

# Ecuador - A Mammal Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 October - 4 November 2008

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Long-tailed Sylph



Spectacled Caiman



Squirrel Monkey



Golden-mantled Tamarin

Report and images courtesy of tour participant Kenny Ross



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**Note:** Although this was a bargain 10-day mammal tour, four of us (Cat, Jeff, Sue and myself) had decided that Ecuador was a very long way to go for a ten-day trip so had arranged an extension that would take us to both slopes of the Andes meaning that our trip was just less than three weeks in total.

We started off in Napo with the main group before moving on to Bellavista Lodge on the Eastern slope and then the third week was spent on the Western slope staying at three lodges – San Isidro, Wildsumaco and finally Guango.

## Day 1

**Wednesday 15th October**

Today was spent en route. We were pleasantly surprised by Terminal 5 at Heathrow after all the negative publicity. Check-in staff were really helpful and we were all done and dusted within thirty minutes. We even had time for breakfast before boarding our early flight to Miami. Our flight to Quito was on time and we landed there late evening and transferred to Hotel Embassy.

## Day 2

**Thursday 16th October**

Today we had time for a little wander around the streets near the hotel as our flight to Coca was at lunchtime. We did pick up a couple of birds – the ubiquitous Rufous-Collared Sparrow (my favourite South American bird – I know!), Great Thrush, Eared Dove and Sparkling Violetear. We transferred to the airport to the VIP lounge. Sadly that was the name of the airline and no reflection on the group! A quick thirty-minute flight over the Andes (unfortunately for us, cloud covered) and as we disembarked at Coca the heat hit us! Quickly we were moved to the hotel where we boarded the first of two canoes that would take us to Napo. The Napo River is fairly wide and appeared relatively bird-free and certainly no mammals, although we did keep a look out for potential pink dolphins! It is the longest river in Ecuador at 1400 km.

Two hours or so later we pulled into a small creek and swapped into two smaller canoes, this time paddled by staff from Napo Wildlife Centre. We were split into the groups that we would remain in for the duration of our stay. We were able to get to know both our local guide (Hugo for the group I was in) and our group leader – either Ruben or Juan-Carlos.

We paddled slowly up Anangu Creek that leads to the lake that Napo Wildlife Centre sits on. Highlights were a fairly confiding Agami Heron, raucous Black-Capped Donacobius families and White-Chinned Jacamar. The most unusual thing we saw was definitely a Fer-De-Lance snake curled up in a bush, sleeping off a meal.

We were greeted with refreshing cold juice (as we were every time we returned to Napo Wildlife Centre). We adjourned to the dining room/bar and were allocated our rooms. We had an introductory talk about the history of Napo Wildlife Centre and Yasuni National Park and were told about the excursions that we would make over the coming days.

Time to freshen up and then dinner, and were we surprised at both the quantity and quality of the food. This was a recurring theme throughout the tour, we ate well and often! Even we vegetarians had nothing to complain about. It was such a change from the usual South American vegetarian diet of either rice and beans or beans and rice. After dinner it was off to bed for the early start the following day.

## Day 3

Friday 17th October

Most of us started the day at 0600 by going up to the viewing platform above the dining room to see what was about. There was little chance of sleeping in as the Russet-Backed Oropendolas were being raucous! We were happy to see that the Golden-Mantled Tamarins and the Red Titi Monkeys were having breakfast in the trees in the grounds and various tanagers and flycatchers were about.

After a large breakfast at 0730 our group went out on the canoe back down Anangu Creek with the plan of going for a walk on a trail. However the White-Fronted Capuchins were near the Creek and the walk was abandoned in favour of slowly paddling along. Both Silvered and Dot-Backed Antbirds came to check out the tourists. Our Fer-De-Lance was still in the same place but was easier to photograph this time as it seemed more awake. A Chestnut-Capped Puffbird caused Ruben some excitement – a lifer for the leader! On the way back to base we disturbed a Convict Tree-Frog from its slumbers and had brief views of an Azure Gallinule. In the lake we were surprised by a very loud “slapping” sound – the Red Dragonfish making it known that we were in his territory. These are apparently huge – up to 250 kgs (if memory serves me correctly) and live up to 25 years.

Back to base for lunch and time for a rest and in the afternoon our first trip to the Canopy Tower. This involves a canoe over the lake (en route we were able to get close to the roosting Long-Nosed Bats). We then walked through the Igapo-type forest (regularly flooded by black water). The trail was fairly quiet although we did see the Tawny-Bellied Screech Owl in its roost and both an Amazon Forest Dragon and an Ucayali Rocket Frog.

Unlike many other canopy towers this one is accessed by an enclosed metal staircase (with 207 steps I am reliably informed). The actual platform is large and held the group with plenty of room to spare. It is forty metres up in the crown of a kapok tree and affords panoramic views of the forest. We had (distant) views of a number of birds including White-Browed Purpletuff and we were visited by both a Bare-Necked Fruit Crow and Green Honeycreeper. We had a very distant Brown-Throated Three-Toed Sloth but very close Amazon Anole and a Tropicurus Lizard. On the canoe trip over the lake we could see the Black Caiman in the lake. Once at Napo Wildlife Centre time for a shower and then another great meal. And another early night!

## Day 4

Saturday 18th October

Up at 0500 again for a 0530 breakfast and off to the Canopy Tower. The birds were pretty similar as the previous morning with the exception of a Horned Screamer fly-past. Descending to the case again brought a sighting of Jacamar (Purplish and Yellow-Billed). On the trail back the only Green Acouchy of the trip darted across the path. Although mammals were light this morning there were a number of different lizards seen.

At lunchtime the Golden-Mantled Tamarins were in the grounds again. In the afternoon we headed off on a different trail but it was very quiet. We went out spotlighting on the lake and were able to get very close to the resident Black Caiman.

Today was Cat's birthday so we decided to honour her wishes and not make a fuss – so we had a BIG cake and a round of “Happy Birthday.”

## Day 5

## Sunday 19th October

Another 0500 start and we were off on the canoe up Ananyu Creek to see if we could find the monkeys that the other three had been seeing the day before but no luck. There were a good few birds about though. We clambered off the canoe just as the rain started. Heading off on Tiputini Trail we were hoping to come across Spider and Woolly Monkeys. Things did not start too well when I chose to step off a “bridge” to the right and ended up thigh deep in mud. Joy! The rain got heavier and the trail was very quiet apart from a couple of antbirds. Ruben managed to find us some tent making bats that I think were Brown Tent-making Bat *Uroderma magnirostrum*. We gave up after reaching another crossing when the tree trunk made some rather scary creaking/cracking sounds. So we traipsed back to the canoe, glad of our ponchos and wellies. On Ananyu Creek we met the Squirrel Monkeys and White-Fronted Capuchins and had pretty good views. Back to the Lodge and the weather improved and we were able to enjoy the viewing tower in camp. We saw Red Howlers (although quite far away) and had a pair of Roadside Hawks displaying.

After lunch the shouts went up as the Golden-Mantled Tamarins were in the camp and low down. They had been accompanied by the Red Titi monkeys too but unfortunately we missed them. No sooner had we dashed to the trees where the monkeys were when the cry of “Giant Otter” went up. A pair of otters were on the lake and we all managed to get at least brief views. Somewhat buoyed up by the mammal extravaganza we set off down Ananyu Creek again. This afternoon we had great close views of the White-Fronted Capuchins. As night fell we made our way to the clump of trees where the Noisy Night Monkeys rest up. We had a very brief glimpse of them as they woke up, darted out of cover and melted into the night. We also had good and very close views of the Greater Bulldog (Fishing) Bats on the creek.

## Day 6

## Monday 20th October

Amazingly it was our last full day at Napo already. Not surprisingly another very early breakfast and then all nine of us headed down the Ananyu Creek towards the reception centre with the plan of visiting both parrot licks. We swapped into one larger canoe and set off up the Napo River for a short distance before pulling in to land. A short walk along a paved path and we were there.

We all had a good look at a bat that had decided to roost in the hide (it was identified as Lesser Dog-Like Sac-Winged Bat). We could hear lots of Dusky-Headed Parakeets but they seemed nervous about alighting on the

lick. We soon found out why as a Tiny Hawk scattered the parakeets. Eventually they settled down and one by one landed to eat clay. The numbers increased and they were joined by Blue-Headed Parrots.

We set off again for the second parrot lick. This was slightly further back from the river and the path more up and down with many steps. We could hear the Cobalt-Winged Parakeets from a distance but again they seemed unsettled and took a long time to start to land. They were soon being bossed about by Scarlet-Shouldered Parrotlets and Orange-Cheeked Parrots arrived too. Many photos, and a packed lunch later we set off again for the reception centre. We headed across the Creek first to try and find the Pygmy Marmosets. Not an easy task to find a tiny primate that is up an enormous tree. Most of the group managed to see them, however briefly, and most of us headed back to the reception centre for lunch. Another hearty meal later, some of us headed off for some shopping at the craft shop where we were amazed at the detailed and exact carvings of local birds and we were also quite taken with the jewellery and pottery. Others chose the lying in a hammock option!

We went back to see if the Pygmy Marmosets were any lower down but they had decided to stay up high. After a bit of a struggle the whole group managed at least a brief view of the smallest monkey. We headed back to the reception centre briefly for cold drinks and then got into our canoes to head back to camp. We had the usual birds and then a Brown-Throated Three-Toed Sloth in a cecropia tree overhanging the creek. It was surprisingly hard to see depending on the angle one was looking at it from and where in the canoe one was sitting. However, after a bit of forward and back we all had good views of it. We spotted Monk Saki monkeys shortly afterwards in the forks of a couple of trees.

## Day 7

**Tuesday 21st October**

Last morning at Napo Wildlife Centre and the wildlife turned out to see us off (apart from Stephen who had chosen to spend an extra night at Napo rather than return with us to Quito and Bellavista). We had Golden-Mantled Tamarins and Squirrel Monkeys and then as we got into the canoes Giant Otters swam past too. The trip down Ananyu Creek went very quickly and all too soon we were on the big boat back to Coca. We had brief views of more Monk Saki monkeys and a range of birds including Amazon Kingfisher, both Large-Billed and Yellow-Billed Terns and a number of swallows and martins. We also saw the only Swallow-Tailed Kite of the trip.

Once at Coca we transferred to the airport and flew back to Quito where we transferred to the Embassy hotel again. Most of us decided to try and find the craft market that was apparently not too far away. After a bit of a struggle and some help from a very nice pair of young ladies from a tourist information office we found it and bought a fair bit! Most of us again chose to eat in the hotel...

## Day 8

**Wednesday 22nd October**

The plan today was to get out of Quito and head for Bellavista, a lodge on the Western slope of the Andes. The bus trip to the end of the road took about an hour and the scenery was pleasant.

First stop on the Mindo road was busy with birds and a local hacienda owner (from Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve) offered us the opportunity to look around his land and hummingbird feeders for \$1 each. Most of us agreed to this and spent an hour and a bit being captivated by the sheer number of different species and individual birds. We had our only Western Emerald and Amazilia Hummingbirds here in addition to introducing

us to the species that we would get used to at Bellavista such as Streaked Hummingbird, Purple-Throated Woodstar and Buff-Tailed Coronet. A walk through the gardens and down along to river gave us more new birds including a female Andean Cock of the Rock of a nest under the bridge and the only Lesser Goldfinch of the trip. We were also introduced to the tanagers – Silver-Throated, Golden, Lemon-Rumped, Metallic Green etc.

Reluctantly leaving the hacienda we headed upwards towards Bellavista. We managed to scare up a Red-Tailed Squirrel in addition to seeing our first White-Capped Dipper. We arrived at Bellavista for lunch and passed time at the hummingbird feeders there too. We also met the resident Masked Trogons.

We meandered up the road from Bellavista searching for the Plate-Billed Mountain Toucan and managed to see this great bird before the main group had to head back to Quito (and the end of the official Naturetrek tour). Sad goodbyes were said and then we were four.

We met our new guide Norby Lopez and our driver Nestor. We set off uphill again and heard Ocellated Tapaculo but settled for a bold Spillman's Tapaculo that decided to cross the road just in front of us. We made a vain attempt to see the Lyre-Tailed Nightjar that apparently haunts one of the local roads before returning to Bellavista for dinner and then a shower and bed. The accommodation at Bellavista was good. Two of us were in the "German" house – very nice rooms with a private balcony. The other two were above the shop with a nice view of the mountains.

## Day 9

## Thursday 23rd October

Today set the tone for the stay at Bellavista. Up at 0400! We left at 0430, and headed to Angel Paz' place, Paz de Las Aves. This amazing man and his brother have formed relationships with a number of different individuals of several species of antpitta. We started off at the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek but the birds were not especially keen to perform although we had good views. The Sickle-Winged Guan's appearance was a surprise and it transpired that they come to feeders so great photos all round. Next we followed Angel Paz and he called for Maria (the Giant Antpitta) who appeared up a tree (confused those of us who expected her to be on the ground). Clearly used to the public she posed well for photos. Next up, Willie (or Wilhelmina to give her full name) was the Yellow-Breasted Antpitta. She was down at the bottom of the trail so many steps down and back but again a sterling performance and more photos. Finally came Susan, the Moustached Antpitta, clearly much shyer than the others and therefore less good views and photos but no complaints.

En route for breakfast we passed their hummingbird feeders. More new hummers, more photos, more confusion! We saw a number of different species including Brown Inca, Violet-Tailed Sylph, Empress Brilliant, and Velvet-Purple Coronet. Breakfast was served al fresco and was great! Off for a post-breakfast walk along the road and turned up a number of good birds including Toucan Barbet, Golden-Headed Quetzal (if far off), and Orange-Breasted Fruiteater.

We then headed for Mindo Lomo where we had our packed lunch, despite being distracted by a Black-and-White Owl chick in the garden. The plan was to see the Hoary Puffleg, a fairly non-descript small hummingbird with a limited distribution. This involved several potentially nasty crossings of streams using very slippery rocks but Norby and Patricio (our Mindo Lomo guide) ensured our safety and Patricio spotted the bird and we all had fairly nice views of it. We also spotted a Wedge-Billed Hummingbird too. Leaving Mindo Lomo, we headed back

up the road to Bellavista but it was fairly quiet. Of course at Bellavista we had to spend time at the feeders and with our trogons.

## Day 10

Friday 24th October

So up again at 0400 and off at 0430! Today we were off to Silanche, much lower than Bellavista with different birds. We stopped at a bridge where we had a party of three Buff-Rumped Warblers in the mist. Sadly the mist stayed with us at Silanche making it difficult to see clearly from the canopy tower (so we ate breakfast instead). We did see Pale-Mandibled Aracari and Masked Tityra before setting off for a walk along the trails. We had distant Bat Falcon but much closer Slaty Spinetails. Walking on we came across a number of mixed flocks including various tanagers and woodcreepers. We then came to an area where there appeared to have been army ants and we could hear Esmeraldas Antbird but it proved extremely elusive. We managed to identify both Bicoloured and Immaculate Antbird before a couple of us eventually glimpsed the Esmeraldas. The cloud had lifted by the time we got back to the canopy tower but the birds had also left for the day!

So off for lunch at the Mirador Rio Blanco in San Miguel de Los Blancos. We had to eat outside away from the feeders as the place was full of volunteers in local environmental projects. The feeders were situated on the terrace that had an amazing view over a deep valley. The feeders attracted good hummingbirds – especially Green Thorntail and Green-Crowned Brilliant.

After lunch we set off for Milpe, another reserve at a lower elevation. We had hoped to track down manakins and heard them but did not get a look at any (bar one darting Golden-Winged Manakin –blink and miss it!). Again we walked the trail keeping a watchful eye on the gathering clouds. We did manage to catch up with Dark-Billed Scythebill, Red-Faced Spinetail, Uniform Treehaunter, and Common Bush Tanager.

## Day 11

Saturday 25th October

Up at 0400 and out at 0430 walking the road above Bellavista on a nice sunny morning with good views of Pichincha Volcano. We managed finally to attract an Ocellated Tapaculo. Much easier to see were the Plate-Billed Mountain Toucans and the Green-and-Black Fruiteater. We had good views of the rear end of a Red-Crested Cotinga too.

We walked along to the research station but again the birds were quiet so we elected to head back to Bellavista for coffee and the chance to see it in daylight properly. This turned out to be a great call and there were many more birds in the grounds! In quick succession we had Southern Yellow Grosbeak, Masked Trogons, Golden-Rumped Euphonia, Rufous-Naped Brushfinch, Blue-Winged Mountain Tanager and Red-Tailed Squirrel.

After lunch at the lodge we headed off to Tony and Barbara Munn's garden. We were expected and spent a very pleasant few hours watching a variety of hummingbirds and tanagers from the deck whilst having coffee and biscuits. We even managed to drag ourselves around the trail in the extensively replanted garden. The main aim was to see the Green-Tailed Trainbearer which was tricky as it was not keen to stay still at all. Booted Racket-Tail was also easily seen though.

We returned to Bellavista via Tandayapa Village where some of us briefly saw the Lyre-Tailed Nightjar. After dinner we went off to the composting area to try and find an armadillo but no such luck. I am beginning to think that armadillos are mythical!

## Day 12

Sunday 26th October

Last day at Bellavista, so no surprise to be up at 0400 and setting off down the hill to Tandayapa Village again to try and get a decent look at the Lyre-Tailed Nightjar. The rest of the morning was spent leisurely working our way back to Bellavista. Again the road was fairly quiet and we dipped on the White-Faced Nunbird but we did see the usual suspects – Red-Headed Barbet, Montane Woodcreeper, and various tanagers and euphonias.

Back at Bellavista we had to say our goodbyes not only to Norby but to Sue and Jeff as they were heading back to the UK. Cat and I set off with our new guide Rudy, an American living in Ecuador. We headed straight through Quito and started to ascend the Papalleta Pass. We stopped to have our lunch on the Western side at a spot where Black-Tailed Trainbearer could be found. Fortunately it proved easy to see and was accompanied by Band-Tailed Seedeater and Black-Chested Buzzard Eagle. The weather held as we ascended the Pass and drove off towards the antennae. We managed to get some decent scenery shots before the rain came in. Of course this did not stop us looking for mammals and birds - we did see Brazilian Rabbit and White-Tailed Deer along with Andean Tufted Tit-Spinetail, Many-Striped Canastero and Tawny Antpitta. We searched for the speciality hummingbirds without success but did find Puna Ground-Tyrant and both Bar-Winged and Stout-Billed Cinclodes.

We arrived at San Isidro and settled into our rooms before another great meal. We managed to see the Rufous-Banded Owl but not the “San Isidro Owl” – an owl of uncertain status – is it a new species or merely a subspecies???

## Day 13

Monday 27th October

Today we started late – 0530! After breakfast we planned to walk along to road to the research station. However, the birding was so good just outside the dining room that it took us quite a long time to reach the car park! We had Subtropical Cacique, Inca Jay, Pale-Edged Flycatcher, Rufous-Crested Tody-Flycatcher and Grey-Breasted Woodwren amongst a host of birds and then a very close Chestnut-Crowned Antpitta.

Eventually we were dragged off the walk the 2 km or so to Yanayacu Research Station. The road meanders gently downhill and Rudy knew it well – including the composition of the flocks that hold territories there. We were lucky and had several flocks with a lot of new birds including Plushcap, Flame-Faced Tanager, Oleaginous and Black-Eared Hemispingus, White-Tailed Hillstar and Rufous Wren.

As Rudy worked at Yanayacu Research Station we were warmly welcomed by the researchers and rested awhile but kept a very close eye on the Dobson Fly - a mammoth insect with very nasty looking pincers. We stayed so long we had to walk briskly back to make it in time for lunch – and you do not want to miss any meals at San Isidro!

After a siesta we set off on the Cock-of-the-Rock trail. This ended with a fairly steep descent to the Cosanga River and of course meant a steep climb out! The birds were fairly quiet but we did manage to see White-Throated Quail-Dove, Common Bush Tanager and Yellow-Whiskered Bush-Tanager amongst others.

After dinner Rudy brought us a present – a caecilian (worm-like amphibian) in a wellington boot! He also had tracked down the “San Isidro Owl” but it really does not like the spotlight – hence I have a great picture of the back of its head!

## Day 14

Tuesday 28th October

Another day started with a lot of birds in the gardens making it difficult to leave! We had a long trek today – starting on the Macucoloma Trail before heading down the Pumayacu Trail and then heading up to Yanayacu Research Station before walking along the road back to San Isidro. We had unusual birds – Spotted Barbtail, Equatorial Rufous-Vented Tapaculo, and, FINALLY, after having some very close and loudly-calling birds the most fleeting of glimpses of a White-Bellied Antpitta. As we walked on the flycatchers came to the fore – Marble-Faced Bristle-Tyrant, Slaty-Backed Chat-Tyrant, and Flavescent Flycatcher amongst them. At Yanayacu Research Station Rudy spotted a White-Rumped Hawk that appeared to be in nesting mode. We also finally managed to get on a Barred Becard.

That afternoon we had asked Rudy to see if we could visit Cerro Azul – a privately owned large patch of forest that apparently has Mountain Tapir that are often seen. Sadly we could not get access (big loud dogs) but we did pick up Torrent Duck and Smoky Bush-Tyrant. Best of all though we managed to surprise an *Oncilla* on the road back to San Isidro!

## Day 15

Wednesday 29th October

Today we bade farewell to San Isidro and headed for Wildsumaco. We stopped to walk the Guacamayas Ridge Trail first as there was a good chance of woolly monkeys at the 4th kilometre. The trail basically heads downhill all the way and of course then uphill all the way back. We started off well with Black-Capped Hemispingus and Rufous-Bellied Nighthawk before we even started walking. Bird of the descent was definitely the Chestnut-Breasted Wren – it has the most haunting song I have ever heard AND it showed well. Bush-tanagers and flycatchers were also present. Sadly we reached the 4 km point without any sign of Woolly Monkeys but there were a lot of birds about including Flame-Faced, Vermilion, Summer, Rufous-Crested, and Saffron-Crowned Tanagers and Spectacled Bristletail. Half way back up the trail the rain started so cameras away. Of course then the really unusual birds appeared – like the pair of Barred Ant-Thrushes that seemed totally unconcerned that we were there, even letting me get my camera out and manage to get a photo or two. The Black-Streaked Puffbird that was nest-building caused Rudy a great deal of excitement and again the bird happily posed for photos.

Once dried off and lunch eaten we set off on the three hour or so trip. We skirted Sumaco National Park and spent a while queuing at roadworks as the road from Quito to the Amazon was being resurfaced. Our trip was uneventful other than screeching to a halt because Rudy had heard Black-Mantled Tamarins at the roadside...nother mammal and one that was totally unexpected by us.

Wildsumaco is a relatively new lodge and we had it to ourselves for the first two nights. There are a dozen or so rooms on either side of a central dining area/bar that has a deck overlooking a valley and four different volcanoes. We decided that we would pass the rest of the afternoon watching the birds from the deck whilst drinking the best coffee of the trip. Paradise and Magpie Tanagers and Black-Mandibled Toucans were amongst the highlights.

## Day 16

Thursday 30th October

A civilised start to the day and then off on the Laniisoma Trail. This turned out to be a very long trail with many steep parts and a huge number of steps but sadly relatively few birds after the first large fruiting tree (Gold-Collared Toucanet, Scarlet Tanager, and White-Backed Fire-Eye). At the end we rested up and did see an Amazonian Dwarf Squirrel and a Slate-Coloured Grosbeak and a Blue-Fronted Lancebill. On the way back up we had Short-Tailed Ant-Thrush, White-Crowned Manakin and Chestnut-Tipped Toucanet.

After lunch we decided that we would go to the hummingbird feeders rather than take another trail. We had a number of new hummingbirds including Ecuadorian Piedtail, Black-Throated Brilliant, Many-Spotted Hummingbird and Golden-Tailed Sapphire. In the nearby scrub there were a number of good birds too - White-Winged Becard, Ornate Antwren, Lined Antshrike, and Lafresnaye's Piculet. To finish the day we tracked down the Great Potoo and saw it fly – they are MUCH bigger in flight than when they are roosting!

## Day 17

Friday 31st October

Up at 0500 today and breakfast at 0530. Today we started on the deck again before moving to the road. Scale-Crested Pygmy Tyrant and Coppery-Chested Jacamar were the stand-out birds of the morning but we should have been more excited about the Olivaceous and Rusty-Naped Greenlets. The Plain-Backed Antpitta put up a great fight but after fighting my way into the undergrowth I got a brief look (Cat having seen it earlier). We passed an hour or so at the feeders again and saw more Black-Mantled Tamarins and the Pleasing Fungus Beetle (easily winning the best name of the trip).

After lunch we chose to walk the Manikin Trail (no manikins seen) but we did scare up a Chestnut-Crowned Gnat-Eater and a Northern White-Crowned Tapaculo. As dusk fell we again had the Great Potoo in flight – like a ghostly 747. After much calling and searching in the gloom we finally tracked down the Band-Bellied Owl and felt able to retire gracefully to the lodge for dinner.

## Day 18

Saturday 1st November

Our last morning at Wildsumaco, so we decided to go for it and do the Piha Trail. The day was clear and we were able to see Antisana, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo volcanoes from the deck. We quickly got the first of the birds we really wanted – the White-Tipped Sicklebill at its Heliconia flower.

The trail had a number of new birds including Foothill Antwren, Golden-Winged Tody-Flycatcher, Scale-Backed Antbird, and Olive-Sided Flycatcher. After an early lunch we bade farewell to Bonnie and Jim (co-owners of Wildsumaco) and set off for Guango, giving Jonas (the other co-owner) a lift most of the way. We made a few stops to search for Cliff Flycatcher (successful) and Black Nightjar (not successful). As we headed up towards Guacamayas Ridge again a Tayra shot across the road in front of the vehicle and fortunately we all had a good

look! Arriving at Guango we were faced with another lot of new hummingbirds to get to grips with. The Sword-Billed was clearly the easiest but we were soon getting the hang of the Tyrian Metaltail, Mountain Velvetbreast, Gorgetted and White-Throated Woodstars, Tourmaline Sunangel, and Buff-Winged Starfrontlet. Hummingbird identification is much easier with caffeine and biscuits! Guango is a small converted farmhouse and again we were the only guests!

## Day 19

## Sunday 2nd November

After breakfast we spent a little time with the hummingbirds and the Masked Flowerpiercers and Turquoise Jays before heading out for a short walk to try and find some of the more localised birds. Luck was with us and we managed to find a couple of flocks that included Slaty Brushfinch, Blue-Backed Conebill, Lacrimose Mountain Tanager, Hooded Mountain Tanager, Buff-Breasted Mountain Tanager and both Superciliated and Black-Capped Hemispingus. We also came across a Mountain Avocetbill. A short diversion to the river gave the best views of Torrent Duck and White-Capped Dippers of the trip and then it seemed like a good idea to return to the lodge for coffee as it was fairly cold.

After we had warmed up we set off in the other direction and managed to get hold of some Brushfinches – Pale-Naped, Salty and Striped. All too soon though it was time to load up the vehicle and head back over the Papallecta Pass to Quito. Rudy has a couple of surprises for us – we stopped at the hot springs where we picked up our 59th and 60th hummingbirds of the trip – Viridian Metaltail and Shining Sunbeam and two other ducks! The weather was against us so we headed straight for Quito with no detours. Rudy dropped us at the Hotel San Sebastian where we finished off the packing for home, had dinner and then bed.

## Day 20

## Monday 3rd November

All of this tour went according to plan, and sadly we had to leave for home ...we were collected from the hotel and headed off to the airport for our return journey.

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## Species Lists

### Mammals

**Key:** **N**-Napó, **BV**-Bellavista, **PP**-Papallecta, **SI**-San Isidro, **WS**-Wildsumaco, **G**-Guango

			<b>Locations (see key below)</b>
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	Common name	Scientific name	N	BV	PP	SI	WS	G
1	Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>	X					
2	Tapeti (Brazilian Rabbit)	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>			X		X	
3	Red-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>		X		X	X	
4	Northern Amazon Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus igniventris</i>	X				X	
5	Amazon Dwarf Squirrel	<i>Microsciurus flaviventer</i>					X	
6	Green Acouchi	<i>Myoprocta acouchy</i>	X					
7	Black Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta fuliginosa</i>				X		
8	Oncilla	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>				X		
9	Giant Otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>	X					
10	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>					X	
11	Proboscis (Long-Nosed) Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>	X					
12	Lesser Dog-like Bat	<i>Peropteryx macrotis</i>	X					
13	Greater Bulldog (Fishing) Bat	<i>Noctillo albiventris</i>	X					
14	Brown Tent-Making Bat	<i>Uroderma magnirostrum</i>	X					
15	Black-mantled Tamarin	<i>Saguinus nigricollis</i>					X	
16	Golden-mantled Tamarin	<i>Saguinus tripartitus</i>	X					
17	Pygmy Marmoset	<i>Callithrix pygmaea</i>	X					
18	Common Squirrel Monkey	<i>Saimiri sciurius</i>	X					
19	White-fronted Capuchin	<i>Cebus albifrons</i>	X					
20	Spix's (Noisy) Night Monkey	<i>Aotus vociferans</i>	X					
21	Red Titi	<i>Callicebus cupreus</i>	X					
22	Monk Saki	<i>Pithecia monachus</i>	X					
23	White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>			X			

### Birds (182 species recorded at Napo Wildlife Centre Ecuador)

Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Agami Heron	<i>Agamia agami</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>
Horned Screamer	<i>Anhima cornuta</i>
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes melambrotus</i>
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>
Slender-billed Kite	<i>Rostrhamus hamatus</i>
Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>
Tiny Hawk	<i>Accipiter superciliosus</i>
Slate-colored Hawk	<i>Leucopternis schistaceus</i>
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>
Ornate Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>
Black Caracara	<i>Daptrius ater</i>
Red-throated Caracara	<i>Ibycter americanus</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>
Speckled Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis guttata</i>
Common (Blue-throated) Piping Guan	<i>Pipile pipile</i>

Marbled Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus gujanensis</i>
Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
Grey-necked Wood Rail	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>
Azure Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio flavirostris</i>
Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>
Pied Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cayanus</i>
Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sterna supercilialis</i>
Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>
Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>
Blue-and-yellow Macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>
Red-bellied Macaw	<i>Orthopsittaca manilata</i>
Dusky-headed Parakeet	<i>Aratinga weddellii</i>
Maroon-tailed Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura melanura</i>
Cobalt-winged Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris cyanopectera</i>
Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet	<i>Touit huetii</i>
Black-headed Parrot	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i>
Orange-cheeked Parrot	<i>Pionopsitta barrabandi</i>
Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
Orange-winged Parrot	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>
Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
Little Cuckoo	<i>Piaya minuta</i>
Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops watsonii</i>
Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>
Common Potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
Ladder-tailed Nightjar	<i>Hydropsalis climacocerca</i>
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
Pale-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura egregia</i>
Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>
Fork-tailed Palm-Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>
Rufous-breasted Hermit	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>
Great-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis malaris</i>
Gray-breasted Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus largipennis</i>
Sparkling Violet-ear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>
Blue-tailed Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon mellisugus</i>
Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>
White-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>
Black-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon melanurus</i>
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquatus</i>
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>
American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>
White-eared Jacamar	<i>Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis</i>
Yellow-billed Jacamar	<i>Galbula albirostris</i>
White-chinned Jacamar	<i>Galbula tombacea</i>
Purplish Jacamar	<i>Galbula chalcothorax</i>

Great Jacamar	<i>Jacamerops aurea</i>
White-necked Puffbird	<i>Notharchus macrorhynchos</i>
Chestnut-capped Puffbird	<i>Bucco macrodactylus</i>
Black-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa nigrifrons</i>
White-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa morphoeus</i>
Swallow-wing	<i>Chelidoptera tenebrosa</i>
Scarlet-crowned Barbet	<i>Capito aurovirens</i>
Gilded Barbet	<i>Capito auratus</i>
Lemon-throated Barbet	<i>Eubucco richardsoni</i>
Lettered Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus inscriptus</i>
Ivory-billed Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus azara</i>
Many-banded Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus pluricinctus</i>
Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>
Red-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i>
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes cruentatus</i>
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
Spot-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes punctigula</i>
Scaly-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Celeus grammicus</i>
Chestnut Woodpecker	<i>Celeus elegans</i>
Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>
Plain-crowned Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis gujanensis</i>
Striped Woodhaunter	<i>Hyloctistes subulatus</i>
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>
Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrexetastes rufigula</i>
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>
Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>
Plain-winged Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus schistaceus</i>
Spot-winged Antshrike	<i>Pygiptila stellaris</i>
Long-winged Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula longipennis</i>
Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhophias quixensis</i>
Gray Antbird	<i>Cercomacra cinerascens</i>
Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>
Silvered Antbird	<i>Sclateria naevia</i>
Plumbeous Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza hyperythra</i>
Sooty Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza fortis</i>
Lunulated Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys lunulatus</i>
Dot-backed Antbird	<i>Hylophylax punctulatus</i>
Black-spotted Bare-eye	<i>Phlegopsis nigromaculata</i>
Black-faced Anthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>
White-browed Purpletuft	<i>Iodopleura isabellae</i>
Screaming Piha	<i>Lipaugus vociferans</i>
Plum-throated Cotinga	<i>Cotinga maynana</i>
Spangled Cotinga	<i>Cotinga cayana</i>
Bare-necked Fruitcrow	<i>Gymnoderus foetidus</i>
Gray Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis caniceps</i>
Golden-faced Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius chrysops</i>
Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Drab Water-Tyrant	<i>Ochthornis littoralis</i>
Cinnamon Attila	<i>Attila cinnamomeus</i>
Sirystes	<i>Sirystes sibilator</i>
Grayish Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>
Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Philohydor lictor</i>
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>

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Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Pink-throated Becard	<i>Pachyrhamphus minor</i>
Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>
Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>
Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>
White-banded Swallow	<i>Atticora fasciata</i>
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>
Thrush-like Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus turdinus</i>
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Black-billed Thrush	<i>Turdus ignobilis</i>
Blue-crowned Manakin	<i>Pipra coronata</i>
Violaceous Jay	<i>Cyanocorax violaceus</i>
Gray-headed Tanager	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>
Masked Crimson Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus nigrogularis</i>
Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Thick-billed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia laniirostris</i>
White-lored Euphonia	<i>Euphonia chrysopasta</i>
Orange-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
Rufous-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia rufiventris</i>
Black-faced Dacnis	<i>Dacnis lineata</i>
Yellow-bellied Dacnis	<i>Dacnis flaviventer</i>
Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Opal-rumped Tanager	<i>Tangara velia</i>
Masked Tanager	<i>Tangara nigrocincta</i>
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>
Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>
Swallow-Tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>
Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
Moriche Oriole	<i>Icterus chryscephalus</i>
Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>
Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
Russet-backed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius angustifrons</i>
Oriole Blackbird	<i>Gymnomystax mexicanus</i>
Velvet-fronted Grackle	<i>Lamprosar tanagrinus</i>