



AMAZONIAN ECUADOR: SACHA LODGE

Jul 1, 2011 to Jul 10, 2011

Mitch Lysinger

Is there any better place on earth than the Amazon rainforest? No way... well, maybe San Isidro, but that's another story. Enough B-rate, inside humor though. Ecuador's Sacha Lodge, located on the western rim of the Amazon basin, lies right at ground zero for the world's highest known biodiversity. With an area bird list of well over 600 species a week is just enough time to really get the sense of what this means, and even get a little overwhelmed. By birding on foot, by paddle and motor canoes, and up at the amazing canopy towers and walkways, we were able to cover a healthy cross section of the micro-habitats and vertical strata, each an important contributor to such megadiversity.

Here are only some of the birds that I thought really made the trip special... bet you will have your own as well: Spix's Guan from above at the metal towers; Agami Heron along a blackwater stream; scoped Ornate Hawk-Eagle; a Chestnut-headed Crake that pranced right out in front of the group; Hoatzin just because it is such a goofy and characteristic bird of the Amazon; the handsome Black-bellied Cuckoo across the river in the terra firme forests; Crested Owls on a day roost; Green-and-rufous Kingfisher; a responsive Chestnut-capped Puffbird; four species of beautiful jacamars, including the Yellow-billed; an impressive array of antbirds, but I think it was hard to beat that Black-spotted Bare-eye; Rusty-belted Tapaculo scoped as it perched at close range; some bizarre cotingas, but how about the Spangled and that Amazonian Umbrellabird; that gorgeous male Wire-tailed Manakin; those cute little White-browed Purpletufts; Musician Wren in full song; some amazing lowland tanagers like Masked Crimson, Masked, and Opal-crowned; those bright yellow Oriole Blackbirds; and memorable views of all five euphonia species from the wooden tower one glorious morning.

It was really a pleasure to bird out of Sacha, one of the Amazon's most impressive and comfortable lodges. We were also very lucky to have had Oscar and Wilmer along as our local guides, finding us many of the birds with their sharp eyes and a keen knowledge of the sounds. And of course, you guys made the trip a lot of fun to lead, so see you in the field sometime soon!

--Mitch

We have more information about this itinerary and future departures on our web page for [Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge](#).

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Tinamidae (Tinamous)

GREAT TINAMOU (*Tinamus major*) – We heard four tinamou species, but never managed to stumble across one for a look. [*]

CINEREOUS TINAMOU (*Crypturellus cinereus*) [*]

UNDULATED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus undulatus*) [*]

VARIEGATED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus variegatus*) [*]

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

SPECKLED CHACHALACA (*Oreortyx guttatus*) – Noisy and relatively conspicuous, as usual!

SPIX'S GUAN (*Penelope jacquacu*) – Very nice vies from the metal towers when they came in to feed on some canopy fruits.

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

MARbled WOOD-QUAIL (*Odontophorus gujanensis*) – It took a little extra effort, with some stumbling around in the dark along a make-shift trail, but we ended up with some excellent views of a pair on a night roost.

Ardeidae (Heron, Egrets, and Bitterns)

RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) – One of this long-necked/short-legged heron along the Orquidea stream.

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) – In small numbers along the Napo River.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*) – Seen along the edges of Pilchicocha, the beautiful lake out in front of Sacha Lodge.

AGAMI HERON (*Agamia agami*) – I was starting to wonder about our chances of seeing this one after so many tries coupled with the high water; they tend to retreat into inaccessible areas when the water is high. Wouldn't you know it though? On our last ride through the Orquidea stream we snagged one for really nice views. This is one of the most attractive herons in my opinion.

CAPPED HERON (*Pilherodius pileatus*) – Nice views of them a couple of times. This one only occurs in small numbers around Sacha.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GREEN IBIS (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) [*]

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Platalea ajaja*) – Scope views of one out on a river island along the Napo.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes melambrotus*) – The largest of the all dark vultures. We had some nice looks of them, flashing that bright yellow-orange head.

KING VULTURE (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – We finally caught up with this one as they started to soar one sunny morning along the Shipati stream for some nice in-flight views.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – One out along the Napo.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

HOOK-BILLED KITE (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) – One bird soared by the metal tower during our first visit there.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*) – Elegant as always!

SLENDER-BILLED KITE (*Helicolestes hamatus*) – This chunky hawk was best seen from the towers, where we had them perched and in flight.

DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE (*Harpagus bidentatus*) – We had our best looks at this common canopy dweller from the metal towers where we discovered it tending to a nest.

PLUMBEOUS KITE (*Ictinia plumbea*) – Common around Sacha. A close relative of the Mississippi Kite.

BICOLORED HAWK (*Accipiter bicolor*) – One quick fly-over at the parrot salt licks.

CRANE HAWK (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) – Not a common bird in the eastern lowlands, but one surprised us for some nice scope views up at the metal towers.

SLATE-COLORED HAWK (*Leucopternis schistaceus*) – Seen well on our tower visits. This is a handsome gray hawk with reddish soft-part colors.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*) – Common in most habitats around Sacha. The hawk with the obvious rufous patches in the wings.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*) – One soaring bird out along the Napo.

ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus ornatus*) – Well, while I was down scouting the far metal tower, Oscar showed you guys a perched one of these from the middle tower... wow!

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

BLACK CARACARA (*Daptrius ater*) – The common mostly black caracara with the orange face that we had many fine views of.

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima*) – Most common out on the sandbars along the Napo.

LAUGHING FALCON (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – This one sort of reminds me of the Lone Ranger with that dark mask!
We had good looks at them a couple of times from the towers.

BAT FALCON (*Falco ruficularis*) – This cleanly marked falcon was seen on a couple of days.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

RUFOUS-SIDED CRAKE (*Laterallus melanophaius*) – Stephanie and Susan had the angle when we called one out briefly along the edges of Pilchicocha one afternoon.

GRAY-BREASTED CRAKE (*Laterallus exilis*) – He just wouldn't come out. [*]

CHESTNUT-HEADED CRAKE (*Anurolimnas castaneiceps*) – Well, this was a classic moment when it paid not to listen to the guide's suggestion! I thought it was totally hilarious when the bird walked by in front of us right where I said it definitely would not. In all honesty, I had never had one of these pop out in such fashion and so close, without seeming too worried about our presence. But hey, I think we were all thrilled!

BLACK-BANDED CRAKE (*Anurolimnas fasciatus*) – A lot shyer than the previous species, that is for sure, but most folks did get the bird in almost full view when it trotted through a few small windows in the dark undergrowth.

Aramidae (Limpkin)

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna*) – One in the swampy areas at Sacha.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

COLLARED PLOVER (*Charadrius collaris*) – We had one zipping around out on the river islands for nice views.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

YELLOW-BILLED TERN (*Sternula superciliaris*) – The small and common tern out along the Napo; a close relative of the Least Tern.

LARGE-BILLED TERN (*Phaetusa simplex*) – A beautifully patterned tern that shows up in small numbers along this part of the Napo River. We lucked out and had them on a couple of our birding jaunts out to the Napo.

BLACK SKIMMER (*Rynchops niger*) – Also equally uncommon here along the Napo, but we had one out there for nice views.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – Most common out along river and lake edges. This one really has some gorgeous purplish tones, so its name doesn't do it justice.

PLUMBEOUS PIGEON (*Patagioenas plumbea*) – The common all gray pigeon of much of tropical South America. We had them a few times well from the towers where we are able to get up into their world.

RUDDY PIGEON (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) – More rufous colored than the previous species. We had this one well from the wooden tower.

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*) – Abundant around Quito and the central valley, such as right out front of the Hotel Sheraton!

GRAY-FRONTED DOVE (*Leptotila rufaxilla*) [*]

Psittacidae (Parrots)

MAROON-TAILED PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura melanura*) [*]

WHITE-EYED PARAKEET (*Aratinga leucophthalma*) – Seen flying by in a few groups.

DUSKY-HEADED PARAKEET (*Aratinga weddellii*) – We had a fantastic showing of large groups of this noisy species out at the outer salt lick along the Napo River. We were lucky, because I had heard that on other days not a single parrot or parakeet hit.

CHESTNUT-FRONTED MACAW (*Ara severus*) – As common around Sacha as I've ever had them, for some really nice scope views, such as from the towers.

RED-BELLIED MACAW (*Orthopsittaca manilata*) – Large numbers of them this trip, such as right along the main boardwalk, where they frequently perched to raid the Moriche palm fruits.

BLUE-WINGED PARROTLET (*Forpus xanthopterygius*) – Some good looks at a few birds feeding about in some Cecropia trees right overhead.

COBALT-WINGED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*) – The inner parrot salt lick was quieter this trip, which has been my luck the past couple of trips, but we did see large numbers of this species hanging around up in the trees above. It was an amazing and deafening experience to watch them take flight in what seemed like clouds of parakeets,

screeching loudly and swirling about.

SCARLET-SHOULDERED PARROTLET (*Touit huetii*) – We heard them in the area of the inner salt lick, but they never came close enough for a look. [*]

BLACK-HEADED PARROT (*Pionites melanocephalus*) – Nice scope views of this handsome little parrot from the metal towers on our first full day at Sacha.

BLUE-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus menstruus*) – Another big highlight at the outer salt lick along the Napo where we must have had hundreds of this species at around the clay bank. The blue on the head of this one reminds me of cue stick chalk.

ORANGE-WINGED PARROT (*Amazona amazonica*) – In small numbers around Sacha.

MEALY PARROT (*Amazona farinosa*) – This and the next species were big players at the outer salt lick, calling loudly and both hitting the clay for a really memorable sight! This was the largest of the parrots with the light gray cast to its plumage.

YELLOW-CROWNED PARROT (*Amazona ochrocephala*) – The one that says, "Oh-wow, oh-wow".

Opisthocomidae (Hoatzin)

HOATZIN (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) – This one sort of reminds me of a drunken punk rocker... Sid Vicious style, and just about as untalented! Hoatzins are clumsy, loud, and sport a whacky crest... but we just love them all the same. What is most interesting about this bird is that it is vegetarian, and ferments its food in its gut. This translates into it not being a very tasty meal for the locals... otherwise it would be rare indeed!

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

LITTLE CUCKOO (*Coccyzua minuta*) – Seen on our first day during the first paddle across the lake to the lodge. This handsome cuckoo species prefers secondary woodlands and edges, and tends to stay low.

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*) – Fairly common in the canopy of most forest types. It really does run along the branches much like a squirrel.

BLACK-BELLIED CUCKOO (*Piaya melanogaster*) – More of a deep forest species than the Squirrel Cuckoo, often preferring terra firme forest in this area. We had really nice looks at a responsive bird along the Anangu ridge trail, behind the inner parrot salt lick.

GREATER ANI (*Crotophaga major*) – Just gotta love those metallic tones on the black plumage! We had many fine studies of them, usually near water.

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

Strigidae (Owls)

TROPICAL SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops choliba*) – After quick glimpses of them blasting by in the darkness, we finally outsmarted one and got it to perch at eye level for excellent spotlight views.

TAWNY-BELLIED SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops watsonii*) – A quick stroll out behind the cabins for those that were game produced fabulous studies of a responsive bird within only a few minutes... nice! This one has dark amber eyes, unlike the Tropical, that has yellow eyes, among other differences.

CRESTED OWL (*Lophotrix cristata*) – It is always a thrill to see this magnificent and large owl on a day roost. Oscar had a pair staked out along the trail behind the log for incredible studies.

FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) [*]

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

COMMON PAURAUQUE (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) – Flying about at dawn along the edges of Pilchicocha.

LADDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*) – Another nice nightbird stake-out. We found this one with relative ease as it perched on some wild cane right over the Napo River, just down river from the outer salt lick.

Nyctibiidae (Potoos)

LONG-TAILED POTOO (*Nyctibius aethereus*) – Always a real prize to snag, and we had some pretty good looks at one on a day roost along the Shipati stream as we birded along in the canoe.

COMMON POTOO (*Nyctibius griseus*) [*]

Apodidae (Swifts)

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – The giant swift that we saw on most days.

GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) – Fairly numerous out over lake Pilchicocha.

LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT (*Panyptila cayennensis*) – A few out over lake Pilchicocha, flying higher than the

Gray-rumpeds.

FORK-TAILED PALM-SWIFT (*Tachornis squamata*) – The tiny, pointy-tailed swift that zipped about overhead on a few days.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*) – The zapote tree right near the boat dock was in full bloom and attracting good numbers of this handsome hummer.

RUFIOUS-BREASTED HERMIT (*Glaucis hirsutus*) – This one prefers swampy forest. We had one well during one of our canoe rides on the third day.

WHITE-BEARDED HERMIT (*Phaethornis hispidus*) – A couple of times well, but best along the main boardwalk where they are pretty common.

STRAIGHT-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis bourcieri*) – Very nice scope views of a bird at a lek out behind the lodge.

GREAT-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis malaris*) – We had good looks at them at the large lek near the inner salt lick where they zip about and often perch to sing. I always challenge Oscar, betting a beer, to see who can find it and get it in the scope first. Needless to say, he usually wins!

GOULD'S JEWELFRONT (*Heliodoxa aurescens*) – Not an easy one to get, but we hit it right at the wooden tower one morning when one of this beautiful hummer came in and perched.

LONG-BILLED STARTHROAT (*Heliomaster longirostris*) – Another one that came in and perched for us at the wooden tower.

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania furcata*) – Quick views a few times at the beginning of our trip.

OLIVE-SPOTTED HUMMINGBIRD (*Leucippus chlorocercus*) – A river island specialist, with a rather dull plumage. We had some nice views a few times as they zipped about and even perched for us.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

BLACK-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon melanurus*) – It took us a few days to get the trogon show going, but it eventually fell into place. We had this bulky trogon a couple of times well for scope views.

GREEN-BACKED TROGON (*Trogon viridis*) – Now split from the White-tailed Trogon of Middle America and western South America. This tends to be the more commonly seen and heard trogon in Amazonian Ecuador, and we had some good looks.

AMAZONIAN TROGON (*Trogon ramonianus*) – A part of the Violaceous Trogon group, which went three ways after the split. We had repeated nice studies of this one from the wooden tower.

COLLARED TROGON (*Trogon collaris*) – Seen on the south side of the river along the Providencia trail.

Momotidae (Motmots)

AMAZONIAN MOTMOT (*Momotus momota*) – Part of the Blue-crowned Motmot complex from which it was recently split. We had good looks at this one on our first morning around Sacha.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

RINGED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle torquata*) – The large and common kingfisher most commonly seen along the Napo or flying over Pilchicocha.

GREEN-AND-RUFIOUS KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle inda*) – This one kept teasing us by zooming by for quick looks, but we finally nailed them down on the last two days of the trip. This is really a stunning kingfisher species that deserves a good look!

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*) [*]

PIED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus tectus*) – Scope views from the metal towers on our first morning around Sacha.

CHESTNUT-CAPPED PUFFBIRD (*Bucco macrodactylus*) – This puffbird prefers vine thickets, where it can be maddeningly difficult to pick out, but stuck with it and ended up with some pretty good scope views not far from the wooden tower.

COLLARED PUFFBIRD (*Bucco capensis*) – Glimpsed by some before it got away!

BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD (*Monasa nigrifrons*) – Common in secondary-growth woodlands, such as out along the Napo edge.

WHITE-FRONTED NUNBIRD (*Monasa morphoeus*) – Replaces the previous species in deeper forest habitats, and we had many fine views.

YELLOW-BILLED NUNBIRD (*Monasa flavirostris*) – Scoped from the metal towers.

SWALLOW-WINGED PUFFBIRD (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*) – Most common out along the Napo.

Galbulidae (Jacamars)

WHITE-EARED JACAMAR (*Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*) – The jacamar with the white ear patch (obviously!) and that long coral colored bill that we saw well along the Shipati stream.

YELLOW-BILLED JACAMAR (*Galbula albirostris*) – Excellent scope views near the beginning of the Providencia trail. This species is pretty tied to terra firme forest.

WHITE-CHINNED JACAMAR (*Galbula tombacea*) – Fairly common in the swampy forests around Sacha.

GREAT JACAMAR (*Jacameroops aureus*) – Nice scope views of one along the Providencia trail after we called one in with relatively little effort. Jacamars are for the most part a really handsome bunch, and this is the king of them all!

Capitonidae (New World Barbets)

SCARLET-CROWNED BARBET (*Capito aurovirens*) – Common in riparian and river edge habitats, such around the boat dock.

GILDED BARBET (*Capito auratus*) – Great looks - especially from the towers - at males and females (very spotted). Many folks became very familiar with its loud and obvious call.

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

LETTERED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*) – The smallest of the aracaris. We had very nice looks at a group of them along the Shipati stream one fine morning.

CHESTNUT-EARED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus castanotis*) – We only had quick views of one in flight

MANY-BANDED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*) – This tends to be the most common aracari around Sacha, and we certainly had our fair share of nice views.

IVORY-BILLED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus azara*) – Fine views from our perches up at the towers of this fancy aracari.

WHITE-THROATED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos tucanus cuvieri*) – The larger of the two *Ramphastos* toucans in this area, this is the "yelper".

CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos vitellinus culminatus*) – And this is the "croaker". This one is smaller bodied and shorter billed than the White-throated, but this can be hard to discern in the field, which is why call helps!

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes cruentatus*) – One vocal and active group of them along the Shipati stream as they hitched about on dead cecropias.

LITTLE WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis passerinus*) [*]

RED-STAINED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis affinis*) – A very responsive one atop the metal towers.

SPOT-BREASTED WOODPECKER (*Colaptes punctigula*) – A fairly common bird in secondary and riparian woodlands, such as along the Napo River, where we had them.

SCALE-BREASTED WOODPECKER (*Celeus grammicus*) – Nick had a look at one on the second day, while the rest of us had to settle for a heard.

CHESTNUT WOODPECKER (*Celeus elegans*) – What a beautiful and richly colored woodpecker!

RINGED WOODPECKER (*Celeus torquatus*) [*]

LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus*) – Out on the river islands.

CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus melanoleucos*) – The commonest of the large woodpeckers at Sacha.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

SHORT-BILLED LEAFTOSSER (*Sclerurus rufigularis*) – We had looks at the individual that Oscar had staked out on a night roost, looking as if it were glued to the tree trunk.

BLACK-TAILED LEAFTOSSER (*Sclerurus caudacutus*) [*]

LESSER HORNERO (*Furnarius minor*) – A quick flyby out on the river islands.

WHITE-BELLIED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis propinqua*) – Sneaky buggers they were out on the younger of the river islands we visited, but we got them to perform quite well after picking the proper stage.

PARKER'S SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca vulpecula*) – I took a few tries but we finally coaxed a pair in for good looks out on the river island.

CHESTNUT-WINGED HOOKBILL (*Ancistrops strigilatus*) – Responsive and scoped not far from the lodge along the trails.

RUFOUS-RUMPED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Philydor erythrocerum*) – Good looks at one as it moved with a big flock along the Providencia trail.

OLIVE-BACKED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Automolus infuscatus*) – Nice looks at this one along the trail into the inner salt lick.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Automolus rufipileatus*) – Quick views of one when it flew across the Shipati stream and sneaked through a few window in the foliage.

OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) [*]

WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) – The smallest of the woodcreepers, and also one of the most common.

LONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Nasica longirostris*) – An absolutely incredible woodcreeper that we saw well along the Orquidea stream.

CINNAMON-THROATED WOODCREEPER (*Dendrexetastes rufigula*) – A woodcreeper largely devoid of any streaking. We had good luck seeing this mostly canopy dweller a few times; the views we had at the wooden tower as one rooted about in the epiphytes were unbeatable.

AMAZONIAN BARRED-WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocolaptes certhia*) – Good looks - what the light would allow, at any rate - at pair along the main boardwalk at dawn.

STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Dendroplex picus*) – Responsive out along the edges of Pilchicocha. This species specializes in lake edge growth here in Ecuador.

STRIPED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*) [*]

OCELLATED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus ocellatus*) – Good looks at a vocalizing bird with our large flock along the Providencia trail.

SPIX'S WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus spixii*) – Very similar to the previous species, but luckily their vocalizations are quite different and they tend to separate out with respect to habitat. We had a responsive, if a bit skittish, pair of this species not far from the boat dock along the Napo River.

BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*) – The most commonly seen and heard woodcreeper at Sacha.

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

FASCIATED ANTSHRIKE (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) – Wonderful views at a low pair - this tends to be more of a canopy species - near the wooden tower.

BARRED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – Good looks at a responsive pair out along the river islands.

PLAIN-WINGED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*) – Scope views of one calling from a semi-concealed perch not far from the lodge.

MOUSE-COLORED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus murinus*) – A bird of terra firme forest. We had good looks along the Providencia trail.

CASTELNAU'S ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*) – These guys can really hide out on those river islands, but I think we finally managed to get them into enough windows for all to see.

BLACK BUSHBIRD (*Neotantes niger*) – Some folks got their binos up in time to see this one pretty well along the Anaconda stream.

DUSKY-THROATED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*) – An understory species that is often in the same flock as the next species. We got them to hold still numerous times for excellent views.

CINEREOUS ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnomanes caesius*) – Very similar in appearance to the previous, and often with it, especially in terra firme forest. We saw this well in an active mixed flock across the Napo from Sacha.

ORNATE ANTWREN (*Epinecrophylla ornata*) – Good looks at a male that took a little work to pry into view, but we finally won the battle when it hopped through a few windows of the dense, viney growth.

RUFOUS-TAILED ANTWREN (*Epinecrophylla erythrura*) – Although we drew it in close, this one was exceedingly difficult to see well as it moved with a flock along the Providencia trail.

PYGMY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula brachyura*) – I guess we shouldn't have expected much from a bird of this that lives up in the canopy... and in a spot where there wasn't a tower available! Some folks did get quick looks in the dawning light though at the lake end of the boardwalk.

MOUSTACHED ANTWREN (SHORT-BILLED) (*Myrmotherula ignota obscura*) – Really nicely from the metal towers

when we called this canopy antwren into branches below us.

PLAIN-THROATED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula hauxwelli*) – A common understory antwren, alone and with flocks. WE had plenty of good looks at them as they foraged from sapling to another.

WHITE-FLANKED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula axillaris*) – Seen best with the large flock that slammed into us along the Providencia trail... doesn't this just always happen - big flock that you just have to bird - when you are trying to make it back to lunch in a timely fashion?!

LONG-WINGED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula longipennis*) – With the same large flock as the previous species. This is another species that prefers terra firme forests here. We really worked hard to get everybody onto this little guy, and I think pulled it off. This species - to me - has a strange way of almost dancing around as it feeds... sort of like he's quietly rehearsing some new dance move. Hey, we could call it, "doing the worm"!

GRAY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*) – A midstory (to canopy) antwren that we toyed with a bit along the trail into the inner salt lick. He stayed sort of high up, and not in the best of light for the most part, but some folks still managed fairly decent views.

BANDED ANTIBIRD (*Dichrozona cincta*) – We had to settle for glimpses as our bird would not put down... where we could see it at least.

GRAY ANTIBIRD (*Cercomacra cinerascens*) – About in the same spot as the Gray Antwren, and about as cooperative.

BLACKISH ANTIBIRD (*Cercomacra nigrescens*) [*]

BLACK ANTIBIRD (*Cercomacra serva*) – Very nice studies at a pair - male black, female cinnamon - when we drew them out of their swampy haunt along the Providencia trail.

BLACK-FACED ANTIBIRD (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*) – Fine studies at a pair behind the lodge.

PERUVIAN WARBLING-ANTIBIRD (*Hypocnemis peruviana*) – What was once considered to be one species - Warbling Antbird - has now been split into six different species due to plumage, vocalization, and biogeographical differences... geez! You can read all about in Bret Whitney's detailed paper on the subject if interested. We had pairs a couple of times in their usual vine-tangled hide-outs.

BLACK-AND-WHITE ANTIBIRD (*Myrmochanes hemileucus*) – We really put some effort into seeing this little stinker out on the river islands, where they can be devilishly hard to see, but were victorious in the end.

SILVERED ANTIBIRD (*Sclateria naevia*) – Sensational studies of them creeping about at close range in the swampy forests along the main boardwalk.

SPOT-WINGED ANTIBIRD (*Schistocichla leucostigma*) [*]

WHITE-SHOULDERED ANTIBIRD (*Myrmeciza melanoceps*) – We ended up with nice studies of both this and the following species along the main boardwalk where they creep around through the tangles and tree roots in the understory of swampy forest. This one has a memorable and classic song that sort of recalls a titmouse.

PLUMBEOUS ANTIBIRD (*Myrmeciza hyperythra*)

WHITE-PLUMED ANTIBIRD (*Pithys albifrons*) [*]

SPOT-BACKED ANTIBIRD (*Hylophylax naevius*) – The two Spot-backed Antbird forms, both on this list, are likely to be split. This one, which we glimpsed (and should have seen!), inhabits terra firme forests.

[SPOT-BACKED] ANTIBIRD (*Hylophylax [naevius] sp. nov.?*) – The form that is quite common in the swampy, slightly lower elevation forests around Sacha. The two forms of this species are pretty similar and most easily told by habitat and voice.

DOT-BACKED ANTIBIRD (*Hylophylax punctulatus*) – Yet another swamp forest inhabiting antbird. We got one going and cajoled it in for nice views along one of our rides along the Orquidea stream.

SCALE-BACKED ANTIBIRD (*Willisornis poecilinotus*) – Really nice views in the terra firme forests along the Providencia trail. This one has the habit of perching sideways on low vertical sprigs.

BLACK-SPOTTED BARE-EYE (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*) – Awesome views of this flashy ant-following antbird near the base of the metal towers. That red orbital skin is really shocking.

Formicariidae (Antthrushes)

BLACK-FACED ANTTHRUSH (*Formicarius analis*) [*]

STRIATED ANTTHRUSH (*Chamaeza nobilis*) – We pulled this one in with relative ease near the wooden tower one morning for memorable looks. This was a stroke of luck, because they can be rascals!

Grallariidae (Antpittas)

WHITE-LORED ANTPITTA (*Hylopezus fulviventris*) [*]

THRUSH-LIKE ANTPITTA (*Myrmothera campanisona*) [*]

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

RUSTY-BELTED TAPACULO (*Liosceles thoracicus*) – The only lowland based tapaculo in Ecuador, and a very different bird from other species of its family. This species spends much of its time walking about on the forest floor, feeling most at home around fallen tangles and trees. This can be one of the harder - regularly occurring birds to actually see well on this tour, but we really nailed it when we got one to sit for quite a while for scope views.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

WHITE-LORED TYRANNULET (*Ornithion inerme*) – One sat up right in the open and scolded us for excellent scope views at the metal tower.

YELLOW-CROWNED TYRANNULET (*Tyrannulus elatus*) [*]

FOREST ELAENIA (*Myiopagis gaimardii*) [*]

RIVER TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga hypoleuca*) – A specialist of younger river islands. We had outstanding looks at this spry little tyrannulet as it popped around us repeatedly.

OCHRE-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes oleagineus*) – Good looks were had by all of at least one bird that kept coming into a tree next to the wooden tower, possibly feeding on fruit.

SLENDER-FOOTED TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius gracilipes*) – It is pretty obvious that this one was named by somebody examining a specimen. Slender feet...? Yeah right! At any rate, we had nice looks up in the canopy from the metal towers.

LESSER WAGTAIL-TYRANT (*Stigmatura napensis*) – After some chasing, we ended up with good views of this river island (willow bed) specialist.

SHORT-TAILED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Myiornis ecaudatus*) [*]

DOUBLE-BANDED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Lophotriccus vitiensis*) – Good looks at this one a couple of times in the transitional forests on the south side of the Napo.

WHITE-EYED TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus zosterops*) – At best, we glimpsed this guy, who did a great job of staying out of sight.

SPOTTED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum maculatum*) – A really attractive little flycatcher that also specializes in river island and edge habitats where the cecropias have had a chance to grow a bit taller. We had some nice views during our river island hopping morning.

YELLOW-BROWED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*) – Another smashing little tody-flycatcher; this one dazzled us up at the metal towers.

OLIVACEOUS FLATBILL (*Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*) [*]

YELLOW-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) – A tough bunch of flycatchers to identify on sight, but luckily their calls eliminate any confusion once learned. We had some really once close-encounters up at the metal and wooden towers.

GRAY-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*) – We called one right into a tree right below us at the metal towers.

YELLOW-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*) – Unlike the previous two species of this genus, this one prefers more secondary woodland, such as where we saw them out along the Napo river edge.

EULER'S FLYCATCHER (*Lathrotriccus euleri*) – An active pair along the Orquidea stream put in an appearance for us.

FUSCOUS FLYCATCHER (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus fuscator*) – Inhabits older-growth islands where it stays low and does a good job of remaining inconspicuous. Most folks had pretty good looks after we called one in and had it popping around a bit.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – I guess it was sort of ironic that one of the first important birds of the trip was write-in, but there is a reason. The Vermilion Flycatchers that we saw soon off the plane at the Coca airport were in all probability austral migrants that don't often make it up to this part of the Amazon in large numbers, so it was sort of an odd-ball in a way! [a]

DRAB WATER TYRANT (*Ochthornis littoralis*) – Spectacular in its drabness! We had them flitting about along the edges of the Napo a few times for nice views.

CATTLE TYRANT (*Machetornis rixosa*) – A recent arrival to this part of the continent, and the clearing of forest has certainly paved the way for their arrival across the Amazon as they really are open habitat birds. I had only ever actually seen this bird one other time in Ecuador - near Coca, of course - so it was a pleasant surprise to have connected with it shortly after our arrival to the lowlands.

CINNAMON ATTLA (*Attila cinnamomeus*) – Nice scope looks at a single bird perched up or us at the wooden tower.

CITRON-BELLIED ATTLA (*Attila citriniventris*) – One of the most beautiful species of attila. This is a fairly recent arrival to the Sacha area that seems to be a local species that might have a very specific habitat requirement, tied to swampy forest. We had one calling one morning and called it in for excellent scope studies.

BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTLA (*Attila spadiceus*) [*]

SIRYSTES (*Sirystes sibilator*) – Prevalent at the wooden tower during our visit, appearing during some of the best bird activity.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – From the metal tower.

SHORT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus ferox*) – Common around the lake at Sacha and in other riparian forest areas.

LESSER KISKADEE (*Pitangus lictor*) – Very much tied to lake water, we had good looks at this slender kiskadee species along the edges of Pilchicocha.

GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – One we all know and love!

BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarynchus pitangua*) [*]

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*) – Most common around Pilchicocha.

GRAY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) – The one with the funny double crest that we saw numerous times.

DUSKY-CHESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes luteiventris*) – Good looks along the trail back to the lodge from the wooden tower.

STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) – A couple of times.

PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*) – Fairly common in the canopy.

VARIEGATED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonomus varius*) – We found one of this austral migrant on our last day. While very similar to the previous species, this one is slimmer and more cleanly marked, with more rufous tones in the tail. [a]

CROWNED SLATY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*) – A common bird in the canopy this time of the year. [a]

SULPHURY FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannopsis sulphurea*) – A bird of Moriche palm swamps. We had one perched at a fair distance from the wooden tower.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – The common large tyrannid, as they often are throughout their range.

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW (*Querula purpurata*) – A common sight from the towers. I just love their bouncing flight and distinctive calls.

AMAZONIAN UMBRELLABIRD (*Cephalopterus ornatus*) – I was starting to wonder if we might miss this large and strange looking cotinga, but we finally found one out along the Napo river during our river island birding day.

PLUM-THROATED COTINGA (*Cotinga maynana*) – The deep, turquoise-blue cotinga that we had scope views of from the metal towers.

SPANGLED COTINGA (*Cotinga cayana*) – Now this one is more of a bright electric blue color, with much black spotting. This was a pretty common sight from the towers in general.

SCREAMING PIHA (*Lipaugus vociferans*) – Cotingas either seem to have loud colors, or loud voices. This one has the loud voice. We all had fabulous scope views of one calling near the metal towers one morning.

BARE-NECKED FRUITCROW (*Gymnoderus foetidus*) – As common as I've ever had them around Sacha.

Pipridae (Manakins)

DWARF TYRANT-MANAKIN (*Tyrannetes stolzmanni*) [*]

BLUE-CROWNED MANAKIN (*Lepidothrix coronata*) – One of the more common lowland manakin species.

WHITE-BEARDED MANAKIN (*Manacus manacus*) [*]

ORANGE-CROWNED MANAKIN (*Heterocercus aurantiivertex*) – A specialist of swampy forest, and the Orquidea stream is the place to get it. We had it on our first paddle on the first afternoon for really nice nice. This group of manakins does not really strike as manakin-like, and look almost a bit more like a flycatcher.

WIRE-TAILED MANAKIN (*Pipra filicauda*) – Everybody got through the scope just in time to see it before it flew, but what great looks at a gorgeous male.

GOLDEN-HEADED MANAKIN (*Pipra erythrocephala*) – Terrific scope views at males calling and dancing at the lek not

far from the inner salt lick.

WING-BARRED PIPRITES (*Piprites chloris*) – Responsive and scoped along the ridge trail behind the inner salt lick.

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

BLACK-TAILED TITYRA (*Tityra cayana*) – The common tityra at Sacha.

WHITE-BROWED PURPLETUFT (*Iodopleura isabellae*) – Interesting that this one has now been placed in the newly erected becard family rather than with the cotingas. We had some of the best experiences with this chunky canopy bird at the wooden tower where there was a family group performing for eye level views.

WHITE-WINGED BECARD (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) – The blacker form of western Amazonia.

PINK-THROATED BECARD (*Pachyramphus minor*) – Really responsive at the metal when we got a female to come in quite close.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

TAWNY-CROWNED GREENLET (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*) – Susan got a look at the one that played a tough game of hide-and-seek with us along the Providencia trail.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

VIOLACEOUS JAY (*Cyanocorax violaceus*) – Loud and raucous in virtually every habitat.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

WHITE-BANDED SWALLOW (*Atticora fasciata*) – An elegant mostly dark swallow that we had almost on a daily basis over the lake and river.

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) – We hit a pocket of them across the river along the Shipati stream.

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*) – A daily sight along the lake edges at the lodge.

BROWN-CHESTED MARTIN (*Progne tapera*) – Fairly common along the Napo; we had our first looks right after leaving Coca as we enjoyed those comfortable life jackets!

WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW (*Tachycineta albiventer*) – The common swallow out over Pilchicocha and out along the Napo.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

THRUSH-LIKE WREN (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*) – A really hospitable pair put on a nice show for us along the trails at Sacha for scope views. Their dueted song is one of the most memorable of all the lowland rainforest sounds.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) [*]

WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) – We nailed down a responsive pair not far from the lodge on our first morning.

SCALY-BREASTED WREN (*Microcerculus marginatus*) – It took a couple of tries and some strategizing, but we finally clinched very nice looks for all at this understory wren - that does a good job of looking like a shadow - along the Providencia trail.

MUSICIAN WREN (*Cyphorhinus arada*) – Fantastic views of this songster along the trails behind the lodge as it regaled us with its vocal virtuosity!

Donacobiidae (Donacobius)

BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIOUS (*Donacobius atricapilla*) – Not as common along the lake edge as most trips, but we still connected with them one time for really nice looks. This species has finally been placed in its own, monotypic family, having been placed with the wrens for years, and more historically, with the mockingbirds.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

HAUXWELL'S THRUSH (*Turdus hauxwelli*) [*]

LAWRENCE'S THRUSH (*Turdus lawrencii*) – We certainly searched, but they were picking some tough perches up there in the canopy. [*]

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH (*Turdus ignobilis*) – Out on the river islands.

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater*) – Common around Quito.

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

MAGPIE TANAGER (*Cissopis leverianus*) – Sort of scant this trip, but we still had them for nice views along the Shipati

stream. The longest of all tanagers.

ORANGE-HEADED TANAGER (*Thlypopsis sordida*) – Restricted to the river islands around Sacha, where we found a responsive pair.

FLAME-CRESTED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus cristatus*) – Great looks at a pair from the metal tower.

MASKED CRIMSON TANAGER (*Ramphocelus nigrogularis*) – A stunning lowland tanager that we ran into a few times along the main boardwalk at Sacha.

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo*) – Fairly common out along the edges of Pilchicocha.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*) – A common and wide-ranging tanager throughout the neotropics. We saw the Amazonian form with the white wing patches.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*) – Another wide-ranging tanager species in tropical America.

TURQUOISE TANAGER (*Tangara mexicana*) – Well, there isn't much "turquoise" on this bird, nor does it occur anywhere near Mexico as its scientific name implies. But none of this matters really, because we had some really nice views of this beautiful tanager from the metal towers!

PARADISE TANAGER (*Tangara chilensis*) – We never really connected properly with this beauty, only having quick flybys.

GREEN-AND-GOLD TANAGER (*Tangara schrankii*) – Right in the tree with us at the wooden tower.

MASKED TANAGER (*Tangara nigrocincta*) – Perched up for us at the metal towers for scope views.

OPAL-RUMPED TANAGER (*Tangara velia*) – We had our best views of this and the next tanager - which are similar in plumage - at the wooden tower where they perched and fed about at point-blank range repeatedly.

OPAL-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tangara callophrys*)

BLACK-FACED DACNIS (*Dacnis lineata*) – Judith had the first looks at the metal tower, but we all caught up with it a few days later at the wooden tower for close views.

YELLOW-BELLIED DACNIS (*Dacnis flaviventer*) – Some folks got onto this one briefly before it got away at the wooden tower.

BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*) – Nice views of the blue males and green females from the wooden tower.

GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*) – Another common bird of the humid neotropics. We had good looks at this one on a couple of occasions.

PURPLE HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*) – The all dark purple honeycreeper with the bright yellow legs.

GRAYISH SALTATOR (*Saltator coerulescens*) [*]

BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator maximus*) [*]

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

CAQUETA SEEDEATER (*Sporophila murallae*) – The all black-and-white colored (male) seedeater that we saw a couple of times out on the river islands.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila castaneiventris*) – The most common seedeater out on the islands.

RED-CAPPED CARDINAL (*Paroaria gularis*) – A beautiful cardinal species of more open habitats which we had nice views of our first day along the edges of Pilchicocha.

YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW (*Ammodramus aurifrons*) – Pretty common out on the sandbars along the Napo.

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – Common in the highlands, such as right in Quito.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

ORIOLE BLACKBIRD (*Gymnomystax mexicanus*) – What a burst of yellow! We had this gorgeous blackbird out on the river islands where they inhabit the pioneer growth along the Napo and other river systems in the Amazon.

GIANT COWBIRD (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) – A few groups of them out on the sandbars of the Napo.

EPAULET ORIOLE (MORICHE) (*Icterus cayanensis chrysocephalus*) – Nice scope views of this canopy oriole from the metal towers.

ORANGE-BACKED TROUPIAL (*Icterus croconotus*) – This one always reminds me of a bottle of Sunkist soda, with black highlights! We had good looks at adults and a juvenile along the Shipati stream.

SOLITARY BLACK CACIQUE (*Cacicus solitarius*) [*]

YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus cela*) – Abundant in the eastern lowlands and seen everyday!

RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius angustifrons*) – Ditto! This, and other oropendola species' groups of hanging nests, are one of the characteristic features of the lowlands as you canoe along river and streams.

CRESTED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius decumanus*) – Also a daily sight at Sacha. This was the one with the ivory colored bill and blacker plumage.

CASQUED OROPENDOLA (*Clypicterus oseryi*) [*]

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia lanirostris*) – Talk about a complete run of all of the possible euphonia at the one-stop-shop, wooden tower visit! I think we had all five at close range right in the tower tree with us. This species was the one with the black mask and yellow running all the way up to the chin.

GOLDEN-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia chrysopasta*) – Also known as White-lored Euphonia. We had a pair of these attending a nest in some thick epiphytic growth at eye level.

WHITE-VENTED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia minuta*) – The harder of the euphonias to find at Sacha, but we had some nice views.

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia xanthogaster*) – Common in many other parts of Ecuador as well.

RUFOUS-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia rufiventris*) – The one with the all dark hood, and rich orangy belly.

MAMMALS

GREATER BULLDOG BAT (*Noctilio leporinus*) – Also called Fishing Bat, because they really do make a living by flying low over lakes on the prowl, hoping to grab a small fish! We saw this largish bat pretty well with the spotlight out over Pilchicocha.

PYGMY MARMOSET (*Cebuella pygmaea*) – It took us up until our penultimate day to find this smallest of New World monkeys, but we ended up with some really nice views from the wooden tower.

BLACK-MANTLE TAMARIN (*Saguinus nigricollis*) – Seen well right at the lodge on our first two days where they feed about right near the cabins.

COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY (*Saimiri sciureus*) – This one has become abundant and very tame at Sacha - no hunting allowed - so they feel very comfortable in their safe haven! We enjoyed large groups of them on most days as they breezed through the trees, chowing on insects and fruits.

THREE-STRIPED NIGHT MONKEY (*Aotus trivirgatus*) – Oscar led us to a hollowed out tree at the lake edge where he thought they might be sleeping for the day, and he was right. Lucky us for us, they poked their heads out and allowed us a look at them... talk about cute, awe!

DUSKY TITI MONKEY (*Callicebus moloch*) [*]

RED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta seniculus*) – Seen on just about everyday of the trip. The lack of hunting has really allowed them to feel comfortable with human presence... and reproduce! The deep roars of the males are another very characteristic sound of the Amazon, like the Screaming Piha.

WHITE-FRONTED CAPUCHIN (*Cebus albifrons*) – We ran into a group of this monkey feeding with a larger band of Squirrel Monkeys along the Anaconda stream. This one is a little larger than the Squirrel, but also differs in its prehensile tail.

BROWN-THROATED THREE-TOED SLOTH (*Bradypus variegatus*) – A common mammal, but not always easy to find, but we did encounter them on three occasions... a pretty good count, I'd say!

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

As a postscript: It wasn't just the birds that grabbed our attention, because the Amazon has a biodiversity that is unrivaled, all the way around... so how could we ignore all of the other critters and clues that there were some other amazing animals around?

Here are some of them that had us turning our backs on the birds more than a time or two, even getting us on our hands and knees for a closer look!:

Garden's Boa - The boa out by the barbeque dock was most certainly this species.

Boa Constrictor - Called the "mata caballo", or horse killer... ouch!

Spectacled Caiman - Common around Pilchicocha, we had them right under the barbeque dock.

Forest Dragon Lizard (Enyoloides sp.) - I love these guys, because they just sit there with the whole group staring at them saying, "go ahead, make my day!" But the truth is, if you get too close, they run into a hole.

Tegu Lizard - the monitor type lizard.

Yellow-spotted Turtle - The common turtles we saw on Pilchicocha and out along the Napo.

Poison Arrow Frog - You have to pay attention and pick around in the leaf litter a bit, but we did dig one out for a look.

Anole sp. - I don't ever remember having seen this white anole species.

Tracks:

Collared or White-lipped Peccary - A favorite food of the natives, and often hunted as they cross rivers, but the populations still seem pretty healthy.

Brazilian Tapir - In recent years I have been impressed at the number of tapir tracks that you see across the river near the parrot salt licks. Community eco-tourism seems to be working.

Brocket Deer sp. - A few dainty tracks.

Cat - Probably Ocelot, but I couldn't rule out Margay or Jaguarundi. It is always a thrill to know that they are stalking around!

Capybara - The funny thing is is that I've never seen one of these in Ecuador, but I always see their tracks out on the river islands. In other places they litter the roadsides, such as in the Pantanal of Brazil and the Llanos of Venezuela!

Totals for the tour: 294 bird taxa and 9 mammal taxa