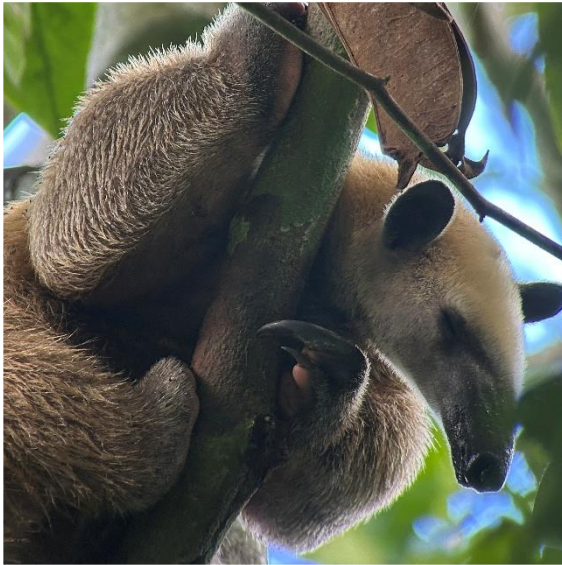


## Tour Report Birds and Mammals with Mike Dilger 13 – 27 April 2025

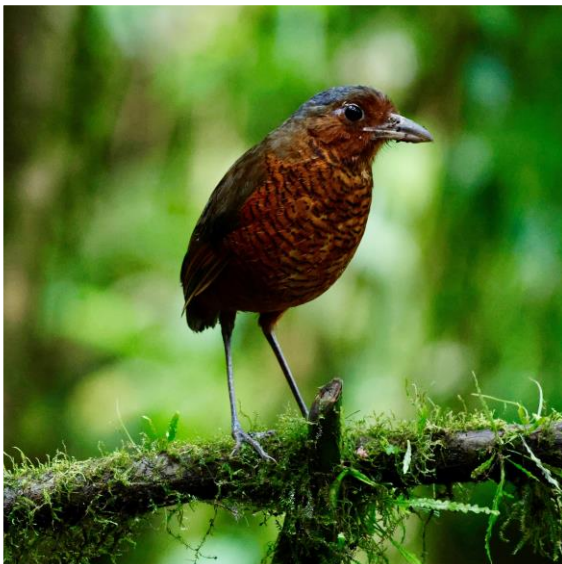
Southern tamandua



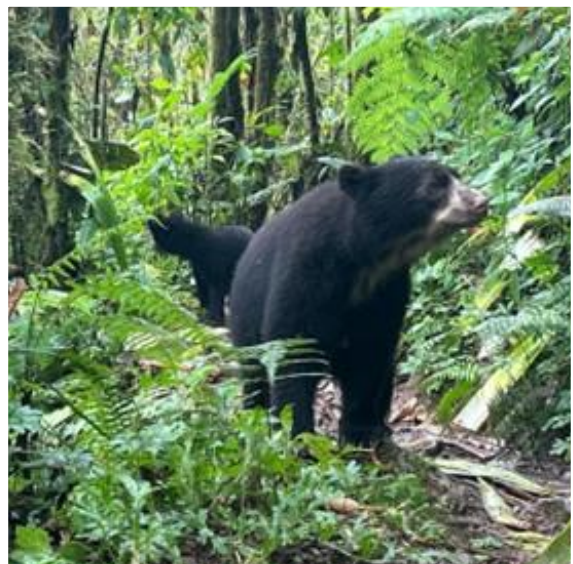
Grey-breasted mountain toucan



Giant antpitta



Spectacled bear



Compiled by Mike Dilger

**Sunday 13 April 2025**

**Day 1:**

Travel Day - Schipol Airport, Amsterdam to Mariscal Sucre Airport, Quito, Ecuador & Sachatamia Lodge.

Tour leader Mike Dilger (MD) overnights in Amsterdam, due to a tight connection time from Bristol, all four guests arrived on the early morning flight from Heathrow to Schipol and met up at the departure gate. The trans-Atlantic flight was very smooth, with all successfully negotiating immigration and the baggage carousel, before then making their way through to meet Santiago Molina (SM), who was waiting for us.

After sorting out our phones to take local SIM cards, we met up with our driver Eddy, who had also been the driver for this trip in 2024 and headed northwest. Leaving Quito, we then passed both the Mitad Del Mundo (the Equator) and the entrance to Pululahua Geobotanical Reserve, before enjoying the sight of the primary cloud forest in Maquipucuna, which we'd be visiting later in the trip, with Maqui being the closest cloud forest anywhere in the world to a major city.

After just over two hours we arrived at Sachatamia Lodge and after a very warm welcome headed to our rooms. Unable to resist the hummingbird feeders for any length of time, MD and a couple of guests popped back up to enjoy the spectacle and in the process identified a total of 11 species coming into the feeders. Here the highlights were velvet-purple coronet, purple-bibbed white-tip, booted racket-tail and violet-tailed sylph.

We then reunited for a quick drink before our first dinner with Santiago and Eddy. Once all were suitably satiated, MD broke the news about the 5.30 am start the following morning!

**Monday 14 April 2025**

**Day 2:**

Sachatamia - the hide, tower & hummingbird feeders & Cotinga Reserve.

Rising at 5.30 am, we quickly drained a coffee before taking the short walk to the blind, where a light and moth sheet was positioned out front. Despite the full moon and clear skies overnight there were still a good number of moths on the sheet, enabling MD to point out moths in the families Lasiocampidae, Noctuidae and Geometridae, along with two species in the Sphingidae (hawkmoth) family.

As dawn began to break the birds were slowly drawn in, commencing with a plain brown woodcreeper, while we could hear rufous motmot and golden-headed quetzal calling further back in the forest. Next, a female masked trogon turned up to feed on the moths, followed by a golden tanager, a slaty-throated redstart and the male masked trogon. The guests took a collective intake of breath when a rufous motmot was the next bird to grace our presence, before our first mammal, in the form of a common agouti, surreptitiously crept in.

And the birds kept coming... Next up were a pair of ornate flycatchers, which were quickly joined by a strong-billed woodcreeper, while the staccato call of lineated foliage gleaner could be heard calling from close by. These were then joined by the ground-feeding duo of streaked-capped treehunter and three-striped warbler, which along with, a short while later, a chestnut-capped brushfinch. While enjoying the birds we could also hear the loud, liquid song of grey-breasted wood-wren from somewhere close by, before a golden-bellied flycatcher made an appearance at the back of the clearing.

Still listening for birds, a ruddy pigeon was heard from within the forest, while the distinctive 'Dios te de! (God gives to you)' call of a white-throated toucan and the two-note whistle of a rufous-breasted ant-thrush were also logged. Walking back to the lodge, after what had been a stellar first session, we next picked up a tropical kingbird, a scrub blackbird and four or five bronze-winged parrots when they flew past. Deciding to enjoy our breakfast outside, enabled us to carry on birding, and we were soon joined by both male and

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female flame-jumped tanagers, along with an Ecuadorian thrush with nesting material in its beak. Our al fresco breakfast table was positioned in front of a bird table laid out with fruit, and we watched with glee as a male and female thick-billed euphonia arrived, along with at least three or four agoutis feeding on maize left out. Also seen coming down to the fruit, while we tucked into our own breakfasts, were a pair of blue-grey tanagers, a pair of sliver-throated tanagers, a number of golden tanagers and singles of rufous-coloured sparrow, golden-naped tanager and palm tanager. While here, MD also managed to spot our second mammal of the morning, in the form of a red-tailed squirrel, along with a collared aracari in the canopy of a distant tree.

After breakfast, we linked up again with SM to take a short walk down to the river. The paths were in very good condition, and with a continuation of the good weather, it was soon decidedly hot in the sun. As the day's heat initiated the formation of thermals, we started to pick up raptors, including two roadside hawks, several black vultures and a single turkey vulture. Back down in the forest, the songs of Andean solitaire, slate-throated redstart and Chóco toucan could also be clearly heard, before one of the guests then picked up one of Ecuador's most distinctive raptors, a swallow-tailed kite, through a gap in the canopy.

Walking all the way down to the river we could see a very large landslide had recently occurred before heading back up and onward to the lodge's small tower. By now, the clouds had begun to build up, and after enjoying the view returned to the lodge. With a little bit of downtime, many of the guests took the opportunity to admire, photograph and identify the innumerable hummingbirds coming into the feeders. Close by a black phoebe was also added to the list, while the fruit table held a number of palm tanagers and two ruddy pigeons, in addition to the seemingly habituated agoutis.

By lunchtime, it had started to rain heavily and so took a well-earned break while waiting for the downpour to stop. Reuniting back at the minibus, MD next pointed out a black-capped tanager before heading off to our next destination. Quickly turning off the main road, we soon began steadily climbing up to an elevation of around 1,800 metres, stopping only to enjoy three golden-headed quetzals en route in trees along the road. Parking up, we were then introduced to the owner (Anderson) of Las Cotingas, who took us for a short walk to his feeding station in the forest.

It appeared a great little set-up, with velvet purple coronet, purple-bibbed white-tip and booted racket-tail hummingbirds seemingly the most numerous, while buff-breasted coronet and empress brilliant were present in lower numbers. While watching the hummers, a collared aracari was seen briefly at the forest edge, in addition to a pair of golden-naped tanagers. The hummingbirds, however, were the star attraction, with plenty of birds also perching on guests' hands, which provided amazing photographic opportunities.

As bananas had also been placed out by our host, a male orange-bellied euphonia proved to be our next interesting visitor, but this was quickly ignored when an Andean coati briefly turned up at the back of the feeding area, giving all the opportunity to see a species that is not commonly seen anywhere. Once the coati disappeared back into the forest, the focus quickly switched back to birds, as we identified a single black-capped tanager, a white-throated quail dove and two black-chinned mountain tanagers, which is a Chocó endemic species with a very limited distribution. Thanking Anderson for his hospitality, we headed back down to Sachatamia, where we enjoyed excellent views of a white-throated toucan and a single-collared aracari, both of which appeared to be trying to dry out in the late afternoon sun! We then took another short break to draw breath before dinner, which marked the end of an action-packed first day.

**Tuesday 15 April 2025**

### **Day 3:**

Angel Paz reserve, Bellaviasta Reserve, Guaycapi Lodge, Maquipucuna Reserve

Reuniting at the lodge for a 5 am start and with our bags packed, we quickly took a coffee before heading off in the minibus to the Angel Paz Reserve. The journey took around 40 minutes, and upon arrival, we met up with Esteban, one of the guides who would accompany us to the cock-of-the-rock lek. There had, however, been a last-minute change, with the new plan for us to visit a second lek close by, where the birds

had been performing better. While sorting out logistics we managed to tick off the omnipresent rufous coloured sparrows, while also also hearing the call of sickle-winged guan. After the previous day's storm, the weather had appeared to have hugely improved, and the morning looked clear.

Driving a short distance back down the hill, we then took a short five-minute walk to the lek, which was located on the summit of a small hill and surrounded both a combination of pasture and forest, with rivers running along the base of either side, down below. Immediately upon arrival, we could hear males were present, and after a few minutes, they slowly revealed their location through the vegetation. There must have been at least ten males present at the lek, with the noise and activity reaching a pandemonium when a female briefly turned up.

After our exciting start, we jumped back into the minibus and briefly stopped to look for a male lyre-tailed nightjar en route. However, the individual was not in its normal roosting spot, so we carried straight on to our next location - an appointment with a famous antpitta! Meeting up with Angel Paz the founder of the reserve, we headed back down into the forest and to the location where he feeds the giant antpitta. We heard the beautiful song of Andean solitaire en route, and upon arrival, Angel explained that he always collected local worms for the antpitta. A pair were also currently nesting on a branch a little further along the path, with possibly two chicks in the nest. He also informed us that only the female ever came into the free handouts, as the male appeared too shy. As Angel constantly whistled for the bird, we spent the next hour patiently waiting, with the only other bird of note during this time being a golden-winged manakin. This species is famed for making a strange snapping call that is produced by its wings, which everyone was able to hear despite only a few guests being successful enough to spot it in the undergrowth.

Eventually, our patience was handsomely rewarded when 'Maria' the giant antpitta turned up. Initially, it appeared reticent to make an appearance, preferring to remain in the undergrowth, but after a little while it provided amazing views, to the utter delight of both the birders and the photographers. Walking back up to the road after a simply marvellous showing from one of Ecuador's rarest birds, we celebrated with a pair of beryl-spangled tanagers. Back up on the road, we were then taken to a second roadside location, where a second species of antpitta was decidedly easier to see. Coming out once again for worms, yellow-breasted antpitta is much smaller than its giant cousin, with a bright yellow breast that showed up well in the gloom of the understory, and all the group enjoyed excellent views of both the male and female.

Taking a break, we next enjoyed a breakfast of empanadas and bolón de verde at the restaurant of Angel and his family, with some also picking up a souvenir at his small shop. Back out birding, our next stop was at a patch of forest nearby, where a few feeders provided more views of a couple of the more common tanagers, before descending a short distance along another trail. Here another of Angel's assistants was waiting for our arrival and with the help of more food eventually managed to coax out a rufous-breasted ant-thrush. This is normally a very shy and skittish bird, and despite MD having heard this call many times during his time working at Maquipucuna, this was the first time he'd ever seen the bird in the flesh! Close by, our third antpitta of the day was also encouraged to make an appearance, when we added ochre-breasted antpitta to our list. Angel explained that the female was named 'Shakira', due to the fact that it often appears to wiggle its hips when coming out into the open! And all were delighted when this smart and dinky bird eventually made an appearance.

Thanking Angel and his dedicated team, we headed off next to Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve, which would be an extra stop along the way. Normally not part of our itinerary, SM had heard about the recent presence of three Andean bears in very close proximity to the lodge, so thought it might be worth our very brief visit to chance our arm. On the way back down, we managed to pick up band-tailed swifts, a swallow-tailed kite and a few white-tipped doves. But before reaching the main road, we took a moment to check out a brand-new lodge called Guaycapi. While the hosts served us drinks, we enjoyed amazing views of the forest from their balcony, along with incredible views of four plate-billed mountain toucans, a speckled hummingbird, a male red-headed barbet, dusky chlorospingus and sickle-winged guan.

Arriving at Bellavista, the reserve manager duly gave his bad news that we had arrived around 30 minutes too late to see the three bears (a mother and two cubs). Earlier that very morning they'd been sniffing for

food around the lodge until chased away for fear of causing a problem. Thinking they might be near the compost heap instead, where they'd previously been recorded on many occasions, we headed down the path and were excited to see both bear poo and feeding signs the whole way down. SM then quickly relocated the three bears in the dense undergrowth a touch further along the path, but the most anyone managed to see of the bears as they retreated from view was the shaking of vegetation. Frustratingly, we could even hear the sound of the mother suckling the cubs from somewhere out of sight a little while later, but with time now slipping away we had to decide to leave them. Before jumping back in the minibus, however, we caught up with some blue & white swallows nest building close to the lodge and could clearly hear toucan barbets calling from a distant ridge-top.

By turning off the main road at Nanegalito, we eventually passed the small village of Marianitas, which also happens to mark the gateway to Maquipucuna. While passing through, we managed to spot a Chocó toucan as it flew past and a rusty-margined flycatcher feeding from the wires. Arriving to a warm welcome at the lodge, we then took a very late lunch, while once again admiring the feeders on the balcony. Here we were able to add two new species of hummingbird to our trip total - these being green-crowned brilliant and white-whiskered hermit, while white-necked Jacobin was undoubtedly the commonest species present.

After a brief introduction to the reserve by the Centre Manager, we then checked in, before meeting up with our guide Mauricio for a short walk to the Casa Científica. First strolling down to the bridge, we enjoyed excellent views of a white-capped dipper, before heading back up and then past the lodge. On the lodge's roof, another black Phoebe was noted, while southern rough-winged swallows could be seen feeding in the airspace around the building. Taking the short walk along to the Casa Científica we picked up red-faced spinetail, several flame-rumped tanagers and a single scarlet-jumped cacique in the path side bushes. Upon reaching the open area managed to observe a pair of thick-billed euphonia, before a pair of crested guans flew straight past the group. The final bird before dinner was an excellent view of a collared aracari, before finally sitting down to enjoy our dinner, followed by bed, with another early start planned.

### Wednesday 16 April 2025

#### Day 4:

Maquipucuna - The road to Santa Lucia, Sendero Principal, the road to Marianitas and a night walk along the Palmitos Trail.

Meeting up with Mauricio at 6.15 am, we quickly took a coffee, before heading down to the bridge and onto the unsurfaced road leading to Santa Lucia. With the Rio Umachaca rushing past in the background, the first bird of note was a rufous motmot, while a noisy bay wren and buff-rumped warbler were heard singing from the riparian vegetation.

As we started heading along the road, another crested guan flew past the group and we were soon surrounded by secondary forest on both sides of the road. We then found ourselves in the middle of a mixed flock, with golden tanager, tropical parula and yellow-throated chlorospingus noted in quick succession. Mauricio then spotted three swallow tanagers high up in the canopy of a tree, while the distinctive call of wattled guans could also be heard in the background. A steady stream of birds then began revealing themselves, as we noted a golden-bellied flycatcher, and a pair of orange-bellied euphonias, while simultaneously hearing the distinctive call of slaty spinetail before one eventually made a brief appearance.

Walking further up the road we hit a large patch of mature bamboo, with Mauricio picking out both a yellow tyrannulet and spotted woodcreeper. Yet further up, Mauricio next pointed out the distinctive call of two Zeledon's antbirds calling from the undergrowth, with most managing at least a glimpse of the distinctive black plumage and blue cere around the eyes of a male when it stuck its head out. Reaching the T-junction to Santa Lucia, the next bird the group got to enjoy was a golden olive woodpecker feeding away on the top of a tree, while fly-bys from bronze-winged parrots provided a brief interlude in between enjoying the woodpecker.

Taking the turning towards Santa Lucia, Mauricio next pointed out the distinctive call of scaled antpitta,

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before listing to a much closer scale-crested pygmy tyrant. After a bit of patience, most in the group eventually managed at least a fleeting view of this distinctive little bird. Continuing our theme of 'skulking birds', we were then rewarded with a brief glimpse of a male slaty ant-wren, before a pair of feeding crested guans were noted close to the road. While watching the guans, Mauricio also pointed out the call of collared trogon, while another grey-breasted wood wren added its mellifluous song to the fray from the undergrowth close by.

Heading back down the hill for breakfast, a bat falcon then flashed past the group, before luckily perching high up in a tree, which allowed great views of this charismatic and much sought-after species. Back down at the lodge, we then tucked into a breakfast of scrambled egg, quimbolitos and porridge, before quickly dashing off to the balcony for terrific views of a bay-headed tanager in a nearby tree. By now the weather was looking much better once more, and so after a short break, we headed onto the Sendero Principal, with Mauricio. The cicadas also appeared to be enjoying the lovely weather and were ringing in our ears as we set off.

The first good bird was located no further than 100 metres up the trail, as Mauricio pointed out a pair of white-whiskered puffbirds sitting quietly in the understory. With it, by now, very hot, we then took a break in the shade, while listening to the piping calls of a slaty-capped shrike vireo further up the trail. Mauricio then spotted a pair of Guayaquil woodpeckers - one of the largest woodpeckers in the New World. The female quickly flew off, but the male stayed frozen on a branch, enabling the group to get stellar views through the telescope. While watching the woodpecker, we were also serenaded by the three-note call of a distant plumbeous pigeon.

Further up the path, we managed to locate yet another white-whiskered puffbird, while slaty-capped flycatcher represented another new addition to the trip list. Our esteemed guide then picked up the high-frequency call of a red-billed sparrow, but we only managed the briefest of views of this very shy species, with plain antvireo equally difficult to see here too. Upon heading back down, Mauricio also pointed out both the plaintive and soft four-note call of speckled nightingale thrush and the tremulous call of little tinamou, which were both duly added to the 'heard but not seen' list! Before arriving back at the lodge, we we also treated to good views of a plain brown woodcreeper, while another bat falcon posed beautifully on an exposed dead tree.

After lunch, the group enjoyed a break, before meeting up once again at 3 pm for a short walk along the road to Marianitas. The first bird of note to be observed along the way was a buff-rumped warbler, which appeared to be feeding in the middle of the road and was also one of the species we'd struggled to see earlier that morning. Looking skyward, a swallow-tailed kite was next picked up by the group, before we then located a mixed flock moving along the roadside, comprising golden tanager, bay-headed tanager, white-lined tanager, yellow-throated chlorospingus, tropical parula & a pair of palm tanagers.

Perhaps most surprising of all while birding here was a single cattle egret flying upriver, while back among the trees, two scarlet-rumped caciques and a distant Chocó toucan were also found. Looking to the skies once more, MD spotted a large number of white-coloured swifts feeding over Marianitas, while a single fork-tailed palm swift appeared to be travelling in precisely the opposite direction. A quick scan along the trees then produced a second mixed flock, where a slaty-capped flycatcher was seen in the company of four or five russet antshrikes, a golden-bellied flycatcher & a somewhat less confiding buff-fronted foliage gleaner.

Just before heading back, a buff-throated saltator made a brief appearance, before we hit yet another mixed flock which contained bananaquit, a male red-headed barbet, a bay-headed tanager, a pair of white-winged tanager and a lineated foliage gleaner. Hearing the call of orange-billed sparrow, we then managed to gain the briefest of glimpses of this shy and retiring species, before a much more confiding green honeycreeper was observed close the the lodge's bridge.

After a delightful dinner, we then took a short night walk with Mauricio along the Palmitos Trail. Here, a few spiders, katydid, caterpillars and a number of large moths were all logged, before light rain eventually forced our return, with the highlight being a tropical kingbird fast asleep on a branch both next to the oath

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and close to the Casa Científica. Thanking Mauricio, we then headed to bed after a full and wildlife-filled day.

**Thursday 17 April 2025**

**Day 5:**

The Maquipucuna moth trap, Bellavista, Chakana Reserve and Tambo Condor.

Meeting up at dawn with Mauricio, for the short walk to the moth trap hide, we were surprised to find it lightly raining on the morning of our departure. Once inside, huge numbers of moths on the sheet could be seen while both waiting for the light to improve and the birds to arrive. We didn't have to wait long, with an orange-billed sparrow the first to be attracted down - a species we'd struggled to see well the previous afternoon.

The moth-banquet next enticed a skulking Zeledon's antbird to make a brief appearance before a grey-breasted wood-wren briefly ventured out into the open. Gesticulating upwards, Mauricio next pointed out a spotted barbtail on a tree branch, with MD commenting on how similar this species looks to the British treecreeper. A slow, but steady trickle of birds then appeared, as we logged plain brown woodcreeper, three striped warbler, an ornate flycatcher, a scaly-throated foliage gleaner and undoubtedly the pick of the bunch - a western fire-eye.

Walking back to the lodge, one of the guests then located a blue-necked tanager, in addition to thick-billed euphonia and flame-rumped tanager. With our bags and box-breakfasts duly packed, we were then reunited with Santiago and Eddy at 7 am. Bidding fond farewells to all the staff at Maquipucuna, the plan was to head back to Bellavista for one last attempt at seeing the bears.

After a 90-minute drive to the reserve, we first located the staff to see if the bears had recently been seen around the lodge. However, we were informed that they hadn't been seen for a couple of days, so we decided to walk down to the compost area in the forest to see if we could relocate them. After waiting around for an hour, we were at the point of giving up when an urgent phone call came through to Santiago to tell him that the bears had just turned up at the lodge and were now heading our way! Sure enough, and in less than a couple of minutes, we were treated to the remarkable sight of the female and her two cubs trotting straight down the path and right to our location. As the mother and her two cubs ambled towards us, we had to quickly take evasive action just to get out of their way! With us watching on in awe, the bears then began searching for food in and around the compost area, with them at several points no more than a few metres away from the group - all of whom had their mouths agog in wonder.

As one cub proceeded to climb the tree, its mother tried unsuccessfully to access the food in the large composting tanks. Their behaviour was utterly enthralling to watch as they milled around in the forest, while we endeavoured to keep out of their way. And after around thirty minutes we had to leave - with all aware they'd just been treated to nothing shorter than a life highlight.

Heading back south in the minibus, we bypassed Quito, before driving through Pintag, en route to Tambo Condor and Chakana in the eastern cordilleras. Tambo Condor is located at an altitude of around 3,550 metres, meaning we managed to see two condors on the wing while passing the huge, long wall of rock that is considered the centrepiece of the reserve. While collecting our lunch at the lodge, we also managed to pick up both black flowerpiercer and great thrush, before undertaking the short drive to the Chakana Reserve itself.

The first brief stop was at the Mirador (viewpoint), where we revelled in three different condors - two adults and a sub-adult - which split their time between drifting along the cliff wall and perching on precipitous ledges. Heading next up the road and into the reserve, we tried eating lunch on our laps, which proved almost impossible given the bumpy nature of the roads! Picking up park-guard Pancho en route, the weather looked to have turned in our favour, and a little further on, enjoyed the sight of our first chuquiragua - a characteristic plant as this altitude - while negotiating the switchback that took us in the direction of the

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cliffs. By now at a considerable height, we could easily see the mountains Sincholagua and Rumiñawi in the distance, while continuing ever upwards. At this altitude, the Páramo grassland had become the dominant habitat, and a scan across this superficially uniform landscape quickly located both a large herd of white-tailed deer and a few domestic llamas. We also added a few Andean tapeti (rabbits) to our burgeoning mammal checklist, when they lopped past and in front of the minibus.

The road here, abruptly comes to an end, with a small interpretive centre at an altitude of 3,760 metres, and close by, we promptly observed five black-tipped ground doves, a few carunculated caracaras and a singing grass wren. With the plan to return to this location the following morning, and time against us, we headed slowly back down. But not before MD noted a black-chested buzzard eagle flying along the cliff, while a few band-tailed Sierra finches were somewhat closer to terra firma.

Back down at the Tambo Condor Lodge we then had some free time to enjoy hummingbirds coming to the feeders before dinner. Almost immediately upon our arrival, we delighted in shining sunbeam, sparkling violetear and black-tailed trainbearer. A continuation of the fine weather also meant we were able to admire the summit of the Pichincha volcano right down in the valley and back towards the south of Quito. As dusk approached, the temperature began to quickly drop, but this didn't stop the arrival of birds to the feeders, as we delighted in great sapphirewing, cinereous conebill and Tyrian metaltail, while a small flock of hooded siskin and a paramo seedeater also made an appearance close by. And one last look at the cliffs revealed yet another sub-adult condor, along with a pair of carunculated caracaras.

Taking dinner in the restaurant we were also able to hear the calls of tawny antpitta, which served as a fine full-stop to end a day like no other.

## Friday 18 April 2025

### Day 6:

Chakana Reserve, Antisana National Park, Cayambe-Coca National Park, Papallacta Pass & Guango Lodge

The plan had been to meet up at 6 am, but with MD feeling unwell, Santiago took the group back up to the Chakana Reserve with Pancho. The weather was mostly sunny and in the wetlands, the group were able to catch up with Andean teal and Andean lapwing, while the cliffs provided terrific views of Andean hillstar and at least ten condors flying along the cliffs, with the birds passing very close on occasion. Carunculated caracaras were abundant across the paramo as well.

Heading back to Tambo Condor, they were reunited with MD, who was feeling much better. Jumping back into the minibus, we then headed back up the road, and up to Antisana National Park, before proceeding to drive across the Paramo grasslands at an astonishing altitude of around 4,100 metres. Stopping to take some scenic photos en route, the views of the snow-covered Antisana Volcano were nothing short of scintillating.

Wildlife at this altitude tends to be both sparse and very specialist, but slowly we began to see a few species, beginning with Andean gull. Santiago then noted a culpeo (an Andean fox) which frustratingly disappeared before all members of the group had been able to observe it. Taking a short walk across the grassland, to see if the fox could be relocated, we then flushed two Andean ibis, a hugely scarce and highly threatened species - and our main target. We only managed to see the birds in flight, but the views were nevertheless terrific, with one guest even managing to secure some superb photos. At the small interpretive centre, a paramo ground tyrant was also noted on the roof, but with the weather now beginning to change, and accompanied by a cold and relentless wind, we retreated to Tambo Condor. On the way back down, we also managed sightings of both chestnut-winged and bar-winged cinclodes, along with a male plumbeous sierra-finch.

Back at Tambo Condor and with our bags packed, we had just ten minutes at the feeders in a last attempt to spot a giant hummingbird - one of the real high altitude specialists of the area. And this was all we needed when the largest hummingbird in the world briefly dropped in to feed. It was a beautiful moment and the perfect end to our time in Tambo Condor.

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Heading off eastwards, we passed through some beautiful Polylepis woodland, that also represents good bear habitat. Then at the head of the pass, we entered Cayambe-Coca National Park, located at an altitude of just over 4,000 metres. In a small pond close to the road we found three Andean teal hunkered down in the vegetation, but thick fog a little higher up forced us to drop back down in altitude. With the cloud layer sitting just above 4,000 metres, this meant we were still able to drive along the old Antiguo Trail that runs roughly parallel with the new Trans-Andean road. Taking a stroll along the trail, the first birds we saw were a few brown-bellied swallows, and with the weather decidedly more favourable at this slightly lower altitude we were also able to pick up a trio of high-altitude specialists, in the form of both male and female rainbow bearded thornbill, a scarlet mountain tanager and a viridian metaltail.

Walking slowly back to the minibus, a variable hawk then flashed past us, before proceeding to pose on a cliff-top perch. Also on the trail. We observed a seemingly very approachable chestnut-winged cinclodes, while a Paramo tapaculo provided far less confiding, with its nightjar-like call coming from the undergrowth. Now back in the minibus, we headed back to the junction of the trail and main road, where we also delighted in a male and female plumbeous sierra-finch that were feeding on some dropped fruit.

Once over the head of the pass, it was all downhill as we quickly descended towards Papallacta. Passing large tracts of forest on the way, Santiago explained that the Andean cloud forest along the eastern cordilleras is far more intact than that found in the west. Stopping briefly at the Papallacta Lake, we saw a couple of Andean gulls and a single great thrush from the viewpoint, with Santiago telling us about the oil pollution incident that occurred in the lake a few years ago, which occurred as a result of a huge spillage from the trans-Andean pipeline linking the Amazonian oilfields with the Ecuadorian coast. Apparently, more oil was leaked from the pipeline from this incident than had been spilt by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska in 1989.

Finally, with dusk approaching, we reached Guango Lodge, where we received a very warm welcome from our hosts. A quick session at the feeders, before losing the light, then produced sightings of both buff-tailed and chestnut-breasted coronet. After a delightful dinner, Santiago then gave a short, informative presentation on the conservation of Andean bears, which was very well received by the group.

**Saturday 19 April 2025**

### **Day 7:**

Guango Lodge - The moth trap & Sendero Trail 1, Cuyuja & San Isidro Lodge.

After a good night's sleep, the group met up for the obligatory 6 am coffee before then taking the short walk down to the moth hide. The previous night had been cold and clear so despite the presence of relatively few moths in and around the sheet, hopes were nevertheless high that at least a few birds would come down for breakfast.

Arrivals were initially a touch slow as we logged rufous-coloured sparrows and russet-crowned warblers, but then livened up when a family party of turquoise jays, including a youngster, made an appearance. A mountain wren could also be heard singing from close by before two individuals then came down to investigate proceedings. Next up were two chestnut-crowned brush-finch, while up above, two mountain caciques and a strong-billed woodcreeper took it in turns to grab a few moths.

Having successfully added a few more species to our trip list, we next took a short walk along the river. The first bird to be located on a tree branch was a male masked trogon, as all gained fine views of this handsome species. Following the trail down to the river, Santiago pointed out the remains of a bromeliad along the path that had patently been eaten by a coati - this being one of only two species (apart from the Andean bear) which eats bromeliads in the Ecuadorian Andes.

Suddenly we found ourselves in the middle of a mixed flock, and in no time managed to identify spectacled redstart, pearled treerunner, cinnamon flycatcher, beryl-spangled tanager, blue-and-black tanager, a male

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long-tailed sylph and a male collared Inca. Next to be logged was an Azara's spinetail, which despite calling very vocally from a nearby patch of scrub could not however be coaxed into break cover. A green jay with was close by, however, appeared far more obliging.

Heading out of the lodge after breakfast, we then crossed the road before taking the path up and into the forest on the other side. Due to the amount of mud, we had all borrowed Wellington boots, and after a short walk reached the blind where food (in the form of grapes) is placed out to entice the grey-breasted mountain toucan to break cover. While waiting for the toucan to appear, MD pointed out a male tourmaline sunangel, while the first bird to investigate the grapes was a pale-naped brushfinch.

We were just at the point of giving up when two toucans suddenly flew in out of nowhere. One of the birds immediately began to consume the grapes, while the other fed on some bananas that had also been placed out - it was nothing short of a superb moment. While enjoying the toucan, we could also hear a chestnut-crowned antpitta calling from the forest below. Walking on, we also took some time to enjoy some off-the-ground flora, with MD spotting a type of self-heal (Genus *Prunella*), a species of *Fuchsia* and at least three different representatives of the genus *Philodendron*, with Santiago explaining that *Philodendron*, can be differentiated from the very closely-related genus of *Anthurium* by the absence of a bract-like cover which shields the flowering spike. Also present, was an enormous bromeliad flowering spike in the genus *Guzmania*.

Walking further along the path, we then hit our second mixed flock of the morning, with the most common species being grey-headed bush tanager, in addition to a couple of spectacled redstarts and a single grass green tanager. Then just a few metres further along the path we achieved fine views of at least two streaked xenops, blue and black tanager, more grey-hooded bush tanagers, beryl-spangled tanager and a lachrymose mountain tanager. With our feathered friend also constantly playing hide and seek behind the foliage, it was proving to be a tough but exhilarating session. Also a little further down, Santiago managed to locate a saffron-crowned tanager - which was not only a scarce bird at best but also a new species for MD!

Heading back down to the Papallacta River on the other side of the road, we quickly managed to locate a male torrent duck, but the female, however, was nowhere to be seen. Walking slowly back upriver, we also managed to take a moment to enjoy two very different and tiny orchids in the genus *Pleurothallus*, while a member of the family Gesneriaceae, was also present with flowers that looked just like small, orange booties!

Meanwhile, back at the lodge, a spot more time at the feeders produced both a male and female white-bellied woodstar and a speckled hummingbird, in addition to the other commonly recorded species, as all delighted in the appearance of male long-tailed sylphs during the brief moments they were not being chased away by the territorial coronets! Leaving Guango with something of a heavy heart, we next stopped briefly in the town of Cuyuja in the Province of Napo, where we briefly drove across a bridge spanning the Papallacta River, to look for southern emerald toucanet.

Despite hearing the toucanet calling, the bird could not be persuaded to make an appearance, however, recompense for missing the toucanet came from a great view of a mixed flock comprising three green jays and three mountain caciques, while a roosting band-tailed pigeon was also added to the list. Heading onwards and ever eastwards, we finally arrived at the San Isidro Lodge at around 5.15 pm, which comprises a fabulous lodge with adjoining forest located at an altitude of around 2,100 metres. Driving through the gates, the very first bird we saw was singing and displaying a russet-backed oropendola, which represented a welcome omen.

Once in our rooms, we took a moment to appreciate the lodge, together with our new guide Aster, while enjoying short-tailed nighthawks catching moths in the receding light. Upon sitting down to enjoy a most delicious meal, we were then called back to the balcony to watch a black-banded or 'San Isidro' owl, while eating a Dobson fly. The owl also had the most peculiar call, sounding like a half-strangled cat! Aster also told us that that has recently been speculation that the owl here might be an entirely new species, or at the

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very least sub-species, as the only other black-banded owls in Ecuador tend to be found at much lower elevations. And with the strange cries of the owl ringing in our ears, we headed off to our cabins for a good night's sleep.

**Sunday 20 April 2025**

**Day 8:**

San Isidro & Concierto des Aves, near Borja

Meeting up back on the balcony at 6 am, we commenced our birding with a coffee, to see that the light had pulled in a substantial number of moths overnight. Having patently rained heavily overnight, the skies looked to have mercifully cleared, which would bode well for our activities later that morning.

Using our ears first in the low light, we took a moment to enjoy the singing of the glossy-black thrush, with its crystal clear notes cutting through the surrounding trees. A single short-tailed nighthawk was still feeding on the wing, while the first bird to come down for a breakfast of moths proved to be a montane woodcreeper. As the light steadily improved, so did the number of birds, as we were quickly joined by a common chlorospingus, a couple of subtropical caciques and a russet oropendola. We then took the short walk down to the moth-trap hide, where we took a seat to see what would arrive and were duly rewarded with appearances from a russet-crowned warbler, mountain wren, masked trogon and a green jay.

With our trip list creeping ever upwards the next bird to be tracked down was a rusty-winged barbtail before the group then obtained brief, tantalising views of an Andean motmot. Back on the ground, and in front of the hide, a black-eared hemispingus represented yet another new bird for all concerned, while a tyrannine woodcreeper on the tree above was a fine addition. Behind the hide, we could also hear both the distinctive trill of a cinnamon flycatcher and the diagnostic piping call of a white-bellied antpitta.

Back up once again on the balcony, a red-tailed squirrel made an appearance, before being trumped by two pale-edged flycatchers. Another montane woodcreeper on the nearby tree was then picked up on before this too became relegated to mere 'sideshow' by the arrival of a black-billed peppershrike. As the sightings continued to flow, MD then spotted a black agouti down by the specially constructed tapir salt lick. And with the hummingbird feeders busy too, all delighted in both singles of bronzy Inca and violet-fronted brilliant. Also in the trees close by, a slaty-throated redstart was picked out, which interestingly represents one of a relatively few number of species that can be found at similar elevations on both sides of the Andes. Finally, before breakfast, we briefly popped back down to the wood to see if the white-bellied antpitta could be attracted out into the open with worms, but on this occasion, it appeared reluctant to come out. Recompense, however, came with the discovery of a brown-capped vireo, which was observed close to the feeders.

Taking in an excellent breakfast, we then reconvened a while later to take a walk along one of the trails, with Aster pointing out the nest hole of a pair of breeding Andean motmots. After a brief wait, we peeked one of the adults in the surrounding vegetation, before leaving it in peace. Next up, Aster took us to a section of forest close to a creek where a pair of southern emerald toucanets were known to be breeding in an old dead palm tree. And after waiting for a while, we saw one of the adults poking its head out, as a precursor to flying out and returning a short while later.

Walking up to the road, Santiago pointed out the call of a blackish tapaculo, before we then gained brief views of both a smoke-coloured peewee and a sickle-winged guan. After unsuccessfully managing to find the daytime roost of an Andean potoo, we then took a drive around some of the local pastures surrounding the forest at San Isidro. But by now, it had begun to rain once again, resulting in us picking up little more than a few blue & white swallows, three southern lapwings, a couple of blue-winged mountain tanagers and a solitary band-tailed pigeon. When heading back to the lodge, a small, rushing river provided us with the trip's first views of a pair of torrent tyrannulets feeding among a large set of boulders.

Back at the lodge for lunch, we then headed out at 2.45 pm for a drive down to a small reserve managed by

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a local called Victor, called 'Concierto de Aves'. Situated further down the valley and close to the town of Borja, the hope was that the weather would be better here, and on the way we managed to pick up sightings of a couple of roadside hawks, a few smooth-billed anis and numerous tropical kingbirds.

Upon meeting Victor, he was immediately able to point out a male golden-headed quetzal, before then taking us down to a small hide with a number of feeders. Here we quickly noted both green-backed hillstar, and the different sub-species of booted racket-tail to that located in the west of the Andes, with this form having 'orange booties' rather than the more typical white form. Located at an altitude of around 1,650 metres, we also managed to spot a female violet-crowned brilliant when it came in, but unfortunately, the more unusual species tended to be quickly pushed away by the über territorial hillstars.

Deciding to take a walk along the road, we observed a flock of 13 red-billed parrots as they flew past, before then noting both four or five smooth-billed anis and a seemingly whole flock of blue & white swallows while they rested up on the telephone wires. Thanking Victor for a delightful visit, and with the weather in the meantime having improved considerably, we then headed back up to San Isidro. The resulting enhanced visibility enabled us not only to see the active Volcano Reventador, which was busily spewing out a big plume of smoke, but the summit of Antisana also appeared to be as clear as a bell.

Taking dinner we retired to bed, only to then get out of bed again just before midnight when Aster had messaged MD to say an Andean tapir had come out to the lick! This represented the first tapir for both MD and the only other guest that had still been awake, with both remarking on the tapir's sheer size - appearing only slightly more diminutive than a small horse! Retiring to bed once again, our first stay at San Isidro had been nothing short of a triumph.

**Monday 21 April 2025**

**Day 9:**

Guacamayo ridge, Coca and the Napo Wildlife Centre

Leaving San Isidro at 6 am, and with all our bags duly loaded onto the minibus, we said a fond farewell to one of our guests who was off to the Galapagos and headed straight for the Guacamayo Ridge, to enjoy our boxed breakfast within view.

This also happens to be a good spot for which to look for birds along the roadside, and in no time we picked up a hooded mountain tanager, a common chlorospingus and a single grass green tanager from the nearby trees. Every now and then, a small flock of red-billed parrots also passed our position, and just before leaving we also managed to log a bluish flowerpiercer and a lachrymose mountain tanager.

Back in the minibus we quickly began to drop in altitude as we headed towards the Oriente, with the weather improving and the ambient temperature steadily rising. Upon passing through the small town of Loreto, we then saw our first large vulture flock, or 'kettle' of the trip, with at least 60 black vultures seen while they circled on the thermals. And upon stopping at a petrol station we also managed to log both blue-and-white swallows and brown-chested martins in what had suddenly turned into hot and humid conditions.

Arriving in the busy and bustling oil town of Coca, we headed straight to our meeting point for those visiting the Napo Wildlife Centre, which also looks out over the Payamino River, which also happens to be a tributary of the much larger Napo River. Bidding farewell to Santiago and Eddy for the best part of four days, we then learned our wildlife guide would be Luis, with our introductory chat delightfully interrupted by the presence of two pink river dolphins out in the river. With all gaining super views of this iconic Amazonian species, there certainly appeared to be a male present, as evidenced by his incredibly pink skin, and MD explained that all the dolphins begin life coloured grey, before turning steadily more pink as they mature. White-banded swallows could also be seen hawking over the water, while two bare-faced ibis represented an additional bonus when they flew past.

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Heading first off in a fast, motorised boat, lesser kiskadees and brown-chested martins were initially very obvious, and as we picked up speed we also noted several great egrets along the river's edge. The sky was amazing too, with large ranks of cumulus clouds constantly moving by. However, due to the speed of the motorboat, very little wildlife of note was seen until we reached the creek at Añangu, where we transferred to paddled canoes. Here, our wildlife guide Luis was joined by the familiar face of local guide Mariano and a paddler called Anderson.

Transferring to the canoe, our team then started to take us slowly up the creek and towards the lodge, with chestnut-eared aracari quickly spotted, while the call of a boat-billed flycatcher was picked up from somewhere in the undergrowth. Mariano then spotted a large black caiman resting quietly at the water's edge, which must have been at least 3 metres long, alongside, a couple of large wolf spiders resting on a nearby log.

The calls emanating from the forest were terrific along the way too, with black-headed parrot, violaceous jay, green-backed trogon and the liquid call of russet-backed oropendola all picked out for us by our guides. As the forest on either side closed in, we were now totally in the shade as a flock of six or seven greater-billed anis were picked up while crossing the creek. Luis was also able to point out a number of very interesting trees along the way, such as Capirona descorticans, which is a member of the family Rubiaceae and whose trunk is distinctive for the complete lack of epiphytes. Luis went on to explain that this 'clean trunk' was because the tree totally sheds its bark each year. Luis was also able to point out the Tagua yarina palm, which produces the hugely commercial tagua nut, which has also been called 'vegetable ivory' due to its value. Then the forest began to subtly change, as Luis explained the difference between 'Varzea' and 'Igápo' vegetation types is that the former emanates from white rivers, while the latter originates from the black waters.

Looking up, upon reaching a small gap in the canopy, we next spotted a single greater yellow-headed vulture, before Mariano then picked up a zigzag heron on its nest. Sitting both perfectly still and close to the water, with its bill pointing skywards, it was hard to spot let alone find in the first place. Once in the flooded forest, Luis also pointed out many Cowsepoya trees, which look superficially like mangroves with their many rooting branches but belong to a completely different family.

Next up was our first kingfisher of the trip, which happened to be a green-and-rufous kingfisher, but very few folk managed a half-decent sighting as it passed so quickly. However, all were able to enjoy the young green anaconda found by Anderson, which was curled up on a branch at the water's edge. As we were able to get very close to the anaconda, we were able to admire its characteristic dark olive-green body, black blotches and yellowish belly. Our second kingfisher - a ringed - also proved to be far more obliging than the first, and posed beautifully for all the group from its riverside perch. And finally, as we reached the entrance to Añangu Lake we all revelled in the trip's first primate, in the form of two red howler monkeys sitting peaceably in the canopy of a nearby tree.

As the lake opened up, we finally managed our first sighting of Napo Wildlife Centre Lodge, with blue-and-white swallows, grey-breasted martins and short-tailed swifts accompanying us across the water. Pulling up to the jetty we were welcomed by Jairo, the Hotel Manager, along with a deliciously cold drink from Edison, the Bar Manager. Checking into our rooms, we were then given a short presentation about both the reserve and the community who founded and managed the lodge, before sitting down to a delicious dinner with Luis. And after such a long day, everyone quickly retired, in preparation for a busy, first day in the Amazon.

**Tuesday 22 April 2025**

### **Day 10:**

Napo Wildlife Centre - The Sachahuarmi Trail

The group met up with Luis at 6 am, to a clear, still morning. It was highly likely that the temperature would quickly turn decidedly warm. While taking coffee, we could hear white-throated toucans calling across the

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forest's canopy, while at least ten greater anis lined up on a branch outside the restaurant. After a quick breakfast, we headed down to the jetty, where Mariano and Anderson were patiently waiting for us.

As we set off paddling, we enjoyed good views of a female Amazon kingfisher on one of the cabin's balustrades, before then watching a male join her. Wattled jacanas and a cattle tyrant were also noted at the water's edge, while grey-breasted martins could be seen 'taking five' on the jetty's roof. While crossing the lake, our also guides pointed out the communal nests of both russet-backed oropendolas and yellow-rumped caciques, while the ever-present hoatzins were waiting for us as we entered the creek.

While listening to pale-vented pigeons calling in the background, we also managed to see a number of yellow-rumped caciques at the nest, a couple of eastern kingbirds, a boat-billed flycatcher and another green kingfisher. Further along the creek, a single rufescent tiger heron on a branch represented a good find, while a black-capped donacobius called in the background.

Once moored up, we began walking the trail and were pointed out, in quick succession, the calls of grey-headed kites above the canopy, while cinnamon attila and moustached ant-wren emanated from somewhere closer to the forest floor. We then stopped at a tree in the Lauraceae family that was in the process of being sawn up into planks, with Mariano explaining the locals were only allowed to take wood from the forest if the tree had fallen naturally. He also went on to explain that timber from this family of trees is considered incredibly dense and heavy and was so invaluable for use in construction. A little further along, Mariano also pointed out a rubber tree in the family Euphorbiaceae, going on to explain both how rubber is tapped and a little about the historical importance of rubber in the economy of the Amazon before the production of synthetic alternatives.

With the day now incredibly warm, the wildlife sightings began to thin out, but nevertheless, our ears still revealed their presence, as we picked up gilded barbet, purple fruit-crow, orange-winged parrots and the distant calls spider monkeys. MD went on to explain that spider monkeys are one of the very best indicators of quality forest, as this is a primate which always needs large swathes of undisturbed, old growth in which to thrive.

While channel-billed toucans and red-bellied macaws passed overhead, Mariano next demonstrated how to make fibre out of a palm leaf, and went on to explain that this fibre was used for making a huge variety of products. It was then briefly back to bird calls, with plain-winged antshrike and plumbeous pigeon logged before invertebrates took centre stage in the form of a bull spider and a bumblebee collecting clay for a nest. Mariano was slightly ahead of us and he suddenly stopped dead in his tracks, looking upwards. Catching up with him, he was both pointing excitedly into the low canopy and in the direction of a southern tamandua! This is an arboreal anteater and is so rarely seen that it was the first one that Luis had seen in Napo for over six years! Mariano had initially spotted movement while the tamandua was climbing upwards, before it then wrapped itself up into a ball for a sleep, affording in the process, great views for all to enjoy this stellar species through the telescope.

Moving onward, but this time with a spring in our step, we next heard russet antshrike and slender-billed kite before Mariano came up trumps again, in the form of a great jacamar quietly perched up on a branch. This territorial version of a kingfisher is never easy to spot, meaning we were thrilled with such a good view. A little further on the good run of sightings continued, as we achieved brief views of both a male dusky-throated antshrike in the undergrowth and a black-tailed trogon higher up in the canopy.

During the course of the walk, the wildlife interest was not just confined to feathers and fur, as the group were also interested in the various ant species we encountered along the way. The fearsome bullet ants were treated with much respect, while we also got somewhat closer to the leaf-cutter ants, Aztec ants and fire ants. Luis also pointed out the remains of some palm nuts which had been prized open by black agoutis.

Reaching the boat once again, and with Anderson patiently waiting for us, we hopped in, before starting the short ride back to the lodge. Masked crimson tanager could be heard calling out of sight, but a silvered antbird was far more obliging. Here, we also travelled through a section of the forest which appeared

permanently flooded, allowing Luis to point out the one dominant species of palm in the genus *Mauritia*. This palm is also the favourite food source for a number of macaws and larger parrots. In the forest alongside, hoatzins and anis were once again abundant, while our team was additionally able to point out both a striated heron and an Amazon dwarf iguana resting up on a branch above the water.

Back at the jetty, Edison was waiting for us with a cold glass of Naranjilla juice, which we quaffed while watching the yellow-spotted river turtles through the telescope as they basked in the sun. While there, we also picked up a pair of blue-grey tanagers, with Luis pointing out that this species has a white wing bar in the Amazon, which is not present in those birds we'd previously picked up in the western cloud forests.

Taking lunch, we had arranged to visit the canopy tower later that afternoon, but MD suggested that the group take to the lodge tower to enjoy the view. While up here, the group managed to spot a family party of brown capuchins feeding in the trees and on the ground behind the lodge, where at least one baby could be seen amongst the troop. While here, we were also able to spot plenty of fork-tailed palm swifts feeding over the water, as the Amazon kingfishers returned to the balustrade where we'd picked them up earlier in the day.

Back down by the jetty a little later on, we boarded the canoe once more for the short trip across the lake, and to the trail leading directly to the canopy tower. Reaching the other side, we flushed a snail kite from the lakeside vegetation, which then perched close by, allowing the group to obtain excellent views of this very specialised raptor. Before leaving the canoe we also managed to catch up with another troop of howler monkeys and locate a capped heron, which has a diet mostly consisting of tadpoles!

The walk to the tower normally takes around 15 minutes and it certainly proved very productive for reptiles and amphibians along the way as we spotted a tegu lizard, a *Rhinella* toad and perhaps best of all, a yellow-footed tortoise eating some fruit. The guides thought that the tortoise must have been at least 30 years old too, with this a notably long-lived species. The canopy tower is itself built around a huge kapok tree and with all the guests eventually reaching the top, we were able to enjoy views across the forest that were nothing short of sensational.

Almost immediately, birds we'd perhaps struggled to see down on the forest floor became far more visible from our lofty position in the canopy, with a chestnut woodpecker and squirrel cuckoo the first birds to be identified. As two scarlet macaws flew below us, we also picked up an ivory-billed aracari, gilded barbet and paradise tanager - all at close quarters and in gorgeous light.

Next spotting a dwarf iguana in the kapok tree right next to us, our attention was then drawn to more parrots as a couple of mealy's flew past, followed by a squadron of four red-bellied macaws. A single crested oropendola was then promptly trumped by a pair of white-necked puffbirds that flew into the kapok tree, before settling down right above our heads! And the good birds kept coming, as we diligently logged excellent views of a female bare-necked fruitcrow, a flame-crested tanager, a female blue dacnis and a stunning cream-bellied woodpecker in quick succession.

Out of sight, we could hear a golden-collared toucanet's gruff call, while plenty of distant calling white-throated toucans were interspersed with the distinctive whistle of a citron-bellied attila. While a couple of red-throated caracaras noisily flew past, two green oropendolas and three black-headed parrots were also picked up on the wing. Climbing back down, after a simply terrific session, we could hear a plain-winged antshrike calling constantly as touched back down on terra firma once more.

By now the light in the forest was beginning to drop considerably as dusk approached, and as we listened to great tinamous calling. A gap in the canopy allowed us to garner brief views of a pair of blue and yellow macaws as they flew noisily overhead. Canoeing back to the lodge, the final bird song of an action-packed day belonged to that of a dot-backed antbird, before meeting up once again for a fine dinner another early night.

**Wednesday 23 April 2025**

**Day 11:**

Napo Wildlife Centre - Añangu Laguna & creek, Rio Napo clay lick, Napo Cultural Centre, Jetty clay lick, Añangu creek and the laguna.

Meeting up at 5.30 am, two of the guests had decided to rest up and stay behind, with the plan to meet up with the remaining members later on. Once again the weather looked calm and clear, with indications it would be a repeat of the same fine weather experienced the day before. With it still dark, a ferruginous pygmy owl could be heard calling, along with the raucous calls of two troops of howler monkeys from different locations in the forest.

Crossing the lake, plenty of bats could be seen flitting through our head-torches, while we also noted a ringed kingfisher in the pre-dawn gloom, along with a juvenile agami heron. As a third troop of howlers were picked up, we could also hear the 'moo' call of a rufescent tiger heron and the staccato whistle of a silvered antbird. As we entered the creek we also spotted two blue-and-yellow macaws passing overhead and were soon moving quickly back along the main creek, due to travelling in the same direction as the flow of water.

Hoatzins were abundant for most of our journey, and we also managed to pick up a social flycatcher on a branch before the water swept us away. Plenty of calls were also noted, including those of white-throated toucan, yellow-crowned elaenia, thrush-like wren and boat-billed flycatcher. And a little further on we listened to some red-throated caracaras calling noisily overhead, along with the plaintive calls of cinereous tinamou from the forest interior.

By now, it was much lighter, as small flocks of cobalt-winged parakeets passed overhead, we also managed to spot a grey-winged trumpeter when it flew right in front of the boat. From within the forest, we could also hear speckled chachalaca calling from both sides of the creek, as four chestnut-fronted macaws flew past in arrow formation. Finally nearing the jetty, we were able to clearly see three dusky-headed parakeets resting at the top of a tree, while three black-faced nunbirds and a single thrush-like wren were spotted in a riverside tree.

Even though it was still only 6.40 am the heat was already proving intense, and while transferring to the motorised boat we noticed two pied plovers on the sandbank. Taking the boat downriver for a short distance, the large lek on the river bank was still devoid of birds, while six howler monkeys were dozing in a riverside tree-top close by. Slowly, and as the parrots gained courage, they began to descend to the lick, with yellow-crowned and mealy the first to start feeding. After a short while, good numbers began to drop down, as dusk-headed parakeets and blue-headed parrots appeared in different clusters, while yellow-crowned and mealy parrots slotted in either separately, or in amongst the flocks of smaller birds.

After a good hour watching the comings and goings of the parrots, we left the lick and went back upriver to head to the community. Met upon our arrival, we then slotted into electric vehicles as we were whisked straight off to the village, with a common ground dove the only bird of note spotted en route.

Following a warm welcome by the women of the community, who gave us a lesson in speaking Kichwa, with 'Alli puncha' and 'pagaracho' meaning 'good morning' and 'thank you'. Next up was a dancing display, with us all joining in, followed by some local food in a ceremonial hut, and pièce de resistance was a session on how to use a blowpipe! After a simply marvellous time with the community, we purchased a few souvenirs, before being shown a two-toed sloth. Here too we also managed sightings of three southern lapwing and a calling white-lored euphonia.

Back at the NWC jetty by the Napo River, we spotted a cocoa heron before taking the 15-minute walk to the second clay lick. Arriving at the hide, it was obvious that macaws were close by as we could hear them in the trees above. However, after an hour, a spix guan came down, and in the process frightened off the macaws. But all was not lost another wait was rewarded when a large flock of cobalt-winged parakeets came down, before then being joined by a few orange-winged parakeets - making for quite the spectacle. Walking

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back with Luis, we spotted a large chicken snake, before being traded to excellent views of a couple of dusky titi monkeys. Once back at the jetty, we enjoyed a lunch of rice, fish, veg and patacones. But the wildlife-watching didn't stop whilst we dined. We also noted a calling house wren and a blue morph butterfly.

Suitably replete, we then jumped into the canoes for the return back to the lodge. Spotting as we went, a large anaconda of around three metres in length was the first species to be noted. And a little further on we were delighted to catch up with both a troop of brown capuchins moving through some palms and a perched up green-and-rufous kingfisher. However, as there were lots of mosquitoes present, we didn't linger there.

Once again, sounds came to the fore, as a double-banded pygmy-tyrant and pygmy ant-wren could be heard calling from the undergrowth, along with a squirrel cuckoo and dwarf-tyrant manakins a little further on. The next species to be located was one that was high on many guests' lists, as a three-toed sloth was picked up in a tangle of vegetation. As the group took in good views of this iconic species, we also spotted a couple more caimans, a wattled jacana and a social flycatcher in a high-octane ten-minute period. And if anything it was only to get better at the entrance to the lake, as we spotted a troop of squirrel monkeys low down, before utterly stellar views of the family of four giant river otters all around the boat while paddling back to the lodge. Here the otters were calling to each other, diving down and eating fish at the surface as we hit mammal overdrive.

Taking a short break after such a fabulous day of sightings we enjoyed dinner before taking an evening stroll with Luis and Mariano around the back of the lodge. Almost immediately Luis came up with the good as after no more than two or three minutes he pointed out a two-toed sloth mother and baby above our heads. It was our second species of sloth in almost as many hours and all represented our third and fourth sloths of the day. Following a short trail through the forest, we saw lots of invertebrates, such as a bull spider with an egg sac, crickets and grasshoppers and a lichen mantis. Then after finding a small leaf toad, we came across a huge smoky jungle frog - surely one of the largest frogs in the world - before watching it trying to catch a mouse opossum as it ran past! Heading back to the lodge, there was still one last surprise when Luis pointed out a common possum climbing through a tangle of lianas in the canopy. Our night walk finished with great views of a venomous banana spider and a whip scorpion, we thanked Luis and Mariano for their expertise before heading back to our cabins.

**Thursday 24 April 2025**

**Day 12:**

Napo Wildlife Centre - The Canopy Tower, The Lodge Tower and the Cari-Añangu Creek

Starting off, once again, at 5 am, we were soon heading back for our second visit to the canopy tower. While crossing the lake, lots of bats once visible once more, but on this occasion, the skies looked heavy and overcast, with rain most definitely in the air. On our paddle across, we also had some small fish jumping into the boat, while we could also hear the wheezing of the near-omnipresent hoatzins, calling from close by. On arrival at the jetty we jumped out once again for the short walk to the tower, but not before stopping briefly to enjoy an Imantodes (blunt-headed) snake wrapped around some path-side vegetation.

Reaching the top of the tower, the weather could not have looked any more different from our previous visit, with dark, threatening clouds as far as the eye could see. After just 15 minutes, we were given a reminder as to why the Amazon is a 'rainforest' when the rain started to fall. Hoping it would stop, we gave it 10 minutes before deciding the smarter move was to head back down below where cover was present on the forest floor. By the time we reached the bottom of the tower, the rain was coming down in torrents, so took our breakfast instead in the outbuilding at the base of the tower. We then spent the next ninety minutes waiting for the rain to abate. It was nevertheless an amazing experience to see a proper downpour.

While waiting for the rains to stop, Luis was somewhat surprised by a tree frog from the genus *Trachycephalus*, which made him jump as it hopped out of a shell that he was inspecting. Deciding to abandon any attempt to spend more time in the tower, we headed back to the boat, spotting another capped heron on the way back, along with two eastern kingbirds and a tropical kingbird.

Taking our lunch back at the lodge, and with the rain finally having stopped at around 3 pm, we all decided to meet up on top of the lodge tower to see what might be on show. As the sun was, by now, finally coming out for the first time all day, we suspected that there might be a burst of activity and were proved right. First up, a channel-billed toucan was observed while perching briefly, before a roadside hawk was picked out atop another tree while trying to dry its wings. Luis then spotted a crimson-crested woodpecker on an exposed branch, while a single howler monkey appeared to be fast asleep in the canopy.

In the distance, a troop of spider monkeys were then located in the scope, while the family troop of brown capuchins were close to where we'd seen them on our previous visit to the tower. A blue piping guan was next to be found, while a troop of howler monkeys moved up into the nearby canopy to bathe in the sun, where bizarrely, a brown capuchin could be seen right in amongst the howlers' midst! Also from our elevated position, we could see and hear the giant river otters noisily crossing the lake too.

Continuing to scan around from our 360-degree position, we also managed to pick up a distant slender-billed kite drying its wings, while much closer, a fork-tailed flycatcher with an impressively long tail was another good find. Further off we could see a black-tailed tityra and a boat-billed flycatcher close by, while a many-banded aracari then paid us a visit to a fruiting tree close by. This same tree then played host to a female gilded barbet, with a grey-capped flycatcher another notable find. All the while, the giant river otters were making an absolute din in the lake below.

With everything emerging to dry off in the sun, we also picked up a slate-coloured hawk and a piratic flycatcher, while a pair of greater yellow-headed vultures drifted past on the day's first thermals. Then MD managed to pick up both a distant laughing falcon & a male plum-throated cotinga.

Back down at ground level, Luis suggested we still had time for another paddle before losing the light, so we set off for a paddle around the Car-Añangu Creek. Almost immediately we picked up a couple of cattle tyrants, a house wren and a spotted sandpiper in summer plumage along the lake shore, before then logging a black-capped donacobius, a green kingfisher and a striated heron. Hoatzins were once again seen marking the entrance to this new creek as we paddled in to see what we could find.

In no time we managed to spot a troop of six or seven squirrel monkeys, and several individuals offered excellent views as they passed our position right almost down at eye level. While watching their monkeys we were also treated to the plaintive call of long-billed woodcreeper, along with a brief sighting of greater kiskadee. We then briefly jumped out of the boat and out onto a tongue of land to look for some roosting night monkeys, but on this occasion, they were not in their normal tree-hole so we continued in the canoe.

Back on the water and along the creek, we managed to obtain good views of an adult striated heron, a striped woodcreeper and a dot-backed antbird, before listening to the soft call of a grey-fronted dove from somewhere close by. As many birds had patently sat out the earlier heavy downpour it appeared they were seen to make up for lost time as we enjoyed fantastic views of a dwarf kingfisher in the undergrowth - the final species of Amazonian kingfisher we had still to log! And the sightings continued slightly further down the creek, when spotting three many-banded aracari, a female cream-coloured woodpecker, a chestnut woodpecker and a cinnamon-fronted woodcreeper all in relatively short order...

A few hundred metres further on the creek slowly began narrowing, allowing us to get close to a white-bearded manakin, a species that displays with a being snap. Woodcreepers appeared to be particularly abundant here, with plain brown woodcreeper next to be identified, while a perched trogon proved to be that of a female blue-crowned trogon. Carrying on our journey we then caught a brief flash as a cinnamon attila flew across the creek - which up to that point had been one of these birds we'd heard a lot but hadn't managed to see even once. Continuing our run of good birds, Mariano then spotted quite a possible 'bird of the day', in the form of a chestnut-capped puffbird sitting motionless on a branch above the water, before brief views of a silver-beaked tanager. Serenaded by the loud, liquid calls of a coraya wren singing from the undergrowth, we achieved fine views of a buff-throated woodcreeper, with our sighting interrupted as a ringed kingfisher flew past.

Finally heading back to the lodge, yet another large caiman, which appeared well over three metres in length, was picked up right next to the canoe, before then watching seven red-bellied macaws whizz past our position. Back at the lodge, there was still a little time to rest up, with our final dinner preceding an early retirement to bed, giving time to pack before our early departure time the following day.

**Friday 25 April 2025**

**Day 13:**

Napo Wildlife Centre, the return to Coca and Quito.

Starting at the very early time of 4.30 am, and with our bags packed, we bid farewell to our hosts at the lodge, before boarding our canoe for the final trip back to the Napo River. While crossing the lake we had terrific sightings of both bats and fireflies over the water as we entered the creek. Canoeing quickly with the flow, we passed through an area full of Chontilla palms in the genus *Astrocaryum*, where we had brief and tantalising views of a sun bittern, while an Amazonian streaked ant-wren appeared to be fast asleep on top of a short stump right in the middle of the creek.

Very little else of note was then seen before saying goodbye to Luis, Mariano and Anderson, who had been nothing short of brilliant for the entire duration of our stay. MD gave his laser pointer to Luis and torch to Mariano as a thanks for all their hard work. A couple of hours later we were back in Coca, with Lodge personnel making sure we safely boarded our flight back to Quito. We then enjoyed fine views over the Andes, before meeting up once more with Santiago and Eddy, who promptly whisked us off to the Garden Hotel near Quito Airport for a rest before our flight the following day.

Not content with doing 'nothing', MD and one of the guests headed off into Quito, where they were able to enjoy a fabulous lunch out overlooking the whole of Quito's old town. We also managed to visit some of the fabulous churches and cathedrals dotted across the numerous plazas before returning to meet the others back at the hotel for dinner.

**Saturday 26 April 2025**

**Day 14:**

Puembo Birding Garden, Quito Airport and home to London, via Amsterdam.

Meeting up for breakfast, all the guests enjoyed some downtime while MD carried out a recce to Puembo Birding Garden, which was located at a distance of around 30 minutes from the hotel. Catching an Uber there, MD proceeded to meet Mercedes, who welcomed him into her garden, with plenty of feeders and some one-way glass to enjoy the birds.

While chatting to Mercedes, MD managed to identify sparkling violetear, while blue & yellow and scrub tanagers came down to eat fruit. Both tanagers are considered inter-Andean specialists and so represented new species for MD, along with the croaking ground dove and western emerald. All picked up here were saffron finch, eared dove, rufous-tailed hummingbird and a male black-tailed trainbearer. MD decided that it would make the perfect end to our trip moving forward, thanked Mercedes, and walked back to the hotel while managing to pick up a vermilion flycatcher on the way back!

Picked up at the hotel later that afternoon, we were dropped off by Santiago and Eddy, before thanking our wonderful guide and driver profusely for all their hard work throughout the trip. Heading first off to Guayaquil, before flying to Europe, one last bird was waiting for us in the form of a tropical mockingbird on the runway! All bid fond farewells after a simply wonderful trip, with a bear experience that no one would ever forget, a simply huge list of birds and mammals and memories to last a lifetime.

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Cover Images by Christina Gu (Andean hillstar, Grey-breasted mountain toucan)

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# Checklist for Ecuador's 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	Day 14
	<b>BIRDS</b>															
1	Great tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>										H				
2	Cinereous tinamou	<i>Crypturellus cinereus</i>											H			
3	Little tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>				H										
4	Torrent duck	<i>Merganetta armata</i>				✓			✓							
5	Andean teal	<i>Anas andium</i>						✓								
6	Speckled chachalaca	<i>Ortalis guttata</i>											H			
7	Crested guan	<i>Penelope purpurascens</i>			✓	✓										
8	Blue-throated piping guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>												✓		
9	Wattled guan	<i>Aburria aburri</i>				H										
10	Sickle-winged guan	<i>Chamaepetes goudotii</i>			✓											
11	Short-tailed nighthawk	<i>Lurocalis semitorquatus</i>							✓	✓						
12	White-collared swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>				✓					✓					
13	Band-rumped swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>			✓											
14	Short-tailed swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>									✓	✓		✓		
15	Fork-tailed Palm swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>				✓						✓		✓		
16	White-necked jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓						
17	White-whiskered hermit	<i>Phaethornis yaruqui</i>			✓	✓										
18	Brown violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	✓	✓												
19	Lesser violetear	<i>Colibri cyanotus</i>			✓											
20	Sparkling violetear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>					✓	✓								✓
21	Tourmaline sunangel	<i>Helianthus exortis</i>							✓							
22	Speckled hummingbird	<i>Adelomyia melanogenys</i>			✓				✓							
23	Long-tailed sylph	<i>Aglaiocercus kingii</i>							✓	✓						
24	Violet-tailed sylph	<i>Aglaiocercus coelestis</i>	✓	✓	✓											
25	Ecuadorian hillstar	<i>Oreotrochilus chimborazo</i>						✓								
26	Black-tailed trainbearer	<i>Lesbia victoriae</i>					✓									✓

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27	Rainbow-bearded thornbill	<i>Chalcostigma herrani</i>							✓										
28	Tyrian metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>						✓											
29	Viridian metaltail	<i>Metallura williami</i>							✓										
30	Shining sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis cupripennis</i>						✓	✓										
31	Bronzy inca	<i>Coeligena coeligena</i>										✓							
32	Brown inca	<i>Coeligena wilsoni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓													
33	Collared inca	<i>Coeligena torquata</i>										✓							
34	Great sapphirewing	<i>Pterophanes cyanopterus</i>						✓											
35	Buff-tailed coronet	<i>Boissonneaua flavescens</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓									
36	Chestnut-breasted coronet	<i>Boissonneaua matthewsii</i>							✓	✓	✓								
37	Velvet-purple coronet	<i>Boissonneaua jardini</i>	✓	✓	✓														
38	White-booted racket-tail	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓							
39	Green-backed hillstar	<i>Urochroa leucura</i>										✓							
40	Purple-bibbed whitetip	<i>Urosticte benjamini</i>	✓	✓	✓														
41	Fawn-breasted brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa rubinoides</i>	✓	✓															
42	Green-crowned brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>			✓	✓													
43	Empress brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa imperatrix</i>		✓															
44	Violet-fronted brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa leadbeateri</i>										✓							
45	Giant hummingbird	<i>Patagona gigas</i>							✓										
46	Purple-throated woodstar	<i>Philodice mitchellii</i>	✓	✓	✓														
47	White-bellied woodstar	<i>Chaetocercus mulsant</i>										✓							
48	Western emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus</i>																	✓
49	Rufous-tailed hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓													✓
50	Andean emerald	<i>Uranomitra franciae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓													
51	Greater ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>										✓	✓			✓			
52	Smooth-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>			✓							✓							
53	Squirrel cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>		✓									✓	✓	✓				
54	Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓														
55	Band-tailed pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>										✓	✓						
56	Pale-vented pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>														H		✓	
57	Plumbeous pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>		✓			H									H		H	
58	Ruddy pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>		H															
59	Common ground dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>															✓		
60	Croaking ground dove	<i>Columbina cruziana</i>																	✓

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61	Black-winged ground dove	<i>Metriopelia melanoptera</i>					✓										
62	White-tipped dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>			✓												
63	Grey-fronted dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>													H		
64	White-throated quail-dove	<i>Zentrygon frenata</i>	✓													✓	
65	Eared dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>					✓	✓								✓	✓
66	Grey-cowled wood rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>														✓	
67	Grey-winged trumpeter	<i>Psophia crepitans</i>												✓			
68	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarana</i>								✓	✓						
69	Pied plover	<i>Hoploxypterus cayanus</i>												✓			
70	Southern lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>							✓					✓			
71	Andean lapwing	<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>						✓									
72	Wattled jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>										✓	✓	✓			
73	Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>										✓		✓			
74	Andean gull	<i>Chroicocephalus serranus</i>						✓									
75	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>														✓	
76	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>								✓	✓						
77	Andean ibis	<i>Theristicus branickii</i>						✓									
78	Bare-faced Ibis	<i>Phimosus infuscatus</i>								✓							
79	Rufescent tiger heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>										✓	H				
80	Boat-billed heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>														✓	
81	Agami heron	<i>Agamia agami</i>												✓			
82	Zigzag heron	<i>Zebrius undulatus</i>								✓							H
83	Capped heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>														✓	
84	Striated heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>										✓		✓			
85	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>				✓						✓					
86	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>								✓				✓			
87	Cocoi heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>												✓			
88	Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓				
89	Andean condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>					✓	✓									
90	Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓				✓	
91	Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓											
92	Greater yellow-headed vulture	<i>Cathartes melambrotus</i>								✓						✓	
93	Grey-headed kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>											H				
94	Swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	✓	✓	✓												

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95	Snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>										✓				
96	Slender-billed kite	<i>Helicolestes hamatus</i>										H		✓		
97	Slate-colored hawk	<i>Buteogallus schistaceus</i>												✓		
98	Roadside hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>	✓						✓			H	✓	✓		
99	Variable hawk	<i>Geranoaetus polyosoma</i>					✓									
100	Black-chested buzzard-eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>					✓									
101	Ferruginous pygmy owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>											H			H
102	Black-banded owl	<i>Strix huhula</i>							✓							
103	Golden-headed quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>	✓	H			H									
104	Black-tailed trogon	<i>Trogon melanurus</i>										✓				
105	Green-backed trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>									H	H				
106	Blue-crowned trogon	<i>Trogon curucui</i>												✓		
107	Collared trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>					H		✓							
108	Masked trogon	<i>Trogon personatus</i>	✓							✓						
109	Amazon kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>										✓		✓		
110	American pygmy kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>												✓		
111	Green kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>										✓				
112	Green-and-rufous kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>									✓		✓			
113	Ringed kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>									✓		✓	✓		
114	Andean motmot	<i>Momotus aequatorialis</i>							✓							
115	Rufous motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>	✓			✓	✓									
116	Broad-billed motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>	H													
117	Great jacamar	<i>Jacamerops aureus</i>										✓				
118	White-necked puffbird	<i>Notharchus hyperhynchus</i>										✓				
119	Chestnut-capped puffbird	<i>Bucco macrodactylus</i>												✓		
120	White-whiskered puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>				✓										
121	Black-fronted nunbird	<i>Monasa nigrifrons</i>											✓			
122	Gilded barbet	<i>Capito auratus</i>										✓		✓		
123	Red-headed barbet	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>		✓	✓											
124	Toucan barbet	<i>Semnornis ramphastinus</i>		H	H											
125	White-throated toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus albivitta</i>							H	✓						
126	Crimson-rumped toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus haematopygus</i>		✓	✓											
127	Collared aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	✓	✓												
128	Ivory-billed aracari	<i>Pteroglossus azara</i>										✓				

129	Chestnut-eared aracari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>									✓				
130	Many-banded aracari	<i>Pteroglossus pluricinctus</i>												✓	
131	Golden-collared toucanet	<i>Selenidera reinwardtii</i>										H			
132	Grey-breasted mountain toucan	<i>Andigena hypoglauca</i>							✓						
133	Plate-billed mountain toucan	<i>Andigena laminirostris</i>			✓										
134	Channel-billed toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>										H		✓	
135	Choco toucan	<i>Ramphastos brevis</i>		H	✓	✓									
136	White-throated toucan	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i>										H			
137	Yellow-throated toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus</i>		✓											
138	Golden-olive woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>				✓									
139	Chestnut woodpecker	<i>Celeus elegans</i>										✓		✓	
140	Cream-colored woodpecker	<i>Celeus flavus</i>										✓		✓	
141	Crimson-crested woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>												✓	
142	Guayaquil woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guayaquilensis</i>				✓									
143	Red-throated caracara	<i>Ibycter americanus</i>										✓	✓		
144	Carunculated caracara	<i>Phalcoboenus carunculatus</i>						✓	✓						
145	Laughing falcon	<i>Herpethotes cachinnans</i>												✓	
146	American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>			✓										
147	Bat falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>				✓									
148	Cobalt-winged parakeet	<i>Brotogeris cyanopectera</i>										H	✓	✓	
149	Orange-cheeked parrot	<i>Pyrilia barrabandi</i>												✓	
150	Red-billed parrot	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>		✓								✓			
151	Blue-headed parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>												✓	
152	Bronze-winged parrot	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i>		✓	✓	✓									
153	Yellow-crowned Amazon	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>												✓	
154	Mealy Amazon	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>										✓	✓		
155	Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>										H	H		
156	Black-headed parrot	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i>										H	✓		
157	Dusky-headed parakeet	<i>Aratinga weddellii</i>												✓	
158	Red-bellied macaw	<i>Orthopsittaca manilatus</i>										✓		✓	
159	Blue-and-yellow macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>										✓	✓		
160	Chestnut-fronted macaw	<i>Ara severus</i>												✓	
161	Scarlet macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>										✓	H		
162	Tyrannine woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla tyrannina</i>									✓				

163	Plain-brown woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>		✓		✓	✓							✓		
164	Cinnamon-throated woodcreeper	<i>Dendrexetastes rufigula</i>												✓		
165	Long-billed woodcreeper	<i>Nasica longirostris</i>												H		
166	Strong-billed woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>		✓												
167	Striped woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus obsoletus</i>												✓		
168	Buff-throated woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>												H		
169	Spotted woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>			✓	✓										
170	Montane woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger</i>			✓					✓						
171	Streaked xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>							✓							
172	Rusty-winged barbtail	<i>Premnornis guttuliger</i>								✓						
173	Chestnut-winged cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes albidiventris</i>					✓	✓								
174	Stout-billed cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes excelsior</i>						✓								
175	Scaly-throated foliage-gleaner	<i>Anabacerthia variegaticeps</i>				✓	✓									
176	Lineated foliage-gleaner	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>		✓		✓										
177	Buff-fronted foliage-gleaner	<i>Dendroma rufa</i>				✓										
178	Streak-capped treehunter	<i>Thripadectes virgaticeps</i>		✓												
179	Spotted barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>					✓									
180	Pearled treerunner	<i>Margarornis squamiger</i>							✓							
181	Red-faced spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca erythrops</i>			✓	✓										
182	Slaty spinetail	<i>Synallaxis brachyura</i>				✓										
183	Azara's spinetail	<i>Synallaxis azarae</i>								H	H					
184	Russet antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>				✓							H			
185	Dot-winged antwren	<i>Microrhopias quixensis</i>											✓			
186	Moustached antwren	<i>Myrmotherula ignota</i>											H			
187	Pygmy antwren	<i>Myrmotherula brachyura</i>												H		
188	Amazonian streaked antwren	<i>Myrmotherula multostriata</i>														✓
189	Slaty antwren	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>				✓										
190	Dusky-throated antshrike	<i>Thamnomanes ardesiacus</i>											✓			
191	Plain antvireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>				✓										
192	Plain-winged antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus schistaceus</i>											H			
193	Dot-backed antbird	<i>Hylophylax punctulatus</i>													✓	
194	Silvered antbird	<i>Sclateria naevia</i>											✓	H		
195	Western fire-eye	<i>Pyriglena maura</i>					✓									
196	Zeledon's antbird	<i>Hafferia zeledoni</i>				✓	✓									

197	Rufous-breasted antthrush	<i>Formicarius rufipectus</i>		H	✓	H	H											
198	Giant antpitta	<i>Grallaria gigantea</i>			✓													
199	Scaled antpitta	<i>Grallaria guatimalensis</i>				H												
200	Chestnut-crowned antpitta	<i>Grallaria ruficapilla</i>							H									
201	Yellow-breasted antpitta	<i>Grallaria flavotincta</i>			✓													
202	White-bellied antpitta	<i>Grallaria hypoleuca</i>								H								
203	Tawny antpitta	<i>Grallaria quitensis</i>					H	H										
204	Ochre-breasted antpitta	<i>Grallaricula flavirostris</i>			✓													
205	Paramo tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus opacus</i>						H										
206	Blackish tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus latrans</i>								H								
207	Spillmann's tapaculo	<i>Scytalopus spillmanni</i>			H													
208	Yellow-crowned elaenia	<i>Myiopagis flavivertex</i>														H		
209	Torrent tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>								✓								
210	Yellow tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>				✓												
211	Slaty-capped flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>				✓												
212	Ornate flycatcher	<i>Myiotriccus ornatus</i>	✓		✓	✓												
213	Scale-crested pygmy tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>				✓												
214	Double-banded pygmy tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus vitiosus</i>														H		
215	Cinnamon flycatcher	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus</i>							✓	✓	H							
216	Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓								
217	Smoke-colored pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>								✓								
218	Vermilion flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus obscurus</i>																✓
219	Paramo ground tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola alpinus</i>						✓										
220	Cattle tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>										✓				✓		
221	Piratic flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>														✓		
222	Rusty-margined flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>			✓													
223	Social flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>													✓			
224	Grey-capped flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>														✓		
225	Great kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>														✓		
226	Lesser kiskadee	<i>Philohydor lictor</i>								✓	✓	H	✓					
227	Golden-bellied flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes hemichrysus</i>	✓		✓													
228	Boat-billed flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>									H	✓	H					
229	Tropical kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓				✓			
230	Fork-tailed flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>													✓			

231	Eastern kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>										✓		✓		
232	Pale-edged flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cephalotes</i>								✓						
233	Cinnamon attila	<i>Attila cinnamomeus</i>									H	H		✓		
234	Citron-bellied attila	<i>Attila citriniventris</i>										H				
235	Andean cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola peruvianus</i>			✓	H	H									
236	Purple-throated fruitcrow	<i>Querula purpurata</i>										✓				
237	Plum-throated cotinga	<i>Cotinga maynana</i>												✓		
238	Dwarf tyrant-manakin	<i>Tyrannetes stolzmanni</i>											H	H		
239	Golden-winged manakin	<i>Masius chrysopterus</i>				H										
240	White-bearded manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>													✓	
241	Black-tailed tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>													✓	
242	Black-billed peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis nigrirostris</i>					H			✓						
243	Slaty-capped shrike-vireo	<i>Vireolanius leucotis</i>					H									
244	Brown-capped vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>								✓						
245	Turquoise jay	<i>Cyanolyca turcosa</i>							✓							
246	Violaceous jay	<i>Cyanocorax violaceus</i>									H					
247	Inca jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>							✓	✓						
248	White-winged swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>									✓	✓		✓		
249	Grey-breasted martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>									✓	✓		✓	✓	
250	Southern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	✓	✓	✓										✓	
251	White-banded swallow	<i>Atticora fasciata</i>										✓				
252	Blue-and-white swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓						
253	Brown-bellied swallow	<i>Orochelidon murina</i>						✓	✓							
254	Black-capped donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>											H		✓	
255	Thrush-like wren	<i>Campylorhynchus turdinus</i>											H	✓		
256	Sepia-brown wren	<i>Cinnycerthia olivascens</i>					✓									
257	Coraya wren	<i>Pheugopedius coraya</i>													H	
258	Bay wren	<i>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</i>					H									
259	House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>												H	✓	
260	Mountain wren	<i>Troglodytes solstitialis</i>							✓	✓						
261	Grey-breasted wood wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>			H	H	H	H		✓						
262	Tropical mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>														✓
263	Andean solitaire	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>			H	H										
264	Speckled nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus maculatus</i>					H									

265	Glossy-black thrush	<i>Turdus serranus</i>									H						
266	Great thrush	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓					✓
267	Ecuadorian thrush	<i>Turdus maculirostris</i>		✓	✓												
268	White-capped dipper	<i>Cinclus leucocephalus</i>			✓							✓					
269	Hooded siskin	<i>Spinus magellanicus</i>					✓										
270	White-lored euphonia	<i>Euphonia chrysopasta</i>												H			
271	Thick-billed euphonia	<i>Euphonia laniirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓										
272	Orange-bellied euphonia	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>		✓	✓												
273	Yellow-throated chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus flavigularis</i>				✓											
274	Dusky chlorospingus	<i>Chlorospingus semifuscus</i>			✓												
275	Yellow-browed sparrow	<i>Ammodramus aurifrons</i>									✓						
276	Orange-billed sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>				✓	✓										
277	Chestnut-capped brushfinch	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>		✓							✓	✓					
278	Rufous-collared sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>		✓	✓											✓	✓
279	Pale-naped brushfinch	<i>Atlapetes pallidinuca</i>									✓						
280	Russet-backed oropendola	<i>Psarocolius angustifrons</i>									✓	✓	H				
281	Crested oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>													✓		
282	Green oropendola	<i>Psarocolius viridis</i>													✓		
283	Yellow-rumped cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>										✓	✓				
284	Scarlet-rumped cacique	<i>Cacicus microrhynchus</i>			✓	✓											
285	Subtropical cacique	<i>Cacicus uropygialis</i>									✓						
286	Mountain cacique	<i>Cacicus chrysonotus</i>									✓	✓					
287	Tropical parula	<i>Setophaga pitayumi</i>				✓											
288	Buff-rumped warbler	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>				✓	✓										
289	Russet-crowned warbler	<i>Myiothlypis coronata</i>									✓	✓					
290	Three-striped warbler	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>		✓			✓										
291	Slate-throated whitestart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>		✓		✓											
292	Spectacled whitestart	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>									✓	✓					
293	White-winged tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>				✓											
294	Band-tailed sierra finch	<i>Rhopospina alaudina</i>					✓										
295	Green honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>				✓											
296	Swallow tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>				✓											
297	Blue dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>													✓		
298	Buff-throated saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>				✓											

299	Black-winged saltator	<i>Saltator atripennis</i>				✓											
300	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>				✓											
301	Flame-crested tanager	<i>Loriotus cristatus</i>										✓					
302	White-shouldered tanager	<i>Loriotus luctuosus</i>				✓											
303	Lemon-rumped tanager	<i>Ramphocelus icteronotus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓										
304	Masked crimson tanager	<i>Ramphocelus nigrogularis</i>											H				
305	Silver-beaked tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>										H			✓		
306	Grey-hooded bush tanager	<i>Cnemoscopus rubrirostris</i>							✓								
307	Black-eared hemispingus	<i>Sphenopsis melanotis</i>									✓						
308	Cinereous conebill	<i>Conirostrum cinereum</i>						✓									
309	Saffron finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>															✓
310	Plumbeous sierra finch	<i>Geospizopsis unicolor</i>							✓								
311	Paramo seedeater	<i>Catamenia homochroa</i>						✓									
312	Bluish flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa caerulescens</i>										✓					
313	Black flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa humeralis</i>						✓									
314	Fawn-breasted tanager	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>				✓											
315	Blue-and-yellow tanager	<i>Rauenia bonariensis</i>															✓
316	Hooded mountain tanager	<i>Buthraupis montana</i>							✓			✓					
317	Grass-green tanager	<i>Chlorornis riefferii</i>							✓			✓					
318	Blue-winged mountain tanager	<i>Anisognathus somptuosus</i>			✓						✓						
319	Black-chinned mountain tanager	<i>Anisognathus notabilis</i>	✓	✓													
320	Scarlet-bellied mountain tanager	<i>Anisognathus igniventris</i>						✓									
321	Lacrimose mountain tanager	<i>Anisognathus lacrymosus</i>							✓			✓					
322	Golden-naped tanager	<i>Chalcothraupis ruficervix</i>	✓	✓	✓												
323	Blue-grey tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓		✓			✓
324	Palm tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	✓	✓	✓							✓		✓			
325	Black-capped tanager	<i>Stilpnia heinei</i>	✓	✓													
326	Blue-necked tanager	<i>Stilpnia cyanicollis</i>					✓										
327	Scrub tanager	<i>Stilpnia vitriolina</i>															✓
328	Beryl-spangled tanager	<i>Tangara nigroviridis</i>			✓				✓								
329	Saffron-crowned tanager	<i>Tangara xanthocephala</i>							✓								
330	Flame-faced tanager	<i>Tangara parzudakii</i>			✓												
331	Golden tanager	<i>Tangara arthus</i>	✓	✓	✓												
332	Silver-throated tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>	✓		✓												

333	Paradise tanager	<i>Tangara chilensis</i>											✓				
	<b>MAMMALS</b>																
1	Northern black-eared opossum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>														✓	
2	Mouse opossum sp.	<i>Marmosa sp.</i>														✓	
3	Southern tamandua	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>											✓				
4	Linnaeus's two-toed sloth	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>												✓	✓		
5	Brown-throated three-toed sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>												✓			
6	Culpeo	<i>Lycalopex culpaeus</i>															✓
7	Andean bear	<i>Tremarctos ornatus</i>							✓	✓							
8	Mountain coati	<i>Nasuella olivacea</i>		✓													
9	Crab-eating raccoon	<i>Procyon cancrivorus</i>										✓					
10	Giant otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>											✓	✓	✓		
11	Mountain tapir	<i>Tapirus pinchaque</i>											✓				
12	White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>							✓								
13	Amazon river dolphin	<i>Inia geoffrensis</i>											✓				
14	Ecuadorean squirrel monkey	<i>Saimiri macrodon</i>													✓	✓	
15	Brown capuchin	<i>Sapajus apella</i>											✓	✓	✓		
16	Red-crowned titi	<i>Plecturocebus discolor</i>												✓			
17	Colombian red howler	<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	White-bellied spider monkey	<i>Ateles belzebuth</i>												H		✓	
19	Andean tapeti	<i>Sylvilagus andinus</i>							✓								
20	Black agouti	<i>Dasyprocta fuliginosa</i>											✓				
21	Central american agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	✓	✓													
22	Lowland paca	<i>Cuniculus paca</i>															✓
23	Red-tailed squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>		✓	✓	✓							✓	✓			
	<b>REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS &amp; INVERTS</b>																
1	Green anaconda	<i>Eunectes murinus</i>											✓		✓		✓
2	Black caiman	<i>Melanosuchus niger</i>											✓	✓	✓		
3	Yellow-footed tortoise	<i>Chelonoides chilensis</i>											✓				
4	Anole lizard	<i>Anolis sp.</i>											✓				
5	Yellow-spotted Amazon river turtle	<i>Podocnemis unifilis</i>													✓	✓	

6	Amazon dwarf iguana	<i>Enyalioides laticeps</i>											✓			
7	Chicken snake	<i>Spilotes pullatus</i>												✓		
8	Blunt-headed snake	<i>Imantodes cenchoa?</i>													✓	✓
9	Treefrog sp.	<i>Trachycephalus sp.</i>													✓	
10	South American common toad	<i>Rhinella margaritifera</i>													✓	
11	Smoky jungle frog	<i>Leptodactylus pentadactylus</i>													✓	
12	Blue morpho butterfly	<i>Morpho achilles</i>												✓		

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