

**AMAZONIAN ECUADOR: SACHA LODGE**

Jan 14, 2011 to Jan 23, 2011  
Jay VanderGaast



*Clay licks are found throughout the Amazon basin; parrots gather at these sites to ingest the clay, neutralizing the natural toxins that are found in their diets. This lick along the Napo was swarming with a multitude of Mealy, Yellow-crowned, and Blue-headed parrots, along with a few Dusky-headed Parakeets. (Photo by guide Jay VanderGaast)*

I can't think of a better way to kick off the new year than with a birding trip to some nice warm tropical destination, and Sacha Lodge certainly fits the bill. It certainly wasn't difficult to get into the rhythm of things there: early morning wake-up, long mornings of birding, an afternoon siesta or refreshing dip in the cocha, late afternoon canoe ride through the varzea forest, then back for a shower, dinner and a couple of caipirinhas before starting it all over the next day. And with it hovering around the -20 C mark here at home as I write this, I could sure go for some of that now!

One thing I enjoy about the Amazon basin at this time of year is the presence of some familiar birds from home, which I think usually catches folks off guard. Who expects to get here and see Bank Swallows, Blackpoll Warblers, Eastern Kingbirds and Eastern Wood Pewees, and Scarlet Tanagers? I always enjoy seeing this other side to their lives; in reality, they probably spend more time down here than they do up north with us, so it shouldn't be that surprising to run into them here, but it often seems to be.

But the real reason most of you come down here is for those bright, flashy, tropical birds that don't bother to come up to visit us. We're talking the parrots, trogons, toucans, cotingas, tanagers, and the like, and Sacha is a great place to see a bunch of them. The parrot clay licks along the Napo are always a highlight, and though the interior one was devoid of birds, the one right next to the river was a swarm with Mealy, Yellow-crowned, and Blue-headed parrots and Dusky-headed Parakeets. And the towers gave us access to many of the other "glitter" birds. From these lofty perches we enjoyed fantastic looks at birds like Ivory-billed Aracaris, Golden-collared Toucanets, Spangled and Plum-throated cotingas, and some of the most spectacular tanagers imaginable: Opal-rumped, Opal-crowned, Masked, Green-and-gold, and the incomparable Paradise.

Inside the forest, where birding is always tougher, there were also many prizes to find. Here we had great encounters with a great variety of birds: a calling Barred Forest-Falcon perched right out in a sunny clearing; stunning Golden-headed and Striped manakins at Añangu; an amazingly cooperative Chestnut-headed Crake, also at Añangu; a rare Ash-throated Gnateater at Providencia, and an odd little Musician Wren giving us a rendition of its incredible song. And canoeing along the beautiful Orquidea and Anaconda creeks offered up a bunch of super varzea specialties: a calling Zigzag Heron perched a few meters over our heads, probably the most elusive and sought-after heron in the Americas; a wonderful pair of White-chinned Jacamars sitting side by side on a looping liana; a striking little male Dot-backed Antbird singing his heart out from an open perch. And let's not leave out that last afternoon's sighting of a sleek and elegant Agami Heron!

These are just a few of the highlight birds I can think of off the top of my head; I'm sure that each and every one of you

can come up with a bunch more that stood out for you. That's the beauty of the place, there is just so much to see and experience that even a week there only just scratches the surface.

In any case, it was a great time, and I had a lot of fun with all of you. Seeing a load of great birds and mammals (and herps!) with a great bunch of people, and having some laughs along the way... what a great way to spend a week. I'm never going to be able to think of Lined Forest-Falcon again without picturing a poor sightless raptor banging into tree after tree as it tries to fly through the forest, and when I really do see a (cute little) baby Hoatzin, you guys will definitely be on my mind. Thanks for the good times, and I hope to see you all again soon!

--Jay

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## 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

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## BIRDS

### Tinamidae (Tinamous)

**GREAT TINAMOU** (*Tinamus major*) [\*]

**CINEREOUS TINAMOU** (*Crypturellus cinereus*) [\*]

**LITTLE TINAMOU** (*Crypturellus soui*) [\*]

**UNDULATED TINAMOU** (*Crypturellus undulatus*) [\*]

**VARIEGATED TINAMOU** (*Crypturellus variegatus*) – We heard plenty of tinamous daily, but the only one we saw was an individual of this species that we flushed from beside the trail in the terra firme forest at Providencia. It wasn't a great look, but it's the best view I've ever had of this bird!

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

**SPECKLED CHACHALACA** (*Ortalis guttata*) – Noisy and numerous along the main boardwalk and the river.

**SPIX'S GUAN** (*Penelope jacquacu*) – Seen twice along the boardwalk. First we had good looks at a lone bird in a Cecropia tree shortly after we'd seen our first chachalacas, which emphasized the size difference between the two species though their plumage is quite similar. A few days later we came across a pair in very nearly the same spot.

### Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

**MARbled WOOD-QUAIL** (*Odontophorus gujanensis*) – Oscar amazed us by spotting a pair of these birds roosting about 20 feet off the ground along Liana Chica, in the gathering dusk, though they hadn't made a sound to alert us to their presence. The fact that they'd used the same roost previously only made it a tiny bit less amazing, as they were still pretty tough to see until we spotlighted them.

### Anhingidae (Anhingas)

**ANHINGA** (*Anhinga anhinga*) – A male was seen on perched beside the cocha on a couple of days.

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

**ZIGZAG HERON** (*Zebirus undulatus*) – My expectations were low as on several previous visits, I hadn't had any luck seeing this enigmatic small heron. But they were smashed when we succeeded to call one in along the Anaconda Stream and got super views as it perched nearby and began to call! One of favorite birds of the trip.

**COCOI HERON** (*Ardea cocoi*) – A few sightings of this beautiful heron along the Napo, with a high count of three on our way down to the clay licks.

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*) – Good numbers along the Napo.

**SNOWY EGRET** (*Egretta thula*) – Quite a few along the Napo as well.

**CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Our lone sighting was of a single bird perched in a tree along the Napo as we traveled from Coca to Sacha.

**STRIATED HERON** (*Butorides striata*) – A couple of folks saw one scurry off from the bank of the Shipati Creek, and one was also seen along the Napo en route back to Coca.

**AGAMI HERON** (*Agamia agami*) – Fantastic close views of one of these gorgeous herons on our last afternoon along the Orquidea Stream.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – A couple of birds were roosting in a palm tree on the margin of the cocha.

**BOAT-BILLED HERON** (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) – Nice looks at a couple of these bizarre nocturnal herons as they looked down at us from their day roost in a tall palm above the Orquidea Stream.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*) – In good numbers daily.

**TURKEY VULTURE** (*Cathartes aura*) – Four or five brown-headed subadults were seen perched on some driftwood along the Napo on our way back up to Coca.

**GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE** (*Cathartes melambrotus*) – Seems to replace the Turkey Vulture in much of Amazonia. We saw a few of these on most days.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*) – We saw single birds on each of the 5 days we boated on the Napo. [b]

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

**GRAY-HEADED KITE** (*Leptodon cayanensis*) – One adult was scoped from the wooden tower. It was a long way off, but definitely recognizable through the scope.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** (*Elanoides forficatus*) – Much scarcer this time of year than in the wet season, and we only saw two of them. The first was from the metal towers but was a long way off, while the second was seen at close range on the banks of the Napo. Much to Ronna's dismay, this second bird, though admittedly spectacular, was carrying an unfortunate lizard in its talons.

**PEARL KITE** (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*) – Several of us saw one of these small raptors as it flew along the river's edge during the ride in from Coca.

**SLENDER-BILLED KITE** (*Helicolestes hamatus*) – This snail-eating specialist was fairly common, and we had some excellent views of perched birds along the boardwalk and Anaconda Stream.

**DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE** (*Harpagus bidentatus*) – A pair was at their usual hangout at the metal towers, even perching on the walkway cables on our first morning there.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) – We weren't certain, but a distant raptor we scoped from the metal tower sure looked like this species, which is rare in the Amazon lowlands.

**PLUMBEOUS KITE** (*Ictinia plumbea*) – The few we saw were all a loooooong way off.

**CRANE HAWK** (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) – A pair were spotted shortly after we first got up on the metal towers, but we weren't sure what they were as it was too foggy to make out details. Once the fog cleared, however, we got super views of these slender hawks.

**SLATE-COLORED HAWK** (*Leucopternis schistaceus*) – Best seen was one perched inside the forest along the Providencia trail, but it didn't stick around for long.

**ROADSIDE HAWK** (*Buteo magnirostris*) – Unusually scarce; we saw only a couple along the Napo.

**SHORT-TAILED HAWK** (*Buteo brachyurus*) – An unusual looking raptor we scoped from the wooden tower was likely a subadult of this species, but neither Oscar nor I had ever seen one in this plumage before.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE HAWK-EAGLE** (*Spizaetus melanoleucus*) – A distant soaring bird seen from the wooden tower was seen through the scope by everyone.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

**BARRED FOREST-FALCON** (*Micrastur ruficollis*) – We had incredible views of one of these shy forest interior falcons. After a couple of poor, partial views from above as we were on the metal tower, we called one in from the lower platform of one of the towers. It flew in and landed on a low perch fully out in the open where it sat and called for a couple of minutes as we snapped dozens of pictures!

**LINED FOREST-FALCON** (*Micrastur gilvicollis*) – One "blind" forest-falcon was heard in the early morning as we walked to the metal towers, but we didn't see it. Maybe we were the blind ones? [\*]

**BLACK CARACARA** (*Daptrius ater*) – Fairly common along the Napo, and also seen regularly from the towers.

**RED-THROATED CARACARA** (*Ibtycter americanus*) – Mainly heard, though a couple flew past the metal towers at quite a distance from us.

**YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA** (*Milvago chimachima*) – Several along the Napo, one being harassed by an Eastern Kingbird, another having its carrion confiscated by an officious Black Vulture. It's not easy being a Yellow-headed



*This male Purple-throated Fruitcrow was one of four fruitcrows aggressively defending their nesting tree next to the wooden tower. I understood them chasing off the aracarís, but the Barred-Woodcreeper???* (Photo by guide Jay VanderGaast)



Caracara, it seems.

**LAUGHING FALCON** (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – We heard one chuckling a few times near the lodge, and had a great look at presumably the same bird along the boardwalk.

**BAT FALCON** (*Falco ruficularis*) – One flew directly overhead as we birded on the second of the river islands we visited.

*Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)*

**GRAY-BREASTED CRAKE** (*Laterallus exilis*) – An incredibly responsive and aggressive pair on one of the river islands. I think there are beak marks on my speaker!

**GRAY-NECKED WOOD-RAIL** (*Aramides cajanea*) [\*]

**CHESTNUT-HEADED CRAKE** (*Anurolimnas castaneiceps*) – Usually a shy and hard to see bird but one bird has been pretty reliable at Anangu and it came through for us again, showing beautifully as it strolled in the open in front of us.

**BLACK-BANDED CRAKE** (*Anurolimnas fasciatus*) [\*]

*Aramidae (Limpkin)*

**LIMPKIN** (*Aramus guarauna*) – Oscar picked out one sitting in a Cecropia tree near the cocha, though we were up the wooden tower at the time!

*Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)*

**PIED LAPWING** (*Vanellus cayanus*) – It'd been a long time since I'd seen this lovely shorebird along the Napo, so it was great to see them again. We had excellent looks at a pair on our way to the parrot licks, then saw another 5 on the way back to Coca.

**COLLARED PLOVER** (*Charadrius collaris*) – Three birds were with a bunch of Least Sandpipers on the first river island we stopped at.

*Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)*

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (*Actitis macularius*) – Not uncommon along the Napo. [b]

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – A handful were seen along the Napo. [b]

**LEAST SANDPIPER** (*Calidris minutilla*) – One small flock with the three Collared Plovers on river island #1. [b]

*Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)*

**LAUGHING GULL** (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – A couple of winter-plumaged birds along the Napo en route back to Coca were a bit of a surprise, as they are rather rare in the eastern lowlands.

**LARGE-BILLED TERN** (*Phaetusa simplex*) – Our only one was identifiable, though it would have been nice if it had been closer.

*Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)*

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*) [I]

**PALE-VENTED PIGEON** (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – The most often seen pigeon, as it was common around the cocha and along the Napo.

**PLUMBEOUS PIGEON** (*Patagioenas plumbea*) – Heard regularly, and finally seen on our last morning up on the metal towers.

**RUDDY PIGEON** (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) – Also heard often, though we saw this species more than the Plumbeous, starting with a pair in a fruiting tree at the start of the Anangu trail.

**EARED DOVE** (*Zenaida auriculata*) – Seen in Quito only.

**RUDDY GROUND-DOVE** (*Columbina talpacoti*) – A pair on the second river island we visited were the only ones for the trip.

**BLUE GROUND-DOVE** (*Claravis pretiosa*) – Ruth, Mary, Susan and I saw a pair next to Mary's cabin just before lunch one day. Not often seen locally, and these may have been the first ones I've seen here.

**GRAY-FRONTED DOVE** (*Leptotila rufaxilla*) – Good views of a couple along the riverside trail as we tried to find the large tegu Oscar had spotted.

**RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE** (*Geotrygon montana*) – Nobody really saw this bird besides Oscar and myself, though several heard the wing whirr as it flew off the waist-high nest alongside the Providencia trail, and we all saw the two eggs. Can you



*After dodging us for a while, this Barred Forest-Falcon obligingly sat out in a sunlit clearing and began to call. (Photo by guide Jay VanderGaast)*

count eggs on your bird list? [N]

### Psittacidae (Parrots)

**MAROON-TAILED PARAKEET** (*Pyrrhura melanura*) –

Our lone view was fleeting, as a pair raced by below us as we birded from the metal tower.

**WHITE-EYED PARAKEET** (*Aratinga leucophthalma*) – Just a pair of these were seen too, flying out across the Napo as we returned from the clay licks.

**DUSKY-HEADED PARAKEET** (*Aratinga weddellii*) – Nice views of these a group of these small parakeets at the riverside clay lick.

**SCARLET MACAW** (*Ara macao*) – Away from the clay licks, parrots of all kinds were rather scarce and uncooperative, and the macaws were especially unfriendly. Red-bellied and Chestnut-fronted Macaws were around but were essentially UTVs (untickable views), and our only Scarlets were a pair that flew by at a great distance from the metal towers, though we could just make out some color.

**BLUE-AND-YELLOW MACAW** (*Ara ararauna*) – Our only Blue-and-yellow wasn't much better, as a lone bird flew over the cocha on our very first afternoon as we canoed out towards Orquidea. It was closer, but the lighting was poor, and again, we could just make out some color, and the distinctive shape.

**COBALT-WINGED PARAKEET** (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*) – Heard and seen daily, with nice scope views from the metal towers. There were plenty around above the interior clay lick as well, but they were extremely nervous about something and never descended to the clay.

**BLACK-HEADED PARROT** (*Pionites melanocephalus*) – One of these gorgeous small parrots was perched up over the boardwalk one afternoon, and then we had smashing views of a quartet perched near the metal tower.

**BLUE-HEADED PARROT** (*Pionus menstruus*) – Quite a few were at the riverside parrot clay lick, where they were dwarfed by the many larger Amazona parrots also present.

**ORANGE-WINGED PARROT** (*Amazona amazonica*) – A few seen most days, mainly in flight but with especially good views of a single perched bird from the wooden tower our last afternoon.

**MEALY PARROT** (*Amazona farinosa*) – The most numerous parrot at the riverside clay lick. One oddball stood out from the rest, as it had a large spot of yellow and red on the crown. Can't remember ever seeing one like that before.

**YELLOW-CROWNED PARROT** (*Amazona ochrocephala*) – A little smaller than the Mealy, and not as numerous at the clay lick, though there were still good numbers there.

### Opisthocomidae (Hoatzin)

**HOATZIN** (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) – Delightfully weird birds, these oddballs were a common sight around the cocha, as always. Especially endearing was that cute little baby Hoatzin;-)

### Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

**SQUIRREL CUCKOO** (*Piaya cayana*) – All our sightings were from the towers.

**BLACK-BELLIED CUCKOO** (*Piaya melanogaster*) – One was with a small canopy flock along Providencia. One could easily pass one of these birds off as a Squirrel Cuckoo, but that red bill and dark belly stand out when you get a good look.

**GREATER ANI** (*Crotophaga major*) – Fairly common around the cocha and along the Napo. Our first were a pair building a nest in a fallen tree in the river. [N]

**SMOOTH-BILLED ANI** (*Crotophaga ani*) – A bunch of these guys were regulars around the dock.

### Strigidae (Owls)

**TROPICAL SCREECH-OWL** (*Megascops choliba*) – We had one calling near the cabins one night before dinner, and though it took a long time to track it down on its perch, we finally found it and had some nice views.

**TAWNY-BELLIED SCREECH-OWL** (*Megascops watsonii*) – Quite elusive this year. We had brief views of one perched overhead along the boardwalk, but it moved a few feet higher and we just couldn't spot it again.

**CRESTED OWL** (*Lophotrix cristata*) – Super looks at these striking owls; we saw the same pair on two occasions (though on different day roosts) near the metal towers.

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



*Our first glimpse of the cocha (lagoon) at Sacha as we approach along the canal. (Photo by guide Jay VanderGaast)*

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

**LESSER NIGHTHAWK** (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) – A pair of these over the cocha one evening were a surprise; I'd never seen this species here before, and was unaware they occurred here! According to the field guide there have been a few recent records from the NE lowlands, so perhaps they've just been overlooked here in the past?

**COMMON PAURAUQUE** (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) – We had a few looks at the vocal resident male along the edge of the cocha.

**LADDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR** (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*) – Great views of a male perched just above the water on the banks of the Napo near the parrot lick, and we chased up quite a few on the first river island as well.

Nyctibiidae (Potoos)

**COMMON POTOO** (*Nyctibius griseus*) – I've never been to Sacha before without seeing at least one potoo on a day roost, but all the regular roosts were vacant this trip. Our lone potoo gave us a fleeting glimpse as it flew overhead as we canoed back to the lodge along Anaconda.

Apodidae (Swifts)

**WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT** (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – Not many large swifts were around this trip, and we saw only a small number of this common species.

**SHORT-TAILED SWIFT** (*Chaetura brachyura*) – Seen over the cocha a few times.

**LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT** (*Panyptila cayennensis*) – Some nice views of a couple flying near the metal tower.

**FORK-TAILED PALM-SWIFT** (*Tachornis squamata*) – The most numerous swift this trip; we saw them most days over the cocha,

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

**RUFOS-BREASTED HERMIT** (*Glaucis hirsutus*) – We saw this hermit twice, first at the finca where we watched one feeding on heliconia flowers before settling down on a perch and apparently going to sleep. Later we saw another briefly along Anaconda.

**GREAT-BILLED HERMIT** (*Phaethornis malaris*) – Super views of one on a song perch along the Anangu trail. It really does have a great bill, doesn't it?

**WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN** (*Florisuga mellivora*) – One of our final new birds; Fred spotted this one, a male, hawking for insects just before we boarded the boat for the return trip to Coca.

**SPARKLING VIOLETEAR** (*Colibri coruscans*) – Seen in Quito only.

**FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH** (*Thalurania furcata*) – The most common hummingbird this trip, though that's not saying much as hummers were overall extremely scarce. We saw singles on five different days, mainly females, and I don't recall ever seeing a male well.

**OLIVE-SPOTTED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Leucippus chlorocercus*) – Decent if brief looks at one perched for a couple of seconds on the first of the river islands we visited.

**GLITTERING-THROATED EMERALD** (*Amazilia fimbriata*) – A poor backlit view of one along the edge of the Napo one morning.

**BLACK-TAILED TRAINBEARER** (*Lesbia victoriae*) – This spectacular hummer was seen by those that went to the Quito Botanical Gardens on our return to Quito.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

**BLACK-TAILED TROGON** (*Trogon melanurus*) – Incredibly close views of a male on his night roost right next to the Anaconda Creek.

**GREEN-BACKED TROGON** (*Trogon viridis*) – Formerly called Amazonian White-tailed Trogon; we had two looks at a female (presumably the same bird both times) along Orquidea.

**VIOLACEOUS TROGON** (*Trogon violaceus*) – Our lone one was a female seen by just a few of us along the Napo as we walked back from the boat launch after our tiring Providencia visit.

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

**COLLARED TROGON** (*Trogon collaris*) [\*]

Momotidae (Motmots)

**BLUE-CROWNED MOTMOT** (*Momotus momota*) – Heard often, but the only one we saw was along the Providencia Trail, where Pancho picked out a bird perched high in the canopy.



*This endearing little Yellow-browed Tody-flycatcher would be impossible to see so well if it wasn't for the canopy towers! (Photo by guide Jay VanderGaast)*



Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

**RINGED KINGFISHER** (*Megaceryle torquata*) – Seen regularly around the cocha and along the Napo.

**AMAZON KINGFISHER** (*Chloroceryle amazona*) – A single bird along the Napo en route to Providencia.

**GREEN KINGFISHER** (*Chloroceryle americana*) – Surprisingly we saw just one, a male, along the Napo as we headed to the parrot clay licks.

**GREEN-AND-RUFOUS KINGFISHER** (*Chloroceryle inda*) – What was presumably the same female each time gave us some beautiful views along the Orquidea Creek.

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

**WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD** (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*) – Great scope views of one perched in the canopy near the metal towers.

**CHESTNUT-CAPPED PUFFBIRD** (*Bucco macrodactylus*) – This bird was staring at us all week from the Sacha Lodge luggage tags, but it took us until the final morning before we connected with one. Oscar spotted it perched quietly above the boardwalk as we headed to the Napo for the boat ride back to Coca.

**COLLARED PUFFBIRD** (*Bucco capensis*) [\*]

**WHITE-CHESTED PUFFBIRD** (*Malacoptila fusca*) – Pancho picked this one out for us, and we had excellent looks at it as it sat on a low vine along the Liana Chica trail.

**BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD** (*Monasa nigrifrons*) – There was always a gang of these hanging around along the trail near the river.

**WHITE-FRONTED NUNBIRD** (*Monasa morphoeus*) – These birds are often the leaders of mixed canopy flocks in terra firme forest, but though we saw the nunbirds several times, we never really caught up with a big canopy flock.

**SWALLOW-WINGED PUFFBIRD** (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*) – Common and conspicuous along the river.

Galbulidae (Jacamars)

**WHITE-EARED JACAMAR** (*Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*) – Great views of these wonderful jacamars a couple of times along the Napo. The second sighting came with a bonus as we spotted our only piculet in the same tree!

**WHITE-CHINNED JACAMAR** (*Galbula tombacea*) – A "U"-shaped vine along the Orquidea Creek was a favorite perch of a pair of these jacamars and we had nice views of them perched side by side there a couple of times.

**PURPLISH JACAMAR** (*Galbula chalcothorax*) – Good scope looks at one high up in the canopy along the Liana Chica trail, thanks to Pancho's excellent spotting.

**GREAT JACAMAR** (*Jacamerops aureus*) – We had one near the shelter along the Providencia trail, but it didn't stick around for very long unfortunately. Still, I think everyone got at least a brief view.

Capitonidae (New World Barbets)

**SCARLET-CROWNED BARBET** (*Capito aurovirens*) – Not uncommon along the river, and we had several sightings, including some great looks at a pair with a juvenile right at the finca.

**GILDED BARBET** (*Capito auratus*) – Seen regularly in the canopy from the towers, including a pair attending an active nest in a dead branch next to the wooden tower. [N]

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

**CHESTNUT-EARED ARACARI** (*Pteroglossus castanotis*) – This species seems to be more regularly encountered on the south bank of the Napo, and that's where we had our only ones. We had nice scope views of a quartet of them at the start of the Anangu trail.

**MANY-BANDED ARACARI** (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*) – The most commonly seen aracari. Best seen from the wooden tower, where a group of them were not welcomed with open wings by the quartet of Purple-throated Fruitcrows that were nesting nearby.

**IVORY-BILLED ARACARI** (*Pteroglossus azara*) – A group of these great birds were wonderful performers at the metal tower, where they even sat on the nearby support cables.

**GOLDEN-COLLARED TOUCANET** (*Selenidera reinwardtii*) – A male was seen from the metal tower on each of our mornings up. The first one tough to see, though we did manage to get a scope on it; the second (surely the same bird) was a lot friendlier, and we had great looks at him.

**WHITE-THROATED TOUCAN** (*Ramphastos tucanus cuvieri*) – Numerous, and seen or heard daily, with best views from the metal towers, where there were quite a few.

**CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN** (*Ramphastos vitellinus culminatus*) [\*]

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

**LAFRESNAYE'S PICULET** (*Picumnus lafresnayi*) – We owe this one to the White-eared Jacamars; it popped up behind them as we were watching them, and we had excellent looks as a result.

**YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes cruentatus*) – Don't these guys remind you of Acorn Woodpeckers? We had a trio of these birds at the metal tower, sitting up on the cables.

**LITTLE WOODPECKER** (*Veniliornis passerinus*) – Yeah they're small, though no smaller than any of the other woodpeckers in this genus. We saw them a couple of times in riparian growth along the Napo.

**SCALE-BREASTED WOODPECKER** (*Celeus grammicus*) – One excitable bird showed pretty well above the shelter on the Providencia trail.

**CHESTNUT WOODPECKER** (*Celeus elegans*) – Our first woodpecker, we saw this one along the Orquidea Creek on our first afternoon.

**CREAM-COLORED WOODPECKER** (*Celeus flavus*) – A stunning male of this beautiful species came in next to the metal tower, giving us superb views. We also ran into a group of these birds along the boardwalk on the final morning.

**LINEATED WOODPECKER** (*Dryocopus lineatus*) [\*]

**CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER** (*Campephilus melanoleucos*) – Seen from the metal tower on both visits. On our second morning there, we had a male drumming from several exposed dead limbs for a good part of our time there.

#### *Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)*

**TAWNY-THROATED LEAFTOSSER** (*Sclerurus mexicanus*) – One began singing immediately after we'd seen the nearly identical Short-billed Leaf-tosser, then popped up on pretty much the same perch. After it settled down we actually got to see it tossing leaves on the forest floor. They come by their names honestly.

**SHORT-BILLED LEAFTOSSER** (*Sclerurus rufigularis*) – Great looks at one along Liana Chica, though there was a bit of confusion when the Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser turned up, making us think we misidentified this bird. We did hear them both singing at the same time though, so both species were definitely there.

**LESSER HORNERO** (*Furnarius minor*) – This river island specialist is often shy and tough to see, but we had an incredibly responsive bird that flew in and called from an open perch nearby. I've rarely had better views of this bird than that.

**DARK-BREASTED SPINETAIL** (*Synallaxis albigularis*) – Though not restricted to river islands, in this region they are found mainly on islands. We worked on one on the first island, but only got a fleeting view of it as it flew off.

**WHITE-BELLIED SPINETAIL** (*Synallaxis propinqua*) – This one is a river island specialist, and though we heard quite a few, they were as elusive as the Dark-breasted Spinetail, and I think most of us didn't get much more than a flight view or two.

**POINT-TAILED PALMCREEPER** (*Berlepschia rikeri*) [\*]

**CINNAMON-RUMPED FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Philydor pyrrhodes*) – This is one of the most attractive of the foliage-gleaners, and it was also the first time I'd seen this species here. We heard it first, below the metal towers, than had excellent looks when it responded quickly and enthusiastically.

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

**PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) – As exciting as its name suggests! A pair of these made up two-thirds of the total number of birds we saw at a small army ant swarm along Liana Chica.

**OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER** (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) [\*]

**WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) – Usually quite common, but we saw only one this trip along the Anangu trail.

**LONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Nasica longirostris*) – Not only is this one of the most striking of the woodcreepers, but it has a great, mournful call, too. We heard and saw one beautifully as we canoed along Orquidea one morning.

**CINNAMON-THROATED WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrexetastes rufigula*) – Great looks at this pale-billed large woodcreeper from the wooden tower. Ronna was relieved that it left the small gecko on the same tree trunk alone, though I suspect it just didn't see it there;-)

**AMAZONIAN BARRED-WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrocolaptes certhia*) – One was seen from the wooden tower right after we saw the Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper. We all saw it but our views were brief, as the fruitcrows took exception to it landing on their tree and chased it off.

**BLACK-BANDED WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*) – A vocal bird at the start of the Providencia trail only gave us a flyby look.

**STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Dendroplex picus*) [\*]

**STRIPED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*) – Good views a couple of times in varzea forest along Orquidea and Anaconda.

**ELEGANT WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphorhynchus elegans*) – The first woodcreeper we saw, this one was along Orquidea on our first afternoon. With a name like it's got, you'd expect something a little flashier from this bird, but it really isn't all that memorable. Who names these things anyway?

**BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*) – Usually one of the most common woodcreepers around, but we heard few and saw fewer. Our only sighting was of a lone bird at Providencia.

#### *Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)*

**PLAIN-WINGED ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*) [\*]

**CASTELNAU'S ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*) – This island specialist played pretty tough to get, but we ultimately all had fine views of him.



**BLACK BUSHBIRD** (*Neotantes niger*) – I was surprised to hear a distant one calling along Anaconda, as I'd never had this species at Sacha before and didn't know there were any territories. I was even more surprised when the bird responded and came in close, though I wasn't surprised that only a few of us got to see it before it moved off again. The perils of birding from a canoe...

**CINEREOUS ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnomanes caesius*) – Most of us got a look at a male of this species with a small understory flock along the start of the Anangu trail.

**PYGMY ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula brachyura*) [\*]

**PLAIN-THROATED ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula huxwelli*) – Wonderful looks at a lovely little male along Anangu.

**WHITE-FLANKED ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula axillaris*) [\*]

**LONG-WINGED ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula longipennis*) [\*]

**BANDED ANTBIRD** (*Dichrozona cincta*) – A "diabolical" bird (according to Neal at least) along the upper section of the Anangu trail played real hard to get, but several folks got good looks at this little beauty.

**DUGAND'S ANTWREN** (*Herpsilochmus dugandi*) – Decent looks at a male in the canopy at the wooden tower.

**GRAY ANTBIRD** (*Cercomacra cinerascens*) [\*]

**BLACK-FACED ANTBIRD** (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*) – A wonderfully responsive and cooperative male showed well along the start of the Anangu trail.

**PERUVIAN WARBLING-ANTBIRD** (*Hypocnemis peruviana*) – We finally picked up a pair of these common antbirds along the main boardwalk on our final morning. Originally, there was just one species of Warbling Antbird, but recent taxonomic revisions resulted in the species being split into six species, with Peruvian the only one found in Ecuador.

**YELLOW-BROWED ANTBIRD** (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*) – Incredible views of a super-friendly male along the upper part of the Anangu trail. A strikingly beautiful bird!

**SILVERED ANTBIRD** (*Sclateria naevia*) – A specialist of varzea forest, where it always hangs around near the water. We had good views of a pair along Orquidea, and a lone female along Anaconda.

**SPOT-WINGED ANTBIRD** (*Schistocichla leucostigma*) – Usually tough to see well, but we found a male feeding quite openly right near the shelter at the interior clay lick and we all had great looks.

**WHITE-SHOULDERED ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza melanoceps*) – Susan and Neal were the only ones to get on a male the first tie we encountered this species along the main boardwalk, but we all managed to see a male and the very different female along the start of the Anangu trail.

**PLUMBEOUS ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza hyperythra*) [\*]

**SOOTY ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza fortis*) – A male put in a brief appearance in the late afternoon near the metal towers.

**SPOT-BACKED ANTBIRD** (*Hylophylax naevius*) – A pair along the main boardwalk on our final morning gave us quite the run around, though most everyone got decent views of this pretty little antbird in the end.

**DOT-BACKED ANTBIRD** (*Hylophylax punctulatus*) – Excellent looks at a gorgeous little male perched and singing just above the Anaconda Creek.

**SCALE-BACKED ANTBIRD** (*Willisornis poecilinotus*) – Another striking little antbird; we saw this species well twice. First we had a very cooperative male along the Anangu trail, then a few days later we had a very close and confiding female feeding at the army ant swarm on Liana Chica along with the Plain-brown Woodcreepers.

**BLACK-SPOTTED BARE-EYE** (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*) – I think Fred and I were the only ones to get on this shy and elusive bird near the base of the wooden tower.

#### Formicariidae (Antthrushes)

**RUFOUS-CAPPED ANTTHRUSH** (*Formicarius colma*) – One of the most responsive birds on the trip; in fact, it was almost too responsive. It came in like a rocket, but it just kept shooting past us, so we ended up letting go without getting the most satisfactory of views.

**BLACK-FACED ANTTHRUSH** (*Formicarius analis*) – We lured one up to the trail at Anangu, but instead of walking across, it got to the edge then flew across and up the hill. Another was almost passed off as an antpitta, rad below for more on that.

**STRIATED ANTTHRUSH** (*Chamaeza nobilis*) – The best behaved of the ant-thrushes, which is not always the case. We also lured this one to the trail, and it obligingly strolled across in full view. Now that's the kind of behavior I expect!

#### Grallariidae (Antpittas)

**THRUSH-LIKE ANTPITTA** (*Myrmothera campanisona*) – We almost got this one at Providencia. We had a responsive bird, we had a nice window to see into the brush, and then we got the bird. Excitement built as more people got on it, until we realized it was a Black-faced Antthrush. Darn it!

#### Conopophagidae (Gnateaters)

**ASH-THROATED GNATEATER** (*Conopophaga peruviana*) – Fantastic looks at a male of this scarce species in the terra firme forest at Providencia, where it was one of the best highlights on a quiet day on the trail.

#### Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

**RUSTY-BELTED TAPACULO** (*Liosceles thoracicus*) [\*]

*Tyrannidae* (*Tyrant Flycatchers*)

**WHITE-LORED TYRANNULET** (*Ornithion inerme*) – Great views of one from the metal tower on our second morning up.

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

**MOTTLE-BACKED ELAENIA** (*Elaenia gigas*) – Elaenias as a group are pretty generic, but this one stands out from the rest due to its strongly forked crest; I always think of them as Harpy Elaenias! We saw a pair on a river island en route to Providencia, then several more on the first island we visited the next day.

**OCHRE-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** (*Mionectes oleagineus*) – One was feeding overhead in the canopy above the main boardwalk.

**SLENDER-FOOTED TYRANNULET** (*Zimmerius gracilipes*) – Marie spotted this little flycatcher as we descended the metal tower on our second time up. Nice spotting, Marie!

**LESSER WAGTAIL-TYRANT** (*Stigmatura napensis*) – A pair of these active and restless little birds gave us a tough time on the first river island, but we eventually all got good looks at these cuties.

**DOUBLE-BANDED PYGMY-TYRANT** (*Lophotriccus vitosus*) – I think only Neal got a glimpse of this little devil at Anangu.

**WHITE-EYED TODY-TYRANT** (*Hemitriccus zosterops*) – We heard a couple along the upper part of the Anangu trail, then finally saw one on our way back down.

**COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER** (*Todirostrum cinereum*) – A lone bird in the second growth on the first river island as we tried to get our bins on a White-bellied Spinetail.

**YELLOW-BROWED TODY-FLYCATCHER** (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*) – If it weren't for canopy towers, you'd never see these tiny birds. So, thank goodness for the towers, as we had incredible point blank views of a very tame little guy from the wooden one.

**GRAY-CROWNED FLYCATCHER** (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*) – Scope views of one from the metal tower on our second morning there.

**EULER'S FLYCATCHER** (*Lathrotriccus eulerei*) – This dull, Empid-like flycatcher showed up along Orquidea one afternoon.

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** (*Contopus virens*) – One of a handful of familiar northern birds that spend the winter here in the Amazon basin. Sandy found one along the main boardwalk. [b]

**FUSCOUS FLYCATCHER** (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus fuscator*) – The form found here is a river island specialist, and we saw our only one on the first island we visited.

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax traillii*) – On the same river island as the above species, we also saw our only Willow Flycatcher. The book suggests that this species is rare and far outnumbered by the similar Alder Flycatcher, but this bird was clearly singing the song of a Willow. [b]

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – A female that Neal saw just after we arrived at the Coca airport was an unusual bird for the lowlands.

**DRAB WATER TYRANT** (*Ochthornis littoralis*) – An unfair name, as these really are endearing little birds. We had nice looks at a couple of pairs on the edge of the Napo near the clay licks.

**RUFOUS-TAILED FLATBILL** (*Ramphotrigon ruficauda*) – An attractive pair in the varzea forest along Anaconda. I've always liked this species, and was happy that they cooperated, as they're not always easy to see.

**CINNAMON ATTLILA** (*Attila cinnamomeus*) – One sat in the open for a moment above the Anaconda Creek before another flashed in and chased it off.

**CITRON-BELLIED ATTLILA** (*Attila citriniventris*) [\*]

**BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTLILA** (*Attila spadiceus*) [\*]

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – A lone individual put in a brief appearance at the metal tower on our first morning.

**LESSER KISKADEE** (*Pitangus lictor*) – Much less common than the more familiar Great Kiskadee, this species is never far from water. We saw one pair along the Shipati Stream on our way back from Providencia.

**GREAT KISKADEE** (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – Common, noisy and conspicuous; we saw these birds every day.

**BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER** (*Megarynchus pitangua*) – Less numerous than the kiskadee, but still fairly common. We saw them several times through the week, giving us a good chance to learn the differences between these two similar birds.

**SOCIAL FLYCATCHER** (*Myiozetetes similis*) – Quite common and seen on about half the days of the trip.

**GRAY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) – We missed these birds on only a couple of days, and likely only because we weren't really looking, as there was a pair with a nest just outside the restaurant. [N]

**DUSKY-CHESTED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiozetetes luteiventris*) – I've rarely seen this canopy flycatcher as well as on this trip; we had fabulous looks at one perched at eye level next to the metal tower.

**PIRATIC FLYCATCHER** (*Legatus leucophaeus*) – Regularly seen from the metal tower and elsewhere. The name comes from these birds' habit of pirating nests of other species, rather than building their own.

**TROPICAL KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Abundant, and seen daily.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) – I think everyone was caught off guard when I called out "Eastern Kingbird" for the first time, it just seems so strange to see them way down here! But they are common winterers here, and just as pugnacious as they are back home. Just ask that Yellow-headed Caracara that was being attacked by one! [b]

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

**PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW** (*Querula purpurata*) – A group of 4 birds (including two purple-throated males) vigorously defended their turf against all comers (or at least an aracari and a barred-woodcreeper) next to the wooden tower.

**PLUM-THROATED COTINGA** (*Cotinga maynana*) – A female was seen from the metal tower on our first morning, and a couple of brilliant males on our second morning up. Another male was seen from the wooden tower.

**SPANGLED COTINGA** (*Cotinga cayana*) – Usually we see good numbers from the towers, but they were scarce this trip. In fact we only saw 2 males the entire trip: one at Providencia, and another on our second morning on the metal tower.

**SCREAMING PIHA** (*Lipaugus vociferans*) – Generally this bird is not much to look at, but seeing one putting everything it's got into a scream is a memorable experience.

**BARE-NECKED FRUITCROW** (*Gymnoderus foetidus*) – Scarce this trip; we saw just two, a female from the wooden tower, then a distant male we scoped from the metal tower.

Pipridae (Manakins)

**DWARF TYRANT-MANAKIN** (*Tyrannetes stolzmanni*) – Fred and Neal found this little guy in the canopy next to the metal tower. Nice work, guys.

**STRIPED MANAKIN (WESTERN)** (*Machaeropterus regulus striolatus*) – Super views of this gorgeous manakin on a long-used lek on the upper Anangu trail.

**BLUE-CROWNED MANAKIN** (*Lepidothrix coronata*) – We all saw a very green female on the way into the interior clay lick, and a couple of folks saw a male on Liana Chica.

**WHITE-BEARDED MANAKIN** (*Manacus manacus*) – A semi-cooperative male buzzed across the Anaconda creek a couple of times.

**ORANGE-CROWNED MANAKIN** (*Heterocercus aurantiivertex*) – Oscar told us these birds hadn't been seen at the usual spot lately, so we were lucky that we did find one there. I've never seen this bird anywhere else but this very spot along Orquidea, and I've never seen its orange crown.

**WIRE-TAILED MANAKIN** (*Pipra filicauda*) – Elusive this trip, though I think most of us did get a look at that stunning male not far behind our cabins.

**GOLDEN-HEADED MANAKIN** (*Pipra erythrocephala*) – These are usually the easiest of the manakins to see here, as there are a couple of active leks on the upper Anangu trail and there are always a couple of males present.

**WING-BARRED PIPRITES** (*Piprites chloris*) – I had a hard time getting everyone on these active little birds as they flitted about just below the metal tower, and my job wasn't made any easier by those darned Paradise Tanagers that showed up and distracted everyone;-)

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

**BLACK-TAILED TITYRA** (*Tityra cayana*) – We saw several of these almost every time we were up in one of the towers.

**WHITE-BROWED PURPLETUFT** (*Iodopleura isabellae*) – Until recently this species was included in the cotinga family, but it's now included with the tityras and becards. This was a good trip for them, and we saw them on 4 different days, and difficult as it was some folks even got to see the purple tufts on a couple of them.

**WHITE-WINGED BECARD** (*Pachyrhamphus polychopterus*) [\*]

**PINK-THROATED BECARD** (*Pachyrhamphus minor*) – A female was with a small mixed canopy flock along Providencia.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

**RED-EYED VIREO** (*Vireo olivaceus*) – Though there are Red-eyed Vireos here all year round, they are not resident. At this time of year, only the migrants from North America are present; Austral migrants occur from about May to September, when the boreal migrants are absent. We saw a few from the wooden tower. [b]

**YELLOW-GREEN VIREO** (*Vireo flavoviridis*) – It seems odd to think of this species as a boreal migrant, but that's what they are here. We saw a couple by the finca. [b]

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

**VIOLACEOUS JAY** (*Cyanocorax violaceus*) – A common and conspicuous species, which we saw pretty much daily.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

**WHITE-BANDED SWALLOW** (*Atticora fasciata*) – Plenty along the river and around the cocha. It was interesting to see how these birds and the White-winged Swallows segregated on their perches by the cocha. The two species really didn't mix; one tree would be full of this species, the next tree over had a swarm of White-wings.

**SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) – A couple of these were perched among the many



swallows by the cocha one day.

**GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN** (*Progne chalybea*) – Seen almost daily, as there were several around the cocha and a pair using the metal tower as a roost.

**WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW** (*Tachycineta albiventer*) – The most common swallow in the region, with good numbers seen every day.

**BANK SWALLOW** (*Riparia riparia*) – A flock of 50+ from the wooden tower, and an even more impressive flock of about 200 over the Napo. This species is usually just a transient, wintering further south in South America, and the field guide mentions just a single report of Bank Swallows in Ecuador during the winter months. [b]

**BARN SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*) – A lone, ratty looking individual was with a large group of White-banded and White-winged Swallows along the Napo one morning. [b]

#### Troglodytidae (Wrens)

**THRUSH-LIKE WREN** (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*) – Great looks at a couple of these large wrens as they collected nesting material from a palm tree near the start of the Anangu trail. [N]

**CORAYA WREN** (*Thryothorus coraya*) – Brief views of a pair as they flew across Orquidea on our first afternoon.

**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*) [\*]

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

**MUSICIAN WREN** (*Cyphorhinus arada*) – This bird has an amazing song, and we were lucky to both hear one and to see it beautifully along Liana Chica.

#### Donacobiidae (Donacobius)

**BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIOUS** (*Donacobius atricapilla*) – It's puzzling to me why this species was ever considered a member of the wren family. The current treatment, with it in its own monotypic family, seems correct, as there is nothing else quite like this bird. We had some great looks at the resident group in the low vegetation around the cocha.

#### Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

**HAUXWELL'S THRUSH** (*Turdus hauxwelli*) – One flashed across the boardwalk in response to playback a couple of times.

**LAWRENCE'S THRUSH** (*Turdus lawrencii*) – This thrush is an incredible mimic, and we heard them imitating the calls of bunch of different species, everything from Little Tinamou to Dusky-capped Greenlet to Pearly Antshrike, which doesn't even occur in the area! We also had an excellent look at one that we located on his canopy song perch, which, luckily for us, was right above a clearing along the Anangu trail.

**BLACK-BILLED THRUSH** (*Turdus ignobilis*) – The only one we saw was right under the dining room, having a drink from the puddle there.

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

**WHITE-NECKED THRUSH** (*Turdus albicollis*) [\*]

#### Parulidae (New World Warblers)

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** (*Dendroica striata*) – A couple of winter-plumaged birds were seen from the canopy towers. [b]

#### Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

**MAGPIE TANAGER** (*Cissopis leverianus*) – A pair of these aptly-named large tanagers showed well at the start of the Anangu trail.

**CINEREOUS CONEBILL** (*Conirostrum cinereum*) – The folks that went to the Quito Botanical Gardens saw a few of these common small birds.

**GRAY-HEADED TANAGER** (*Eucometis penicillata*) – A pair gave us great views along Orquidea on our first afternoon at the lodge.

**SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER** (*Ramphocelus carbo*) – Less numerous than usual, but we had a couple of sightings along the Shipati stream and on the edge of the cocha.

**BLUE-GRAY TANAGER** (*Thraupis episcopus*) – Pretty common around the lodge. The subspecies here has a conspicuous white shoulder patch lacking in those found west of the Andes.

**PALM TANAGER** (*Thraupis palmarum*) – Quite common around the lodge, with a pair also regularly at the metal tower.

**PARADISE TANAGER** (*Tangara chilensis*) – A pair of these incredible tanagers at the metal tower almost cost some folks the Wing-barred Piprites, though I'm willing to bet that all of you would have happily paid that price for these stunners!

**GREEN-AND-GOLD TANAGER** (*Tangara schrankii*) – A pair of these lovely birds was seen during each morning on the metal tower.

**MASKED TANAGER** (*Tangara nigrocincta*) – Seen well a few times from the metal tower.

**OPAL-RUMPED TANAGER** (*Tangara velia*) – A small group of these showed beautifully in the perfect morning light on our second morning on the metal tower.

**OPAL-CROWNED TANAGER** (*Tangara callophrys*) – A common canopy bird, seen regularly from the towers.

**BLACK-FACED DACNIS** (*Dacnis lineata*) – Scarce this trip, and we had just one quick view of a male on our afternoon in

the wooden tower.

**YELLOW-BELLIED DACNIS** (*Dacnis flaviventer*) – A couple of birds were seen several times from the metal tower, though they never sat still for very long.

**BLUE DACNIS** (*Dacnis cayana*) – Seen in small numbers from the towers.

**GREEN HONEYCREEPER** (*Chlorophanes spiza*) – Seen nicely from the wooden tower, where a couple of males came into the nearby bromeliads to bathe.

**PURPLE HONEYCREEPER** (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*) – A few sightings from the towers, though overall much less numerous than usual.

**SWALLOW TANAGER** (*Tersina viridis*) – A pair perched in a dead tree above the Shipati Stream were the only ones for the tour.

**GRAYISH SALTATOR** (*Saltator coerulescens*) [\*]

**BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR** (*Saltator maximus*) – Not so great views of a lone bird above the Anaconda creek.

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

**CAQUETA SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila murallae*) – Good scope views of a male and two females on the second river island we visited.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila luctuosa*) – Beautiful looks at a pair in a dead tree among a bunch of other seed-things on the first river island we visited.

**CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila castaneiventris*) – Quite common on the river islands.

**CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEED-FINCH** (*Oryzoborus angolensis*) – A female on the second river island was the only one seen.

**LARGE-BILLED SEED-FINCH** (*Oryzoborus crassirostris*) – We'd barely gotten off the boat on the first river island when a couple of females flushed up into a dead tree, followed shortly afterward by the Black-and-white Seedeaters. A rare species here, and only my second sighting ever. Those massive bills are impressive, aren't they?

**BLACK FLOWERPIERCER** (*Diglossa humeralis*) – Seen at the Quito Botanical Gardens.

**RED-CAPPED CARDINAL** (*Paroaria gularis*) – One was seen around (and on) the barbecue deck a couple of times.

**YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW** (*Ammodramus aurifrons*) – Fairly common on the river islands.

**RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – Common in Quito.

#### Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

**SCARLET TANAGER** (*Piranga olivacea*) – A few birds in winter plumage were seen from the towers. [b]

#### Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

**ORIOLE BLACKBIRD** (*Gymnomystax mexicanus*) – A bunch of these beautiful birds were seen on the first of the river islands we visited.

**GIANT COWBIRD** (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) – Only two were seen, the first was a almost tail-less bird that flew over river island number 1, the second was perched near the metal tower. It had a full tail.

**EPAULET ORIOLE (MORICHE)** (*Icterus cayanensis chrysocephalus*) – Seen nicely from the metal tower.

**ORANGE-BACKED TROUPIAL** (*Icterus croconotus*) – Great views of three of these brilliant orioles just after we disembarked at the start of the Providencia trail.

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

**RED-RUMPED CACIQUE** (*Cacicus haemorrhous*) – A pair of these were in thick vegetation along the Shipati Stream, seen at about the same time as the troupials.

**YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE** (*Cacicus cela*) – Common, noisy and conspicuous, with several nests right around the lodge. [N]

**RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA** (*Psarocolius angustifrons*) – The most abundant of the oropendolas here, and we saw lots of them every day. [N]

**CRESTED OROPENDOLA** (*Psarocolius decumanus*) – The second most common oropendola, and we saw small numbers on several days, usually in the company of Russet-backs.

**CASQUED OROPENDOLA** (*Clypicterus oseryi*) – A single one of these scarce oropendolas was with a big flock of the two common species at Providencia, but it wasn't terribly cooperative and I think only about half the group saw it.

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

**THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia laniirostris*) – A pair in the wooden tower tree were the only ones for the trip.

**GOLDEN-BELLIED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia chrysopasta*) – I prefer the old name, White-lored Euphonia, as pretty much all euphonias have golden bellies. We saw small numbers of these from the towers.

**WHITE-VENTED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia minuta*) – Nice views of a male from the metal tower.

**ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia xanthogaster*) – One male each from the metal and wooden towers. Overall, there weren't a lot of euphonias around, probably due to a scarcity of fruiting trees.

**RUFIOUS-BELLIED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia rufiventris*) – Our only one was a lovely male which showed well at the metal

## MAMMALS

**GREATER WHITE-LINED BAT** (*Saccopteryx bilineata*) – A trio of bats roosting on the buttress of a large tree were one of the sac-winged bats, though Oscar didn't know which species. To me they looked like this species.

**FISHING BAT SP.** (*Noctilio leporinus*) – We finally saw a single one of these large fishing bats over the cocha on our final evening.

**PYGMY MARMOSET** (*Cebuella pygmaea*) – I thought we were going to miss this tiny monkey, but Neal found one right outside the lower cabins and it luckily stuck around until we'd rounded everyone up, so we all had nice views.

**BLACK-MANTLE TAMARIN** (*Saguinus nigricollis*) – Seen regularly including right around the lodge a couple of times.

**GOLDEN-MANTLE TAMARIN** (*Saguinus tripartitus*) – Replaces the previous species on the south bank of the river. We saw these gorgeous monkeys twice, first a fast moving group above the Providencia trail, then the next day we had much better views of a bunch along the Napo near the second river island we visited.

**COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY** (*Saimiri sciureus*) – The most numerous monkey in the area; we saw loads of these little guys every day.

**THREE-STRIPED NIGHT MONKEY** (*Aotus trivirgatus*) – Nice looks at a pair of sleepy looking individuals peering out of their roost hole along the boardwalk.

**DUSKY TITI MONKEY** (*Callicebus moloch*) – I wasn't really expecting anything, but on a whim I played a recording I'd made last year at the same site I'd recorded it, and was blown away when the troop charged in and began calling back directly overhead!

**RED HOWLER MONKEY** (*Alouatta seniculus*) – Pretty much all our views were of rather distant animals seen in the canopy from the towers.

**WHITE-FRONTED CAPUCHIN** (*Cebus albifrons*) – Singles were seen with big groups of squirrel monkeys on two occasions along Orquidea.

**SOUTHERN AMAZON RED SQUIRREL** (*Sciurus spadiceus*) – One of these gorgeous large squirrels was found along the start of the Anangu trail.

**NEOTROPICAL DWARF SQUIRREL SP.** (*Microsciurus flaviventer*) – This tiny, speedy squirrel usually isn't that easy to see, but we had incredible views of one along the Anaconda creek.

**BLACK AGOUTI** (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*) – Several sightings, the best one being the habituated one that fed regularly around the cabins.

**GREEN ACOUCHY** (*Myoprocta pratti*) – Several of us had a quick look at one of these ahead of us on the Providencia trail.

**KINKAJOU** (*Potos flavus*) – Three of these nocturnal mammals were found along the boardwalk on our first night of owling.

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## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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**Totals for the tour: 296 bird taxa and 15 mammal taxa**