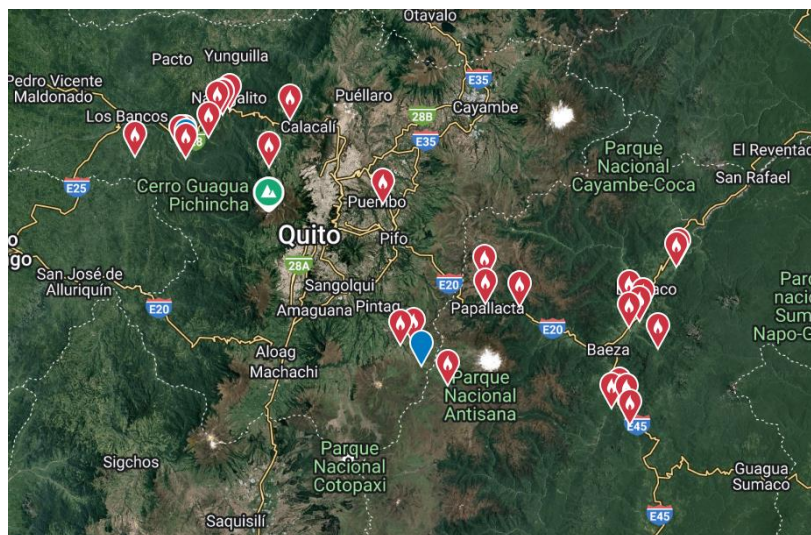


Ecuador: Mountains of Magic

Trip Report

October 1st – 11th, 2024



Trip Summary

Our October 2024 trip through the northern mountains of Ecuador was a journey I'm sure many in our group will remember forever. Chalk-full of magical wildlife encounters, magnificent scenery, and memorable interactions with locals, this 11-day trip totaled 253 species of birds, with 53 species of hummingbirds and 30 species of tanagers!

Day 1

Our journey started at the Puembo Birding Garden, where Mercedes Rivadeneira warmly welcomed us with a menagerie of inter-Andean scrub birds that call her gardens home. Highlights included Scrub Tanager (right), Blue-and-Yellow Tanager, Western Emerald, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Croaking Ground-Dove, Shiny Cowbird, Saffron Finch, Great Thrush, and Azara's Spinetail. The nesting Sparkling Violetear and Vermillion Flycatchers (left) down the road were also fun to see.



Day 2

Our first field trip took us Chakana Reserve and Antisana National Park. Minutes into our drive up the road into the reserve, one of the local guides spotted a Spectacled Bear (below, top right) high on the ridge above us digging up the starchy interior of an *achupaya* (*Puya ferruginea*) plant. We were afforded sustained views of this extremely rare and vulnerable bear over the next ten minutes. Making our way to the top of the ridge, we hiked out through the *paramo* to an overlook where a magnificent male Andean Condor soared just meters over our heads. In the *chuquiragua* (*Chuquiraga jussieui*) plants in front of us, Sandra spotted a beautiful male Ecuadorian Hillstar preening his feathers.

At Antisana National Park, we got great views of Carunculated Caracaras walking amidst the grasslands, a Cinereous Harrier cruising the open spaces, Variable Hawks, Black-chested Buzzard Eagles, and as many as a dozen Andean Condors. We returned to Tambo Condor Lodge where we had lunch watching Giant Hummingbirds (below, bottom), Shining Sunbeams, Great Sapphirings, and Black-tailed Trainbearers. I especially enjoyed our conversation with owner Vladimir Ushifia, who described his entrepreneurial endeavor, his struggles during the pandemic, and his passion for native species reforestation and working to change the mindset of his landholding neighbors.



Day 3

The next morning, we bid farewell to Mercedes at Puembo Birding Garden and headed for the high country near Papallacta Pass. Our search for Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe turned up empty-handed, but the views of Antisana (below), Cotopaxi, and Reventador volcanoes made the excursion above 14,000 feet more than worth it.



We descended the eastern slope of the Andes to the high temperate forests near Papallacta, where we explored a riparian area near a bridge and the edge of Cayambe-Coca National Park. At the bridge, we got brief looks of Masked Flowerpiercer, Hooded Mountain Tanager, and Red-crested Cotinga. In Cayambe-Coca National Park (below), the highlight was a lone Andean Pygmy-Owl who was very cooperative for scope views and photographs.



Descending to about 8,800 feet in elevation, we stopped at Guango Lodge for lunch and some afternoon birding. Hiking the trails at Guango turned up many Mountain Caciques flying in and out of their long, hanging, bag-shaped nests, both Sickle-winged and Andean Guans, Turquoise Jays, and many hummingbirds, including one Tourmaline Sunangel. After a drive featuring many waterfalls and sunset views of Antisana volcano, we arrived at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge where Ángel and company greeted us with a fermented sugar cane and coconut libation.

Day 4

Waking at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge, we were dazzled by the abundance and diversity of birds visiting the feeders. Highlights included many Russet-backed Oropendolas, Scarlet-rumped Caciques, Green Jay, Chestnut-bellied and Black-billed Thrushes, Green-backed Hillstars visiting the feeders, both male and female Red-headed Barbet, Golden-eared Tanager, Golden Tanager, Black-capped Tanager (below, right), and Golden-collared Honeycreeper (below, left). According to Sandra, Rio Quijos Eco Lodge is the

only reliable place for such wonderful photo opportunities of Golden-collared Honeycreeper, one of my favorite birds of the entire trip.



After breakfast, we departed for the farm of Eder Alquina, the name of which he has given *El Templo del Búho* (Temple of the Owl). Eder inherited this cattle ranch from his parents and is now engaging in a mix of farming and conservation-related activities. He is a member of the association “Birdwatchers Valle Quijos” and regularly works to reforest areas of his farm to provide habitat for birds.

Upon our arrival, the hummingbird feeders were buzzing with activity. The highlight was being able to hold the feeders in our hands and have the humminbirds come right up to us to feed. They were so close we could feel the wind cast from their wings. Highlights at the feeders included Violet-fronted Brilliant, Bronzy Inca, Speckled Hummingbird, Long-tailed Sylph, Orange-bellied Euphonia, and Southern Emerald Toucanet.

Piling into two separate trucks, we set out along the hair-raising road up to the top of the farm. Winding our way up switchback after switchback, the river grew more distant beneath us deep in the valley gorge. Stopping along the road, we were treated to the frenzy of several mixed foraging flocks making their way through the canopy of the trees growing on the steep slopes beneath us. Saffron-crowned Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Orange-eared Tanager, Rufous-crested Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Golden-rumped Euphonia, Streaked Tuftedcheek, and White-tailed Tyrannulet all buzzed through the trees within minutes.



Driving to another spot up the road, we began to hear the solemn call of the Golden-headed Quetzal, a target bird for many of us. Jumping out of the truck excitedly, we found ourselves in the middle of another mixed foraging flock, this time offering views of different birds like Smoky Brown Woodpecker, Streaked-necked Flycatcher, Lesser Violetear, Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant and a pair of gorgeous Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonias. And then, a flash of iridescent green and red darted across the road into the cover of several large trees on the other side – a Golden-headed Quetzal in all its splendor. Unfortunately, the quetzal did not stay for long, but as we continued to search for it, we turned up an Andean Solitaire, another great bird.

We returned to Rio Quijos Eco Lodge for lunch and had some free time in the early afternoon to relax and explore on our own. Several Golden-olive Woodpeckers were seen near the feeders and separate groups reported White-capped Dipper and Torrent Duck along the river.

In the afternoon, we set out along the Borjas River to witness the courtship dance of the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. The subspecies found here is *peruvianus*, a bright-orange colored bird found along the eastern slope of the Andes into Peru. On the way to the lek, one male bird was spotted sitting in a tree in an open pasture. Unfortunately, the lek activity was extremely slow, only turning up two different males and one female. It was perplexing as to why there was such little activity this afternoon, as Ángel had noted that the canopy here gets “lit up like a Christmas tree with gallos,” regularly featuring at least 20 – 30 birds.



On our return, we stopped to explore some overgrown ruins (below left) from what was believed to belong to the Quijos civilization. These people existed around the time of the Incas and traded regularly with them in the 15th and early 16th centuries.

Back at the Rio Quijos Eco Lodge, we had just sat down to dinner when we heard the call of a Mottled Owl. Ángel immediately went outside to spotlight and photograph it. The entire group ended up getting great looks at this beautiful owl.



Day 5

In addition to the birds we saw at breakfast yesterday, we got fantastic looks at an Andean Motmot this morning. After breakfast, we set off for the village of El Bombón, an area named for its abundance of Pumbo Wax Palms (*Ceroxylon echinulatum*) and their brown, circular fruits resembling chocolate bonbons. Closely related to the Quindío Wax Palm of Colombia (National tree of Colombia and tallest palm tree in the world), these palm trees are now listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN due to overharvesting, largely for collection of the palm leaves for Holy Week festivities and ceremonies.

We stopped on a dirt road to do some birding, where we saw a Yellow-browed Sparrow, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Bananquit, and a male Andean Cock-of-the-Rock eating a guayaba (*Psidium guajava*) fruit in a dense plantation of the same trees.



Next, we made our way over to La Vida del Kinde where Rolando Bajiña has created an oasis for hummingbirds. Here, the highlight was undoubtedly the spectacular Wire-crested Thorntail (below, top right), but we were also treated to great looks at Long-tailed Sylph, Peruvian Racket-tail, Green-fronted Lancebill, Black-throated Mango, Green Hermit, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Gorgeted Woodstar, and Golden-tailed Sapphire. For many, our favorite moments included watching Rolando's son Mateo snap photos of birds on his camera and occasionally crack a big grin upon seeing their results. We will all remember the look of horror Mateo gave his father upon hearing his stories about how – as a teen – he and his coworkers would shoot birds on his farm with a sling shot and cook them up for lunch. “A tanager a-piece” would do the trick for the meat they needed to accompany their rice. When they ran out of stones to keep shooting birds, they would pop the heads off the birds they had already hunted and use those for ammunition. When asked what his favorite bird he used to eat was, Rolando immediately replied “*Gallo de la Peña*” – the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. Today, instead of eating birds, he is attracting them to his house through native species reforestation and active feeding stations to derive income through birdwatching tourism.



In the afternoon, we made our way over to the farm of Janny (Johnny) Mana, what he calls *Finca El Madrigal*. Janny is another member of “Birdwatchers Valle Quijos” working to preserve habitat on his farm. The riparian areas along the Borja River are particularly productive for birds. Highlights from this excursion included a sitting Ladder-tailed Nightjar, a Cocoli Heron (out of range), Amazon Kingfisher, Smooth-billed Ani, Tropical Kingbird, several Chestnut-breasted Swifts, and a few Spotted Sandpipers. Additionally, Sandra reserved the end of our time together with Janny to notify him that he was the recipient of a prestigious award for young photographers to fund his participation in a photography course. It was a joyfoul moment for all of us.

At dinner, we were pleasantly surprised to learn that the Rio Quijos Eco Lodge staff had so kindly prepared us the Ecuadorian traditional dish *cuy* (guinea pig). Culinary experiences are an integral part of travel and this provided us a novel moment that will not soon be forgotten.



Day 6

This morning we said goodbye to the wonderful people of Rio Quijos Eco Lodge and departed for the famed birdwatching town of Cosanga and nearby Guacamayos Ridge. Leaving San Francisco de Borja, we spotted Red-breasted Meadowlark, Tropical Mockingbird, and many Blue-and-White Swallows.

At the Guacamayos Ridge trailhead, we were rewarded with views of the Amazon Basin – an area known as the Gateway of the Amazon. Our morning stroll along this trail offered challenging birding, with most individuals high in the tropical canopy. Some folks got looks at Blueish Flowerpiercer, Green and Black Fruiteater, Lacrimose Mountain Tanager, Beryl-spangled Tanager, Slate-throated Redstart, Montane Woodcreeper, and Common Chlorospingus.



Notably, we came across a family collecting mosses in the understory of the forest. Sandra firmly reminded the family that it was illegal to remove anything from this protected area. They quickly put the moss back and left the area. Later, Sandra explained to us that there is a growing market for using mosses in the preparation and sale of decorative plants like orchids and bromeliads (which are often themselves harvested illegally).

Returning to the town of Cosanga, we stopped at the nearby river where we got good scope views of a Torrent Duck (top left). We also picked up Torrent Tyrannulet and Black Phoebe here.



We continued to an area known as Caucheras Road, a region that has been made famous by a well-known birding lodge called San Isidro. Several areas along the road featured dense stands of *Chusquea* bamboo, the home of the beautiful little Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher. We spent 15-20 minutes attempting to get good looks at this secretive bird and it made an appearance from time to time. This area also provided us with good looks at Cinnamon Flycatcher.

For lunch, we stopped at *Cabañas Tamiaju*, a small enterprise run by landowner Heladio Aldáz. Here, the specialty bird was Greenish Puffleg, but we also enjoyed seeing Collared Inca, Chestnut-bellied Coronet (above bottom left), Gorgeted Woodstar, and Fawn-breasted Brilliant, among others.

We drove back up the hill towards Papallacta, where we spent some time enjoying a soak in the hot springs at our hotel.

Day 7

Today we rose early in order to make the long drive to Zuro Loma, a protected area owned by the Jocotoco Foundation in the mountains to the northwest of Quito. *Zuro* means “bamboo” in Quichua, and *loma* means hill in Spanish. The staff at Zuro Loma was extremely kind to prepare us a breakfast of *empanada de viento* (empanada of the wind, referring to the air inside of them) and coffee. While looking out the windows of the kitchen, we observed Black Flowerpiercer, Cinereous Conebill, and Mountain Velvetbreast foraging in the bushes nearby.

After breakfast, we walked about 200 meters down a trail and were treated to the most spectacular bonanza of birds yet. A feeding station had been set up to lure out a secretive Equatorial Antpitta (below) into the open. After several visits, the Equatorial Antpitta was replaced by a slightly less coy Tawny Antpitta, who made repeated appearances for 15 to 20 minutes.



At the feeders, highlights included close-up looks at Andean Guan, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager (below bottom), Hooded Mountain Tanager (below, top left), Golden-crowned Tanager, Blue-capped Tanager, Masked Flowerpiercer, White-sided Flowerpiercer, Glossy Flowerpiercer, Yellow-breasted Brushfinch, Smoky Bush Tyrant, Sapphire-vented Puffleg (below, top right), Sword-billed Hummingbird, Buff-winged Star Frontlet, Tyrian Metaltail, and Green-tailed Trainbearer.



After this feast for our senses, we left Zuro Loma heading towards the cloud forests of the western slope. Traveling the old Nono-Mindo road was a fun adventure, and it was here that we got our best look at the common Roadside Hawk.

By early afternoon, we had reached the town of Nanegalito and the nearby restaurant Mirador Guaycapi. Here, we stopped for lunch and had yet another opportunity to watch birds coming to feeders. On the western slope, we would experience a whole slate of new birds, many that are the counterparts – or the western equivalent – to the birds on the eastern slope. New hummingbirds included White-whiskered Hermit, White-booted Racket-tail, Brown Violetear, White-necked Jacobin, Andean Emerald, and the Chocó endemic Purple-throated Woodstar. Bay-headed Tanager (below), Silver-throated Tanager, Buff-throated Saltator, Flame-rumped Tanager, and Thick-billed Euphonia were all new tanagers for the group. A lone Collared Aracari was also spotted in the tallest tree behind the feeders.



Jorge Luna, the owner of the restaurant, kindly invited us to come check out his new lodge (Guaycapi Lodge; photo below right) and the many birds that visit the area. We were absolutely blown away by the view from the balcony there and the customer service was exceptional, serving us snacks and coffee and making good conversation. New birds for our trip consisted of the western subspecies of Flame-faced Tanager, Golden-naped Tanager, White-tipped Dove, Band-tailed Pigeon, the Chocó endemic Velvet-purple Coronet, Violet-tailed Sylph (below left), Empress Brilliant, and Purple-bibbed Whitetip.



Jorge invited us to view an active Toucan Barbet nest down on his farm. We followed him, along with his wife and son, along a path through an overgrown cattle pasture dotted with trees festooned with hundreds of epiphytes. A flock of Red-billed Parrots flew overhead and a pair of Blue-winged Mountain Tanagers flashed their plumage in the trees. Jorge pointed at a tree that harbored an unseen cavity. Sure enough, minutes after eyeing the tree, there was movement in the cavity and an adult Toucan Barbet emerged onto the branches above.

On our walk back to the lodge, Jorge spotted a beautiful Golden-headed Quetzal on a snag just meters above the trail! The lighting was bad, but it flew to another area where we could get better photos of it. What a fantastic bird! We topped off the afternoon with a sighting of a Strong-billed Woodcreeper and some very unsatisfactory views of Plate-billed Mountain Toucans high in the dimly lit canopy. Fortunately, a small group had stayed back at the lodge and got first class looks at several Plate-billed Mountain Toucans that paid the feeders a visit.

In the late afternoon we rolled into the mist-shrouded town of Mindo and encountered a slight hiccup when we realized our bus was too large to cross the bridge. While waiting for a couple of trucks to take us to Casa de Vista Alta, we watched huge flocks of Western Cattle-egrets returning to their evening roosts.

Day 8

This morning we gave the group an optional rest day to enjoy the grounds of Casa de Vista Alta. Some slept in while others enjoyed a leisurely morning on the porch drinking coffee and watching birds. New birds seen from the balcony at Casa de Vista Alta included Crested Guan, Green-crowned Brilliant, Crowned Woodnymph, Rufous Motmot (below top), Yellow-throated Toucan, Chocó Toucan, Rose-faced Parrot (below bottom), Cinnamon Becard, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Social Flycatcher, Chivi Vireo, Tropical Parula, White-lined Tanager, Fawn-breasted Tanager, Rufous-throated Tanager, and Blue-necked Tanager.



Several folks enjoyed a short walk around the trails of Casa de Vista Alta. A mixed species foraging flock was encountered, offering up great views of Orange-billed Sparrow, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Squirrel Cuckoo, Blackburnian Warbler, Three-striped Warbler, Cryptic Becard, Guira Tanager, Buff-frontage Foliage-gleaner, Northern Plain-Xenops, and Rufous-rumped Antwren (a lifer for Sandra!).



In the afternoon, we hosted an optional trip to Birdwatcher's House, the residence of long-time bird guide Vinicio Pérez. Vinicio greeted us with a smile through the rain. He reassured us that the rain wouldn't put a damper on the bird show. Sure enough, minutes after fruit was placed out on a central feeder, several bright blue Plate-billed Mountain Toucans (below) arrived. They were quickly followed by four Toucan Barbets and several Red-headed Barbets. New birds here included both a male and female Gorgeted Sunangel (counterpart

of the Tourmaline Sunangel on the eastern slope) along with a Dusky Chlorospingus and a Pearled Treerunner. Another highlight included two Golden-headed Quetzals circling the periphery of the area.

Later, in the afternoon, we met up with the full group in Mindo's central plaza. The squaking of Bronze-winged Parrots could be heard as several flocks made their way to trees nearby. White-collared Swifts flew overhead along with Blue-and-White Swallows and Western Cattle-egrets. We found several new birds for the trip right inside the town park: Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Masked Water Tyrant, Pacific Hornero, and Ecuadorian Thrush all made an appearance.



Day 9

Today we divided the group into two teams: one led by Ryan Dibala that headed to Recinto 23 de Junio and another led by Sandra Morocho that went to Punto Ornitológico Mindo. The group leaving for Recinto 23 de Junio had to leave at 4:30 am in order to arrive around 6:30 am. Luis Ajila, owner of the Umbrellabird Lodge in Recinto 23 de Junio, greeted us in the dim morning light and jumped in the buseta to direct us out to his farm.

As the sun rose in the east, the landscape revealed itself in pockets between shrouds of mist. I think it was Angie who commented that we could be in the middle of Jurassic Park, with steep green mountains and tall, resounding Pambil palms (*Ireartea deltoidea*) scattered throughout the landscape. The buseta made it only so far, and we were forced to walk about a half mile over unimproved clay trails that had been slickened by rain in the night.



A Yellow-throated Toucan greeted us with a yelping “*Dios te de, Dios te de*” and a flock of Bronze-winged Parrots flew off somewhere in the distance. Finally, after our short hike, we reached the lekking grounds of the fabled Long-wattled Umbrellabird (above). A female flew off upon our arrival and over the course of the next two hours we witnessed at least four or five male umbrellabirds, donning their Elvis-like combs and wattles hanging up to eleven inches long! Luis described how he felt compelled to reforest the area around the two biggest trees – the central point of the lek. These trees are at the edge of cattle pasture with few remaining trees. He has been slowly planting trees over the years, and more importantly, he has been protecting the area around and above the lek.

Over the next few hours, we observed a variety of new birds in addition to the umbrellabirds. Those included Olivaceous Piculet, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Red-masked Parakeet, Barred Forest-Falcon, Laughing Falcon, Red-faced Spinetail, Ornate Flycatcher, Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, Swallow Tanager, and Variable Seedeater. Luis was excited to show us a Club-winged Manakin lek (below, top), and we obtained perfect views of a male slapping his non-hollow wing bones together above his back to create an unearthly technified buzzing sound.



We returned to Luis' house where he fed us a tasty breakfast of *empanadas de viento* and coffee. As we devoured our meal, we watched a Southern Beardless Tyrannulet forage in the nearby bushes.

Meanwhile, the other group had spent their morning exploring Punto Ornitológico Mindo. New trip birds included Common Potoo, Green Thorntail, Little Woodstar, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Lineated Woodpecker, Pacific Antwren, Yellow-tailed Oriole, and Green Honeycreeper.

In the afternoon, we offered another trip to Birdwatcher's House for those who had missed it the day before. Many of the same birds were seen, including more picture-perfect looks at the iconic Plate-billed Mountain Toucan.

Day 10

Our final full day together, we departed Casa de Vista Alta early and transferred to Refugio Paz de las Aves. Paz de las Aves has become famous over the last couple of years for being the home of the Antpitta men, brothers Ángel and Rodrigo Paz. The Paz brothers have spent years habituating five secretive species of antpittas to feeding. This provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for birders and photographers to observe these secretive birds in the wild.



We arrived early and were guided out to an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (below left) lek where several birds were dancing and belting out their squawking calls. We noticed that these birds – belonging to the subspecies *sanguinolentus* – were much more red in color than the eastern subspecies we had seen earlier in the trip. We learned that these birds display all year long, not just during the peak mating season. Like the umbrellabird, the Cock-of-the-Rock belongs to the Cotinga family, a group of birds known for their polygynous mating systems.



After observing the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, we returned on the same trail, stopping at an area with a small clearing featuring an arched stick protruding from the soil. Our guide removed some worms from a can and placed them on the arch, whistling a distinct song, then repeating the phrase “*Venga Manuelita, venga venga...*” In less than a minute, a bird with the appearance of a football on stilts hopped into the clearing and up onto the feeding platform. It was Manuelita, the Giant Antpitta (below, top)!

Throughout the morning, we visited distinct habitats where this process was repeated. We hiked to a swift-moving stream where the brothers successfully lured the Yellow-breasted Antpitta into view. Then we moved to another area with a large cleared platform that attracted a pair of Moustached Antpittas. We tried to lure in Shakira, the Ochre-breasted Antpitta, but didn’t have luck with her.

The last Antpitta to make an appearance was the gorgeous Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (below, bottom right). At this last stop, we also got views of a Masked Trogon that Adam found through the thick tropical vegetation. Several other amazing finds at Paz de las Aves included a Black-and-White Owl, Hook-billed Kite, Rufous-breasted Antthrush, Golden-hooded Tanager, and Beryl-spangled Tanager.

Along the way, we learned the amazing story about how Refugio Paz de las Aves was almost lost forever. When Ángel and Rodrigo’s mother died, the land was inherited by the brothers and their 11 siblings. During the pandemic, most of the siblings wanted to sell the land to dairy farmers. A global

Birding Man Adventures | www.gobirdingman.com | +1 860-455-3224 | ryan@gobirdingman.com

crowdsourcing campaign led by Ángel's son Vinicio and sustainable tourism consultant Angie Drake raised \$160,000 to buy the land, protecting it for future generations.





After a breakfast of – you guessed it – *empanadas de viento*, we left Paz de las Aves and headed back towards Quito. Along the way, we stopped at local entrepreneur Anita Lucía Cajas’ farm that she manages with her husband Vinicio. They call it Maraksacha Reserve. Anita told us the story of when they first started cultivating the land. At that time, they thought of birds as pests that would steal their crops. One day, Anita noticed a man taking a photograph of the birds on her property. He suggested that she should charge people to view the birds there. Thus, Maraksacha was born. Today, Anita and Vinicio are inspiring nearby landowners to piggyback on their visiting tourists. For example, one neighbor has been talking about killing a Spectacled Bear that has been raiding his corn. Anita and Vinicio are trying to convince him to charge tourists to observe the bear instead of chasing it off his property or killing it.

At Maraksacha we got beautiful looks as several new birds: Gray-browed Brushfinch (below, bottom), White-winged Brushfinch, and Golden Grosbeak (below, top) were all new for us here. We also ran into a number of teen-aged youths who were participating in a protected areas and conservation workshop. Meeting a few of these youths left us with a feeling of hope for the future of nature in Ecuador.



We transferred to the San Jose de Puenbo Hotel and Convention Center in Quito and enjoyed a final group dinner together. Similar to other nights of the trip, we all had a chance to share some of our favorite highlights. Trip leaders Sandra Morocho and Ryan Dibala both gave parting words that recognized all participants on the trip. The trip would not have been possible without the energy, excitement, and support of all participants. Special thanks to John Weisgerber, Adam Weisgerber, Alex Weisgerber, Sheena Woods, Ted Lewis, Angie Dibala, and our excellent driver Ángel Nuñez.



The view of Volcán Reventador from the top of Papallacta Pass

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

TORRENT DUCK (*Merganetta armata*)

A pair was seen in the river behind Rio Quijos Eco Lodge. Later, the entire group watched a male hop in and out of the rapids near Cosanga.

YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL (*Anas georgica*)

Several individuals were seen from a distance at Laguna Mica in Antisana Reserve.

ANDEAN TEAL (*Anas andium*)

A lone individual was spotted in a small wet area not far from the Condor cliffs overlook in Chakana Reserve near Antisana.



ANDEAN DUCK (*Oxyura ferruginea*)

Several individuals were seen from a distance at Laguna Mica in Antisana Reserve. This species looks a lot like our Ruddy Duck, but the males lack the white cheek patch found on the Ruddy Duck and female Andean Ducks are much darker than female Ruddy Ducks.

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

CRESTED GUAN (*Penelope purpurascens*)

Waking up at Casa de Vista Alta in Mindo, I could hear these Guans trumpeting from the trees nearby. Several were seen from the lodge's balcony.

ANDEAN GUAN (*Penelope montagnii*)

A number of Andean Guan were spotted throughout the trip. The first two were seen from the blind at Guango Lodge. We later enjoyed close-up looks at the feeders at Zuro Loma.

**SICKLE-WINGED GUAN** (*Chamaepetes goudotii*)

One bird was briefly spotted while we patiently waited for a Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan that never arrived. The Sickle-winged Guan has a rich chestnut color in the breast along with extensive bright blue facial skin.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*)

Four beautiful white-morph Rock Pigeons flew into the feeders at Maraksacha Reserve.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Columba fasciata*)

After we spotted a single individual perched on a tree near Guaycapi Lodge (Nanegalito area), we were greeted by several large flocks with as many as 25 birds.

RUDDY PIGEON (*Columba plumbea*)

Several of these lowland birds were heard and seen in the farm at Recinto 23 de Junio. Their distinctive 4-part song (“Hit the foul pole!”) helped us track them down.

CROAKING GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina cruziana*)

Between 5 and 10 individuals were seen feeding on the ground and in the lower branches of trees at Puenbo Birding Garden. They were present every day of our stay. Mercedes mentioned that it was not common to see this coastal bird here. Records show that it can be found as high as 7,500 feet above sea level, but that still is not as high as Quito at around 9,350 feet.

**BLACK-WINGED GROUND-DOVE** (*Metriopelia melanoptera*)

Several birds were seen in flight zipping alongside our buseta in the paramo of Antisana Reserve.

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

This fairly common bird is found on or near the ground in deciduous and semi humid forest throughout lowlands of the west, mostly below 5,000 feet, although a few can be found up to 10,000 feet locally in inter-Andean valleys. We found them at Guaycapi Lodge, Recinto 23 de Junio, and Maraksacha Reserve.

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*)

This common bird looks a lot like our Mourning Dove. The name refers to the black marking on the auricular feathers. The trees were covered with Eared Doves at Puembo Birding Garden.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos and Anis)**SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)**

This species was seen regularly in the pastures just outside of Rio Quijos Eco Lodge near San Francisco de Borja. It is typically associated with grazing livestock.

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*)

This impressive bird was seen along the trails near Casa de Vista Alta.

Caprimulgidae (Nighthawks and Nightjars)**LADDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)**

Who can forget the bird that looked like a turd? One individual was seen sitting motionless on a gravelly beach along the river at Finca El Madrigal (Jhonny's Farm).



Nyctibiidae (Potoos)

COMMON POTOO (*Nyctibius griseus*)

This wonderful bump on a log was seen two separate times near Mindo. The first sighting occurred just outside of Mindo above the bridge and featured a mother potoo with her chick nestled close beside her. The second sighting was at the Punto Ornitológico Mindo.

Apodidae (Swifts)

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

The largest swift in Ecuador, this boomerang of a bird was first seen soaring above us at the Chakana Reserve near Antisana. We later saw more in Mindo's central park and at Recinto 23 de Junio.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWIFT (*Cypseloides rutilus*)

At least ten of these swifts were seen fluttering above us upon our arrival at Finca El Madrigal.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*)

Our first sighting of these colorful hummingbirds was at the Mirador Guaycapi near Nanegalito. We regularly saw them at feeders in and around Mindo.

WHITE-WHISKERED HERMIT (*Phaethornis yaruqi*)

This curved-billed hummingbird of western Ecuador's lowlands and foothills was first seen at the Mirador Guaycapi and then later seen coming to the feeders at Casa de Vista Alta near Mindo.

TAWNY-BELLIED HERMIT (*Phaethornis syrmatorphorus*)

This handsome hummingbird of both slopes was only seen on the eastern slope at La Vinda del Kinde near the beautiful town of Bombon.

GREEN HERMIT (*Phaethornis guy*)

We saw this hermit of temperate and subtropical forest of the eastern slope visiting feeders at La Vinda del Kinde.

GREEN-FRONTED LANCEBILL (*Doryera ludovicae*)

This fairly large hummingbird with a long, straight bill and iridescent green forehead was spotted close to its favorite habitat – a fast moving stream near La Vida del Kinde.

SPARKLING VIOLETEAR (*Colibri coruscans*)

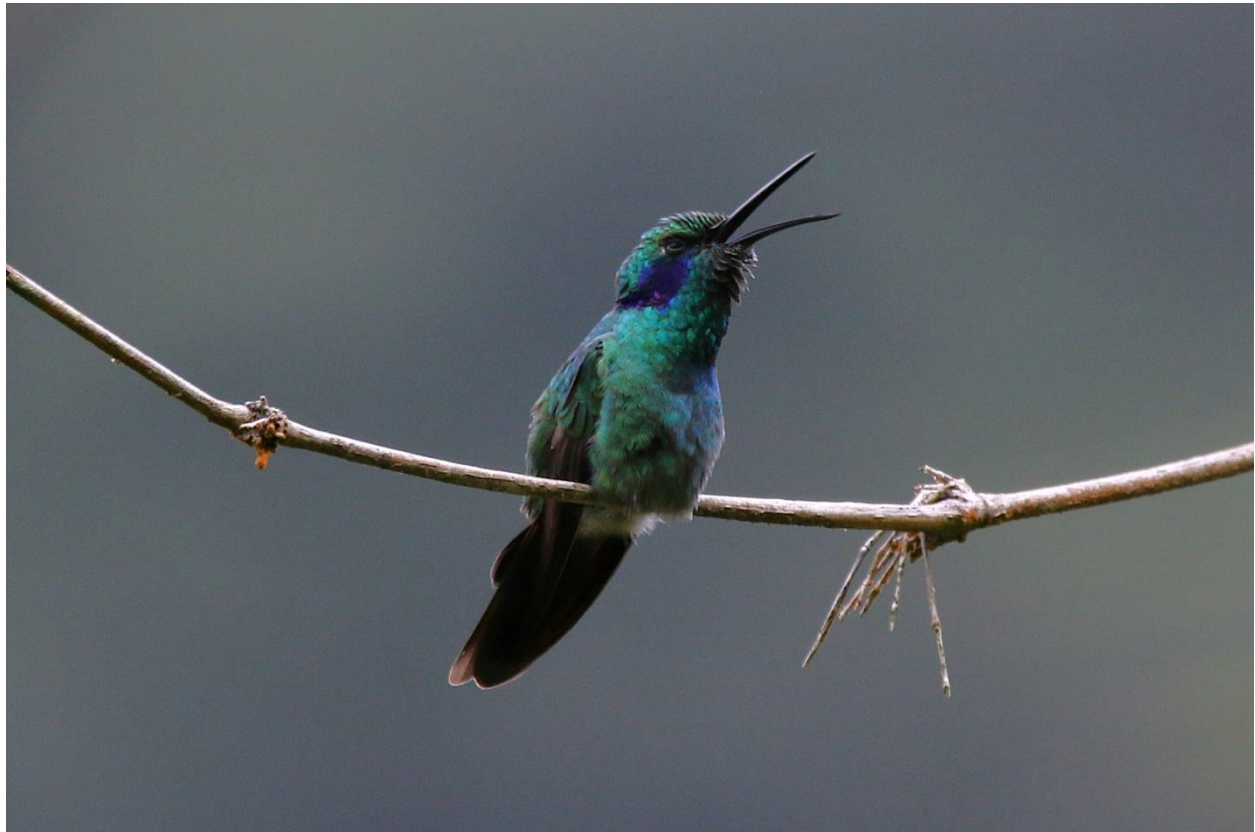
This was the most abundant hummingbird we found in the inter-Andean valley in and around Quito. We saw many at Puenbo Birding Garden, including a female building a nest across from the hotel's entrance gate. We later saw more on both slopes at Templo del Buho, La Vida del Kinde, Mirador Guaycapi, and Maraksacha Reserve.

BROWN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri delphinae*)

Several individuals were seen at the feeders at Mirador Guaycapi.

LESSER VIOLETEAR (*Colibri cyanotus*)

One individual perched out in the open singing for a long while at the upper elevations of Templo del Buho. We saw more at Mirador Guaycapi.

**BLACK-THROATED MANGO** (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)

This striking hummingbird of semi-open and cleared areas in lowlands of the west and northeast was seen at La Vida del Kinde. A female with an obvious black median stripe on the underparts made its way around the feeders there.

GORGETED SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus strophianus*)

We found at least one male and one female of this species at Birdwatcher's House near Nanegalito. It is found in the subtropics of the western slope and is identified by its conspicuous white pectoral band.

TOURMALINE SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus exortis*)

One bird was seen on a trail along the Papallacta River at Guango Lodge. This bird is found in the northeast of Ecuador and lacks the white pectoral band that the Gorgeted Sunangel has.

WIRE-CRESTED THORNTAIL (*Popelairia popelairii*)

This tiny, spectacular hummingbird was seen foraging among the purple flowers and feeders at La Vida del Kinde.



GREEN THORNTAIL (*Popelairia conversii*)

One individual was seen foraging along a trail at Punto Ornitológico in Mindo.

SPECKLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)

This small species was one of the most abundant hummingbirds we met. It was seen at Templo del Buho, La Vida del Kinde, Cabañas Tamiaju, Guaycapi Lodge, and Birdwatcher's House.

LONG-TAILED SYLPH (*Agelaiocercus kingi*)

This gorgeous hummingbird of the eastern slope was observed foraging at the feeders at La Vida del Kinde and Cabañas Tamiaju.

VIOLET-TAILED SYLPH (*Agelaiocercus coelestis*)

The Long-tailed Sylph's western slope equivalent, we saw these woodland fairies at Guaycapi Lodge, Birdwatcher's House, Recinto 23 de Junio, and Paz de las Aves.



ECUADORIAN HILLSTAR (*Oreotrochilus chimborazo*)

How can anyone forget our sighting of a beautiful male preening himself in a chuquiragua bush only feet in front of us at Chakana Reserve.

GREEN-BACKED HILLSTAR (*Urochroa leucura*)

This was the only species of hummingbird we saw at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge. They were also plentiful at Templo de Buho, La Vida del Kinde, and Tamiaju. Notable for its bright outer rectrices.

BLACK-TAILED TRAINBEARER (*Lesbia vicotriae*)

This species is way more easily seen than heard, but there are plenty of them around the Puembo neighborhood and even in the gardens around the San Jose de Puembo hotel (hotel we stayed at on the last night). A male was seen alighting on a tree near Puembo Garden and several females were seen coming to the feeders at Tambo Condor Lodge.

GREEN-TAILED TRAINBEARER (*Lesbia nuna*)

We saw several visiting the feeders at Zuro Loma.

PURPLE-BACKED THORNBILL (*Ramphomicron microrhynchum*)

This species was not seen well by many, but Sandra identified it near the bridge in Papallacta. Unfortunately, I think it escaped before most of us could get a good look at it.

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyraethina*)

This small hummingbird was seen visiting feeders at high elevations, particularly at Tambo Condor Lodge and Zuro Loma.

VIRIDIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura williami*)

The group got a quick glimpse of this bird while riding on the bus up to Coca Cayambe National Park above Papallacta. It was perched on a branch for a moment before it zoomed off into the mist.

GREENISH PUFFLEG (*Haplophaedia aureliae*)

This was our specialty bird at Cabañas Tamiaju. It came to a single feeder, where its bright puffy feathers above the legs could be easily observed.

SAPPHIRE-VENTED PUFFLEG (*Eriocnemis luciani*)

We found this little gem visiting the feeders at Zuro Loma.

BRONZY INCA (*Coeligena coeligena*)

We found this species visiting feeders at Templo del Buho, La Vida del Kinde, and Tamiaju.

BROWN INCA (*Coeligena wilsoni*)

This species appears to replace Bronzy Inca on the western slope. We found this species visiting feeders at Guaycapi Lodge, Birdwatcher's House, and Paz de las Aves.

COLLARED INCA (*Coeligena torquata*)

This species made a statement whenever we saw it. It appeared dominant over most other hummingbirds in its area. We observed this species on both slopes, at Templo del Buho, Tamiaju, Zuro Loma, and Maraksacha.

SHINING SUNBEAM (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*)

A denizen of temperate Andean forests, this reddish hummingbird is known for its spectacular rainbow-colored lower back and upper tail coverts. We saw many individuals at Tambo Condor Lodge visiting the feeders, but we later got good looks of them at Papallacta and Cayambe Coca National Park.

**BUFF-WINGED STAR-FRONTLET** (*Coeligena lutetiae*)

Several individuals were seen visiting the feeders at Guango Lodge.

MOUNTAIN VELVETBREAST (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi*)

We observed several pollinating bushes outside the window of the restaurant at Zuro Loma. Later down at the feeders, more individuals appeared.

SWORD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Ensifera ensifera*)

One individual was spotted pollinating *Passiflora* flowers at Tambo Condor Lodge. We later saw another individual at the Zuro Loma feeders (pictured below).



BUFF-TAILED CORONET (*Boissonneaua flavescens*)

One of the more regularly seen hummingbirds, we spotted this species at Guango Lodge, Zuro Loma, Guaycapi Lodge, Birdwatcher's House, and Maraksacha Reserve.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CORONET (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*)

This species was seen at Guango Lodge and Tamiaju. They appeared to be dominant at the feeders, along with the Collared Incas.

VELVET-PURPLE CORONET (*Boissonneaua jardini*)

This gorgeous Chocó endemic was spotted in the humid forests around Mindo. Guaycapi Lodge, Recinto 23 de Junio, and Paz de las Aves all featured this stunning species.

WHITE-BOOTED RACKET-TAIL (*Ocreatus underwoodii*)

Another highlight of the trip, we were able to spot these tiny gems on the western slope at Mirador Guaycapi, Guaycapi Lodge, Birdwatcher's House, and Paz de las Aves.

PERUVIAN RACKET-TAIL (*Ocreatus peruanus*)

Previously combined with the White-booted Racket-tail, the Peruvian Racket-tail was split in 2016. Found only on the eastern slope, its boots are a rich chestnut color, as opposed to the white boots of its western counterpart. We saw several individuals at Tamiaju, Templo del Buho, and La Vida del Kinde.



PURPLE-BIBBED WHITETIP (*Urosticte benjamini*)

This unique hummingbird was spotted visiting feeders at Guaycapi Lodge, Recinto 23 de Junio, and Paz de las Aves. It has white tips on the inner tail feathers that combine to form a noticeable spot.

FAWN-BREASTED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*)

This species was another regularly occurring hummingbird at feeders. We saw dozens over the course of our visits to Tamiaju, Mirador Guaycapi, Guaycapi Lodge, Birdwatcher's House, Punto Ornitológico Mindo, and Paz de las Aves.

GREEN-CROWNED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa jacula*)

This hummingbird appears to look rather mundane, but when it turns its head the golden sheen of the crown feathers dazzles. We saw this species at Casa de Vista Alta and Recinto 23 de Junio.

EMPRESS BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa imperatrix*)

An extraordinary bird, the Empress Brilliant impresses with its forked tail and exuberant iridescence. We observed these large hummingbirds at feeders at Guaycapi Lodge, Birdwatcher's House, Recinto 23 de Junio, and Paz de las Aves.

VIOLET-FRONTED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa leadbeateri*)

This glistening green hummingbird with a bright purple crown was found visiting feeders at Templo del Buho and La Vida del Kinde.

GIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*Patagona gigas*)

Who can forget the Giant Hummingbird sitting out the rainstorm at Tambo Condor, flicking its head back and forth to keep warm. Down at Tambo Condor's feeder platform, we got multiple great looks at this magnificent species.

GREAT SAPPHIREWING (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*)

We were afforded several great looks of this large, colorfully-winged hummingbird visiting the feeders at Tambo Condor Lodge. It would often disappear just as fast as it appeared.



WHITE-BELLIED WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)

This widespread, bumblebee-like hummingbird was seen on both sides of the Andes at Guango Lodge, La Vida del Kinde, Recinto 23 de Junio, and Maraksacha Reserve. Note the contrasting white median belly stripe in both sexes.

LITTLE WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus bombus*)

This woodstar was seen at Punto Ornitológico in Mindo. It looks similar to the Gorgeted Woodstar, but the male has a unique buff pectoral collar and the female has light cinnamon underparts.

GORGETED WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus heliodor*)

This beautiful hummer was spotted at La Vida del Kinde and Tamiaju on the eastern slope. See female below.



PURPLE-THROATED WOODSTAR (*Calliphlox mitchellii*)

This Chocó endemic was first spotted at Mirador Guaycapi and then later seen at Guaycapi Lodge and Paz de las Aves.

WESTERN EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus*)

We found this small, fork-tailed hummingbird visiting the feeders at Puembo Birding Garden.

CROWNED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania colombica*)

The brilliant emerald and violet contrast of the male's plumage was observed at Casa de Vista Alta.

RUFIOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia tzacatl*)

One of the more common hummingbirds we observed throughout the country. Birds were seen at Puenbo Birding Garden, Mirador Guaycapi, Casa de Vista Alta, and Punto Ornitológico Mindo.

ANDEAN EMERALD (*Amazilia franciae*)

A very common hummingbird on the western slope. Birds were seen at every place we visited in the west that had feeders, with the exception of Maraksacha which was a little too high in elevation.

**GOLDEN-TAILED SAPPHIRE** (*Chrysuronia oenone*)

One bird was seen visiting the feeders at La Vida del Kinde.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)**SLATE-COLORED COOT** (*Fulica ardesiaca*)

Around 10 individuals were spotted on Laguna Mica at the Antisana Reserve.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*)

A small flock took off down the river at Finca El Madrigal near San Francisco de Borja.

ANDEAN LAPWING (*Vanellus resplendens*)

Several birds were seen at the Antisana Reserve and one individual was spotted from the bus near Zuro Loma Reserve.



Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*)

We found several birds foraging along the rivers at Finca El Madrigal and Cosanga.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

ANDEAN GULL (*Larus serranus*)

At least three individuals flew overhead at Laguna Mica in the Antisana Reserve.

Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

WESTERN CATTLE-EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Huge flocks of Cattle Egrets flew over our heads towards their roosting grounds outside of Mindo. Our time spent waiting for cabs to bring us up to Casa de Vista Alta was enhanced by views of several graceful flocks with the sun reflecting off their white plumage.

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*)

This lowland species was spotted flying towards us near Finca El Madrigal outside of San Francisco de Borja. It was flagged as rare on eBird (out of range), but it was spotted several different times in this area.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

ANDEAN CONDOR (*Vultur gryphus*)

Who could forget the epic flyover of a male Andean Condor at the Jocotoco Foundation's Chakana Reserve? It was my favorite bird experience of the trip. Between Chakana and Antisana, we saw a total of 14 individual condors, including several juvenile birds devouring a horse carcass. There are thought to be less than 100 condors living in Ecuador, meaning we saw about 15% of the Ecuadorian population.



BLACK VULTURE (*Caragyps atratus*)

Many were seen throughout the trip in all regions.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Several were seen near Cosanga and then later we saw them in and around Mindo.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)**HOOK-BILLED KITE** (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*)

Two birds were seen at Paz de las Aves. A juvenile perched in the open for a while and we were able to get nice scope views.

CINEREOUS HARRIER (*Circus cinereus*)

One bird was seen soaring low over the paramo at the Antisana Reserve.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*)

This common species was seen on several occasions throughout the trip, but our best look came from the bus as we were driving down the old Nono-Mindo Road. One bird posed for us nicely on an exposed perch that we could see from the bus.

VARIABLE HAWK (*Buteo polyosoma*)

Seen in several highland areas, including Chakana Reserve, Antisana Reserve, and Cayambe-Coca National Park. We got the best looks of this bird in the Chakana Reserve, where one sat motionless on a hillside and another soared elegantly in front of us.



BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD-EAGLE (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*)

We observed this species in the same areas we observed the Variable Hawks. We got good looks of soaring birds and a perched bird in Chakana Reserve and Antisana Reserve, respectively.

Strigidae (True Owls)

ANDEAN PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium jadinii*)

What a surprise it was to find this tiny mountain owl along a trail in Cayambe-Coca National Park above Papallacta. It flew into another guide's playback and after some searching, our driver Angel was able to find it tucked away in the shrubbery.



MOTTLED OWL (*Strix virgata*)

One night while we were having dinner at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge, Angel recognized the call of this owl and went outside to spotlight it for us. We were able to observe this owl perched in a tree for around ten minutes.

BLACK-AND-WHITE-OWL (*Strix nigrolineata*)

We found a very cooperative individual roosting in a tree during the day at Paz de las Aves.

Trogonidae (Trogons and Quetzals)

GOLDEN-HEADED QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus auriceps*)

This beautiful trogon was first found along the road in the higher elevation part of the farm at Templo del Buho. Later in the trip, we got even better looks of it at George Luna's farm near Guaycapi Lodge and the Birdwatcher's House.

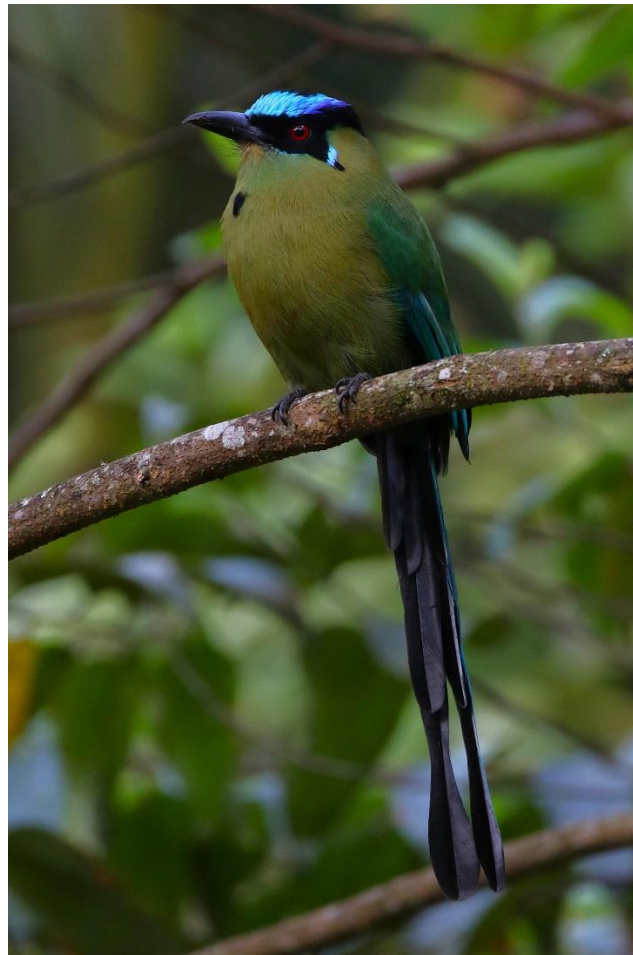
MASKED TROGON (*Trogon personatus*)

Adam spotted a lone perched bird through dense vegetation at Paz de las Aves. It was then seen through the scope by the remainder of the group.

Momotidae (Motmots)

ANDEAN MOTMOT (*Momotus aequatorialis*)

Several were seen around Rio Quijos Eco Lodge. One morning during breakfast, one perched nicely for us in the trees near the feeders.



RUFIOUS MOTMOT (*Baryphthengus martii*)

One bird was seen near the feeders at Casa de Vista Alta. We also spotted one in the trees just off the road down to Mindo town.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)**RINGED KINGFISHER** (*Megaceryle torquata*)

Several flyovers at Puenbo Birding Garden.

AMAZON KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

One bird was spotted along the river at Finca El Madrigal and another bird was spotted along the river near Cosanga.

Capitonidae (New World Barbets)**RED-HEADED BARBET** (*Eubucco bourcierii*)

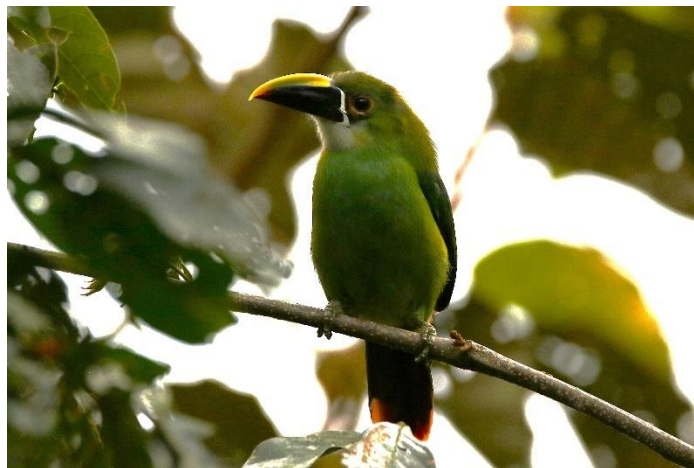
We got fantastic looks at both the male and female at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge, Guaycapi Lodge, and Casa de Vista Alta.

Semnornithidae (Toucan Barbet and Prong-billed Barbet)**TOUCAN BARBET** (*Semnornis ramphastinus*)

One bird was seen near an active nest at George Luna's farm near Guaycapi Lodge. Later, at Birdwatcher's House, we saw as many as four at a time.

Ramphastidae (Toucans and Toucanets)**SOUTHERN EMERALD TOUCANET** (*Aulacorhynchus albivitta*)

One bird flew into the feeders at Templo del Buho. It stayed for a while letting us get great photos.



CRIMSON-RUMPED TOUCANET (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*)

One individual was seen at Punto Ornitológico Mindo.

PLATE-BILLED MOUNTAIN TOUCAN (*Andigena laminirostris*)

Several birds were seen visiting the feeder at Birdwatcher's House. It was great to see this beautiful bird, as we unfortunately dipped on the Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan at Guango Lodge.

COLLARED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus torquatus*)

One bird was seen at Mirador Guaycapi in the tallest tree behind the feeders. Later, at Casa de Vista Alta, we were treated to several shows of birds feeding acrobatically on the feeders.



YELLOW-THROATED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos ambiguus*)

Two of these near-threatened toucans were seen on the same naked branch as the Chocó Toucans below. The next day, a pair of birds made a close-up appearance at the feeders! We also saw several individuals at Recinto 23 de Junio.

CHOCÓ TOUCAN (*Ramphastos brevis*)

The first large toucan we saw from the balcony at Casa de Vista Alta. Two birds were sitting on a naked branch about 250 yards away.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

OLIVACEOUS PICULET (*Picumnus olivaceus*)

One bird was seen working its way up the side of a tree at Recinto 23 de Junio.

SMOKEY-BROWN WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis fumigatus*)

This was the first bird we spotted upon reaching the top of the hill at Templo del Buho. Many in our group didn't get a great look, but it was later seen along the trails at Casa de Vista Alta.

GUAYAQUIL WOODPECKER (*Campephilus gayaquilensis*)

We got great scope views of this large, crested woodpecker at Recinto 23 de Junio. It was also seen at Punto Ornitológico Mindo.

LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

One bird was spotted at Punto Ornitológico Mindo.

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Piculus rubiginosus*)

Several of these attractive woodpeckers were spotted near the feeders at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

LAUGHING FALCON (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

One bird was seen clearly perched out in the open at Recinto 23 de Junio.

BARRED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur ruficollis*)

Angie spotted this ghost of a falcon at Recinto 23 de Junio.

CARUNCULATED CARACARA (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*)

Many were seen on the ground and in the air at Antisana and Chakana Reserves.





AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

Flybys in Antisana Reserve and just outside of Zuro Loma Reserve.

Psittacidae (Macaws, Parrots, Parrotlets, and Parakeets)

ROSE-FACED PARROT (*Pionopsitta pulchra*)

A small group (likely 6 or 7) flew into the banana trees just beyond the balcony at Casa de Vista Alta. They foraged on the bananas there for some time.

RED-BILLED PARROT (*Pionus sordidus*)

A large group flew over us while we waited patiently for Cock-of-the-Rocks at the Rio Quijos Reserve. We got good looks of these birds at George Luna's farm near Guaycapi Lodge.

BRONZE-WINGED PARROT (*Pionus chalcopterus*)

One of the more numerous parrots of the western lowlands and foothills, we saw a large flock congregating just outside of Mindo's central park. They were also seen and heard at Recinto 23 de Junio.

RED-MASKED PARAKEET (*Aratinga erythrogenys*)

A large flock of these birds was spotted flying from tree to tree at Recinto 23 de Junio. The bright red patches in the wings were impressionable.

Thamnophilidae (Antbirds, Antwrens and Allies)

RUFOUS-RUMPED ANTWREN (*Terenura callinota*)

The only *lifer* for Sandra on the trip, one or two of these starkly patterned birds were spotted in a mixed foraging flock along the trails at Casa de Vista Alta.

PACIFIC ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula pacifica*)

One individual was spotted near the ground at Punto Ornitológico Mindo.

Grallariidae (Antpittas)

GIANT ANTPITTA (*Grallaria gigantea*)

After several whistles and the precise placement of worms on a log, Manuelita the Giant Antpitta, made an appearance in the dappled light of the cloud forest understory. She was unalarmed by our presence and well trained to the feeding station at Paz de las Aves.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria ruficapilla*)

One individual came to the feeding stump at Paz de las Aves. This species seemed a little shy than the others.

MOUSTACHED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria alleni*)

Two birds, a male and a female, showed up to the feeding platform at Paz de las Aves. Interestingly, our guide told us that the nearby Rufous-breasted Antthrush is dominant over them.



YELLOW-BREASTED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria flavotincta*)

One individual came out to feed on worms near a rushing stream at Paz de las Aves. After the group left, it emerged a second time.

EQUATORIAL ANTPITTA (*Grallaria saturata*)

One individual was seen coming to the feeding stump at Zuro Loma Reserve. It appeared to be subordinate to the Tawny Antpitta that arrived later.

TAWNY ANTPITTA (*Grallaria quitensis*)

Several birds were seen at Antisana Reserve and then later at Zuro Loma Reserve, where we got our best looks when it came to the feeding station.

Formicariidae (Antthrushes)

RUFOUS-BREASTED ANTHRUSH (*Formicarius rufipectus*)

Two birds came out to feed on worms placed for antpittas at Paz de las Aves.

Furnariidae (Woodcreepers, Ovenbirds, and Allies)

STRONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*)

One individual was seen for several minutes foraging on a dying tree at Jorge Luna's farm near Guaycapi Lodge.

MONTANE WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*)

Birds were seen at Guacamayos Ridge and the Birdwatcher's House.



NORTHERN PLAIN-XENOPS (*Xenops mexicanus*)

One bird was seen along the trails at Casa de Vista Alta in a mixed foraging flock.

STREAKED TUFTEDCHEEK (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*)

One individual was seen in a mixed foraging flock at the top of the road in Templo del Búho.



PACIFIC HORNERO (*Furnarius cinnamomeus*)

Several birds were flying in and out of their oven-shaped nest at Mindo's central park.

CHESTNUT-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes albidiventris*)

We got an uninterrupted look at a bird from the buseta while on the road in Antisana Reserve. Its bill is shorter and straighter than that seen in the Stout-billed CincloDES.

STOUT-BILLED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes excelsior*)

At least two birds were seen hopping around on an open green near the museum we visited in Chakana Reserve.

BUFF-FRONTED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Philydor rufus*)

One bird was seen in a mixed foraging flock along the trails at Casa de Vista Alta.

PEARLED TREERUNNER (*Margarornis squamiger*)

One individual was seen running up a tree at the Birdwatcher's House.

MANY-STRIPED CANASTERO (*Asthenes flammulata*)

One bird was seen singing from a perch on the trail to Laguna Mica in the Antisana Reserve.

RED-FACED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca erythroptus*)

One bird was seen making its way down a tree trunk in Recinto 23 de Junio.

ASH-BROWED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca curtata*)

One bird was seen briefly near a guayaba plantation near the village of Bombón.

AZARA'S SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis azarae*)

One individual was seen several times in the morning at Puenbo Birding Garden. We saw another bird near a guayaba plantation in the village of Bombón.

Pipridae (Manakins)

CLUB-WINGED MANAKIN (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*)

One male responded vehemently to playback at a lek at 23 de Junio. It stayed within view for about 15 to 20 minutes.

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

GREEN-AND-BLACK FRUITEATER (*Pipreola riefferii*)

Distant, partially obstructed views were had at Guacamayos Ridge.

RED-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*)

First seen near a bridge in Papallacta, we later got better looks of this bird at Maraksacha Reserve.



ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK (*Rupicola peruviana peruviana* and *R. p. sanguinolenta*)

The eastern subspecies was seen several times, first in a guayaba plantation near Bombón, then later in the Rio Quijos reserve near an active lek. We briefly saw a female here as well. 3 – 4 males of the western subspecies were seen on the lek at Paz de las Aves.

LONG-WATTLED UMBRELLABIRD (*Cephalopterus penduliger*)

One female and four to five males were seen on the lek at 23 de Junio.

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

CINNAMON BECARD (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*)

Several individuals were seen in the upper canopy from the balcony at Casa de Vista Alta.

CRYPTIC BECARD (*Pachyramphus salvini*)

One individual was seen in a mixed foraging flock off a trail at Casa de Vista Alta.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

STREAK-NECKED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes striaticollis*)

Several members of the group got a good look of this bird at the top of the road in El Templo del Búho.

MARBLE-FACED BRISTLE-TYRANT (*Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus*)

Several members of the group got a good look at this bird at the top of the road in El Templo del Búho.

SCALE-CRESTED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Lophotriccus pileatus*)

One bird was seen foraging in a small shrub on the road to La Vida del Kinde near the village of Bombón.

RUFIOUS-CROWNED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Poecilatriccus ruficeps ruficeps*)

We found this bird in a thicket of *Chusquea* bamboo just south of San Isidro Lodge on Las Caucheras Road.

CINNAMON FLYCATCHER (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*)

Good scope views were had of one individual just north of San Isidro Lodge on Las Caucheras Road.

ORNATE FLYCATCHER (*Myiotriccus ornatus stellatus*)

At least four different individuals were seen at Recinto 23 de Junio.

SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)

One bird was seen foraging from trees along the road next to an avocado orchard near Puembo Birding Garden. Other individuals were seen at Casa de Vista Alta and 23 de Junio.

WHITE-TAILED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)

One bird was spotted at the top of the road in El Templo del Búho and another was spotted foraging in low bushes at the Birdwatcher's House.



TORRENT TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga cinerea*)

One individual was seen flying back and forth across the river near Cosanga.

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*)

One bird was spotted on a rock in the middle of the Quijos River behind the Rio Quijos Eco Lodge. Other birds were spotted near the river at Finca El Madrigal and the river near Cosanga.

VERMILLION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

Both male and female were seen building a nest on the road near Puembo Birding Garden.

PLAIN-CAPPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola alpinus*)

One individual was spotted on the ground near the trail to Laguna Mica in the Antisana Reserve.

BLACK-BILLED SHRIKE-TYRANT (*Agriornis montana*)

Two birds were spotted separately in the *paramo* at Chakana Reserve.

SMOKY BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes fumigatus*)

One individual was spotted in the high canopy across from the feeding station at Zuro Loma Reserve.

MASKED WATER-TYRANT (*Fluvicola nengeta*)

Two birds were seen sitting on an electric wire coming into town in Mindo. That same afternoon, we saw two birds on the ground in Mindo's central park.

CROWNED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca frontalis*)

One bird posed for solid looks along the road in Coca-Cayambe National Park above Papallacta.



DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer tuberculifer*)

Individual birds were seen and heard at Casa de Vista Alta, Mindo's central park, and Recinto 23 de Junio.

PALE-EDGED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cephalotes*)

A few folks spotted one individual near the top of the road at El Templo del Búho.

RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)

This abundant flycatcher was spotted on power lines and open branches near Mindo. We also saw many at Recinto 23 de Junio.

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*)

Many were seen from the balcony at Casa de Vista Alta, in Mindo's central park, and at Recinto 23 de Junio.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tryannus melancholicus*)

Many were seen throughout the trip on both slopes.

Vireonidae (Vireos)**CHIVI VIREO** (*Vireo chivi*)

Seen on several occasions from the balcony and along the trail at Casa de Vista Alta.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)**TURQUOISE JAY** (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)

Several of these handsome jays were spotted along the trails at Guango Lodge.

GREEN JAY (*Cyanocorax yncas*)

The posterchild of Rio Quijos Eco Lodge, these birds were regular at the feeders there.



Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)

The most common swallow we saw on both slopes. Best looks were had at dozens of perched birds on a wire near the village of San Francisco de Borja.

BROWN-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Notiochelidon murina*)

Many birds were seen in the high *paramo* of Antisana Reserve and at the top of the road in Cayambe-Coca National Park.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

GRASS WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*)

Several individuals were seen at Chakana Reserve and Antisana Reserve.

GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)

Heard in many cloud forest areas throughout the trip, but seen well in the understory along a trail at Casa de Vista Alta.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

TROPICAL MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus gilvus*)

One bird seen on a wire near open pasture in the village of San Francisco de Borja.

Turdidae (Thrushes)

ANDEAN SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes ralloides*)

One individual was seen at El Templo del Búho and later another was seen at Birdwatcher's House.



ECUADORIAN THRUSH (*Turdus maculirostris*)

One bird was seen on the ground in Mindo's central park.

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH (*Turdus ignobilis*)

One bird was seen coming to the feeders at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED THRUSH (*Turdus fulviventris*)

At least two birds were seen on the ground beneath the feeders at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge. Reminiscent of our American Robin.

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater*)

This impressive and abundant thrush was seen near the feeders at Puembo Birding Garden, in the high *paramo* regions near Antisana, at Guango Lodge, and at Zuro Loma Reserve.

**Motacillidae (Pipits, Longclaws, and Wagtails)****PARAMO PIPIT (*Anthus bogotensis*)**

One bird was seen in the *paramo* at Chakana Reserve.



Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)

GOLDEN-RUMPED EUPHONIA (*Chlorophonia cyanocephala*)

One individual was spotted in the canopy at the top of the road in El Templo del Búho.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys*)

We got great looks at both the male and female in El Templo del Búho. Stunning bird!

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia laniirostris*)

This was the most frequent euphonia we saw on the western slope. Birds were seen at Mirador Guaycapi and Paz de las Aves.

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)

This was the most abundant euphonia we saw throughout the trip. It was seen in a variety of locations on both the eastern and western slope.

HOODED SISKIN (*Spinus magellanicus*)

We never got great looks, but several flocks flew past us while we were on the bus in the Chakana Reserve. They were also heard roosting in a dense tree near Puembo Birding Garden.

Passerellidae (New World Sparrows)

COMMON CHLOROSPINGUS (*Chlorospingus flavopectus*)

Two birds were seen in a mixed foraging flock on the trail at Guacamayos Ridge.

DUSKY CHLOROSPINGUS (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*)

Several individuals seen at Guaycapi Lodge and the Birdwatcher's House.

YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW (*Ammodrammus aurifrons*)

One bird was seen in a live fence on the road to La Vida del Kinde near the village of Bombón.

GRAY-BROWED BRUSHFINCH (*Arremon assimilis*)

At least one individual seen near the feeders at Maraksacha Reserve.

ORANGE-BILLED SPARROW (*Arremon aurantiirostris*)

Good looks were had in the understory along a trail at Casa de Vista Alta.

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

Likely the most abundant bird throughout the trip, this beautiful sparrow made an appearance on most of our checklists.

YELLOW-BREASTED BRUSHFINCH (*Atlapetes latinuchus*)

Individuals seen at Chakana, Zuro Loma, and Maraksacha Reserves.

WHITE-WINGED BRUSHFINCH (*Atlapetes leucopterus*)

This handsome bird was seen near the feeders at Maraksacha Reserve.



Icteridae (Blackbirds)

RED-BREASTED MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella militaris*)

One individual was seen on a fencepost near cattle pasture close to the town of San Francisco de Borja.

RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius angustifrons angustifrons*)

As many as 40 individuals would arrive at the feeders at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge, temporarily scaring away the many smaller birds.

SCARLET-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus microrhynchus*)

Between 3 and 5 individuals would visit the feeders at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge.

MOUNTAIN CACIQUE (*Cacicus chrysonotus*)

Between 20 and 30 were seen flying to and from their nests at Guango Lodge.

YELLOW-TAILED ORIOLE (*Icterus mesomelas*)

One bird was spotted at Punto Ornitológico Mindo.

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis aequatorialis*)

Many were seen in the bushes at Puembo Birding Lodge. A few were also seen at Casa de Vista Alta.

Parulidae (New World Warbler)

TROPICAL PARULA (*Parula pitayumi*)

One bird was seen in the canopy from the balcony at Casa de Vista Alta. Another was seen in the trees at Recinto 23 de Junio.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Setophaga fusca*)

Found in the same flock as the Tropical Parula at Casa de Vista Alta.

THREE-STRIPED WARBLER (*Basileuterus tristriatus tristriatus*)

One individual was spotted in a mixed foraging flock in the understory at Casa de Vista Alta.



SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus*)

This abundant warbler was spotted high in the trees with mixed foraging flocks on both slopes. Individuals were spotted near the village of Bombón, Guacamayos Ridge, Mirador Guaycapi, and Recinto 23 de Junio.

SPECTACLED REDSTART (*Myioborus melanocephalus*)

This attractive warbler of high elevation cloud forest and temperate elfin forest was spotted at Chakana Reserve and along the road to Cayambe-Coca National Park.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

GOLDEN GROSBEEK (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*)

We saw our first Golden Grosbeak on the road up to Zuro Loma. We later saw many visiting the feeders at Maraksacha Reserve.

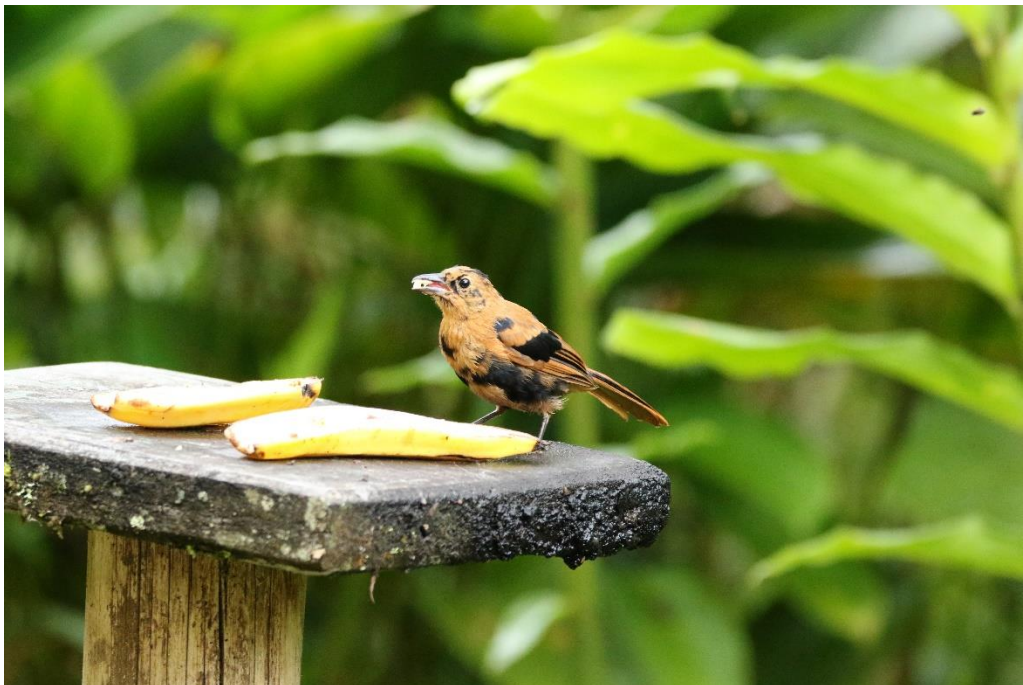
Thraupidae (Tanagers)

RUFOUS-CRESTED TANAGER (*Creurgops verticalis*)

Several in our group spotted two birds in a mixed foraging flock at the top of the road in El Templo del Búho.

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*)

Upon first sighting, many thought the female was a different species. Both male and female were seen visiting the feeders at Casa de Vista Alta.



FLAME-RUMPED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus icteronotus*)

These beautiful “silver-beaked” tanagers were seen on the western slope at Mirador Guaycapi, Casa de Vista Alta, and Recinto 23 de Junio.

HOODED MOUNTAIN TANAGER (*Buthraupis montana*)

This stunning tanager was seen near Papallacta and at the high cloud forest reserves of Zuro Loma and Maraksacha.

BLUE-CAPPED TANAGER (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)

Individuals were spotted in the western slope reserves of Zuro Loma, Birdwatcher's House, and Maraksacha Reserve.

**BLACK-CHESTED MOUNTAIN TANAGER (*Buthraupis eximia*)**

This scarce tanager was spotted along the trail in Cayambe-Coca National Park.

LACRIMOSE MOUNTAIN TANAGER (*Anisognathus lacrymosus*)

Named for the teardrop spot on its auriculars, we spotted this tanager high in the canopy at Guacamayos Ridge.

SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN TANAGER (*Anisognathus igniventris*)

Many individuals were spotted near the feeders at Zuro Loma Reserve. We also got a brief glimpse of this bird near Papallacta.

BLUE-WINGED MOUNTAIN TANAGER (*Anisognathus somptuosus*)

This gorgeous bird was seen on both slopes at multiple cloud forest reserves.

BLACK-CHINNED MOUNTAIN TANAGER (*Anisognathus notabilis*)

One individual was spotted at Recinto 23 de Junio.

GOLDEN-CROWNED TANAGER (*Iridosornis rufivertex*)

One individual was seen taking a bath at Zuro Loma Reserve.



FAWN-BREASTED TANAGER (*Pipraeidea melanonota*)

We got great looks at this elegant tanager from the balcony at Casa de Vista Alta.

BLUE-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Thraupis bonariensis*)

This denizen of the inter-Andean scrub forest was seen multiple times at Puembo Birding Lodge.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus quaesita* and *T. e. coelestis*)

The most abundant tanager seen on the trip on both slopes.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)

Noted at El Templo del Búho and Rio Quijos Eco Lodge, but regularly occurs on the western slope too.

RUFIOUS-THROATED TANAGER (*Ixothraupis rufigula*)

Two individuals seen from the balcony at Casa de Alta Vista.

GOLDEN-NAPED TANAGER (*Tangara ruficervix*)

This small, yet stunning tanager was seen on both slopes. Individuals visited the feeders at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge, Guaycapi Lodge, Birdwatcher's House, Recinto 23 de Junio, and Paz de las Aves.

BLACK-CAPPED TANAGER (*Tangara heinei*)

Several individuals seen on both slopes at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge and Guaycapi Lodge.

ORANGE-EARED TANAGER (*Chlorochrysa calliparaea*)

One bird was seen high in the canopy in a mixed foraging flock at Templo del Búho.



SCRUB TANAGER (*Tangara vitriolina*)

Seen regularly at Puembo Birding Garden.

GOLDEN-HOODED TANAGER (*Tangara larvata*)

Several birds seen at Paz de las Aves and Casa de Vista Alta on the western slope.

BLUE-NECKED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanicollis cyanopygia*)

Occurs on both slopes, but we only saw it at Casa de Vista Alta on the western slope.



BERYL-SPANGLED TANAGER (*Tangara nigroviridis*)

Several individuals seen with mixed foraging flocks at Guacamayos Ridge and Paz de las Aves.

BAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara gyrola*)

One male spotted at Mirador Guaycapi.

SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tangara xanthocephala*)

At least four different birds spotted near the top of the road at El Templo del Búho.

FLAME-FACED TANAGER (*Tangara parzudakii lunigera* and *T. p. parzudakii*)

Birds seen on both slopes. The eastern subspecies has a much brighter face than the western subspecies.

GOLDEN TANAGER (*Tangara arthus aequatorialis* and *T. a. goodsoni*)

Common tanager seen at feeders on both slopes.

SILVER-THROATED TANAGER (*Tangara icterocephala*)

Seen at Mirador Guaycapi and Casa de Vista Alta on the western slope.

SWALLOW TANAGER (*Tersina viridis*)

Two birds (male and female) seen at Recinto 23 de Junio.



GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

One bird seen at Punto Ornitológico Mindo.

GOLDEN-COLLARED HONEYCREEPER (*Iridophanes pulcherrima*)

Several birds seen at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge.

GUIRA TANAGER (*Hemithraupis guira*)

One male was spotted in a mixed foraging flock along the trail at Casa de Vista Alta.

GOLDEN-EARED TANAGER (*Tangara chrysotis*)

Three birds seen coming to the feeders at Rio Quijos Eco Lodge.



CINEREOUS CONEBILL (*Conirostrum cinereum*)

Several birds spotted at Tambo Condor Lodge and Zuro Loma Reserve.

BLACK FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa humeralis*)

Many birds spotted at Tambo Condor Lodge and Zuro Loma Reserve.

GLOSSY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa lafresnayii*)

There were at least two birds visiting the feeders at Zuro Loma Reserve. We also saw one bird foraging along the road in Cayambe-Coca National Park.

WHITE-SIDED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa albilatera*)

At least three birds visiting the feeders at Zuro Loma Reserve. One bird was seen at Birdwatcher's House and at least four individuals were seen at Maraksacha Reserve.

BLUISH FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossopsis caerulescens*)

One bird was spotted in the canopy along the trail at Guacamayos Ridge.

MASKED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossopsis cyanea*)

Common bird at feeders on both slopes.



PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH (*Geospizopsis unicolor*)

Many seen on and near the road in Antisana Reserve.

SAFFRON FINCH (*Sicalis flaviola*)

Many seen in the bushes in and around Puenbo Birding Garden. One was also spotted in the gardens at Recinto 23 de Junio.

VARIABLE SEEDEATER (*Sporophila corvina*)

One adult male seen singing from a fencepost in Recinto 23 de Junio.

PLAIN-COLORED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia inornata*)

Two birds were spotted close to a rocky area near the museum in Chakana Reserve.

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*)

This cute bird was seen on both slopes, first near the village of Bombón, and later on the western slope at Mirador Guaycapi, Casa de Vista Alta, and Punto Ornitológico Mindo.

BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator maximus*)

Several birds were seen along the western slope at Mirador Guaycapi and Casa de Vista Alta.

MAMMALS

ANDEAN TAPETI (*Sylvilagus andinus*)

At least five individuals spotted in Antisana Reserve.



RED-TAILED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus granatensis*)

Often seen at bird feeders on both slopes.

SPECTACLED BEAR (*Tremarctos ornatus*)

Seen in Chakana Reserve.

AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta punctata*)

Two individuals (possibly a mother and her baby) were seen in the morning from the balcony at Casa de Vista Alta.



WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus ustus*)

Between 50 and 75 individuals spotted in Antisana Reserve.