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All photos taken by the author and all maps drawn by the author. If you wish to use any photos for whatever reason, please contact me.
During the year 2003 I made a year-long trip to Ecuador and Peru. The main objective was to see as many birds as possible. In order to achieve this I started off with 10 weeks of Spanish lessons to be able to speak and understand while travelling. I also bought myself a car, a jeep Chevrolet Blazer -94. It is obviously more convenient to have your own transport instead of travelling with public transport (which is possible).

For Peru, see a separate report.

In late 2001 I read an article in a Swedish newspaper about studying Spanish in Ecuador. I know a few people who have done that and it sounded like a good idea to me as well, specially since some of the Spanish schools were listed in the newspaper with some information, one being “...is one of the oldest schools in Quito and offers lessons in other parts of the country like Mindo...” Mindo happens to be one of the hot-spots for birdwatching in Ecuador and South America and thus a perfect place for Spanish lessons combined with birding. The Equinocclial Spanish School was happy to welcome me to Mindo for ten weeks. During 2002 I started to plan things more seriously and in late summer I sold my apartment and moved out by Christmas, in the later part of the year I also resigned from my job. Several CDs and books were bought and I gathered several trip reports and could plan things more thoroughly. As I had only been to South America twice before, four weeks in Bolivia in December 1998 and two weeks in Venezuela in June 2000, there was obviously a lot to learn.

This report contains the 1012 species I saw and/or heard during six and a half months in Ecuador. Out of this I spent a total of 11 weeks in Mindo, mainly for taking Spanish lessons combined with birding. Obviously if you let out a hard-core, well-equipped birdwatcher for such a long time in such a bird-rich country, you will come across some rare birds and you will find some out-of-range birds, mainly in altitude. The general rule in South America is that you don’t get anything accepted unless you have a specimen, a photo or a tape-recording or if you should happen to be a well-known name in this part of the world. I use a Leica telescope and a Nikon CoolPix 995 camera, commonly called digiscoping. This works fairly well in open country but is useless inside forests. All the species that I have taken pictures of are included here. Due to the number of pictures included here I had to reduce the resolution heavily and the pictures therefore appears as low resolution. I also have a MiniDisc and microphone and I have made a lot of recordings, over 600 in total for Ecuador and Peru. All of them have been revised by Jonas Nilsson who has identified some, corrected a few and approved the rest. With each rare or scarce species that I have recordings of, I have written this in the report. Most of the good birds are, however, undocumented and will probably not appear in any official publications. To readers of this report I can only say - take it or leave it!

Roger Ahlman - Värnamo jan -04
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View from the canopy tower at Yarina lodge
**General information**

Travelling in Ecuador is generally easy, regardless if you’re doing it by public transport or with your own car. When enter the country you get a three months tourist visa which can be extended by leaving the country and go back again. As I was going to stay longer in Ecuador I opted for having a longer visa straight away and I got a six months visa from the consulate in Gothenburg short before I left Sweden. It was a bit expensive but I didn’t want to leave Ecuador almost straight after my ten weeks in Mindo.

In Quito and some touristy places you can find the odd person who speaks English otherwise noone speaks anything but Spanish and in some parts also quechua, which is completely different. If you want to travel in more remote parts or a bit more hazel-free, you’ll have to learn some Spanish.

The currency in Ecuador is US dollars since a few years back. The price-level is low compared to Sweden, and it got progressively cheaper while I was there because the dollar got weaker to the Swedish crone. Ex. A gallon of petrol cost 2 $ for the best petrol or 1.5 $ for a not so good. In Sweden you pay about 5 $ for a gallon. Beer is 1$ in Mindo (67 cl) compared to 6$ in Sweden etc...

**Birding in Ecuador**

Ecuador is very nice and convenient country to bird. The number of species available, about 1600, the small size, the variety of different habitats and in many places good infrastructure for birders with lodges, trails and hummingbird-feeders, all this makes for a rewarding birding holiday regardless if you’re going for a couple of weeks or for several months. Since 2001 there is a very good, brand new fieldguide for Ecuador and in 2000 a guide to where to watch birds in Ecuador was published, add to this a good number of trip-reports available on the internet and birding in Ecuador is now relatively easy. For those who wishes there are several bird-guides and tour-companies in Ecuador that makes the birding more efficient and convenient with longer lists - and more expensive.

In may 2003 a mailing-list about birds and birding in Ecuador started. The name is Aves_Ecuador. To subscribe send an empty mail to Aves_Ecuador@gruposyahoo.com Main language is Spanish even if English is sometimes used as well.

For more info about books, CDs and guides, see the Reference section.

**Weather and Timing**

Even though Ecuador is rather small there are great differences in the weather and the topography and naturally the birdlife as well. I didn’t know much about where to go when, so I miss-timed several sites. The southern, dry parts are important to visit during the rainy season (dec-march) and not june and october when I was there. I did however not have any rain but birdactivity was very low. I visited several east slope sites in april-may and had rain and fog pretty much all the time with only short glimpses of clear weather. In Peru I was on the east slope in july-sept and had fair weather so this time is probably better on the east slope. The northwest slope and the lowlands of northwest (Esmeraldas) are very wet with drier conditions during june-sept. I was in Mindo (west slope) in february-march and had rain pretty much every day, mostly in the afternoon-evening so it didn’t interfere to much with birding. When I was back in Mindo in late october and middle of december, the weather was much drier. The higher parts of the Andes are as always in the mountains, you can have any weather and it changes rapidly. Papallacta pass has a bad reputation in this respect. This site is often covered in fog and light drizzle and, as it is on 4000 m, it is obviously cold. Yanacocha on the north slope of Pichincha just outside Quito is often clear early in the morning but by lunch the site is often covered in clouds and birding is difficult. The Andes are divided into two ridges with a high altitude valley in between. This is the dry interandean valley. In some of the drier parts the landscape bears a resemblance to Africa with acacias and dry scrub. It is in this valley that many cities are situated like Quito, Otavalo, Ibarra etc. Many birding sites are at high altitudes like the above mentioned Papallacta but also even higher at Cotopaxi, which is the highest active volcano in the world. Altitude sickness is a possibility here and these sites should not be visited during the first days. Generally you don’t need to visit sites higher than 4000 metres or slightly higher with Rufous-bellied seedsnipe and Ecuadorian hillstar being the species occurring at highest altitude of all Ecuadorian birds.

**Food and Drinks**

Food, drinks and accommodation is generally not a problem in Ecuador as everything is readily available. Tap water should be avoided and mineral water is available everywhere. Beer is also found without problems. The
most popular brand is Pilsener, also on offer is Bielsa and Club. Pilsener is cheapest and Club is the most
expensive but also the best. Other soft drinks are also available everywhere. A 70-cl bottle of Grant’s whiskey
cost 11-13$ and local vodka or rom, often with lemon flavour, was only 1$ for 35 cl and perfectly good!
In the bigger cities you can find all sorts of restaurants in all price ranges. In more rural areas you are often left
to smaller, local restaurants which often have just one or two things for lunch or dinner. You simply order an
“Almuerzo” which is lunch of the day. You get a big bowl of soup with big bits of all sorts of things. At one place
I got three chicken feet! The main course is often chicken or meat with rice, potatoes, pasta or yucca or a
combination. Sometimes you have two choices for main course. You also get a glass of juice or soft drink. The
juice is often fresh made of tree tomatoes. All this for 1.5-2$. The dinner, or “Merienda”, is often the same. The
lunch and dinner in the rural areas is nothing you will remember as one of your better meals but they are
perfectly all right and considering the price it is very good value for money. The good thing with the soup is
that you get almost half a litre of warm liquid in your body, you sometimes tend to drink too little during the
day.
For breakfast I usually bought some bread and yogurt and ate it at the birding site. I also bought a steel thermos
in Quito and got hot water from hotels and restaurants so I could have hot coffee in the field as well.
Accommodation is also easily found. The prices ranges from 2.5$ in Valladolid to whatever you want in the
posh hotels in Quito or fancy lodges. In some places like in the lowland Amazonas you have no choice but
staying in lodges and they are generally expensive. Generally the standard and price goes hand-in-hand with
Hotels being most expensive and also best. Next step is Hostals which are slightly cheaper. Hospedajes are even
cheaper and at the bottom you’ll find Recidencials. These often charges only 3-5$ and don’t expect private
bathrooms or even clean bathrooms. Lita in the northwest and Valladolid in the very south don’t have any-
thing else.
Two other similar types of accommodation are the Lodges, which are often situated in reserves or at least in the
forest. They offer full board and nice accommodation in cabins. Mostly expensive. Hosterías are similar with
nice cabins and full board, generally cheaper but often found close to roads i.e., at Ambuqui in the north or
along the coast.
Breakfast is sometimes served but you normally want to be in the field by the time they start serving breakfast
so I rarely had breakfast in “hotels”.

Studying Spanish

Taking Spanish lessons in Ecuador is very popular and a good way to start a longer trip in South America. Most
people study for two-four weeks which in my opinion is too little. I studied for ten weeks which was just about
each to go through all of the grammar. This does necessarily not mean that I speak perfect Spanish! You
should learn a new language when you are 20 or 25 not older. I was 37 by the time I took lessons. The lessons
are often one-to-one classes for four hours a day five days a week. As I was the only student in Mindo I could
plan my lessons pretty much as I wanted. I was birding every day from about 6.30 to 11-12 and had lunch by
13h00 and classes from 14h00 to 18h00 and after that some homework. I was pretty exhausted every night,
special since birding was done by foot in the mountains around Mindo. I did learn enough to get by and I did
see a lot of birds. The school that offers lessons in Mindo, Puerto Lopez on the coast and in the jungle near
Tena and jatun Sacha is Equinoccial Spanish School, Reina Victoria 1325 y Lizardo Garcia, Quito. Tel 593-2-
529 460. www.ecudorspanish.com

I can highly recommend this school for anyone who wishes to take lessons in Ecuador. I had three
different teachers and they were all very nice. The staff at the school was also very nice and serviceminded and helped me with several things.

Buying a Car

As I was in South America for almost a year I opted for buying a car rather than renting one or going by public
transport. Renting a car for so long time is not an option and as I had 35 kg of equipment when I left Sweden
I didn’t want to carry around all that. Buying a car is obviously more expensive but it is much more convenient
and birding so much more efficient as well.

Buying a car is rather straighforward provided you have cash money. You can go to authorised car retailers or
retailers that sells used cars or you by on ads in newspapers. Originally I thought I should spend about 3-4000$ on a jeep, but I didn’t take me long to realise that I had to put up more money to get something decent. I looked
around a bit in Quito and found a jeep Chevrolet Blazer from 1994 with automatic gear and it felt like a good car for me, a bit big for one person but the safety is better in a bigger car and it was very nice to drive. When I should pay with my VISA card the didn’t accept it and wanted cash money so I went to the bank only to find out that I could only take out 1000$ per week! I simply had to open a bank account in Ecuador and transfer money from my bank in Sweden to Ecuador and then I could take out the 9000$ that I needed. It is also vital that you have a Matricula for the car. This is an A6 sized plastic card with all details about the car and it’s owner. Without that you’ll get nowhere. I had a lawyer to sort out all these things for me. The matricula is issued by the police. I had a Swedish driving licence which now is the same in all off the European union and this licence is good enough in Ecuador as well. I spoke with the Ecuadorian ambassador in Stockholm before I left Sweden and he assured me it was perfectly all right. A few police officers in Ecuador had some objections about my driving licence but I told them it was an international licence and they were happy with that.

Driving is on the right hand side of the road and the traffic is much more disorganized than in Sweden. You get used after a while. It is worse in Quito and Guayaquil. Road signs are generally scarce in Ecuador and you frequently have to ask for the way and you will drive the wrong way often. The road conditions are generally poor with paved roads with pot-holes and sudden patches without pavement. Some of the new roads are, however, very good like the road from Ibarra to San Lorenzo. The most annoying things are the buses, minibuses and taxis that drives just like they want and stops everywhere, even in the middle of crossroads. The bus drivers are a real danger when driving outside cities. They drive very fast and overtakes other vehicles everywhere, even in curves and just before a hilltop!

A FEW WORDS ABOUT QUITO

I came back to Quito several times and I also went here several times while buying the car. The neighbourhood around the streets Avenida Amazonas-Juan Leon Mera-Reina Victoria are commonly known as ‘Gringolandia’. It’s because a lot of tourists comes here. There are loads of hotels, bars, restaurants, internet-cafés, travel-agencies, Spanish schools and laundries around here. If you are travelling for a long time you will probably end up here sooner or later. I stayed at the nice Hostal Alcalá on Luiz Corrdero 1187 y Juan Leon Mera. For 13-16$ you get a private room and a big breakfast. For 6$ you can stay in a dormitory including breakfast. They also have a garage for one car which was good for me.

Nearby are all of the above mentioned services. One restaurant that I would like to single out is ‘Mi Viejo Arrabal’ which is an Argentinian restaurant on Juan Leon Mara y Foch. They have a very nice Filé Mignon for 6.95$. Just across the street from here is by far the most popular internet-café - the PapayaNet. If you like to surf or read/write mails in a rather tranquil environment, chose another place as it is rather noisy here.

On 28th February I went to see the show with Shakira at Estadio Atahualpa in Quito. A great show! Some 35 000 people at the stadium and one of the biggest events in Ecuador for years.

In December I also went to see a football-match in Quito during the Quito festival, which is the first week in December. I saw Deportivo Quito vs La Liga Universitaria. Deportivo won 1-0 after having been thoroughly outplayed and had one man sent off. La Liga went on to win the championship a few matches later.

MY EQUIPMENT

As I was going to spend such a long time travelling to see as many birds as possible I had to bring clothes for all situations. Apart from the most obvious clothes I had a pair of padded pants which was very nice in mornings...
and evenings at high altitude. I had rain-clothes which I didn’t use very much. They are actually only useful in the mountains otherwise it gets too hot, so in the lowlands I used an umbrella when it was raining.

My binoculars are Zeiss 7x45 and the telescope is a Leica APO Televid placed on a video-head and a Manfrotto tripod. Many people claims that scopes are not necessary in the tropics. This is of course wrong and untrue. While walking inside forests you don’t want to carry the scope but you are often birding roads and then scopes are invaluable for identifying treetop birds. There are of course the more obvious situations like sea-, shore- and wetland birding when you definitely want a scope. Try visiting a canopy tower without a scope! Also lodge clearings offers a good view of the surrounding forest and then a scopes is useful.

I have a MiniDisc, a small microphone and a small speaker for recording and play-backing sounds. This is an absolute necessity if you wish to see the skulkers. It is also good for identifying afterwards or for documenting what you hear. I had a GPS from Garmin which was brand new. There are several references in this report to coordinates that I took with my GPS. I had no reports from others with coordinates so my use was rather limited to reading the altitude, taking coordinates and using the compass. Disappointingly there are several functions that could be useful but the GPS’ have limitations. It needs an open sky to work which means you can’t have it in your rucksack because it turns itself off. It is difficult to use it in the car or inside dense forest and besides it eats batteries.

I used a digital camera from Nikon, CoolPix 995 and an adapter from Eagle-Eye. The zoom on the camera broke down in late march and got stuck on max optical zoom (x4) which doesn’t matter so much for digiscooping but is bad for taking general pictures of views, buildings and people.

For books and sounds, see references below.

REFERENCES

I used the following books etc:
• Ridgely and Greenfield 2001. The Birds of Ecuador. This new and very good book is in two thick volumes. Volume one deals with distribution, status and taxonomy and volume two is the fieldguide. Indispensable. The text in the fieldguide is excellent and the colour plates are good although not perfect. I recommend buying both volumes and not just the fieldguide volume.
• Ridgely and Tudor 1994. The birds of South America. I took digital photos of all plates in my books and printed them digitally in A5 size. This was a good complement for some birdgroups. The plates are very good in these two volumes. It would naturally be better to bring both books to have the text as well but they are big and heavy.
• Fjeldså and Krabbe 1990. Birds of the High Andes. I didn’t bring my copy of this landmark fieldguide, unfortunately. I came across it a couple of times and I used it for preparation. If you have space in your luggage, bring this book!
• Heijnen, Best and Williams 2000. Guide to Birdwatching in Ecuador and the Galapagos. This is a siteguide to Ecuador with lots of information about most major birding sites, where to stay, how to find the way, what birds to expect and many maps. Generally good but in many places heavily outdated, rather unnecessary as it is quite new. In some places it is erroneous. More about this book in the site accounts. The book is however indispensable.
• Green Brian 1992. Birding Ecuador 2nd edition 2002 update. This siteguide from 1992 is completely useless. Far to outdated in all respects. The 2002 update sounded good but was just a 27 page supplement. Most of the information there deals with name-changes and updates of checklists for various sites. The little other useful information can be found in recent trip reports (such as this one) found for free on the internet.
• Kevin Healeys travel map of Ecuador 3rd edition, scale 1:1000000. Not very good but OK. I could probably have found a better map in Quito. For bigger cities I got city maps which was mandatory in Quito and Guayaquil.
• All articles in Cotinga dealing with birds in Ecuador.
• Rheindt E Frank 2001. Ecuador trip report 25/5-21/8 2001. A very good report that I used a lot. Most of the information are still valid but in a few places outdated. I have many references to this report in my report.

I used the following sound collection:
In late December 2003 an new groundbreaking DVD was published. It contains mainly sounds, more than 6000! Almost all of them made by Niels Krabbe and Jonas Nilsson, although I contributed with some and also some photos. Unfortunately it only works on PC leaving us Mac-users behind. Can be ordered from Bird Songs International BV [www.birdsongs.com](http://www.birdsongs.com).

- Moore John V et al. The birds of Northwest Ecuador. Vocalizations from 190 species in the mid-elevation montane forest and upper foothills of northwestern Ecuador. A box with 3 CDs.
- Isler Phyllis R and Whitney Bret M 2002. Songs of the Antbirds. Songs of all antbirds in the world except a few that has not been recorded. A box of 3 CDs.

**Birdguides**

Several birdguides and birdtours are available in Ecuador. I don’t know about all of them a can only single out a few that I can recommend.

- If you want to have a top-class birdguide in Ecuador, I can strongly recommend Jonas Nilsson. He is Swedish and lives in Quito since about ten years. He has been working as a birdguide for many years in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. He is very good at birdsounds, he speaks Swedish, English and Spanish. For more info about prices etc he can be contacted at birdbolivia@hotmail.com or by phone +593-2-24 02 14.
- Danni and Nolberto Jumbo in Mindo. Danni was my “guide” in Mindo provided by the school. He didn't know anything about birds when I came but he was with me every day for ten weeks and got interested and keen to learn so in the end he was quite good in identifying birds even the more tricky ones like woodcreepers and foliage-gleaners. When I left he continued to bird on his own and in November he was working as a birdguide at el Monte lodge near Mindo. When I was back in Mindo for a week in December I birded with him for a week and he was very skillful by now. I can recommend him as a low-budget birdguide for the Mindo area. His brother Nolberto knows even more about the birds around Mindo and he can likewise be used as a birdguide there. He can also take you to a good Cock-of-the-Rock lek near Mindo which has about 20 males and is easy to get to. For directions see the Mindo section.
- Jaime at Yuturi lodge along río Napo. He has been working at Yuturi lodge for 14 years and knows the birds and where to find them around Yuturi. I had his services for two and a half days in early December and I was very satisfied. The Yuturi lodge has a big asset in Jaime, it is also situated in a great forest with trails and a good lodge. It is also one of the cheapest lodges in Ecuador which makes this lodge a perfect place for a birdwatcher. When signing up for a trip to Yuturi, make sure to tell the agency that you are birdwatchers and that you want their birdwatchers program and particularly Jaime as your guide.

**Layout for this report**

As I spent six and a half months in Ecuador visiting virtually every part of Ecuador including some parts that are not frequently visited by birders and most readers of this report are not likely to do the same in one trip, I have divided the report in geographical regions. A potential visitor to Ecuador on a two-week trip are likely to visit only two regions and instead of having all 1012 species that I saw to bother with, you’ll only have the birds that I saw in that particular region.

The Mindo area has got a section of it’s own since I spent a considerable time here and that section is more thorough than the others. The Bellavista section could very well have been included in the Mindo section but it has got a section of it’s own. Milpe road is rather close to Mindo, about 20 kms, and could have been included there as well but the birds are rather different and it has been included in the Northwestern lowlands and foothills.

I used the new Guide to Birdwatching in Ecuador from 2000 by Heijnen, Best and Williams, hereafter called Heijnen et al. I also used the trip report by Frank Rheindt who made a three month trip by public transport in 2001 and made a very good report. The Guide to Birdwatching in Ecuador is referred to in his report as Heijnen et al. and, for convenient reasons, I follow that. Heijnen et al. contains several errors and is heavily outdated in many respects and thus I have many references to that book, both good and bad. I also have many references to Frank Rheindts report as well.
Over the next pages I will explain how I have divided the country and which sites can be found where.

In the beginning of each chapter I will deal more in detail with each site and at the bottom of each site you can see how much time and when I was at each site. There are differences over the year even in the tropics so visiting a site at a different time of the year means that you will see different birds and numbers.

Generally I have put all or most of the pictures at the end of each chapter so anyone who wishes to use the report in the field can choose to print just the text and leave the pictures out.
**Northwestern Lowlands and Foothills**

This section deals with the sites in the northwestern lowlands, called the Chocó region. The sites are all situated below 1000 masl. Mindo could have been included here but as I spend about 11 weeks in Mindo I have put that site on a separate account, and it is in the upper tropical/lower subtropical zone.

Sites included here are San Lorenzo and Lita in Esmeraldas, Milpe road and km 106.5 near los Bancos (and Mindo) and rio Silanche near Pedro Vicente Maldonado and rio Palenque south of Santo Domingo.

**Mindo and Bellavista**

These sites are close to each other and just two hours west of Quito. Mindo village is situated at 1250 masl and the surrounding hills offers birding up to about 1700 masl. Bellavista lodge sits at 2000 masl and birding is being done up to 2300. 2 kms below the lodge lives Tony Nunnery, who has world record for hummingbird species in his garden - 39 species!

Also included here is the private Mindo Loma reserve along the main highway between Nanegalito and the Mindo turn-off.

**Northern Highlands**

I have used this section to describe the sites in the higher parts from Riobamba and northwards, it also includes the interandean valley and one site on the northwest slope in the subtropics (Chilma Alto). Sites include: Cerro Mungos, la Bonita road, Papallacta, Yanacocha, Cotopaxi and roads the traverses the mountains.
**The Northern East-slope**

This section deals with the east slope in northern Ecuador. The Gualaceo-Limón road also traverses the east slope but much further south and are thus more likely to be visited on a tour to southern Ecuador. Sites included in this section are the road from about Baeza to Tena and the Loreto road. In the north along the Colombian border is the la Bonita road, which is not frequently visited by birders but that clearly merits for a few days birding.

**The Eastern Lowlands**

This section deals with the amazonas. Some birding around Coca and the two lodges Yarina and Yuturi.

**The Coast and the Southwest**

This section covers the coast from Chone in the north to Guayaquil and part of the dry Tumbesian region. Sites included here are Segua marsh near Chone, Machalilla NP, nearby Ayampe, Salinas on the Santa Elena peninsula, Jauneche near Quevedo and three sites near Guayaquil; Cerro Blanco, nearby Puerto Hondo and to the east of Guayaquil also Manglares Churute.
The South

This section will deal with the southern Ecuador including the El Oro sites Buenaventura/Piñas and also the Santa Rosa marsh, The Cajas NP near Cuenca, the east-slope road between Gualaceo and Limon, the sites in Loja including Podocarpus NP and Quebrada Honda, the Tumbesian sites Catacocha, Utuana and Sosoranga.

Salinas and the Ecuasal salt pans on the edge of the Santa Elena peninsula in the southwest offers a welcome break from the forest birding. Birds are easy to see, plentiful and in many cases familiar and easy to take pictures of.

Salinas offers a good chance of practicing your identification skill when it comes to waders in non-breeding plumages. To the left is one of the most classical problems - Semipalmated (front) and Western sandpiper (behind). At some distance these are often best called 'Semi-Westerns'.
Northwestern Lowlands and Foothills

This section deals with the sites in the northwestern lowlands, called the Chocó region. The sites are all situated below 1000 masl. Mindo could have been included here but as I spend about 11 weeks in Mindo I have put that site on a separate account, and it is in the upper tropical/lower subtropical zone.

Sites included here are San Lorenzo and Lita in Esmeraldas, Milpe road and km 106.5 near los Bancos (and Mindo) and rio Silanche near Pedro Vicente Maldonado and rio Palenque south of Santo Domingo.

Specially the Esmeraldas sites are poorly known to birders and almost not covered at all by Heijnen et al. This report will open up the knowledge of that area considerably as I explored several trails into forest between Lita and San Lorenzo, trails that resident birders and guides in Ecuador haven’t heard of. In this section only rio Palenque is covered in Heijnen et al and vaguely also the Lita area.

There could be a question mark about the safety in this area as it is close to Colombia. For example, when I first drove in to San Lorenzo someone threw an orange at my car. The whole (ugly) city had a rather hostile atmosphere, all people here are negros (no offence but…). When I drove away from Lita in early November someone shot at my car and hit the front window in the upper right corner! Apart from this I met many friendly people during my stay in Lita.

There is one simple residencial in Lita and several hotels in San Lorenzo, the one I stayed at was adequate but

Map of Bosque Humedal del Yalare

Map of San Lorenzo and la Chiquita road.
not fancy. For visiting the two sites near los Bancos (Milpe road and km 106.5) by far the best place to stay at is hotel Rio Blanco (8$) in los Bancos. This place is a surprize as you enter from the main street through the town and on the other side of the restaurant you come out on a big platform with a grand view of rio Blanco below. They feed birds just outside the restaurant window and you get to see some good tanagers etc. The food in the restaurant is excellent and cheap. A perfect choise which I strongly recommend. This hotel can also be used for visiting rio Silanche west of Pedro Vicente Maldonado, although there are basic hotel in that town and thus nearer the birding site.

Rio Palenque has a new lodge in the reserve where the research station is/was. This is a perfect place to stay for 30$ not including food but includes the entrance fee (5$).

SAN LORENZO
This town in the northwest corner of Ecuador is the best base to explore the two roads nearby, la Chiquita road and Bosque Humedal del Yalare. The latter site consists of 1000 ha of mostly primary forest but unfortunately without trails so birding is restricted from the road. I was told this by the caretaker Vincent Gacía. The Playa del Oro reserve is also fairly close but I didn’t visit it because I had heard that it was not in operation, this was probably wrong and anyone visiting this corner of Ecuador should try to find out if the lodge is open. Otherwise the two roads offers good birding but in the case with la Chiquita, for how long? I heard chainsaws and big trees falling and there were new clearings and houses popping up and with them, new plantations. However, in early May I saw some very good birds here including Plumbeous- and Semiplumbeous hawks, Blue- and Black-tipped cotings, Scarlet-breasted dacnises etc. For directions, please see the maps.

I visited this ugly town and it’s surroundings 2-5/5.
LITA-ALTO TAMBO

This area is in the foothills at about 350-800 masl. The only place to stay is at Recidencial Villalobos the Naraja (4$ incl private bathroom) in Lita. There are also a few restaurants in Lita. Roadside birding is not worthwhile before Lita coming form Ibarra but can produce good stuff beyond. One very good look-out is situated 37 kms west of Lita towards San Lorenzo. This is an obvious place with a grand view over the forested plain below where you can also pull over with your car. N01°029’ W78°614’ at 390 masl.

One trail starts below Lita where rio Mira and rio Lita merges and this trail goes, reportedly, all the way to Colombia through good forest. To do this trail justice you will have to camp and it would probably be possible to rent horses/mules in Lita to carry supplies. There is also a guide in Lita, Luis Enrique, who lives just across the street from the recidencial. After 30-40 minutes walk through orchards you enter secondary forest and soon primary forest. I walked the first 2-3 kms on two occasions and saw lots of birds, though nothing really good but this is a good option for birders with time and equipment for camping.

Other trails that I explored starts 32.3 kilometres west of Lita to the south of the road. Trailhead at 557 masl GPS coordinates N 00°59.759’ W 78°35.360’. This trail goes to rio Bogotà mostly through good forest. See map.

Another trail, possibly the most interesting, starts 23.7 kms west of Lita to the north of the road at 705 masl and goes down to rio Mira at 350 masl. Trailhead at N00°56.333’ W 78°33.502’. At rio Mira there is a scary suspension bridge and the trail continues on the other side to some Awa indian comunities. I met a family at the bridge and they were very nice, I later gave them lift to Lita. See map.

I spoke to people in a house near the trailhead about birds and they were familiar with many of the good birds around here, not because they had a particular interest in birds but some birds are good for eating! Birds they catch to eat include Banded ground-cuckoo, Olive-bcked quail-dove, Tawny-faced quail and guans (Baudò or
Creasted?). Great green macaw occurs here as well. Due to the hunting pressure along the trail these birds are probably scarce along the trail and hard to see. I heard what was almost certainly a Banded ground-cuckoo snapping it’s bill but I never got to see the bird. It was close to where I had had an ant swarm the previous day. Another trail starts at 17.1 km west of Lita to the south of the road at 822 masl. Trailhead at N 00°53.768’ W 78°32.520’. It is a few kilometres before Alto Tambo which is 19.6 kms west of Lita. I only walked a few hundred metres on this trail a drizzly afternoon but saw two Yellow-green bush-tanagers at the trailhead in a flock which had several Emerald tanagers.

The last three trails are all very muddy or at least partly muddy so rubber boots are imperative, but given the birds you’ll see or are within striking distance of, it is well worth spending time here. I will like thank Keith Willmott for giving me info about these trails.

I visited the Lita area 30/4-2/5 and 23/10-26/10.

**MILPE ROAD**

This dirt road branches of to the north in a left hand curve from the main highway a few kilometres before los Bancos near the 91 km stone and 1.8 km after a gas station (coming from Quito/Mindo). The road goes on for 9.5 kms before it forks, take the left fork and after another 600 metres there is a house on the left and the road ends 100 metres after this house. It continues as a wide track at the edge of the forest. There are some sidetrails into the forest as well. I only spend a few midday hours here but saw lots of birds. This site merits for at least a day. Along the dirt road in degraded habitat is where you should look for Moss-backed tanager. Ochre-breasted tanager can be seen both in the degraded parts and in the forest. The site is at 1000-1100 masl. The best base for visiting this and the following site is to stay at Hotel - Restaurante Mirador Río Blanco in los Bancos. This nice hotel has nice and clean cabins for 8$. The restaurants serves very good food and has a platform on the back side with a grand view over the river and plain. You’ll see some nice birds here as well. I saw Glistening-green tanager in the garden! Fax +593-2-770 307.

I went here 27/3 and briefly on 2/11.

**KM 106.5 about 15 kms west of los Bancos**

This is a private forest patch of 50 ha owned by Felipe Quiroz. There is a 5$ entrance fee and another 5$ for having Felipe as a guide. He doesn’t know the birds very well but he knows the trails and he is very friendly and speaks enthusiastically about the forest and birds. On one occasion he called me over and said “Look look, Bosque primario!” and his entire face was one big smile. He and his old mother showed some great hospitality when they invited me to their simple house and gave me fresh juice. Birding is good in the forest with lots of understorey birds and I also saw Ochre-breasted antpittas here. You have to cross three streams along the trail. If in the rainy season rubber boots are probably necessary. The site is at about 700 masl so the birds will in many parts be different from nearby Milpe road. For directions see map.

I enjoyed this forest-patch 23/3 and 2-3/11.

**RIO SILANCHE**

This site is at 400 masl and thus in the lowlands. A dirt road branches of the main highway to the north about 10 kms west of Pedro Vicente Maldonado. The habitat is rather degraded but just beyond the rio Silanche you have a good chance of catching up with a huge flock that has been roaming around here for some years. It contains many good birds, here at their southernmost limit, birds otherwise found in Esmeraldas and Colombia. If not visiting Esmeraldas this site is a must. For directions see map.

I was here with Danni Jumbo 22/3.

**Map of km 106.5 west of los Bancos**
RIO PALENQUE
This site is situated about an hour south of Santo Domingo along the highway about 2 kms south of the village Patricia Pilar. It now has a new lodge where the research station is and from here several trails leads through the forest, which in part is primary. All trails are in very good condition and well marked. This site is well covered in Heijnen et al. The new lodge cost 30$ and food another 10$. The food is rather basic but the lodge is very nice. I showed up without prior notice and didn’t have any problems but a bigger group should try to book in advance.
I visited this site 8-9/11.

BIRDLIST

GREAT TINAMOU
2 heard along the Chiquita road

LITTLE TINAMOU
2 heard at río Palenque

SNOWY EGRET
Common

LITTLE BLUE HERON
Common 100+ at San Lorenzo harbour

STRIATED HERON
Singles near water

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON
2 at San Lorenzo harbour during low tide

BLACK VULTURE
Common

TURKEY VULTURE
Common

GRAY-HEADED KITE
1 ad on the Chiquita road and 1 ad at the look-out 37 kms W Lita

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE
About 5 seen around Lita

PLUMBEOUS KITE
2 seen at Río Silanche

TINY HAWK
1 seen between Lita and Alto Tambo

PLUMBEOUS HAWK
1 seen in the first clearing along the Chiquita road
**Semi-plumbeous hawk**
1 seen in the first clearing along the Chiquita road

**Barred hawk**
1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Collared forest-falcon**
1 seen 37 kms W Lita

**Laughing falcon**
2 seen at río Silanche

**Bat falcon**
1 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Rufous-fronted wood-quail**
Heard at km 106.5, los Bancos, heard 23.7 kms W Lita

**Spotted sandpiper**
1 seen by a river 1 km after Lita

**Semipalmated sandpiper**
2 seen at San Lorenzo harbour

**Semipalmated plover**
1 seen at San Lorenzo harbour

**Kelp gull**
1 third year seen at San Lorenzo harbour 4.5
First record for Esmeraldas

Possible Kelp gull at San Lorenzo harbour 4/5. The bird looked a bit small and the legs a bit too bright yellow for a Kelp gull. The tail was white so Band-tailed gull is excluded. Next possibility is a Lesser Black-backed gull of the Baltic race fuscus.
**Laughing gull**  
50 seen at San Lorenzo harbour

**Royal tern**  
3 seen at San Lorenzo harbour

**Elegant tern**  
50 seen at San Lorenzo harbour

**Sandwich tern**  
10 seen at San Lorenzo harbour

**Scaled pigeon**  
1 along the Chiquita road and 1 along the Humedal del Yalare road.

**Ruddy pigeon**  
2 along the Chiquita road

**Dusky pigeon**  
2 at Humedal del Yalare

**Blue ground-dove**  
1 pair seen along the Chiquita road

**Pallid dove**  
1 seen at km 106.5, los Bancos

**Maroon-tailed parakeet**  
6 seen at Lita, 2 seen 32.2 kms W Lita, 4 seen 23.7 kms W Lita, 8 seen at Milpe road

**Blue-fronted parrotlet**  
8 seen at Humedal del Yalare. A bit low and out-of-range for this parrot but it has been seen nearby before. 1 seen 32.2 kms W Lita.

**Rose-faced parrot**  
10-15 seen mainly at the Chiquita road, 4 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Blue-headed parrot**  
Common around San Lorenzo

**Bronze-winged parrot**  
Fairly common along the road from Milpe to río Silanche, Common around Lita

**Squirrel cuckoo**  
Singles

**Smooth-billed anii**  
Common

**Banded ground-cuckoo**  
Bill-snapping was heard from what was almost certainly this species. It was close to where an antswarm was the day before 23.7 kms W Lita. People around here catch ground-cuckoos for eating!
**Pauraque**
2 seen at río Palenque

**White-collared swift**
50 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Chestnut-collared swift**
Fairly common

**Band-rumped swift**
Common between Lita and San Lorenzo

**Gray-rumped swift**
Fairly common
I didn’t pay to much attention to the swifts, so take with a grain of salt!

**Bronzy hermit**
1 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Band-tailed barbthroat**
2 seen at río Palenque

**White-whiskered hermit**
4 seen in total

**Baron’s hermit**
5 seen at río Palenque

**Stripe-throated hermit**
2 seen at Lita and 1 seen 37 kms W Lita, 1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita, 1 seen at Milpe road, 1 seen at 106.5, los Bancos, 3 seen at río Palenque

**White-tipped sicklebil**
1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Green thorntail**
2 males seen 32.2 kms W Lita

**White-necked jakobin**
1 seen at the Chiquita road

**Green-crowned woodnymph**
3 seen around San Lorenzo, 1 male 23.7 kms W Lita, 1 female seen at río Palenque

**Violet-bellied hummingbird**
2 seen 37 kms W Lita

**Rufous-tailed hummingbird**
3 seen around Lita

**Blue-chested hummingbird**
2 seen along the Chiquita road
**Purple-chested hummingbird**
1 seen along the Chiquita road
Several unidentified of this and previous species as well.

**Bronze-tailed plumeleateer**
1 seen at Lita, 1 seen 32.2 kms W Lita, 2 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Purple-crowned fairy**
2 seen along the Milpe road, 5 seen at Lita-San Lorenzo, 1 seen 32.2 kms W Lita

**Choco trogon**
1 seen along the Milpe road, 1 seen at Lita, 1 male tape-recorded and seen at 106.5, los Bancos

**Western white-tailed trogon**
1 seen at Humedal del Yalare and 2 seen along the Chiquita road, 1 female 23.7 kms W Lita, 1 female 23.7 kms W Lita

**Black-throated trogon**
1 female seen at 106.5, los Bancos

**Collared trogon**
2 seen at km 106.5, los Bancos

**Ringed kingfisher**
2 seen at Borbon and 1 seen at San Lorenzo harbour

**Broad-billed motmot**
1 seen at km 106.5, los Bancos

**Rufous motmot**
2 seen at Milpe road, 2 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

**Rufous-tailed jacamar**
1 pair 32.2 kms W Lita, 1 seen at río Palenque

**Pied puffbird**
1 seen along the Chiquita road

**Barred puffbird**
1 heard 23.7 kms W Lita

**White-whiskered puffbird**
2 seen 32.2 kms W Lita, 2 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

**Orange-fronted barbet**
2 seen at río Silanche, 1 seen at Lita, 1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Red-headed barbet**
1 female seen at Milpe road

**Pale-mandibled aracari**
1 seen at Milpe road
**Stripe-billed aracari**
Fairly common between Lita and San Lorenzo

**Choco toucan**
Common, more so around Lita-San Lorenzo

**Chestnut-mandibled toucan**
As for Choco toucan though slightly less common

**Olivaceous piculet**
2 seen at río Silanche, 1 seen at río Palenque

**Golden-olive woodpecker**
2 seen at río Silanche

**Red-rumped woodpecker**
2 seen at 106.5, los Bancos, 1 seen at río Palenque

**Lineated woodpecker**
2 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Black-cheeked woodpecker**
3 seen at río Silanche, fairly common around Lita-San Lorenzo, 1 seen at río Palenque

**Guayaquil woodpecker**
2 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Pacific hornero**
Common Milpe-los Bancos-río Silanche, singles along the Chiquita road

**Red-faced spinetail**
5 at río Silanche

**Plain xenops**
2 at río Silanche, 3 along the Chiquita road, 1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Western woodhaunter**
1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Buff-throated foliage-gleener**
1 seen at río Palenque

**Scaly-throated foliage-gleener**
1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Slaty-winged foliage-gleener**
2 seen at río Palenque

**Ruddy foliage-gleener**
2 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

**Plain-brown woodcreeper**
1 at 106.5, los Bancos, 1 at Lita, 2 seen at río Palenque
Wedge-billed woodcreeper
1 at río Silanche, 1 at Lita

Black-striped woodcreeper
1 seen at Humedal del Yalare

Spotted woodcreeper
2 at 106.5, los Bancos, 1 at Lita

Streak-headed woodcreeper
5 seen at río Silanche

Brown-billed scythebill
1 seen at Milpe road

Great antshrike
1 pair at río Silanche, 1 male at Milpe road

Western slaty antshrike
2 males seen at Lita, 2 seen at río Palenque

Russet antshrike
1 seen at Lita, 1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

Spot-crowned antvireo
1 male seen at Lita, 1 pair 23.7 kms W Lita, 4 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

Pacific antwren
2 seen at río Silanche, 4 seen 37 kms W Lita

Checker-throated antwren
1 seen at río Silanche, 1+5 seen at 106.5, los Bancos, 1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita, 1 seen at Milpe road

White-flanked antwren
3 seen at Lita, 1 pair 32.2 kms W Lita, 5 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

Slaty antwren
2 seen at 106.5, los Bancos, 1 seen at Milpe road

Dot-winged antwren
3 seen at río Silanche, 3 seen at Lita, 3 seen at río Palenque

Dusky antbird
4 seen at río Palenque

Immaculate antbird
2 seen at Lita, 1 male 32.2 kms W Lita, 5 seen 23.7 kms W Lita at an antswarm, 1 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

Bicoloured antbird
At least 5 seen 23.7 kms W Lita at an antswarm. 1 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

Ocellated antbird
2 seen 23.7 kms W Lita at an antswarm.
**Chestnut-backed antbird**
Common

**Ochre-breasted antpitta**
1 seen at 106.5, los Bancos at 650 masl.

**Black-headed antthrush**
4 seen and heard at 106.5, los Bancos, 3 heard at río Palenque

**Choco tapaculo**
1 heard at Lita, 1 heard 32.2 kms W Lita

**Golden-faced tyrannulet**
Fairly common

**Brown-capped tyrannulet**
1 seen at río Silanche, 1 seen along the Chiquita road

**Southern beardless tyrannulet**
1 seen along the Chiquita road

**Yellow-crowned tyrannulet**
1 seen at Lita

**Gray elaenia**
2 seen along the Chiquita road

**Olive-striped flycatcher**
Singles

**Ochre-bellied flycatcher**
3 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Marble-faced bristle-tyrant**
Singles at río Silanche and 106.5

**Yellow tyrannulet**
2 seen at río Silanche

**Black-capped pygmy-tyrant**
2 seen at Lita, 1+4 sen along the Chiquita road

**Scale-creasted pygmy-tyrant**
5 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

**Common tody-flycatcher**
5 seen at río Silanche

**Northern tufted-flycatcher**
4 seen 32.2 kms W Lita

**Sulphur-rumped flycatcher**
2 seen at 106.5, los Bancos, 3 seen at río Palenque
**Pacific flatbill**
1 seen at 106.5, los Bancos and 1 seen along the Chiquita road

**Yellow-margined flatbill**
1 seen along the Chiquita road, 1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Ruddy-tailed flycatcher**
1 seen along the Chiquita road

**Bran-coloured flycatcher**
2 seen at 37 kms W Lita, 1 seen 32.2 kms W Lita

**Acadian flycatcher**
1 seen between Lita and Alto Tambo

**Black phoebe**
Singles near rivers

**Long-tailed tyrant**
1 seen at Milpe road, 4 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Bright-rumped attila**
2 heard 32.2 kms W Lita

**Rufous mourner**
1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Western sirystes**
1 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Dusky-capped flycatcher**
3 seen at Lita

**Boat-billed flycatcher**
1 seen at río Silanche

**Social/Rusty-margined flycatcher**
Common

**Grey-capped flycatcher**
1 seen along the Chiquita road

**White-ringed flycatcher**
2 seen along the Chiquita road

**Piratic flycatcher**
3 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Tropical kingbird**
Common

**Cinnamon becard**
1 seen at río Silanche, fairly common around San Lorenzo
**One-coloured becard**
5 seen at 106.5, los Bancos, 1 pair seen at río Palenque

**Masked tityra**
Singles

**Black-crowned tityra**
1 seen at río Silanche, 3 seen around San Lorenzo, 1 seen at Milpe road

**Blue cottinga**
1 male along the Chiquita road

**Black-tipped cottinga**
1 male seen between Lita and Alto Tambo, 2 males+1 female seen 37 kms W Lita and 1 male seen along the Chiquita road

**Purple-throated fruitcrow**
1 pair seen along the Chiquita road

**Golden-winged manakin**
1 male seen at 106.5, los Bancos at 650 msl.

**White-bearded manakin**
2 seen at río Silanche, 1 heard between Lita and Alto Tambo, 1 heard along the Chiquita road, 1 male seen 32.2 kms W Lita, 1 seen at 106.5 los Bancos, 2 males seen at río Palenque

**Green manakin**
1 seen along the Chiquita road

**Red-eyed vireo**
2 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Lesser greenlet**
5 seen at río Silanche, 1 seen along the Chiquita road

**Spotted nightingale-thrush**
1 seen and at least one more heard at 106.5, los Bancos

**Pale-vented thrush**
1 seen 17 kms W Lita

**Ecuadorian thrush**
5 seen at Milpe road

**Gray-breasted martin**
2 seen at San Lorenzo

A male of the scarce and beautiful Blue cottinga at la Chiquita road. For how long will this place be a home to this and other rare birds? Chain-saws were heard and new houses popping up in the clearings along the road.
**White-thighed swallow**  
About 10 seen at río Silanche

**Southern rough-winged swallow**  
Common

**Sand Martin**  
1 seen 32.2 kms W Lita

**Barn swallow**  
3 seen 32.2 kms W Lita

**Band-backed wren**  
1 seen on Milpe road, 2 seen at río Palenque

**Bay wren**  
Singles

**Whiskered wren**  
1 seen at río Palenque

**House wren**  
Singles

**White-breasted wood-wren**  
1 seen at 106.5, los Bancos, 10 seen and heard 32.2 kms W Lita

**Southern nightingale-wren**  
Singles heard

**Tawny-faced gnatwren**  
3+5 seen at 106.5, los Bancos, 2 seen at Lita, 2 seen 32.2 kms W Lita, 3 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Tropical gnatcatcher**  
2 seen at río Silanche

**Slate-throated gnatcatcher**  
2 seen at río Silanche, 1 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Rufous-browed pepper-shrike**  
2 seen at río Palenque

**Slaty-capped shrike-vireo**  
1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Canada warbler**  
1 seen at río Silanche

**Choco warbler**  
4 seen at Lita, 2 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

**Buff-rumped warbler**  
2 seen at río Palenque
**Bananaquit**
Singles

**Purple honeycreeper**
Singles at río Silanche, fairly common around San Lorenzo

**Green honeycreeper**
As for Purple but slightly less common

**Blue dacnis**
3 seen at Humedal del Yalare, 3 seen along the Chiquita road

**Yellow-tufted dacnis**
2 seen at Milpe road, 1 male seen along the Chiquita road

**Scarlet-thighted dacnis**
1 female seen at río Silanche, singles seen at Lita, Humedal del Yalare and la Chiquita road, including 5 together at a fruiting bush at Humedal del Yalare

**Scarlet-breasted dacnis**
1 female seen at río Silanche, 1 female+1 pair seen at Humedal del Yalare and 1 pair along the Chiquita road

**Guira tanager**
2 seen at río Silanche

**Scarlet-and-white tanager**
3-4 seen at río Silanche, 1 male seen 37 kms W Lita, 3 seen 32.2 kms W Lita, 8 seen 23.7 kms W Lita in one flock, 5 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Thick-billed euphonia**
1 seen somewhere

**Orange-bellied euphonia**
Singles

**White-vented euphonia**
2 seen at Lita and 2 seen along the Chiquita road

**Orange-crowned euphonia**
2 seen at río Silanche

**Fulvous-vented euphonia**
2 seen at Humedal del Yalare

**Gray-and-gold tanager**
About 15 seen at río Silanche, 1 seen 37 kms W Lita

**Emerald tanager**
4 seen between Lita and Alto Tambo, 3 seen at 37 kms W Lita, 10 seen 17 kms W Lita, 2 seen 32.2 kms W Lita, 2 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Glistering-green tanager**
1 seen in los Bancos
**Silver-throated Tanager**
1 seen at Milpe road, 1 ad+2 juv seen in los Bancos

**Blue-necked Tanager**
Singles in degraded habitat

**Golden-hooded Tanager**
Fairly common in degraded habitat

**Blue-whiskered Tanager**
1 seen at río Silanche

**Bay-headed Tanager**
5 seen at río Silanche, 1 seen at Lita

**Rufous-winged Tanager**
2-3 seen at río Silanche, 1 seen 23.7 kms W Lita

**Swallow Tanager**
2 seen near Lita

**Golden-chested Tanager**
2 seen and tape-recorded 23.7 kms W Lita

**Moss-backed Tanager**
2 seen along the first part of Milpe road.

**Blue-gray Tanager**
Common

**Palm Tanager**
Common

**Lemon-rumped Tanager**
Common to very common

**Ochre-breasted Tanager**
3+5 at Milpe road, 2 between Lita and Alto Tambo, 5 seen 32.2 kms W Lita, 10 seen 23.7 kms W Lita, 5 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

**Dusky-faced Tanager**
2 seen at río Silanche, 5 seen near Lita and 4 at Humedal del Yalare, 5 seen 32.3 kms W Lita, 5 seen 23.7 kms W Lita, 5 seen at río Palenque

**White-shouldred Tanager**
10 seen at río Silanche, 2 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

**White-lined Tanager**
3 females seen 32.2 kms W Lita

**Tawny-creasted Tanager**
5 seen at río Silanche, 4 seen along the Chiquita road, 10 seen 32.3 kms W Lita, 10 seen 23.7 kms W Lita, 10 seen at Milpe road
**Scarlet-browed Tanager**
3 seen at río Silanche, 5 seen at Lita, 3 seen along the Chiquita road, 1 male seen 32.3 kms W Lita

**Yellow-throated Bush-tanager**
Fairly common around Lita

**Yellow-green Bush-tanager**
2 seen 17 kms W Lita in a flock with Emerald tanagers.

**Buff-throated Saltator**
Fairly common

**Black-winged Saltator**
5 seen at río Silanche, 3 seen around Lita

**Slate-coloured Grosbeak**
1 seen at Lita, 1 seen between Lita and Alto Tambo, 2 seen 23.7 kms W Lita, 1 seen at río Palenque

**Blue-black Grassquit**
10 at Milpe road

**Lesser Seedfinch**
About 10 at Lita and 2 along the Chiquita road

**Variable Seedeater**
Common

**Yellow-bellied Seedeater**
Common

**Chestnut-throated Seedeater**
2 seen at río Silanche

**Tricoloured Brush-finch**
5 seen 17 kms W Lita

**Orange-billed Sparrow**
3 seen at 106.5, los Bancos, 2 seen at río Palenque

**Black-striped Sparrow**
20 seen at río Silanche, 1 seen at Milpe road

**Scarlet-rumped Cacique**
3 seen 23.7 kms W Lita, 3 seen at río Palenque

**Great-tailed Grackle**
1 female seen at San Lorenzo harbour

**House Sparrow**
3 seen in San Lorenzo
Mindo is a small village with about 1000 inhabitants some 100 kms west of Quito or 2.5 hours with bus. Good or reasonably good forest is easily accessed by foot and the roads also provides good birding. This is why I chose Mindo for Spanish lessons combined with high quality birding for ten weeks with the Equinoccial Spanish school in Quito.

In Mindo there is a lot of accommodation available ranging from less than ten dollars to more than 60. In the beginning of my time in Mindo I stayed at hotel el Descanso (see map). This nice hotel in the outskirts of the village has some birds in the garden and very nice owners in Rodney and Flor, both very serviceminded and Rodney speaks German besides Spanish. www.eldescanso.net and e-mail: info@eldescanso.net Tel. +593-2-2765 383. el Descanso is the only place in Mindo that has got internet although it works only occasionally. If you are alone or just two or three people you can also stay with the Jumbo family (see map). Tel +593-2-2765 455. Talk to Miriam. Only Spanish is spoken in the housebut Danni and Nolberto are about to learn some english. Anyway, they are used to tourists so the language isn’t much of a problem.

Maps and info in Heijnen et al is incomplete and out-of-date, so forget about that book and read this report instead. For instance, not a word is mentioned about the south side of Mindo, a huge part that offers some very exciting birds.

I spend time in Mindo 23/1-4/4, 31/10-2/11 and 9-15/12.

Birding areas

LaY and the accessroad
This road is often referred to as the Obelisk road. It’s about 8 kms from the LaY, which is the junction with the main road west. This road is best negociated by foot although the habitat is severly degraded it offers good birding and good birds. Take the 6.30 bus from Mindo and jump off at the junction and start birding/walking. The upper 3-4 kms are generally the best part as there are several forest patches and good forest is never far away. Lower down towards Mindo there are more open areas and farms which offers other more common birds.

The trail to the rio Nambillo waterfall
Head out of the far right corner of the square and follow the road towards Mindo Gardens. After about a kilometre you see a green and yellow bridge on your right. Cross that bridge and turn right after another 100 metres and you are now on the trail to the waterfall. Soon the trail passes through a patch of forest which often holds a lot of birds and flocks. The trail then goes through more degraded habitat for a couple of kilometres but birding is still good. Higher up the trail goes through better forest. It’s roughly 4 kilometres to the turnoff to the waterfall but birding is better done along the main trail (which is actually driveable with a jeep). Alternatively one can continue along the road to Mindo Gardens (you also pass the Butterfly farm) and cross the river (Rio Mindo) with a swing that you drag yourself across the river. You then have a trailsystem that goes rather steeply up the hillside and connects with the waterfall trail just where the trail to the waterfall goes down on the other side of the ridge. This is a faster way of reaching the forest higher up, especially if you have a vehicle that can take you to Mindo Gardens. Sunbitterns often stand on the road in early mornings. The trail to the waterfall became my favorite birding area as it offered good birding and I kept seeing new birds all the time.

Yellow House trail
Head out of the square at the top left corner and immediately turn left. There is a big metal gate there and the road then continues for c 500 metres up to the Yellow House. From there the trail goes through orchards and pastures for about 2 kms until it reaches the forest edge. Once there, there is a main trail through the forest with five loops. All trails and loops are well mark and maintained. While I was there they where building a platform on loop 4 which was almost finished when I left. After loop 5 the trail crosses a little creek and continues uphill for a long way. I only walked part of this trail on one occasion. The forest is actually better past the creek. Birddensities along the trail inside the forest is not very high but there are different birds. Birding was actually better on the trail from the house up to the forest edge although it goes though very disturbed habitat. They have a logbook in the house for birders and it is also possible to stay here. There is a 5$ entrance fee to be payed at the house.
Overview of Mindo

- Pond with Sunbittern
- Lanceolated monklet seen here
- Butterfly farm
- Old road to Nono/Quito 12 kms to Bellavista
- Mindo Garden
- Río Nambillo waterfall
- The waterfall trail
- Steep trail
- Río Mindo
- The access road 8-9 kms to Mindo
- To Refugio
- The access road 8-9 kms to Mindo
- Mindo Lindo
- Septimo Paraiso
- Yellow House
- MINDO
- Río Cinto Cock-of-the-Rock lek
- Steep road downhill
- Good birding
- Trail to private finca
- Good birding
- CEA
- To Cunuco
- Septimo Paraiso
- The waterf
- Mindo Lindo
- 500 m
- Mindo Lindo
- 500 m
- La Y
- MINDO
- Cock-of-the-Rock lek
- Río Cinto
- Bangalore
- Ridge
- Lyre-tailed nightjar
- Ridge
- Ridge
- Ridge
- Hummingbird rest el Carmelo
**Conuco**

When entering Mindo a road branches off to the right just before the collage and Conuco is written on the wall. This road goes through pastures all the way (6-7kms) to some fishponds and offers rather poor birding and the fishponds doesn’t hold many birds either.

**South of Mindo**

The road south starts opposite the church and soon passes some volleyball pitches and the Orchid garden. After another 400 metres you cross Rio Mindo and less than 100 metres after the bridge a road leads off to the left to el Carmelo and the Hummingbird restaurant. The restaurant is a nice place to spent an afternoon hour and look at the feeders, $3 entrance fee includes coffee. Green-crowned brilliant and woodnymph are guaranteed as well as White-necked Jakobin alongside more common species. Continuing the road past the turnoff provides good birding and after a few kilometres you will reach Rio Nambillo. From here the road goes uphill for 2.34 kms to a pass at 1370 m with good birding along the way. About 200 metres before the pass on the left side is a Club-winged manakin-lek. On the other side (south side) of the pass the road goes rather steeply down through the forest to Rio Cinto. Birding is equally good here. A few hundred metres after the pass a trail leads off to the left to a private finca. This trail also offers good birding and has a Club-winged manakin-lek after about 500 metres.

On the south side of rio Cinto there is sizeable Cock-of-the-Rock-lek with up to 20 birds. You have to cross rio Cinto with a swing and then it’s about 300 metres flat walking along the river before the trail goes uphill for about 100 metres to the lek. In other words it’s an easily accessible lek and the entrance fee is 5 dollars. You will probably need a guide to find the way and you have to be there at 5.30 and the show is over by 7.15. Noleberto Jumbo is the preferred guide and he can be contacted through the Amigos de Naturaleza office or at the house where he lives (+593-2-2765 455)(see map).
On 14/12 I was part in the annual birdcount in Mindo. I went with Danni Jumbo and two more to río Cinto and slept in a small finca together with the owner. Next morning we sat off before dawn and climbed 350 meters in altitude to the ridge between río Cinto and Saloya. The rest of the day was spent up here and it provided excellent birds. The owner has 413 ha of land here, most of it primary forest! In the garden of his finca we saw Lanceolated monklet, Pacific flatbill and Blue-chested hummingbird! No other birders have been here before but the site is definitively a hotspot around Mindo. To visit this part, contact Danni Jumbo (+593-2-2765 455) to coordinate with the owner, who wishes to have more birders visiting his land, probably for fee.

**REFUGIO**

This is a little hut at 1680 masl four hours walk from Mindo Gardens in the mountains above Mindo. The rio Nambillo has to be crossed several times, perhaps less in the dry season. The trail is very obscure as few people visit this place and a guide is mandatory. Nolberto Jumbo is the preferred guide, see above.
To Mindo about 9 kms. Cock-of-the-Rock lek at 1170 masl. You cross the river with a swing, then it is only 400 metres.

Bridge at 1070 masl. Very degraded habitat along the river.

Río CINTO

Steep climb for 350 m to the ridge at 1600 masl. A long trail goes through mostly excellent cloud forest. We walked from the finca to the ridge, around the trail and back to the finca for 10 hrs. Once on top it is fairly level and easy walking and birding is good.

Long-wattled Umbrellabird about here, Monklet etc seen in the garden of the last finca at 1225 masl.

Degraded habitat along the river, which has White-capped dipper.

More fincas

Mindo seen from the lower part of the trail to the Río Nambillo waterfall.
**Septimo Paraíso**
This a new, posh lodge about 2 kms down the road from the junction with the main road. The lodge has a good trailsystem through the forest and also an observation platform. Entrance fee for none residents are 5 dollars per day. They have feeders but not many hummingbirds there.

**Mindo Lindo**
It is situated along the main road on the right hand side about 500 metres after the Mindo turnoff. This site has a trail and good feeders and is mentioned in several tripreports and guidebooks. Until about a year ago they had a Long-wattled umbrellabird lek but not anymore. There is a 5 dollar entrance fee.

**Sachatamia lodge**
This new lodge is situated on the right hand side of the mainroad about 500 metres before the Mindo turnoff. The have a long trail through excellent forest that eventually ends at a Long-wattled umbrellabird lek. They have feeders at the lodge which I found better than those at Mindo Lindo. This site is preffered ahead of Mindo Lindo. The entrance fee for none residents is 5 dollars. The Umbrellabird lek is at 1630 masl at S00°00.918’ W78°76.044’. Moustached antpitta heard along the trail at 1650 masl at S00°01.601’ W78°76.023’. About a kilometre further towards Quito along the highway, the dirtroad to Bellavista (12kms) which is also the old road to Quito, branches off to the right. Birding is good along this road. I heard and saw Yellow-breasted antpitta about 2-3 kms onto this road at 1825 masl at S00°01.725’ W78°44.583’ on a small sidetrail to the right. Across the valley a Moustached antpitta sang as well.

**BIRDLIST**

**Torrent duck**
1 male seen on one occasion from the bridge over Rio Nambillo.

**Snowy egret**
Up to ten seen more or less daily round Mindo.

**Cattle egret**
Up to ten seen more or less daily around Mindo.

**Striated heron**
A total of four sightings at Conuco, el Carmelo and Mindo Gardens.

**Black vulture**
Common
**Turkey vulture**
Common

**Hook-billed kite**
1 pair at the Yellow House, 1 seen along the road to Conuco and 1 seen along the access road and seen south of rio Nambillo.

**Swallow-tailed kite**
Fairly common with up to ten seen on a single day.

**Double-toothed kite**
1 seen along the trail up to the Yellow House. Seen on two occasions along the access road.

**Plain-breasted hawk**
1 seen along the lower part of the Waterfall trail, 1 seen along the trail up the Yellow house trail.

**Barred hawk**
Seen on three occasions along the waterfall trail, 1 seen near Septimo paraiso.

**Roadside hawk**
Singles seen most days, often along the access road.

**White-rumped hawk**
A possible sighting from the Refugio above Mindo.

**Broad-winged hawk**
2 birds seen on one occasion along the access road. Also two more possible sightings of birds that could not be positively identified.

**Short-tailed hawk**
1 seen along the waterfall trail

**Barred forest-falcon**
1 heard near the platform on loop 4 in the Yellow house trail and one bird that was most likely this species seen briefly at the same place on another occasion.

**Collared forest-falcon**
1 seen along the trail up to the forest at Yellow house trail.

**American kestrel**
A pair seen on several occasions just south of Mindo.

**Bat falcon**
1 seen along rio Cinto, 2 birds seen near the Yellow house and 1 seen along the access road.

**Crested guan**
1+2+1 seen on three occasions along the Yellow house trail. At least 5 seen along the trail at Sachatamia and 5 seen on the ridge south of rio Cinto

**Sickle-winged guan**
Singles seen on several occasions at the Yellow house trail, the bridge across rio Mindo, south of Mindo and along the access road.
**DARK-BACKED WOOD-QUAIL**
Heard on several occasions along the waterfall trail, Yellow house trail and Septimo paraiso. Birds seen along the Yellow house trail and CEA.

**WHITE-THROATED CRAKE**
1 heard at the fishponds at Conuco.

**PURPLE GALLINULE**
1 seen in the pool at el Carmelo 14/2. This species does not normally go this high.

**SUNBITTERN**
Up to three birds seen on the road to Mindo Gardens in early mornings. 1 bird seen in a pool south of rio Nambillo.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER**
1 bird seen on several occasions from the bridge over rio Nambillo. 1 seen at the fishpools at Conuco, 1 seen in rio Cinto.

**BAND-TAILED PIGEON**
Fairly common above Mindo with up to 25 birds seen.

**RUDDY PIGEON**
Fairly common

**PLUMBEOUS PIGEON**
Fairly common

**WHITE-TIPPED DOVE**
Singles seen/heard above Mindo.

**WHITE-THROATED QUAIL-DOVE**
Singles heard above Mindo.

**RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE**
1 seen and heard along the lower part of the Waterfall trail, 1 seen along the upper waterfall trail.

**MAROON-TAILED PARAKEET**
10+15 seen at Septimo paraiso, 4 seen along the trail up to the Yellow house trail and 4 seen south of rio Nambillo.

**BARRED PARAKEET**
30 birds seen just south of Mindo 24/1 and 20 birds seen along the trail up to the Yellow house trail 2/2.

**RED-BILLED PARROT**
Common with up to 25 seen daily.

**BRONZE-WINGED PARROT**
Fairly common around Mindo and Conuco with up to 8 birds seen.

**SQUIRREL CUCKOO**
Fairly common and singles seen almost daily.

**LITTLE CUCKOO**
2 seen on one occasion along the lower part of the Waterfall trail and 1 seen along the access road.
**Smooth-billed ani**
Fairly common around Mindo town and along the lower part of the access road.

**Cloud-forest pygmy-owl**
1 heard along loop 4 on the Yellow house trail, 1 heard along the Waterfall trail just where the trail to the waterfall branches off, 1 seen along the access road.

**Mottled owl**
1 heard between rio Mindo and Nambillo, 1 heard along the access road about halfway down to Mindo.

**Common pootoo**
1 seen on daytime roost along the lower part of the Waterfall trail, 1 spotlighted at night along the lower part of the access road.

**Pauraque**
About 5 seen and heard just south of Mindo, about 5 seen and heard along the access road.

**Lyre-tailed nightjar**
Gripping views of 4 birds between rio Mindo and Nambillo (see map)

**White-collared swift**
Common with flocks of over 100 birds seen.

**Chestnut-collared swift**
Fairly common

**Chaetura sp**
Small numbers of unidentified smaller swifts seen on a few occasions.

**White-whiskered hermit**
Singles seen most days.

**Tawny-bellied hermit**
Singles seen most days but only inside forests. A lek with 4 birds along the road down towards rio Cinto.

**Green-fronted lancebill**
1 seen catching insects over the road to Mindo Gardens, 1 seen south of rio Nambillo, 1 seen along the road down to rio Cinto, 1 seen along the river up to the Refugio.

**White-necked Jakobin**
Singles. Best seen at the Hummingbird restaurant.

**Brown violetear**
2 seen at he feeders at Sachatamia.

**Green violetear**
1 seen at the feeders at Sachatamia.

**Green thorntail**
1 female came to the new feeders along the waterfall trail at 1370 masl 31/10. The bird was found by Danni Jumbo a few days before.
**Green-crowned woodnymph**  
Up to 8 at the Hummingbird restaurant. Only 4 seen away from the restaurant.

**Rufous-tailed hummingbird**  
Common

**Andean emerald**  
Singles seen at the feeders at the Hummingbird restaurant, Septimo paraiso, Mindo Lindo and Sachatamia. About 10 seen at the new feeders along the waterfall trail.

**Blue-chested hummingbird**  
1 female seen very well for a few minutes at río Cinto at 1225 masl by me and three others. This is probably my most surprising record for Mindo as it is much higher than stated in Ridgely and Greenfield and certainly a new record for Mindo.

**Purple-bibbed white-tip**  
Fairly common at Mindo Lindo and Sachatamia with singles at Septimo paraiso and 1 seen in Mindo and 1 along the trail up to the Yellow house trail.

**Empress Brilliant**  
1 seen at la Y, 2-3 at Mindo Lindo and Sachatamia feeders, 1 seen along the access road.

**Green-crowned brilliant**  
Up to 5 seen at the Hummingbird restaurant, 2 seen at Sachatamia, 3 seen at the new feeders along the waterfall trail and 1 seen on the trail up to the Yellow house trail.

**Fawn-breasted brilliant**  
3 seen at the feeders at Mindo Lindo and Sachatamia. 1 seen at the feeders at the Hummingbird restaurant. Singles seen at CEA and Sachatamia trail.

**White-tailed hillstar**  
3 seen at one rivercrossing on the way up to the Refugio. 
This rare western race will probably be split and called Rufous-gaped hillstar.

**Brown inca**  
Singles seen at the feeders at Mindo Lindo and Sachatamia and Septimo paraiso. Singles also seen along the accessroad and along the waterfall trail.

**Collared inca**  
1 seen along the upper part of the Waterfall trail. 
This species does normally not reach this low.

**Buff-tailed coronet**  
2 seen at the feeders at Sachatamia.

**Velvet-purple coronet**  
10-15 seen at the feeders at Mindo Lindo and Sachatamia. 1 seen at the feeders at Septimo paraiso and 1 seen along the trail at Sachatamia.

**Gorgetted sunangel**  
1 seen along the upper par of the access road. This species normally not reaches this low.

**Booted raquet-tail**  
Fairly common
**Violet-tailed sylph**
Singles seen along trails and roads. Up to 10 at Mindo Lindo and Sachatamia feeders.

**Wedge-billed hummingbird**
1 female seen along the Yellow house trail and 1 male that came up to my Arsenal shirt also along the Yellow house trail. 1 seen along the waterfall trail.

**Purple-crowned fairy**
1 seen just south of Mindo, 1 seen along the road to Conuco and 1 seen along the road towards rio Cinto.

**Purple-throated woodstar**
1 female seen at the pass between rio Nambillo and rio Cinto, 1 male seen the Hummingbird restaurant 2 females seen at the new feeders along the trail to the waterfall and 1 male seen at Sachatamia feeders.

**Golden-headed quetzal**
Singles and pairs seen a couple of times every week, mainly along the Waterfall trail and along the access road.

**Crested quetzal**
1 pair seen on the ridge south of rio Cinto.

**Collared trogon**
1 male seen along the main road near Mindo Lindo.

**Masked trogon**
Status about the same as Golden-headed quetzal. A group of six birds seen along the trail at Sachatamia.

**Ringed kingfisher**
1 seen at the pool at the Yellow house, 1 seen at Conuco fishponds, 1 seen flying over Mindo and 1 seen flying south over rio Mindo.

**Green kingfisher**
1 seen at the fishponds at Conuco.

**Broad-billed motmot**
1 seen along the Waterfall trail a little above the turnoff to the waterfall.

**Rufous motmot**
Singles seen or heard a couple of times weekly. On one occasion one bird perched just outside the window in Mindo while I was having Spanish lessons!

**Barred puffbird**
1 seen along the middle part of the Waterfall trail and 1 seen a little above the turnoff to the waterfall. 1 heard along the way up to the Yellow house.

**Lanceolated monklet**
1 seen 800 metres after the bridge over rio Nambillo at c 1260 m. Sometimes you have to be lucky; I was watching an Olivaceous piculet in the scope when I suddenly noticed another bird in the scope-view – and that was the monklet. Another one was watched for about an hour while butchering a grasshopper at rio Cinto at 1225 masl.
Both records are at the upper limit. The monklet has been seen a few times more on the slope down towards rio Cinto by Nolberto Jumbo.

**Red-headed barbet**
Singles and pairs seen several times weekly, often with flocks.
**Toucan barbet**
Singles and small groups seen weekly and also heard. Best place to see them is along the upper part of the access road.

**Crimson-rumped toucanet**
Singles and small groups seen several times a week.

**Pale-mandibled aracari**
Pairs or small groups seen weekly.

**Plate-billed mountain-toucan**
1 seen at Refugio.

**Chocó toucan**
Singles or small groups seen and heard weekly. Most often between rio Nambillo and rio Cinto.

**Chestnut-mandibled toucan**
A group of 6 seen displaying in a dead tree on the slope down towards rio Cinto 25/2. Several heard and seen on the ridge south of rio Cinto.

**Olivaceous piculet**
Singles seen weekly, often with flocks.

**Golden-olive woodpecker**
Singles or pairs seen weekly.
Smoky-brown woodpecker
Fairly common

Scarlet-backed woodpecker
1 seen just south of rio Mindo 26/1.

Lineated woodpecker
3 seen along the access road.

Guayaquil woodpecker
Singles seen just south of Mindo, along the Waterfall trail and along the trail up to the Yellow house trail.

Powerful woodpecker
A pair seen on several occasions about 1 km down from la Y, 1 female seen at Mindo Lindo, 1 pair along the Waterfall trail and 1 male at Refugio.

Pacific hornero
Common in Mindo town.

Slaty spinetail
Singles seen and heard.

Red-faced spinetail
Fairly common

Spotted barbtail
Seen on 2 occasions along the Waterfall trail, 1 seen south of rio Nambillo, 2 seen on the ridge south of rio Cinto and 1 seen at Sachatamia.

Lineated foliage-gleener
Singles seen in the hills above Mindo.

Scaly-throated foliage-gleener
Fairly common around Mindo.

Western woodhaunter
1+2 seen south of rio Mindo.

Buff-fronted foliage-gleener
Fairly common

Ruddy foliage-gleener
1 seen and tape-recorded on the south slope down towards rio Cinto.

Streak-capped treehunter
1 seen at la Y, 2 seen on the ridge south of rio Cinto and 2 seen at Sachatamia.

Uniform treehunter
2 seen at Sachatamia.

Tawny-throated leaftosser
1 seen just before crossing the bigger creek along the trail at Sachatamia.

Tyrannine woodcreeper
1 seen at Mindo Lindo, 2 seen 2 kms along the old road to Nono and 1 seen at Septimo Paraiso.
**Plain-brown woodcreeper**  
Singles or pairs seen in flocks.

**Strong-billed woodcreeper**  
1 seen at Mindo Lindo, 1 seen at Sachatamia, 1 seen along the access road and 3 seen along the Waterfall trail.

**Spotted woodcreeper**  
Fairly common. The most common woodcreeper.

**Montane woodcreeper**  
1 seen along the Yellow house trail, 3 sightings along the upper access road, 2 seen at Sachatamia, 2 seen 2 kms along the old road to Nono

**Uniform antshrike**  
1 or 2 seen and heard along the Waterfall trail, a pair seen at Septimo Paraiso.

**Russet antshrike**  
1 seen along the Waterfall trail.

**Pacific antwren**  
Singles in the Orchid garden and in my garden in Mindo.

**Slaty antwren**  
1 pair seen along the Yellow house trail, 1 pair seen on the ridge south of río Cinto and 1 male seen along the Waterfall trail.

**Dot-winged antwren**  
A group of two pairs seen just before the forest along the Yellow house trail. The altitude here is 1445 m. According to the book, they should only reach 500 m! Possibly a new bird for Mindo.

**Long-tailed antbird**  
4 seen at Septimo Paraiso, 3 seen 2 kms along the old road to Nono and 1 seen at la Y.

**Rufous-rumped antwren**  
2 seen in a big flock along the Waterfall trail. 1 seen along the upper part of the waterfall trail

**Dusky antbird**  
1 seen at la Y.

**Immaculate antbird**  
2 seen along the Waterfall trail and 1 male seen on the ridge south of río Cinto.

**Chestnut-backed antbird**  
Singles seen or heard along the Waterfall trail, Yellow house trail and just south of rio Mindo. More common lower down.

**Esmeraldas antbird**  
1 along the Waterfall trail, 1 male seen south of rio Nambillo and 2 seen on the slope down towards rio Cinto. 2 most probables seen on the ridge south of rio Cinto.

**Rufous-breasted antthrush**  
Fairly commonly heard but very hard to see.
**Scaled antpitta**
1 heard south of río Nambillo, 1 heard on the way up to the Yellow house trail, 2-3 heard along the Yellow house trail, 1 heard along the access road, 3 heard on the ridge south of río Cinto and 1-2 heard at Septimo Paraiso. A lot of time was spent trying to see the bird but I failed. We could actually walk under the tree in which they sat without seeing them. Very frustrating!

**Moustached antpitta**
1 heard along the trail at Sachatamia (tape-recorded), 1 heard above Refugio (tape-recorded), 1 heard 2 kms along the old road to Nono.

**Yellow-breasted antpitta**
2 seen and heard and tape-recorded 2 kms along the old road to Nono.

**Ochre-breasted antpitta**
1 seen along the Yellow house trail, 1 seen at Refugio and 1 seen at Sachatamia.

**Nariño tapaculo**
Singles heard above Mindo, i.e. along the upper access road and Septimo Paraiso. 1 ad+1 juv seen on the ridge south of río Cinto 14/12

**Spillman’s tapaculo**
Singles heard around Mindo.

**Sooty-headed tyrannulet**
1 seen at la Y.

**Golden-faced tyrannulet**
Fairly common

**Southern bearded tyrannulet**
Singles seen in Mindo and along the way up to the Yellow house trail.

**Yellow-crowned tyrannulet**
1 seen in my garden in Mindo. According to Ridgley and Greenfield, occurs mainly below 600 masl. We (Danni Jumbo and I) saw it at 1250 masl.

**Yellow-bellied elaenia**
3 seen on the lower part of the access road.

**Acadian flycatcher**
1 bird seen very well and heard calling and tape-recorded.

**Sierran elaenia**
1 bird with a lot of yellow below was identified as this species. A number of sightings of elaenias that could not be identified.

**White-tailed tyrannulet**
2 seen 2 kms along the old road to Nono

**Rufous-winged tyrannulet**
1 seen along the access road close to the turn-off to Septimo Paraiso, 1 seen on the ridge south of río Cinto and 1 seen near río Cinto. Surprisingly I didn’t see this species during 10 weeks in feb-march but I saw it on three occasions within a few days in mid december.
**Torrent tyrannulet**
Fairly common along the rivers.

**Streak-necked flycatcher**
Singles seen above Mindo.

**Olive-striped flycatcher**
1 seen on the slope down towards rio Cinto, 2 seen on the lower part of the trail up to the Yellow house trail.

**Slaty-capped flycatcher**
1 seen on the lower part of the trail up to the Yellow house trail on two occasions. 1 seen 2 kms along the old road to Nono

**Marble-faced bristle-tyrant**
Fairly common

**Yellow tyrannulet**
1 pair seen at el Carmelo, 1 pair seen along the Waterfall trail, 1 pair seen along the access road and 1 pair seen on the lower part of the trail up to the Yellow house trail.

**Scale-creasted pygmy-tyrant**
Fairly common, often heard.

**Common tody-flycatcher**
Fairly common around Mindo town.

**Pacific flatbill**
1 seen at rio Cinto at 1225 masl. Possibly a new record for Mindo and about 400 metres higher than stated in Ridgely and Greenfield.

**White-throated spadebill**
1 seen on several occasions in the first forest patch along the Waterfall trail.

**Ornate flycatcher**
Fairly common

**Tawny-breasted flycatcher**
1 seen along the access road, 1+2 seen along the Waterfall trail.

**Bran-coloured flycatcher**
1 seen along the access road on two occasions, 1 seen in Mindo village and 1 seen along rio Cinto.

**Western wood-pewee**
Singles

**Smoke-coloured pewee**
Singles, scarcer then Western wood-pewee

**Olive-side flycatcher**
1 seen on several occasions at the pass between rio Nambillo and rio Cinto, 1 seen along the upper part of the Waterfall trail.

**Black phoebe**
Singles or pairs seen near water.
**Masked water-tyrant**
Up to 10 seen at Conuco fishponds. Singles seen in Mindo town. 1 pair at the Yellow House.

**Bright-rumped Attila**
1 seen at Mindo Lindo.

**Dusky-capped flycatcher**
Fairly common

**Social flycatcher**
Fairly common

**Rusty-marginated flycatcher**
Fairly common near water.

**Streaked flycatcher**
Seen on two occasions near Mindo.

**Golden-crowned flycatcher**
Singles seen weekly.

**Tropical kingbird**
Common

**Cinnamon becard**
Singles

**White-winged becard**
1 seen along the access road, seen on three occasions along the road south of Mindo.

**Black-and-white becard**
Seen twice along the access road, seen on two occasions along the road south of Mindo.

**One-coloured becard**
1 young male seen along the lower part of the Waterfall trail. 1 male seen along the waterfall trail

**Masked tityra**
Singles seen weekly.

**Scaled fruiteater**
1 female seen on the slope down towards rio Cinto, 1 singing male seen along the Waterfall trail where the trail goes down to the waterfall, 1 male seen lower down along the Waterfall trail, 1 male seen where the Yellow house trail starts.

**Olivaceous piha**
2 seen at Refugio.

**Long-wattled umbrellabird**
1 female seen at Sachatamia and a male heard. 1 male seen on the ridge south of rio Cinto.

**Andean Cock-of-the-Rock**
15-20 birds at the display-site south of rio Cinto. Males where seen on six occasions along the Waterfall and Yellow house trails.
The display-site should not be missed if visiting Mindo, it’s a spectacular event.
Golden-winged manakin
1 male seen along the road down towards rio Cinto, 2 females seen at Septimo Paraiso, 2 males and one female seen and another males heard at Sachatamia.

Club-winged manakin
Displaying males seen or heard at two sites above the turnoff to the waterfall along the Waterfall trail, c 200 metres before the pass between rio Nambillo and rio Cinto on the left side of the road, on the trail that branches off to the left 300 metres after the pass.
Seen on four occasions along the Waterfall trail and the road south of rio Nambillo.

Red-eyed vireo
Up to 5 seen weekly, more common in February and early march suggesting that they are northern migrants rather than resident birds.

Brown-capped vireo
Singles seen above Mindo. One nest found at Septimo Paraiso.

Andean solitaire
Fairly commonly heard above Mindo, a few seen.

Swanson’s thrush
Fairly common in February and early march.

Ecuadorin thrush
Common in Mindo town.

White-capped dipper
A pair seen on two occasions at Mindo Gardens, two pair seen at rio Cinto, 1 seen on the way up to the Refugio, 1 seen from the bridge over río Mindo just south of Mindo and a pair seen from the green-and-yellow bridge crossing rio Mindo.

Blue-and-white swallow
Common

White-thighted swallow
A group of 10 seen about halfway down the access road on one occasion. This is several hundred meters higher than stated in the book.

Southern rough-winged swallow
Common

Rufous wren
5 seen at Refugio

Sepia-brown wren
1 seen at la Y and 1 seen at Refugio.

Bay wren
Fairly common bur hard to see.

House wren
Common in Mindo, a few seen at fincas away from Mindo.
**Gray-breasted wood-wren**
Common

**Southern nightingale-wren**
I seen along the lowr part of the Waterfall trail, otherwise fairly commonly heard.

**Tawny-faced gnatwren**
1 seen along the Yellow house trail at 1500 masl. Perhaps a new record for Mindo and about 500 metres higher than stated in Ridgely and Greenfield.

**Tropical gnatcatcher**
2+4 seen along the road to Conuco.

**Tropical parula**
Fairly common in flocks.

**Blackburnian warbler**
Common until late march.

**Black-and-white warbler**
1 seen at the Orchid garden, 1 seen on the way up to the Yellow house trail.

**Olive-crowne yellow-throat**
Seen on three occasions along the road between rio Mindo and rio Nambillo.

**Canada warbler**
1 seen 25/2 on the slope down towards rio Cinto.

**Slate-throated whitestart**
Common

**Three-striped warbler**
Common. This and the previous species are often core members of the flocks.

**Buff-rumped warbler**
1 pair seen in the ditch just before he hummingbird restaurant.

**Bananaquit**
Fairly common

**Yellow-tufted dacnis**
1 pair seen 24/1 south of rio Mindo. At 1200 m this is high for this species.

**Bluish flowerpiercer**
2 seen at Sachataima lodge 15/2.

**Masked flowerpiercer**
1 seen along the accessroad 6/3. At 1590 m this is unusually low for this species.
4 seen 2 kms along the old road to Nono

**White-sided flowerpiercer**
3 seen 2 kms along the old road to Nono
FAWN-BREASTED TANAGER
Fairly common

YELLOW-COLLARED CLOROPHONIA
Singles or pairs seen on seven occasions mainly along the Waterfall trail but also on the slope down towards rio Cinto, along the access road and a group of 4 on the Yellow house trail.

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA
Singles seen weekly

GOLDEN-RUMPED EUPHONIA
Singles seen on three occasions, 1 in my garden while studying Spanish. 1 pair seen along the access road

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA
Common

ORANGE-CROWNED EUPHONIA
1 seen along the road to Conuco, 1 seen in my garden and two seen along the way up to the Yellow house trail.

GLISTERING-GREEN TANAGER
1 seen along the access road on two occasions and 1 seen along the Yellow house trail

RUFIOUS-THROATED TANAGER
Singles seen weekly, almost fairly common.

GOLDEN TANAGER
Common

SILVER-THROATED TANAGER
3+4 seen between rio Mindo and rio Nambillo, 2 seen on the slope down towards rio Cinto, 2 seen at rio Cinto, 1 seen along the waterfall trail and 2 seen at Mindo Gardens.

FLAME-FACED TANAGER
Much as Rufous-throated.

GOLDEN-NAPED TANAGER
Singles seen along the access road, Septimo Paraiso and the upper part of the Waterfall trail.

METALLIC-GREEN TANAGER
As Golden-naped.

BERYL-SPANGLED TANAGER
As Golden-naped but somewhat more common.

BLACK-CAPPED TANAGER
Singles along the upper part of the access road.

BLUE-NECKED TANAGER
Singles seen, mainly along the Waterfall trail.

BAY-HEADED TANAGER
Singles, often in more disturbed habitat.
**Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager**
Common above Mindo.

**Swallow Tanager**
Singles around Mindo and south towards Conuco. 2 seen 2 kms along the old road to Nono.

**Blue-gray Tanager**
Common

**Palm Tanager**
Fairly common

**Blue-capped Tanager**
1 seen south of Mindo.

**Lemon-rumped Tanager**
Common

**Summer Tanager**
Singles seen on about 15 occasions mainly males.

**White-winged Tanager**
Singles or pairs seen almost weekly.

**Ochre-breasted Tanager**
5 seen on one occasion along the Waterfall trail.

**White-lined Tanager**
Singles or pairs seen almost weekly.

**White-shouldred Tanager**
As White-lined.

**Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager**
1 seen at Refugio.

**Dusky Bush-Tanager**
Fairly common higher up.

**Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager**
Common lower down.
These two species were seen together on only one occasion halfway up the Waterfall trail.

**Buff-throated Saltator**
Fairly common

**Black-winged Saltator**
Fairly common

**Southern Yellow Grosbeak**
1 seen along the Waterfall trail 25/1.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**
1 male seen along the lower part of the access road 24/1.
**Blue-black grassquit**
Singles around Mindo town.

**Yellow-faced grassquit**
Singles around Mindo town.

**Lesser seed-finch**
1 male seen along the road to Conuco.

**Variable seedeater**
Common

**Black-and-white seedeater**
1 male together with 4 females seen in Mindo town 14/2.

**Yellow-bellied seedeater**
Common

**Blue seedeater**
1 male+2 females seen on two occasions about a kilometre down the access road, 1 female seen at Septimo Paraiso and 1 female seen along the lower part of the access road.

**Tricoloured brush-finch**
Fairly common

**Chestnut-capped brush-finch**
1 seen along the Yellow house trail, 3 seen at Refugio.

**Orange-billed sparrow**
2-3 seen along the lower part of the Waterfall trail, 4 seen opposite the Hummingbird restaurant, 1 seen along the road down to rio Cinto.

**Black-striped sparrow**
2 seen in the garden of hotel Descanso.

**Rufous-collared sparrow**
Singles seen at la Y and the upper part of the access road.

**Russet-backed oropendola**
2+2 seen along the upper part of the Waterfall trail, 2 seen at Refugio.

**Scrub blackbird**
Fairly common. Only a few identified due to similarity to following species.

**Shiny cowbird**
Fairly common

**Giant cowbird**
1 seen near the Yellow house.
Female Booted Raquet-tail

Female Green Thorntail. This bird was seen along the waterfall trail at some new feeders. Rare in M indo

Green-crowned Brilliant - one of the specialities at M indo.

Green-crowned Woodnymph - best seen at M indo
Bellavista lodge is situated at about 2000 meters in the upper Tandyapa valley just by the road. The lodge has an extensive trail system which is well marked and maintained. Birding from the road uphill and downhill from the lodge is also good. A bed in a dormitory including all food was about 44 USD. One night I woke up rather early and felt something under my neck and wiped “it” away and I heard a buzz on the floor and turned on the light only to find a 7 centimetre big scorpion! I guess pets were included in the price as well ;-).

2 kms down the road towards Tandayapa lives Tony Nunnery and Barbara Bolz. Their house is not visible from the road and someone has to give a direction, ask at Bellvista. Note that they don’t want visitors before 10 am.

They have a lot of hummingbird feeders and hummingbirds. No less than 39 has been recorded in the garden. I saw 19 species in one hour. Tony also has a 7 kilometre long trail on his properties which is good. He said he has 2-3 pairs of Giant antpitta along the trail although I didn’t see any. He charges 5 USD for watching the feeders and use the trails. He does not like people to use tape recorders for playback on the trail.

I call his garden/trail “the Nunnery’s” in the report.

Although only 2 kilometres and 300 attitude metres from Bellvista, the difference, specially when it comes to hummingbirds, is significant. The numbers and species varies considerably over the year.

I visited Bellvista on 8/2, 5-7/4 and 29-30/10. Visits to Tony Nunnery is included in these dates.

**Mindo Loma**

This rather new private place is situated along the main highway about halfway between Nanegalito and the turn-off to Mindo. As it is at similar altitude to Bellavista I have included that site here. It is sign-posted at the highway near km-sign 74 and the owner, Boris Herrera, charges a 5$ entrance fee. He can be contacted at bohehe2000@yahoo.com or on telephone +593-2-2340 410. They have good hummingbird feeders by the house and a trail behind the house that goes to a waterfall. I visited this place two mornings, though not early, in middle of december and didn’t see very much although Boris claims he has 6-7 Giant antpittas along the trail and also Black and Rufous-brown solitaires and orange-breasted fruit eater! Some very sought-after species indeed. It is also a good place to see Black-chinned mountain-tanager which I managed to miss both here and elsewhere. The forest is nice and Boris and his brother knows the birds fairly well so I recommend spending a day here, but from early morning (best for Giant antpitta).

I visited this site 11-12/12 for a morning each day while staying in Mindo.
Birdlist

**Black vulture**
1 seen at Bellavista

**Turkey vulture**
5 seen at Bellavista

**Hook-billed kite**
1 seen at Bellavista

**Swallow-tailed kite**
1 seen at Bellavista

**Plain-breasted hawk**
2 seen at Bellavista

**Barred hawk**
3 seen at Bellavista

**Roadside hawk**
1 seen at Bellavista

**White-rumped hawk**
2 seen at Nunnery’s

**Black-and-chestnut eagle**
1 pair seen in displayflight!

**Barred forest-falcon**
1 heard at Nunnery’s

**Peregrine falcon**
1 adult seen above the lodge

**Sickle-winged guan**
2 seen near the lodge and 5 seen at Nunnery’s

**Dark-backed wood-quail**
2 seen at Nunnery’s

**Band-tailed pigeon**
5 seen at Bellavista and about 25 at Nunnery’s

**White-tipped dove**
2 seen at Bellavista

**White-throated quail-dove**
1 seen at the komposture just behind the lodge. It comes there regulary.

**Squirrel cuckoo**
1 seen at Bellavista
Cloud-forest pygmy-owl
1 heard at Nunnery’s

Mottled owl
1 heard just outside the dome one morning.

Common potoo
1 seen around the lodge building in the evenings. Ask for it at the lodge.

Chestnut-collared swift
Fairly common

White-tipped swift
About 10 seen at Nunnery’s

Tawny-bellied hermit
1 seen at Bellavista

Green-fronted lancebill
1 seen at Nunnery’s

Brown violetear
3 seen at Nunnery’s

Green violetear
None seen 8 feb but common 5-7 apr.

Sparkling violetear
5 seen at Nunnery’s

Western emerald
3 seen at Nunnery’s

Rufous-tailed hummingbird
1 seen at Nunnery’s

Andean emerald
About 10 at Bellavista and at Nunnery’s

Speckled hummingbird
Common

Purple-bibbed whitetip
1 at Bellavista and 10 at Nunnery’s

Empress brilliant
1 female at Nunnery’s

Fawn-breasted brilliant
10 seen at Nunnery’s, 3 seen at Mindo Loma and singles at Bellavista

White-tailed hillstar
1 seen at Nunnery’s
**Brown Inca**  
1+3 seen at Nunnery’s and 1 seen at Bellavista

**Collared Inca**  
About 10 at Bellavista 1 female seen at Mindo Loma and 1 seen at Nunnery’s

**Buff-tailed Coronet**  
Common at Bellavista and singles at Nunnery’s, about 10 at Mindo Loma

**Velvet-purple Coronet**  
About 10 at Mindo Loma

**Gorgetted Sunangel**  
About 20 mainly at Bellavista

**Booted Raquettail**  
Common

**Green-tailed Trainbearer**  
1 male seen at Nunnery’s

**Violet-tailed Sylph**  
About 15 seen at Bellavista

**Purple-throated Woodstar**  
About 15 seen at Nunnery’s and 4 at Bellavista

**White-bellied Woodstar**  
3+2 seen at Nunnery’s

**Golden-headed Quetzal**  
1 seen at Bellavista

**Masked Trogon**  
2+2 seen at Bellavista

**Toucan Barbet**  
About 10-15 seen and heard at all sites

**Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan**  
About 5 seen above Bellavista

**Crimson-mantled Woodpecker**  
2 seen at Bellavista

**Powerful Woodpecker**  
1 seen and 1 heard at Bellavista, 1 heard at Mindo Loma and 1 seen at Nunnery’s

**Azara’s Spinetail**  
4 seen at Bellavista

**Rufous Spinetail**  
2 seen at Bellavista
**Streaked Tuftedcheek**  
9 seen at Bellavista

**Pearled Treerunner**  
6 seen at Bellavista

**Spotted Barbtail**  
8 seen at Nunnery´s and Bellavista and 2 at Mindo Loma

**Rusty-winged Barbtail**  
2 seen at Bellavista. Bird number 4000 for me!

**Lineated Foliage-gleener**  
5 seen at Bellavista and 1 seen at Mindo Loma

**Flammulated Treehunter**  
2 seen along the Y-trail which is the highest part above Bellavista lodge.

**Striped Treehunter**  
3 seen at Bellavista

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**  
1 seen at Mindo Loma

**Strong-billed Woodcreeper**  
2 seen at Mindo Loma and 1 seen at Nunnery’s

**Montane Woodcreeper**  
5 seen at Bellavista

**Long-tailed Antbird**  
3 seen above Bellavista

**Giant Antpitta**  
1 seen at dusk on the road just below Bellavista

**Chestnut-crowned Antpitta**  
10 heard and 1 seen

**Yellow-breasted Antpitta**  
2 heard at Mindo Loma

**Narino Tapaculo**  
5 heard at Bellavista

**Spillman’s Tapaculo**  
10 heard at Bellavista

**White-tailed Tyrannulet**  
Common

**Streak-necked Flycatcher**  
8 seen at Bellavista
BRONZE-OLIVE PYGMY-TYRANT
3 seen at Mindo Loma

RUFIOUS-HEADED PYGMY-TYRANT
2 seen at Nunnery’s

FLAVESCENT FLYCATCHER
2 seen at Bellavista and 3 seen at Mindo Loma

CINNAMON FLYCATCHER
3 seen at Bellavista

YELLOW-BELLIED CHAT-TYRANT
1 seen at Bellavista along the Y-trail

SMOKE-COLOURED PEWEE
2 seen at Bellavista

GOLDEN-CROWNED FLYCATCHER
5 seen at Bellavista

GREEN-AND-BLACK FRUITEATER
7 seen at Bellavista

OLIVACEOUS PIHA
2 seen at Mindo Loma

TURQUOISE JAY
About 15 seen and heard

BEAUTIFUL JAY
2 seen at Bellavista

BROWN-CAPPED VIREO
2 seen at Bellavista

ANDEAN SOLITAIRE
Heard

SLATY-BACKED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH
2 heard at Nunnery’s

GREAT THRUSH
Fairly common

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW
Common

RUFIOUS WREN
3 seen at Bellavista

SEPIA-BROWN WREN
2 seen at Bellavista
Mountain wren
2 seen at Bellavista

Gray-breasted wood-wren
10 seen and heard

Blackburnian warbler
5 seen at Bellavista

Slate-throated whitestart
Common

Spectacled whitestart
Fairly common

Black-creasted warbler
About 5 seen at Bellavista

Thre-striped warbler
About 5 seen at Bellavista

Russet-crowned warbler
Fairly common

Capped conebill
About 10 seen at Bellavista

Masked flowerpiercer
About 10 seen at Bellavista

White-sided flowerpiercer
2 seen at Bellavista

Orange-bellied euphonia
2 seen at Bellavista

Golden tanager
About 10 seen at Bellavista

Flame-faced tanager
1 seen at Bellavista

Golden-naped tanager
5 seen at Bellavista and 2 at Mindo Loma

Metallic-green tanager
2 seen at Mindo Loma

Beryl-spangled tanager
6 seen at Bellavista

Blue-winged mountain-tanager
About 30 seen at Bellavista
GRASS-GREEN TANAGER
8 seen at Bellavista

BLUE-CAPPED TANAGER
1 seen at Bellavista

WHITE-WINGED TANAGER
1 seen at Bellavista

DUSKY BUSH-TANAGER
Common

WESTERN HEMISPINGUS
2+2 seen at Bellavista

PLUSHCAP
2 seen at Bellavista

BLACK-WINGED SALTATOR
1 seen at Bellavista

TRICOLOURED BRUSH-FINCH
About 10 seen at Bellavista

WHITE-WINGED BRUSH-FINCH
1 seen at Bellavista

CHESTNUT-CAPPED BRUSH-FINCH
3 seen at Bellavista and 1 seen at Mindo Loma

TANAGER FINCH
1 male seen and heard singing into the microphone at just 4 meter. It was about 600 meters up the road from the lodge. Learn the song and listen in the morning along the road. This is THE place on earth to see Tanager finch.

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW
Fairly common

Speckled Hummingbird. Bellavista, Tony Nunnery’s and other places in the Mindo area, offers good viewing facilities with feeders for hummingbirds. There are great changes in the species composition so you need to visit many places at different altitudes.
Purple-throated woodstar (top left), Gorgetted sunangel (top right) and Buff-tailed coronet (bottom right).

Bellavista offers about 10 species at the feeders. Only a few kilometres lower down along the road at Tony Nunnery you can see 20 species in a day! He has the unofficial world record in his garden with 39 species observed.
Northern Highlands

I have used this to section to describe the sites in the higher parts from Riobamba and northwards, it also includes the interandean valley and one site on the northwest slope in the subtropics (Chilma Alto). Sites include: Cerro Mungos, la Bonita road, Papallacta, Yanacocha, Cotopaxi and roads the traverses the mountains.

La Bonita road

This road leaves the PanAmerican highway north of San Gabriel at Julio Agrada de to the east and after about an hours drive you start finding some temperate habitat in ravines. The closer you get to Santa Barbara the more forest patches you’ll find. Santa Barbara is at 2600 m and short after the village is the only site in Ecuador for Bicoloured antpitta which was discovered here in 1999. The road then continues to la Bonita and further to Lago Agrio. I only made it about halfway between Santa Barbara and la Bonita. There was a waterfall across the road which looked a bit adventurous for me. When I was here the whether was generally foggy and drizzly but with some clear spells in between. This road has a reputation of being dangerous as it skirts the Colombian border, but I found no problems and I ask both the police and several people and all assured me that it was safe and indeed it felt very safe. In Santa Barbara there are two very basic hostals for about 4$. Reportedly there is a nice hostal in la Bonita. The birding was very good in the forested ravines with many diverse flocks.

Stake-outs: Bicoloured antpitta 3.4 kms after the police station in Santa Barbara at 2680 masl at N00°65.000’ W77°50.250’. Mountain avocetbill 25.4 kms from Julio Agrada de towards Santa Barbara at 2890 masl 100 metres after a bridge in a sharp lefthand curve.

I visited this place 6-8/5.

Cerro Mungos

This is the best site for Chestnut-bellied cotinga and Cresent-faced antpitta, both of which I missed for some reason. Unless you want to camp above the village of Impueran, the best lodging is along the highway in the village Amboqui. There are several nice hosterías and I stayed at Oasis. The hotelground had Scrub tanager and Blue-headed sapphire. From there it takes about 1.5 hours to drive up to Impueran, mostly on a cobble-stone road. It is important to visit this site when it hasn’t rained for at least one day otherwise you will only make it to the village and the remaining about 5 kms up to the paramo will be uphill walking from 3000 meters to about 3500. If the road is dry you can drive all the way up to the forest edge at 3365 masl and from there it is about 20-30 minutes walk to the paramo edge (depending on how many birds you see en route). Once at the paramo you should keep straight on up and bear left on a rather indistinct trail that eventually goes along a water canal into the forest. Once you’re on the canal it is level. In the forest you’ll soon come to three landslides and this is the site for the cotinga. I had very good weather but only saw Red-creasted cotingas perched in treetops in the morning. If coming across a flock up here you are likely to see Masked mountain-tanager and Black-backed bush-tanager etc.

You can continue along the canal, which soon leaves the forest and goes on the open paramo, this is where I saw Andean siskin, and after a few hundred meters enters another patch of forest which could very well be good for the cotinga.
Scrub tanager: On the way back you can stop 2.2 kms before the highway. There is a small gravel patch on the left and here is where I saw about 10 without any problems. I also saw Blue-headed sapphire here. I was here 5/5 but failed to drive up due to rain during the night so I went back 23/10.

**Papallacta**

This is an high altitude site which can be done on a day-trip from Quito but it is better to stay in Papallacta. There are cheap and basic recidencias in the village and better accommodation at the nearby hot springs. Once at the pass (4000 m) a track branches of to the left coming from Quito and goes to some radio-masts which are visible from the road unless it’s foggy (which it often is). Up here you can find the high-altitude hummingbirds and other species. A few kilometers down the road towards Papallacta there is a roadside polylepis-patch which has a flock including Giant cone bill and Black-backed bush-tanager. I saw this flock from the road on two occasions. Just after the patch a trail leads of to the left skirting the forest and after a few hundred meters you’ll see a lake which has some waterfowls. Continuing towards Papallacta you see lake Papallacta on your left and a track goes around the lake where there is also lots of temperate forest which can easily be birded from the track. When I was there it had been a huge oil-spill just a week before and I didn’t see many birds in the lake itself. Flocks in the surrounding forest was rewarding though. Birding is also worthwhile around Papallacta village in the forest patches. The road then continues towards Baeza entering the subtropical zone. Some 15 kilometres below papallacta you find the Guango lodge which has feeders (5$ entry fee). This is a good place to see upper subtropical hummers and I saw Sword-billed hummingbird here along with species like Tourmaline sun angel etc. I was here 12-13/4 and 26-27/4 and briefly 14/5.

**Cotopaxi**

This site can also be done on a day-trip from Quito but it is better to stay in Machachi or in one of the hosterías along the highway to avoid the traffic in Quito. I stayed at Hostería Refugio ‘Chiguac’ in Machachi at Los Caras y C Colón e-mail: germanimor@punto.net.ec. A very nice place and you don’t have to bother with the Quito traffic. There is a 10 $ entrance fee. From the highway it is about 10 kilometres to the plain below the volcano and here is also laguna Limpiopongo which has highland waterbirds and on the marsh at the back of the lake you can find Noble snipe. The track continues across the plain and up on the side of the volcano to a refugio which is the launching point for people who wish to climb to the top. Along the first part of this road as it climbs the volcano is good for Ecuadorian hillstar, which I also saw on the hills just above the lake. The plain is at 3850 meters so this is not a site that should be visited on one of the first days in Ecuador. I was here 15/5 and 10/11.
LAGUNA DE COLTA
This lake is just south of Riobamba along the highway. I just made a brief stop here and saw some waders and Ecuadorian rails. There is a lot of reeds along the lake which must be good for Subtropical doradito.
I made a brief stop here 16/10.

CHILMA ALTO
This little village is about halfway between Tulcán and Maldonado along the Colombian border. It is more of a subtropical site similar to Bellavista at about 2000-2300 meters. On the way from Tulcán you pass over the paramo and will see some paramo species. This site was found by Jonas Nilsson and a trail goes from the road all the way down to the bottom of the valley. I was there with Jonas and we camped in an abandoned house about a kilometer down the trail. The trail is very muddy and rubber boots are imperative. We saw two Hoary pufflegs and two White-faced nunbirds. Jonas also saw purplish-mantled tanager and he has previously seen Black solitaire as well. Other birds include the normal subtropical species including Cloud-forest pygmy-owl and White-rumped hawk.
I was here with Jonas and Charlie Vogt 2-4/3.

YANACOCHA
This site on the north side of vulcan Pichincha on the outskirts of Quito is best worked from there. Once you leave the Avenida Occidental onto a cobble-stone road towards Nono it is about 8 kilometres to another turnoff to the left on a dirtroad. It is sign-posted from here to Yanacocha. It is another about 7-8 kilometres on the dirtroad until you come to a gate where you have to pay a 5$ entrance fee. You can drive a few hundred meters more but you might as well start birding here. The track then goes alongside the mountain at about 3400 meters for about 2 kilometres to a tunnel. There are feeders along this stretch and most of the high altitude hummers are easy to see as well as other temperate forest birds. Once at the tunnel a trail continues past the toilets here for another 40-50 meters to a ridge with a nice view and some feeders. These feeders attracted a male Black-breasted puffleg in May. Arguably one of the rarest hummers (birds?) in the world. This species is only found here during the summer from May-August. Noone knows where they are the rest of the year. If you want a reasonable chance of seeing this bird you should plan your trip so you’ll come here in the summer.
I visited this site 10 and 12/5.

Other sites that appear under this chapter is the road from Latacunga to Quevedo. This road is very bad but goes partly over paramo and the same species as on Cotopaxi and Papallacta can be seen here. A faster route from Quito to the coast is to drive from Machachi to Santo Domingo on a good paved road.

BIRDLIST

TAWNY-BREASTED TINAMOU
1 heard near vulcan Chiles in Carchi

PIED-BILLED GREBE
About 20 at laguna San Pablo
**Silvery grebe**  
2 seen behind the polylepis grove above Papallacta

**Andean teal**  
Singles at lake Papallacta

**Yellow-billed pintail**  
200 at laguna San Pablo

**Andean ruddy duck**  
15 in the lake behind the polylepis grove above Papallacta and 20 in laguna San Pablo

**Cattle egret**  
Common

**Black vulture**  
Common

**Turkey vulture**  
Common

**Swallow-tailed kite**  
5 at Chilma Alto

**Harris’ s hawk**  
1 seen near Calacali near Quito

**Black-chested buzzard-eagle**  
1 seen at lake Papallacta

**White-rumped hawk**  
2 seen at Chilma Alto

**Broad-winged hawk**  
1 seen at Chilma Alto

**Variable hawk**  
Singles

**Carunculated caracara**  
5 seen between Latacunga and Quevedo, 2 seen at Cotopaxi

**American kestrel**  
Common

**Aplomado falcon**  
1 pair seen near Sumbao along the road between Latacunga and Quevedo

**Andean guan**  
3 seen near Santa Barbara and 2 seen at Cerro Mungos

**Dark-backed wood-quail**  
Heard at Chilma Alto
**Ecuadorean rail**
3 heard at laguna San Pablo and 2 seen at laguna de Colta

**Common gallinule**
2 seen at laguna San Pablo

**Andean coot**
100 seen at laguna San Pablo

**Greater yellowlegs**
Singles at Cotopaxi, laguna de Colta and laguna San Pablo

**Lesser yellowlegs**
1 seen at Cotopaxi and 5 seen at laguna de Colta

**Spotted sandpiper**
Singles near water

**Baird’s sandpiper**
4 seen at Cotopaxi

**Pectoral sandpiper**
1 seen at laguna de Colta

**Noble snipe**
2 flushed at the back side of lago Limpiopongo at Cotopaxi

**Wilson’s phalarope**
1 seen at Cotopaxi

**Southern lapwing**
1 seen at laguna San Pablo
This lowland bird had been around here for some time

**Andean lapwing**
Locally common ie at Cotopaxi

**Andean gull**
8 seen near Papallacta pass, about 30 at laguna de Colta

**Laughing gull**
3 subadults at laguna San Pablo 29/4

**Band-tailed pigeon**
Fairly common in temperate forest

**Ruddy pigeon**
Heard at Chilma Alto

**Common ground-dove**
Fairly common in the northern interandean valley

**Black-winged ground-dove**
1 seen at Cotopaxi and 9 seen between Latacunga and Quevedo
**White-throated quail-dove**
3 heard at Chilma Alto

**Barred parakeet**
About 50 seen at Chilma Alto

**Red-billed parrot**
4 seen at Chilma Alto

**Scaly-naped amazon**
5 seen at Chilma Alto

**Barn owl**
2-3 heard at Santa Barbara from the church tower. Rare in the highlands in Sucumbios.

**Cloud-forest pygmy-owl**
1 heard at Chilma Alto

**Burrowing owl**
1 seen on the way up to Impuerán/Cerro Mungos

**Mottled owl**
1 heard at Chilma Alto

**Rufous-bellied nighthawk**
1 seen at Chilma Alto

**Band-winged nightjar**
1 seen near Santa Barbara

**White-collared swift**
10 seen

**Tawny-bellied hermit**
5 seen at Chilma Alto

**Green violetear**
2 seen at Impuerán

**Sparkling violetear**
1 seen at Chilma Alto and about 10 seen at Yanacocha

**Western emerald**
2-3 seen in the northern interandean valley

**Blue-headed sapphire**
1 seen 500 metres after the first railway crossing on the road to San Lorenzo, 1 female seen at the second railway crossing, 1 female seen 2.2 kms from the highway towards Impuerán, 1 male+1 pair seen in the hotel ground of Hostería Oasis at Ambuqui.

**Speckled hummingbird**
Fairly common
**Empress brilliant**  
1 female seen at Chilma Alto

**Ecuadorean hillstar**  
2 females seen along the track up to the Refugio at Cotopaxi, 1 pair seen near lake Limpiopongo at Cotopaxi and 1 male seen along the road between Latacunga and Quevedo.

**Giant hummingbird**  
1 seen at Sumbao along the road between Latacunga and Quevedo

**Shining sunbeam**  
3 seen at Yanacocha, 2 seen at Cotopaxi and 1 seen on volcano Chiles

**Mountain velvetbreast**  
2 seen at Yanacocha, 2 seen at Cerro Mungos and 1 seen along the road to Santa Barbara.

**Great sapphire-wing**  
1 male seen on volcano Chiles

**Collared inca**  
Fairly common at Chilma Alto

**Buff-winged starfrontlet**  
Common at Yanacocha

**Buff-tailed coronet**  
5 seen at Yanacocha

**Tourmaline sunangel**  
10 seen along the la Bonita road around Santa Barbara

**Black-breasted puffleg**  
1 male seen at Yanacocha 10 and 12/5. This is arguably one of the rarest hummingbirds in the world and only seen at Yanacocha between May and August. Endemic to Ecuador (volcano Pichincha).

**Sapphire-vented puffleg**  
About 15 seen at Yanacocha

**Golden-breasted puffleg**  
2 seen at Yanacocha

**Black-thighed puffleg**  
1 female + 1 male seen at Cerro Mungos along the short trail through the forest just before the páramo.

**Hoary puffleg**  
2 seen at Chilma Alto

**Booted raquet-tail**  
5 seen at Chilma Alto

**Black-tailed trainbearer**  
Singles, often in the interandean valley gardens

**Purple-backed thornbill**  
1 seen on the páramo on volcano Chiles and 1 seen at Yanacocha
**Viridian metaltail**  
2 seen at Papallacta, 1 seen at Santa Barbara

**Tyrian metaltail**  
Fairly common in temperate forest

**Rainbow-bearded thornbill**  
2 seen at Cerro Mungos

**Blue-mantled thornbill**  
1 seen on the páramo at vulcan Chiles and 3 seen at Papallacta

**Mountain avocetbill**  
1 seen along the road to Santa Barbara

**Long-tailed sylph**  
Fairly common in temperate forest

**Golden-headed quetzal**  
Singles at Chilma Alto

**Masked trogon**  
1 seen near Santa Barbara  
This form, *ssp temperatus*, is sometimes split and then called Highland trogon.

**White-faced nunbird**  
2 seen at Chilma Alto

**Toucan barbet**  
About seen and heard at Chilma Alto

**Plate-billed mountain-toucan**  
3 seen at Chilma Alto

**Crimson-mantled woodpecker**  
5 seen at Chilma Alto

**Bar-bellied woodpecker**  
2 seen at Yanacocha

**Bar-winged cinclodes**  
Fairly common at high altitude

**Stout-billed cinclodes**  
Singles at Papallacta and 2 at Cotopaxi

**Andean tit-spinetail**  
4 seen at Papallacta

**Azara’s spinetail**  
Fairly common at Chilma Alto

**White-chinned thistletail**  
1 seen at Papallacta lake and 1 seen at Cerro Mungos
**Many-striped Canastero**
About 5 seen at Papallacta and 2 seen at Cotopaxi

**Streaked Tufted Cheek**
1 seen at Chilma Alto, 1 seen at Yanacocha and 1 seen near Santa Barbara

**Pearled Treerunner**
Singles in flocks at Yanacocha and Papallacta

**Spotted Barbtail**
1 heard at Chilma Alto

**Lineated Foliage-Gleener**
5 heard at Chilma Alto

**Striped Treehunter**
1 seen at Chilma Alto

**Tawny-throated Leaftosser**
1 heard at Chilma Alto at about 2000 masl, a bit higher than stated in the book.

**Tyrannine Woodcreeper**
1 heard at Chilma Alto

**Montane Woodcreeper**
Singles

**Uniform Antshrike**
About 10 at Chilma Alto. The birds here had all dark irises and looked generally a shade darker than the birds at ie Mindo.

**Long-tailed Antbird**
2 seen at Chilma Alto

**Undulated Antpitta**
2 heard at Cerro Mungos

**Chestnut-naped Antpitta**
1 heard at Chilma Alto

**Bicoloured Antpitta**
2 heard near Santa Barbara. This former Colombian endemic was first discovered in Ecuador by Jonas Nilsson in 1999 and I heard and tape-recorded them at the same place.

**Yellow-breasted Antpitta**
1 seen and 2 heard at Chilma Alto

**Tawny Antpitta**
Common in the páramo

**Ash-coloured Tapaculo**
3 heard along the la Bonita road and 2 seen at Cerro Mungos

**Blackish Tapaculo Scytalopus latrans latrans**
1 heard near Chilma Alto
**Narino tapaculo**
5 heard at Chilma Alto

**Spillman’s tapaculo**
5 heard at Chilma Alto

**Paramo tapaculo**
2 heard at the polylepis grove above Papallacta

**Black-capped tyrannulet**
2 seen near Chilma Alto

**Golden-faced tyrannulet**
About 15 seen at Chilma Alto
These birds were seen between 2000-2400 masl, much higher than stated in Ridgely and Greenfield

**Southern beardless tyrannulet**
3 seen in the dry interandean valey

**White-creasted elaenia**
Singles in temperate forest

**Sierran elaenia**
2 seen near Santa Barbara

**White-throated tyrannulet**
Singles with flocks in temperate forest

**White-banded tyrannulet**
Singles at Chilma Alto

**White-tailed tyrannulet**
Singles with flocks, lower than previous species

**Torrent tyrannulet**
1 seen at Chilma Alto

**Tufted tit-tyrant**
Singles. About 10 near Calcali near Quito

**Agile tit-tyrant**
1 seen near Chilma Alto and 5 seen along the la Bonita road

**Subtropical doradito**
1 seen at laguna San Pablo

**Streak-necked flycatcher**
Fairly common at Chilma Alto

**Varigated bristle-tyrant**
2 seen at Chilma Alto

**Flavescent flycatcher**
1 heard at Chilma Alto
**Handsome flycatcher**
3 seen below papallacta

**Cinnamon flycatcher**
5 seen at Chilma Alto

**Smoke-coloured pewee**
Singles

**Vermillion flycatcher**
Common in the dry interandean valley

**Brown-backed chat-tyrant**
Fairly common in páramo

**Rufous-breasted chat-tyrant**
3 seen below Papallacta

**Red-rumped bush-tyrant**
1 seen near Papallacta pass

**Streak-throated bush-tyrant**
4 seen along the la Bonita road

**Smoky bush-tyrant**
2 seen near Santa Barbara

**Black-billed shrike-tyrant**
1+1 seen at Cotopaxi

**Páramo ground-tyrant**
2 seen at Papallacta and 50 seen at Cotopaxi 15/5, none seen there 10/11.

**White-browed ground-tyrant**
2 seen at Cotopaxi 15/5

**Spot-billed ground-tyrant**
1 seen near Calacali near Quito

**Golden-crowned flycatcher**
3 seen at Chilma Alto

**Tropical kingbird**
Seen

**Barred becard**
1 seen at Chilma Alto, 1 male seen at Papallacta and 2 seen near Santa Barbara

**Red-creasted cotinga**
5 seen along the la Bonita road and 7 seen at Cerro Mungos

**Barred fruiteater**
2 seen at Yanacocha
**Green-and-black fruiteater**
About 15 at Chilma Alto

**Golden-winged manakin**
1 female seen at Chilma Alto

**Black-collared jay**
2 seen at about 3000 masl near Santa Barbara

**Turquoise jay**
About 15 seen below Papallacta

**Beautiful jay**
1 heard at Chilma Alto

**Inca jay**
8 seen below Papallacta

**Brown-capped vireo**
15 seen at Chilma Alto

**Andean solitaire**
2 seen at Chilma Alto

**Great thrush**
Common

**Glossy-black thrush**
5 seen at Chilma Alto

**Tropical mockingbird**
2 seen about 500 metres after the first railway crossing on the road to San Lorenzo.

**White-capped dipper**
1 seen at Papallacta

**Brown-bellied swallow**
Common in the highlands and interandean valley

**Blue-and-white swallow**
Common

**Rufous wren**
About 10 seen at Chilma Alto

**Sepia-brown wren**
1 seen along the la Bonita road with a white forehead.

**Grass wren**
Singles at lake Limpiopongo, Cotopaxi, 1 seen at Papallacta

**House wren**
Singles
**Mountain wren**  
Singles in temperate forest

**Gray-breasted wood-wren**  
Common at Chilma Alto

**Páramo pipit**  
2 seen at Cerro Mungos

**Blackburnian warbler**  
Singles at Chilma Alto

**Canada warbler**  
2 seen below Papallacta

**Slate-throated whitestart**  
Common

**Spectacled whitestart**  
Common. Replaces previous species at higher altitude.

**Black-creasted warbler**  
Fairly common in temperate forest

**Three-striped warbler**  
Common at Chilma Alto

**Russet-crowned warbler**  
Common at Chilma Alto

**Cinereous conebill**  
Fairly common in the interandean valley

**Blue-backed conebill**  
12 seen around Papallacta and 3 along the la Bonita road

**Capped conebill**  
About 5 seen at Chilma Alto

**Giant conebill**  
2 seen twice at the polylepis grove above Papallacta

**Masked flowerpiercer**  
Common at Chilma Alto

**Glossy flowerpiercer**  
5 seen at Chilma Alto, 10 seen along the la Bonita road and about 15 seen at Yanacocha

**Black flowerpiercer**  
10 seen near Chilma Alto

**White-sided flowerpiercer**  
About 10 at Chilma Alto and singles elsewhere
FAWN-BREASTED TANAGER
1 seen somewhere

GOLDEN TANAGER
5 seen at Chilma Alto

SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER
5 seen at Chilma Alto

GOLDEN-NAPED TANAGER
1 seen at Chilma Alto

BERYL-SPANGLED TANAGER
Common

BLUE-AND-BLACK TANAGER
Common in temperate forest

SCRUB TANAGER
10 seen 2.2 kms from the highway towards Impuerán and 1 seen in the grounds of Hostería Oasis

GOLDEN-CROWNED TANAGER
5 seen at Cerro Mungos

SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER
Fairly common in temperate forest flocks.

LACRIMOSE MOUNTAIN-TANAGER
As scarlet-bellied

BLUE-WINGED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER
Common in upper subtropical forest.

HOODED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER
Singles in temperate forest

MASKED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER
5 seen in two flocks at Cerro Mungos

BLACK-CHESTED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER
3 seen at Yanacocha

BUFF-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER
1 seen at Papallacta and 2 along the la Bonita road

GRASS-GREEN TANAGER
About 10 seen at Chilma Alto, 2 seen near Santa Barbara

RUFIOUS-CRESTED TANAGER
4 seen at Chilma Alto

DUSKY BUSH-TANAGER
Common at Chilma Alto
Gray-hooded bush-tanager
3+4 along the la Bonita road

Black-backed bush-tanager
4 seen twice in the polylepis grove above Papallacta and 5 seen at Cerro Mungos

Superciliared hemispingus
Singles at Papallacta and la Bonita road

Black-eared hemispingus
2 seen at Papallacta and 2 seen along the la Bonita road

Plushcap
1 seen at Chilma Alto

Streaked saltator
4 seen in the interandean valley

Southern yellow grosbeak
Common in the interandean valley

Black-backed grosbeak
3+3 seen at and around Santa Barbara. Maybe a new record for the Sucumbíos province. Tape-recording made.

Black-and-white seedeater
10 seen at laguna San Pablo

Ruddy-breasted seedeater
2 seen about 500 metres after the first railway crossing on the road towards San Lorenzo

Plain-coloured seedeater
Fairly common around Papallacta and about 10 seen at laguna San Pablo.

Páramo seedeater
About 15 seen around Papallacta lake

Band-tailed seedeater
3 seen in the interandean valley

Plumbeous sierra-finch
Singles

Ash-breasted sierra-finch
About 20 in the interandean valley

Grassland yellow-finch
20 seen at laguna San Pablo

Pale-naped brush-finch
Small groups in temperate forest. Seen at Papallacta and la Bonita road

Rufous-naped brush-finch
Common in temperate forest
SLATY brush-finch
10 seen below Papallacta

WHITE-RIMMED brush-finches
1 seen with the Slaty brush-finches.

STRIPED-HEDD brush-finches
1 seen near Santa Barbara and 3 seen at Yanacocha

RHUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW
Common

NORTHERN MOUNTAIN CACIQUE
10 seen below Papallacta

HOODED SISKIN
5 seen at Papallacta and about 30 around laguna San Pablo

ANDEAN SISKIN
2 seen at Cerro Mungos

Lake Papallacta a week after a huge oil-spill in the lake. The temperate forest surrounding the lake offers good birding.
Andean Ruddy Duck at laguna San Pablo

Andean Guan along the la Bonita road

Greater Yellowlegs at lago Limpiopongo, Cotopaxi

Tawny antpitta at Cotopaxi. The easiest antpitta to see.
Male Black-breasted puffleg at Yanacocha 10/5

Buff-winged starfrontlet at Yanacocha

Black-breasted puffleg

Shining Sunbeam at Yanacocha
Male Ecuadorian Hillstar along the road from Latacunga to Quevedo

Red-creasted Cotinga along the la Bonita road.

Tropical Mockingbird north of Ibarra.
**East Slope**

**GUACAMAYOS (SOMETIMES SPELT HUACAMAYOS)**
If one loves rain this is the place to go to! It’s 7 kms south of Cosanga which is about 20 kms south of Baeza. The trail starts just behind the houses by the masts, you actually walk between the houses. After more than one kilometer the trail crosses a stream. The trail was gone over the stream due to a landslide but it was possible to cross anyway. Beyond the stream the trail was narrow and not very good. After about another kilometer a steep landslide had washed away the trail and it was not possible to continue.  
I was here 14-15/4 and 26/4. The weather was rather poor with fog and light drizzle. It could be worse!

**SAN ISIDRO**
This lodge is situated a few kilometers along a road that goes of the main road just before Cosanga. It is expensive (78$/night) and has to be reserved in Quito. They have a system of trails and also feeders. You can use the trails and watch the feeders for a 10$ fee. I did this one rather rainy afternoon and saw some birds I didn’t come across later.  
I was here 13/4 in the afternoon.  
A few kilometres further up the road there is a private reserve and a biological station called Yanuyacu owned by Harold Greeney. He found a nest of Peruvian antpitta and I went there together with Jonas Nilsson. We stayed the night there but I don’t know if Harold usually lets people stay there. Other biologists were staying there to carry out various research. Harold can be contacted at revmmoss@yahoo.com  
I was here together with Jonas 13-14/5.

**LORETO ROAD**
A rather disappointing story. Virtually all good habitat along the road is gone and the upper part is very steep so birding is rather unpleasant and in my case not very rewarding. I did see a few Coppery-chested jacamars and some other birds. Depending on time, stay in Archidona and bird the upper road in the morning and the Sumaco road in the afternoon and stay in Guaticocha and spend a morning along the Sumaco road again before going to Coca (or elsewhere).  
I was here 16-17/4.

**SUMACO ROAD (1300 METERS)**
About 50 kms down the Loreto road there is a track off to the left in a small village with a big sign for Sumaco NP. After 4 kms along this road good habitat starts rather obviously and continues for another 3 kms before it stops and orchards take over. After another 2 kms the road ends in a village. This road is very rough and don’t expect to drive more than 15 km/h. This is where I had by far the best birding along the Loreto road although the morning I spend here was almost completely rained away.  
The nearest accommodation is at Guaticocha. 17.8 kms further down the Loreto road. There are two hotels and I stayed at hotel Jungla. It takes almost one hour to drive from there to the good habitat along the Sumaco road.  
I was here 24-25/4.

**Guango Lodge**
This place about 10 kms E of Papallacta is a private lodge. They have hummingbird feeders and allows visitors for a 5$ entrance fee including a cup of coffee while watching the hummers. The feeders are very good and well worth an hour.  
I was here for about half an hour 14/5.
Birdlist

**Black vulture**
Common

**Turkey vulture**
Common

**Swallow-tailed kite**
2 on Loreto road

**Roadside hawk**
2 on Loreto road

**Black caracara**
3 in a flock on Loreto road

**Andean guan**
1 on Guacamayos trail, 2 along the road short after Guacamayos

**White-throated quail-dove**
1 heard Guacamayos

**Ruddy quail-dove**
3 seen and 1 heard Guacamayos

**White-capped parrot**
A flock of 38 seen at Yanuyacu

**Scaly-naped amazon**
15 seen at Guacamayos ridge

**Squirrel cuckoo**
1 seen on the Sumaco road

**Smooth-billed ani**
5 seen along the Sumaco road

**Tropical screech-owl**
1 heard Guaticocha, Loreto road

**Rufous-banded owl**
1 heard at Yanuyacu

**Band-winged nightjar**
1 seen at Yanuyacu

**Swallow-tailed nightjar**
1 heard a few kilometres south of Guacamayos ridge

**White-collared swift**
25 on Loreto road

**Green hermit**
1 seen on the Sumaco road
**Grey-chinned hermit**
2 seen on the upper Loreto road and 1 seen on the Sumaco road.

**Violet-headed hummingbird**
1 seen on the Sumaco road and 1 seen along the Loreto road.

**Fork-tailed woodnymph**
4 seen along the Loreto road

**Many-spotted hummingbird**
1 seen along the Sumaco road

**Speckled hummingbird**
About 10 seen at Guacamayos and San Isidro

**Fawn-breasted brilliant**
3 seen at San Isidro

**White-tailed hillstar**
1 seen along the Loreto road

**Mountain velvetchest**
1 female seen between Papallacta and Baeza, 1 male seen at San Isidro.
According to the birdlist at San Isidro this was only the third record for that site.

**Sword-billed hummingbird**
1 female seen at Guango lodge between Papallacta and Baeza

**Bronzy inca**
4 seen at San Isidro and 1 at Guacamayos
**Collared inca**  
5 seen at San Isidro and Guacamayos

**Chestnut-breasted coronet**  
1 seen at San Isidro and 1 seen at Guango lodge between Papallacta and Baeza

**(Rufous-)Booted raquet-tail**  
1 male seen on the Sumaco road

**Tyrian metaltail**  
1 seen at Guacamayos and 2-3 between Papallacta and Baeza.

**Long-tailed sylph**  
About 10 at San Isidro and Guacamayos

**Tourmaline sunangel**  
About 10 seen at Guango lodge between Papallacta and Baeza

**Masked (Highland) trogon**  
1 male seen at Guango lodge between Papallacta and Baeza

**Highland motmot**  
1 heard at Yanuyacu

**Coppery-chested jacamar**  
4-5 seen along the upper Loreto road including a pair at a nesthole.

**Red-headed barbet**  
5 seen along the Loreto road

**Chestnut-eared aracari**  
2 along the Loreto road

**Many-banded aracari**  
5 seen on the Sumaco road

**Black-billed mountain-toucan**  
3 heard at Guacamayos

**White-throated toucan**  
1 seen along the upper Loreto road

**Lafresnaye’s piculet**  
3 seen along the Loreto road

**Crimson-mantled woodpecker**  
1 seen at Guacamayos

**Yellow-tufted woodpecker**  
4 seen along the Loreto road

**Little woodpecker**  
2 seen along the lower Loreto road
YELLOW-VENTED WOODPECKER
1 seen at Yanuyacu

POWERFUL WOODPECKER
1 male seen at Guacamayos

AZARA’S SPINETAIL
5 seen at Guacamayos

DARK-BREASTED SPINETAIL
3 seen along the Loreto road

PEARLED TREERUNNER
About 5 seen along the Loreto road

SPOTTED BARBTAIL
1 seen at Guacamayos

RUDDY FOLIAGE-GLEENER
1 seen along the Loreto road

STRIPED TREEHUNTER
1 seen at Guacamayos

STREAKED XENOPS
2 seen along the Loreto road

OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER
2 seen along the Loreto road

OLIVE-BACKED WOODCREEPER
3 seen at San Isidro and 1 along the Loreto road

MONTANE WOODCREEPER
5 seen at Guacamayos

LINED ANTSHRIKE
2 males seen along the lower Loreto road

ORNATE ANTWREN
1 pair seen on the Sumaco road

GRAY ANTBIRD
1 seen along the lower Loreto road

BARRED ANTTHRUSH
2 heard at Guacamayos

MOUSTACHED ANTPITTA
1 heard at Guacamayos

PLAIN-BACKED ANTPITTA
2 heard along the upper Loreto road
**Chestnut-crowned antpitta**
1 seen and 3 heard at Guacamayos

**Peruvian antpitta**
1 female incubating on a nest at Yanuyacu! This nest, the second ever, was found by Harold Greeney.

**Slate-crowned antpitta**
1 heard at Guacamayos

**Ash-coloured tapaculo**
2 heard at Guacamayos

**Equatorial rufous-vented tapaculo**
About 5 heard between Baeza and Yanuyacu

**Spillman’s tapaculo**
1 heard at Guacamayos

**Ocellated tapaculo**
2 heard at Guacamayos ridge

**Golden-faced tyrannulet**
4 seen at Guacamayos and San Isidro

**Rufous-breasted flycatcher**
1 heard about 5 kms south of Baeza (id by Jonas Nilsson)

**Torrent tyrannulet**
About 10 seen along the Loreto road

**Olive-striped flycatcher**
1 seen on the Sumaco road

**Rufous-headed pygmy-tyrant**
5 seen at Guacamayos and 1 seen at Yanuyacu

**Bronze-olive pygmy-tyrant**
2 heard at Yanuyacu

**Rufous-crowned tody-flycatcher**
1 seen at San Isidro and 1 south of Cosanga

**Common tody-flycatcher**
5 seen at San Isidro

**Fulvous-breasted flatbill**
1 seen at San Isidro

**Ornate flycatcher**
3 seen on the Sumaco road

**Handsome flycatcher**
3 seen between Papallacta and Baeza, 5 seen at Guacamayos
**Cinnamon Flycatcher**
About 10 seen between above Baeza and Loreto road

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**
2 seen along the upper Loreto road

**Smoke-Coloured Pewee**
5 seen between Baeza and Loreto road

**Olive-Sided Flycatcher**
1 seen on the Loreto road

**Black Phoebe**
3 seen between Baeza and Loreto road

**Slaty-Backed Chat-Tyrant**
2 seen at Guacamayos

**Yellow-Bellied Chat-Tyrant**
1 seen at Guacamayos

**Smoky Bush Tyrant**
2 seen at the masts at Guacamayos

**Cliff Flycatcher**
2-3 seen along the upper Loreto road

**Long-Tailed Tyrant**
2 seen on the Sumaco road

**Pale-Edged Flycatcher**
1 seen at San Isidro and 2 seen at Yanuyacu

**Great Kiskadee**
2 seen on the Loreto road

**Lemon-Browed Flycatcher**
2 seen on Sumaco road

**Golden-Crowned Flycatcher**
1 seen at Guacamayos

**Tropical Kingbird**
Common

**Masked Tityra**
4 seen on the Loreto road

**Green-and-Black Fruiteater**
3 seen at Guacamayos

**Scarlet-Breasted Fruiteater**
1 pair seen on the Sumaco road
**Blue-rumped manakin**  
1 male seen on the Sumaco road

**Golden-winged manakin**  
1 male seen on the Sumaco road

**Wing-barred piprites**  
1 seen on the Sumaco road

**Inca jay**  
5 seen between Papallacta and Baeta, 10 seen at Yanuyacu and 3 seen at San Isidro

**Black-billed pepper-shrike**  
1 seen at San Isidro and 3 after Guacamayos

**Slaty-capped shrike-vireo**  
1 seen on the Sumaco road

**Red-eyed vireo**  
2 seen along the lower Loreto road

**Olivaceous greenlet**  
6 seen along the Loreto road

**Pale-eyed thrush**  
1 male seen at San Isidro and 5 seen at Yanuyacu

**Black-billed thrush**  
1 seen along the Loreto road and 1 seen at Yanuyacu

**Blue-and-white swallow**  
Common

**Southern rough-winged swallow**  
5 seen along the Loreto road

**Black-capped donacobius**  
5 seen along the Loreto road

**Thrush-like wren**  
1 seen along the lower Loreto road

**Rufous wren**  
8 seen at Guacamayos

**House wren**  
Common

**Mountain wren**  
5 seen at Guacamayos

**Grey-breasted woodwren**  
10 seen at Guacamayos
**Wing-banded wren**
1 heard on the Sumaco road

**Blackpool warbler**
1 male seen along the lower Loreto road

**Blackburnian warbler**
7 seen along the Loreto road

**Canada warbler**
2 seen along the Loreto road

**Slate-throated whitestart**
About 5 seen along the Loreto road

**Spectacled whitestart**
5 seen at Guacamayos

**Three-striped warbler**
5 seen at Guacamayos

**Russet-crowned warbler**
5 seen at Guacamayos

**Bananaquit**
10 seen along the Loreto road

**Bluish flowerpiercer**
3 seen near Guacamayos ridge

**Masked flowerpiercer**
About 15 seen at Guacamayos

**Golden-eyed flowerpiercer**
3 seen along the road south of Guacamayos

**White-sided flowerpiercer**
About 10 seen at and near Guacamayos

**Orange-bellied euphonia**
2 seen at San Isidro and 5 at Guacamayos

**Bronze-green euphonia**
1 seen on the Sumaco road

**Golden tanager**
2 seen on the Sumaco road

**Saffron-crowned tanager**
2 seen at San Isidro

**Golden-eared tanager**
1 seen on the Sumaco road
**Flame-faced Tanager**
2 seen on the Loreto road

**Beryl-spangled Tanager**
2 seen at San Isidro and 5 at Guacamayos

**Black-capped Tanager**
3 seen at San Isidro

**Blue-necked Tanager**
3 seen on the Sumaco road and 2 at Guacamayos

**Paradise Tanager**
9 seen on the Loreto road

**Green-and-gold Tanager**
1 seen on the Loreto road

**Spotted Tanager**
10 seen along the Loreto road

**Yellow-bellied Tanager**
4 seen along the lower Loreto road

**Bay-headed Tanager**
1 seen on the Sumaco road

**Lacrimose Mountain-tanager**
1 seen at Guacamayos

**Hooded Mountain-tanager**
3 including a recently fledged at Guacamayos

**Blue-grey Tanager**
Common lower down

**Palm Tanager**
Fairly common lower down

**Silver-beaked Tanager**
Common

**Common Bush-tanager**
About 20 at Guacamayos

**Yellow-throated Bush-tanager**
8 seen along the Loreto road

**Yellow-whiskered Bush-tanager**
5-10 seen at Guacamayos

**Ash-throated Bush-tanager**
2 seen about 5 kms south of Baeza
**Black-capped hemispingus**  
2 seen at Guacamayos

**Black-eared hemispingus**  
2 between Papallacta and Baeza and 5 at Guacamayos

**Magpie tanager**  
1 on the Sumaco road

**Buff-throated saltator**  
2 seen along the upper Loreto road

**Grayish saltator**  
4 seen along the Loreto road

**Chestnut-bellied seedeater**  
5 seen along the lower Loreto road

**Chestnut-capped brush-finch**  
1 seen south of Cosanga

**White-rimmed brush-finch**  
1 seen between Papallacta and Baeza

**Slaty brush-finch**  
5-10 seen between Papallacta and Baeza

**Yellow-browed sparrow**  
About 15 seen along the lower Loreto road and Sumaco road

**Rufous-collared sparrow**  
Common

**Mountain cacique**  
10 seen at Yanuyacu

**Yellow-billed cacique**  
1 heard a few kilometres south of Guacamayos ridge

**Subtropical cacique**  
2 seen at San Isidro, 10 seen at Yanuyacu and about 5 at Guacamayos

**Olivaceous siskin**  
3 seen on the Sumaco road

View from the lower part of the Loreto road.
EASTERN LOWLANDS

COCA
This rather unpleasant town near rio Napo is the gateway to the lodges along rio Napo and its tributaries. I spend one afternoon just before Coca, about 2 kms before the airstrip, there was a little marsh with some waders and a good flock of Large-billed seed-finches. I call this place Coca marsh in the report.
Thenext morning I drove across rio Napo and just made some roadside stops in degraded habitat and saw some nice birds.
I birded around Coca 17-18/4

YARINA LODGE
This rather new lodge (4 years old) is situated just 30 minutes boatride down rio Napo. It has only terra firme forest and two artificial lakes and no birdguides. It does have a very good canopy tower 38 metres high that can harbour 15 people. It’s 20 minutes walk from the lodge and they bring you breakfast there if you like.
They have a trail system but you need a guide as the trails are not marked and rather narrow and in places obscure. This lodge is relatively cheap, 45 USD per day all included. The lodge can be booked in Quito or you can just show up at hotel Oasis which is along rio Napo just down to the left from the bridge that crosses the river. They also own Yuturi lodge which is 5-6 hours downstream and has more habitat and also a good bird guide. I was intended to visit that lodge as well but they only drive there with at least three people and there was unfortunately no boat while I was there.
To make reservations for Yarina and Yuturi lodges visit www.yuturi.com
I was at the Yarina lodge 19-24/4 and one afternoon and one morning in the tower 4-5/12.

YUTURI LODGE
This old lodge is situated about 4-5 hours downstream rio Napo from Coca. It is owned by the same company as Yarina lodge – Yuturi Company. The lodge itself is perfectly all right and the food as well. The main advantage is that they have a very good bird guide called Jaime. He has been here for 14 years and is the most experienced bird guide along the rio Napo. He speaks only Spanish but knows the bird names in English and he knows the birds very well and where to find them. If going to this lodge, make sure you tell the agency that you want their bird watching program and that you particularly want Jaime as your guide. Some of the birding at Yuturi is done by canoe or at least you go with a canoe for a while to the start of the trails. This is the best site in Ecuador for Black-necked red-cotinga, also this is one of the best sites for Orange-crested manakin as well as a range of lowland species. Close to the lodge in rio Napo you have access to river islands which should not be missed. The avifauna here is very different from the mainland.
I paid 520$ for five days all included. Flight from Quito to Coca t/r (120$). First day is spent travelling to Coca and boat transfer to Yuturi about 4-5 hours. Day 2 and 3 are full days at Yuturi. Day 4 is visit to river island and then boat to Yarina lodge. You then have a couple of hours in the tower. Day 5 is at Yarina and the time is best spent in the tower. Here you have the possibility to extend your jungle-trip with a couple of extra days at Yarina. They drive the boats as you like between here and Coca (about 30 mins).
I arrived here in late afternoon 1/12 and had two full days birding and a morning, mainly on a river island. The rest of 4/12 was boat to Yarina lodge.

ARCHIDONA
This village is 10 kms before Tena and a better base for visiting the upper Loreto road, especially since the accommodation was excellent at the Hosteria Orchid Paradise (tel.886 476) for just 15 USD including breakfast. The hotel ground held Black- and Warbling antbirds, Stripe-chested antwren and Pale-tailed barbthroat. Internet was not available in Archidona but in Tena.
I only birded one afternoon in the hotel garden on 15/4.
**Birdlist**

**Gray tinamou**
1 seen at Yuturi

**Cinereous tinamou**
1 seen at Yarina

**Little tinamou**
1 seen at Yuturi

**Undulated tinamou**
1 heard at Yarina and 1 heard at Yuturi

**Variegated tinamou**
2 heard at Yarina

**Neotropical cormorant**
1 seen at Yuturi

**Rufescent tiger-heron**
1 seen at Yuturi

**Cocoi heron**
2 seen at Yuturi

**Snowy egret**
10 seen along río Napo

**Cattle egret**
5 seen near Coca

**Striated heron**
2 seen in the artificial lakes at Yarina and about 10 seen at Yuturi

**Agami heron**
1 juvenile seen at Yuturi

**Boat-billed heron**
2 seen at Yuturi

**King vulture**
2 adults and 2 subadults at Yarina

**Black vulture**
Fairly common

**Turkey vulture**
Fairly common

**Greater yellow-headed vulture**
About 10 seen at both Yarina and Yuturi
Osprey
1 seen along río Napo

Gray-headed kite
1 juv seen from the tower at Yarina

Swallow-tailed kite
Common

Pearl kite
1 seen at the marsh near Coca airport

Double-toothed kite
1 seen from the tower at Yarina

Plumbeous kite
Fairly common

Slate-coloured hawk
1 seen and 2 heard at Yuturi

Roadside hawk
2 seen from the tower at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi

Zone-tailed hawk
1 ad seen from the tower at Yarina

Black-and-white hawk-eagle
1 seen from the tower at Yarina

Black caracara
5 seen along río Napo

Red-throated caracara
3 seen from the tower plus heard at Yarina and 3 seen at Yuturi

Northern crested caracara
1 seen along río Napo

Yellow-headed caracara
A few seen along rio Napo

Barred forest-falcon
1 seen from the tower at Yarina

Bat falcon
1 seen at Yuturi

Speckled chachalaca
A few seen and some heard at both lodges

Spix’s guan
1 heard from the tower and 3 heard along a trails at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi
**Marbled wood-quail**
2 seen at Yarina

**Gray-breasted crake**
2 seen and 1 heard on a river island near Yuturi

**Sunbittern**
2 seen in the lake below the lodge at Yarina

**Wattled jacana**
5 seen in one lake at Yarina

**Greater yellowlegs**
1 seen along río Napo

**Solitary sandpiper**
4 seen in the marsh near Coca airport

**Spotted sandpiper**
Common along río Napo

**Upland sandpiper**
5 seen in the marsh near Coca airport

**Southern lapwing**
1 seen in the marsh near Coca airport

**Pied plover**
1 seen along rio Napo

**Yellow-billed tern**
5 seen along río Napo

**Large-billed tern**
1 seen along río Napo

**Pale-vented pigeon**
About 25 seen at Yuturi

**Ruddy pigeon**
3 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Gray-fronted dove**
5 seen at Yuturi

**Ruddy quail-dove**
1 heard at Yuturi

**Blue-and-yellow macaw**
4 seen at Yuturi

**Chestnut-fronted macaw**
6 seen at Yuturi
**Red-bellied macaw**
10 seen from the tower at Yarina and about 10 seen at Yuturi

**Dusky-headed parakeet**
2+2 seen at Yarina

**Cobalt-winged parakeet**
Fairly common

**Scarlet-shouldered parrotlet**
2 seen near the lodge at Yarina

**Black-headed parrot**
About 15 seen at Yarina and singles at Yuturi

**Orange-cheeked parrot**
About 5 seen at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**Orange-winged amazon**
10 seen from the tower at Yarina and about 20 seen at Yuturi

**Mealy amazon**
10-15 seen at Yarina

**Black-bellied cuckoo**
4 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Little cuckoo**
2 seen at Yuturi

**Greater ani**
Common

**Smooth-billed ani**
Common

**Hoatzin**
6 seen by a blackwater lake some three hours walk from the lodge, common at Yuturi

**Tawny-bellied screech-owl**
2 heard from the lodge at Yarina and 1 heard at Yuturi

**Ferruginous pygmy-owl**
1 seen and 2-3 more heard at Yarina and 1 heard at Yuturi

**Creasted owl**
1 heard at each lodge

**Black-banded owl**
1 heard one night at Yarina

**Great potoo**
1 seen from the tower and 1 seen along a canoe-ride at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi
**Common potoo**
1 seen at Yuturi

**Common nighthawk**
1 seen at Yuturi lodge

**Sand-coloured nighthawk**
About 100 seen at Yuturi lodge

**Ladder-tailed nightjar**
4 seen on a river island close to Yuturi

**White-collared swift**
Some seen from the tower at Yarina

**Chestnut-collared swift**
About 20 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Short-tailed swift**
About 20 seen at Yarina and about 10 seen at Yuturi and 5 seen at Archidona

**Pale-rumped swift**
1 seen over the lodge at Yarina

**Lesser swallowtailed swift**
5 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Neotropical palmswift**
About 5 seen at Yarina and about 20 seen at Yuturi

**Pale-tailed barbthroat**
1 seen in the hotel ground at Archidona

**Great-billed hermit**
1 seen + a family at Yarina

**White-bearded hermit**
4 seen at Yuturi

**Straight-billed hermit**
1 seen along the tributary at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi

**White-necked jacobin**
1 seen at Yuturi

**Black-throated mango**
1 seen near rio Napo in Coca

**Fork-tailed woodnymph**
1 seen at Yuturi and 1 male seen from the tower at Yarina

**Rufous-throated sapphire**
1 seen from the tower at Yarina. This species is very rare in Ecuador. The bill was clearly red with a distinct black tip and the tail winered. It was feeding in the branches above the platform for about a minute.
**Olive-spotted Hummingbird**
2 seen on a river island close to Yuturi

**Glittering-throated Emerald**
1 seen near Coca

**Long-billed Starthroat**
1 seen at Yuturi

**Black-tailed Trogon**
1 heard at Yuturi

**Amazonian White-tailed Trogon**
3 seen and heard at Yuturi

**Collared Trogon**
1 male seen at Yuturi

**Black-throated Trogon**
1 male seen and tape-recorded at Yuturi

**Ringed Kingfisher**
3 seen along río Napo

**Amazon Kingfisher**
1 in the lake below the lodge at Yarina and 3 seen at Yuturi

**Green Kingfisher**
2 seen at Yuturi

**Green-and-rufous Kingfisher**
1 female in the lake below the lodge at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**American Pygmy Kingfisher**
1 seen at Yuturi

**Blue-crowned Motmot**
2 seen along the trails at Yarina and 2 heard at Yuturi

**White-eared Jacamar**
1 seen near Coca and 3 seen at Yuturi

**Great Jacamar**
1 seen at Yuturi

**White-necked Puffbird**
About 10 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Spotted Puffbird**
1 seen at Yuturi. This species is not documentet from the río Napo drainage and this was only the second time in 14 years that Jaime saw this species at Yuturi. I posted a mail on the Aves_Ecuador mailinglist about this record and it turned out that the species have been seen a few times before in this part of Ecuador.
WHITE-CHESTED PUFFBIRD
1 seen at Yuturi

BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD
4 seen at Yuturi

WHITE-FRONTED NUNBIRD
1 seen along the trails at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi

SWALLOW-WING
About 10 seen along río Napo

SCARLET-CROWNED BARBET
4 seen near Coca and 2 seen at Yuturi

GILDED BARBET
2 seen from the tower at Yarina

GOLDEN-COLLARED TOUCANET
1 seen at Yarina

CHESTNUT-EARED ARACARI
4 seen near the artificial lake at Yarina

MANY-BANDED ARACARI
About 15 seen in total

IVORY-BILLED ARACARI
2 seen near the artificial lake and 2 seen from the tower at Yarina

LETTERED ARACARI
1 seen at Yuturi and 1 seen at Yarina

CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN
2 seen from the tower at Yarina and 5 seen at Yuturi

WHITE-THROATED TOUCAN
About 10 seen at Yarina

LAFRESNAYE’S PICULET
1 seen in Archidona

SPOT-BREASTED WOODPECKER
2 seen near Coca and 2 seen at Yarina

CHESTNUT WOODPECKER
4 seen at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi

SCALE-BREASTED WOODPECKER
1 heard near the artificial lake at Yarina

CREAM-COLOURED WOODPECKER
2 near the lodge at Yarina, 3 seen at Yuturi and 2 seen near Coca
**Lineated woodpecker**  
2 seen at the artificial lake at Yarina

**Yellow-tufted woodpecker**  
Fairly common

**Little woodpecker**  
2 seen at Yuturi

**Crimson-creasted woodpecker**  
At least 4 seen at Yarina and 4-5 seen at Yuturi

**Lesser hornero**  
3 seen on a river island near Yuturi

**White-bellied spinetail**  
15 seen on a river island near Yuturi

**Parker’s spinetail**  
1 seen on a river island near Yuturi

**Point-tailed palmcreeper**  
1 heard at Yuturi

**Eastern woodhaunter**  
2 heard at Yuturi

**Chestnut-winged foliage-gleener**  
5 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Rufous-rumped foliage-gleener**  
2 seen at Yuturi

**Plain xenops**  
3 seen along the trails at Yarina

**Short-billed leaftossor**  
1 seen at Yuturi

**Black-tailed leaftossor**  
1 seen at Yuturi

**Plain-brown woodcreeper**  
1 seen at Yarina and 8 seen at Yuturi

**Wedge-billed woodcreeper**  
About 5 seen at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**Long-billed woodcreeper**  
1 seen at the artificial lake at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**Cinnamon-throated woodcreeper**  
2 seen at the artificial lake at Yarina, 1 seen hear Coca and 1 heard at Yuturi
STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER
2 heard at Yuturi

STRIPED WOODCREEPER
1 heard at Yuturi

BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER
12 seen at Yuturi

LINEATED WOODCREEPER
2 seen from the tower at Yarina

FASCIADED ANTSHRIKE
1 seen at Yuturi

GREAT ANTSHRIKE
2 on Monkey island in río Napo

BARRED ANTSHRIKE
2 seen on a river island near Yuturi

PLAIN-WINGED ANTSHRIKE
1 seen at Yuturi

MOUSE-COLOURED ANTSHRIKE
2 heard at Yuturi

DUSKY-THROATED ANTSHRIKE
4 seen at Yuturi

CINEREOUS ANTSHRIKE
4 seen at Yuturi

SHORT-BILLED ANTWREN
2 heard at Yuturi

stripe-chested antwren
1 male seen in Archidona

PLAIN-THROATED ANTWREN
4 seen at Yuturi

WHITE-FLANKED ANTWREN
3 seen at Yuturi

LONG-WINGED ANTWREN
1 male seen at Yuturi

GRAY ANTWREN
2 seen at Yarina

GRAY ANTBIRD
2 heard at Yuturi
**Black antbird**
1 seen in the hotel ground in Archidona

**Black-faced antbird**
3 seen at Yarina and 3 seen at Yuturi

**Warbling antbird**
2 seen in the hotel ground at Archidona

**Yellow-browed antbird**
2 seen at Yarina

**Spot-backed antbird**
2 seen at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**Scale-backed antbird**
1 female seen at Yarina and 1 female seen at Yuturi

**Banded antbird**
2 seen at Yuturi

**Black-and-white antbird**
3 seen on a river island near Yuturi

**Spot-winged antbird**
2 seen at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi

**Plumbeous antbird**
1 seen at Yuturi

**Sooty antbird**
2 seen at Yuturi

**Bicoloured antbird**
1+3 seen at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**Lunnulated antbird**
1 pair seen at Yuturi

**Rufous-capped antthrush**
1 heard at Yuturi

**Black-faced antthrush**
1 seen and 2 heard at Yarina and a few seen and heard at Yuturi

**Striated antthrush**
2 heard at Yuturi

**Ochre-striped antpitta**
1 seen and 2 heard at Yuturi

**Thrush-like antpitta**
1 heard at Yuturi
**Rusty-belted Tapaculo**  
1 seen and 3 heard at Yuturi

**White-lored Tyrannulet**  
1 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Southern Beardless Tyrannulet**  
1 seen at Yuturi

**Gray Elaenia**  
2 seen from the tower at Yarina

**River Tyrannulet**  
1 seen on a river island near Yuturi

**Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant**  
2 seen on a river island near Yuturi

**Ochre-Bellied Flycatcher**  
3 seen in understory flocks at Yarina

**Ringed Antpiper**  
1 heard at Yuturi

**Double-Banded Pygmy-Tyrant**  
2 heard at Yuturi

**White-Eyed Tody-Tyrant**  
1 heard at Yuturi

**Spotted Tody-Flycatcher**  
2 seen on a river island near Yuturi

**Brownish Twistwing**  
1 seen at Yarina

**Olivaceous Flatbill**  
1 seen near Coca

**Zimmer’s Flatbill**  
2 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Alder/Willow Flycatcher**  
1 seen on a river island near Yuturi. Almost impossible to identify but most likely a Alder flycatcher

**Fuscous Flycatcher**  
1 seen on a river island near Yuturi

**Drab Water-Tyrant**  
About 10-15 seen along río Napo

**Riverside Tyrant**  
1 male seen along río Napo near Sacha lodge
Bright-rumped Attila
2 heard at Yarina and 1 heard at Yuturi

Citron-bellied Attila
1 seen and tape-recorded at Yuturi. This bird is rare in Ecuador. It was the first time since july that Jaime saw this bird.

Cinnamon Attila
1 heard at Yarina and 12 seen at Yuturi

Grayish Mourner
1 heard at Yarina and 1 heard at Yuturi

Eastern Sirystes
1 seen in the hotel ground at Archidona

Great Kiskadee
Fairly common

Lesser Kiskadee
Singles

Boat-billed Flycatcher
Fairly common

Social Flycatcher
Fairly common

Streaked Flycatcher
2 seen near the lodge at Yarina

Piratic Flycatcher
3 seen at Yuturi

Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher
2 seen from the tower at Yarina. There is obviously a lot of individual variation in this species. Look at the photos taken the same day from the tower.

Sulphury Flycatcher
1 seen at the artificial lake at Yarina

Tropical Kingbird
Singles

Eastern Kingbird
1 seen at Yuturi

Fork-tailed Flycatcher
1 seen near Coca

Black-capped Becard
1 seen from the tower at Yarina
**BLACK-TAILED TITYRA**  
3 seen from the tower at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**WHITE-BROWED PURPLETUFT**  
2 seen on the trails at Yarina

**CINEREOUS MOURNER**  
2 heard at Yuturi

**SCREAMING PIHA**  
About 5 heard at Yarina and about 10 at Yuturi

**PLUM-THROATED COTINGA**  
1 females seen at Yuturi and 1 female seen from the tower at Yarina

**SPANGLED COTINGA**  
1 pair seen from the tower at Yarina

**BARE-NECKED FRUITCROW**  
3 seen at Yuturi

**PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW**  
1 pair seen from the tower at Yarina

**BLACK-NECKED RED-COTINGA**  
2 males seen at Yuturi. Yuturi lodge is the best place in Ecuador for this stunning species.

**WIRE-TAILED MANAKIN**  
2 seen at Yuturi

**WHITE-CROWNED MANAKIN**  
1 female seen at Yarina and 1 male seen at Yuturi

**BLUE-CROWNED MANAKIN**  
1 male and 1 female seen at Yarina and 5 seen at Yuturi

**BLUE-BACKED MANAKIN**  
1 female and 3 displaying males seen at Yuturi

**ORANGE-CRESTED MANAKIN**  
1 seen at Yuturi. Yuturi is one of few reliable sites for this, almost Ecuadorian endemic

**DWARF TYRANT-MANAKIN**  
1 seen at Yuturi and several heard

**WING-BARRED PIPRITES**  
1 heard at Yuturi

**THRUSH-LIKE SCHIFFORNIS**  
1 seen at Yarina

**VIOLACEOUS JAY**  
5-10 seen and heard at Yarina and about 20 seen at Yuturi
**Red-eyed vireo**  
2 seen from the tower at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**Black-billed thrush**  
2 seen at Yuturi

**Lawrence’s thrush**  
4 heard at Yuturi

**Hauxwell’s thrush**  
1 seen and 1 heard at Yuturi

**Brown-chested martin**  
2 seen near Coca

**Gray-breasted martin**  
Fairly common near Coca

**White-winged swallow**  
Common along río Napo

**Blue-and-white swallow**  
Common

**White-banded swallow**  
Fairly common along río Napo and about 30 near Archidona

**Barn swallow**  
1 seen along río Napo

**Black-capped donacobius**  
2 seen at the artificial lake at Yarina and about 10 seen at Yuturi

**Thrush-like wren**  
1 seen below the lodge at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**House wren**  
Singles

**White-breasted wood-wren**  
2 seen at Yarina

**Musician wren**  
3 seen at Yarina

**Southern nightingale-wren**  
2-3 heard at Yarina

**Tawny-faced gnatwren**  
1 seen at Yarina

**Yellow warbler**  
1 seen near Río Napo in Coca
**Blackburnian Warbler**
1 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Bananaquit**
Singles around the lodges

**Green Honeycreeper**
About 5 seen from the tower at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi

**Blue Dacnis**
2 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Black-faced Dacnis**
3 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Yellow-backed Tanager**
1 pair seen from the tower at Yarina

**Orange-headed Tanager**
3 seen on a river island close to Yuturi

**White-lored Euphonia**
1 pair at the tower at Yarina

**Masked Tanager**
1 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Turquoise Tanager**
8 seen at Yarina and 5 seen in Archidona

**Opal-rumped Tanager**
4 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Opal-crowned Tanager**
6 seen from the tower at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi

**Paradise Tanager**
9 seen from the tower at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**Swallow Tanager**
4 seen from the tower at Yarina

**Blue-gray Tanager**
Singles around the lodges

**Palm Tanager**
Singles seen at Yuturi

**Silver-beaked Tanager**
Singles around the lodge at Yarina. Common in the lowlands

**Masked Crimson Tanager**
5 seen at Yuturi
SCARLET TANAGER
1 female seen at the tower at Yarina

GRAY-HEADED TANAGER
3 seen at Yuturi

FLAME-CREASTED TANAGER
3 seen from the tower at Yarina

FULVOUS-CREASTED TANAGER
2 seen in an understory flock at Yarina

MAGPIE TANAGER
Singles

GRAYISH SALTATOR
1 seen at Archidona

RED-CAPPED CARDINAL
2 seen at Yuturi

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT
10 seen around Coca

LESSER SEED-FINCH
5 seen around Coca

LARGE-BILLED SEED-FINCH
About 25 seen at the marsh near Coca airport.
This species is very rare in Ecuador and this is one of the biggest flocks ever observed.

LESSON’S SEEDEATER
About 10 seen on a river island near Yuturi

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEEDEATER
About 20 seen at the mara$h near Coca airport and 10 seen on a river island near Yuturi

YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW
Singles seen on a river island near Yuturi and fairly common in the lowlands.

YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE
Common

RED-RUMPED CACIQUE
1 seen from the tower at Yarina

CASQUED OROPENDOLA
2 seen near the lodge at Yarina and 1 seen at Yuturi

CREASTED OROPENDOLA
Common

RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA
Common
**Green oropendola**
1 seen near the lodge at Yarina and 2 seen at Yuturi

**Moriche oriole**
1 seen on the trails at Yarina

**Orange-backed troupiel**
3 seen at the artificial lake at Yarina and 1 seen near Coca

**Oriole blackbird**
7 seen along río Napo

**Red-breasted blackbird**
About 30 seen at the marsh near Coca airport

The excellent canopy tower at Yarina lodge. If you want, they bring warm breakfast from the lodge to the tower!
White-throated toucan. Compare bill-shape with Yellow-ridged.

Yellow-ridged toucan. Best mean of ID is the voice.

Two very different Crowned Slaty-Flycatchers at the Yarina tower in April. The right one is the typical individual as depicted in field guides. The left one was very confusing for me until Jonas Nilsson identified it as this species.
Solitary Sandpiper at Coca marsh in April.

One of the five Upland Sandpipers at Coca marsh in April.

Southern Lapwing at Coca

Wattled Jacana at Coca
Cream-coloured Woodpecker near Coca

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker - common and often in small groups

Scarlet-crowned barbet near Coca

Troupial near Coca
Juvenile Gray-headed Kite at the Yarina tower

Great Potoo at the tower

Mealy Amazon at Yarina
Large-billed seed-finches at the Coca marsh in April.

Red-breasted Blackbird at Coca marsh
THE SOUTHWEST AND COAST

This section covers the coast from Chone in the north to Guayaquil and part of the dry Tumbesian region. Sites included here are Segua marsh near Chone, Machalilla NP, nearby Ayampe, Salinas on the Santa Elena peninsula, Jauneche near Quevedo and three sites near Guayaquil; Cerro Blanco, nearby Puerto Hondo and to the east of Guayaquil also Manglares Churute.

This area is convenient as there are many hotels and good food along here. Parts of the coast is very popular among tourists.

SEGUA MARSH
This big lake/wetland offers very good birding and also has an observation tower. Note that Heijnen et al have managed to put the lake on the wrong side of the road! For directions follow this report and forget about that book. The site being only some 15 minutes drive from Chone which has a good hotel. Also birding during the wet season along the road from San Antonio south to wards Tosagua is very good with many roadside pools filled with birds. During the dry season all birds are concentrated in the lake and the roadside pools are empty. You don’t get to see any globally threatened birds here but more widespread wetland species and it is the best site in Ecuador for Pinnated bittern. The Segua marsh near Chone is called Chone marsh in Heijnen et al. and Bahía de Caraquez in Birds of Ecuador. In an article in Cotinga it is called Segua marsh and that is the name people in Chone use and so I use that name as well.
I visited this area 17-18/5 and 3-4/11. The whole area was considerably drier in November with all birds concentrated to the lake. Birding was however better in May with many roadside pools that offered good viewing facilities.

MACHALILLA NP
This big national park is situated around the town of Puerto Lopez which makes a good base with many hotels and restaurants. There are some parts worth visiting for dry Tumbesian species. Los Frailes at the north end offers good birding along a trail. Also around Aguas Blancas is good for birding. Puerto Lopez is also the place from which to visit Isla de la Plata (or poor man’s Galapagos). I didn’t go there as there are few species and mainly seabirds to be seen.
I visited this place 18-20/5.

AYAMPE
This tiny village is situated just south of the national park and you don’t need to pay the entrance fee to visit this site. There are 3-4 hostals in Ayampe all situated along the same track. At least two of them have hummingbird feeders and Little woodstar has been claimed at one of them, Finca Punta Ayampe www.fincapuntaayampe.com The other place is Hostería Cananas la Tortuga. All places are nice and serve good food. Birding is done along a track that goes along rio Ayampe. The track starts just south of the river and goes on for about 2-3 kilometres until it merges with the river. I found a trail into the forest and up the hills 1.6 kms along this track. The trail splits off to the right and follows a streambed for the first few hundred metres then climbs the hills along the stream. In early November there was a lot of water in the stream higher up and birding was difficult with the noise from the stream and all cicadas in the forest was buzzing at
the same time. In early May it was drier and birding was very good along this trail. Note that there are other trails nearby going uphill from the track, they could possibly be worth birding although I didn’t. In November the track was only just drivable using a jeep and 4-wheel drive. Best bird seen here was Pacific royal flycatcher. For direction see map. I visited this site 20-22/5 and 4-5/11.

ECUASAL/SALINAS
The saltpans near Salinas offers very good opportunities for watching migrating shorebirds, gulls and terns. It is also a good site for seeing Chilean flamingo. Lots of hotels available in Salinas or for those without their own transport, there is a hotel near the shore within easy walking distance from the saltpans. A good and sparcely trafficked road goes between the shore and the saltpans offering good viewing facilities on both sides.

In 1999 Dutch resident Ben Haase ringed a lot of waders here and in early November I saw no less than seven of these. They are ringed with a metal ring on the left leg and a pale green over red ring on the right leg. I visited this place 22-23/5 and 5-6/11.

CERRO BLANCO
Situated just west of Guayaquil, which is the biggest town in Ecuador, and this is where you have to stay, unfortunately as it is easy to get lost on the way in or out. At Cerro Blanco you have to pay $3 entrance fee at the reception. Along the highway there is a gate and the reception is about a kilometre from the gate. It is advised that you call in the day before and pay and get a receipt but I just showed up and that was OK as well. There are two good trails, Canoa and Buenavista. The latter has a longer and a shorter version. Birding is good along both these trails. I saw Gray-backed hawk at Quebrada Canoa on all visits and also found one dead. If
you want to see, or try to see, Great green macaw you have to arrange this in advance and you will have to have a guide (12$). The birds are in the higher part of the park and you need a jeep to get there. I tried this in late May but failed because they were not nesting and very difficult to see outside nesting season. Other good birds are seen near were the macaws are however.
I visited this site 23-24/5, 31/5 and 7/11

PUERTO HONDO
This site is basically just across the highway opposite the Cerro Blanco entrance a few kilometers further west. The small village is just at the edge of the mangroves and here you can see Rufous-necked wood-rail and Mangrove warbler among other things. It is vital to visit this site at low tide otherwise you’ll see nothing. A boat can be hired to take you around in mangroves. A guide who knows the birds very well in this area lives in the village. His name is Rafael, he doesn’t know the names in English but in latin and spanish. For direction see map.
I visited this site 24/5 in the evening to watch the Red-lored amazon coming in to roost. An afternoon hour with boat at high tide on 6/11 and again at low tide on 7/11.

MANGLARES CHURUTE
This site is east of Guayaquil towards Machala. The highway crosses parts of the wetlands and you can easily see Horned screamer from the road, the main target here. For visiting other parts of the reserve you have to call in at the center on the left a few kilometres further south.
Horned screamer: Ca 2 kms before the park HQ coming from Guayaquil on the left hand side of the road. The site is 500 metres after the “Pantanal Ranch”.
I stopped here in the moring 25/5 and 1/6.

GUAYAQUIL-BABAHOYO
The highway between these cities passes through several wetlands and rice paddies and widespread wetland birds can easily be seen. When I drove here in early November Snail kite was numerous.
I drove this road 8/11.
This reserve owned by the Guayaquil university has good forest and trails that start by the biological station where you can stay for 10$. Rather expensive as it is very simple. Birding was rather good although I didn’t see the two flycatchers which are supposed to be relatively easy here (Grey-breasted and Pacific royal). At night a West peruvian screech-owl was seen and heard calling just by the station.

I visited this site 16-17/5

Magnificent Frigatebirds are common along the coast and they gather at small fishing-ports trying to snatch a fish. No one did anything to stop them, it seemed like the fishermens made a sport out of this, trying to bring ashore the fishes without being robbed by the birds. A lot of people watched this show at Puerto Santa Elena.
**Birdlist**

**Little tinamou**
2 heard at Jauneche

**Pale-browed tinamou**
2 seen at Ayampe and 1 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Pied-billed grebe**
About 50 seen at Salinas

**Markham’s storm-petrel**
1 seen close to the shore at Salinas at 09h00 on 23/5. It was some southerly wind this day but not much enough to upset seabirds although it was a good movement of Boobies. This bird was seen for about a minute down to less than 100 metres.

**Magnificent frigatebird**
Common along the coast, also seen inland over Segua marsh.

**Blue-footed booby**
Common along the coast. About 2000 moved W at Salinas on 23/5

**Peruvian booby**
9 seen among the Blue-footed moving W at Salinas on 23/5

**Neotropical cormorant**
Common. Over 1000 at Segua marsh.

**Anhinga**
About 100 at Segua marsh

**Brown pelican**
Common

**Peruvian pelican**
Singles

**Horned screamer**
4 seen on two occasions at Manglares-Churute from the main highway.

**Fulvous whistling-duck**
10 seen at Segua marsh on 17/5 and about 1000 on 3/11

**Black-bellied whistling-duck**
About 100 seen at Segua marsh on 17/5 and 61 on 3/11

**White-cheeked pintail**
Common at Salinas

**Blue-winged teal**
17 seen at Segua marsh 3/11, 2 seen at Ricaurte sewage farm and 68 seen at Salinas on 5/11.
**Chilean flamingo**
268 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and about 150 on 5/11

**Pinnated bittern**
1 seen from the tower at Segua marsh on both visits.

**Cocoi heron**
Common at Segua marsh nd singles in wetlands nearby. 1 seen at Jauneche

**Great egret**
Fairly common but over 1000 at Segua marsh on 3/11

**Snowy egret**
Common. Thousands at Segua marsh on 3/11

**Little blue heron**
1+5 seen at Puerto Hondo

**Tricoloured heron**
20 seen at Segua marsh on 17/5 and 1 seen on 3/11

**Cattle egret**
Common

**Striated heron**
Common

**Black-crowned night-heron**
About 25 at Segua marsh 17/5 and 200 on 3/11. In november the birds were seen swimming in the lake!

**Yellow-crowned night-heron**
3 seen at Palmar, north of Santa Elaena, 3 seen at Salinas 5/11 and up to 12 seen at Puerto Hondo at low tide.

**White ibis**
4 seen at Puerto Hondo

**Glossy ibis**
25 seen at Segua marsh on 17/5 and 244 in one flock on 3/11. This flock may be the biggest ever in Ecuador.

**Roseate spoonbill**
1 seen at Salinas on 5/11

**Wood stork**
1 seen at Segua marsh on 17/5 and 220 on 3/11

**King vulture**
1 ad seen at Cerro Blanco

**Black vulture**
Common

**Turkey vulture**
Common
**Hook-billed kite**
1 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Swallow-tailed kite**
3 seen at Cerro blanco

**Pearl kite**
3 seen along the road north of Santa Elaena

**Snail kite**
Common at Segua marsh and the road between Guayaquil and Babahoyo.

**Gray-backed hawk**
Seen on all visits to Cerro Blanco. On 7/11 I found one dead in Quebrada Canoa.

**Savanna hawk**
2 seen at Segua marsh and 1 along the road north of Ayampe.

**Great black-hawk**
1 subadult seen near Aguas Blanca, Machalilla NP

**Harris´s hawk**
Singles along the coast road near Machalilla NP

**Gray hawk**
1 adult seen fighting with a Gray-backed hawk at Cerro Blanco

**Northern crested caracara**
1 seen at Salinas and 1 seen at Manglares-Churute

**Collared forest-falcon**
1 juvenile seen at Cerro Blanco and 1 seen at Ayampe

**American kestrel**
1 seen at Segua marsh

**Merlin**
1 seen along the road near Monteverde north of Santa Elaena

**Peregrine falcon**
1 adult pair seen at Segua marsh 3/11, 1 juvenile migrating south at Ayampe 4/11 and 2 seen at Salinas 6/11.

**Rufous-headed chachalaca**
3+2 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Rufous-necked wood-rail**
1 seen at low tide at Puerto Hondo

**Purple gallinule**
About 50 seen but I don’t remember where!

**Moorhen**
Common
**Andean coot**
1 seen at Segua marsh 3/11. Very rare in the Ecuadorian lowland but regular in numbers in the Peruvian lowlands and coastal marshes.

**Limpkin**
5 seen at Segua marsh on 18/5

**Wattled Jacana**
Common

**Greater yellowlegs**
3 seen at Salinas 23/5

**Lesser yellowlegs**
2 seen at Salinas 23/5

**Willet**
2 seen at Salinas 23/5 and about 50 seen 6/11

**Spotted sandpiper**
Common in small numbers.

**Whimbrel**
4 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 25 on 5/11

**Ruddy turnstone**
4 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 50 on 5/11

**Surfbird**
5 seen at Salinas on 22/5 and 1 on 5/11

**Sanderling**
40 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 300 on 5/11

**Semipalmated sandpiper**
10 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 1000 on 5/11

**Western sandpiper**
30 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 100 on 5/11. Note that a good number are unidentified ‘Semiwesters’ but the abundance are roughly as above.

**Least sandpiper**
100 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and about 500 on 6/11 also about 100 at Ricaurte sewage farm on 4/11.

**Short-billed dowitcher**
51 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 500 on 6/11

**Red-necked phalarope**
6 seen at Salinas on 6/11

**Wilson’s phalarope**
About 300 seen at Salinas on each visit

**American oystercatcher**
5 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 20 on 6/11
**Black-necked stilt**
1000 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 5000 on 6/11

**Gray plover**
Singles seen in late May and about 50 seen at Salinas 6/11

**Semipalmated plover**
20 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 500 on 6/11

**Wilson’s plover**
20 seen at Salinas on 22/5

**Snowy plover**
Common

**Collared plover**
1 seen at Segua marsh and 4 seen at Salinas on 22/5 and singles in the saltpans north of Santa Elaena.

**Killdeer**
3 seen at Salinas and 2 seen at Ricaurte sewage farm.

**Gray gull**
About 50 seen at Salinas

**Kelp gull**
4 seen at Salinas

**Gray-hooded gull**
50 seen at Salinas

**Laughing gull**
3 seen at Segua marsh

**Franklin’s gull**
500 seen at Salinas on 6/11, none seen there in late May.

**Gull-billed tern**
Common at the saltpans

**Royal tern**
10 seen at Salinas on 23/5 and 500 on 3/11

**Elegant tern**
1 seen at Salinas

**Sandwich tern**
4 seen at Salinas

**Arctic tern**
10 seen at Salinas

**Pale-vented pigeon**
10 seen at Cerro Blanco
**West peruvian dove**  
About 10 seen in Machalilla NP

**Ecuadorian ground-dove**  
Common

**Croaking ground-dove**  
Common. Replaces Ecuadorian along the coast.

**Blue ground-dove**  
1 seen at Jauneche and about 10 seen at Cerro Blanco.

**White-tipped dove**  
About 10 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP, fairly common at Cerro Blanco

**Pallid dove**  
1 seen at Jauneche

**Ochre-bellied dove**  
1 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Red-masked parakeet**  
15 seen at Aguas Blanca, machalilla NP and 2 seen at Ayampe

**Pacific parrotlet**  
Common

**Gray-cheeked parakeet**  
About 20 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Red-lored amazon**  
About 100 came in to roost in the mangroves at Puerto Hondo in the late afternoon. 2 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Squirrel cuckoo**  
Singles

**Greater ani**  
About 10 seen near Jauneche

**Smooth-billed ani**  
Common

**West peruvian screech-owl**  
1 seen and heard at the biological station at Jauneche

**Pacific pygmy-owl**  
3 seen along the coast road north of Machalilla NP.

**Burrowing owl**  
1 seen at Salinas and 2 seen north of Santa Elaena

**Spectacled owl**  
1 seen at daytime in along the trail into the forest near Ayampe.
**Lesser nighthawk**
2 seen at Ayampe and 1 seen at Salinas

**Paúraque**
1 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Anthony’s nightjar**
1 seen at Ayampe

**Tumbes swift**
5 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Lesser swallow-tailed swift**
2 seen at Jauneche

**Band-tailed barbthroat**
2 seen at Ayampe

**Baron’s hermit**
Fairly common

**Striped-throated hermit**
1 seen at Jauneche

**White-necked jacobin**
1 seen at Ayampe

**Black-throated mango**
1 male seen at Segua marsh

**Green-crowned woodnymph**
1 pair seen at Ayampe

**Violet-bellied hummingbird**
1 seen at Jauneche and 1 male seen at Cerro Blanco.
The bird at Jauneche put in a great show while having a bath in some water that had gathered on a big leaf. Spectacular!

**Rufous-tailed hummingbird**
Singles at Ayampe

**Amazilia hummingbird**
Singles at Machalilla NP, Ayampe and Cerro Blanco.

**Short-tailed woodstar**
1 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Ecuadorian trogon**
1 seen at Jauneche, 2 seen at Cerro Blanco and 3-4 seen and heard at Ayampe

**Collared trogon**
1 seen but I don’t remember where!

**Northern violaceous trogon**
1 seen at Ayampe
**Ringed kingfisher**
Common near water

**Green kingfisher**
Singles near water

**Blue-crowned motmot**
2 seen at Jauneche, 10 seen at Aguas Blanca, Machalilla NP and 1 seen at Puerto Hondo.

**White-whiskered puffbird**
3 seen at Jauneche

**Pale-mandibled aracari**
3 seen at Ayampe

**Olivaceous piculet**
3 seen at Ayampe and 1 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Ecuadorean piculet**
1 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP and 2 seen at Cerro Blanco.

**Golden-olive woodpecker**
Singles

**Lineated woodpecker**
1 seen at Jauneche and 2 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Black-cheeked woodpecker**
1 seen at Segua marsh

**Red-rumped woodpecker**
1 seen at Ayampe

**Scarlet-backed woodpecker**
2 seen at Cerro Blanco, 2 seen at Jauneche

**Guayaquil woodpecker**
1 seen at Cerro Blanco and 2 seen at Ayampe

**Pacific hornero**
Common

**Slaty spinetail**
2 seen at Ayampe

**Blackish-headed spinetail**
1 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Necklaced spinetail**
Fairly common in the drier parts of Machalilla NP

**Slaty-winged foliage-gleener**
1 seen at Ayampe
Buff-throated Foliage-gleener
Fairly common at Ayampe

Henna-hooded Foliage-gleener
After several searches, I made one final attempt during the midday heat on 7/11 and found one just 200 metres into the Canoa trail!

Plain-brown Woodcreeper
2 seen at Ayampe

Olivaceous Woodcreeper
1+1 seen somewhere

Streak-headed Woodcreeper
5 seen at Jauneche and 1 seen at Cerro Blanco

Red-billed Scythebill
1 seen at a nest at Jauneche, 1 seen at Aguas Blanca, Machalilla NP and 1 seen at Cerro Blanco

Great Antshrike
1 male seen at Jauneche

Collared Antshrike
7 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP, 2 seen at Aguas Blanca and 4+1 seen at Cerro Blanco

Western Slaty-antshrike
1 male seen at Ayampe

Plain Antvireo
Fairly common

Slaty Antwren
2 seen at Ayampe

White-backed Fire-eye
2 seen at Ayampe

Elegant Crescentchest
5 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet
Singles

Tumbesian Tyrannulet
2 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP

Grey-and-white Tyrannulet
2 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP

Pacific Elaenia
2 seen at Aguas Blanca, Machalilla NP and 2 seen at Cerro Blanco

Greenish Elaenia
2 seen at Cerro Blanco
**Yellow-bellied elaenia**
2 seen at Ayampe

**Tawny-crowned pygmy-tyrant**
At least 10 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP

**Ochre-bellied flycatcher**
Singles at Jauneche, Ayampe and Cerro Blanco

**Ochre-bellied flycatcher**
Singles at Jauneche, Ayampe and Cerro Blanco

**Scale-creasted pygmy-tyrant**
See above

**Ochre-bellied flycatcher**
Singles at Jauneche, Ayampe and Cerro Blanco

**Yellow-olive flatbill**
2 seen at Cerro Blanco

**White-throated spadebill**
2 seen at Ayampe

**Pacific royal flycatcher**
1 seen at Ayampe

**Black-tailed flycatcher**
5 seen at Ayampe and 5 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Sulphur-rumped flycatcher**
1 seen at Ayampe

**Tumbes wood-pewee**
2 seen at Aguas Blanca and 1 seen at Ayampe

**Vermilion flycatcher**
Fairly common at Segua marsh

**Short-tailed field-tyrant**
1 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP

**Masked water-tyrant**
Fairly common around Jauneche, 2 seen at Puerto Hondo

**Boat-billed flycatcher**
Singles

**Streaked flycatcher**
Singles

**Baird’s flycatcher**
2 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP

**Tropical kingbird**
Common

**Snowy-throated kingbird**
Singles in the drier parts of Machalilla NP
**Black-and-white becard**
1 seen at Cerro Blanco

**One-coloured becard**
2 seen at Jauneche and 1 seen at Ayampe

**White-bearded manakin**
3 seen at Ayampe

**White-tailed jay**
About 10 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Rufous-browed peppershrike**
4 seen at Ayampe and 2 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Red-eyed vireo**
Singles

**Lesser grenlet**
3 seen at Ayampe

**Plumbeous-backed thrush**
1 seen at Aguas Blanca, Machalilla NP

**Ecuadorian thrush**
Singles

**Long-tailed mockingbird**
Common

**Gray-breasted martin**
Common

**Blue-and-white swallow**
Common

**Sand martin**
2 seen at Salinas

**Barn swallow**
100 seen at Salinas

**Chestnut-collared swallow**
25 seen at Salinas 5/11

**Fasciated wren**
3 seen at Aguas Blanca, Machalilla NP

**Band-backed/Fasciated wren**
5 seen at Jauneche. I didn’t look at them very carefully and assumed that they could be identified by distribution, but Jauneche turned out to be just in between the two species.

**Whiskered wren**
1 heard at Ayampe
**Superciliated Wren**  
About 20 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP

**Speckle-breasted Wren**  
Fairly common at Ayampe and Cerro Blanco

**House Wren**  
1 seen

**Gray-breasted Wood-Wren**  
6 seen at Ayampe

**Long-billed Gnatwren**  
1 seen at Ayampe and 2 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Tropical Gnatcatcher**  
Singles at Segua marsh

**Tropical Parula**  
Fairly common

**Mangrove Warbler**  
2 seen at Puerto Hondo

**Gray-and-gold Warbler**  
Fairly common

**Buff-rumped Warbler**  
1 seen at Ayampe

**Bananaquit**  
Seen

**Guira Tanager**  
1 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Blue-gray Tanager**  
Fairly common

**Palm Tanager**  
Singles

**Lemon-rumped Tanager**  
Fairly common

**Buff-throated Saltator**  
Fairly common

**Streaked Saltator**  
1 seen somewhere

**Crimson-breasted Finch**  
1+4 seen at Cerro Blanco
**Blue-black grassquit**  
Fairly common

**Variable seedeater**  
Common around Jauneche

**Yellow-bellied seedeater**  
Same as above

**Parrot-billed seedeater**  
5 seen in Puerto Lopez, 2+3 seen at Salinas

**Band-tailed seedeater**  
2 seen at Salinas

**Chestnut-capped brush-finch**  
1 seen at Ayampe

**Orange-billed sparrow**  
Singles at Jauneche and Cerro Blanco

**Black-capped sparrow**  
1 seen at Ayampe, 5+2 seen at Cerro Blanco

**Collared warbling-finch**  
2 seen at los Frailes, Machalilla NP

**Yellow-rumped cacique**  
About 50 seen at Aguas Blanca, Machalilla NP

**Scrub blackbird**  
About 20 seen at Jauneche

**White-edged oriole**  
2 seen at Ayampe

**Yellow-tailed oriole**  
Fairly common

**Peruvian meadowlark**  
Common in wetlands like Segua marsh

**Saffron siskin**  
About 20 seen at Cerro Blanco. These were seen in the higher parts while looking for the Macaws. At the trails I didn’t see any siskins.

**House sparrow**  
5 seen
Brown Pelican. Common along the coast

Magnificent Frigatebirds

Horned Screamers at Manglares-Churute east of Guayaquil

West-Peruvian Screech-Owl at Jauneche biological station
Cocoi Heron at Ricaurte sewage pond

Black-crowned Night-heron. The sewage pond offered good birding and opportunities for photography.

Blue-winged teal at Ricaurte

Turnstone, common at Salinas
Willet is a common winter visitor. Black-necked Stilt is one of the most common bird at Salinas. Chilean Flamingo. Salinas is the best place in Ecuador to see these birds.
Franklin’s Gull is common at Salinas

Hundreds of Royal Terns can be seen at Salinas

Juvenile Gray-hooded Gull at Salinas

Gray Gull at Salinas
Short-billed Dowitcher. Lots of waders on offer at Salinas.

Least Sandpiper

Western Sandpiper

Semipalmated Sandpiper
The SOUTH

This section will deal with the southern Ecuador including the El Oro sites Buenaventura/Piñas and also the Santa Rosa marsh, The Cajas NP near Cuenca, the east-slope road between Gualaceo and Limon, the sites in Loja including Podocarpus NP and Quebrada Honda, the Tumbesian sites Catacocha, Utuana and Sosoranga.

BUENAVENTURA/PIÑAS (EL ORO)

This nice site is only 10 minutes by car from Piñas. A trail, Buenaventura trail, starts at an obvious shrine by the road. After just 100 metres the track splits and the left track goes down into the valley. This is the best part although the habitat is somewhat degraded but there are good mixed flocks here. The right fork goes slightly uphill through more degraded habitat and pastures until it ends after a few kilometers at a farm. Hotel las Orquideas in Piñas offers a good base to explore this site. Most important birds here are the Ecuadorian endemics El Oro parakeet and tapaculo, both of which can be seen along the Buenaventura trail. Have in mind that this place is often very foggy and wet.

I went here 1-2/6 and 13/10.

SANTA ROSA MARSH

This is an area of schrimp-ponds along the main highway between Machalá and Tumbes just before the turn-off to Santa Rosa. I just made a brief roadside stop here 1 june as it looked like I could see some birds while having a rest. I soon found a male Cinnamon teal, apparently the first record for Ecuador since 1938! I released this news on the new Aves_Ecuador mailinglist and it turned out that others have also stopped here and recorded several new records for El Oro. The best part is the southernmost pool which had a good selection of wetland birds on 1 june. A visit here in middle of October was rather poor as that pool was dried out. It makes a good stop to break up the journey from ie Guayaquil to Piñas. The site is about 100 metres before the turn-off to Santa Rosa at S03°42'8" W79°9'61" There is a dirtroad branching off to the right for about 100 metres to the ponds.

I made a short stop here 1/6 and 14/10.

CAJAS NP

This big and good national park just above Cuenca offers some good high altitude birding with another Ecuadorian endemic, Violet-throated metaltail. A new road connecting the coast with Cuenca goes straight through the park. That road passes Molllestero which is mentioned in Where to watch birds in Ecuador, but I found that road rather disappointing as there were hardly any habitat close to the road. Once you enter the national park you will get a ticket at a checkpoint. You then have half an hour to reach the other checkpoint on the other side of the highest part of the park, otherwise you’ll have to pay the 10$ entrance fee. If you want to visit the park properly you will pay that entrance fee. The higher part has patches of polylepis with birds like Tit-like dacnis and hummers. This was the only place where I saw Condor in Ecuador. At 3400 masl on the Cuenca side there is a very nice hostería called “Dos Chorreras” which offers good food and accommodation and is a much better base for visiting the park than staying in Cuenca. The hotel costs 24$ and have proper heating in the rooms as it gets cold in the night. The hotel garden had a Violet-throated metaltail and other good birds in the surroundings. See Heijnen et al for directions.

I was here 25-26/5.

RESERVA YUNGUNILLA

This small and new reserve under the wings of Fundacion Jocotoco is the only place in the world where you can see Pale-headed brush-finche, yet another Ecuadorian endemic. The reserve I small and the brush-finches easy to find in the mornings. You need to contact the caretaker Enrique Calle (tel 26 23 05) to follow you as the track frequently splits. See map for directions to him.

I was here 29/5.

GUALACEO-LÌMON ROAD

This road traverses the east slope temperate and subtropical zone and offers excellent birding though the weather can be harsh with fog and drizzle. A wide range of east slope species can be found here including
masked mountain-tanager on the higher parts. The very nice Hostal Molina in Gualaceo offers a good base for 10$ from which it is about one hour drive uphill to the pass and best birding is on the far side of the pass. Make frequent stops and walk the road. The hotel is at Av el Parador y Los Incas.

I spent two wet days here 27-28/5.

**PODUCARPUS NP**

This huge park has three entrances at different altitudes and a minimum of five days are required. A 5$ entrance fee allows you access to all parts for five days.

**Cajanuma**

This entrance is just 10 kms south of Loja towards Villabamba and represents the higher parts. From the main road a gravel road goes for 8 kms to the headquarter and good habitat starts after 6 kms. The headquarter is at 3000 masl and trails leave from here uphill. A stop 1-2 kms before the HQ is good as there are a few viewpoints over the valley below. I spend one day here in early June and birding activity was very slow after 8 am.

**San Fransisco**

This entrance is about halfway between Loja and Zamora at about 2000 masl. I made a stop here during the morning hours but didn’t see very much. Trails lead to forest here as well.

**Bombuscara**

This is the best part of the park and I spend three days here. It is at 1000 masl and thus more species-rich than the higher parts. From Zamora it is only about 15 minutes drive to the park entrance from where a good trail, with some sidetrails, goes along rio Bombuscara.

A few kilometers before the entrance there is a new lodge under construction called Copalinga owned by a Belgian couple, Baldwin and Catherine Vits. They have feeders in their garden and are currently building cabins for rent. They have a trail-system in the hills above which I walked for one day. Rather strenuous but good birding, I had three good looks at the rare and local Spot-winged parrot here, apparently a new record for Poducarpus NP.

Zamora has good hotels for a cheap price, but if you want to spend a little more and stay in the forest you should check whether Copalinga is in operation. E-mail: jacamar@impsat.net.ec

I was here 3-7/6 with one day at Cajanuma, one day between Loja and Zamora and three days in the Bombuscara-Copalinga area.

**OLD LOJA-ZAMORA ROAD**

Although the habitat is degraded here this site should not be neglected as I had some very good birds here like Spektacled prickel-tail, Red-billed tyrannulet and Rufous-vented white-tip among other things. See map for directions.

I spend some time here while staying in Zamora, see above.
QUEBRADA HONDA
This is the site to see Jocotoco antpitta. It is about 3-4 hours drive south of Loja passed Vilcabamba. Once on the south side of Vilcabamba the road climbs over a pass and birding is worthwhile here for high altitude species, before it drops down towards Valladolid. There are two cheap and very basic recidencials in Valladolid (2.5$). If you don’t want to pay 75 $ for staying at the lodge in the reserve. The reserve is called Tapichalaca. It is however a 15$ entrance fee and around the lodge there are feeders which were very good. A hide has been built behind the lodge overlooking the composture (!) but sometimes a Jocotoco antpitta comes here to feed. A short bit higher up towards Vilcabamba starts another trail to the east, I think this is the actual Quebrada Honda. This trail goes slightly down hill and offers very good birding, specially when it leaves the forest into pastures I had hummingbirds all around me and I thought there were feeders somewhere. I was here 8-9/6.

CATACOCHA
This town in the dry Tumbesian region is a good base from which to explore the hills below. The town has a good colony of Chestnut-collared swallows. A few kilometers below there is a site covered by both Heijnen et al and Frank Reindt but I never found it properly so I just made a stop on a side road and had pretty much the same species including Gray-breasted flycatcher and Watkin’s antpitta. I visited this area 11/6.

UTUANA
This site at about 2400 masl is easily reached from Sosoranga where there is a simple but OK hostal near the plaza. Contrary to Reindt I found this place perfectly OK and clean (4$). It takes 20 minutes to drive from Sosoranga to Utuana. The habitat is rather degraded but has some good birds like Rufous-necked foliage-gleener, Black-creasted tit-tyrant and Jelski’s chat-tyrant. Piura hemispingus and Gray-headed antbird occurs but I failed to find those. I was here during the dry season on both visits and song activity was very poor. I was at Utuana 12/6 and 11/10.

MACARÀ-SOSORANGA
Birding the road between these cities is good with a chance of finding many tumbesian endemics. I found one dirt road going uphill about 10 kms from Macarà towards Sosoranga. I walked this road for a few kilometers and saw lots of birds although the birdactivity was rather slow. Visiting the dry Tumbesian sites in the south is best done during the rainy season which is from about December to March. Many birds are hard to find at other times of the year. The hotel in Sosoranga, which is a the far corner of the plaza, is not at all that bad as Frank Rheindt claims in his report – if it is the same hotel (which I think it is). The Quebradas Suquinda and Yaguana near Sosoranga offered very little to me but I was there in the afternoon in early June which certainly is about the worst tactic you could imply. The pre-dawn drive from Sosoranga to Utuana had several Chestnut-crowned antpittas on the road. I was here 11/6 and 10/10.
**Birdlist**

**Andean tinamou**
2 seen at Utuana

**Pied-billed grebe**
10 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Neotropical cormorant**
5 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Torrent duck**
1 seen in río Bombuscara

**Andean teal**
3 seen at Cajas

**White-cheeked pintail**
75 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Cinnamon teal**
1 male seen at the Santa Rosa marsh together with the pintails above.
First record in Ecuador for 65 years or since 1938! The origin of this bird is probably Peru as it is rather common in coastal marshes in central Peru. The subspecies that formerly bred in Ecuador is extirpated and a norhten american vagrant would probably turn up during the northern winter.

**Andean ruddy-duck**
5 seen at Cajas

**Fasciated tiger-heron**
1 seen in río Bombuscara at Copalinga.
**Cocoi heron**  
About 10 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Great egret/Snowy egret and Cattle egret**  
Seen

**Tricoloured heron**  
5 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Roseate spoonbill**  
5 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Wood stork**  
2 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Andean condor**  
1 juvenile seen at Cajas

**Black and Turkey vulture**  
Common

**Swallow-tailed kite**  
About 12 seen at Buenaventura

**Plain-breasted hawk**  
1 juv seen at San Francisco, Poducarpus NP

**Gray-backed hawk**  
1 seen at Buenaventura

**Solitary eagle**  
1 seen at the Bombuscara car park

**Harris’s hawk**  
2 seen at Santa Isabel near Yunguilla and 1 seen between Macará and Sosoranga.

**Black-chested buzzard-eagle**  
1 seen at Cajas

**Roadside hawk**  
Only two seen.

**Short-tailed hawk**  
1 seen at Buenaventura

**Variable hawk**  
1 seen at Sosoranga

**Northern creasted caracara**  
1 seen at Macará

**Carunculated caracara**  
3 seen at Cajas
**American kestrel**  
Fairly common in the highlands

**Bearded guan**  
2 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Sickle-winged guan**  
2 seen at Buenaventura

**Moorhen**  
10 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Andean coot**  
1 seen at Cajás

**Wattled jacana**  
Common at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Stilt sandpiper**  
1 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh 14/10. The only one I saw in Ecuador!

**Wilson’s phalarope**  
1 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Black-necked stilt**  
Common at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Collared plover**  
4 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Gray-hooded gull**  
10 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Gull-billed tern**  
2 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

**Band-tailed pigeon**  
Common at higher altitudes

**Eared dove**  
Common

**Croaking ground-dove**  
Common in the drier parts.

**White-tipped dove**  
Common at Buenaventura

**Red-masked parakeet**  
17 between Macará and Sosoranga

**White-eyed parakeet**  
14 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road
**El Oro parakeet**
8+15 seen at Buenaventura

**White-breasted parakeet**
6+6+15 seen at Bombuscara

**Pacific parrotlet**
Common in the drier parts

**Gray-cheeked parakeet**
2 seen at Catacocha

**Spot-winged parrotlet**
3+2+3 seen at Copalinga, Bombuscara 7/6.
I was very lucky with these. I was watching a treetop flock from a ridge along the trail when three parrots came in silently and perched in the open just 10 metres away from me giving gripping views. According to Catherine Vits at Copalinga a new record for Podocarpus NP!

**Bronze-winged parrot**
Common at Buenaventura

**Squirrel cuckoo**
Singles

**Smooth-billed ani**
Common in suitable habitat

**White-throated screech-owl**
1 heard in Loja

**Pacific pygmy-owl**
1 seen near Macará

**Band-winged nightjar**
1 seen at Quebrada Honda and 5 seen near Utuana

**Chestnut-collared swift**
12 seen

**White-whiskered hermit**
2 seen at Buenaventura

**Green hermit**
1 seen at Bombuscara

**Stripe-throated hermit**
2 seen at Buenaventura

**White-tipped sicklebill**
5 seen at Buenaventura 13/10, none seen in early June.

**Green violetear**
8 seen at Quebrada Honda
SPARKLING VIOLETEAR
Common

BLUE-TAILED EMERALD
2 seen along the old road between Loja and Zamora

GOLDEN-TAILED SAPPHIRE
1 seen along the old road between Loja and Zamora

RUFous-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD
Singles at Buenaventura

AMAZILIA HUMMINGBIRD
3 seen at Yunguilla of the ssp aliticola 1 seen at Buenaventura and singles in the dry south of the ssp dumerilii.

GLITTERING-THROATED EMERALD
Singles seen along the old road between Loja and Zamora

SPECKLED HUMMINGBIRD
4 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

RUFous-VENTED WHITETIP
1 male seen along the old road between Loja and Zamora

ECUADORIAN PIEDTAIL
3 seen at Bombuscara

VIOLET-FRONTED BRILLIANT
10 seen at the feeders at Copalinga

ECUADORIAN HILLST AR
1 seen at Cajas

SHINING SUNBEAM
3 seen at Cajas

MOUNTAIN VELVETBREAST
2 seen at Utuana

COLLARED INCA
Singles at Quebrada Honda

BUFF-WINGED STARFRONTLET
1 seen at Cajanuma and 1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

RAINBOW STARFRONTLET
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road on the dry Gualaceo-side and 5 seen at Utuana

SWORD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD
1 male seen at Cajanuma

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CORONET
Common at the feeders at Quebrada Honda
**Amethyst-throated Sunangel**
3 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road and about 15 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Flame-throated Sunangel**
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road and at least 10 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Purple-throated Sunangel**
5 seen at Utuana

**Glowing puffleg**
2 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Sapphire-vented puffleg**
2 seen at Cajas

**Booted raquettail**
1 seen at Copalinga

**Green-tailed trainbearer**
1 male seen at Utuana

**Viridian metaltail**
6 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road of the race *atringularis*

**Violet-throated metaltail**
3 seen at Cajas

**Tyrian metaltail**
2 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road, singles at Cajanuma and Quebrada Honda

**Rufous-capped thornbill**
2 seen at the feeders at Quebrada Honda

**Rainbow-bearded thornbill**
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**Blue-mantled thornbill**
1 seen at Cajas

**Long-tailed sylph**
Singles seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**Violet-tailed sylph**
3 seen at Buenaventura

**Long-billed starthroat**
3 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**Purple-collared woodstar**
3 seen at Yunguilla. 1 male was seen in display-flight. It rose to about 10 metres and dived down with a buzzing sound to it’s perch in a high agave tree. The display looked like european snipe.

**Short-tailed woodstar**
About 15 seen between Macará and Sosoranga
White-bellied woodstar
1 male seen at the feeders at Quebrada Honda

Golden-headed quetzal
3 seen at Buenaventura

Ringed kingfisher
Singles at the Santa Rosa marsh

Green kingfisher
2 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh

Broad-billed motmot
1 seen at Buenaventura

Rufous motmot
3 seen at Buenaventura

Highland motmot
3 seen at Bombuscara between the car park and the HQ

Coppery-chested jacamar
2 seen at Bombuscara and 1 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

Black-streaked puffbird
1 seen twice at Bombuscara between the car park and the HQ

Red-headed barbet
1 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road and 1 seen at Bombuscara and 5 seen at Copalinga

Pale-mandibled aracari
Singles at Buenaventura

Chocó toucan
Heard at Buenaventura

Chestnut-mandibled toucan
Heard at Buenaventura

Lafresnaye’s piculet
1 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

Ecuadorean piculet
1 seen between Macará and Sosoranga. This bird belongs to ssp sclateri

Crimson-mantled woodpecker
2 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road, 1 seen at San Fransisco and 1 seen at Quebrada Honda

Golden-olive woodpecker
Singles

Scarlet-backed woodpecker
2 seen at Catacocha and 3 seen between Macará and Sosoranga
Guayaquil woodpecker
1 seen at Buenaventura

Bar-winged cinclodes
Common at Cajas

Stout-billed cinclodes
2 seen at Cajas

Pacific hornero
Common

Andean tit-spinetail
3 seen at Cajas

Azara’s spinetail
Fairly common

Dark-breasted spinetail
2 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road and 1 seen at Bombuscara

White-browed spinetail
2 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

Ash-browed spinetail
1 seen at Copalinga

Line-cheeked spinetail
2 seen at Yunguilla and 1 seen at Cajanuma

Mouse-coloured thistletail
4 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

Many-striped canastero
1 seen at Cajas

Spectacled prickletail
1 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

Streaked tuftedcheek
5 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road and 1 seen at Quebrada Honda

Pacific tuftedcheek
2 seen at Buenaventura

Pearled treerunner
Singles in temperate forest

Rufous-necked foliage-gleener
1 seen at Utuana and one heard between Macará and Sosoranga

Scaly-throated foliage-gleener
Fairly common at Buenaventura
**Montane foliage-gleener**
5 seen at Copalinga

**Western woodhaunter**
1 seen at Buenaventura

**Buff-fronted foliage-gleener**
4 seen at Copalinga

**Black-billed treehunter**
1 seen at Bombuscara

**Strong-billed woodcreeper**
1 seen at Copalinga

**Spotted woodcreeper**
3 seen at Buenaventura

**Streak-headed woodcreeper**
3 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**Montane woodcreeper**
2 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**Red-billed scythebill**
1 seen at Catacocha

**Great antshrike**
2 seen at Buenaventura

**Lined antshrike**
1 pair seen along the old Loja-Zamora road. The male had a dark eye.

**Chapman’s antshrike**
4+3 seen at Utuana including juveniles.

**Plain antvireo**
1 pair seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

**Slaty antwren**
2 seen at Buenaventura

**Yellow-breasted antwren**
1 seen at Copalinga

**Blackish antbird**
2 seen at Bombuscara

**Immaculate antbird**
1 seen at Buenaventura

**Short-tailed antthrush**
1 heard at Bombuscara
**Scaled antpitta**
1 heard at Copalinga

**Plain-backed antpitta**
3 heard at Buenaventura, 1 heard at Copalinga and 2 heard at Bombuscara

**Chestnut-crowned antpitta**
3 heard at Yunguilla and several seen on the road between Sosoranga and Utuana pre-dawn.

**Watkin’s antpitta**
2 seen at Catacocha

**Jocotoco antpitta**
1 seen and 1 heard at Quebrada Honda or better in the actual reserve called Tapichalaca.

**Chestnut-naped antpitta**
1 seen at Cajanuma

**Rufous antpitta**
1 heard at Cajanuma

**Tawny antpitta**
Common at Cajas and 1 heard at Cajanuma

**Slate-crowned antpitta**
2 seen at Tapichalaca

**Ash-coloured tapaculo**
3 heard seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road also heard at Quebrada Honda

**Blackish tapaculo Scytalopus [latrans] subcinereous**
5 seen and heard at Utuana

**El Oro tapaculo**
1 heard at Buenaventura

**Chusquea tapaculo**
2 heard along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**Black-capped tyrannulet**
3 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Golden-faced tyrannulet**
1 seen at Copalinga

**Loja tyrannulet**
2 seen at Sosoranga and 3+1 seen at Utuana

**Red-billed tyrannulet**
2 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

**Southern beardless tyrannulet**
Singles between Macará and Sosoranga
**White-creasted elaenia**  
Fairly common in temperate forest

**White-throated tyrannulet**  
Common along the upper Gualaceo-Limón road

**Rufous-winged tyrannulet**  
1 seen at Buenaventura

**Tufted tit-tyrant**  
2 seen at Cajás

**Black-creasted tit-tyrant**  
1 seen at Utuana

**Agile tit-tyrant**  
3 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**Tawny-crowned pygmy-tyrant**  
4 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**Streak-necked flycatcher**  
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**Olive-striped flycatcher**  
4 seen at Bombuscara

**Ochre-bellied flycatcher**  
1 seen at Bombuscara

**Slaty-capped flycatcher**  
2 seen at Bombuscara

**Bronze-olive pygmy-tyrant**  
1 seen at Buenaventura

**Rufous-headed pygmy-tyrant**  
5 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Scale-creasted pygmy-tyrant**  
3 seen at Buenaventura

**Black-throated tody-tyrant**  
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road and 1 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Rufous-crowened tody-flycatcher**  
1 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Common tody-flycatcher**  
1 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**Yellow-olive flatbill**  
1 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road
**ORNATE FLYCATCHER**  
Common at Bombuscara

**RUDDY-TAILED FLYCATCHER**  
1 seen at Bombuscara

**TAWNY-BREASTED FLYCATCHER**  
1 seen at Bombuscara

**BRAN-COLOURED FLYCATCHER**  
2 seen at Yunguilla

**ORANGE-BANDED FLYCATCHER**  
5 seen at Quebrada Honda

**CINNAMON FLYCATCHER**  
Fairly common

**GRAY-BREASTED FLYCATCHER**  
1 seen at Catacocha

**BLACK PHOEBE**  
Singles near rivers

**BROWN-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT**  
2 seen at Cajas

**RUFOUS-BREASTED CHAT-TYRANT**  
4 seen at Quebrada Honda

**SLATY-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT**  
2 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**JELSKI´S CHAT-TYRANT**  
2 seen at Utuana

**YELLOW-BELLIED CHAT-TYRANT**  
1 seen at Quebrada Honda

**STREAK-THROATED BUSH-TYRANT**  
1 seen near Molleturo along the road between Puerto Inca and Cajas and 1 seen at Utuana

**SMOKY BUSH-TYRANT**  
1 seen at Cajanuma

**PARAMO GROUND-TYRANT**  
1 seen at Cajas

**RUFOUS-TAILED TYRANT**  
1 seen between Valladolid and Tapichalaca

**MASKED WATER-TYRANT**  
1 seen at the Santa Rosa marsh
**PALE-EDGED FLYCATCHER**  
2 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

**LEMON-BROWED FLYCATCHER**  
2 seen at Bombuscara

**BAIRD’S FLYCATCHER**  
1 seen between Macará and Sosoranga and 1 seen at Buenaventura

**TROPICAL KINGBIRD**  
Common

**BARRED BECARD**  
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road and 1 seen at Quebrada Honda

**BLACK-AND-WHITE BECARD**  
4 seen at Bombuscara

**ONE-COLOURED BECARD**  
1 seen at Catacocha and 1 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**RED-CRESTED COTINGA**  
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road, 1 seen at Cajanuma, and 3 seen at Utuana including juveniles 12/6.

**GREEN-AND-BLACK FRUITEATER**  
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road and 1 seen at Quebrada Honda

**SCARLET-BREASTED FRUITEATER**  
1 seen at Bombuscara

**ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK**  
1 male seen at Bombuscara

**WHITE-CROWNED MANAKIN**  
2 males seen at Copalinga

**BLUE-RUMPED MANAKIN**  
1 male seen at Copalinga

**GOLDEN-WINGED MANAKIN**  
3+2 seen at Buenaventura

**CLUB-WINGED MANAKIN**  
2-3 heard at Buenaventura

**WHITE-TAILED JAY**  
5 seen near Sosoranga

**INCA JAY**  
Singles and small groups

**RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPER-SHRIKE**  
1 seen at Catacocha, 1 seen at Copalinga, 1 seen between Macará and Sosoranga
**BROWN-CAPPED VIREO**
2 seen at Utuana and 3 seen at Buenaventura

**Olivaceous Greenlet**
1 seen at Copalinga

**Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush**
1 heard at Utuana

**Great Thrush**
Common

**Plumbeous-backed Thrush**
5 seen at Catacocha and 1 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga

**Black-billed Thrush**
3 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

**Pale-vented Thrush**
2 seen at Buenaventura

**Ecuadorian Thrush**
Fairly common in the west

**White-necked Thrush**
1 seen at Bombuscara and 1 seen at Copalinga

**Andean Slaty-thrush**
1 seen near Sosoranga

**Long-tailed Mockingbird**
Common around Santa Rosa

**White-capped Dipper**
2 seen at the bridge along the old Loja-Zamora road

**Gray-breasted Martin**
Singles

**Brown-bellied Swallow**
Common near Cajas

**Blue-and-white Swallow**
Common

**White-banded Swallow**
5 seen at Bombuscara

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow**
Common

**Chestnut-collared Swallow**
About 100 in Catacocha town and 100 in Sosoranga town
Fasciated wren
10 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga

Rufous wren
5 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

Bay wren
Common at Buenaventura

Plain-tailed wren
Common at Cajanuma and 5 at Quebrada Honda

Superciliated wren
1 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga

Speckle-breasted wren
2 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga

House wren
Recorded

Mountain wren
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

White-breasted wood-wren
4 seen at Bombuscara

Gray-breasted wood-wren
Fairly common at Quebrada Honda

Song wren
3 seen at Buenaventura

Tropical gnatcatcher
5 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga

Tropical parula
Fairly common in parts

Olive-crowned yellowthroat
Fairly common at Buenaventura

Slate-throated whitestart
Common

Spectacled whitestart
Common

Black-creasted warbler
Fairly common

Citrine warbler
3 seen at Quebrada Honda
THREE-BANDED WARBLER
2+1 seen at Buenaventura

RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER
Singles

GRAY-AND-GOLD WARBLER
Fairly common

BLUE DACNIS
Singles daily at Bombuscara

BLACK-FACED DACNIS
2 males seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

BLUE-BACKED CONEBILL
5 seen at Quebrada Honda

TIT-LIKE DACNIS
About 20 seen at Cajas

BLACK FLOWERPIERCER
2 seen at Cajas

RUSTY FLOWERPIERCER
1 seen at Yunguilla

GUIRA TANAGER
10+2 along the old Loja-Zamora road

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA
About 20 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA
Common at Buenaventura

ORANGE-EARED TANAGER
3 seen at Bombuscara

GOLDEN TANAGER
Singles at Buenaventura

SILVER-THROATED TANAGER
6 seen at Buenaventura

SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER
2 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

BLUE-AND-BLACK TANAGER
3 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

BLACK-CAPPED TANAGER
10 seen at Utuana
**Paradise Tanager**
Fairly common

**Green-and-Gold Tanager**
3 seen at Bombuscara

**Spotted Tanager**
10 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

**Yellow-bellied Tanager**
2 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

**Bay-headed Tanager**
Singles at Buenaventura

**Golden-crowned Tanager**
6 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road and 3 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Scarlet-bellied Mountain-tanager**
5 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Lacrimeose Mountain-tanager**
10 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road and 2 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Hooded Mountain-tanager**
1 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road and 4 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Masked Mountain-tanager**
3 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road 1.4 kms below the shrine on the west side.

**Grass-green Tanager**
2 seen along the road between Puerto Inca and Molleturo, 6 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Blue-gray Tanager**
Common

**Blue-capped Tanager**
10 seen at Utuana

**Silver-beaked Tanager**
Seen along the old Loja-Zamora road

**Lemon-rumped Tanager**
Common between Santa Rosa and Pinas

**Highland Hepatic Tanager**
1 pair seen along the old Loja-Zamora road, 1 male seen at Copalinga and 1 male seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**Ochre-breasted Tanager**
10 seen at Buenaventura

**White-shouldered Tanager**
1 seen at Buenaventura
**FULVOUS SHRIKE-TANAGER**
4 seen at Copalinga

**COMMON BUSH-TANAGER**
Common

**ASHY-THROATED BUSH-TANAGER**
10-15 seen at Bombuscara

**YELLOW-THROATED BUSH-TANAGER**
Common at Buenaventura

**GRAY-HOODED BUSH-TANAGER**
10 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**SUPERCILIARED HEMISPINGUS**
5 seen at Cajas and 5 seen at Quebrada Honda

**BLACK-HEADED HEMISPINGUS**
8 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**Plushcap**
3 seen at Quebrada Honda and 1 seen at Utuana

**BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR**
Fairly common at Buenaventura

**BLACK-WINGED SALTATOR**
2 seen at Buenaventura

**BLACK-COWLED SALTATOR**
4 seen at Utuana

**STREAKED SALTATOR**
10 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**SOUTHERN YELLOW GROSBEAK**
Common

**YELLOW-BELLIED SEEDEATER**
Common near Santa Rosa

**CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEEDEATER**
1 male seen at Bombuscara

**PARAMO SEEDEATER**
1 seen at Cajanuma

**PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH**
5 seen at Cajas

**ASH-BREASTED SIERRA-FINCH**
1 seen at Cajas
**Saffron Finch**  
1 seen near Machalá. Fairly common in the drier south.

**Slaty Finch**  
10 seen singing in the morning at Cajanuma

**Pale-naped Brush-finch**  
6 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road

**Rufous-naped Brush-finch**  
Common

**TrocoLOURED BRUSH-FINCH**  
10 seen at Buenaventura

**White-winged Brush-finch**  
3 seen near Mollesturo, 6 seen near Sosoranga and 1 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**Bay-crowned Brush-finch**  
2 seen at Utuana

**White-headed Brush-finch**  
5 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**Pale-headed Brush-finch**  
3-4 seen at Yunguilla. Arguably one of the rarest birds in the world with a total population of 25-30 birds.

**Chestnut-capped Brush-finch**  
2 seen at Quebrada Honda

**Stripe-headed Brush-finch**  
2 seen at Utuana

**Orange-billed Sparrow**  
4 seen at Buenaventura

**Black-capped Sparrow**  
20 seen between Macará and Sosoranga

**Black-striped Sparrow**  
2+5 seen at Buenaventura

**Yellow-browed Sparrow**  
Common around Santa Rosa

**Rufous-collared Sparrow**  
Common

**Yellow-rumped Cacique**  *Cacicus cela flavicrissum*  
1 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga.

**Russet-backed Oropendola**  *Psarocolius angustifrons alfredi*  
1 seen at Copalinga and 3 seen along the old Loja-Zamora road.
**White-edged oriole**
6 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga

**Yellow-tailed oriole**
2 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga

**Peruvian meadowlark**
Common around Santa Rosa

**Hooded siskin**
2 seen at Sosoranga

**Saffron siskin**
5 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga

**Yellow-bellied siskin**
1 seen along the road between Puerto Inca and Mollesturo.

I had put down the following species in my checklist for this region, but I can´t recall where and when I saw them.
Fawn-breasted brilliant, Olivaceous- and Wedge-billed woodcreepers, Streaked xenops, White-banded tyrannulet, Torrent tyrannulet, Long-tailed tyrant, Dusky-capped-, Boat-billed- and Golden-crowned flycatchers, Cinnamon becard, Red-eyed vireo, Lesser greenlet, Bananaquit, Green honeycreeper, Capped conebill, Glossy-, Masked- and White-sided flowerpiercers, Fawn-breasted-, Flame-faced-, Blue-necked-, Palm- and Magpie tanagers. Several of these were probably seen at Buenaventura.

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta. This bird didn’t make it away from the road in the early morning near Utuana but recovered after a few minutes and a few pictures.
Chestnut-collared Swallows at Catacocha

White-cheeked Pintails and Black-necked Stilt at Santa Rosa marsh

Roseate Spoonbills at Santa Rosa marsh.