Ecuador's Mammals

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 26 August 2017



Ecuadorian Hillstar by Chris Jones



Masked Trogon by Heather Jones



Plate-billed Mountain Toucan by Chris Jones



Scarlet Macaw by Chris Jones

Report compiled by Gustavo Cañas-Valle Images courtesy of Heather Jones & Chris Jones



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Tour Report Ecuador's Mammals

Tour participants: Gustavo Cañas-Valle (leader) with 6 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 12th August

Some of the group were in flight; others had arrived earlier. They transferred to the Puembo Birding Garden hotel.

Day 2

Sunday 13th August

Puembo Birding Garden to Bellavista

Our group came together after arriving in Ecuador in different moments of the past week. We met at breakfast, just a few minutes before 6am, so we could start activities just after a brief introduction to today's activities.

First, we took advantage of the plants in flower and the feeders in order to start right away collecting our trip's bird list. PBG specialties today included Scrub Tanager, male Black-tailed Trainbearer, and colourful Blue-and-yellow Tanager plus Vermilion Flycatcher.

We drove away only about a kilometre in order to find an appropriate spot for a landscape picture with Cotopaxi Volcano in the background. As we were adjusting our cameras, a few birds gave us chances of a better look than minutes ago: Golden Grosbeak and Golden-rumped Euphonia. Even a flock of Hooded Siskins flew away, unfortunately too quickly for the group.

On our way to Bellavista, we discussed some basic features of the landscape: the dry valleys and their representative plant species, and the geology of the structure of the Quito Valley and Ecuador. We made a stop at the old Equator Line monument, which is located in Calacalí, for a chat on the French Expedition and to share that during our tour we would have the opportunity of experience two Astronomic phenomena: a Solar Eclipse and a Meteorite Fall called Leonidas.

Our mid-morning stop was at a sample of Upper Cloud Forest. This is the vegetation formation that represents the upper limit of the tree line in the Ecuadorian Andes, with the sole exception of the patches of *Polylepis* forests. These patches grow at higher altitudes and in a scattered pattern.

In this area birds called but did not cooperate to be seen by the group. We heard Andean Guan; a couple of members of our team saw White-crested Elaenia and guide-only birds were Tyrian Metaltail, Spectacled Whitestart, and a White-chinned Thistletail. The whole group saw White-collared Swifts. They were also attracted by the flowers (Bomarea, Brugmansia sanguinea, Passiflora mixta) and the butterflies, as I chased the birds we heard. Because we had very little success making the birds show themselves, we decided to drive to Alambi for Hummingbirds and lunch.

The birds were active in good numbers. Fourteen species presented a show that kept us busy for about three and a half hours. When a new group of visitors came, we went to look for river-associated birds. At the river we saw juveniles of two species with their parents: Black Phoebe and Torrent Tyrannulet. Exploring the newly opened trail that runs next to the river, we spotted White-capped Dipper, having good views and taking photographs.

In order to have time to settle in our rooms and watch the feeders in Bellavista, we drove up for about 45 minutes. Along the way we stopped to look for an active nest of Andean Cock-of-the-rock, with no success. However, when we arrived weather was still clear, and we had chances to get pictures of new hummingbirds, including the highlight of this area: Gorgeted Sunangel. Here, we also added to our list Lesser Violetear, Bufftailed Coronet, Speckled Hummingbird and Collared Inca.

During dinner we were expecting to be called to the banana feeder to watch the Olinguito eating them. However, today there was no picking of fruit by either the Olinguito or the Kinkajou, so there were no mammals today.

Day 3

Monday 14th August

Bellavista Lodge Full day

Today we started birding the surroundings of the buildings and the corridors of the lodge. The first birds seen were Cinnamon Flycatcher, Masked Trogon and Golden-crowned Flycatcher. Birds were coming to collect the plethora of moths that were stuck next to the corridors' lamps, so we stayed next to one and waited. We saw Striped Treehunter, Grey-breasted Woodwren, and Russet-crowned Warbler coming to collect moths and leave. Last and the most colourful was Turquoise Jay. It picked a white moth and stayed breaking it in pieces.

When we were watching the jay, a large bird was spotted, and we realized it was one of the specialties of the lodge: Plate-billed Mountain Toucan. The bird vanished as we spotted it. so we scanned for quite a while. Trying to find it again, we walked to the parking lot and there the toucan came into view. It approached a palm with red-fruit, collected a few and ate them. It decided to perch in open view to finish eating, then immediately, started preening. We had a remarkably open views of the toucan for about eight minutes, and we all had our chance to get pictures of this colourful bird.

When it finally flew away, we focused on feeding the hummingbirds. Bellavista offers a portable feeder which attracts the hummingbirds to the hands of the visitors. Holding this feeder patiently and calmly gave us the chance to feel the wingbeats of the wings of Buff-tailed Coronets as they were approaching our hands. Some braver birds even decided to land on both hands: a Coronet and a male Fawn-breasted Brilliant.

Suddenly I heard Crested Quetzal, called it to the group and some joined us. However, the bird did not cooperate. It was difficult to spot it in the distance. Edwin –our birding driver- and I persisted in the chore while the others in our group were captivated by the cuteness of the hummers and walked away. We joined them right after we saw the Quetzal depart to the area where the feeders are. Yet, there was no sign of it. Instead of the Quetzal we all spotted a pair of Golden Tanagers building a nest. Both individuals were collecting twigs, moss and lichens to shape the already large cup hanging from one of the trees next to the hummingbird feeders.

Right after breakfast we thought that exploring the surrounding trails was a great idea. Off we went first to the view point at the Camping area of the Lodge. The 120° view of the Valley gave us the right setting for us to describe the geology of the area, speaking of the stability of the ashes as a building material of the dramatic hills we were watching. We also took the opportunity to scan the sky for raptors and others. Only Black and Turkey Vultures showed. So, secondly, we decided to change landscapes. We drove to the road above the lodge, the one that goes to the Scientific Station, looking to explore the traverse road and the trails that lead back to the Lodge.

At the road, we walked slowly listening for birds and chatting about the variety of plants present. We were impressed first by Fuchsia sylvatica, a small flower with a light fuchsia colour, a form of light and bright red. This started the trend of looking at plants in flower and also at butterflies. During our walk towards trail W and through it back to the Lodge, we spotted three species of butterflies and several flowers including Solanum sp., Nicotiana sp., Palicourea sp., Monnina sp., Tibouchina sp., Selaginella sp., Guzmania sp., Tillandsia secunda, Columnea spp (3 different forms)., Centropogon sp. Begonia sp. and a highlight endemic flower: Nasa aequatoriana. As we were trying to photograph it, I was stung by the plant, even though I warned everybody about it! We returned on time for a lunch made with local trout: grilled trout with bean stew. It is probably the most delicately prepared trout in Ecuador.

Right after lunch, due to the low bird activity we had in the area, we decided to explore a recently opened birding garden in San Tadeo. There, a local family has designed a well-set-up group of feeders for bird photography. Tanagers are given bananas and Hummers are offered sugary water in a context of trees, twigs and mossy branches just right for the birds to perch and model.

Activity again was null. However, with a little bit of patience and a cup of coffee offered to us, so strong that it could have put hair on our chests, we saw few individuals of several species. We saw frequent local birds like Lemon-rumped Tanager, Golden Tanager and the two species of Euphonias: Thick-billed and Orange-bellied. We also spotted local specialties such as Velvet-purple Coronet, Brown Inca, Empress Brilliant, Violet-tailed Sylph and last but not least, Ecuadorian Thrush, an endemic of the Tumbesian region shared with Peru.

When we were about to leave, our hostess: María, told us that there was still one bird left to see, guaranteed. We trusted her words and stayed for a few more minutes. By the end of the afternoon, in the darkness we were able to see a guan: Sickle-winged Guan. The bird called in three different ways as it approached a scouting perch. At it, the bird hesitated and left. However, some in the group photographed well enough to describe it.

On our way back to the lodge, we were scanning the road for nocturnal birds. Our drive produced no nightjars out of the ones possible. However, we saw a Short-eared Opossum, which crossed the road in front of our headlights and stayed for a few seconds on sight. Some of us were able to see it vanishing in the grass.

Back at the lodge, we were closing dinner with chocolate cake and hot drinks, when our local guide on duty: Natalia, called "Olinguito!!!". All guests in the dinning hall stood up and stampeded to the door. Calming their eagerness, we led the way for the guests to see one individual deciding to eat a banana. It stayed in sight for about a minute or so. Some took pictures with a gloom of mist, because of the passing cloud. The excitement was short because it decided to leave the banana and to vanish in the branches away from us.

Two mammals at night were the happy ending for today.

Day 4

Tuesday 15th August

Paz Reserve and Birding Transfer to Guango Lodge

We departed promptly at 5am in order to arrive on time for our meeting with Andean Cock-of-the-rock. We had a relaxed drive without new sightings. We only experienced rural life in the area: cows were just milked and out

of the corral, in the middle of the road. As we arrived at the tarmac, at the Nanegalito – Los Bancos Road, we met a couple of Spanish birders who were looking for the Reserve. They asked for directions and we led the way.

At 6am we arrived at the roadside parking spot where we had breakfast, expecting the arrival of the Paz' brothers. Since they did not show up, we walked to the main Lek-Viewpoint. There the activity was starting from the lower end. We had only two birds jumping between branches and calling. At that point Vinicio, Angel's son, came to lead the way to the secondary Lek-Viewpoint, which was more active: eight birds were displaying in an area of 200 square metres. There we spent a good hour photographing and admiring the display of colour that these unreal males present. For Paul, it was particularly interesting to realize that the guide book was correct when describing the appearance of such birds.

Even though the display at the lek was not over, we decided to leave the area in order to attend the other birding meetings the Paz family had lined up for us visitors. As part of the show at this spot, Diane spotted a male Golden-headed Quetzal, perched in clear view; she enjoyed finally seeing this bird properly. A red form of floral spike in *Marcgravia* sp. (Marcgraviace) also drew our attention. Other important birds we were able to see here were the regional specialties: Dark-backed Wood Quails, three of them. Also, we had good looks at Rufous-bellied Nighthawk. Other birds in the area were Lineated Woodpecker, Masked Trogon and Golden-crowned Flycatcher.

The next stop was at the bridge where we were shown two females: a Lyra-tailed Nightjar and an Andean Cockof-the-rock. It was particularly exciting to see how much interest all of us had when it came to enjoying nature, as we sat under the bridge to watch the female Cock-of-the-rock in its nest.

Antpittas this time were available at the headquarters of the Reserve. In the original set of trails where all this story of unusual circumstances, fortunate encounters, creativity, sponsorship and conservation happened, we were invited to witness the feeding of Moustached, Giant and Ochre-breasted Antpittas. Today only Ochrebreasted did not jump on sight. It came to be fed but did not trust the conditions for feeding: a Crested Guan was agitated and shaking the branches above the feeding ground. Eventually we also spotted the guan while Vinicio called in a family of three Toucan Barbets. These colourful birds came to the area where they are offered freshly peeled bananas. However, it seemed that the presence of the Crested Guan disturbed them. They decided not to go down to pick the bananas. However, we were all able to see them well.

We returned to the headquarters in order to drive further up the hill to the territory used to feed Chestnut-crowned Antpitta and Yellow-breasted Antpitta. When we arrived, we had to wait for all the groups of visitors to reunite. While we were waiting, local guides of the other groups shared the option to look at a female Green-and-black Fruiteater on its nest. This bird had been at the spot for the last three to four weeks.

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta came on sight fast and disappeared at the same speed. It started by giving us only brief looks. but progressively the bird offered longer opportunities for photography. The light was just right for us to play with the cameras. Everybody enjoyed the behaviour of this bird as it was collecting earthworms from the top of the log. Yellow-breasted Antpitta was less cooperative. It came into sight, but it did not stay long in view. Nevertheless, all the clients had a look at this regional Chocoan endemic bird.

When the Yellow-breasted Antpitta stopped cooperating, Angel suggested we should to go to the opened dinner area at the headquarters to enjoy mid-morning snack, hummingbirds and tanagers. As we enjoyed the various options of hot drinks that went along with the chicken-filled plantain-balls and the cheese-filled fritters, we enjoyed several colourful birds that appealed to our group. The only new tanager for our group today at this spot was Palm Tanager, a yellow-olive and green-shinned black bird. Additional sightings included photo-opportunities with Golden-naped Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager and a second chance with Toucan Barbet. In the group of hummingbirds, we had also second chances to watch Brown Inca, Velvet-purple Coronet and Empress Brilliant. Toucan Barbet and these three hummingbirds are also regional endemics, birds considered specialties which can better be watched in Ecuador than in Colombia.

Just around 12:30 we left for San Antonio de Pichincha where our lunch was planned by Bellavista Lodge. Our drive up the mountains was relaxed. Some Latin American music contextualized the view of the different tones of green in the forest that covered the steep slopes of these Andean Valleys. After a quick lunch, we left to the Airport Water Treatment plant in order to collect some additional species for our list. There, in a brief stop, we added Andean Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Baird's Sandpiper.

On our way up to the Papallacta Pass, we carefully scanned the slopes where I have seen Spectacled bear in previous visits to the area. This time we did not find a trace of a bear. Yet, at the pass we drove to the old Papallacta Road and found recent remnants of feeding. A bear had been feeding during the previous two days from several plants of *Puya* cf *hamata*. As we scanned for bear, we spotted a female Great Sapphirewing, and tried to attract Giant Conebill. The conebill was responding but did not accept to be lured enough to descend and to be in plain view. Sunset happened with a colourful display of tones of yellow and blue as we left to Guango for dinner and for resting after a long day of exploring.

Day 5

Wednesday 16th August

Papallacta Pass and its surroundings

At the crack of dawn, we had breakfast and prepared ourselves to look for our two targets at this altitude: Mountain Tapir and Spectacled Bear. During previous trips we had recorded the bear at several different spots along the Pifo – Papallacta Road and within the Cayambe Coca National Park. Today we decided to explore the surroundings of the Papallacta Pass and the Antennas Hill. This hill is the access to the Water and Lakes Trail.

On our way to the Pass, we spotted Andean Gulls in the Papallacta Lake and Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager in the vegetation on the shore. Colourful birds are always a big hit for our group. The day offered us a clear blue sky partially covered with clouds: just the weather pattern we needed for exploring a high-altitude locality.

At La Virgen we entered the Old Papallacta Road. There we spotted Tapeti (Brazilian Rabbit) and Tawny Antpitta. As we started walking in between the Paramo Grass looking for bears, we realized Antizana volcano was almost fully visible. Antizana showed us almost its full beauty, so we took the opportunity for a landscape picture.

The flowers and the Antizana Volcano kept us entertained as we were scanning the surroundings for bear and Tapir. A sweet mint scent, one particular aroma, picked up from between the grass we were walking through. We

had found a culinary specialty from the highlands of Ecuador: Sunfo. This is a *Minthostachys* species that is part of the local tradition for warm teas in high-altitude communities and during trekking.

We were not successful with the bear at this spot. Therefore, we decided to explore the Antennas hill for mammals and birds. At the top of the hill, located at 4000 metres, we started the Trail to Laguna de Baños. There we were searching for a highlands target: Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe. We hiked from the parking lot to almost 4300 metres. Within this range of altitude this species lives plus other local beauties. At about 4200 metres, our hike led us to a point in the landscape where we were able to spot lakes, inhabited highland valleys, and an infinite horizon obscured here and there by some clouds.

The hike left in our group fond memories because of the wind, the views and the flowers we saw. Highlights of the flowers atop the hill included *Xenophyllum humile* (Asteraceae) and *Gentiana sedifolia* (Gentianaceae). Interesting birds up that high were Plain-capped Ground Tyrant, formerly called Paramo Ground Tyrant, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Blue-mantled Thornbill, and Chestnut-winged Cinclodes, previously known as Bar-winged Cinclodes.

Around lunch time, we decided that the best spot for having our meal was the area where we had seen fresh hints of the presence of the bear: some freshly eaten bromeliads. The species might well be *Puya hamata*. However, in the surroundings there is also presence of *Puya retrorsa*.

After lunch we had a stroll looking for more bear tracks and for better angles to scan the hillside where we had found the eaten bromeliads. While walking, one bird surprised us. An Ecuadorian Hillstar female was making a nest with feathers below an overhang at a bank of the road. We tried to wait for her and to take pictures, but fruitlessly. We decided to retreat from our position close to the nest in construction to allow the bird to continue in its chore.

In order to make a faster progress to the next areas to be scanned, we drove away. The more ground we are able to cover during the time available the better, during a scan for large mammals.

We checked both on the way down to the tarmac road and on the way up through it, at different altitudes, but with no sign of bear. However, we spotted several bromeliads eaten at each of the spots where we had previously seen the bear.

As the day was coming to its end, we scanned while slowly driving back to our lodge. At various moments, a rock, a bush or a burnt bromeliad stem, distracted our eyes and made us think we had finally seen a bear. One has to persist and pursue a final answer at every possibility of presence of the bear or the Tapir. So, as we were scanning the northern hillsides of the road, some moving black speck, progressing along something similar to a trail caught my attention. I asked for our bus to stop. Right there, the speck turned into a large creature moving along a recently made path. Even further, with the help of the telescope it fully turned into an adult Spectacled Bear tearing apart a bromeliad. We stayed for half an hour on the side of the road enjoying the view of the large bear disappearing and coming on sight within few seconds. Even though the bear we spotted was distant from our position, the experience was exciting.

We closed the day at dinner time, updating our lists and adding those seen by one of the group during her time of rest at the lodge.

Day 6

Thursday 17th August

Cayambe - Coca National Park, Baños Checkpoint, Mogotes and beyond

After breakfast we birded briefly at the garden; we expected the arrival of Chestnut-crowned Antpitta to be fed. Though it did not arrive, we used the few minutes we waited for it to see some birds including local specialties such as Sword-billed Hummingbird and Tourmaline Sunangel.

We left for the day to the Cayambe – Coca National Park. On our way to the Baños access to the park, we made two stops. One was for a landscape picture of the Antizana Volcano. The second was for scanning the valley looking for Mountain Tapir. Tapir is one of the endangered species we expect to see during the tour. Always elusive, we have several good reference points where to look for this unique animal.

At the rangers' checkpoint, we were kindly informed about the most recent sightings of Tapir and Spectacled Bear. Tapirs, bears and other large mammals are monitored by the Park rangers. The highlands of the Park include territories of individuals belonging to these species, which are studied by the Andean Bear Foundation. The foundation has given great direct and indirect support to our purpose of watching Tapirs and bears in the wild. Thanks to the foundation bears have not been hunted anymore by the cattle owners who live within the Park, even though bears have been found responsible for the killing of cows. I have used the publications made by the Foundation in order to increase the biological background shared with the members of our groups over the years.

At the park, we looked for viewpoints with a broad perspective of the glacial valleys below. Scanning for these animals is a matter of patience and systematic searching. Each of the points we used for scanning offered different additional experiences. One had fearless Glossy Flowerpiercers allowing for close-up photos. Other had Variable Hawk and Yellow-billed Pintails at a lake. Another had Many-striped Canastero and White-tailed Deer (the Highlands' subspecies) allowing us to take pictures. All these spots offered views that encouraged us to take pictures.

As we enjoyed the views we spotted two Spectacled Bears. One of them even has a name: "The Mask". The Mask is a 1.5-metre-long bear looking healthy and strong. Cautiously, it walked away from us as we took pictures and commented on it. It had been eating bromeliads which were visible in its proximity. Before it vanished in a close-by patch of forest, it seemed to be smelling the air. We assumed it picked up our smell in the wind that was blowing his way. The second bear had been also working on at least four different bromeliads in a linear transect of about 600 metres. When we spotted it, we had just been commenting on the different bromeliads freshly torn apart on the hillside we were looking at. As we drove on, we saw the bear walking up the hill few metres ahead of its last meal. Using the experience with our last bear, we took pictures from inside the vehicle. This time we were able to see the bear across a large natural crevice, so close to us that we all were able to take good pictures. Previous sightings of the bears we reported yesterday and early this afternoon required the use of the telescope to document them. Also, pictures of the individuals taken directly with our cameras included the bears as a small part of the frame. Only the ones taken through the scope had been good for description up to this point. However, the bear was not so close to make him run or reacted agitated. It eventually saw all our cameras aiming at him and decided to move away. All our activity was focused on him, with us all now outside the van. We managed to have a long span of time for watching it.

As the sunset made Antizana glow goldish in a background of blue sky, we arrived at the checkpoint on our way out of the park. At this point we spotted Shining Sunbeam and as a bonus, a female Culpeo (Paramo Fox); both were very obliging. The sunset, the memory of the bears, the fox and the colourful birds kept our spirit high as we finished our list and went to bed.

Day 7

Friday 18th August

Second day at Cayambe - Coca National Park, Baños Checkpoint, up to Mogotes

Today we started birding, after breakfast, along a section of the Pipeline Trail. Additionally, we visited the Papallacta River trail. In both areas we found interesting wildlife. Along the river trail we found the terrestrial orchid: *Cranichis* sp. Next to the house we spotted a flock including Hooded Tanager, Lacrimose Mountain Tanager, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant and Pearled Treerunner.

We studied this flock briefly because we had a 7.30am meeting with Chestnut-crowned Antpitta - so did the bird, which had already arrived. We had some time watching this species come and go from sight. However, despite the behaviour of this shy bird, we were able to take some pictures; several came out quite well. Here, hummingbirds were also active. They came to the feeders and the composition of the community of species included Tourmaline Sunangel, Sword-billed Hummingbird and Collared Inca.

After watching the Antpitta, we departed to Papallacta to pick up our local guide Jairo. Passing Termas, we arrived at a point next to the junction between the Road to Salve-Faccha Dam and the road for pipeline maintenance. There we spotted a series of Tapir tracks that gave us hope that in the surroundings there was a Tapir. The road we took was a dead end. As we were already in the middle of forest, I decided to figure out the bird species present in that location. Birds we spotted during that birding session included Pale-naped Brushfinch and Tufted Tit-Tyrant.

We continued our drive to the Baños Checkpoint. There we saw Shining Sunbeam: the individual from yesterday afternoon, perched on the same branch. It was remarkable to see how constant a hummingbird might be when returning to its perch.

Beyond the checkpoint we repeated our scanning for Tapir. First, we explored a trail where during our first mammal tour the group saw Mountain Tapir quite well. Using the same logic, today we visited all the sites where in the past I had had the luck to see Tapir. Our group was enthusiastic every time we had to come out of the van for a new search. This mood was kept the whole day. On top of scanning those preciously successful areas, I also decided to explore Mogotes Lake and other localities where others have reported tracks and sightings.

On our way to our lunch spot, at the end of a side road branching from the Papallacta - Oyacachi Road, I was searching for Tapir tracks. Then I realized that there were several bird species watching us from the nearby *Polylepis* forest: Red-crested Cotinga, and Black-chested Mountain Tanager, among others.

Though the weather pattern changed, and the temperature dropped, some of us had a good time having lunch outside the bus. From our picnic table, we were able leisurely to scan the Sudamérica Lake, and the mountains to the North West of it. Neither the drizzle nor the cold wind would stop us from our goal of finding Tapir.

After visiting Mogotes, we went progressively back to the Baños checkpoint of the Park. On our way there, we were still searching for Tapir. We made a stop on the side of the road, so we could look down onto the vegetation on both sides of the river Valley, and on the distant slopes to the South West. This Glacier made U-shaped valley is located above Termas de Papallacta Lodge.

The cherry and the icing on the cake was watching Black-backed Bush Tanager and Masked Mountain Tanager, as we arrived at the Rangers' house. The former is a specialty of the Highlands from Ecuador and Colombia and is more easily seen in the highlands to the East of Quito. It moves about in small groups or it participates in mixed flocks. The latter is just a very elusive species of bird, which can only be seen in remote areas of the highlands of Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. It has been given the status of Vulnerable by the IUCN and is not often part of the checklists of people birding the area.

With the sunset warming up the surroundings, we left the park for the day and returned to Guango for refreshing, dinner, checklist and rest.

Day 8

Saturday 19th August

Guango Lodge and Papallacta Pass

During our last morning in Guango lodge we took advantage of the natural attractions of the lodge: the birds, the flowers and the landscape. We started our day within the gardens at the main house. There, the hummingbird feeders did not have as many hummingbirds coming to drink from them as we were used to seeing: only few species came to them, which helped us complete the local checklist. This morning we saw White-bellied Woodstar, Tourmaline Sunangel and Collared Inca. After breakfast we stayed at the lodge and explored the surroundings looking for Torrent Duck. We explored the Papallacta River Trail twice unsuccessfully. However, we were not thinking on giving up the chance to see this local adventurous duck whose strategy for survival is to surf the white waters of mountain rivers.

Also, during our last day within short driving distance to Andean Condor territory, we had to try and promote one experience with the Condor. Therefore, after breakfast and after a walk to check the river for the duck, we drove to highest terrain: the Papallacta Pass. At the pass we were able to spot gliding birds from three species in the far distance. They were rising in the sky south from the pass, using the thermals to climb above the level of the ridge south from the Papallacta-Pifo Road. In order to describe them we had to use the scope in addition to the binoculars. However, both birds soon went out of sight. When we were able to see them again, they were flying across the valley to the north and behind the hills and disappeared for good.

To close our visit to the Papallacta Pass, we walked to a patch of *Polylepis* trees. There we were looking for Giant Conebill, my nemesis bird during this trip. At the patch some birds allowed us to see them: Tawny Antpitta, Viridian Metaltail, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant and a fly-by Giant Conebill. Furthermore, when we were heading back to the lodge, one Tawny Antpitta perched on top of a *Puya hamatta* inflorescence as we were driving by. We had great views, though we were not able to take pictures. It jumped out of sight as we were adjusting the position of the vehicle.

Even though, in our morning session we tried twice to find the Torrent Duck along the stretch of the river which is closer to the main house at Guango Lodge, we did not succeed. Therefore, we planned that our last

time in the property would be used to search systematically for this target bird along the riverside trails. Of course, we hoped to also find more mammals, birds, plants and landscapes. After exploring the section of the river between both bridges that cross the Papallacta River within the property, we had enjoyed a diverse and interesting walk within the Eastern Upper Cloud Forest of the Andes. We saw flowering herbaceous plants, bushes and trees, as well as tree ferns, along with Hooded Tanager and White-capped Dipper.

The experience of searching this natural drainage system was mesmerizing, each time we reached it. One is absorbed by the sound of the water flowing, its fluctuating movement and the breeze that accompanies the river as it flows down to deliver its waters in the Quijos river. Paul agreed with my perception and shared his feelings with the group as we were standing silently looking at the water flowing.

We left around 3.45pm from the access road to the lower bridge within the property. We had planned to have a culinary stop to try local food. Edwin took the opportunity to fill up the tank of our vehicle. We stopped at a Tortilla stand to try corn tortillas roasted on a clay tray, sitting on an old fashion wood stove heated with wood. We accompanied the tortillas with a local corn drink called morocho.

The only task left to be done before arriving to San Isidro was to find the Torrent Duck. We scanned all the areas where it was possible to see the river from the road, in the distance. As we were running out of chances along the Cosanga River, we stopped at a bridge crossing it. There we scanned for a few minutes before we spotted a pair of Torrent Ducks upstream. Eventually both, a male and a female, were standing together over the same rock. We took pictures of them and had good views from the wobbly surface of the bridge. Hoping to have a more stable perspective of the ducks, Paul and I descended to the sand shore next to the base of the bridge and took couple more pictures through the scope.

With a more relaxed mood after seeing one of our target birds well, we went back in the van to drive to our next overnight destination: San Isidro Lodge, still a few kilometres away from the bridge. As it is normal at the lodge, our meal was a treat as usual, also with local flavours.

Day 9

Sunday 20th August

One full day at San Isidro

After so many days of early mornings our group decided to enjoy a relaxed day of photography from the Dining Hall deck to recover energies before the experience at Napo Wildlife Center. This activity also gave us the opportunity for monitoring the artificial salt lick. The wooden platform with a tin roof shelters a sample of salt for cattle which has attracted Mountain Tapir in the past. Our mammal group in January spotted one adult Tapir there. Furthermore, a pair of Tapirs, a female and its stripy calf, were spotted there only seven days ago. So, we took our chances and waited the whole day on the look for Tapir.

During our patient monitoring for the Tapir, we enjoyed first the constantly changing view of the forest within the reserve and in the distance, over the Guacamayos ridge. The sky was bright, light-blue-coloured, and the clouds were painting brushed white patterns on it. They eventually rolled into low clouds at random surging between the trees. Our group members were enjoying photographing alternatively the natural landscape of this sheltered plateau in the cloud forest of the Amazon watershed and the hummingbirds imbibing the artificial nectar from the feeders right of the veranda.

We were able to watch the behaviour of several different species as they competed for the access to the feeders. One of the birds most constantly perched next to the feeders was Chestnut-breasted Coronet. This species is probably the one that tries more actively to control de access to the nectar.

As we were having breakfast we heard an impact on the glass. A juvenile female Wedge-billed Hummingbird from the Amazon drainage had hit the glass window and fell on a crack in the floor. We ran to rescue her. After picking her up she was still not mobile. Normal procedure includes giving the shocked bird some sugary water as it recovers from the impact, so it can have some energy to fly after this situation of physiological stress. We took several pictures of aspects of its plumage, following procedures for hummingbird ringing.

After breakfast we were invited to participate of the feeding of White-bellied Antpitta. The previous night, the other group of birders at the lodge requested to go before our group to the feeder, so our group kindly offered to go second. The Antpitta appeared swiftly for the first group. We quickly switched places with the previous group at the feeder. On purpose, Guido had only given two worms to the bird. We planned for it to be still hungry, so it would return. We heard the bird approaching close to the ground. However, suddenly it hesitated and left. So, White-bellied Antpitta ended as a heard-only bird in our list.

As the day progressed we dedicated our time to some other activities while monitoring the salt lick: reading, catching up with notes, sending e-mails to family and the most important, practicing new skills for photo making with our cameras. We considered different conditions of light for moving objects or still objects. Practicing afterwards was fun and a good learning experience.

In the afternoon the weather changed suddenly. After a sunny and comfortable morning, the afternoon hours after lunch presented a gloomy sky. The clouds built up quickly rolling from the Guacamayos ridge towards the mountains on our south-west. A strong wind and quick light rain prepared us for a short period of heavier rain.

We were prepared for the whole afternoon under the rain. Yet the sky cleared, and we were able to witness a triple rainbow. Surprisingly, the brightest of them ended right on top of the salt lick we were watching. At that point we really wanted the Tapir to show up for the mother of all nature pictures.

In the end, we took several good pictures of the landscape but there was no Tapir coming. We closed the day with few hummingbird highlights, such as female Gorgeted Woodstar, male Long-tailed Sylph, and the local specialty, Bronzy Inca.

After dinner we had a short talk about the weather conditions at the Napo Wildlife Center and the logistics in case of dry rivers. We had received a report from fellow birders that the Añangu river was drier beyond the point of navigation.

As we were about to split and go to our rooms, we went to look for the San Isidro Owl. It did not take long for us to hear a new call of the owl: a juvenile was making a single screech from a tree top north from the parking lot. The bird flew as I was scanning the high branches. It went to the Orchid garden area, were we found it again up higher than it was before. The bird stayed in sight for quite a long time. Mist rolled in and some of our team members had not yet seen the bird.

We continued searching for owls a bit longer since there are options to see Rufous-banded Owl too. Scanning the trees to the access gate we found two San Isidro Owls again. Both times the owls allowed pictures to be taken as they were at lower branches, just above eye-level. This was a great way to close what some group members called a much-needed relaxed day in the middle of the tour.

Day 10

Monday 21st August

Transfer Day from San Isidro to NWC (Napo Wildlife Centre)

We started our day with breakfast at 5.30am. Our plan was to begin our drive as early as possible in order to have a relaxed drive to catch the NWC motor canoe, in Coca, that would take us to the Añangu community where this touristic project is based. Likewise, we wanted to watch some new birds in San Isidro Lodge just before our departure. With this plan in mind, while Edwin and Guido (our local antpitta whisperer) were collecting luggage and packed lunches, the rest of us were birding the garden. We departed from San Isidro about 6.45am.

Our route would take us through the Guacamayos ridge, the sole ridge that extends eastern from the main Andean ridge. This mountain chain is part of two reserves: Antizana Ecological Reserve and Sumaco-Napo-Galeras National Park.

At the base of the ridge, there is a detour we took to the East from the Cosanga-Tena Road: the Loreto-Coca Road. This road traverses part of the Guacamayos and Sumaco Volcano slopes as it runs descending to the Amazonian Plateau of Ecuador. Along our way to Coca we made three stops. The first one was to twitch a Cliff Flycatcher, which we found. The second was to collect new hummingbirds for our list of specialties at the Hollín River and waterfalls. Finally, the third stop was to buy two pieces of security glass for soldering. I collected them to use them as props to facilitate the watching of the Solar eclipse that would occur this day at 1.28pm.

We arrived on time in Coca (Francisco de Orellana) ahead of time. We were then able to move our luggage to our meeting point, to set up our packed lunch and to wish safe travels to Edwin our companion during the last eight days.

NWC staff greeted us and collected our main cases. Our local guide Jorge Ribadeneira was in charge of giving us a brief introductory speech about basic safety rules and the sequence of procedures for arrival.

Our motor canoe departed, on time, at 11.45. Motor canoes normally have wooden benches with a cushioning, transversal boards or just a raised floor where the passengers sit. This motor canoe had instead plane-like chairs, quite comfortable for a two-hour drive. During our ride, Jorge and I were evaluating the progress of the eclipse. Clouds were rolling in and out between us and the sun. In the end, there were too many clouds, so we were not able to see the 6% coverage of the sun that we might have seen this far south from the eclipse main area of visibility. People in the USA and Canada were able to witness the phenomenon in full.

During our ride, some bird species we saw included Large-billed Tern, Great Egret and Russet-backed Oropendolas.

We arrived at the exit of the Añangu River in the Napo by 2.15pm. There we had to follow Jorge through the sand banks of the Napo River, following the stream of the Añangu up to the NWC Transfer Point Facilities. We

had to walk for about 25 minutes first on the beach and eventually on a good trail with one hanging bridge over a small creek which comes from the Añangu Territory. This Community land is however part of the Yasuní National Park and lies on the northern limit of the park. A sand-coloured frog, a black-and-blue butterfly and the Yellow-rumped Caciques were interesting sights during our walk.

At the Transfer Point, we used the facilities and boarded our paddling canoe. There we finally met our second local staff member: Fausto. He was our rear engine as we paddled up the Añangu River to the Añangu Lake. During our ride, we had a relaxed time watching the landscape full of logs and fallen branches, part of the normal dynamic of the forest. The logs were cut to enhance the manoeuvring between the dense branches on the shores of the creek; it was surprising the number of trees that had been cut to make the way for the canoes. We sighted, as we navigated upstream, tracks from two species: White-lipped Peccary (two different groups at different locations) and Giant Otter. Even the staff communicated through the radio that the Giant Otters had been seen early today along the main creek: we were on the look out.

As we paddled to the Añangu Lake we spotted our first array of locally distributed bird species: Hoatzin, Black-capped Donacobius, American Pygmy Kingfsher, and Boat-billed Heron. Likewise, we spotted our first Tropical Rainforest monkeys from the lowlands: Squirrel, Woolly, and Red Howler Monkeys.

When we arrived, we were welcomed with refreshments. Miguel, one of the two managers at the lodge, welcomed us to the facilities. He presented the services of the hotel, in the common areas and in the rooms, the security procedures and the daily schedules.

We closed the day with our checklist just after dinner, so people would have time in their rooms, before the meal. One of the birds commented on during our arrival was Hoatzin, which seems to be less frequent elsewhere.

Day 11

Tuesday 22nd August

Metal Tower and Añangu River

Today we planned to depart for the Metal Tower at 6am. On our way there we paddled across the Añangu Lake as the first lights of the day illuminated the clouds and marked the silhouettes of the trees in the horizon. Short-tailed and Neotropical Palm Swifts were two of the birds seen at the lake, which were new to our list.

We walked the trail to the tower as the shadows of the forest were shortening. Mushrooms made natural compositions on rotten wood along the trail.

At the tower, we all shared and array of beautiful birds that appeared on the canopy, either close by or in the far distance. Through the scope and with playback we watched specialties such as Chestnut-eared Aracari, Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, White-necked Puflird, and Monk Saki. The activity at the tower was great during the whole morning; a bit slow to begin with, it progressively became more lively, due to a brief rain shower that we had to face. We decided to stay collecting new birds up to midday.

On our way back, we only allocated time to explore the undergrowth looking for Wire-tailed Manakin. All the group saw it in the scope as it perched between some twigs. For most of us was a remarkable experience. We

were surprised that such a colourful bird was capable of hiding in the branches, while we were trying to photograph it.

Our afternoon session started at 3.30pm. We left the dock to cross the lake towards the Añangu river. During our crossing we spotted large, medium and small Black Caimans. Besides enjoying photographing these reptiles, our group was excited to see Hoatzin and to have it available for taking photos. We spent a few minutes looking for comfortable angles to see this bird well. Our main goal during this ride was to see the Giant Otters. Sadly, we did not find them.

Notable bird species we saw during this ride included herons such as: Cocoi Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Capped Heron and the most remarkable and rare, Zigzag Heron. This last one allowed us time to photograph it, as we were returning to the hotel. We tried our best to photograph it in the dark. Even with a flashlight birds such as this might not be so easy to spot and photograph. This is especially true for secretive rarities such as Zigzag Heron.

Now, about our target mammal, even though we scanned and asked to other canoes crossing the river for hints about the whereabouts of Giant Otter, we did not find them. Other groups entering the lake, as well as staff people from the lodge did find them briefly. We had to find them.

As we paddled we were able to witness the unusual phenomenon of the Añangu River flowing upstream. Jorge explained that when the level of the Napo River is raised, the excess water came inland along the black-water river pushing its water to the lake. The white waters were then mixing with the black waters almost half way up the Añangu and kept on coming. Based on his experience, Jorge explained that if the river was high enough the water would eventually arrive to the lake.

In the evening we had a little drizzle during dinner time, at 7.30pm. Rain was the perfect context for our meal: a very varied set of food options that the NWC staff produce from scratch.

After dinner, we finished today's list including in it good views of several bird and mammal species. Not only Monk Saki (monkey) was seen from the tower, but also Spider Monkey appeared during the canoe ride. It showed in front of us as it was balancing gracefully between trees.

Day 12

Wednesday 23rd August

Parrot Lick and Añangu Community

We planned to have a not so early start as the group was not keen on collecting every bird species but enjoying watching well and photographing colourful and easier-to-spot birds. We departed by 6am so we would be about 7.30 at the Napo River Clay Lick: "Loros".

Our paddling ride was faster this time. The white waters of the Napo River had arrived at the lake. We were able to see them mixing with the black waters at the beginning of the Añangu River. No branches or logs were visible. All the debris we saw in the previous journeys along the river were under the water. Jorge explained that he had seen the river flowing towards the lake when the Napo rises. The flow of the water towards the lake was strong. Yet, there was a point along the Añangu where the speed of the incoming water was reducing. This was

almost half way along the stream. From that point, towards the Napo, the water was still, or it felt as such when paddling.

At Loros clay lick we saw three species of Psittacids arranged on the cliff in layers. The top layer were the Duskyheaded Parakeets, the Mealy Amazons were in the middle layer, and the Blue-headed Parrots were in the lower layer. We thought it looked like a sandwich of birds.

After about half an hour watching the birds coming and going from the cliff face, we left to go to the "Pericos" clay lick. As we entered the trail we spotted an unusual organism. This was the first time that a mushroom creates a structure made with several layers, resembling a fountain. Guides who visit the forest often commented that it was something they had not seen before.

We entered the clay lick earlier than usual: about 8am. This gave us the opportunity to witness the descent of a Scarlet Macaw to the wet clay. We would see how, as the day went by, they did not descend again while people were present. Waiting at the clay lick requires patience and to be comfortable. Thanks to Fausto our paddler, we were able to have the cushions of our paddling canoe on the wooden benches we had to use at the clay lick. As suggested the night before, our group members brought books and kindles to read while there was no activity at all.

Other groups arrived from the lodge. Usually, even groups from other lodges also show up. Those groups were able to see one of the descents of the Cobalt-winged Parakeets to pick up clay water. The event lasted for about 10 minutes until something triggered their sudden departure. It is always spectacular to see them fly in between the people, under the roof. This time, two of the NWC groups decided also to have a longer stay at this observation station. We planned to have our packed lunch there. As we were eating, the Cobalt-winged Parakeets descended a second time. We stopped to take pictures again. One never gets bored of seeing this colourful creatures within such a close range.

Right after lunch we left for the centre of the community for a brief cultural visit and some souvenir shopping. The mamacunas: the female heads of the family, manage the Kuri Muyu Centre. There they present a traditional dance and invite the visitors to join in. We all participated and enjoyed a moment of amusement and laughter. Part of the visit includes, upon request, an explanation about the traditional way of living of such communities in the Tropical Rainforest on the shores of the Napo River. We closed our stay with a farewell refreshment: a glass of Guayusa tea. *Ilex guayusa* is a species of plant from the Ecuadorian Amazon slopes which has been traditionally used as a stimulant and staple drink in these territories.

Around 3pm we took the motor canoe to the Transfer Point in order to change to our paddling canoe and ride now downstream to the lake. We were then following the current of the incoming waters of the Napo River. During our way back, we were able to spot monkeys, river birds, snakes and to have a really close encounter with Giant Otters.

Day 13

Thursday 24th August

Wooden tower and afternoon along the Añangu river

The weather was pleasant as the day started with some clouds in the sky. Birds in the context of the lodge were active from early morning: Russet-backed Oropendolas were collecting nesting material for weaving the intricate bag-like structures where they lay their eggs. Yellow-rumped Caciques were weaving their nests as well. Both species were working in the same general area, next to the dock. One of the trees had both species weaving close to each other, whereas the oropendolas had a separate tree for themselves. Likewise, at the drainage of the lake to the Napo, where the Añangu river starts, we saw a separate group of Yellow-rumped Caciques perched on their communal nest.

From the tower we began spotting a group of monkeys in the distance to the north-west: Monk Saki and Spider Monkey were exploring neighboring trees. Both groups were using the same walkways and resting branches. We also saw a perch to the south-west, where Many-banded Aracari and Ivory-billed Aracari were present in close proximity to each other. In the same tree we also spotted this time Channel-billed Toucan. The proportion of the bill to the head gave it away as such.

Many-banded Aracaris explored trees close to the tower as the sky was clearing up. The sun made their plumage shine in all its splendour. White-throated Toucans were also visible, but as usual in the distance. The last species tends to perch most of the times within reach of the telescope only. Very few times I have seen them coming closer to the viewpoints.

As we were spotting Piratic Flycatcher on the eastern side of the tower, we saw two groups of monkeys approaching the staff houses. They were a large band of Squirrel Monkeys and a group of Golden-mantled Tamarins. The tamarins we had not seen so close before during the trip, so we descended from the tower to try to photograph them within closer range. At ground level, all of us had good chances to see them well and photograph them within six metres of us. One even climbed on top of a *Parkia* with one of its red inflorescences close by. It offered an unusual composition.

Back on top of the tower, we spotted raptors. Thermals were rising, and vultures and hawks were soaring on them. We spotted Black-faced Hawk and Great Black Hawk.

Under the shade, we enjoyed the temperature and the sight of Greater Yellow-headed Vultures. They were soaring within close range of the tower, so they offered good opportunities for photographing them in flight. Because of their gracious flight we closed the morning with Herbert sharing an interesting explanation about gliding and its nuances. As a birder it is exciting to day-dream of flying like the birds we like to spot.

After lunch, about 4pm, we left for the Añangu River with the plan to look again for Giant Otters and to photograph river birds at their nocturnal perches.

Along our daylight paddling we encountered again a "brown spotted ray" which I am yet to properly identify.

Day 14

Friday 25th August

Departure via Coca to Quito and flight home

We departed from the lake by 5.30am. Along the way we saw Boat-billed Heron, Rufescent Tiger Heron, and we heard Plumbeous Antbird, Silvered Antbird, Rufous-tailed Flatbill, and Rufous Attila. Unexpectedly, at a turn of the river, we found a Sungrebe perched on one of the trees.

The water in the river was lower than in previous days. Yet, we were able to go all the way along the stream without much trouble. It was interesting to notice that the vegetation changed as we were passing the limit of the lake influence in the stream. Heliconias were more frequent and trees on the shore looked taller than before on both shores. Jorge commented on the presence of higher terrain on the area inland towards the south. Also, in my experience, the hillsides started right on the Transfer Point and went south-west as rolling hills and elevated irregular terrain. Yesterday we were able to see how much the terrain west from the Headquarters' Wooden Tower looked hilly.

We arrived a few minutes before 7am to the Transfer Point. It was suggested that we made only a short stop here, because the conditions of the river could affect the transfer procedures to the motor canoes. They were not able to meet us at the Transfer Point but were waiting for us at the end of the now- visible-again banks of the Napo. Leaving in the motor canoe by 7.20, we had still to avoid the sand banks driving downstream almost to the point of the "Loros" Clay Lick.

We had to make one extra stop before departing the Añangu Territory. By 7.35, at the community we stopped just to collect some extra passengers, staff who were departing for Coca as well as the technician who was giving maintenance to the radio system. Part of the responsibilities of the management is to keep the most important tool of the operation working properly: the communications. The water in the Napo River was quite low but not as low as it was when we arrived. The sky was gloomy. Some of us took advantage of the weather and the fresh air to snooze. The early mornings were making us feel a bit tired, at this point. By 8.40 we arrived to the Repsol Access to the Huaorani Territory to collect couple extra passengers. The Añangu boats help transporting people from the nearby communities whenever it is possible. During our ride we also enjoyed a warm snack along with the option of a warm cup of coffee. Service on board of the NWC canoes has become as good as the service in many international flights, or even better.

A few minutes after 10am we arrived in Coca to refresh and prepare for our departure flight to Quito and onward flights.

Day 15

Saturday 26th thAugust

Arrival in the UK.

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Tour Report Ecuador's Mammals

Species Lists

Mammals (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

								Aug	gust					
	Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth	Choloepus didactylus										1		
2	Golden-mantled Tamarin	Saguinus tripartitus										3		10
3	White-fronted Capuchin (?)	Cebus albifrons											10	
4	Common Squirrel Monkey	Saimiri sciureus macrodon									60	50	50	80
5	Monk Saki	Pithecia monachus										1		4
6	Venezuelan Red Howler	Alouatta seniculus										2	3	3
7	White-fronted Spider Monkey	Ateles belzebuth										8		4
8	Brown Woolly Monkey	Lagothrix poeppigii									6	1		
9	Red-tailed Squirrel	Sciurus granatensis								3				
10	Tapeti (Forest Rabbit)	Sylvilagus brasiliensis				2	1	1						
11	Culpeo (Paramo Fox)	Lycalopex culpaeus					1F							
12	Spectacled Bear	Tremarctos ornatus				1	2							
13	Giant Otter	Pteronura brasiliensis											6	4
14	Tayra	Eira barbara										3		
15	Olinguito	Bassaricyon neblina		1										
16	White-tailed Deer	Odocoileus virginianus antizanensis					1F							
17	(Long-nosed) Proboscis Bat	Rhynchonycteris naso										6	4	
18	Greater Bulldog (Fishing) Bat	Noctilio leporinus												20
19	"Short-eared Opossum"			1										
20	"Skunk"					1								

Birds (H = heard only, M = Male; F= Female; J = Juvenile; LO = Leader Only)

1	Great Tinamou	Tinamus major						Н		
2	Undulated Tinamou	Crypturellus undulatus						Н	Н	Н
3	Silvery Grebe	Podiceps occipitalis				1				
4	Andean Teal	Anas andium		2	6	4				
5	Yellow-billed Pintail	Anas georgica spinicauda		5	3					
6	Torrent Duck	Merganetta armata					2			

								Aug	gust					
	Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
7	Andean Duck	Oxyura ferruginea					2							
8	Cocoi Heron	Ardea cocoi									1		1	
9	Great Egret	Ardea alba									6		4	
10	Snowy Egret	Egretta thula											1	
11	Striated Heron	Butorides striatus										2		
12	Agami Heron	Agamia agami											1	
13	Capped Heron	Pilherodius pileatus										1	1	
14	Western Cattle Egret	Bulbulcus ibis			12									
15	Boat-billed Heron	Cochlearius cochlearius									1	2		1
16	Rufescent Tiger Heron	Tigrisoma lineatum										1	1	1
17	Zig-zag Heron	Zebrilus undulatus										1		
18	Andean Condor	Vultur gryphus				1			2					
19	King Vulture	Sarcoramphus papa										1		1
20	Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus	1	6	1						40		30	
21	Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	2	3	2			1?		2				
22	Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	Cathartes melambrotus										2	2	3
23	Hook-billed Kite	Chondrohierax uncinatus										1		
24	Swallow-tailed Kite	Elanoides forficatus												1
25	Slender-billed Kite	Rostrhamus hamatus										1		
26	Double-toothed Kite	Harpagus bidentatus												1
27	Crane Hawk	Geranospiza caerulescens										1		
28	Black-faced Hawk	Leucopternis melanops												1
29	White Hawk	Leucopternis albicollins										1		
30	Black-chested Buzard-Eagle	Geranoaetus melanoleucus							4					
31	Great Black Hawk	Buteogallus urubitinga												1
32	Roadside Hawk	Buteo magnirostris			2						3			1
33	Variable (Puna) Hawk	Buteo polyosoma			1	3	2	3	4					
34	Black Caracara	Daptrius ater									3			
35	Red-throated Caracara	Ibycter americanus									2			
36	Carunculated Caracara	Phalcoboenus carunculatus				3		2						
37	American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	1M		1M	1M								
38	Bat Falcon	Falco rufigularis										2		

								Aug	gust					
(Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
39 5	Speckled Chachalaca	Ortalis guttata											Н	1
40 A	Andean Guan	Penelope montagnii	Н							Н				
41 E	Blue-throated Piping Guan	Pipile cumanensis										Н		
42 V	Wattled Guan	Aburria aburri	Н		Н									
43 5	Sickle-winged Guan	Chamaepetes goudotii		1										
44 (Crested guan	Penelope purpurascens			1									
45 E	Dark-backed Wood Quail	Odontophorus melanonotus			3									
46 A	Andean Coot	Focha andina			3									
47 5	Sungrebe	Heliornis fulica										1	1F	2
48 C	Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa melanoleuca			1									
49 L	Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes			2									
50 E	Baird's Sandpiper	Calidris bairdii			4									
51 5	Southern Lapwing	Vanellus chilensis							1					
52 A	Andean Lapwing	Vanellus resplendens				Н								
53 A	Andean Gull	Larus serranus				4	1							
54 Y	Yellow-billed Tern	Sterna superciliaris										1		
55 L	Large-billed Tern	Phaetusa simplex									2			
56 F	Pale-vented Pigeon	Columba cayennensis										3		
57 F	Ruddy Pigeon	Columba subvinacea	1	1								1		
58 F	Plumbeous Pigeon	Columba plumbea											Н	Н
59 E	Eared Dove	Zenaida auriculata	20		10									
60 E	Blue and Yellow Macaw	Ara ararauna									6	4	4	
61 5	Scarlet Macaw	Ara macao										10	2	
62 F	Red-and-green Macaw	Ara chloropterus												3
63 C	Chestnut-fronted Macaw	Ara severa									4			
64 F	Red-bellied Macaw	Orthopsittaca manilata									8			6
65 E	Dusky-headed Parakeet	Aratinga weddellii											90	
	Cobalt-winged Parakeet	Brotogeris cyanoptera									Н	3	150	8
	Black-headed Parrot	Pionites melanocephala										3		
68 E	Blue-headed Parrot	Pionus menstruus										6	60	
69 F	Red-billed Parrot	Pionus sordidus		2	2				12	Н				
	Bronze-winged Parrot	Pionus chalcopterus			LO									

								Aug	gust					
	Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
71	Yellow-crowned Amazon	Amazona ochrocephala										Н		
72	Orange-winged Amazon	Amazona amazonica										8		
73	Mealy Amazon	Amazona farinosa										12	60	
74	Squirrel Cuckoo	Piaya cayana										1	1	
75	Little Cuckoo	Piaya minuta									1			
76	Greater Ani	Crotophaga major									8	8	4	6
77	Smooth-billed Ani	Crotophaga ani										2	1	2
78	Hoatzin	Opisthocomus hoazin									12	12	18	12
79	Tropical Screech-Owl	Megascops choliba												Н
80	San Isidro "Mystery" Owl	Ciccaba spp.								2				
81	Great Potoo	Nyctibius grandis										1		
82	Rufous-bellied Nighthawk	Lurocalis rufiventris			2									
83	Short-tailed Nighthawk	Lurocalis semitorquarus			1									
84	Pauraque	Nyctidromus albicollis											Н	
85	Lyre-tailed Nightjar	Uropsalis lyra			1F									
86	White-collared Swift	Streptoprocne zonaris	20					4						
87	Chestnut-collared Swift	Cypseloides rutilus											1	
88	Short-tailed Swift	Chaetura brachyura										2	2	
89	Neotropical Palm Swift	Tachornis squamata										10	1	
90	Rufous-breasted Hermit	Glaucis hirsuta									1	2		
91	White-whiskered Hermit	Phaethornis yaruqui	1											
92	Tawny-bellied Hermit	Phaethornis syrmatophorus	1											
93	Great-billed Hermit	Phaethornis malaris											5	
94	Wedge-billed Hummingbird	Schistes geoffroyi	1							1JF				
95	White-necked Jacobin	Florisuga mellivora	4	1F										
96	Brown Violetear	Colibri delphinae	3											
97	Lesser (Mountain) Violetear	Colibri cyanotus	2	1						1				
98	Sparkling Violetear	Colibri coruscans	12	1										
99	Violet-headed Hummingbird	Klais guimeti									2			
100	Western Emerald	Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus	1F											
101	Fork-tailed Woodnymph	Thalurania furcata									3			
102	Green-crowned Woodnymph	Thalurania fannyi	6											

								Aug	gust					
	Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
103	Golden-tailed Sapphire	Chrysuronia oenone									1			
104	Andean Emerald	Amazilia franciae	5		1									
105	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	Amazilia tzacatl	8	1	1									
106	Bronzy Inca	Coeligena coeligena								2				
107	Speckled Hummingbird	Adelomyia melanogenys	5	3					1	4				
108	Purple-bibbed Whitetip	Urosticte benjamini	2	1F	1F									
109	Empress Brilliant	Heliodoxa imperatrix		1M	1J									
110	Black-throated Brilliant	Heliodoxa schreibersii									1			
111	Fawn-breasted Brilliant	Heliodoxa rubinoides	5	4	2					2	1			
112	Green-crowned Brilliant	Heliodoxa jacula	8											
113	Ecuadorian Hillstar	Oreotrochilus chimborazo			1	2M								
114	White-tailed Hillstar	Urochroa bougueri									2			
115	Giant Hummingbird	Patagona gigas	1M			1								
116	Shining Sunbeam	Aglaeactis cupripennis					1M	3						
117	Great Sapphirewing	Pterophanes cyanopterus			1F			1						
118	Brown Inca	Coeligena wilsoni		1	1									
119	Collared Inca	Coeligena torquata	2	1M	1M		1M	1M	1M	2M				
120	Buff-winged Starfrontlet	Coeligena lutetiae							1M					
121	Sword-billed Hummingbird	Ensifera ensifera					1M	1M						
122	Buff-tailed Coronet	Boissonneaua flavescens	6	7	1									
123	Chestnut-breasted Coronet	B. matthewsii					2		1	8				
124	Velvet-purple Coronet	Boissonneaua jardini		3	2									
125	Gorgeted Sunangel	Heliangelus strophianus	1M	1M										
126	Tourmaline Sunangel	Heliangelus exortis					1M	2	1M					
127	Blue-mantled Thornbill	Chalcostigma stanleyi					1	1						
128	White-booted Racket-tail	Ocreatus underwoodii	3	1F	1F									
129	Black-tailed Trainbearer	Lesbia victoriae	1M			1M								
130	Viridian Metaltail	Metallura williami						1M	1F					
131	Tyrian Metaltail	Metallura tyrianthina	LO				1M	1M						
132	Long-tailed Sylph	Aglaiocercus kingi				1M	1M	1M		3M				
133	Violet-tailed Sylph	Aglaiocercus coelestis		2M										
134	Purple-throated Woodstar	Calliphox mitchellii	12	4	4									

								Auç	gust					
(Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
135	White-bellied Woodstar	Acestrura mulsant					1M	1M	1M					
136	Gorgeted Woodstar	Chaetocercus heliodor								2				
137	Golden-headed Quetzal	Pharomachrus uriceps		2	1M									
138	Crested Quetzal	Pharomachrus antisianus		LO										
139 I	Black-tailed Trogon	Trogon melanurus										Н		
140 I	Masked Trogon	Trogon personatus		1M	1M				1M	1M				
141	Ringed Kingfisher	Megaceryle torquata									1	1	1	1
142	Green and Rufous Kingfisher	Chloroceryle inda									1	1	1	1
143	American Pygmy Kingfisher	Chloroceryle aenea									3	1	1	6
144 I	Blue-crowned Motmot	Momotus momota									Н	Н		
145	White-chinned Jacamar	Galbula tombacea									1			
146	White-necked Puf1ird	Notharchus macrorhynchos										2		
147 I	Black-fronted Nunbird	Monasa nigrifrons												1
148	White-fronted Nunbird	Monasa morphoeus										2		
149	Gilded Barbet	Capito auratus										2		
150	Toucan Barbet	Semnornis rampastinus		Н	4									
151	Crimson-rumped Toucanet	Aulacorhynchus haematopygus			1									
152	Chestnut-eared Aracari	Pteroglossus castanotis										1		
153 I	Many-banded Aracari	Pteroglossus pluricinctus									2	8	1	10
154	Ivory-billed Aracari	Pteroglossus azara												2
155	Plate-billed Mountain Toucan	Andigena laminirostris	Н	1										
156	Channel-billed Toucan	Ramphastos vitellinus												2
157	White-throated Toucan	Ramphastos tucanus									Н	6	Н	4
158	Crimson-mantled Woodpecker	Piculus rivolii			LO									
159 I	Lineated Woodpecker	Dryocopus lineatus			1M									
160	Crimson-crested Woodpecker	Campephilus melanoleucos										1F		
161	Ringed Woodpecker	Celeus torquatus												1
	Stout-billed Cinclodes	Cinclodes excelsior					2	4						
163 I	Bar-winged Cinclodes	Cinclodes fuscus				3	4	4						
	Pacific (Pale-legged) Hornero	Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus	Н											
	Andean Tit-Spinetail	Leptasthenura andicola				1	2	1						
	White-chinned Thistletail	Schizoeaca fuliginosa	LO		Н			3						

								Aug	gust					
	Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
167	Azara's Spinetail	Synallaxis azarae							Н					
168	Many-striped Canastero	Asthenes flammulata					2	4	Н					
169	Pearled Treerunner	Margarornis squamiger						2						
170	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	Dendrocincla fuliginosa									1			
171	Strong-billed Woodcreeper	Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus			1									
172	Striped Woodcreeper	Xiphorhynchus obsoletus										1		1
173	Buff-throated Woodcreeper	Xiphorhynchus guttatus									1			
174	Montane Woodcreeper	Lepidocolaptes lachrymiger	1	2	1					2	1			
175	Striped Treehunter	Thripadectes holostictus		1										
176	Amazonian Streaked Antwren	Myrmotherula multostriata												1M
177	Dot-winged Antwren	Microrhopias quixensis										2		1
178	Silvered Antbird	Sclateria naevia									2	2	2	2
179	Plumbeous Antbird	Myrmeciza hyperythra									Н			
180	Giant Antpitta	Grallaria gigantea			1									
181	Moustached Antpitta	Grallaria alleni			1									
182	Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	Grallaria ruficapilla	Н	Н	1			1						
183	Yellow-breasted Antpitta	Grallaria flavotincta			1									
184	White-bellied Antpitta	Grallaria hypoleuca								Н				
185	Tawny Antpitta	Grallaria quitensis				4	4	Н	2					
186	Narino Tapaculo	Scytalopus vicinior	Н											
187	Spillmann's Tapaculo	Scytalopus spillmannii		Н										
188	Golden-faced Tyrannulet	Zimmerius viridiflavus										1		
189	White-crested Elaenia	Elaenia albiceps	1											
190	White-throated Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus leucophrys						8	1					
191	White-tailed Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus poecilocercus		1										
192	Torrent Tyrannulet	Serpophaga cinerea	4						4					
193	Tufted Tit-tyrant	Anairetes parulus				2								
194	Agile Tit-Tyrant	Uromyias agilis						1						
195	Streak-necked Flycatcher	Mionectes striaticollis		LO										
196	Olive-striped Flycatcher	Mionectes olivaceus								1				
197	Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher	Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum										1		
198	Cinnamon Flycatcher	Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea	1	3				1		1				

								Auç	gust					
	Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
199	Ornate Flycatcher	Myiotriccus ornatus	2											
200	Smoke-coloured Pewee	Contopus fumigatus	1							1				
201	Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans	2		2				2					
202	Vermillion Flycatcher	Pyrocephalus rubinus	3											
203	Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	Ochthoeca fumicolor						6	6					
204	Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	Ochthoeca rufipectoralis						1						
205	Drab Water Tyrant	Ochthornis littoralis											1	
206	Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	Agriornis montana				LO								
207	Paramo Ground Tyrant	Muscisaxicola alpina					6							
208	Cinnamon Attila	Attila cinnamomeus									Н		Н	
209	Short-crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus ferox												1
210	Great Kiskadee	Pitangus sulphuratus									1	2	2	1
211	Lesser Kiskadee	Pitangus lictor									2	4	1	4
212	Boat-billed Flycatcher	Megarhynchus pitangua												2
213	Social Flycatcher	Myiozetetes similis										1		2
214	Golden-crowned Flycatcher	Myiodynastes chrysocephalus		1	1						1			
215	Piratic Flycatcher	Legatus leucophaius												1
216	Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus										1		1
217	Tropical Kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus	1								10			
218	Cliff Flycatcher	Hirundinea ferruginea									3			
219	Red-crested Cotinga	Ampelion rubrocristatus						2						
220	Green-and-black Fruiteater	Pipreola riefferii		1F	1F									
221	Spangled Cotinga	Cotinga cayana										1		1
222	Bare-necked Fruitcrow	Gymnoderus foetidus										2		13
223	Andean Cock-of-the-rock	Rupicola peruviana			11									
224	Wire-tailed Manakin	Pipra filicauda										1M		
225	Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin	Tyranneutes stolzmanni										Н		
226	Turquoise Jay	Cyanolyca turcosa		2		1	1	7	2					
227	Violaceous Jay	Cyanocorax violaceus									Н		1	
228	Inca Jay	Cyanocorax yncas							LO	15	2			
229	Brown-capped Vireo	Vireo leucophrys		1										
230	Great Thrush	Turdus fuscater	15		1	10	15	15	10	2				

							Aug	gust					
Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
231 Glossy-black Thrush	Turdus serranus								1M				
232 Lawrence's Thrush	Turdus lawrecii									Н	Н		
233 Ecuadorian Thrush	Turdus maculirostris		1										
234 White-capped Dipper	Cinclus leucocephalus	2		1				2					
235 Tropical Mockingbird	Mimus gilvus	1											
236 Brown-chested Martin	Progne tapera										2	1	1
237 Gray-breasted Martin	Progne chalybea										4	10	4
238 White-winged Swallow	Tachycineta albiventer									2	2		
239 Brown-bellied Swallow	Notiochelidon murina			6	20	20	20	10					
240 Blue and White Swallow	Notiochelidon cyanoleuca					1		1		10		2	
241 Southern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx ruficollis	LO											
242 Black-capped Donacobius	Donacabius atricapillus									4	3		4
243 Grass Wren	Cistothorus platensis				LO	1	LO						
244 Plain-tailed Wren	Thryothorus euophrys	Н	Н				Н						
245 Southern House Wren	Troglodytes musculus	1								Н	1		1
246 Mountain Wren	Troglodytes solstitialis							1					
247 Grey-breasted Wood Wren	Henicorhina leucophrys		1	Н					Н				
248 Slate-throated Whitestart	Myioborus miniatus		2										
249 Spectacled Whitestart	Myioborus melanocephalus	LO					4	6					
250 Three-striped Warbler	Basileuterus tristriatus		1										
251 Russet-crowned Warbler	Basileuterus coronatus		2			1			Н				
252 Bananaquit	Coereba flaveola	1											
253 Golden-rumped Euphonia	Eufonia cyanocephala	4M											
254 Orange-bellied Euphonia	Euphonia xanthogaster	2	1M	1M									
255 Thick-billed Euphonia	Euphonia laniirostris	2	2									1?	
256 Blue-backed Conebill	Conirostrum sitticolor						2						
257 Giant Conebill	Oreomanes fraseri			Н				LO					
258 Glossy Flowerpiercer	Diglossa lafresnayii					2	4						
259 White-sided Flowerpiercer	Diglossa albilatera	LO											
260 Purple Honeycreeper	Cyanerpes caeruleus										1		
261 Opal-crowned Tanager	Tangara callophrys										1		
262 Golden Tanager	Tangara arthus		5										

							Aug	gust					
Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
263 Golden-naped Tanager	Tangara rufivertex		1	2									
264 Scrub Tanager	Tangara vitriolina	8											
265 Scarlet-bellied Mountain T	Fanager Anisognathus ignive	ntris			1	2							
266 Lacrimose Mountain Tana	ager Anisognathus lacrym	าดรบร				1							
267 Blue-winged Mountain Ta	nager Anisognathus sompt	uosus	1	3									
268 Black-chested Mountain T	Fanager Buthraupis eximia					2							
269 Masked Mountain Tanage	er Buthraupis wetmore	t				1							
270 Blue-grey Tanager	Thraupis episcopus	5	1	2						3	2		4
271 Palm Tanager	Thraupis palmarum		LO	2									2
272 Blue-and-yellow Tanager	Thraupis bonariensis	1M,											
273 Masked Crimson Tanager	r Ramphocelus nigrog	gularis									3	2	
274 Lemon-rumped Tanager	Ramphocelus icteroi	notus 3	3										
275 White-lined Tanager	Tachyphonus rufus	1M	1M										
276 Grey-headed Tanager	Eucometis penicillata	a								LO			LO
277 Grey-hooded Bush Tanag	ger Cnemoscopus rubri	rostris					4	4					
278 Black-backed Bush Tanag	ger <i>Urothraupis stolzmai</i>	nni					LO						
279 Buff-throated Saltator	Saltator maximus	1											
280 Red-capped Cardinal	Paroaria gularis												1
281 Golden-bellied (S.Yellow)	Grosbeak Pheucticus chrysoga	aster 2											
282 Yellow-bellied Seedeater	Sporophila nigricollis	3	LO										
283 Plain-colored Seedeater	Catamenia inornata				1M								
284 Saffron Finch	Sicalis flaveola	4											
285 Plumbeous Sierra Finch	Phrygilus unicolor				3		2M						
286 Pale-naped Brushfinch	Atlapetes pallidinuch	nq					4						
287 Tricolored Brushfinch	Atlapetes tricolor	1											
288 Chestnut-capped Brushfir	nch Buarremon brunnein	nucha	LO	2									
289 Rufous-collared Sparrow	Zonotrichia capensis	12	2	4			1	1	10	4			
290 Shiny Cowbird	Molothrus bonariens	is 1M											
291 Casqued Oropendola	Psarocolius oseryi										1		
292 Crested Oropendola	Psarocolius decuma	nus									2	1	Н
293 Green Oropendola	Psarocolius viridis										1		
294 Russet-backed Oropendo	ola Psarocolius angustifi	rons							1	10	20	20	30

								Aug	gust					
	Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
295	Yellow-rumped Cacique	Cacicus cela									12	20	12	20
296	Subtropical Cacique	Cacicus uropygialis								4	1			
297	Scarlet-rumped Cacique	Cacicus microrhynchus										1		
298	Moriche Oriole	Icterus chrysocephalus										1		
299	Orange-backed Troupial	Icterus croconotus											Н	
300	Hooded Siskin	Carduelis magellanica	LO								1			

Other Taxa

1	Black Caiman	Melanosuchus niger					3		8
2	Yellow-spotted River Turtle	Podocnemis unifilis							6
3	Yellow Anaconda	Eunectes notaeus					1	1	1
4	Chonta snake	Coluberidae					1		1
5	Sweet-water spotted ray	cf Potamotrygonidae					1		1

Notable Plant Species

1	Columnea sp (Gesneriaceae)	✓		✓		
2	Kohleria sp (Gesneriaceae)			✓		
3	Heliconia sp. (Heliconiaceae)	✓				
4	Cecropia sp. (Urticaceae)	✓				
5	Bomarea multiflora (Alstroemeriaceae)	✓		✓		
6	Fuchsia silvatica (Onagraceae)	✓		✓		
7	Nassa aequatorialis (Loasaceae)	✓				
8	Monnina sp (Polygalaceae)	✓				
9	Cavendishia bracteata (Ericaceae)		✓			
10	Puya hamatta (Bromeliaceae)		✓	✓		
11	Oreopanax sp (Araliaceae)			✓		
12	Dicksonia			✓		
13	Cyathea			✓		
14	Phylodendron			✓		
15	Caucaea so (Orchidaceae)			✓		
16	Cranichis sp (Orchidaceae)			✓		
17	Vasconcella (Caryophyllaceae)			✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	August											
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
18		Solanum sp (Tree green-fruit)							✓					
19		Gallium sp (Rubiaceae)							✓					
20		Raspberry (Rosaceae)							✓					
21		Pleurothallis sp1 (Orchidaceae)							✓					
22		Pleurothallis sp2 (Orchidaceae)							✓					
23		Tillandsia complanata (Bromeliaceae)							✓					
24		Rascinaea sp1 (Bromeliaceae)							✓					
25		Guzmania sp2 (Bromeliaceae)							✓					
26		Alnus accuminata (Betulaceae)							✓					
27		Selaginella sp		✓					✓					
28		Tristerix longebracteatus (orange)					✓	✓						
29		Brugmansia sanguinea (Solanaceae)					✓	✓	✓					
30		Cecropia cf andina		✓	✓									
31		Opuntia ficus-indica	✓											
32		Acacia macracantha	✓											
33		Croton sp			✓									
34		Abutilon sp		✓										
35		Tillandsia recurvata	✓											

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