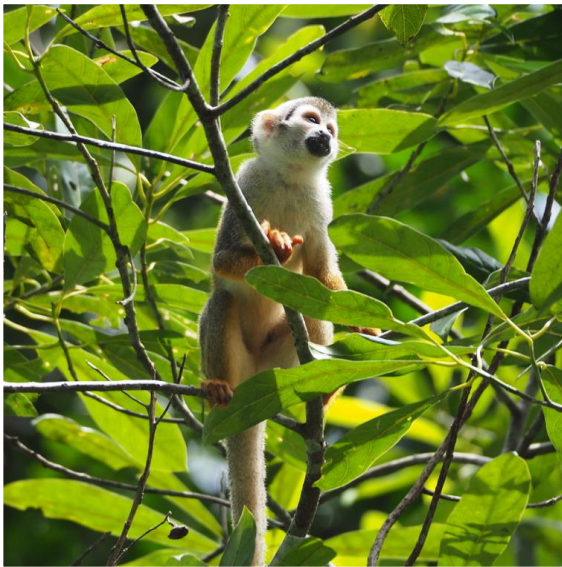


Tour Report Ecuador – Birds and Mammals with Mike Dilger 15– 28 April 2024

Squirrel monkey



Torrent ducks



Scarlet macaw



Giant river otter



Compiled by Mike Dilger

Day 1:**Monday 15 April 2024**

Travel day: London Heathrow to Barajas Airport, Madrid & Mariscal Sucre Airport, Quito

Mike Dilger (MD) departed London Heathrow on the early morning flight to Madrid, whereupon he met up with five of the eight guests, with the other three having already travelled out to Ecuador on earlier flights. Arriving in Quito Mariscal Sucre Airport, after a flight lasting around 11 hours, we were met by Santiago Molina, who would be our guide for most of the trip. Having loaded up all the guests and their bags, we then took the hour-long drive to Swissotel, in the centre of Quito's new town, before checking in. It was a mere 15 minutes before we were back down in the lobby to meet up with the final three members of the group as everyone headed for a drink. We all got to know each other, everyone chatted away, and some dined before their first overnight in Ecuador.

Day 2:**Tuesday 16 April 2024**

Quito to Maquipucuna Reserve

Weather: Sunny in Quito, steadily more overcast, but no rain. Cloudy in Maquipucuna, with a small amount of rain

While some of the guests were well rested, others slept more fitfully, but all met for a 7am breakfast, in preparation for an 8.30am departure. Breakfast was delightful and after meeting up with Eddie - our driver - we all set off. The first stop was a brief one at Mitad Del Mundo or 'Centre of the Earth' monument, with a brief opportunity to have a walk around. It was most sunny and warm, and our first birding of the trip produced a couple of vermilion flycatchers, blue and white swallow, a distant juvenile Harris hawk and a number of black vultures.

Back in the bus, we then took the short ride up to the Pululahua Reserve, which encompasses a dormant volcano. Walking up the viewpoint, it was obvious there were plenty of Ecuadorian schoolchildren keen to enjoy the reserve as well. With the sun still out, it was perfect hummingbird-spotting weather as we saw both black-tailed trainbearer and sparkling violetear. The views from the lip of the crater were fabulous, and we also managed to log plenty of rufous collared sparrows and plain-coloured seedeater. Great thrushes were common here too, along with blue-and-white swallows, and a quick impromptu lesson on vultures soon resulted in both black and turkey being added to the list.

We drove onwards to Maquipucuna, and stopped near the village of Nanegal for a brief view of two swallow-tailed kites, before covering the short distance to the Maquipucuna reserve. Receiving a warm welcome from the team, led by Loré, we dropped off our bags before returning to catch up with all the hummingbird activity on the Lodge's balcony. It was heaven-sent for MD to return to a place that he used to work and we all revelled in the hummingbirds as white-necked Jacobin, green-crowned brilliant, white whiskered hermit and crowned wood nymph were quickly picked up - with some even coming to feeding from the hand. A feeding table, with fruit, in front of the lodge was also attracting visitors, and we saw blue-grey tanagers and a pair of black-cheeked woodpeckers in quick succession, with our guide Mauricio telling us that the latter species was probably a sign of climate change, as historically this has been a bird of lower elevations. Sitting down to dine, we then had a delicious meal of fish, rice and patacones (fried green plantains).

After lunch, we were joined by Mauricio and immediately had sensational views of rufous motmot. Walking down to the bridge, that also represents the entrance to Maqui, we all enjoyed torrent tyrannulet before taking a walk along the road. Many birds were seen here, with the highlight being great views of Chocó toucan, and two brief flashes of a male Andean cock-of-the-rock. Steadily picking up more birds as we went, we also identified yellow-throated chlorospingus, black phoebe, bananaquit, tropical kingbird and tropical parula. Taking a U-turn, we then walked past the entrance and up the road, where we had good views of rusty-margined flycatcher, swallow-tailed tanager and a perched up bat falcon - what a bird!

Heading back to the lodge and our dinner, the last birds of the afternoon were a pair of white-capped dipper right below the bridge, bringing to an end a scintillating afternoons' birding with Mauricio. Needing a break

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to shower and rest, we then later reconvened for dinner. Despite the late hour and dusky light, hummingbirds could still be seen coming in to the feeder. After a delicious meal we all had a close encounter with a habituated kinkajou that apparently comes to the Lodge each evening, before Lodge Manager Loré had a chat with the group about the reserve and how it came into being.

Day 3:

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Maquipucuna Reserve

Weather: Sunny most of the morning, closing over by mid-day. Spots of rain later on, but a mostly fine day.

We arose to meet for a 6am coffee, before heading out at 6.15am, with the plan to bird around the lodge and lower reaches of the Sendero Principal (Main Path). Starting at the bridge, the first guests down saw a female torrent duck briefly before it disappeared off upriver, much to the chagrin of those arriving later!

Heading next for the Sendero Principal, behind the Lodge, a dark-backed wood quail could be heard calling, along with distant views of possibly the same bat falcon that had been seen the previous afternoon. While watching the falcon, a distant golden-bellied flycatcher was picked up in the scope by Mauricio. A little further up both male and female lemon-rumped tanager were seen, along with a perched white-whiskered hermit, but the group became suddenly distracted by the presence of a Central American agouti ahead on the path. A mixed flock was then encountered on the right of the path, with a male cinnamon becard being the stand-out species. At this point, a fawn-breasted tanager was also briefly observed high up in the canopy, along with a variety of commoner species, such as blue-grey and lemon-rumped tanager.

Walking toward the Scientific Research Station we found a small flock of around seven swallow tanagers, busily displaying to one another, along with a bananaquit. At this point the distinctive call of cinnamon beard was heard, which was probably the same individual bird we'd seen earlier. In the open area close to the Research Station we also got good views of a spotted woodcreeper in addition to hearing its distinctive tremulous call. A thick-billed euphoria was also present here.

On the other side of the path, a red-faced spinetail was also picked up on the edge of the dense undergrowth, along with a tropical kingbird and tropical parula. A little further on, a bird feeding station revealed both orange-throated sparrow and orange-bellied euphonia, while a buff-throated saltator flew past. The next new bird to be picked up by Mauricio was a russet antshrike, which initially proved quite skulking, but with a little patience was eventually seen by everyone, with a second one subsequently seen. In the same tree, another couple of tropical parulas and a slaty-capped flycatcher were seen.

Slightly less confiding were a ruddy foliage-gleaner and grey-breasted wood wren, which were both calling loudly from deep within the undergrowth. Just a little further on an Andean emerald hummingbird was also identified while coming to one of the feeders positioned here. Walking back up the path, the rump of ornate flycatcher was briefly seen, before MD spotted a puffbird sitting quietly in the understory, which subsequently proved to be a white-whiskered puffbird. The puffbirds can be a very tricky group to catch up with and so all were thrilled to obtain good views of such a charismatic species.

Close by a fruiting shrub in the family *Rubiaceae* (coffee family) held a pair of orange-bellied euphonia, before a far more exciting bird was found in the form a female red-headed barbet. It was a really striking species, with gorgeous, intricately marked plumage. Mauricio then heard a Chocó tyrannulet singing, but the only views obtained by the group were when it flew past overhead! Birds were now coming thick and fast, as a blue-necked tanager was next to be enjoyed high up in the tree canopy, while green honeycreeper and palm tanager were both closer and at eye level.

With many guests having missed the Andean emerald at the feeders, we were pleased to find another perched atop of a shrub nearby. In the undergrowth here, the bouncing table tennis call of plain antvireo was also heard, before persistence paid off with brief views of this famously skulking species in the undergrowth. Coming down the Sendero Principal, en route to breakfast, we all had excellent views of three golden olive woodpeckers in the path-side vegetation, along with a quick glimpse of bay-headed tanager.

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Returning for breakfast, the birding didn't stop for food, and with the weather now wonderfully warm and sunny, all enjoyed a noisy golden-bellied flycatcher by the lodge, along with the pair of black-cheeked woodpeckers gorging on the fruit left out. With most only delighted to watch the feeders while breakfasting, a female purple-throated woodstar was the next species to be added to the ever growing trip list. Here too a prolonged period hummingbird-watching led to the discovery of yet another species, as a fawn-breasted brilliant fed from a feeder held by Loré! A golden tanager was also seen near the feeders, while a white-tipped dove made a brief appearance to Hoover up any scraps left by the other birds. A palm tanager and another female red-headed barbet were also spotted coming down for the fruit left out.

Satiated after breakfast, the group then reconvened and commenced walking back up the Sendero Principal, where we quickly logged both a bananaquit and a slaty spinetail. In the vegetation below the path, a chivi vireo was seen briefly, with most only getting flight views. However, much closer, and in the forest close to the path, a male Zeledon's antbird, western fire-eye and a particularly noisy scaly-throated foliage gleaner were picked up in quick succession - with all three species being really tricky birds to see though!

The female purple-throated woodstar female hummer that we saw by the feeders was then complimented with good views of a male while it fed from the flowers of a path-side shrub. Here too a female booted racket-tailed was picked up. While watching the hummingbirds, we could also hear the loud song of bay wren calling from the undergrowth, before a pair of slaty antwrens were picked up while skulking in the undergrowth.

Walking a little off the track, we were then treated to a very brief view of a male antvireo, with everyone commenting how difficult the antbirds can be to observe well. This was then confirmed as we gained brief glimpses of a dot-winged ant wren, which constantly called before being briefly seen, with MD commenting that an ant-swarm must be nearby. Taking a small break from the birds, a small frog was then located in the undergrowth, which we considered to belong in the genus *pristomantis*.

Turning back down the slope and towards the lodge, a pair of ornate flycatchers showed beautifully in the adjacent understory, while a little further down, Mauricio spotted a crested guan in the top of a fruiting *Cecropia* tree, with all the guests obtaining fine views of this big 'tree turkey'. And the birds kept coming - with a mixed flock subsequently revealing a white-lined tanager, at least three female red-headed barbets and a single male. The distinctive and yet repetitive call of slaty-backed shrike vireo could also be heard while we were enjoying watching the barbets.

Just as we were approaching the lodge, a Chocó toucan then flew past, with another perched up bat falcon also picked up. The last birds to be observed before lunch were that of two rusty-margined flycatchers, that were sunbathing on the apex of the lodge roof. More than satisfied after a terrific morning's birding, we then tucked into our lunch.

Birding while we ate, we continued with one eye on the yucca pancakes and the other on the hummingbirds, and our vigilance was rewarded with the sightings of a fawn-breasted brilliant and our first views at the feeders of rufous-tailed hummingbird. Taking a short while off to recharge our batteries, we then met up once more with Mauricio at 4pm for a short birding session before dinner.

Starting off down by the bridge, with torrent tyrannulets once again on the rocks down by the water's edge, we then took the road up towards Santa Lucia. The first bird of note was a perched-up bronze-winged parrot, while in the roadside vegetation a golden tanager and strong-billed woodcreeper were seen. At this location a whole host of birds were then seen in quick succession - including slaty-capped flycatcher, red-faced spinetail, three-striped warbler, yellow-throated chlorospingus and red-headed barbet.

In the pasture-land a little higher up, a female variable seedeater was picked up feeding in some grasses, before both a male and a juvenile were spotted. Mauricio then pointed out the call of scaled ant pitta, going on to explain that this was one of the most difficult birds to see in Maquipucuna. In a tree close by an ochre-throated foliage-gleaner was spotted, before we all listened to the song of a bay wren from deep within the

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undergrowth. Yet further on, and high up in a tree, most of the group managed to catch fleeting views of a blue-necked tanager, before one of the guests found one of the reserve's star birds - in the form of a pair of crimson-rumped toucanets. Happy with another excellent haul we then returned to the lodge for a fine dinner.

A brief outing after dinner involved walking to some nearby pastures where Loré's grandmother owned a finca (farm). And despite the steady rain, we managed to end the day with brief views of around four or five pauraques.

Day 4:

Thursday 18 April 2024

Maquipucuna Reserve

Weather: Beautiful start to the day, with high cloud, some sun and no wind. Clouding over later.

Meeting up at 6am with Mauricio, we had a coffee before then taking to the Sendero Tranquillo on the other side of the road. As we planned to be out for quite a while, we took a packed breakfast, with the plan to descend for lunch back at the lodge. Crossing over the bridge, a buff-rumped warbler was the first bird to be logged.

Walking steadily up the road, we stopped to admire three or four Chocó toucans in a Cecropia tree, before they flew up the valley and out of sight. A tricoloured brush finch then began to sing, before silver-throated tanager and yellow-throated chlorospingus were observed higher in the canopy.

Heading steadily upwards, we next heard the distinctive calls of both scale-crested pygmy tyrant and plumbeous pigeon before enjoying brief views of a couple of female blue-and-black grassquits in a deforested section of the reserve. Working our way steadily upwards, we next passed a sugar cane field owned by a friend of Mauricio's, which afforded the most wonderful view of the forested ridge linking Maquipucuna and Santa Lucia.

A little higher up we next recorded a white-tipped dove, a golden tanager, a swallow tanager and a very good view of a perched buff-throated saltator in quick succession. Close by, a dusky-capped flycatcher and bay-headed tanager was added to the list, while in a nearby cecropia tree fine views of a golden-crowned flycatcher were obtained.

As we continued to ascend, the views of Maquipucuna were simply terrific, with blue-grey tanager, southern rough-winged swallows and blue-and-white swallows noted in a more open area. A roadside hawk then flew past, before perching in a nearby tree, which enabled everyone to obtain good views through the scope. By now the sun was beating down on us as we spotted a pair of orange-bellied euphonias in a nearby tree, along with a yellow-bellied seedeater. With a bit of patience, an olive-crowned yellowthroat was the next bird to be logged, while high up in a tree close-by, from the family *Melastomataceae*, bay-headed, flame-faced and golden-naped tanagers were all picked up in the same flock. Once more back in thick forest, a pair of slaty ant wrens were seen, while a spotted nightingale thrush could be heard singing from deep within the undergrowth.

Continuing our ascent, we were next serenaded by a grey-breasted wood-wren before Mauricio stopped us to listen to club-winged manakin, but on this occasion they could not be persuaded to come any closer. Moving on, we eventually managed to link up with Maquipucuna's other species of manakin - this being the golden-winged. Eventually everyone managed a brief but excellent view, as we celebrated with breakfast high up in the forest.

We could, by now, hear a pair of toucan barbet (yumbo) duetting further up hill, and after a spot of patience eventually managed to find one with the scope. This is considered one of Ecuador's iconic cloud forest species, so all were thrilled to see it sitting so quietly in the canopy. While watching the 'yumbo' a bird of prey then shoot past the group, before perching in a dead tree, enabling us to identify it as a barred forest-falcon with some prey in its talons. The walk back down was, at times, a touch slippery, but all managed to

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get down without any mishaps!

On crossing the river, a green-fronted lancebill sitting on a branch over the water, represented yet another new species of hummingbird, along with a brief view of a bay wren. Followed by a delicious lunch.

After a break, five members of the group then joined Mauricio and MD for another stroll to the Science Station close by. By now, the weather had changed completely, with it now raining heavily for the first time all trip. Despite the rain, a rufous hummingbird was spotted while feeding from a hibiscus bush, and as we approached the feeders, a red-tailed squirrel was briefly seen, followed by a red-rumped cacique. While watching the feeders, we then managed to catch up with yet another new hummingbird, in the form of a brown violetear, that was intent on constantly bossing any other birds away from its own self-designated feeder. A female purple-throated woodstar was also noted here, along with green-crowned brilliant, rufous-tailed hummingbird, Andean emerald and a female purple-bibbed white-tip.

By now, most of the group were beginning to feel decidedly moist, and so walked back to the lodge to dry off in our rooms. With a couple of hours off, this enabled everyone to shower and relax before meeting back up for our final dinner in Maqui. Washed down with a few beers, we then headed to our beds, with a long travel day pending.

Day 5:

Friday 19 April 2024

Maquipucuna Reserve to Antisana, Chacana Reserve & Tambo Lodge

Weather: A heavy rainstorm overnight, with wet conditions in the morning. Cloudy and raining across to both Quito and Antisana, before clearing at Chakana.

Meeting up once again at 6am, the usual coffee and cake was taken with Mauricio before heading out for our last birding session. Here, a collared aracari was the first good bird to be located, with good views obtained through the scope. Walking down to the bridge, the resident buff-rumped warbler was heard once again, along with good sightings of the resident pair of white-capped dippers down on the rocks below.

Taking the road up to Santa Lucia once again, a single black-cheeked woodpecker was picked up on a dead snag off a tree, along with a red-faced spinetail, as we headed steadily upwards. With secondary forest either side of the road, we were suddenly alerted when two noisy red-billed parrots flew past, as a second red-tailed squirrel was then seen briefly, before disappearing off into a thicket of bamboo.

While looking for the squirrel, Mauricio then heard a pair of yellow tyrannulet flitting around in the top of the bamboo, and after a good deal of patience we all eventually managed to gain at least a glimpse of these tiny birds as they flitted above our heads. While looking for the tyrannulet, we could also hear the plaintive song of Ecuadorian thrush, in addition to the seemingly omnipresent two-note call of rufous-breasted ant-thrush. Continuing up the road, we then stopped briefly to admire both a bananaquit and a slaty-throated redstart flitting around in the roadside vegetation.

The second thrush of the morning was then heard, in the form of Andean solitaire, while the group took in fine views of a tropical parula. Another tricoloured brush finch was also heard here too, but having seen one well yesterday we didn't linger to see if it would reveal itself. Moving further upwards, and through some pasture, Mauricio then managed to spot a tiny hawk on an exposed dead tree. Being rarely seen, this was a lifer for all the group, including MD, and great views were obtained once more through the scope. A second raptor was then picked out, in the form of roadside hawk, while Mauricio told the group about how much of the land was owned by foreigners, as walking past properties owned by both Canadians and Swiss.

Retracing our steps back down, a dusky-capped flycatcher was seen on a telegraph wire, before super views were had of both male and female white-winged tanagers. A flock of birds moving through enabled the group to see slate-throated whitestart and thick-billed euphonia, along with a couple of female yellow-rumped tanagers and two blue-grey tanagers. With the gentle rain finally abating, the birds suddenly

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became active as buff-throated saltator, rusty-margined flycatcher and orange-bellied euphonia were all observed in quick succession, along with a fly-by from three red-billed parrots.

Passing Cloudy Finca, a ruddy foliage gleaner was then heard calling, before our first views of plumbeous pigeon were obtained. As we continued to descend, very close views of a single black vulture were also obtained before arriving back at the lodge. With our bags already packed, we met up with Santiago and Eddie before then bidding farewell to our wonderful hosts at Maqui ahead of our journey back to Quito and onwards to Antisana.

Leaving Maquipucuna, the route back to Nanegalito resulted in three black vultures and a couple of lemon-jumped tanagers before Santiago suggested we make a brief stop at Alambi - which is famed for its quetzals and hummingbirds. Upon arrival we immediately picked up two golden-headed quetzals feeding in a tree, but these were soon relegated to that of little more than a side-show, when we saw the sheer number of hummingbirds coming to the feeders.

As we hit 'birding overdrive' we were quickly able to identify purple-bibbed white-tip, Andean emerald, purple-throated woodstar, white necked Jacobin, booted jacket-tail and rufous tailed hummingbird. Also a feeding table with fruit enabled black-capped tanager, golden tanager, black-winged saltator, white-lined tanager, golden-naped tanager, palm tanager, red-headed barbet and thick-billed euphonia to be identified in the space of just a few minutes. As we watched agog, the hummingbirds continued to pour in, with buff-tailed coronet, brown violetear and the wonderful empress brilliant added to the mix.

Leaving reluctantly after no more than 30 minutes of frenetic birding, we next headed through the outskirts of Quito, before heading straight on to Antisana. Climbing ever higher, we breezed past 3,000m as we took in the Paramo habitat for the first time. Here Santiago, who is also one of Ecuador's foremost experts on spectacled bears, pointed out the *Puya* bromeliad, which is a staple food for the Andean bears. Before arriving at Tambo Condor, which would also be our accommodation for the night, we logged our first carunculated caracara, with Mauricio letting us know we'd see much more of this species the following day.

Eventually we reached Tambo Condor, which is located at over 3,500m asl. The location of the lodge here afforded a wonderful view across the high altitude reserve of both Chakana and back towards the south of Quito down below. In the fields adjacent to the lodge, two great thrushes were quickly spotted and by standing by the feeders, while our bags were unloaded, a spot of birding unearthed a black flower piercer.

The birding, of course, carried on throughout lunch, with the hummingbird feeders positioned in front of the most impressive backdrop of a huge wall of cliffs. The first hummer to be identified was brown violetear, a species we'd previously recorded at Pululahua Geobotanical Reserve. Then one of the star birds turned up - in the form of giant hummingbird - which dwarfed the rest of the species coming in. It was a really exciting moment to see such a wonderful species at close hand. With the rain now falling steadily, shining sunbeams were the next into the feeder, complete with a remarkable rainbow-coloured back and an orange front - surely one of the prettiest of all the hummingbirds.

After a frankly enormous lunch comprising four courses, one of the guests managed to spot a distant condor on the cliff-face, and with the scope we were soon treated to views of this iconic Ecuadorian species. However, with bears on our mind and the weather, by now, slowly improving, we jumped back in the minibus for the short ride along to a viewpoint over the cliffs. Here we could see more *Puya* bromeliads recently eaten by bears, as another condor was seen at slightly closer quarters.

At the viewpoint here, red-crested cotinga, great thrush and plain-coloured seedeater were all picked up in the surrounding vegetation. Back in the minibus, we next turned off the main road, to enter the private reserve of Chakana, which is managed by the Jocotoco Foundation. Mauricio pointed out that the adjacent land had, by contrast, been managed very unsympathetically, with conifers planted all over the Paramo, to the obvious detriment of the wildlife. A chestnut-winged cinclodes was then picked up along a fence-line, but star billing went to a great horned owl, sitting on the edge of the plantation and seemingly quite unperturbed by all the admirers no more than 50m away!

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Heading round a switchback and ever higher, an aplomado falcon was seen by some of the group right alongside the road and in front of the minibus while scanning for both bears and their signs. As we headed ever upwards, we enjoyed a commanding view across the valley and above the cliffs where we'd previously seen the condors. Here, an adult black-chested buzzard eagle showed very well when it flew straight past the group. Stopping at an empty hacienda, a plumbeous sierra finch was picked up on the fence posts, along with a female white-tailed deer. Also, a couple of black-winged ground doves were also seen, along with our first Andean rabbits.

Now at 3,750 metres in altitude a sedge wren briefly popped out of the grass whilst we were stretching our legs to take a look around. With the weather now looking good, but time quickly passing, we headed back down, enjoying a black-chested buzzard-eagle chick on a large nest on the way down. While watching the eagle chick we could also see white-collared swifts feeding above the huge crags above.

Leaving the reserve to head back to Tambo Condor, Santiago was able to point out the *Polylepis*, or paper tree, en route, which is an important species at the tree-line in Ecuador. Back at the viewpoint, for one last scan, we were able to add tyrian metal-tail to our hummingbird list. With everyone checking in to their rooms, the lower accommodation looked over both the cliffs and the lake below, where Andean gulls and yellow-billed pintail could clearly be seen with the help of the scope. While other species were certainly present, the fading light meant their identification would have to be delayed until the following day as the group reunited for a fine dinner.

Day 6:

Saturday 20 April 2024

Chakana reserve, Cayambe-coca National Park & Guano Lodge

Weather: Fine and very hot initially, before clouding over and later lightning storms and heavy rain.

Awaking after an admittedly cold night for many at such a high altitude, a spot of pre-breakfast birding over the lake produced slate-coloured coot. Meanwhile, back up at the feeders, and during our wait for breakfast, the hummingbird feeders produced sparkling violetear, shining sunbeam and giant hummingbird.

During breakfast, another condor was spotted before jumping in the minibus to return to Chakana. Entering the reserve once more, a black-tailed train-bearer flew past, along with another sighting of the resident black-chested buzzard eagle. Steadily climbing once more, in delightful weather, we could almost see the summit of Sincholagua Volcano at just below 5,000m, but virtually everywhere else was clear. Steadily heading up, we logged more plumbeous Sierra finches, and a paramo ground tyrant. We then turned left towards the cliffs, where a small area of wetland was to prove very productive for a variety of wetland birds, including Andean lapwing, yellow-billed teal, Andean teal and greater yellowlegs. Also present were four smaller waders, and after a great deal of observation we decided them to be two baird's and two white-rumped sandpipers.

With the sun now beating down, a pair of carunculated caracaras were picked up over the paramo, in addition to a couple of llamas feeding out in the grassland. Taking to foot, we then walked down to the viewpoint, to look for bears across the valley, and were treated to a gorgeous male Andean hillstar while it fed right in front of the group on the chuquiragua plant - nick-named 'Flower of the Andes'. This hummer is an endemic species to Ecuador and never visits feeders so it was a top find. A female was then spotted shortly afterwards.

After two hours of scanning, to no avail, Santiago suddenly received a call on the walkie-talkie informing us that a bear had been spotted close to where we had seen the buzzard-eagle's nest the previous day. A very quick and bumpy ascent then ensued before finally locating what appeared to be a young female. It still looked very large in the scope however as it sat sunbathing at a distance of around 250 metres!

Great excitement then ensued as everyone drunk in the view of this iconic species, before it then disappeared in vegetation, only to be relocated a touch further up. Slightly more hidden here, it eventually

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disappeared completely, having showed for no more than five minutes in total - what a five minutes though!

Flushed with success, and the weather now closing in, we headed back to Tambo Condor for lunch. It was by now raining heavily with thunder and lightning, meaning we'd have to miss out visiting Antisana's plains, so we headed instead for Papallacta. On the way down, MD and a couple of the guests briefly saw a southern yellow grosbeak when it flashed across the road. Passing through the high altitude town of Pintag, we then began climbing once more as we drove east along the Pacific-Oceanic Highway, passing through wonderful paramo habitat, with crags higher up, and *Polylepis* woodland down in the valley. Finally reaching the head of the pass at over 4,000 metres, Santiago informed us that we were now in the land of puma and tapir - right alongside the road!

Taking the old road back on ourselves, which marked the junction with Cayambe-Coca reserve, we drove slowly along while scanning for more bears. It was a terrific habitat and virtually pristine. Jumping out the minibus we had wonderful views of scarlet-bellied mountain tanager, which was also singing at close quarters, and undoubtedly one of the birds of the trip. Also here a number of brown-bellied swallows were picked up while hawking for insects. Despite the altitude, the air temperature still felt warm, with the scenery looking very dramatic as cloud slowly crept up the hillsides from the valley below.

While admiring the views, a female rainbow-bearded thornbill was then spotted while feeding alongside a rufous-tufted chat tyrant. Tawny antpitta could also be heard singing here too. Leaving Cayambe-Coca, we took some photos of a *Puya* recently ripped open by bears. On the way out, Eddie and Mauricio also saw a pudu, an incredibly rare small deer which none of the guests saw!

Dropping some 1,200 metres down the eastern cordilleras we eventually arrived at Guango Lodge, where we received a very warm welcome with a hot-spiced drink. After time to refresh, we then enjoyed a wonderful meal, while celebrating one of the guest's birthday, and afterwards enjoyed a tremendously informative talk on the Andean bear from Mauricio, capping off an unforgettable day.

Day 7:

Sunday 21 April 2024

Guango Lodge to Quito

Weather: Cloudy to start, with some sun and rain later.

A group of four guests met up with MD & Santiago for a visit to the early morning moth trap operated at Guango Lodge. Entering the hide, a vertical white sheet was covered in moths, with birds coming to feed on the free handouts. Almost immediately we started spotting brilliant birds, with two turquoise jays & grey-browed brushfinch the first to arrive. Then russet-crowned warbler turned up, along with a montane woodcreeper.

Behind the hide, Andean guans were calling, with a few guests managing a half-decent view of these birds in the trees as they passed by. Suddenly a green jay came in, with a harsh call, with all agreeing it to be one of the most beautiful birds seen on the trip thus far. The next bird to be attracted to the free handout was a rufous spinetail, with distinct raggedy ends to its tail feathers. Also creeping along the ground, as they collected moths, were a couple of rufous-collared sparrows, which were then preceded by a small flock of mountain caciques of mountain caciques.

And new birds simply kept arriving, with the next 'cabs off the rank' being a single chestnut-capped brushfinch and a pair of rufous wrens, which despite looking like the spinetail, exhibited very different behaviours. Hummingbird activity in this terrific early morning session was provided by a male long-tailed sylph.

Arriving and joining the others for breakfast, the first bird seen before commencing our morning walk was a slaty-backed chat tyrant, while buff-tailed coronets dominated the feeders. A collared Inca and a couple of masked flowerpiercers also made an appearance here too. Setting off for our walk both in the cloud forest and across the road, we were firstly able to see where the vegetation had been cleared for the Trans-

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Amazonian oil pipeline just below the surface, which takes oil from the Amazon to the coast. It reportedly has suffered from many spillages and caused an extraordinary amount of pollution in the region.

The path up into the forest involved and initially steep, short stretch, before levelling out. The trail was fairly muddy, but this was more than compensated by the superb views as we looked out and across the forest and the road below. Reaching a small hide, which had recently been erected for viewing grey-breasted mountain toucan, we waited for the bird to arrive for the grass left out, but after 30 minutes, the only bird seen was a great thrush, and so we decided to instead take a walk in the forest and try later.

Continuing the two-hour circular walk, a male tourmaline sunangel whizzed past, while we could also hear the distinctive three-note call of chestnut-crowned antpitta from deep within the undergrowth. We then hit a mixed flock up in the canopy as hooded mountain tanager, cinnamon flycatcher & grey-hooded bush tanager were all identified in quick succession.

Following the trail back down to the road, we then crossed over and followed the path down to the River Papallacta. Here the rushing water was admired by all with a fasciated tiger-heron and excellent find on the opposite bank. Walking a little further upriver we then came across a male and female torrent duck, which proceeded to put on the most marvellous display as we watched them for the next hour while they worked their way steadily upriver. Close together, and frequently diving into the bubbling torrents, many agreed their behaviour to be one of the highlights of the trip so far.

Slowly working our way back upriver and towards the Lodge, one last scan along the river produced a couple of black phoebes. Taking our lunch, hummingbird watching provided us with more views of chestnut-breasted coronets and tourmaline sunangels. After lunch, we then took a walk back across the road and up to the toucan viewing spot, and our persistence was rewarded after no more than 10 minutes by the toucans' arrival! Flying in, it then ate a single grape, and briefly posed for photos before flying off as quickly as it had arrived - what a champagne moment!

Back down at the lodge, and with our bags packed, we still had a little time to enjoy the feeders before departing and we were rewarded with the appearance of a couple of white-bellied woodstars & another tourmaline sunangel.

Bidding farewell to our super hosts, we then climbed slowly back up and westwards through the Papallacta Pass. The weather was initially very wet, but at the pass it slowly cleared to give outstanding views of Cayambe-Coca National Park before dropping back down to Quito. Black-chested buzzard-eagle and carunculated caracara were the only birds of note, before we eventually arrived back at Swissotel after an action-packed day. After meeting for dinner and washed down with a non-alcoholic beverage, due to the recent elections, we all retired, in the full knowledge that we would need an early start in order to get to the Amazon by evening of the following day.

Day 8:

Monday 22 April 2024

Quito to Napo Wildlife Center

Weather: Cloudy in Quito, with some rain in Coca, but the day steadily improving with conditions hot, humid and still all afternoon.

Convening for breakfast at 6am, with Santiago and Danny waiting for us, we were ready to leave at 6.30am for the airport. The transfer was incredibly smooth and was well organised, and after a short flight of no more than 45 minutes we landed in hot and steamy Coca on the western edge of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Taking the short walk to the airport terminal, it was raining lightly, while the heat and humidity were immediately obvious.

We met up with our guides to the Napo Wildlife Centre and took the short drive to their office overlooking a tributary of the Napo River. Here we re-packed our bags and enjoyed a coffee before preparing to take to the motorised canoes for the first leg. While waiting to board the canoe, a spot of scanning over the river

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revealed blue-and-white swallows, brown-chested martins and great kiskadees.

Taking to the water, we headed along the river until it met the Napo river, with many folk fishing at the confluence. Lots of vultures were present, along with a single yellow-headed caracara and great white egret. Despite being incredibly wide, reaching up to a kilometre in some places, the river was nevertheless quite shallow across its course, which meant the boat's skipper had to follow a winding path as he kept to the deeper water.

Speeding at around 30 knots, we saw a few snowy egrets, but it was tough to identify birds due to both our speed of travel and the distance to both shores. A brief view of hoatzin was made as we learnt about the extraction of petroleum from this part of the Amazon, and the obvious issues it causes. Flares could be seen which burn off any excess gas, and the guides also talked about the damage flares can do.

Arriving after two hours at the landing stage, where we turned into to a tributary off the main river, called the Añango Creek, where we were able to both hear and see as a few cobalt-winged parakeets whizzed past over the canopy. Transferring to a smaller non-motorised canoe, our designated guides for the trip were then assigned to us, these were: Pedro our bilingual guide, our local guide Mariano and boatman Wilber. Setting off, the creek had a very different feel, being much narrower and far more still, with forest close by on both sides.

The first wildlife was that of a hoatzin sitting on a nest in the shade, with Pedro informing us that the local's called themselves 'stinky turkeys'! Immediately the monkeys began to show themselves, as a white-fronted capuchin mother and baby and a small troop of wooly monkeys showed themselves as we paddled slowly past. Pedro was particularly thrilled for us to catch up with the wooly monkeys, as he explained they were often one of the hardest to see. However on this occasion, they showed beautifully, with one male putting on quite the show.

Pedro talked about this habitat being called 'Varzea', which is seasonally flooded forest from the white waters. He stated how 40% of Ecuador is comprised of Amazon rainforest, but Ecuador's contribution to the overall size of the entire forest is only 2%. The Amazon is also a relatively young forest, formed when the Andes rose only 250 million years ago and forcing the river to change from flowing in east-west direction to that of west-east.

The next monkey to be found was another great species, in the form of monk (or Napo) saki. We initially saw one high up in the trees, before a much closer animal turned out to be a mother and baby. It was terrific to see them so well, with Pedro telling us their fluffy tails are in fact longer than their bodies. This was quickly followed by our fourth species of the morning, as a small chattering group of squirrel monkeys passed close by, accompanied by the backing track of another flock of cobalt-winged parakeets.

One of the guests then declared that he'd found a bird high up in the tree, which subsequently proved to be great potoo. Generally a tricky bird to find, this individual was at least 30m up and with its back facing us. While watching the potoo resting on a branch we could also hear the loud, distinct call of linedated woodpecker. Further away, the distinctive calls of distant red howler monkeys could be heard, along with the tremulous call of cinereous tinamou.

A number of Amazonian birds can be very secretive, with plumbeous antbird a fine example. And despite its loud, distinct call this birds kept to the undergrowth as we passed by. Heading further into the forest, Pedro explained that we were now entering a different habitat called 'Igapó' forest. Here, the forest is also seasonally flooded, but this time by the black, or fresh waters. The tree canopy here was instantly much lower, allowing us to gain fine views of a troop of red howler monkeys, as a green-backed trogon and white-throated toucan could be heard in the background. Still further along, another terrific find was made with the discovery of a three-toed sloth, asleep in a tree, with Pedro able to say it was a male, due to the rusty-coloured patch on its rear end. While sloth-watching we were also treated to the incredibly loud song of Coraya wren from deep within the forest undergrowth.

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And the sightings kept coming thick and fast with the discovery of a red-tailed boa curled up in the branches of a tree. While watching the snake, a russet-backed oropendola was also picked up in the distance, with Pedro informing us that this was a common species close to the cabañas. More hoatzins were seen as we canoed along through the flooded forest, with their sneeze-like call very distinctive once heard. The call of a cinnamon attila was also heard here, while Pedro was also able to teach us the distinct three note whistle belonging to ruddy pigeon. A great ani then flew across the creek, while a couple of lesser kiskadees showed very well on a dead snag over the water. The next bird to be identified by call was that of a silvered antbird, while we all admired the empty nests of yellow-rumped cacique hanging over the water.

Now close to our destination, Our fifth monkey of the day was white-bellied spider monkey, with most only grabbing a glimpse of this speedy monkey as it swung away through the trees. Finally arriving at Añangu lake, we could see the hugely impressive lodges ahead of us, while a greater kiskadee perched alongside the boat. White-winged swallows were whizzing across the lake, while the first bird to be spotted as we landed was that of blue-grey tanager.

After a drink and a brief introduction we were shown to our fabulous rooms. With time to refresh, we reconvened for a lecture call about the Ecuadorian Amazon and the Napo Wildlife Center, before a delicious buffet meal with Pedro our guide. With a very early start planned for the following day, we were all keen to get to bed early after a fabulous introduction to simply the finest rainforest on planet earth.

Day 9:

Tuesday 23 April 2024

Napo Wildlife Center

Weather: Still and clear, followed by very hot and dry in the afternoon. A little rain in the evening.

Meeting for a 4.30am breakfast, the group reconvened down on the jetty with Pedro, Mariano and Wilber for a canoe across the lake. Still before dawn, the frogs were calling loudly, with the first bird head being that of a rufescent tiger heron, with its moo-like call. Joining the chorus, a zig-zag heron could also be heard, along with the iceman call of the common potoo.

Great anis were present once again across the mouth of the creek, as we continued to listen to the zig-zag heron. The dawn chorus then began to kick in properly as the booming calls of howler monkeys could be heard resonating through the forest. Calls also picked up in the early morning light belonged to plain brown woodcreeper and cinnamon Attila. A pair of noisy ringed kingfishers then flew straight past the boat and upstream. In a similar place to the previous day, plumbeous antbird was picked up once again, along with white-shouldered antbird and brief views of single boat-billed flycatcher.

Next up was an owl butterfly, which was patently out on the wing early, while violaceous jays could be heard calling before a couple showed themselves just to one side of the creek. Catching sight of an aracari flying, it then landed in a tree, before being joined by a second bird, giving us the perfect views of a pair of many-banded aracari - which represented a new species for many in the group. The next avian addition was an aninga, in a tree just above the creek, while russet-backed oropendolas and cobalt-winged parakeets were also added to the day list.

With the light now rapidly improving, at least three yellow-rumped caciques were picked up in the creek-side bushes, while a pair of roosting plumbeous kites on the opposite side of the creek represented yet another excellent find. And new bird calls kept arriving, with the distinctive call of speckled chachalaca the next to be added to the 'heard but not seen' list.

With mammals up until this point thin on the ground, this was then rectified when a small troop of golden-mantled tamarin, were picked up by the guides - but not the guests! However a much more obliging dusky titi monkey, which was loosely associating with the troop, showed beautifully, and royally entertained all present when it did the most enormous wee!

Continuing our paddling up the creek, three bare-necked fruit crows were seen well in a tree alongside the

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water, while the call of undulated tinamou was clearly heard upon reaching the landing stage. Changing once more for a motorised canoe, we were then driven back out onto the Rio Napo for a five minute drive downriver to a clay lick owned and managed by the local community. Holding our position against the flow we were able to see a huge wall of bare river bank with many parrots in the surrounding vegetation.

Wondering why the parrots were tentative to come down, we suddenly understood the reason when a roadside hawk was spotted in the adjacent vegetation. But when this left, the dusky-headed parakeets slowly began descending to feed on the salts. There were, however, frequent dreads, as all the birds took off, before then landing on the surrounding vegetation of the lick itself. A lower number of mealy parrots, with bicoloured trails and red in their wings, could also be spotted, with Pedro stating that the smaller parrots were always first down, with the bigger species far more cautious.

It was interesting to see the dusky-headed parakeets feeding in a really tight flock, while a few blue-headed parrots could be picked out as well. These birds were then joined by three yellow-crowned amazon parrots - taking our parrot tally on the lick to four. Just to add a touch of variety, a drab water-tyrant then flew past over the water at this point too. Whenever the dusky-headed parrots took to the air in frequent dreads, at least 80 or 90 were recorded.

Eventually leaving the lick, we returned again to the creek where we were able to enjoy a troop of at least five or six red howler monkeys in a huge emergent kapok tree along the river. Despite being a distance away they could nevertheless be clearly seen as they fed contentedly in the canopy. Arriving back at the landing stage, we then set off for the second lick of the day. Walking up some steps, and into the forest, a speckled chachalaca could be heard from deep within the forest.

With Pedro leading the way, we stopped en route to admire a flat-backed millipede, but the approach to the hide at the second lick had to be conducted in near silence, as a couple of scarlet macaws were in the trees and waiting to come down. The lick consisted of nothing more than a hole at the base of a small cliff, where a number of birds and mammals apparently come to both drink water and consume clay. Aware that the macaws would not descend if there was the slightest disturbance, the group sat quietly while waiting to see if the birds would pluck up the courage to fly in. While waiting for the macaws to hopefully descend, the lick was visited by both an agouti and a sun bittern, with the latter spreading its stunning wings, to the delight of all. The macaws, however, while descending a touch, still seemed reticent to fly down. Eventually one macaw finally plucked up the confidence to drop, leading to the others quickly dropping down too. In no time we had gone from none to six macaws, as they fed and squabbled away on the ground, at a distance of no more than 25 metres.

Thrilled with the views of this iconic Amazonian species, Pedro then took half the group for a community-based event, while MD and Mariano remained to see if any more birds would be willing to come down. After a while, another agouti came to feed and after much noisy to-ing-and-fro-ing from above, seven cobalt-winged parakeets also descended to feed. Mariano also pointed out the call of mouse-coloured antshrike to the remaining group here as well, while good views of a green-backed trogon were also picked up out of the back of the hide.

Eventually leaving the lick to join the others, Mariano offered to take us on a small detour to look for the great-billed hermit, which had a lek nearby. Listening to a thrush-like antpitta on the way, we eventually managed to gain pretty reasonable views of one male hermit while calling on the lek, as we all took in the species' long, decurved bill. Walking back to the landing stage, one last surprise was in store for us, in the form of a small troop of golden-mantled tamarind monkeys - which also happens to be the logo of the Napo Wildlife Centre. Meanwhile the other group, which had been visiting the community, had also managed to see: bluish-grey saltator, silver-billed tanager & pale-vented pigeon.

Enjoying a delicious lunch at the landing stage, we then joined up with our guides for the paddle back along the Añangu Creek to the lodge. The first birds to be noted on our return journey were a small flock of greater anis, along within regular hoatzins. And with the temperature now finally starting to drop, silvered antbird was heard once more, while still flatly refusing to reveal its presence! A little further along the day's second

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troop of howler monkeys were encountered, with this group appearing much more relaxed and distinctly closer than those seen earlier in the day along the Napo River. And the monkey theme continued, when a mixed troop of white-fronted capuchins and squirrel monkeys were seen a little further along in the creek. At this point, a green kingfisher was picked up as it flashed past, but on this occasion it remained in view, with all managing to catch sight of it on a low branch just above the water. While watching the kingfisher, everyone also managed to catch sight of a single male orange-crested manakin - a bird Pedro called a 9/10 bird! While only seen briefly, it showed very well just alongside the boat, before then disappearing off into the undergrowth.

Moving back up the creek another coraya wren's loud song was heard, while a small flock of cobalt-winged parakeets flew over. The red-tailed boa was then seen in exactly the same tree as the previous day, leading the guides to speculate its inactivity may well be down to the fact it could have just eaten a large meal. Then just before entering Añangu Creek another red howler monkey troop was picked up - making it the third troop that day. Changing from fur to scales, Mariano then spotted a single black caiman hiding in the waterside vegetation, which we estimated to be around 3 metres long. Next up was a rufescent tiger heron, which was one of the first birds we'd heard early that very morning, with its call vaguely reminiscent of a cow mooing!

Upon entering the lake, a pair of lesser kiskadees were picked up, but these were immediately trumped by a pair of capped heron, a limpkin and a snail kite sun-bathing on a log at the edge of the lake. Crossing the lake, fork-tailed palm swifts were common as they caught insects emerging from the water, while a large yellow-spotted river turtle was also spotted on one of the grassy banks adjacent to the lake.

Finally back at the lodge after a superb morning out, most managed to see the adult and juvenile wattled jacana. With time to relax, everyone returned back to their rooms for a shower, but those guests in cabañas 14, 15 & 16 were lucky enough to be treated to a visit by FOUR giant river otters! Stopping only long enough for a few photos, the rest of the group dashed over, but were unfortunately too late to see this Amazonian mega. All the lucky guests were thrilled to be treated to a ringside seat with this remarkable apex predator.

After the excitement, a number of the guests then reconvened with MD up on the NWC Tower. Situated on the sixth story, the views across Añangu lake were superb, and despite a number of trees being distant, a good variety of birds were seen. Fork-tailed palm swifts, brown-chested martins and short-tailed swift were all seen in quick succession, along with a single sand martin on the lodge's satellite aerial.

While scanning from our viewpoint above the trees, a flock of around 15 red-bellied macaws were picked up at distance, along with a pair of flycatchers, which MD and a guest worked out to be eastern kingbird and variegated flycatcher. With dark finally descending, everyone convened downstairs for a pre-prandial drink. The initial plan, had been to go for a night walk around the lodge with Pedro, but the decision was made to instead relax, with a view to going for an earlier walk the following morning, when a very early start would hopefully enable a few nocturnal creatures to be found.

Day 10:

Wednesday 24 April 2024

Napo Wildlife Center

Weather: Intermittently sunny, with a small amount of rain, afterwards sunny.

Meeting once again in the pre-dawn darkness at 4.30am, Pedro, Mariano and Wilber took the group directly across the lake to access the jetty that would lead to the reserve's canopy tower. As it was still completely dark, many bats could be seen flitting through the torchlight, before we even reached the landing stage on the other side. The walk would take around 40 minutes, before reaching the canopy tower, with stops along the way whenever anything was found. Our breakfast would also be taken to the tower by our wonderful team of porters.

The trail was in good condition and as we set off, we could hear the sound of frogs, with the first bird heard, being the harsh call of great potoo. Amblypygid spiders, bullet ants, a number of spiders and katydids were

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all seen along the way, before one of the guests then located a cat-eyed vine snake either in the Genus *Imantodes* or *Dipsas*. The snake's wide head was perhaps accentuated by a spending body, with Pedro confirming this to be a nocturnal species.

Carrying on, we then heard the single 'whoop' call of a black-banded owl, which thanks to Mariano, we eventually managed to see high up in an emergent kapok tree. Finally reaching the tower, and with dawn slowly arriving, we slowly climbed the 220 steps to reach the top, some 33 metres above the forest floor, with the platform built around the tree's canopy. The view was nothing short of outstanding, with a 360° panorama of the forest, as we watched the sun slowly rising above the canopy.

Almost immediately a pair of blue and yellow macaws were spotted high up in a dead tree, while two orange-winged amazon parrots flew past, both above the canopy and at eye level! A single white-throated toucan was picked up as well, with its call echoing above the forest canopy. Distant spider monkeys were also scoped up in the canopy of a tree, along with some crested oropendolas, which were separated from other closely related species by their predominantly yellow tail and white bill. Much closer, a single bare-necked fruitcrow and a palm tanager were next to be picked up, as they fed in the canopy.

All of a sudden, two ivory-billed aracaris flew into the tree right next to the kapok at a distance of no more than 20 metres, causing a stir among the photographers, while a crimson-crested woodpecker could be seen on the other side of the platform. The birds were now popping up all over the place, with a male and female spangled cotinga next to come under the group's collective gaze while perching on top of a tree close by. Pedro then picked out a blue-throated piping guan, while two opal-rumped tanagers, a flock of yellow-rumped caciques and a yellow-tufted woodpecker were all picked out as the guests hardly knew where to look.

Mariano then directed us toward the location of a male and female white-browed purple tuft, with the two scopes massively helping everyone see each species as and when it was located. The next toucan was a many-banded aracari, with a casqued cacique, yellow-rumped caciques, gilded barbet and red-rumped caciques all picked up in a big mixed flock. In another location further away, a green oropendola was seen, while male and female rufous-bellied euphonias were in a tree no more than 20 metres away.

Then in a fruiting tree around 100 metres away revealed an astonishing seven many-banded aracaris feeding away, while a crested oropendola was seen at much closer quarters. A black-headed parrot was then heard and briefly picked up in a distant tree, before an opal-rumped tanager was spotted, but this was largely ignored when both species of aracari could be seen in the same tree at a distance of no more than 20 metres away. Both scopes were then used simultaneously, with one trained on two white-eyed parakeets, while the other was focused on an orange-breasted falcon perched on a dead snag.

While breakfast was served, the wildlife-spotting continued, as plumbeous pigeon was spotted, and before a crowned-slaty flycatcher was eventually identified by the assembled birders - with the help of the Merlin app! Nearby, a golden-faced tyrannulet was a new bird for many present, while those into 'bigger birds' watched two blue and yellow macaws feeding in a tree. Flying past, at some distance, a black caracara was then identified, while Mariano found a back-tailed tityra that didn't stay long.

Much more obliging however, and indeed a good deal closer was a squirrel cuckoo in the adjacent tree, as our third vulture of the trip was that of greater yellow-headed vulture. By now, the heat of the day was beginning to pick up, leading to the arrival of both slender-billed and double-toothed kite soaring away on the thermal. After a scintillating session up on the tower we descended back to the forest floor, but Mariano had once more surprise for us in the form of a male wire-tailed manakin, on a lek nearby. Despite the manakin being quite elusive, all ultimately managed to get good views of this famous disco-dancing bird. Pedro also took some time to talk about the trees in the forest while Mariano chatted about his own Kichua community and that of the neighbouring Huoarani. He also talked to the guests about the medicinal uses of plants within the forest, and particularly the Chuchuasso tree, with MD translating on behalf of the group.

On our way back to the boat, a green agouchi crossed the path in front of us, with only a few lucky enough

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to catch this diminutive version of an agouti before it slipped back into the undergrowth. A little further on, we also managed to catch up with a very colourful poison dart frog (Genus *Ameerega*), when spotted by one of our keen-eyed guides. Back in the boat, we canoed out of a slightly different creek and back into the lake, while also spotting yet another troop of red howlers, along with a small yellow-spotted river turtle and a social flycatcher.

Returning straight to the lodge, we headed straight for lunch, before taking a much-needed rest during the hottest part of the day. Suitably refreshed by mid-afternoon, and with the temperature a touch cooler, we then reconvened at the jetty for a paddle down the creek to the southeast of the lake. Dominated by Igapó, this area was dominated for large parts by a palm in the genus *Mauricia* that only grows in swamp forest. Before reaching the creek, we noted blue-grey tanager, grey-breasted martins, blue and white swallows and three red-capped cardinals.

Turning into the creek, some of the group managed a fleeting glimpse of a ringed kingfisher as it whizzed upstream, while russet-backed oropendolas could be heard loudly singing alongside their communal nests on the edge of the lake. Looking up, both fork-tailed palm and short-tailed swifts were also noted, while a singing cinnamon Attila sung from somewhere in the undergrowth. Both green-backed trogon and white-throated toucan could be heard here too, but neither were seen on this occasion.

Further into the 'aguas negras', we finally caught up with silvered antbird, as both male and female showed well while the male was singing. Our second kingfisher of the session quickly followed on the heels of the antbirds, but the green-and-rufous kingfisher proved just as elusive as the first one. After hearing coraya wren we then heard the distinctive call of a ferruginous pygmy owl, and after a good deal of patience finally managed to get terrific views of the rufous form of this pint-sized predator, when it flew across the creek to land in a nearby tree.

Turning the canoe around, we then spent a good deal of time trying to see both Amazonian streaked ant wren and coraya wren, and despite seeing both of them in flight, very few of the guests managed anything other than half-decent views of this super-skulking duo. A little further back up the creek, however, we managed much better sightings of a pair of thrush-like wrens, which was then joined by a cinnamon-throated wood creeper, which showed even better. And just before reaching the lake once more, Pedro next managed to spot a striated heron fishing on a log. The heron had a small insect in its bill, which was then placed onto the surface of the water in the hope that its struggling would attract a fish which the heron itself would then catch. This of course made perfect sense, given how murky the water was!

Upon exiting the creek, a flock of at least 30 greater ani passed by the boat, with Pedro suggesting they often followed troops of squirrel monkeys, while by contrast, a single smooth-billed ani was noted on top of the aroid leaves dotted along the lake's perimeter. Finally back at the jetty, everyone was able to enjoy the wattled jacanas on the floating vegetation, before refreshing for dinner. Fully satiated after another delightful meal, it was once again early to bed in order to maximise out last full day at the NWC.

Day 11:

Thursday 25 April 2024

Napo Wildlife Center

Weather: Overcast, but warm and humid with a little rain mid-morning.

Leaving after breakfast and at the relatively relaxed time of 6am, the plan was to walk along the Tiputini trail. Heading across the lake, the first bird to be observed was a ringed kingfisher, while the seemingly omnipresent blue-and-white swallows and tropical kingbirds were also logged. A silver-beaked tanager was then picked up along the lake's perimeter, and after initially refusing to make its presence known, ultimately showed beautifully.

As we approached the creek, cobalt-winged parakeets flew over, to puncture the silence, along with a troop of howler monkeys from deeper within the forest. From the forest edge cinnamon attila was once again in the 'heard but not seen' category, but the same could not be said about the black-capped donacobius, which

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showed beautifully well to all the group.

The snail kite was, once again, in the same location as previously observed, while hoatzins could be seen at virtually every meander. The snail kite then flushed, having been hassled by a couple of kiskadees. Also present along the creek, were at least three young wattled jacanas. Leaving the boat at the pontoon, we walked along the path, over a grate and onto the Tiputini trail.

Following the trail in a northerly direction, the first bird of note to be observed was that of a roosting great potoo, while a troop of white-fronted capuchins passed by. A distinct 'whoo-oo!' call was then heard, which belonged to an amazonian motmot, but unfortunately this species proved far less obliging than its cloud forest cousin we'd previously seen well in Maquipucuna. The same could also be said of the lined woodpecker, which then began drumming on a tree a little further on. Its long drum echoed around the whole forest, but even despite calling on numerous occasions it sadly could not be located. Grey-cowled wood-rail proved similarly elusive, as did lunulated antbird, but we would have a touch more luck further on.

Mariano and Pedro then took us temporarily off-piste to the location of the sole remaining monkey not seen during our time. The night monkey, as its name suggests, roosts in the day time and but guides had some great 'gen' and duly located two individuals that were resting in the hole of a tree some 10 metres above the ground. Only their hands and large eyes could clearly be seen above the hole, but this nevertheless meant that we had managed to see all nine species of monkey during our time at Napo, which was a combination of luck and the skill of our terrific guides.

Back on the main trail, we next heard the loud, tremulous call of great tinamou before our guides declared they'd just heard great jacamar. After judicious use of playback, and a great deal of waiting, the pair of jacamars eventually appeared on a branch just above the path. It was a wonderful moment seeing such a tricky and shy species, with Pedro declaring it a 10/10 bird! A little further ahead, the trip's second troop of wooly monkeys was then picked up while moving through the trees ahead of us.

The next species our guides were keen to find for us was white-crowned manakin. And once again our patience was rewarded, with brief sightings of a couple of males flitting around in the understory of their lek. And back out on the main path, Mariano also managed to locate one of the females, which proved far less ostentatiously plumed - in drab olive-green!

Walking back to the pontoon after a terrific walk, we then hopped back into the boat, and were immediately surrounded by hoatzins and an anhinga, but with very recent reports of giant river otters seen in the lake earlier in the morning, these were only given the most cursory of glances. Leaving the creek, we were suddenly confronted with the most amazing sight as five giant river otters suddenly appeared from nowhere! It was an utterly glorious moment, with what looked to be a family of four adults and a juvenile. They were not only curious and constantly checking us out, but also incredibly noisy too and everyone was treated to the most marvellous show for at least five minutes as they swam alongside the canoe before eventually disappearing from view.

While watching the otters, we also had a brief moment to catch up with a pair of Amazonian ant wrens and a green kingfisher. We then linked up with the otters once again as one surfaced with a fish. And to cap off a truly remarkable moment, a green-backed trogon then popped out into full view. MD, in particular, was so excited that at this point he accidentally knocked his varifocals into the water never to be seen again - which was, collectively the third pair of specs to have been lost during the course of the trip!

Silvered antbirds were also heard as we headed back to the lodge, before 22 long-nosed bats were noticed by Mariano on a horizontal tree branch over the water. But with the quick appearance of a rain shower, we quickly donned ponchos and headed for the lodge, whereupon a fine lunch was enjoyed.

After seeing the heat of the day out, the group met up with Pedro and Mariano on the sixth floor of the tower for one last birding session. It was very hot and still with barely a breath of wind after the rain, but we were

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delighted to see a few birds still out and about. One of the guests had picked up a cattle tyrant earlier in the day (with photographic evidence!), and a sand martin was quickly picked up by the group. Both brown-chested and grey-breasted martins were also present and flying around with a good number of fork-tailed palm swifts.

Looking down onto the lake, the five giant river otters were once again spotted in the middle of the lake, with their calls audible from the tower! Also on the lake, a number of yellow-spotted river turtles were picked up from our impressive vantage point. Back above the forest a couple of greater yellow-headed vultures were taking advantage of the thermals, with the distant call of a white-throated toucan also picked up.

Just below the tower and far closer, a fruiting tree in the family *Rubiaceae* had a wealth of birds feeding on its fruits, including a large flock of yellow-rumped caciques, tropical kingbirds, eastern kingbirds & blue-grey tanagers, with Pedro mentioning that the blue-grey here belong to a different subspecies to the one we'd seen in the cloud forests, and additionally has white in its wings, unlike their western counterparts. Then a many banded aracari was noted also feeding in the same tree, with a couple more individuals subsequently identified.

At this point, a sulphur-bellied flycatcher was noted, in amongst the tropical kingbirds, which was the afternoon's first new bird of the trip. Then the shouts 'macaw!' went up, as we watched eight blue and yellow macaws pass in formation right past the tower. Mariano then picked up a boat-billed flycatcher on the top of a tree, before a troop of capuchins was also picked up. One individual from the troop was then observed on the ground just behind the lodge, as it fed from bananas that had been dropped, with everyone amazed to see it eating while also standing on two legs, as it used its tail as a brace!

With the light levels now beginning to slowly drop, a greater yellow-headed vulture perched on a post, which gave us the perfect opportunity to study this species when not aloft, and the last birds to be enjoyed before descending were a couple of red-bellied macaws. Thanking Pedro and Mariano, we then retired to our rooms to pack before our last meal at the lodge. And after a beer or two it was straight to bed in order to be ready for the 4.45am departure the following morning.

Day 12:

Friday 26 April 2024

Napo Wildlife Center to Termas de Papallacta

Weather: Mixed cloud and still. Cloudy at Papallacta and colder, with a small amount of drizzle.

It was a very early rise as we prepared to say goodbye to Napo Wildlife Center. And with all the bags loaded up, we set off from the jetty at 4.45am for the 90 minute paddle to the landing stage. Still dark, the journey across the lake and first part of the creek was dominated by both bats flashing through our lights and the calling of frogs. Bird-wise we could also hear the calls of both common potoo and zigzag heron. And after an hour's hard paddling by our guides, reached the point where we would be transferring into the motorised canoes.

Bidding farewell to Mariano, the journey back up river to the Rio Coca would take two hours, with muscovy ducks noted, alongside great white egret and snowy egret. Arriving back at Coca, we stopped for a coffee by the river, where one of the guests noticed a green ibis circling, in addition to a trio of different vultures. White winged swallows were also noted above the water.

Transferring to the airport, the flight to Quito was very smooth and upon meeting Eddie at the airport were whisked across to Termas de Papallacta high in the Andes. After lunch everyone settled into their rooms and took a while to enjoy the luxurious hot springs, within the hotel grounds. Unable to relax for too long, however, a group of six along with MD reconvened at 4.30pm for the short walk along the Auto-guided trail, which would take us through a pasture, a spot of forest and along the river.

Here, due to the lateness of the afternoon, birds were quite thin on the ground, with rufous-collared

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sparrows and great thrushes dominating proceedings. Then a hummingbird was spotted, which had all the hallmarks of sapphire-vented puffleg. Taking in some very impressive flowers, which included *Brugmansia* and a species in the genus *Tristerix*, we looped past the river, spotting Andean rabbits along the way, and then followed back down the track. Here MD managed to briefly spot a single sword-billed hummingbird, but frustratingly it didn't linger and only two of the four guests in the group managed to see the bird's preposterously long bill.

Losing the light, we trotted back down to the hotel, before enjoying a drink and a fine meal. And with everyone tired after the early start we repaired to our rooms, in the full knowledge that our last full day in Ecuador was rapidly approaching and we would need to make the most of it!

Day 13:

Saturday 27 April 2024

Papallacta & Cayambe-Coca National Park

Weather: Sunny earlier, cloudy and then heavy rain in Highlands turning to sun later.

Meeting the group at 6.30am for a quick wander up the road close up towards the National Park we set off and headed first for the hotel's gardens. By far the most common hummer here was a shining sunbeam, with MD also spotting a spectacled whitestart, that others had seen elsewhere earlier in the trip. Great thrushes and black flower piercers were also common here too, with cinereous conebill also picked up.

Walking up the road, one of the guests then noted an Andean fox trotting up the path in front of us! Slightly larger than our British fox, it had a dark and red pelage, with some even managing to take a few photos before it disappeared from view! The song of mountain wren was also picked up by Merlin at this point as well. We then hit a small flock, with pale-naped brushfinch and tufted tit-tyrant, which were both new birds for the trip, seen in quick succession along the road's hedgerow. One of the guests also managed to photograph tyrian metal-tail back down in the gardens.

Meeting up with Santiago and Eddie after breakfast, we jumped straight in the minibus and headed back up the road, in order to enter Cayambe-Coca National Park, where we could be spending the day. On the road back up, Santiago, Eddie, MD and one of the guests caught sight of an Andean weasel crossing the road. The trail to the park entrance was all uphill, with the headquarters at over 3,900 metres. The weather here was a bit foggy and rainy, but the hope was that the day would clear - at least in part - later on.

Travelling ever higher, the clouds were continually coming in and out, with the first bird identified on the telephone wires being that of a female plumbeous sierra-finch. A male sierra-finch was then spotted along with a glossy flower piercer. At this point another tyrian metal-tail was picked up, while we admired all the *Puya* bromeliads, which we'd previously learnt were the favoured food for the bears. A stout-billed conchode was also picked up on the telegraph wire. Driving up and over 4,000 metres, our second cinclodes of the morning was seen, in the form of chestnut-winged, with its white throat and smaller bill clearly distinguishing it from the other cinclodes species we'd seen earlier.

Reach 4,100 metres, and at the head of the pass, we had the most marvellous view down to one of the largest lakes in the vicinity. Here, at least four Andean teal were picked up along the water's edge, along with a small flock of Andean lapwing. Chestnut-winged cinclodes and sierra-finches were seen here - with these two species seemingly the commonest birds at this high altitude.

As the mist was constantly coming in and out, this gave the group a chance to enjoy some off the Paramo's plants, with *Ericaceae* and *Asteraceae* the dominant families, in addition to mosses and lichens. Also a number of *Puya* plants had patently been recently eaten by Andean bears, but it was proving frustratingly difficult to spot anything through the mist! As we watched some brown-bellied swallows working hard for their lunch, a male viridian metal-tail was then spotted feeding along the road on tiny flowers - this being the Ecuadorian hummingbird which is found at the highest altitude.

Driving back down to the main road, a tawny antpitta was seen briefly while crossing the road - which

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represented a terrific sighting for species that can be very vocal but incredibly difficult to actually spot. Taking our lunch, we then carried on with our high altitude safari and were rewarded with a red-rumped bush tyrant on the telephone wires - surely one of the most sought after birds in this specialised and rarefied environment.

Taking a moment for a view across the valley and down to another lake, one of the guests noticed an Andean condor, which Santiago said represented a terrific record at this location. Sailing straight past the group, it then double-backed to perch on a cliff, allowing us to scope it up before it then took to the air once more. With the weather now closing, we made a decision to the head for the park entrance, where we had fine views of another red-rumped bush tyrant. Along the way an Andean gull was also spotted here too.

Passing the park entrance, and with us quickly dropping altitude, the weather had improved sufficiently for us to walk the last part down. The usual suspects of rufous-coloured sparrow and great thrush were seen, with a few of the guests spotting a couple of turquoise jays. Another tyrian metal-tail was also spotted as it fed on some roadside bushes, along with another tufted tit-tyrant and a couple of black flower piercers.

Keen for some time to relax, many guests then hit the springs before our last group dinner of the trip.

Day 14:

Sunday 28 April 2024

Papallacta to Mariscal Sucre Airport, Quito & home

Weather: Sunny earlier, cloudy and some rain in Quito.

Keen for one last birding session before breakfast, MD and four others headed out of the back of the hotel at 6.30am to see what other birds could be added to the list before departing for Quito. A couple had earlier seen a female sword-billed hummingbird while leaving their accommodation, and a red-crested cotinga and tufted tit-tyrant were also picked up by another guest. Walking into the hotel's garden, black flowerpiercer, glossy flowerpiercer, cinereous conebill, shining sunbeam and great thrush were all logged by the assembled group in quick succession.

Over the hillside a black-chested buzzard-eagle was picked up, shortly before a new bird for the trip was spotted - blue and black tanager - to the delight of all. Moving onto the bridge over the rushing water, a white-capped dipper was picked up on stones protruding out of the river below, while the hummingbird buff-winged starfrontlet represented another new species for all - including MD.

With time now moving on, we slowly headed towards the lodge, but not before hitting a large mixed flock, which comprised at least three blue-backed conebills, spectacled whitestart, another starfrontlet, agile tit-tyrant and brown-backed chat tyrant. What a final flurry with which to end the trip!

Boarding the minibus, we then reluctantly headed for the airport, with only three guests and MD heading for the UK, as five had organised their own extensions to follow on from the main trip. Bidding farewell at the airport to Santiago and Eddie, all the guests then swapped emails and hugs as the end of a quite remarkable trip reached its conclusion in the airport carpark - what a group and what an adventure!

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Checklist for Ecuador Birds and Mammals with Mike Dilger



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13
	BIRDS														
1	Black Tinamou	<i>Tinamus osgoodi</i>										✓			
2	Cinereous Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus cinereus</i>							H						
3	Undulated Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus undulatus</i>								H					
4	Torrent Duck	<i>Merganetta armata</i>		✓				✓							
5	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>											✓		
6	Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>				✓	✓								
7	Andean Teal	<i>Anas andium</i>					✓							✓	
8	Andean Duck	<i>Oxyura ferruginea</i>					✓								
9	Speckled Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis guttata</i>								H					
10	Andean Guan	<i>Penelope montagnii</i>						✓							
11	Crested Guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>		✓											
12	Blue-throated Piping Guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>									✓				
13	Dark-backed Wood Quail	<i>Odontophorus melanonotus</i>		H											
14	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>		✓											
15	Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>							✓		H	✓			
16	Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>								H			H		
17	White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓
18	Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>								✓	✓				
19	Fork-tailed Palm Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>								✓	✓	✓			
20	White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									

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21	White-whiskered Hermit	<i>Phaethornis yaruqui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
22	Great-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis malaris</i>							✓						
23	Green-fronted Lancebill	<i>Doryfera ludovicae</i>			✓										
24	Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>			✓	✓									
25	Sparkling Violetear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
26	Tourmaline Sunangel	<i>Heliangelus exortis</i>					✓	✓							
27	Long-tailed Sylph	<i>Agelaiocercus kingii</i>						✓							
28	Ecuadorian Hillstar	<i>Oreotrochilus chimborazo</i>					✓								
29	Black-tailed Trainbearer	<i>Lesbia victoriae</i>	✓				✓	✓							
30	Rainbow-bearded Thornbill	<i>Chalcostigma herrani</i>					✓								
31	Tyrian Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>				✓	✓							✓	
32	Viridian Metaltail	<i>Metallura williami</i>												✓	
33	Sapphire-vented Puffleg	<i>Eriocnemis luciani</i>										✓			
34	Shining Sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis cupripennis</i>				✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
35	Brown Inca	<i>Coeligena wilsoni</i>				✓									
36	Collared Inca	<i>Coeligena torquata</i>					✓	✓							
37	Buff-winged Starfrontlet	<i>Coeligena lutetiae</i>													✓
38	Sword-billed Hummingbird	<i>Ensifera ensifera</i>										✓			✓
39	Buff-tailed Coronet	<i>Boissonneaua flavescens</i>				✓	✓	✓							
40	Chestnut-breasted Coronet	<i>Boissonneaua matthewsii</i>					✓	✓							
41	White-booted Racket-tail	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>		✓		✓									
42	Purple-bibbed Whitetip	<i>Urostitte benjamini</i>			✓	✓									
43	Fawn-breasted Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa rubinoides</i>		✓	✓										
44	Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
45	Empress Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa imperatrix</i>				✓									
46	Giant Hummingbird	<i>Patagona gigas</i>				✓	✓								
47	Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>									✓				

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48	Purple-throated Woodstar	<i>Philodice mitchellii</i>		✓	✓	✓									
49	White-bellied Woodstar	<i>Chaetocercus mulsant</i>						✓							
50	Crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
51	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
52	Andean Emerald	<i>Uranomitra franciae</i>		✓	✓	✓									
53	Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓			
54	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>								✓	✓	✓			
55	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	✓	✓							✓				
56	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓						✓						
57	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>								✓					
58	Plumbeous Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>		H	H	✓						✓			
59	Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>							H			H			
60	Black-winged Ground Dove	<i>Metriopelia melanoptera</i>				✓									
61	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>		✓	✓	✓									
62	Pallid Dove	<i>Leptotila pallida</i>				✓									
63	Ochre-bellied Dove	<i>Leptotila ochraceiventris</i>													
64	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						
65	Grey-cowled Wood Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>											H		
66	Andean Coot	<i>Fulica ardesiaca</i>				✓	✓								
67	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>								✓	✓	✓			
68	Pied Plover	<i>Hoploxypterus cayanus</i>								✓					
69	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>								✓					
70	Andean Lapwing	<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>					✓								✓
71	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓			
72	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>							✓						
73	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>					✓								
74	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>					✓								
75	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>					✓								
76	Andean Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus serranus</i>				✓	✓								✓

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77	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>								✓			H		
78	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>								✓		✓			
79	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>											✓		
80	Rufescent Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>								✓					
81	Fasciated Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma fasciatum</i>					✓								
82	Zigzag Heron	<i>Zebrilus undulatus</i>								H			H		
83	Capped Heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>								✓					
84	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>						✓		✓			✓		
85	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>									✓				
86	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>							✓				✓		
87	Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓			
88	Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>				✓	✓								✓
89	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
91	Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes melambrotus</i>										✓	✓	✓	
92	Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	✓												
93	Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>										✓			
94	Tiny Hawk	<i>Microspizias superciliosus</i>				✓									
95	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>								✓					
96	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>								✓	✓	✓			
97	Barred Hawk	<i>Morphnarchus princeps</i>			✓										
98	Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>				✓				✓					
99	Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	✓			✓									
100	Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>				✓	✓	✓							✓
101	Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>										✓			
102	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>				✓									
103	Black-banded Owl	<i>Strix huhula</i>										✓			
104	Golden-headed Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>	✓			✓									
105	Green-backed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>							H	✓	H	✓			
106	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>								✓	✓	✓			

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107	Green-and-rufous Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>									✓	✓			
108	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>						✓	✓	✓					
109	Amazonian Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>										H			
110	Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
111	Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
112	Great Jacamar	<i>Jacamerops aureus</i>										✓			
113	White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharchus hyperrhynchus</i>									✓				
114	White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>		✓											
115	Gilded Barbet	<i>Capito auratus</i>									✓				
116	Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>		✓	✓	✓									
117	Toucan Barbet	<i>Semnornis ramphastinus</i>			✓										
118	Crimson-rumped Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus haematopygus</i>		✓											
119	Ivory-billed Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus azara</i>									✓				
120	Many-banded Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus pluricinctus</i>							✓	✓	✓				
121	Pale-mandibled Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus erythrogygius</i>				✓									
122	Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan	<i>Andigena hypoglauca</i>						✓							
123	Choco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos brevis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
124	White-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i>							H		✓	H			
125	Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes cruentatus</i>									✓				
126	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
127	Little Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis passerinus</i>								✓					
128	Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>		✓											
129	Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>								H		H			
130	Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>									✓				
131	Black Caracara	<i>Daptrius ater</i>									✓				
132	Carunculated Caracara	<i>Phalcoboenus carunculatus</i>				✓	✓	✓							
133	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>							✓	✓					

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134	Barred Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>			✓										
135	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	✓					✓							
136	Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>				✓									
137	Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>	✓	✓								✓			
138	Orange-breasted Falcon	<i>Falco deiroleucus</i>										✓			
139	Cobalt-winged Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris cyanopectera</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
140	Red-billed Parrot	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>			✓	✓									
141	Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>							✓						
142	Bronze-winged Parrot	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i>	✓	✓	✓										
143	Yellow-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>							✓						
144	Mealy Amazon	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>							✓	✓					
145	Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>								✓					
146	Black-headed Parrot	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i>								✓					
147	Dusky-headed Parakeet	<i>Aratinga weddellii</i>							✓						
148	Red-bellied Macaw	<i>Orthopsittaca manilatus</i>							✓	✓	✓				
149	Blue-and-yellow Macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>							✓	✓	✓				
150	Scarlet Macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>							✓	✓					
151	Red-and-green Macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>						✓							
152	White-eyed Parakeet	<i>Psittacara leucophthalmus</i>								✓					
153	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>	H					✓							
154	Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrozetetes rufifigula</i>									✓				
155	Strong-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>		✓											
156	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>		✓											
157	Montane Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger</i>					✓								
158	Chestnut-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes albidiventris</i>					✓							✓	
159	Stout-billed Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes excelsior</i>												✓	

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160	Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Anabacerthia variegaticeps</i>		✓											
161	Ruddy Foliage-gleaner	<i>Clibanornis rubiginosus</i>		H		H									
162	Ochre-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>		✓											
163	Red-faced Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca erythropus</i>		✓	✓	✓									
164	Slaty Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis brachyura</i>	H	✓	✓										
165	Rufous Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis unirufa</i>						H							
166	Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>		✓											
167	Amazonian Streaked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula multostriata</i>								H	✓				
168	Slaty Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>		✓	✓										
169	Plain Antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>		✓											
170	Mouse-colored Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus murinus</i>							H						
171	Lunulated Antbird	<i>Oneillornis lunulatus</i>										H			
172	Silvered Antbird	<i>Sclateria naevia</i>						H	H	✓	H				
173	Plumbeous Antbird	<i>Myrmelastes hyperythrus</i>						H	H						
174	Western Fire-eye	<i>Pyriglena maura</i>		✓											
175	White-shouldered Antbird	<i>Akletos melanoceps</i>							H						
176	Zeledon's Antbird	<i>Hafferia zeledoni</i>		✓											
177	Rufous-breasted Antthrush	<i>Formicarius rufipectus</i>		H	H	H		H							
178	Scaled Antpitta	<i>Grallaria guatimalensis</i>		H											
179	Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	<i>Grallaria ruficapilla</i>						H							
180	Tawny Antpitta	<i>Grallaria quitensis</i>					H							✓	
181	Streak-chested Antpitta	<i>Hylopezus perspicillatus</i>					H								
182	Thrush-like Antpitta	<i>Myrmothera campanisona</i>							H						
183	White-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>				✓									
184	Tufted Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes parulus</i>												✓	✓
185	Agile Tit-Tyrant	<i>Uromyias agilis</i>													✓
186	Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
187	Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>				✓									

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188	Golden-faced Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius chrysops</i>										✓				
189	Choco Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius albigularis</i>		✓												
190	Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>	✓	✓	✓											
191	Ornate Flycatcher	<i>Myiotriccus ornatus</i>		✓												
192	Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>		✓												
193	Cinnamon Flycatcher	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus</i>						✓								
194	Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	✓	✓				✓								
195	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus obscurus</i>	✓													
196	Drab Water Tyrant	<i>Ochthornis littoralis</i>									✓					
197	Paramo Ground Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola alpinus</i>				✓										
198	Red-rumped Bush Tyrant	<i>Cnemarchus erythropygius</i>													✓	
199	Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris</i>						✓								
200	Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca rufipectoralis</i>						✓							✓	
201	Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca fumicolor</i>													✓	
202	Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>	✓	✓		✓										
203	Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>										✓				
204	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
205	Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Philohydor lictor</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
206	Golden-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes hemichrysus</i>		✓	✓	✓										
207	Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>											✓	✓		
208	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>											✓			
209	Variegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>								✓						
210	Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus</i>										✓				
211	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
212	Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓		
213	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>			✓	✓				✓						
214	Cinnamon Attila	<i>Attila cinnamomeus</i>							H	H	H	H				

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215	Andean Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola peruvianus</i>	✓												
216	Red-crested Cotinga	<i>Ampelion rubrocristatus</i>				✓									✓
217	Spangled Cotinga	<i>Cotinga cayana</i>									✓				
218	Bare-necked Fruitcrow	<i>Gymnoderus foetidus</i>							✓	✓					
219	Golden-winged Manakin	<i>Masius chrysopterus</i>			✓										
220	Orange-crested Manakin	<i>Heterocercus aurantiivertex</i>							✓						
221	Wire-tailed Manakin	<i>Pipra filicauda</i>								✓					
222	Club-winged Manakin	<i>Machaeropterus deliciosus</i>			✓										
223	White-crowned Manakin	<i>Pseudopipra pipra</i>										✓			
224	Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>								✓					
225	White-browed Purpletuft	<i>Iodopleura isabellae</i>								✓					
226	Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>		✓	✓										
227	Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius leucotis</i>		H											
228	Chivi Vireo	<i>Vireo chivi</i>		✓											
229	Turquoise Jay	<i>Cyanolyca turcosa</i>						✓						✓	✓
230	Violaceous Jay	<i>Cyanocorax violaceus</i>							✓						
231	Inca Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>						✓							
232	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>							✓		✓				
233	White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
234	Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
235	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
236	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
237	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
238	Brown-bellied Swallow	<i>Orochelidon murina</i>						✓						✓	
239	Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>									✓				
240	Thrush-like Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus turdinus</i>								✓					

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241	Rufous Wren	<i>Cinnycerthia unirufa</i>						✓							
242	Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>				✓	✓							✓	
243	Coraya Wren	<i>Pheugopedius coraya</i>							H	H	✓	H			
244	Bay Wren	<i>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</i>		H	✓	H									
245	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
246	Mountain Wren	<i>Troglodytes solstitialis</i>												H	H
247	Grey-breasted Wood Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>		H	H	H									
248	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	✓												
249	Andean Solitaire	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>				H									
250	Speckled Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus maculatus</i>				H									
251	Glossy-black Thrush	<i>Turdus serranus</i>						✓							
252	Great Thrush	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
253	Black-billed Thrush	<i>Turdus ignobilis</i>										✓			
254	Ecuadorian Thrush	<i>Turdus maculirostris</i>				H									
255	White-capped Dipper	<i>Cinclus leucocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓
256	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	✓												
257	Thick-billed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia laniirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
258	Orange-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>		✓	✓	✓									
259	Rufous-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia rufiventris</i>									✓				
260	Yellow-throated Chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus flavigularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
261	Grey-browed Brushfinch	<i>Arremon assimilis</i>						✓							
262	Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>		✓											
263	Chestnut-capped Brushfinch	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>						✓							
264	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
265	White-naped Brushfinch	<i>Atlapetes albinucha</i>													✓
266	Pale-naped Brushfinch	<i>Atlapetes pallidinucha</i>												✓	✓

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267	Russet-backed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius angustifrons</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
268	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>									✓				
269	Green Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius viridis</i>									✓				
270	Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓			
271	Scarlet-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus microrhynchus</i>					✓				✓	✓			
272	Mountain Cacique	<i>Cacicus chrysonotus</i>						✓							
273	Casqued Cacique	<i>Cacicus oseryi</i>									✓				
274	Olive-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis semiflava</i>				✓									
275	Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitaiayumi</i>	✓	✓		✓									
276	Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>				H	H								
277	Russet-crowned Warbler	<i>Myiothlypis coronata</i>						✓							
278	Three-striped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>				✓									
279	Slate-throated Whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	✓	✓		✓									
280	Spectacled Whitestart	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>							✓					✓	✓
281	White-winged Tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>					✓								
282	Golden Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus chrysogaster</i>						✓							
283	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>				✓									
284	Swallow Tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>	✓	✓		✓									
285	Bluish-grey Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>									✓				
286	Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>				✓	✓	✓							
287	Black-winged Saltator	<i>Saltator atripennis</i>						✓							
288	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	✓	✓		✓									
289	Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>				✓									
290	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Loriotus luctuosus</i>				✓					H				
291	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>				✓		✓							
292	Lemon-rumped Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus icteronotus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓								

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293	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>								✓		✓	✓		
294	Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>		✓											
295	Yellow-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>		✓	✓										
296	Grey-hooded Bush Tanager	<i>Cnemoscopus rubrirostris</i>						✓							
297	Blue-backed Conebill	<i>Conirostrum sitticolor</i>													✓
298	Cinereous Conebill	<i>Conirostrum cinereum</i>											✓	✓	
299	Plumbeous Sierra Finch	<i>Geospizopsis unicolor</i>				✓	✓						✓		
300	Plain-colored Seedeater	<i>Catamenia inornata</i>	✓												
301	Masked Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa cyanea</i>						✓	✓						
302	Glossy Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa lafresnayii</i>												✓	✓
303	White-sided Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa albilatera</i>												✓	
304	Black Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa humeralis</i>				✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
305	Fawn-breasted Tanager	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>		✓											
306	Hooded Mountain Tanager	<i>Buthraupis montana</i>							✓						
307	Blue-capped Tanager	<i>Sporathraupis cyanocephala</i>		✓											
308	Grass-green Tanager	<i>Chlorornis riefferii</i>							✓						
309	Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager	<i>Anisognathus igniventris</i>						✓							
310	Magpie Tanager	<i>Cissopis leverianus</i>								✓					
311	Red-capped Cardinal	<i>Paroaria gularis</i>									✓	✓			
312	Golden-naped Tanager	<i>Chalcothraupis ruficervix</i>			✓	✓									
313	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		
314	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓		
315	Black-capped Tanager	<i>Stilpnia heinei</i>				✓									
316	Blue-necked Tanager	<i>Stilpnia cyanicollis</i>		✓											
317	Blue-and-black Tanager	<i>Tangara vassorii</i>												✓	✓

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318	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>			✓										
319	Flame-faced Tanager	<i>Tangara parzudakii</i>			✓										
320	Golden Tanager	<i>Tangara arthus</i>		✓	✓	✓									
321	Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>		✓	✓										
322	Opal-rumped Tanager	<i>Tangara velia</i>									✓				
323	Tricoloured brushfinch	<i>Atlapetes tricolor</i>			✓										
	MAMMALS														
1	Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>									✓				
2	Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>								✓					
3	Culpeo	<i>Lycalopex culpaeus</i>													✓
4	Andean Bear	<i>Tremarctos ornatus</i>						✓							
5	Kinkajou	<i>Potos flavus</i>	✓												
6	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>								✓					
7	Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>													✓
8	Giant Otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>									✓		✓		
9	Llama	<i>Lama glama</i>						✓							
10	White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>				✓	✓								
11	Northern Pudu	<i>Pudu mephistophiles</i>					✓								
12	Proboscis Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>											✓		
13	Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin	<i>Cebus aequatorialis</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓		
14	Ecuadorean Squirrel Monkey	<i>Saimiri macrodon</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓		
15	Golden-mantled Saddle-back Tamarin	<i>Saguinus tripartitus</i>											✓		
16	Napo Saki	<i>Pithecia napensis</i>								✓					
17	Colombian Red Howler	<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓		
18	White-bellied Spider Monkey	<i>Ateles belzebuth</i>								✓	✓	✓			
19	Common Woolly Monkey	<i>Lagothrix lagothricha</i>								✓			✓		

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20	Andean Tapeti	<i>Sylvilagus andinus</i>				✓							✓	✓	
21	Black Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta fuliginosa</i>									✓				
22	Central American Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>		✓											
23	Green Acouchi	<i>Myoprocta pratti</i>									✓				
24	Red-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>			✓	✓									
	REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS														
1	Blunt-headed tree snake	<i>Imantodes cenchoa/lentiferus</i>									✓				
2	Boa constrictor	<i>Boa constrictor</i>						✓							
3	Banded tree anole	<i>Anolis transversalis</i>							✓						
4	Black caiman	<i>Melanosuchus niger</i>							✓	✓					
5	Yellow-spotted Amazon river turtle	<i>Podocnemis unifilis</i>								✓	✓	✓			
6	Pastures rain frog	<i>Pristimantis achatinus</i>		✓	✓										
7	South American common toad	<i>Rhinella margaritifera</i>									✓				
8	Ecuador poison arrow frog	<i>Ameerega bilinguis</i>									✓				

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