  
*Good looks at a pair that flew close past the metal tower, then a couple more from the wooden tower.*

SLATE-COLORED HAWK (*Leucopternis schistaceus*)  
*It was a bit far, but we had some nice scope studies of a perched bird from the metal tower.*

WHITE HAWK (*Leucopternis albigollis*)  
*Speaking of distant, this one was even further away, and only visible from the 3rd metal tower. Tony was the only one that trekked across with Pablo for a look at it.*

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*)  
*Singles on several days, including a nice perched bird on the tip of Oropendola Island.*

BLACK HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)  
*First seen soaring low over the canopy way back of metal tower #1; eventually the bird came our way and made a couple of low passes near our tower before perching briefly (visible from the walkway) before taking wing again. I think this is the first time I've successfully pulled in a hawk-eagle with playback!*

ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus ornatus*)  
*Another distant perched bird seen from the metal tower. It wasn't the greatest of views, but the crest was visible when the bird had its head at the correct angle.*

**Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)**

LINED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur gilvicollis*)  
*On the way to the metal towers one quiet afternoon, Pablo suggested we try for this species, and after a little playback, we heard a response. After another snippets of recording, the bird blasted right in and sat on an open vine, giving us marvelous views of this usually skulking raptor.*

BLACK CARACARA (*Daptrius ater*)  
*Quite common, with best views along the Napo where we saw them sitting on sandbars quite regularly.*

RED-THROATED CARACARA (*Ibycter americanus*)  
*A single bird flew past one afternoon, as we enjoyed a trio of White-chinned Jacamars near the canoe dock on Pilchicocha.*

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima*)  
*Small numbers along the Napo.*

\* LAUGHING FALCON (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)  
*Heard near the lodge each of our last three days.*

BAT FALCON (*Falco rufigularis*)  
*Singles were seen on three days, but never really close. Probably the best was the one perched along the Napo near Anangu.*

### **Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)**

RUFOUS-SIDED CRAKE (*Laterallus melanophaius*)  
*We tried calling this species in along the channel from the dock to the cocha. Though we got a response, only Connie got a quick glimpse of one in the dense vegetation.*

GRAY-BREASTED CRAKE (*Laterallus exilis*)  
*Hiding the ipod and speaker in a little clearing on one of the river islands sure did the trick with this crake. After a little while, one bird approached the ipod and pretty much walked right over it, also posing in the open long enough for Tony to get some great pictures!*

\* GRAY-NECKED WOOD-RAIL (*Aramides cajanea*)  
*Heard several times, mainly along Anden or near the cabins.*

CHESTNUT-HEADED CRAKE (*Anurolimnas castaneiceps*)  
*An often difficult species to see well, but Pablo's spot near Anangu worked like a charm! We all wound up with fantastic views of a pair of these little skulkers!*

BLACK-BANDED CRAKE (*Anurolimnas fasciatus*)  
*Mel was feeling a little crook on our final morning as we headed out, so she went ahead to the finca as the rest of us birded out along the boardwalk. When we caught up with her, she described a pair of crakes she had seen while waiting, and it was clear she'd seen this shy species. We immediately tried the same technique that had worked for Gray-breasted Crake, and the birds raced in and put on a great show as we watched from the machine shop! This was my only lifer of the tour; thanks Mel!*

### **Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)**

SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*)  
*Five birds flew up from the river side, a short while before we arrived at Sacha for the first time.*

COLLARED PLOVER (*Charadrius collaris*)  
*Two pairs were having a discussion about territory ownership on a river island near Anangu. At least, that's what it looked like.*

### **Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)**

YELLOW-BILLED TERN (*Sternula superciliaris*)  
*A distant pair flying over the Napo one morning, then much improved views of a pair perched on the mud near a pair of Large-billed Terns, right opposite the Sacha river dock.*

LARGE-BILLED TERN (*Phaetusa simplex*)  
*Excellent looks at a pair of these distinctive terns as they perched on the mud opposite the Sacha river dock. Looking at these birds, it's easy to understand the placement of skimmers in the same family.*

### **Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)**

I ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)  
*In Coca.*

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)  
*Common along the margins of the cocha and the Napo.*

PLUMBEOUS PIGEON (*Patagioenas plumbea*)  
*Heard often, but seen only from the metal tower. An interesting observation that morning was of an apparent subadult male of this species mating with a female Ruddy Pigeon.*

RUDDY PIGEON (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)  
*A few sightings from the towers, including the aforementioned female being courted and mounted by a young male Plumbeous Pigeon.*

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*)  
*Common in Quito.*

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*)

*Erika saw one in Coca the first day. For the rest of us, the only one was on the second of the river islands we visited.*

GRAY-FRONTED DOVE (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)

*Tony spotted our one and only feeding along the Anden boardwalk early one morning.*

SAPPHIRE QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon saphirina*)

*A pair of these attractive doves called from across the stream near the interior parrot lick, but it took a lot of searching before Pablo finally spotted one, and we got some decent scope views. Of course, on our way out, we stumbled across one perched close, right next to the trail, where it sat long enough for a quick photo session.*

### **Psittacidae (Parrots)**

MAROON-TAILED PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura melanura*)

*A trio of birds perched near the metal tower on our first morning was our only sighting for the week.*

WHITE-EYED PARAKEET (*Aratinga leucophthalma*)

*A flock of 40+ birds was seen flying along the Napo as we left Providencia.*

DUSKY-HEADED PARAKEET (*Aratinga weddellii*)

*Recorded almost daily, with nice scope views from the tower, and a big group at a clay lick along the Napo.*

CHESTNUT-FRONTED MACAW (*Ara severus*)

*A flyby of 10 birds from the metal tower on our first morning, though the view wasn't too satisfying. Then on our second ascent, Pat spotted a couple perched in the canopy and we had far better views of them, as well as a quartet that flew past a couple of times through the morning.*

SCARLET MACAW (*Ara macao*)

*Our morning along the Providencia terra firme trail was almost a complete washout due to rain, but Pablo salvaged at least a part of it by spotting one of these magnificent macaws perched high in the canopy for some great scope views. When it flew off, we saw it had at least two buddies.*

BLUE-AND-YELLOW MACAW (*Ara ararauna*)

*A group of seven birds flew past the wooden tower, and though rather distant, at least some of us could make out the colors.*

RED-BELLIED MACAW (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)

*These small macaws were seen daily in large numbers as they flew to and from their roost in Mauritia palms somewhere off in the varzea forest. Though we had them in good light a few times, the red bellies were pretty much impossible to discern.*

BLUE-WINGED PARROTLET (*Forpus xanthopterygius*)

*A single bird flew in and perched in a nearby palm as we birded on the second river island, but Mel may have been the only one to be in a good position to see it before it took off.*

COBALT-WINGED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*)

*Daily in good numbers, but best views and experience was the hundreds at the interior parrot lick. I'll bet some of you still have their calls ringing in your ears!*

SCARLET-SHOULDERED PARROTLET (*Touit huetii*)

*Suzanne saw a parrot with red in the wings at the interior parrot lick, and that was most likely this species, a few of which we could hear above the cacophony of the parakeets.*

BLACK-HEADED PARROT (*Pionites melanocephalus*)

*A group of 5 of these beautiful small parrots perched for a long time atop a tall palm near the metal towers. Our only others were seen as we boated down the Shipati stream.*

BLUE-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus menstruus*)

*A couple seen from the river were the only parrots around the first parrot lick on our visit there, but when we went to the islands, we had superb looks at a bunch that were visiting a riverside clay lick nearby.*

ORANGE-WINGED PARROT (*Amazona amazonica*)

*Best seen near the cocha where a bunch flew over and perched in emergent trees along the margins as we birded from the dock on our first rainy afternoon.*

MEALY PARROT (*Amazona farinosa*)

*A few distant flybys from the metal tower and along the Napo.*

### **Opisthocomidae (Hoatzin)**

- N** HOATZIN (*Opisthocomus hoazin*)  
*Common around the cocha, where we saw them in good numbers pretty much every day (missed one day- were we sleeping?)*
- Cuculidae (Cuckoos)**
- LITTLE CUCKOO (*Coccyzina minuta*)  
*One along the channel between the dock and the cocha stayed pretty much hidden, but with some clever maneuvering of the canoe, we all managed pretty decent views.*
- SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*)  
*A couple of birds in the canopy around the metal towers.*
- GREATER ANI (*Crotophaga major*)  
*Quite common along the Napo and the margins of Pilchicocha.*
- SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)  
*These anis look tiny next to the Greater Anis! Common and seen daily.*
- Strigidae (Owls)**
- TROPICAL SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops choliba*)  
*An extremely responsive bird showed well near the cabins one night. The next night, we saw one perched in the rafters of the barbecue shelter as we canoed in after dark.*
- TAWNY-BELLIED SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops watsonii*)  
*Good response from one along the boardwalk one night resulted in good views as it perched just overhead.*
- CRESTED OWL (*Lophotrix cristata*)  
*After checking and rechecking all known day roosts of this species throughout the week, Pablo finally found one near the Napo on our last afternoon. On our way out the next morning, about half the group endured the steamy, sweaty bushwhack to the roost and had impressive looks at this bird which had its crest fully erected, which they don't often seem to do.*
- FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)  
*Pablo spotted one perched above the boardwalk during our first walk into the lodge, but it didn't sit long enough for everyone to see it. Other than that, we only heard this species almost daily through the week.*
- Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)**
- \* COMMON PAURAUQUE (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)  
*Heard a couple of times along the cocha, and we did actually see eye shine once!*
- LADDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)  
*A female perched in bamboo along the Napo, and we flushed a few more on the river islands.*
- Nyctibiidae (Potoos)**
- COMMON POTOO (*Nyctibius griseus*)  
*Though we saw this species almost every day, all but one of our sightings was of the same individual, which had a day roost right near the channel and only a few feet off the ground. The only other bird was a well-hidden one perched above the trail along the Napo, seen shortly after we arrived at the finca.*
- Apodidae (Swifts)**
- WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)  
*A few birds seen from the metal tower on our second ascent.*
- SHORT-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura brachyura*)  
*Very small numbers over the Napo on two occasions.*
- GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)  
*Even smaller numbers over the Shipati stream.*
- LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT (*Panyptila cayennensis*)  
*Seen only from the metal towers, where a big group flew around the platform throughout our first morning.*
- FORK-TAILED PALM-SWIFT (*Tachornis squamata*)  
*A pretty distant flock of 30+ birds seen from the second river island.*
- Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)**
- N** RUFIOUS-BREASTED HERMIT (*Glaucis hirsutus*)  
*Early in the week we found a nest with 2 eggs at eye level, right next to the boardwalk. Two days later the eggs had hatched, and the mother was bringing food into the nest.*

WHITE-BEARDED HERMIT (*Phaethornis hispidus*)

*Most encounters were pretty brief, but we did get reasonable views of one feeding at a low flower along Orquidea.*

STRAIGHT-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis bourcierii*)

*Super scope views of a bird on a song perch at a long-used lek en route to the metal towers.*

GREAT-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis malaris*)

*The folks that took the hike above the interior parrot lick got to see one on a song perch at the nearby lek. We tried to re-find one after lunch, but the sound of hundreds of parakeets made it nearly impossible to hear singing hermits! This is also the species Suzanne and Tony had hover in front of them as worked on the gnateater.*

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*)

*A bunch of these birds, mainly males, were at a flowering tree at the finca every time we passed by.*

SPARKLING VIOLETEAR (*Colibri coruscans*)

*In Quito only.*

BLACK-BELLIED THORNTAIL (*Discosura langsdorffi*)

*The lighting wasn't great, but it was good enough to see the white band on the bird's rump. The bird, a female, was seen from the wooden tower.*

BLUE-TAILED EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*)

*A male was perched on a dead branch along the channel as we canoed out on our final morning.*

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania furcata*)

*Nice looks at a male that visited a bunch of red flowers right below us, shortly after the big mixed canopy flock had passed us by on the metal towers.*

GOLDEN-TAILED SAPPHIRE (*Chrysuronia oenone*)

*One was seen from the wooden tower, and another was running the jacobin gauntlet at the flowering tree near the finca.*

GOULD'S JEWELFRONT (*Heliodoxa aurescens*)

*John found a female of this gorgeous hummingbird among the jacobins at the finca flowering tree.*

BLACK-TAILED TRAINBEARER (*Lesbia victoriae*)

*A couple of incredible males, one of which performed some fantastic aerial displays, at the Quito Botanical Garden.*

### **Trogonidae (Trogons)**

\* BLACK-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon melanurus*)

*Heard along Anden one morning.*

GREEN-BACKED TROGON (*Trogon viridis*)

*Until recently this was called Amazonian White-tailed Trogon, and the vast majority of the trogons we saw (and heard), were this species.*

VIOLACEOUS TROGON (*Trogon violaceus*)

*A female was along the trail beside the Napo as we headed out for the Providencia trail, and another was seen by some with a mixed flock at Providencia.*

\* BLACK-THROATED TROGON (*Trogon rufus*)

*Heard along the trail above the parrot lick.*

### **Momotidae (Motmots)**

BLUE-CROWNED MOTMOT (*Momotus momota*)

*Heard a few times along Anden, but seen only once, when Theresa spotted one along Orquidea, just before the end of the canoe trail.*

### **Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)**

RINGED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle torquata*)

*A single bird was along the cocha a couple of times, and a few others were seen along the Napo.*

AMAZON KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

*One male was well-seen just at the dock for the Anangu trail.*

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

*Beautiful views of this shady stream species twice, once each along Orquidea and Anaconda.*

AMERICAN PYGMY KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle aenea*)  
*Wonderful views of a male of this tiny kingfisher along Orquidea.*

**Bucconidae (Puffbirds)**

WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*)  
*Good scope views on our second morning on the metal towers. Nice of it to stick around until Connie made her way back up, too!*

PIED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus tectus*)  
*Good scope views on our first morning at the metal towers.*

CHESTNUT-CAPPED PUFFBIRD (*Bucco macrodactylus*)  
*An excellent job of spotting by Theresa to pick out this elusive puffbird along Orquidea. It's just too bad it didn't stick around long enough for everyone to get a good view.*

\* COLLARED PUFFBIRD (*Bucco capensis*)  
*I thought we had this one, but it gave up calling when we got close and we never heard it again.*

\* WHITE-CHESTED PUFFBIRD (*Malacoptila fusca*)  
*One called along Liana Chica as we worked our way towards the metal towers one afternoon.*

\* LANCEOLATED MONKLET (*Micromonacha lanceolata*)  
*One was heard along the Anangu trail above the parrot lick.*

BROWN NUNLET (*Nonnula brunnea*)  
*Mel gets credit for picking up this tough to see puffbird perched up in the vines over our heads along the trail into the parrot lick.*

BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD (*Monasa nigrifrons*)  
*Seen regularly along the trail between the finca and the boardwalk.*

WHITE-FRONTED NUNBIRD (*Monasa morphoeus*)  
*More a terra firme forest bird than the Black-fronted, and we saw these nunbirds a few times in the canopy, mostly from the towers.*

SWALLOW-WINGED PUFFBIRD (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)  
*Quite common and conspicuous along the Napo.*

**Galbulidae (Jacamars)**

WHITE-EARED JACAMAR (*Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*)  
*This unique jacamar was first seen at the river overlook at the foot of the boardwalk on our initial walk in. Later we had far better views of a group of 4 birds that were hanging out at the finca.*

BROWN JACAMAR (*Brachygalba lugubris*)  
*A pair in some riverside trees just upstream from the Sacha river dock were the only ones of the tour.*

WHITE-CHINNED JACAMAR (*Galbula tombacea*)  
*We first saw three near the canoe dock, then had a pair each in varzea forest along Orquidea and Anaconda. Despite some good views, some folks had trouble making out those white chins!*

PURPLISH JACAMAR (*Galbula chalcothorax*)  
*Theresa found our first as she tried to get a better view of a well-hidden potoo shortly after our initial arrival at Sacha. Later we enjoyed far better views of a pair that seemed to be hanging around the fringes of a large canopy flock at the metal towers.*

**Capitonidae (New World Barbets)**

SCARLET-CROWNED BARBET (*Capito aurovirens*)  
*A couple of these beautiful barbets were some of the first birds to greet us on our arrival at the finca.*

**N** GILDED BARBET (*Capito auratus*)  
*Heard or seen daily, with some good close up views of a bunch from the metal towers, and one that was excavating a nest hole in a tree adjacent to the wooden tower.*

\* LEMON-THROATED BARBET (*Eubucco richardsoni*)  
*Heard shortly after we'd descended from the metal towers. We'd have been better off trying for this canopy bird from the tower.*

**Ramphastidae (Toucans)**

LETTERED ARAAARI (*Pteroglossus incriptus*)

*Pairs were seen on two occasions along the Napo. The first were recognizable mainly by their clear yellow bellies. Our views of the second pair were far better, and we could even make out the "lettering" on their bills.*

CHESTNUT-EARED ARAAARI (*Pteroglossus castanotis*)

*All our records were along the Shipati stream, where we saw 6 birds total, 5 of which were all sitting together atop a dead trunk.*

MANY-BANDED ARAAARI (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*)

*There aren't that many bands, really, but this is a fairly common species which we saw quite regularly.*

IVORY-BILLED ARAAARI (*Pteroglossus azara*)

*Hard to beat those views of several up close and personal near the metal towers.*

GOLDEN-COLLARED TOUCANET (*Selenidera reinwardtii*)

*Good scope views of 2 birds (with a third one calling) on our first visit to the metal towers.*

WHITE-THROATED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos tucanus cuvieri*)

*The two large toucan species here are virtually identical in plumage, differing only in size and calls. This is the larger, yelping species, which is also the commoner of the two around Sacha, and we had numerous good views of them.*

CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos vitellinus culminatus*)

*Heard a couple of times, but the only ones we saw were a pair along Shipati.*

**Picidae (Woodpeckers)**

YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)

*A pretty common and rather gregarious woodpecker, which we saw well several times.*

LITTLE WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis passerinus*)

*We called in a single bird along the Napo on our initial walk into the lodge, then saw another pair on the second river island we visited.*

RED-STAINED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis affinis*)

*Our only one was one of the last birds to put in an appearance with the big canopy feeding flock we saw on our second visit to the metal towers.*

SPOT-BREASTED WOODPECKER (*Colaptes punctigula*)

*Tony spotted the only one of these flicker-like woodpeckers on the second river island.*

CHESTNUT WOODPECKER (*Celeus elegans*)

*And Suzanne picked out this one feeding quietly just above the Anaconda stream, where it remained long enough for a great study.*

\* CREAM-COLORED WOODPECKER (*Celeus flavus*)

*Frustrating. We heard them on three different days, and came close to seeing them along Orquidea. Well, we did see some woodpecker-like shapes fly over, but that's as close as we got.*

RUFIOUS-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Celeus spectabilis*)

*This was long one of my most wanted birds here at Sacha, and I finally got one on my most recent visit in 2008. So it was great to see this beauty again, and so well, as it fed quietly on a Cecropia trunk along the Napo near Anangu. Pat gets credit for finding this one. Nice going Pat! A second one was also seen later that day along the Anden boardwalk.*

RINGED WOODPECKER (*Celeus torquatus*)

*Not a common woodpecker in the region, but one was calling frequently as we climbed up the wooden tower, and after we all got to the top and caught our breath, we managed to get some amazing looks at this super pecker!*

LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

*Just one was seen in some Cecropia trees along the Napo as we headed towards the parrot licks.*

RED-NECKED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus rubricollis*)

*The folks that did the steep hike at Anangu were rewarded with some great views of a couple of these large scarce woodpeckers.*

CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

*A common species, which we saw well a bunch of times.*

**Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)**

SHORT-BILLED LEAFTOSSER (*Sclerurus ruficularis*)

*Excellent close views of this rare skulking leaftosser as it sang from a low perch along the trail to the metal towers on our first morning.*

BLACK-TAILED LEAFTOSSER (*Sclerurus caudacutus*)

*Far less cooperative than the previous species, and only a couple of folks got their bins on this one.*

DARK-BREASTED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis albigularis*)

*I think Theresa may have been the only one to get a good look at this elusive species on the first river island.*

WHITE-BELLIED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis propinqua*)

*Surprisingly, this often tough species was pretty cooperative this trip, and we even got some decent scope views of a preening bird on the first river island.*

CHESTNUT-WINGED HOOKBILL (*Ancistrops strigilatus*)

*Stunning eye level views of one moving with the big mixed canopy flock at the metal towers. A few folks also saw one from the ground at Providencia.*

\* BUFF-THROATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Automolus ochrolaemus*)

*Heard only at Anangu.*

OLIVE-BACKED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Automolus infuscatus*)

*Heard at the same time as the preceding species, and we actually got fleeting views as it flew over a couple of times.*

CHESTNUT-CROWNED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Automolus rufipileatus*)

*We coaxed one into flying back and forth across Shipati a few times, but the looks weren't all that great really.*

PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)

*Our first woodcreeper, one of these nondescript birds was seen during our inaugural walk along the boardwalk, with another one being seen later in the week at Providencia.*

OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)

*Wonderful views of one that joined us in the Kapok tower tree on our afternoon visit.*

WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

*This common small woodcreeper was seen a few times through the week.*

LONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Nasica longirostris*)

*This is an amazing bird, and we had amazing views of one as we floated along Orquidea en route to the wooden tower.*

CINNAMON-THROATED WOODCREEPER (*Dendrozetetes rufigula*)

*See a couple of times but the best was the one that flew into the wooden tower tree and spent a minute or so sitting quietly on a trunk just a few feet away.*

BLACK-BANDED WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*)

*Twice we saw pairs of this large woodcreeper along Anden.*

STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Dendroplex picus*)

*Heard regularly along the cocha, and finally seen very well on our ultimate canoe ride across the lake.*

STRIPED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*)

*Okay views of one along Orquidea were followed up by some awesome point-blank looks at a pair along Anaconda the next day.*

ELEGANT WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus elegans*)

*Heard often, and we finally saw one of these streak-backed woodcreepers as it flew with the big mixed canopy flock at the metal towers. This species has been split from Spix's Woodcreeper fairly recently.*

BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

*The commonest large woodcreeper in the region.*

### **Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)**

FASCIATED ANTSHRIKE (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*)

*About half the group saw a female moving with a small canopy flock from the wooden tower.*

\* UNDULATED ANTSHRIKE (*Frederickena unduligera*)

*So close, and yet so far. This large antshrike just eluded us along the Providencia trail.*

- \* GREAT ANTSHRIKE (*Taraba major*)  
*Heard a couple of times in scrubby second growth on the south bank of the Napo.*
- PLAIN-WINGED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*)  
*Heard a few times, but we had just one sighting of a male en route to the metal towers our first morning.*
- MOUSE-COLORED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus murinus*)  
*Very similar to Plain-winged Antshrike, but this species is restricted to the south bank of the Napo in this region, and only one was seen by the folks that hiked above the Anangu parrot lick.*
- CASTELNAU'S ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*)  
*A river island specialist, a male of this large antshrike species showed extremely well on the first island we visited.*
- DUSKY-THROATED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)  
*A few brief encounters through the week, though not everyone ended up with views of this common understory species.*
- SPOT-WINGED ANTSHRIKE (*Pygoptila stellaris*)  
*A male was seen briefly from the wooden tower, then we had much better views of a pair with the big mixed flock from the metal towers. The male was evidently a subadult as its flight feathers were still quite brown in contrast to its gray body plumage.*
- PYGMY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula brachyura*)  
*This tiny canopy antwren can be tough to see, but we had super views of a close male from the wooden tower.*
- MOUSTACHED ANTWREN (SHORT-BILLED) (*Myrmotherula ignota obscura*)  
*Very similar to the Pygmy Antwren, but this species has a heavier malar stripe and much heavier black streaking on the back (Pygmy looks much more black-and-white striped). Like Pygmy, also a canopy bird, and we had incredible looks at a male in the big mixed canopy flock at the metal tower, even getting some nice diagnostic photos of it!*
- PLAIN-THROATED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula huxwelli*)  
*Unlike the last two antwrens, this is a species of the forest floor, rarely getting higher than a couple of meters off the ground. We saw a close female on the Anangu trail, and then a pair as we tried for the Cinereous Tinamous below the metal towers.*
- WHITE-FLANKED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)  
*Incredibly we had lengthy scope views of a male sitting quietly in the undergrowth.*
- \* DUGAND'S ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus dugandi*)  
*The most oft-heard phrase during our wooden tower experience?: "The Dugand's Antwren is still singing somewhere nearby!" Too bad that's all it did.*
- GRAY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra cinerascens*)  
*A typically poor view of this bird's underparts as it hopped about in a vine tangle high above.*
- BLACK-FACED ANTBIRD (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*)  
*A friendly male showed beautifully along the trail to the interior parrot lick, and another was at the army ant swarm along Providencia.*
- PERUVIAN WARBLING-ANTBIRD (*Hypocnemis peruviana*)  
*Warbling Antbirds have recently been split into 6 different species, with this species being the one found in Ecuador. We saw them twice, once along Anden, then far better views of a pair en route to the metal towers.*
- YELLOW-BROWED ANTBIRD (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*)  
*What a beautiful antbird, and those that made the trek up the steep Anangu trail had incredible looks at a cooperative male.*
- BLACK-AND-WHITE ANTBIRD (*Myrmochanes hemileucus*)  
*These river island specialties gave us the runaround for a while, but I believe everyone had reasonable views by the end, even if we were all a bit dizzy by then.*
- SILVERED ANTBIRD (*Sclateria naevia*)  
*Pairs were seen along Orquidea and Anaconda, but the male of the latter pair put on the best show when he sat out in full view at water's edge for a good while before darting across the stream.*

- \* SPOT-WINGED ANTBIRD (*Schistocichla leucostigma*)  
*Heard near the first parrot lick.*
- WHITE-SHOULDERED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza melanoceps*)  
*Heard almost daily along Anden, and elsewhere in varzea forest. We also had several sightings, mainly of males, but at least several of you also got good views of the distinctive rust-colored female with the black hood.*
- PLUMBEOUS ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza hyperythra*)  
*Another varzea forest antbird, males of this species were seen a couple of times, including a close one for some along Anaconda. That pale blue bare skin around the eye really stands out.*
- SOOTY ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza fortis*)  
*One bird at the Providencia army ant swarm was seen only briefly by some.*
- WHITE-PLUMED ANTBIRD (*Pithys albifrons*)  
*We thought we would see this army ant obligate at the nice swarm along Providencia, but the birds left the swarm as we approached and we didn't even glimpse them. But, on the way back out to the boat after lunch, we stumbled across another which gave fine views to most of us. What a stunning little bird!*
- BICOLORED ANTBIRD (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*)  
*Another avid follower of army ants, this bird was the best performer at the swarm and gave us all some excellent looks.*
- DOT-BACKED ANTBIRD (*Hylophylax punctulatus*)  
*Terrific response from a male along Orquidea that blasted in and sat a few feet above the water in full view, singing.*
- [SPOT-BACKED] ANTBIRD (*Hylophylax [naevia] sp. nov.?*)  
*Most folks had a good view of a male along Orquidea before he moved back into the dense vegetation. This varzea form is considered by some to be a separate species from the terra firme form, which has somewhat different sounding vocalizations.*
- SCALE-BACKED ANTBIRD (*Willisornis poecilinotus*)  
*Just one bird, a female, that showed well on the steep Anangu trail.*
- \* BLACK-SPOTTED BARE-EYE (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*)  
*Heard quite often (though we only marked it on the first two days), and I briefly saw a couple right outside my cabin just before lunch one day.*
- REDDISH-WINGED BARE-EYE (*Phlegopsis erythroptera*)  
*A confusingly plumaged bird at the army ant swarm on Providencia was eventually determined to be a juvenile of this species. The bird was in a female-type plumage, but had a fleshy pink gape and the bare red skin around the eye was not really visible despite a couple of nice looks.*
- Formicariidae (Antthrushes)**
- \* RUFIOUS-CAPPED ANTTHRUSH (*Formicarius colma*)  
*Heard once along Liana Chica.*
- BLACK-FACED ANTTHRUSH (*Formicarius analis*)  
*Heard a few times but we never found a responsive one.*
- STRIATED ANTTHRUSH (*Chamaeza nobilis*)  
*After several glimpses and mostly obscured scope views of this stealthy forest floor bird, Suzanne spied one sitting quietly on the end a dead log and we had amazing lengthy views of this stunner!*
- Grallariidae (Antpittas)**
- \* SCALED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria guatimalensis*)  
*One heard along the steep Anangu trail was a first for me in the region. This is mainly a bird of the foothill regions, but small numbers occur in steep terrain within terra firme forest in Amazonia.*
- THRUSH-LIKE ANTPITTA (*Myrmothera campanisona*)  
*Heard along the trail into the interior parrot lick.*
- Conopophagidae (Gnateaters)**
- CHESTNUT-BELTED GNATEATER (*Conopophaga aurita*)  
*We worked on this one for quite a while near the metal towers, and, though it was pretty elusive, most of us got good views of it in the end.*

**Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)**

RUSTY-BELTED TAPACULO (*Liosceles thoracicus*)

*It's nice having a relatively easy tapaculo for a change! This one strolled into the open several times on our first morning as we headed to the metal towers.*

***Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)***

WHITE-LORED TYRANNULET (*Ornithion inerme*)

*Our only one sat up nicely and sang atop one of the trees adjacent to the metal tower on our second morning up.*

YELLOW-CROWNED TYRANNULET (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

*Heard often, and finally seen on our last stop at the finca.*

**a** SMALL-BILLED ELAENIA (*Elaenia parvirostris*)

*A single bird was feeding in a mimosa-type tree on the second river island.*

MOTTLE-BACKED ELAENIA (*Elaenia gigas*)

*The double crest of this species makes it easily told from similar elaenias, and also makes me want to call it the "Harpy Elaenia". Mottle-backed? C'mon! Seen a couple of times on river islands.*

OCHRE-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes oleagineus*)

*One was seen a few times feeding in the canopy of fruiting tree next to the wooden tower.*

SLENDER-FOOTED TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)

*Pairs were seen a couple of times from the towers.*

LESSER WAGTAIL-TYRANT (*Stigmatura napensis*)

*An attractive little island specialist which we saw beautifully in the first island we visited.*

**\*** SHORT-TAILED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Myiornis ecaudatus*)

*Heard from the wooden tower.*

**\*** DOUBLE-BANDED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Lophotriccus vitiosus*)

*Heard along Providencia, but it wouldn't come in.*

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

*Difficult to see well, but we had reasonable views of this bird in the subcanopy over our heads along the steep Anangu trail.*

SPOTTED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum maculatum*)

*Great views of this mature island specialist; a pair responded well and sat in the open for us on the second island.*

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

*If it wasn't for canopy towers, it'd be pretty tough to see this little canopy lover, but we got great views, and photos, too, from both the metal and wooden towers.*

YELLOW-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (ZIMMER'S) (*Tolmomyias assimilis obscuriceps*)

*Usually common in canopy flocks; our only one was with the big mixed flock around the metal towers.*

**\*** GRAY-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*)

*Calling in the canopy near the metal tower on our second morning there, but the bird refused to move closer.*

YELLOW-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (OLIVE-FACED) (*Tolmomyias flaviventris viridiceps*)

*No one seemed that excited by this dull little flycatcher, which we saw along Anden during the walk in. This form is sometimes treated as a separate species, Olive-faced Flatbill.*

EULER'S FLYCATCHER (*Lathrotriccus euleri*)

*Another drab little critter. We saw this Empid-like flycatcher along Anaconda on our last afternoon.*

FUSCOUS FLYCATCHER (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus fuscator*)

*In the Amazonian lowlands, this species is a river island specialist. We had great views of one on the first island.*

DRAB WATER TYRANT (*Ochthornis littoralis*)

*Not as dull as the name suggests. We saw these birds a couple of times along the Napo; first and best were the pair on the paved steps at the start of the trail to the first parrot lick.*

CATTLE TYRANT (*Machetornis rixosa*)

*Starting off the trip with a bird that's not on the checklist is rare enough, but I doubt there's been another tour in Field Guides history that kicked off with a bird that's not even in the country's field guide! Seeing one of these birds as we waited for our luggage at Coca airport was a big surprise, though apparently this bird has been around for a while. With a little digging on the internet, I found reference to Cattle Tyrant records for Ecuador going back to at least 2002, though I believe it's still considered a vagrant here.*

\* RUFIOUS-TAILED FLATBILL (*Ramphotrigon ruficauda*)

*Calling close along Anaconda, and it did fly across, but we never did see it.*

CINNAMON ATTILA (*Attila cinnamomeus*)

*This bright, beautiful attila showed wonderfully several times along Anaconda, which was great after we'd been hearing them with no sightings for the whole week prior!*

\* BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTILA (*Attila spadiceus*)

*Heard regularly, but seemingly never very close.*

SIRYSTES (*Sirystes sibilator*)

*A pair shared the wooden tower tree with us for quite some time on our morning visit.*

GRAYISH MOURNER (*Rhytipterna simplex*)

*And this one visited an adjacent tree for just a short while.*

\* DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

*Heard a couple of times around the metal towers.*

SHORT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus ferox*)

*Quite common around the margins of the cocha.*

LESSER KISKADEE (*Pitangus lictor*)

*One pair was seen along the cocha, near the Anaconda Creek outlet.*

GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

*Common around the cocha.*

BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarynchus pitangua*)

*Seen a few times at the finca, around the cocha, and from the towers.*

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*)

*A few sightings, mainly around the cocha.*

GRAY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes granadensis*)

*A pair were resident next to the swimming dock.*

\* DUSKY-CHESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes luteiventris*)

*Heard along Anaconda but we couldn't get them into view.*

a STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)

*Seen a few times from the towers and on the river islands.*

PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*)

*Heard and seen regularly at the finca.*

a VARIEGATED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonomus varius*)

*Pretty similar to the preceding species, except for this species' extensive rufous in the tail. Seen mainly at the finca and elsewhere along the Napo.*

a CROWNED SLATY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*)

*Common in the canopy, and seen very closely from the towers.*

\* SULPHURY FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannopsis sulphurea*)

*Heard in the rain along Providencia trail.*

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

*Common and seen daily.*

**Cotingidae (Cotingas)**

PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW (*Querula purpurata*)

*We only saw one pair, but they gave us superb views as they came in close to the metal towers.*

PLUM-THROATED COTINGA (*Cotinga maynana*)

*Electric blue! This beauty nearly blinded us a few times from the towers, as well as in a fruiting tree at the finca.*

SPANGLED COTINGA (*Cotinga cayana*)

*Quite a few were seen from the towers, but the best was the male that came into the fruiting fig just a few feet over our heads as we were in the wooden tower! The paparazzi went crazy there for a minute!*

\* SCREAMING PIHA (*Lipaugus vociferans*)

*Heard often, but it seemed like everytime we got close to one of the lekking areas there was no activity.*

PURPLE-THROATED COTINGA (*Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema*)

*A rarely seen cotinga here. Pablo spotted this one a mile away from the wooden tower, but we did get good scope views. A while later, another male (probably the same bird) visited a nearby fruiting tree giving us much better looks, and for a long time too!*

BARE-NECKED FRUITCROW (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)

*Not many this trip; just a few singles in flight, and none of them was ever very close.*

**Pipridae (Manakins)**

DWARF TYRANT-MANAKIN (*Tyrannetes stolzmanni*)

*We didn't hear these incessant singers calling this trip, but we had stellar views of one that joined us in the wooden tower tree a couple of times.*

BLUE-CROWNED MANAKIN (*Lepidothrix coronata*)

*A female along the steep Anangu trail was the only one for the trip.*

ORANGE-CROWNED MANAKIN (*Heterocercus aurantiivertex*)

*It looked like we were going to miss this local specialty, but we pulled it out of the hat, spotting a male on a low perch in the spotlight as we canoed back along Orquidea after dark!*

WIRE-TAILED MANAKIN (*Pipra filicauda*)

*This one was hard work, but definitely worth it to see such a stunning bird. We found a couple of males on a lek at Anangu.*

GOLDEN-HEADED MANAKIN (*Pipra erythrocephala*)

*Those that did the steep upper trail at Anangu got to see a couple of these flashy little guys on a lek above the parrot lick. Some folks also saw a female (with the pale eye, pink bill) from the viewing shelter.*

WING-BARRED PIPRITES (*Piprites chloris*)

*Good views of this odd little manakin as it visited the large tree next to the middle metal tower a few times.*

**Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)**

BLACK-TAILED TITYRA (*Tityra cayana*)

*Fairly common and we saw several from the towers.*

WHITE-BROWED PURPLETUFT (*Iodopleura isabellae*)

*Singles were seen from the metal and wooden towers, and a trio in the same tree, shortly after the rain let up at Providencia. Try as we might, we never managed to see a purple tuft on any of them.*

WHITE-WINGED BECARD (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)

*A male of the very dark local form was seen on two days by the finca.*

BLACK-CAPPED BECARD (*Pachyramphus marginatus*)

*Great eye level looks at both members of a pair that were moving with the large mixed canopy flock by the metal towers.*

PINK-THROATED BECARD (*Pachyramphus minor*)

*A few folks saw a male with a canopy flock at Providencia, and then we saw another male with the big mixed canopy flock from the metal towers.*

**Vireonidae (Vireos)**

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*)

*The one we saw on the second river island was undoubtedly one of the resident "Chivi" vireos.*

**Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)**

VIOLACEOUS JAY (*Cyanocorax violaceus*)

*Pretty common and seen most days of the trip.*

**Hirundinidae (Swallows)**

WHITE-BANDED SWALLOW (*Atticora fasciata*)

*These sleek swallows were pretty numerous along the Napo, but also seen over the cocha a few times.*

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*)

*Quite a few along the Napo, and a pair that seemed to be fixtures on the middle metal tower.*

BROWN-CHESTED MARTIN (*Progne tapera*)

*One or two along the Napo at Coca, and a pair perched along the river near the second river island.*

WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW (*Tachycineta albiventer*)

*These striking swallows were a common sight along the river, and one pair were regular around the barbecue shelter beside the cocha.*

### **Troglodytidae (Wrens)**

THRUSH-LIKE WREN (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)

*This noisy canopy wren was seen beautifully from the metal tower on our first morning.*

CORAYA WREN (*Thryothorus coraya*)

*It was on our final walk along the Anden boardwalk when we finally ran into this species. Though they are sneaky and often quite difficult to see well, this pair gave us a nice showing.*

\* HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

*Heard as we floated past the Yasuni national park headquarters.*

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

*So-so looks at a furtive one along the trail to the metal towers.*

\* SCALY-BREASTED WREN (*Microcerculus marginatus*)

*Heard a couple of times in terra firme forest.*

MUSICIAN WREN (*Cyphorhinus arada*)

*This species has such a delightful, rollicking song, and we were lucky to get to hear it, as well as to have such excellent views.*

### **Donacobiidae (Donacobius)**

BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIUS (*Donacobius atricapilla*)

*This unique species has long been lumped into the wren family, but is now in its own monotypic family and placed right in the middle of a number of Old World warbler families. We had several excellent encounters with these charming birds in the low vegetation along the edges of the cocha.*

### **Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)**

\* HAUXWELL'S THRUSH (*Turdus hauxwelli*)

*Heard a couple of times in varzea forest.*

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH (*Turdus ignobilis*)

*A couple of birds around the cocha.*

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater*)

*Common in Quito.*

### **Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)**

MAGPIE TANAGER (*Cissopis leverianus*)

*These aptly-named birds showed a couple of times along the Napo and the Shipati Creek.*

ORANGE-HEADED TANAGER (*Thlypopsis sordida*)

*Another bird of river islands; we saw a couple on the first island we visited.*

CINEREOUS CONEBILL (*Conirostrum cinereum*)

*A few in the Quito Botanical Garden.*

GRAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Eucometis penicillata*)

*One of a few new species we saw on our 9th and final walk along the Anden boardwalk.*

FLAME-CRESTED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus cristatus*)

*Pairs were seen twice- each time with small canopy flocks- once each from the metal and wooden towers.*

MASKED CRIMSON TANAGER (*Ramphocelus nigrogularis*)

*A couple of folks saw one during our initial canoe ride to the lodge, but for most of us, the only one was seen from the wooden tower, where one posed beautifully on an adjacent tree top.*

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

*Pretty common around the cocha.*

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*)

*Seen often around the lodge and the cocha.*

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)

*Quite numerous, and seen most days, including a pair that were pretty much fixtures at the metal tower.*

TURQUOISE TANAGER (*Tangara mexicana*)

*They're not really turquoise, and they certainly don't occur in Mexico (check the Latin name), but they are gorgeous! We saw these ones often from the towers.*

PARADISE TANAGER (*Tangara chilensis*)

*Scarce this trip, and it wasn't until our final tower visit (the afternoon on the wooden tower) that we finally found some. They were worth the wait though, as we had awesome close-up looks at 4 of these amazing tanagers!*

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

*Best seen in the big mixed canopy flock at the metal towers, where one or two popped into view at eye level.*

MASKED TANAGER (*Tangara nigrocincta*)

*Small numbers in the canopy around the towers.*

OPAL-RUMPED TANAGER (*Tangara velia*)

*We picked out just a few of these among the much more common Opal-crowned Tanagers.*

OPAL-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tangara callophrys*)

*Pretty numerous around the towers.*

BLACK-FACED DACNIS (*Dacnis lineata*)

*A few birds from the towers.*

YELLOW-BELLIED DACNIS (*Dacnis flaviventer*)

*Also a few pairs were well-seen from the towers.*

BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*)

*Again, seen mainly from the towers.*

GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

*A few birds in the fruiting trees at the wooden tower.*

PURPLE HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)

*Pretty common in the canopy, though there were a lot more females than males.*

SWALLOW TANAGER (*Tersina viridis*)

*Mel and Erika saw a female at the finca when they went ahead the final morning. And the folks that waited for me to get out of the rest room before boarding the boat also got to see a striking male in a fruiting tree.*

GRAYISH SALTATOR (*Saltator coerulescens*)

*A couple of sightings on river islands.*

BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator maximus*)

*The only ones seen were in a small flock (which also included the Cinnamon Attilas) along Anaconda.*

\* SLATE-COLORED GROSBEEK (*Saltator grossus*)

*Heard on our first morning at the metal tower.*

### **Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows, and Allies)**

CAQUETA SEEDEATER (*Sporophila murallae*)

*Nice views of a male on a river island as we floated downstream en route to the parrot licks. This species was formerly considered a race of Variable Seedeater.*

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)

*Fair numbers in tall grasses on the river islands.*

BLACK FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa humeralis*)

*A few in the Quito Botanical Garden.*

**N** RED-CAPPED CARDINAL (*Paroaria gularis*)

*A resident pair along the cocha showed beautifully on several occasions. Most memorable was the male singing from the railing of the dock as we canoed out one morning. We also saw them carrying nest material one day.*

YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)

*Small numbers running around the sand on the river islands.*

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

*Common in Quito.*

### **Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)**

RED-BREASTED BLACKBIRD (*Sturnella militaris*)

*Our last species in the lowlands; a brilliant male sat right out next to the runway at Coca airport. Our plane was coming in as I tried to point it out, and I was worried the bird would flush, but it barely flinched as the plane roared past!*

ORIOLE BLACKBIRD (*Gymnomystax mexicanus*)

*These gorgeous birds were pretty common and conspicuous along the Napo, especially on the islands.*

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis*)

*Strangely we saw just one distant flock along the Napo of these normally common birds.*

EPAULET ORIOLE (MORICHE) (*Icterus cayanensis chrysocephalus*)

*Great views of a couple at the metal tower. The birds even hopped along the canopy walkway for a while. This form has sometimes been treated as a separate species, Moriche Oriole.*

\* ORANGE-BACKED TROUPIAL (*Icterus croconotus*)

*Heard at the start of the Anangu trail.*

ECUADORIAN CACIQUE (*Cacicus sclateri*)

*A bird that flew out of a flowering tree along Shipati that was frequented by a bunch of Yellow-rumped Caciques and oropendolas looked to be this scarce species, but I would have liked a better view.*

\* SOLITARY BLACK CACIQUE (*Cacicus solitarius*)

*Heard along Shipati.*

RED-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus haemorrhous*)

*Tony was pretty sure he saw a cacique with a red rump in the same flowering tree that the probable Ecuadorian Cacique flew out of, but no one else saw the bird.*

YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus cela*)

*Common, noisy, and seen well daily. Best was the one that was displaying low over the cocha on a couple of days.*

N RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)

*The more numerous of the two oropendolas, with a big nesting colony getting started right behind the finca.*

CRESTED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

*Though less numerous than the preceding species, these birds were still quite common. We saw both species daily.*

### **Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)**

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia laniirostris*)

*Usually pretty common but we saw just a bird or two from the wooden tower.*

GOLDEN-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)

*Don't pretty much all euphonias have golden bellies? For me, the name White-lored Euphonia was better, but whatever. We saw a few birds from the towers.*

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)

*None of the euphonias were particularly numerous this trip, and only a couple of these common birds were seen from the towers.*

RUFOUS-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia rufiventris*)

*Great views of this beautiful, distinctive euphonia at point blank range from the wooden tower.*

### **Mammals**

WHITE-LINED SAC-WINGED BAT SP. (*Saccopteryx canescens*)

*The bats that were flying around early in the evening were this species.*

FISHING BAT SP. (*Noctilio leporinus*)

*A few of these large bats were seen after dark, skimming the cocha's surface for fish.*

PYGMY MARMOSET (*Cebuella pygmaea*)

*We saw just one of these tiny primates, and that was shortly after we arrived at the Sacha dock for the very first time.*

BLACK-MANTLE TAMARIN (*Saguinus nigricollis*)

*Seen a few times, including one big troop that passed right through the lodge area after lunch one day, along with an even larger troop of Squirrel Monkeys.*

COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY (*Saimiri sciureus*)

*Several nice encounters, highlighted by the troop that moved past the lodge one afternoon.*

THREE-STRIPED NIGHT MONKEY (*Aotus trivirgatus*)

*Super looks at one in the spotlight as we canoed back along Orquidea just after dark one night.*

\* DUSKY TITI MONKEY (*Callicebus moloch*)

*Heard as we birded the first river island.*

RED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta seniculus*)

*Seen or heard daily, and we had some great views of these gorgeously colored monkeys.*

NEOTROPICAL DWARF SQUIRREL SP. (*Microsciurus flaviventer*)

*One of these tiny squirrels spent a fair bit of time in a bare tree next to the wooden tower.*

BLACK AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*)

*One seen on the trail between the finca and the boardwalk, and Mel saw several among the cabins on the morning she stayed back.*

KINKAJOU (*Potos flavus*)

*We were watching the night monkey, and at one point, it stood on its legs and seemed a bit agitated by something. That something turned out to be a kinkajou that was in the same tree! We had some nice looks in the spotlight as it moved off through the tree tops.*