

Searching the Antpittas



Thanks to: Joris Elst, Hans Matheve and especially David 'Billy' Herman for generously sharing valuable information, Gabriela at La Selva lodge for the easy and straightforward communication, Gary Rosenberg for talks and recent info about Canande, Jonas Nilsson @ Wildsumaco lodge for the excellent stay and communication beforehand, Jim and Bonnie @ Wildsumaco, Daniel @ Wildsumaco for excellent guiding, Luis and Jenny @ Canandé for their bird ringing joy, Mathias Fehlow and Felix Jachmann @ Mindo Loma/Angel Paz/Mashpi (the only other independent birders we met on our trip), Boris Herrera and his family @ Mindo Loma/Mashpi for showing how excellent a lodge can be, Minor @ San Isidro for helping us arranging Canande, Ward Vercruysse for lending me his binocular, and Marjolein De Weirdt for excellent company as always. Also thanks to Derek Kverno for his excellent blog about equatorial birding and some email communication.

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Introduction

After a long period in Colombia and Venezuela back in 2005 (without too much birdwatching in both areas), I could not wait any longer to go back to the Andes and lowlands (Chocó and the Amazon). As me and my girlfriend had the chance to spend 4 weeks of holiday together in february 2010, the long-term dream of going back was suddenly becoming reality, much faster than we expected. The preparation has consequently suffered as this really was a last-minute decision.

This travel report tries to give an overview of the better birds per site, and some information about where to find them. I also tried to include practical information about traveling independently (i.e. without a car, without a guide), and the cost of the whole experience.

Further, because I knew I was going to be ill-prepared, I concentrated on some personal targets like Antpitta's, Antthrushes, Wrens, Hummers and Tanagers.

All in all, my impression about Ecuador was:

not *very* cheap (compared to neighbouring countries), still very green and forested, very relaxed travelling, good bus-transport, average food as anywhere in northern South-America, well established and developed birding tourism, very good guides, hard but rewarding birding and a whole lot of bird species in the end.

Itinerary

	morning	midday	evening	night
30	brussel (flight delayed)	Atlanta (missed flight)	Atlanta	Atlanta
31	Atlanta	Atlanta	Quito (23.45u)	Chicago hostel Quito
1	Quito-Sumaco (bus)	Quito-Sumaco	Wild Sumaco	Wild Sumaco
2	Wild Sumaco Benavides	Wild Sumaco FACE	Sumaco-Coca (18u-20u)	Hotel Auca (Coca)
3	La Selva boat 9-11u30	La Selva lake	La Selva	La Selva
4	Belisario	Belisario	Belisario	La Selva
5	river islands	Belisario	Jose trail and beyond	La Selva
6	Canopy tower	Mandicocha	Mandicocha	La Selva
7	Mandicocha and beyond	Mandicocha and beyond	Mandicocha and beyond	La Selva
8	La Selva boat 6u30-9u	Coca - Sumaco 10u-13u	Wild Sumaco	Wild Sumaco
9	Wild Sumaco FACE trail	Wild Sumaco FACE trail	Sumaco-Baeza	Bambus hostel Baeza
10	Huacamayos (Inca trail)	Huacamayos (Inca trail)	Huacamayos (Inca trail)	Bambus hostel Baeza
11	Huacamayos (Inca trail)	San Isidro (Antvireo trail)	San Isidro (nightbirding)	Bambus hostel Baeza
12	San Isidro (COTR)	Huacamayos (Inca trail)	Huacamayos (Inca trail)	Bambus hostel Baeza
13	Papallacta antennas	Papallacta antennas	polyepsis + lake	Don Wilson hotel
14	Papallacta pipeline trail	Guango lodge trails	Papallacta termas	Don Wilson hotel
15	Papallacta polyepsis	Papallacta-Nanegalito	Nanegalito	Hotel near Nanegalito
16	Mindo Paz de las Aves	Mindo Paz de las Aves	Mindo Loma	Mindo Loma
17	Mindo Loma	Mindo Loma	Los Bancos	Mirador Rio Blanco
18	Los Bancos-Quininde(2hrs)	Quininde - Canande(5hrs)	Canande	Canande
19	Canande	Canande	Canande	Canande
20	Canande	Canande	Canande	Canande
21	Canande	Canande	Canande	Canande
22	Canande - Quininde (5hrs)	Quininde - Los Bancos	Los Bancos	Mirador Rio Blanco
23	Magno Loma	Mango Loma	Mango Loma	Mirador Rio Blanco
24	Milpe	Los Bancos - Nanegalito	Nanegalito (rain)	hotel near Nanegalito
25	Verdecocha	Yanacochoa	Bellavista	Research centre
26	Bellavista	Bellavista	Rio Alambi-Quito airport	Quito airport
27	Quito 00:20	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta
28	Brussel 8:00 AM			

Practicalities

BEFORE TAKE-OFF:

I only prepared this trip one month before. It helped that my Spanish was not too bad, so I arranged a lot of things just on the spot, and I really won't comment as extensively on how to prepare for a trip like this as other people already did. I made few arrangements through the internet.

The 6 days-5 nights Amazon lodge of La Selva was arranged through email. I contacted another lodge (Yuturi), but this one was out of business due to renovation, until June 2010.

I contacted some other lodges to ask for transport/prices, and got good and quick response from Gareno (but too far and time too short) and Wild Sumaco. I planned so that we did not have to stay in

the lodges because we could not really afford them, but ofcourse, for birding around the lodges and on the trails, it is more convenient to overnight there.

Canandé was arranged through emailing the Jocotoco foundation in Quito, but as they were slow and rather inconvenient in the communication, we had a hard time to actually pay in Quito (which was a necessity) before going to the reserve.

TRANSPORT:

We travelled mainly with public transport. Some days, we arranged a car to cover a wider area.

STUFF:

Bring Wellington boots (or buy them for around 7\$ on the spot), umbrella, enough insect repellent with at least 50% DEET, long-sleeved shirt you can close up to the chin, pants were mosquitos can't get through. Other recommended stuff is Ipod, Radioshack speaker, extra Ipod (I drowned one), extra connecting cable (they oxidise really fast in the humid forest), more than two pairs of socks (you can let them wash in most places for little money). No need to bring sleeping bags etc, unless you really want to camp.

MONEY:

Last but not least, bring enough money. The plane ticket Brussels–Quito with a stop–over in Atlanta was 840 EUR with Delta airlines. Once on the ground, we spent around 1450 euros / person for the whole trip, which is quite a lot more than expected. With around 500 lifers and 630 birds seen, the cost was 4.5 euro/lifer and 3.6 euro/bird.

Biggest costs were 5 days of La Selva with guiding, boat from Coca and full boarding included (500 EUR/person), 4 nights of Canande (around 260 EUR/person), and the extra cost for a night and day in Atlanta (about 50 EUR/person). Don't forget to save 41\$ /person for the airport tax when leaving the country with the airplane. So on all other days we spent around 30 EUR/person/day, including entrances to lodge grounds for birding the trails, Angel Paz (15\$/person, food, transport, hotels and the occasional souvenir. Most sleeping was to be had between 10 and 15 \$ / person / night, food was around 5–8\$ / person for a good meal after dark. The occasional almuerzo (lunch) was around 2–3 \$ and was decent enough, but in some places only to be recommended to people who have a strong stomach, unless want to take the risk to cope with digestion problems.

BEST BIRDS:

It is quite popular these days to name your best birds of the trip. I will give it a try, based on the effort I put in, the beauty of the bird (very personal) and the overall observing experience, in no particular order:

1. Short-tailed Antthrush: beautifully seen on several occasions @ Wild Sumaco, singing and constantly crossing the trails.
2. White-lored Antpitta: Seen perched at 10 mtrs singing for as long as we wanted, at the Rio Napo.
3. Lined Forest-falcon: One juvenile of a rare dark morph perched @ La Selva.

4. Thrush-like Antpitta: This was the first Antpitta I had eye-to-eye contact with.
5. Black-billed Mountain-toucan: Two birds flew in a fruiting tree @ Huacamayos, and were cleaning for half an hour at eye-level.
6. Orange-breasted Fruiteater: A couple @ Mashpi came very close and was eating in a fruiting tree.
7. Zigzag Heron: Very good views at the lake near La Selva at dawn.
8. Moustached Antpitta: After hard work, this one was seen for a split second in Mindo Loma.
9. Golden-chested Tanager: One stunning bird on the ridge at Rio Canande reserve.
10. Club-winged Manakin: This one was easy to see, but still amazing to watch.
11. Tanager Finch: One of the last lifers on the trip, and seen very well in the pouring rain when nobody else had the courage to go birding. So the lesson is: going out always pays off!

Site descriptions

What follows next are the descriptions of all the birding sites we visited. As I found the report of Frank Rheindt (2001) still very useful, I decided to use the same approach. The site guide by Heijnen et al. is especially valuable for preparing the trip, as good birds are mentioned for each site. I generally felt that too little reports give a good overview of target birds per site (notable exceptions are Rheindt and Hosner). This was like a big puzzle to me, which I only finished just before departing. For that reason I also tried to include some target species I didn't see, but can be seen. Places I did not visit but are in my opinion highly recommended in along the route I followed are: Shiripuno, Garenó, Rio Silanche, Jatun Bilsa, Mindo.

If I would go back, I would spend more time in the Eastern foothills, the San-Isidro/Huacamayos area and the Western Chocó lowlands. I would skip the Eastern lowlands and bird them in a separate trip as they are a world on their own that merits better preparation and focus than the 5 days I was there.

Wild Sumaco

Introduction

Since the construction of the Loreto road, there has been a lot of rave reviews about this area for foothill East-Andean birding. Since some years and already reported by Ahlman (2003), the dirt road in the direction of the Sumaco volcano has been known to offer very rewarding birding away from the ever-deteriorating forest alongside the Loreto road. But even here, good forest is getting rare, the Wildsumaco lodge + Rio Pucuno foundation try to preserve as much as possible, and a visit is highly recommended for that reason alone.

How to reach

From Hollín (km 24 on the Tena-Baeza road, i.e. the crossing with the Loreto road) take any bus to Coca and ask to stop at Wuawua Sumaco (or huahua Sumaco). This is nothing more than a crossing with THE dirt road at your left, a little shop at the corner and a restaurant. The lodge is still 6km away

taking the dirt road, and good forest will only pop up after a km or 4 at alternate sides of the road but seldomly at both. If you phone beforehand, someone from the lodge can pick you up for 10\$ (+593 (0)91459159). When you see a little wooden stairway going up to the right, you know you are only like 1 km from the lodge. This stairway leads to the workmans' house, where the best feeders are and the Piha trail starts. The lodge is 1km further at the lefthand side, you can't miss the big fence.

Getting around + strategy

I birded here 2 separate days, one morning was very productive in the company of Daniel. He is only 18 years old but as good as it gets for finding the birds. Jim and Bonnie (the owners) can provide all info (they have self-explaining maps for finding the trails). Best trails are PIHA and FACE, but I found the Benavides trail being best for Plain-backed Antpitta and Rufous-breasted Antthrush (both HO). Both species were not heard on other trails. The Streamcreeper trail was under construction and should be ready in some time. On PIHA trail I saw Gray-tailed Piha and Buff-fronted Tody-tyrant quite easily, but Chestnut-crowned gnateater just would not come in (HO). I also saw Rufous-breasted Wood-quail and Northern White-crowned Tapaculo here crossing the trail, and Black-streaked Puffbird sitting unobtrusively near the trail. The feeders at the workmans' house at the end of this trail can deliver as much as 17 species of hummer at one time.

The FACE trail was very rewarding, too. Short-tailed Antthrush was walking on the track, other good birds you can get here are the Streamcreeper (should be in the damp gully), White-tipped Sicklebill and White-capped Manakin. I saw Brown-billed Scythebill in a little flock just entering the prime forest. Real highlights include Andean Laniisoma, Scarlet-breasted and Fiery-throated Fruiteater, and especially Yellow-throated Spadebill. I tried hard and succeeded missing all of those, but I did not tape them.

Red-billed Tyrannulet should be a little further up the dirt road from the lodge (about 500mtrs), but did not react to the tape.

At night, Band-bellied Owl was calling and seen just at the main lodge building, while Black-banded and especially Foothill Screech-owl remained silent for two nights with good owling weather.

Ticks

Gould's Jewelfront, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Short-tailed Antthrush, White-capped Manakin, Channel-billed Toucan, White Hawk, Rufous-Breasted Wood-quail, Band-bellied Owl, Wire-crested Thorntail (at the Verbena flowers at the lodge), Black-streaked Puffbird, Northern White-crowned Tapaculo, White-backed Fire-eye, Musician Wren (Piha), Olive-chested Flycatcher, Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, Rufous-naped Greenlet.

Dips

Red-billed Tyrannulet, Andean Laniisoma, Coppery-chested Jacamar, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Plain-backed Antpitta (HO), Ochre-breasted Antpitta (nest at Benavides trail but not seen), Foothill Screech-Owl, Military Macaw (palm trees), Blue-rumped Manakin (HO) (impressive dip list!)

La Selva

Introduction

This place does not really need an introduction. When I searched for a good place to go birding along the rio Napo, I had four requirements: a good guide, a canopy tower, both Terra Firme and Varzea closeby, and the possibility to bird some river islands. Some places that should have all of these include Sacha lodge, Sani lodge, Yuturi (out of business due to renovation until June 2010), Napo Wildlife Center etc. I went for La Selva because it is the best place to see Cocha Antshrike and Zigzag Heron, the guides (Jose and Rodrigo), the excellent food and the splendid location at an oxbow lake, a little away from the noise of river traffic. If you want a really remote place with only Terra Firme, try Shiripuno lodge, or go to Peru. A lot of the Terra Firme birds can also be found at Gareno lodge, a place I did not have time to visit, but should be seriously considered including.

How to reach

Make booking through email (on the website) beforehand, I got a reduction (paid 3 nights, got 5) when asked. Just be on time at the boats on the east side of the bridge in Francisco de Orellana (as known as Coca). The boat takes about 2.5 hrs to reach the lodge. The fun isn't over yet, as one has to walk on a slippery boardwalk through varzea before reaching dug-out canoes after about 700m. The canoe will take you across the scenic lake to the lodge buildings.

Getting around + strategy

I would advise to invest at least 5 full birding days. 6-7 would be better to clean up on the Antbirds. The area I would definitely have liked to spend more time was the Terra Firme forest south of the Rio Napo. Time was spent as follows: first afternoon birding on the lake in a canoe. This will give you the best chance for Zigzag Heron, Kingfishers and some varzea Antbirds, which are surprisingly easy from the canoe. Second morning (mornings start as early as YOU want!) should be spent on the canopy tower, which is only a 10-minute walk from the lodge. After midday, activity from the tower will be really slow, so bird the Terra Firme around. The third day can be spent in the Terra Firme at either Dantas, Belisario or the Yasuni park. Here you will get most of the antbirds, and some goodies as Ochre-striped Antpitta, Thrush-like Antpitta, Great and Purplish Jacamar, some Treehunters, Rufous-capped Antthrush, Ash-throated Gnatcatcher, ... The fourth day can be spent at the river islands for the speciality birds on there (Black-and-white Antbird, Castelnau's Antshrike, Spinetails, Gray-breasted Crake, Rufous-headed Woodpecker etc.), as well as Amazonian Umbrellabird. Great Potoo and Ladder-tailed Nightjar are also highly possible. In the afternoon, one can go searching White-lored Antpitta in thick scrub near the river on either side. The fifth day can be entirely spent birding the trails behind the lodge, towards the lake of Mandicocha, and beyond for finding Cocha Antshrike in the Blackwater parts. If having another day, one would have the possibility to do more birding on Terra Firme south of the Napo, or take another chance on the canopy tower.

About the guides:

Jose is the master. He knows every call and is very quick finding the birds. He is a little slow with his MP3 player, though. We birded 2.5 days with Jose, before he had a reservation made by a group lead by Gary Rosenberg. Above all, Jose is a very nice guy, as he is very relaxed and will never lose his calm.

We had Rodrigo the other half of our stay, and my impression was that he is as good as Jose. Rodrigo is a little more an active birder, constantly moving/whistling/checking for things. He has as impressive birding skills, and can imitate a lot of birds (no need for Ipod!) which WILL come in! We gave him a little thougher a time, as we used Rodrigo for cleaning up on the birds we missed with Jose, but he performed brilliantly and is as nice a guy as Jose.

Ticks

Zigzag Heron, Cocha Antshrike, Lined Forest Falcon, White-lored Antpitta, Ochre-striped Antpitta, Thrush-like Antpitta, Great Jacamar, Purplish Jacamar, Chestnut-belted Gnateater, Striated Antthrush, Parker's Spinetail, Great Potoo, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Sand-colored Nightjar, Tawny-bellied Screech-owl, White-streaked Puffbird,...

Dips

Long-tailed Potoo, Short-tailed Nighthawk, Rufous-capped Antthrush, Ash-throated Gnateater, Orange-crested Manakin, White-plumed Antbird (HO), Lunulated Antbird, Harpy Eagle, Crested Eagle, Plain-crowned Spinetail, Rufous-headed Woodpecker, and many more.

San Isidro

Introduction

A not-to-be-missed place on the east slope, with very good birding, nice lodge and (as heard saying) very good food. We did not stay there, but I think it merits at least one night.

How to reach

If you call them, they can arrange a car to pick you up in Cosanga for 3\$/ride. If not, take a bus from Baeza to Cosanga and stop 20 minutes later, around 200mtrs before the little village of Cosanga where you have a sign 'Las Caucheras' and a dirt road to the right. Walk 2kms up and you will find the lodge at the lefthand side. Yanayacu (5kms further walking), could be a wonderful place to overnight and was recommended by birding friends of me, but it is not directed towards tourists, and (last-minute) emails were not answered.

Getting around + strategy

At 7.30AM they start feeding White-bellied Antpitta, and possibly Chestnut-crowned will also join the feast. Before and after, the Cock-of-the-rock trail probably gives the best birding, but if you don't want to walk that far, the hummers and secondary scrub around the parking lot provide some rewarding birding, too. If you would be here at dawn, try for Rufous-banded owl and Rufous-bellied night-hawk near the lodge on this trail, and keep an eye on the mystery owl in the big palm tree at the car parking lot. The main hummingbird feeders are very good, and if you go all the way down to the river following the cock-of-the-rock trail, you have a good chance to see White-capped Dipper (little river) first and Torrent Duck (big river) second.

Ticks

White-bellied Antpitta, San Isidro mystery Owl, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Rufous-bellied Night-hawk, White-capped Dipper, Torrent Duck.

Dips

I did not try hard enough for Bicolored Antvireo and Peruvian Antpitta (the Antpitta was not calling). White-capped Tanager could be here but is a long-time-no-see for the locals, and is easier to see in Peru I guess.

Guacamayos

Introduction

Situated some 8kms south of Cosanga at an altitude of 1800–2200m, huacamayos combines some of the best scenery – birding – acces to this altitude on the east slope.

How to reach

Take any bus from Baeza (as we did, Bambus hotel proved to be an excellent choice) or Cosanga (closer, but only one very basic hospedaje and no facilities whatsoever), untill you reach the low-altitude pass of the sierra after 30 minutes (Baeza) or 10 minutes (Cosanga). You will see an obvious parking lot with a little chapel and a Virgen del Paramo at the right. The track starts here immediately with good forest on a steep slope (so you have more or less no choice of wandering of the trail) and goes more or less flat (slightly going down) 4kms untill the oleoduct. From there on, one can walk down the oleoduct for as far as they want.

Getting around + strategy

All good birds can be found in the first stretch of around 1km. The lower you go down, the more you will encounter the same species as in San Isidro. Busses leave as early as 5AM in Baeza, so one can do some early morning birding around the parking lot in the search for Rufous-Bellied Nighthawk, Andean Potoo and do some owling (or go in the evening). The best part was between the parking lot and the obvious curve with a lot of chusquéa bamboo. Lower down I had some flocks lead by redstarts and warblers, with some fine flycatchers.

Ticks

Green-and-black Fruiteater (easy at the parking lot), Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Olicaceous Piha, Barred Antthrush (flying across the path), Lacrimose Mountain-tanager, Hooded Mountain-tanager, Grass-green Tanager, Black-billed Mountain-toucan (2 birds at the bamboo, feeding on fruits) and my first Golden-headed Quetzal for the trip.

Dips

No antpittas whatsoever, except for that Chestnut-naped Antpitta that was only to be heard for 5 minutes, before it stopped calling and didn't respond to playback. Dusky Piha was a Girlfriend-only bird. I tried to tape Andean Potoo at dusk at the first landslide on the trail, but all was silent and misty.

Papallacta

Introduction

mainly a village with hot baths for the rich and wealthy Quitenos. Ideal as a travel base for the Papallacta pass with Paramo birding (you crossed this pass coming from Quito), the termas de Papallacta for a hot bath and Sword-billed hummers above your head, and the Guango lodge, which is only 11 kms down the road towards Baeza.

How to reach

Get a bus from the southern terminal in Quito (taxi from Chicago Hostal in the center to the terminal was 5\$, to give you an idea about taxi prices in Quito) in the direction of Baeza or Tena or Coca or Lago Agrio, or a Quito-bound bus to the other side. There are two ways to get into the village (the new road goes around): 1 is getting off the bus at the south-east side where you have the obvious entrance road to the village (2.5kms walk to the Termas), and 2 is the upper unpaved entrance road just when you past the big lake at your left (coming from Quito). The first is more convenient, the second is shorter with own transport to reach the Termas and offers some moderate roadside birding. We stayed in Hotel Don Wilson (30\$/night for a double). From the south entrance to the village, it only takes 10 minutes to reach Guango lodge by bus. Activity at the feeders was excellent. This has to be the easiest place to see Torrent Duck (couple + 1 female at the river).

Getting around + strategy

The village itself can already offer some nice birding (Rufous Antpitta, Paramo Tapaculo, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Red-crested Cotinga), especially when taking the overgrown pipeline trail to the right, just after crossing the bridge and the pipelines above your head.

From the village, it is easy to walk in the direction of the Termas (1.5km). This should offer some roadside birding but we didn't do that. You will have to pass the Termas de Papallacta complex in order to enter the reserve, a walk in this valley with good Neblina forest can possibly offer Crescent-faced Antpitta which was seen last August. Unfortunately, the entrance to the reserve is only open after 8AM.

To go up to the pass, it is recommendable to take a taxi with good ground clearance (30 mins, 20\$), all the way up to the Antennas where one can find the Seedsnipes. Die-hards can take a bus to the pass, but the walk to the antennas is quite hard going up above 4000mtrs. We arrived around 8AM in Papallacta at the south-east side, paid 25\$ to the pick-up truck taxi to take us to Don Wilson and after check-in, took us to the Antennas. Around 8.45AM we were at the very cold Antennas in the clouds. It only started to clear up around 10.30AM and we birded/walked the way down to the road.

The lakes and some Polyopsis patch are 2kms down the pass in the direction of Papallacta. Buses pass regularly, but they tended to be not-so-willing as in other places to stop at the pass and at the Polyopsis, so we hitch-hiked. The patch is dominated by a big rocky slope, but before we realised, we were 1 km to far down. From there, we tried to make the short-cut by climbing up an obvious stone quarry (thus this quarry is one curve too far), but we were hopelessly lost for some hours by doing that.

At the Polyepsis, there is a track (but not obvious from the road in the backseat of a car) in the right-hand curve just right of that polyepsis patch, this leads to a lake with Silvery Grebe and some other duckfowl.

Ticks

Both Stout-billed and Bar-winged Cinclodes were present in fairly good numbers at the pass, as were all the other Paramo birds and Tawny Antpitta. Through the clouds, I could detect a Caranculated Caracara for 5 seconds.

A nice surprise (the only) in the search for the polyepsis was a couple of Great Horned Owl, feeding on something that looked like a rabbit. We were a little lost at that time, but it was the first rideable track on the left hand side after the polyepsis. When finally arrived at the polyepsis, nothing great was found. I did the same patch the next morning (hitch-hiking from Papallacta), and found Sedge Wren in the grassy area and Silvery Grebe (just one) on the lake. A telescope could be handy here, as views where distant.

Dips

We did not find any Seedsnipes. The weather was excellent most of the day we searched, and I can assure you that I walked through all of the meadows for hours without missing a square inch. The best area should be between the parking lot and the antennas, where I spend most of the effort.

On two occasions (one in the late afternoon, after hours of walking and searching the polyepsis patch), we did not encounter 'the' flock with Black-backed Bush-tanager and Giant Conebill.

Masked Mountain-tanager was not found (but also not searched for) on the spot near Papallacta Billy (see references) mentions in his travel report. I also did not try for the Crescent-faced Antpitta.

I dipped on the Gray-breasted Mountain-toucan and Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager in Guango, and also missed Mountain Avocetbill at the feeders there.

Mashpi

Introduction

Currently the easiest site to see some of the high-desired lower slope Chocó birds such as Moss-backed Tanager, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Black Solitaire, Pacific Tuftedcheek and many more.

How to reach

See the map at the Bellavista part. We hired a vehicle (40\$ for a half day) from Mindo Loma. The vehicle was already ordered by two other independent birders, so we just had to join them. It should be possible to reach with public transport, but best to ask in Pacto. Pacto is regularly served by bus from Quito. From Pacto, one should find transport to Las Delicias (some kms up-and-down the slope), after which the road goes down through a big and wide right-side curve, before arriving at a side road to the left with 'Mashpi' written on a little site.

Getting around + strategy

Just after turning left from the main road, the good birding starts. Some roadside birding along this stretch of not more than some 100ths of meters (up to the little pass and down the other side) should produce all of the target birds. On the way back to Mindo Loma, we held some roadside stops at scrub for the localised Stripe-throated Wren and grassy areas to see Yellow-faced Grassquit and Olive-crested Yellowthroat. A fast and opportunistic visit to the Pachijal road did not produce the hoped-for Cloud-forest Pygmy-owl.

Thicks

Moss-backed Tanager (easy to see), Glistening-green Tanager (also easy), Indigo Flowerpiercer (above the road in scrub), Pacific Tuftedcheek (in the wide curve, bad views), Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Chocó Warbler, Uniform Antshrike, Esmeraldas Antbird, Nariño Tapaculo. Not bad at all, but credits to Boris Herrera for knowing the area and where to search (and find) the good birds.

Dips

I dipped mainly on Black Solitaire and that Pygmy-owl.

Angel Paz

Introduction

No need for an introduction, me thinks!

How to reach

See map at the Bellavista part. You are not allowed to enter the property without someone of the Paz family. Cheapest would be to take a bus to the beginning of the dirt road, and hitch a ride with any of the vehicles going up. You would have to be there at 5.30AM. We paid 10\$ to Angel to take us in his vehicle from our hotel in Nanegalito (he took us from the hotel at 5AM).

Getting around + strategy

The big river crossing when on the dirt road should be good for Lyre-tailed Nightjar. For the rest of the program, Angel knows what he is doing. First you go to the Cock-of-the-rock lek (chickens guaranteed), probably seeing some other birds like Masked Trogon or Golden-crested Quetzal in the same patch. Later, Angel will take you higher up the slope where his forest with the Antpitta territories is. You will walk down and pass the hummer feeders (pretty occupied with insects when we were there). The first 100ths of meters of the forest should be good for Moustached Antpitta (Suzanna), Orange-breasted Fruiteater and even White-faced Nunbird, while lower down there is a fixed spot for Giant Antpitta (Maria). Even deeper into the small valley, there is a feeder spot which attracts Toucan Barbet, Black-chinned and Blue-winged Mountain Tanagers and lots of Sickle-winged Guans. Down at the river is the place for Yellow-breasted Antpitta (Willy).

Ticks

Willy and Maria performed, and Maria's chicks were unobtrusively sitting in the nest. Cock-of-the-rock, Orange-breasted fruiteater, Masked Trogon and Golden-crested Quetzal were colourful and obviously present.

Dips

Suzanna (Moustached) didn't react (probably because Willy (Yellow-breasted) was a little late), and Shakira (Ochre-breasted) was dancing deep and hidden in the forest. The Dark-backed Wood-quails were also not very hungry. White-faced Nunbird was also dipped.

Mindo Loma

Introduction

A private reserve with good housing and superb food (54\$ night/person for full board), run by the Herera family. Their son Boris is a good guide (works/worked for Andean birding) and knows all the latest news about birds in the area (and in the whole of Ecuador!). Absolutely recommended for very good birding, the friendly people,...

How to reach

Conveniently situated along the main Quito-Esmeraldas road, the reserve is at the south-side 1-2 kms to the east of the Mindo turnoff (towards Quito), and within walking distance from the road (300mtrs uphill on their entrance track). So take any bus, and get off at the entrance road (there is a big sign saying Mindo Loma).

Getting around + strategy

See the map at the Bellavista part. There are essentially 2 trails: a long one leading to the waterfalls (good for most of the better birds) and one leading to the river (good for the Puffleg). The feeders with Velvet-purple Coronet as main target and most numerous species are wonderfully placed on the 1st floor, so you will have pretty good (excellent?) looks at the resident tanagers, too.

Ticks

The first day it was raining hard in the afternoon. Just before the rain we saw a nice Plate-billed Mountain-toucan quietly in a tree. After it started to rain I was still determined to bird and took the trail to the river, and taped in a nice Hoary Puffleg that feeds on the flowers in and around the river. This was about the only bird I saw on this trail. Some really good ticks where to be had the second afternoon (after birding Mashpi in the morning) on the main trail to the waterfall, which should be the best. It was raining and very dark in the forest, but still I saw Moustached Antpitta (taped in), Red-faced Antthrush (crossing the path), Beautiful Jay (flock of 4) and Olivaceous Piha. Just before leaving the place at 6PM, a Strong-billed Woodcreeper was on the light pole at the parking lot.

Dips

I did not have any real target birds when I arrived or it had to be Moustached Antpitta, and it even turned out I saw most of the birds that were on the target list for Mindo and Tandayapa later on this trip, so I later decided to skip those places which left some time to try for Banded Ground-cuckoo at Mango Loma.

Canandé

Introduction

A very fine Jocotoco reserve which holds some of the best Chocó lowland birds. Not cheap (85\$ full and comfortable lodging/day) but well worth the effort and the cash, more if you know that the money goes straight into the reserve (and they need it hard, as logging is awful in this area). So go there and spend all the money you have to save this place!

How to reach

Take the bus to Quinindé (on the Quito–Esmeraldas road, beware that many buses only go to Independencia, so let you be dropped off at the petrol station at the obvious Y crossing). From Quinindé, one bus a day (around 12.45) leaves for Hoja Blanca (ask to be dropped off at the right place in Quinindé to catch that bus, Quinindé is big and bustling with pick-pockets etc.). This bus to Canandé has to survive one of the worst roads I have ever travelled, for about 5 hours (dusty, potholes, overfull bus, hot). A permit to cross the Botrossa logging area is needed (but did not have to be shown) on the ferry to cross the Rio Canandé. Be sure to have the permit arranged through the Jocotoco foundation, in any case. You can find the contact info on their website, and they speak English.

If you have your own transport, Patricio (from Mirador de los Bancos) claims that you get in 2hrs to Canandé by turning right in San Pedro de Maldonado. I don't know if that is true, but at least it is worth a try! I also read from other people on the internet that they are busses connection San Pedro de Maldonado with Canandé. Ask to Patricio.

Getting around + strategy

There are some good trails to be found in the reserve, and birding from the road can be rewarding, too. One morning can be easily spend with seeing some quality birds from the porch (or better: in front of the porch, as the overhanging roof does not permit views of the nearby trees!). Best trails for me were the trail on the ridge (long walk, start early and ignore all birds on the way up!), and the trail turning right at the dining room. The Manakin trail is obviously good for Red-capped Manakin. I did not bird on the road a lot, as I only had 3 days. Banded Ground-cuckoo has been seen along the ridge trail. See map in Billy his report (good map and still valid).

Ticks

Golden-chested Tanager, Black-and-white Hawk Eagle and Black-chested Eagle on the ridge trail, Ocellated, Immaculate and Chestnut-backed Antbirds on the lower trail, Scarlet-breasted and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Black-tipped Cotinga and Black-striped Woodcreeper from the porch.

Dips

I did not see anything with Quail in the name: Wood-Quail (HO), Tawny-faced Quail nor one of the Quail-doves. Choco Poorwill was easily heard but on an unaccessible place.

Mango Loma

Introduction

Mango Loma is a private reserve not far from Los Bancos. It is an easy place to see Long-wattled Umbrellabird as there is a well-established lek. Recently, Rufous-crowned Antpitta has been seen regularly and during the days I was there, it was actively calling. Mango Loma really got famous as one of the few places where Banded Ground-cuckoo was seen recently (see report from Sam Woods on Surfbirds).

How to reach

From Los Bancos (recommended place to stay), go in the direction of Esmeraldas for approx. 10kms and take a well-signed unpaved road to the right. First follow this for about 3kms, then left and another 4kms. Open the first bamboo fence and keep riding, the second fence is the point where you go out, will meet Alvaro (the caretaker) and start birding.

Getting around + strategy

Although this reserve is well worth the 10\$ taxi ride from Los Bancos, the entrance fee of 10\$ for birding the trails is steep, more if you know that those trails were among the worst maintained and slippery I encountered during my stay in Ecuador. We stayed the whole day mainly birding the blue ridge trail (which is best for the Umbrellabird) and the crossing with the red trail (best for the Antpitta). Best would be to go as soon as possible (before 7AM) up the blue trail for the umbrellabirds, while having a short stop to search for the Antpitta. The Ground-cuckoo should be further in the reserve, but with fallen trees everywhere on the track, birding and especially keeping on the trail got very difficult after reaching the highest point on the Blue track.

Ticks

Although birding was not as 'spectacular' as I hoped for, I worked hard to see some goodies and new birds. I saw Pajaro Toro (or Long-wattled Umbrellabird), but only flying after we approached very silently hearing the deep calls. Other birds worth mentioning were Song Wren (at a fallen tree), Guayaquil Woodpecker, Spectacled Owl in daylight, Pallid Dove and some flocks with Gray-and-gold Tanager.

Dips

No trace of Ground-cuckoos. I only heard Rufous-crowned Antpitta, and it stopped calling after 3 times which made it impossible to see (bird was not tape responsive).

Milpe

Introduction

Milpe Cloud Forest is a non-profit organisation that also runs Rio Silanche. They have some degraded forest, but as this holds a very easy-to-see lek of Club-winged Manakin and good feeders, and is only 3kms (and 3\$) away by taxi from Los Bancos, it is easy to spend at least one morning there.

How to reach

From Los Bancos, take a bus or taxi 2km in the direction to Quito, and after going left, another 1km to the entrance on the right side of the unpaved road.

getting around + strategy

The lek is only 5 minutes walk from the entrance building with the feeders. After the lek, the path goes steeply downhill, and I thought it was better to stay on the high ridge for Tanager flocks, which proved to be true. As I was a little lazy, I really didn't do a lot of distance on the trails. If you go further down the unpaved road, you should (and will) encounter some primary forest with possibly better birding.

Ticks

Club-winged Manakin (good activity at the lek), White-lined Tanager, Glistening-green Tanager (seen at Mashpi before), Rufous-throated Tanager, Guira Tanager.

dips

I had hoped to see some more tanagers (Metallic-green, Emerald) and some of the stuff I kept on missing (becards, flycatchers, Lined Forest-falcon), but to no avail.

Bellavista

Introduction

A well-established lodge on the west-slope of the Andes, with some other species than the lower-laying Tandayapa/Angel Paz/Mindo Loma alike. The plus: Very good and extensive network of trails, super-views (if not misty), friendly people who gave good and up-to-date info about the birds.

The minus: Even though the only budget option, the biological station is overpriced for what you get (really nothing more than a bunk bed and hot water for 18\$/pers/night, no electricity and no dry blankets).

How to reach

See map. All ways lead to Bellavista, but there is no public transport. We hired a car for 60\$ (full day) in Nanegalito that brought us first to Verdecocha, then to Yanacocha, and finally dropped us at Bellavista. We asked the people at Bellavista to arrange another car the next day to bring us down to the main

road (15\$). The driver turned out to be the owner of Rio Alambi, a nice private reserve with heavily visited feeders just at the entrance road for Tandayapa.

getting around + strategy

I mainly birded the ridge where the flocks are and the feeders, as time was (too) short.

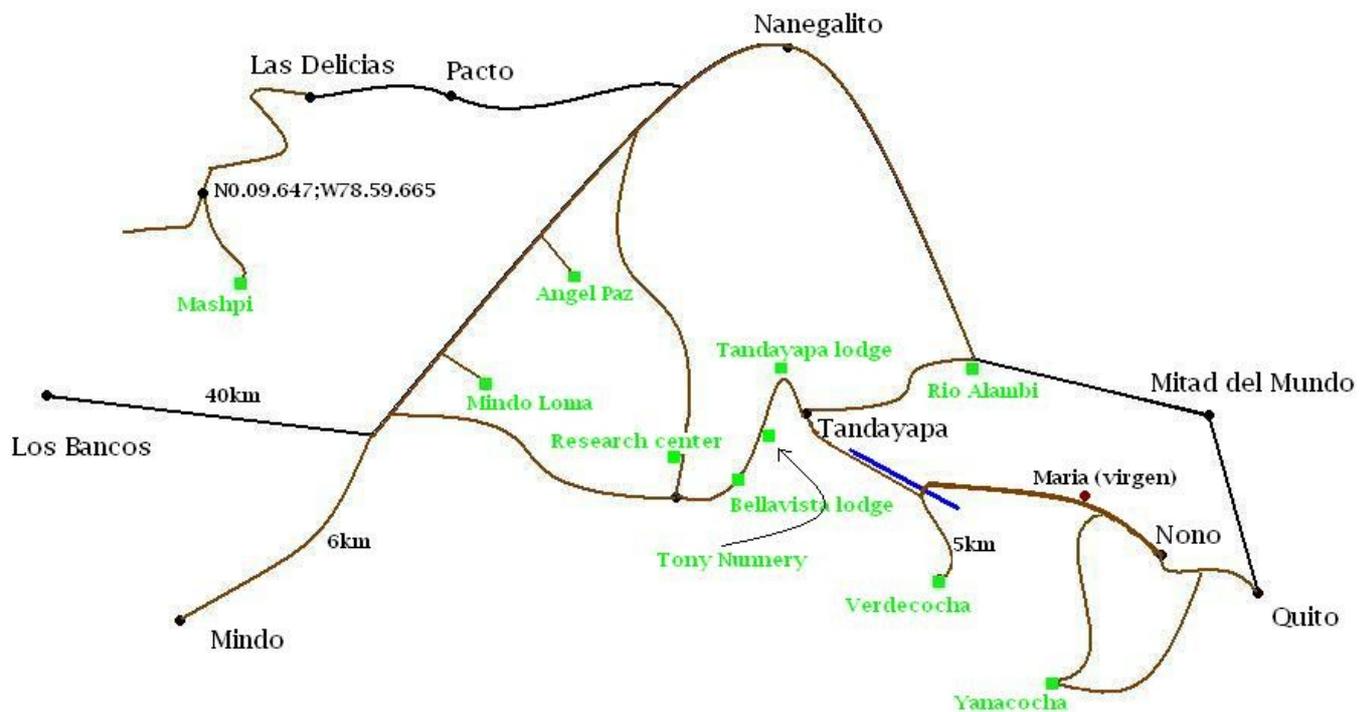
Ticks

Common Potoo (at the Dome) and Tanager Finch (on the ridge, one couple that was not shy at all) were best birds, but Plushcap (in a flock on the ridge) was also highly desired.

Dips

White-faced Nunbird, Swallow-tailed Nightjar (it started to rain at 5.30AM, just when arriving at a good spot where it has been seen), Mottled Owl (HO), Rufescent Screech-owl (did not go down walking in the dark, even though it was a dry and full-moon evening).

map



map

[Ecuador february 2010](#)

References

[Billy](#), [Rheindt](#), [Hosner](#), [Hofland](#), [Kelchtermans](#), [Ahlmann](#), [Klauber](#) where preferred travel reports/books where I could find valuable information about where to find the birds. Check also Heijnen et al (Out of print but I have this one digitally scanned. email for info: yoemy at hotmail dot com).

Bird list

Following Clements 6 with updates, only positive ID'd birds and, where stated, HO.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui*
Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus*
Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*
Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*
Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*
Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata*
Andean Guan *Penelope montagnii*
Wattled Guan *Aburria aburri* Near-threatened (NT)
Sickle-winged Guan *Chamaepetes goudotii*
Nocturnal Curassow *Nothocrax urumutum*
Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail *Odontophorus erythrops*
Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail *Odontophorus speciosus*
Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis*
Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*
Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*
Zigzag Heron *Zebrilus undulatus*
Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*
Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*
Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*
Great Egret *Ardea alba*
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*
Agami Heron *Agamia agami*
Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*
Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus*
King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*
Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*
Slender-billed Kite *Helicolestes hamatus*
Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*
Slate-colored Hawk *Leucopternis schistaceus*
Barred Hawk *Leucopternis princeps*
White Hawk *Leucopternis albicollis*
Great Black-Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*
Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*
Gray Hawk *Buteo nitidus*

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*
Variable Hawk *Buteo polyosoma*
Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*
Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*
Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus melanoleucus*
Barred Forest-Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*
Buckley's Forest-Falcon *Micrastur buckleyi*
Black Caracara *Daptrius ater*
Carunculated Caracara *Phalcoboenus carunculatus*
Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*
Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*
Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*
White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis*
Gray-breasted Crake *Laterallus exilis*
Azure Gallinule *Porphyrio flavirostris*
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Slate-colored Coot *Fulica ardesiaca*
Pied Lapwing *Vanellus cayanus*
Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*
Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*
Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*
Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*
Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea*
Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*
Dusky Pigeon *Patagioenas goodsoni*
Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*
Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*
White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*
Pallid Dove *Leptotila pallida*
Gray-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*
White-throated Quail-Dove *Geotrygon frenata*
Ruddy Quail-Dove *Geotrygon montana*
Maroon-tailed Parakeet *Pyrhura melanura*
White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalma*
Dusky-headed Parakeet *Aratinga weddellii*
Chestnut-fronted Macaw *Ara severus*
Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*
Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna*
Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilata*
Blue-winged Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopterygius*
Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanoptera*
Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet *Touit huetii*
Rose-faced Parrot *Pyrilia pulchra*
Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*
Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus*
Bronze-winged Parrot *Pionus chalcopterus*
Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica*

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa*
Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin*
Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*
Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*
Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*
Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*
Tropical Screech-Owl *Megascops choliba*
Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl *Megascops watsonii*
Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*
Band-bellied Owl *Pulsatrix melanota*
Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*
Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata*
Black-banded Owl *Ciccaba huhula*
Rufous-bellied Nighthawk *Lurocalis rufiventris*
Sand-colored Nighthawk *Chordeiles rupestris*
Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*
Choco Poorwill *Nyctiphrynus rosenbergi* Near-threatened (NT)
Ladder-tailed Nightjar *Hydrosalis climacocerca*
Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*
Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*
Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*
White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*
Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*
Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*
Fork-tailed Palm-Swift *Tachornis squamata*
Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsutus*
Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri*
Pale-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes leucurus*
White-whiskered Hermit *Phaethornis yaruqui*
Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*
Tawny-bellied Hermit *Phaethornis syrmatophorus*
Straight-billed Hermit *Phaethornis bourcieri*
Great-billed Hermit *Phaethornis malaris*
Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*
Gray-chinned Hermit *Phaethornis griseogularis*
White-tipped Sicklebill *Eutoxeres aquila*
Tooth-billed Hummingbird *Androdon aequatorialis*
Napo Sabrewing *Campylopterus villaviscensio* Near-threatened (NT)
White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*
Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*
Green Violetear *Colibri thalassinus*
Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans*
Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*
Wire-crested Thorntail *Discosura popelairii*
Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*
Western Emerald *Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus*
Green-crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania fannyi*
Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata*
Violet-bellied Hummingbird *Damophila julie*

Golden-tailed Sapphire *Chrysuronia oenone*
Olive-spotted Hummingbird *Leucippus chlorocercus*
Many-spotted Hummingbird *Taphrospilus hypostictus*
Andean Emerald *Amazilia franciae*
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*
Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys*
Ecuadorian Piedtail *Phlogophilus hemileucurus* Near-threatened (NT)
Gould's Jewelfront *Heliodoxa aurescens*
Fawn-breasted Brilliant *Heliodoxa rubinoides*
Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*
Empress Brilliant *Heliodoxa imperatrix*
Violet-fronted Brilliant *Heliodoxa leadbeateri*
Buff-tailed Coronet *Boissonneaua flavescens*
Chestnut-breasted Coronet *Boissonneaua matthewsii*
Velvet-purple Coronet *Boissonneaua jardini*
Mountain Velvetbreast *Lafresnaya lafresnayi*
Bronzy Inca *Coeligena coeligena*
Brown Inca *Coeligena wilsoni*
Collared Inca *Coeligena torquata*
Buff-winged Starfrontlet *Coeligena lutetiae*
Sword-billed Hummingbird *Ensifera ensifera*
Great Sapphirewing *Pterophanes cyanopterus*
Gorgeted Sunangel *Heliangelus strophianus*
Tourmaline Sunangel *Heliangelus exortis*
Black-breasted Puffleg *Eriocnemis nigrivestis* Critically endangered (CR) Country endemic
Glowing Puffleg *Eriocnemis vestita*
Sapphire-vented Puffleg *Eriocnemis luciani*
Golden-breasted Puffleg *Eriocnemis mosquera*
Greenish Puffleg *Haplophaedia aureliae*
Hoary Puffleg *Haplophaedia lugens* Near-threatened (NT)
Purple-bibbed Whitetip *Urosticte benjamini*
Booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii*
Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina*
Viridian Metaltail *Metallura williami*
Long-tailed Sylph *Agelaiocercus kingi*
Violet-tailed Sylph *Agelaiocercus coelestis*
Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliathryx barroti*
Purple-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox mitchellii*
White-bellied Woodstar *Chaetocercus mulsant*
Golden-headed Quetzal *Pharomachrus auriceps*
Blue-tailed Trogon *Trogon comptus*
Black-tailed Trogon *Trogon melanurus*
White-tailed Trogon *Trogon chionurus*
Green-backed Trogon *Trogon viridis*
Violaceous Trogon *Trogon violaceus*
Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*
Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus*
Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota*
Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda*
American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*
White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*
White-chested Puffbird *Malacoptila fusca*
White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*
Black-streaked Puffbird *Malacoptila fulvogularis*
Black-fronted Nunbird *Monasa nigrifrons*
White-fronted Nunbird *Monasa morphoeus*
Yellow-billed Nunbird *Monasa flavirostris*
Swallow-winged Puffbird *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*
White-eared Jacamar *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*
Brown Jacamar *Brachygalba lugubris*
Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*
White-chinned Jacamar *Galbula tombacea*
Purplish Jacamar *Galbula chalcothorax*
Great Jacamar *Jacamerops aureus*
Scarlet-crowned Barbet *Capito aurovirens*
Orange-fronted Barbet *Capito squamatus* Near-threatened (NT)
Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus*
Lemon-throated Barbet *Eubucco richardsoni*
Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*
Toucan Barbet *Semnornis ramphastinus* Near-threatened (NT)
Emerald Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*
Crimson-rumped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*
Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan *Andigena laminirostris* Near-threatened (NT)
Black-billed Mountain-Toucan *Andigena nigrirostris*
Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*
Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis*
Many-banded Aracari *Pteroglossus pluricinctus*
Ivory-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus azara*
Golden-collared Toucanet *Selenidera reinwardtii*
White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos tucanus*
Choco Toucan *Ramphastos brevis*
Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*
Lafresnaye's Piculet *Picumnus lafresnayi*
Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus*
Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* Near-threatened (NT)
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus*
Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*
Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*
Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Picoides fumigatus*
Red-rumped Woodpecker *Veniliornis kirkii*
Yellow-vented Woodpecker *Veniliornis dignus*
Red-stained Woodpecker *Veniliornis affinis*
Lita Woodpecker *Piculus litae*
Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*
Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*
Scale-breasted Woodpecker *Celeus grammicus*

Chestnut Woodpecker *Celeus elegans*
Cream-colored Woodpecker *Celeus flavus*
Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*
Powerful Woodpecker *Campephilus pollens*
Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*
Guayaquil Woodpecker *Campephilus guayaquilensis* Near-threatened (NT)
Stout-billed Cincloides *Cinclodes excelsior*
Bar-winged Cincloides *Cinclodes fuscus*
Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus*
Lesser Hornero *Furnarius minor*
Andean Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura andicola*
Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae*
Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis*
Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura*
White-bellied Spinetail *Synallaxis propinqua*
Parker's Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpecula*
Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythrops*
Many-striped Canastero *Asthenes flammulata*
Orange-fronted Plushcrown *Metopothrix aurantiaca*
Rusty-winged Barbtail *Premnornis guttuligera*
Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger*
Buffy Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*
Streaked Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*
Point-tailed Palmcreeper *Berlepschia rikeri*
Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia variegaticeps*
Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis*
Chestnut-winged Hookbill *Ancistrops strigilatus*
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufum*
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus*
Ruddy Foliage-gleaner *Automolus rubiginosus*
Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*
Long-billed Woodcreeper *Nasica longirostris*
Strong-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*
Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Dendroplex picus*
Ocellated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus ocellatus*
Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*
Black-striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*
Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*
Olive-backed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus triangularis*
Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*
Lineated Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*
Red-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*
Brown-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus pusillus*
Lined Antshrike *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*
Plain-winged Antshrike *Thamnophilus schistaceus*
Cocha Antshrike *Thamnophilus praecox* Near-threatened (NT) Country endemic
Castelnau's Antshrike *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*
Uniform Antshrike *Thamnophilus unicolor*
White-shouldered Antshrike *Thamnophilus aethiops*

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*
Spot-crowned Antvireo *Dysithamnus puncticeps*
Dusky-throated Antshrike *Thamnomanes ardesiacus*
Cinereous Antshrike *Thamnomanes caesius*
Checker-throated Antwren *Epinecophylla fulviventris*
Foothill Antwren *Epinecophylla spodionota*
Ornate Antwren *Epinecophylla ornata*
Rufous-tailed Antwren *Epinecophylla erythrura*
Pygmy Antwren *Myrmotherula brachyura*
Moustached Antwren *Myrmotherula ignota*
Plain-throated Antwren *Myrmotherula hauxwelli*
White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris*
Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*
Rio Suno Antwren *Myrmotherula sunensis*
Gray Antwren *Myrmotherula menetriesii*
Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*
Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhophias quixensis*
Long-tailed Antbird *Drymophila caudata*
Gray Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens*
Blackish Antbird *Cercomacra nigrescens*
White-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena leuconota*
Black-faced Antbird *Myrmoborus myotherinus*
Yellow-browed Antbird *Hypocnemis hypoxantha*
Black-and-white Antbird *Myrmochanes hemileucus*
Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia*
Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul*
Esmeraldas Antbird *Myrmeciza nigricauda*
White-shouldered Antbird *Myrmeciza melanoceps*
Plumbeous Antbird *Myrmeciza hyperythra*
Immaculate Antbird *Myrmeciza immaculata*
White-plumed Antbird *Pithys albifrons*
Bicolored Antbird *Gymnopithys leucaspis*
Black-spotted Bare-eye *Phlegopsis nigromaculata*
Ocellated Antbird *Phaenostictus mcleannani*
Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*
Black-headed Antthrush *Formicarius nigricapillus*
Rufous-breasted Antthrush *Formicarius rufipectus*
Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona*
Striated Antthrush *Chamaeza nobilis*
Barred Antthrush *Chamaeza mollissima*
Undulated Antpitta *Grallaria squamigera*
Giant Antpitta *Grallaria gigantea* Vulnerable (VU)
Moustached Antpitta *Grallaria alleni* Endangered (EN)
Plain-backed Antpitta *Grallaria haplonota*
Ochre-striped Antpitta *Grallaria dignissima*
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta *Grallaria ruficapilla*
Chestnut-naped Antpitta *Grallaria nuchalis*
Yellow-breasted Antpitta *Grallaria flavotincta*
White-bellied Antpitta *Grallaria hypoleuca*
Rufous Antpitta *Grallaria rufula*

Tawny Antpitta *Grallaria quitensis*
White-lored Antpitta *Hylopezus fulviventris*
Thrush-like Antpitta *Myrmothera campanisona*
Chestnut-belted Gnateater *Conopophaga aurita*
Chestnut-crowned Gnateater *Conopophaga castaneiceps*
Rufous-crowned Antpitta *Pittasoma rufopileatum* Near-threatened (NT)
Rusty-belted Tapaculo *Liosceles thoracicus*
Ocellated Tapaculo *Acropternis orthonyx*
White-crowned Tapaculo *Scytalopus atratus*
Narino Tapaculo *Scytalopus vicini*
Spillmann's Tapaculo *Scytalopus spillmanni*
Paramo Tapaculo *Scytalopus canus*
White-tailed Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus poecilocercus*
White-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus stictopterus*
White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys*
Rufous-winged Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus calopterus*
Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus minor*
Large Elaenia *Elaenia spectabilis*
Mottle-backed Elaenia *Elaenia gigas*
Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*
Streak-necked Flycatcher *Mionectes striaticollis*
Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*
Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris*
Rufous-breasted Flycatcher *Leptopogon rufipectus*
Ecuadorian Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes gualaquizae*
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseiceps*
Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Zimmerius chrysops*
Ornate Flycatcher *Myiobius ornatus*
Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant *Pseudotriccus ruficeps*
Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant *Stigmatura napensis*
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus*
White-eyed Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus zosterops*
Buff-throated Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus rufigularis* Near-threatened (NT)
Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus ruficeps*
Spotted Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum maculatum*
Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*
Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*
Brownish Twistwing *Cnipodectes subbrunneus*
Pacific Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus pacificus*
Yellow-margined Flycatcher *Tolmomyias assimilis*
Gray-crowned Flycatcher *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*
Golden-crowned Spadebill *Platyrinchus coronatus*
Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*
Tawny-breasted Flycatcher *Myiobius villosus*
Handsome Flycatcher *Myiophobus pulcher*
Olive-chested Flycatcher *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*
Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus*
Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*
Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens*

Fuscou Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*
Drab Water Tyrant *Ochthornis littoralis*
Plain-capped Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola alpinus*
Masked Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta*
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor*
Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*
Cinnamon Attila *Attila cinnamomeus*
Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra*
Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*
Pale-edged Flycatcher *Myiarchus cephalotes*
Lesser Kiskadee *Pitangus lictor*
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*
Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*
Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*
Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*
Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*
Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*
Green-and-black Fruiteater *Pipreola riefferii*
Orange-breasted Fruiteater *Pipreola jucunda*
Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus*
Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus*
Gray-tailed Piha *Snowornis subalaris*
Olivaceous Piha *Snowornis cryptolophus*
Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata*
Amazonian Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus ornatus*
Long-wattled Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus penduliger* Vulnerable (VU)
Plum-throated Cotinga *Cotinga maynana*
Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana*
Dusky Piha *Lipaugus fuscocinereus*
Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*
Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans*
Black-tipped Cotinga *Carpodectes hopkei*
Bare-necked Fruitcrow *Gymnoderus foetidus*
Golden-winged Manakin *Masius chrysopterus*
Club-winged Manakin *Machaeropterus deliciosus*
Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata*
Blue-rumped Manakin *Lepidothrix isidorei*
White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus*
Green Manakin *Xenopipo holochlora*
White-crowned Manakin *Pipra pipra*
Red-capped Manakin *Pipra mentalis*
Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana*
Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*
Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*
Pink-throated Becard *Pachyramphus minor*
Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*
Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*
Rufous-naped Greenlet *Hylophilus semibrunneus*

Dusky-capped Greenlet *Hylophilus hypoxanthus*
Olivaceous Greenlet *Hylophilus olivaceus*
Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus*
Black-billed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis nigrirostris*
Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas*
Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus*
Turquoise Jay *Cyanolyca turcosa*
Beautiful Jay *Cyanolyca pulchra* Near-threatened (NT)
Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*
Brown-bellied Swallow *Orochelidon murina*
White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata*
Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*
Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*
White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*
Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis*
Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*
White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*
Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa*
Sharpe's Wren *Cinnycerthia olivascens*
Plain-tailed Wren *Thryothorus euophrys*
Whiskered Wren *Thryothorus mystacalis*
Coraya Wren *Thryothorus coraya*
Bay Wren *Thryothorus nigricapillus*
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*
Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis*
Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*
White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*
Wing-banded Wren *Microcerculus bambla*
Chestnut-breasted Wren *Cyphorhinus thoracicus*
Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*
Musician Wren *Cyphorhinus arada*
Tawny-faced Gnatwren *Microbates cinereiventris*
Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*
Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*
Slate-throated Gnatcatcher *Polioptila schistaceigula*
White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus*
Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*
Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloides*
Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*
Hauxwell's Thrush *Turdus hauxwelli*
Pale-vented Thrush *Turdus obsoletus*
Spectacled Thrush *Turdus nudigenis*
Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis*
Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater*
Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus*
American Robin *Turdus migratorius*
Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*
Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*
European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Paramo Pipit *Anthus bogotensis*
Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi*
Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*
Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava*
Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis*
Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*
Spectacled Redstart *Myioborus melanocephalus*
Black-crested Warbler *Basileuterus nigrocristatus*
Russet-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus coronatus*
Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*
Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*
Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus*
Black-capped Hemispingus *Hemispingus atropileus*
Superciliaried Hemispingus *Hemispingus superciliaris*
Black-eared Hemispingus *Hemispingus melanotis*
Gray-hooded Bush Tanager *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*
Orange-headed Tanager *Thlypopsis sordida*
Cinereous Conebill *Conirostrum cinereum*
Blue-backed Conebill *Conirostrum sitticolor*
Plushcap *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*
Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*
Dusky Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus semifuscus*
Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus flavigularis*
Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira*
Scarlet-and-white Tanager *Chrysothlypis salmoni*
Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii*
Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*
Flame-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus cristatus*
White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*
Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatrii*
White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*
Masked Crimson Tanager *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*
Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*
Flame-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus flammigerus*
Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*
Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*
Golden-chested Tanager *Bangsia rothschildi*
Moss-backed Tanager *Bangsia edwardsi*
Hooded Mountain-Tanager *Buthraupis montana*
Black-chested Mountain-Tanager *Buthraupis eximia*
Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus lacrymosus*
Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus igniventris*
Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus somptuosus*
Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus notabilis*
Grass-green Tanager *Chlorornis riefferii*
Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota*
Glistening-green Tanager *Chlorochrysa phoenicotis*
Orange-eared Tanager *Chlorochrysa calliparaea*

Gray-and-gold Tanager *Tangara palmeri*
Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana*
Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis*
Green-and-gold Tanager *Tangara schrankii*
Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus*
Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*
Saffron-crowned Tanager *Tangara xanthocephala*
Flame-faced Tanager *Tangara parzudakii*
Spotted Tanager *Tangara punctata*
Rufous-throated Tanager *Tangara rufigula*
Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*
Rufous-winged Tanager *Tangara lavinia*
Golden-naped Tanager *Tangara ruficervix*
Blue-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanicollis*
Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*
Beryl-spangled Tanager *Tangara nigroviridis*
Blue-and-black Tanager *Tangara vassorii*
Opal-rumped Tanager *Tangara velia*
Opal-crowned Tanager *Tangara callophrys*
Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata*
Yellow-bellied Dacnis *Dacnis flaviventer*
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta*
Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*
Scarlet-breasted Dacnis *Dacnis berlepschi* Vulnerable (VU)
Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*
Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*
Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*
Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*
Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*
Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*
Black-winged Saltator *Saltator atripennis*
Slate-colored Grosbeak *Saltator grossus*
Plumbeous Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus unicolor*
Slate-colored Seedeater *Sporophila schistacea*
Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*
Caqueta Seedeater *Sporophila murallae*
Black-and-white Seedeater *Sporophila luctuosa*
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris*
Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis*
Plain-colored Seedeater *Catamenia inornata*
Paramo Seedeater *Catamenia homochroa*
Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*
Glossy Flowerpiercer *Diglossa lafresnayii*
Black Flowerpiercer *Diglossa humeralis*
White-sided Flowerpiercer *Diglossa albilatera*
Indigo Flowerpiercer *Diglossa indigotica*
Masked Flowerpiercer *Diglossa cyanea*
Tanager Finch *Oreothraupis arremonops* Vulnerable (VU)
Pale-naped Brush-Finch *Atlapetes pallidinucha*
Tricolored Brush-Finch *Atlapetes tricolor*

Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch *Atlapetes latinuchus*
Slaty Brush-Finch *Atlapetes schistaceus*
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch *Arremon brunneinucha*
Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantiirostris*
Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons*
Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*
Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*
Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*
Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
Oriole Blackbird *Gymnomystax mexicanus*
Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*
Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*
Epaulet Oriole *Icterus cayanensis*
Solitary Black Cacique *Cacicus solitarius*
Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus uropygialis*
Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*
Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons*
Green Oropendola *Psarocolius viridis*
Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*
Casqued Oropendola *Clypicterus oseryi*
Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris*
Golden-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia chrysopasta*
Bronze-green Euphonia *Euphonia mesochrysa*
White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta*
Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*
Yellow-collared Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia flavirostris*
House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*
Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthogastrus*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*