

ECUADOR 2003



ROGER AHLMAN

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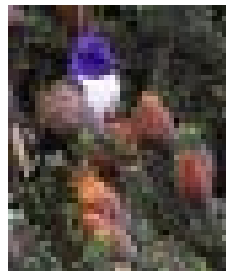
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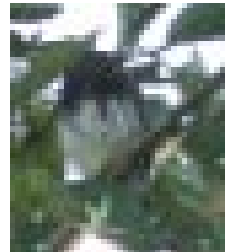
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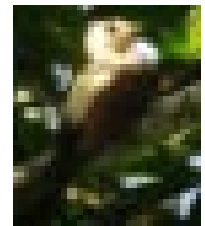


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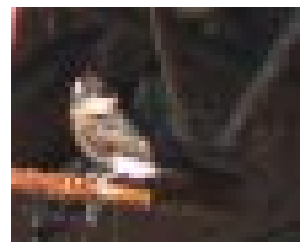
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INTRUDUCTION

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 bird-watching in Ecuador and South America and thus a perfect place for Spanish lessons combined with birding. The Equinoccial 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 latter 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 Dec 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 good 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 appear 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 hazard-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 *Recidenciales*. 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 anything 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 enough 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, specially 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.ecuadorspanish.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 straightforward 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 a 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



My car. Make sure to buy a jeep. Some roads are bad and you will need the high ground clearance and at times also the 4WD.

Guayaquil. Roadsigns 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-café, 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 thoughtrouly 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 claim 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 scope 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 digiscoping 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 bird groups. 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 too 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:

- Krabbe Niels and Nilsson Jonas 2003. Birds of Ecuador DVD-rom.

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

- Krabbe Niels et al. Birds of the Ecuadorian Highlands.

Vocalizations from 246 species in the upper montane and paramo zones of Ecuador. A box with 4 CDs.

- 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.

- Schulenberg Thomas S 2000. Voices of Andean Birds vol I-III

Three CDs dealing with birds at different altitudes in Peru and Bolivia.

- Schulenberg Thomas S et al 2000. Voices of Amazonian Birds vol I and II.

Two CDs dealing with lowland birds in Peru and Bolivia.

BIRGUIDES

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 once 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 skilful 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-four week trip are likely to visit only two-four of these 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.

OVERVIEW OF ECUADOR

Main roads, cities and birdingsites



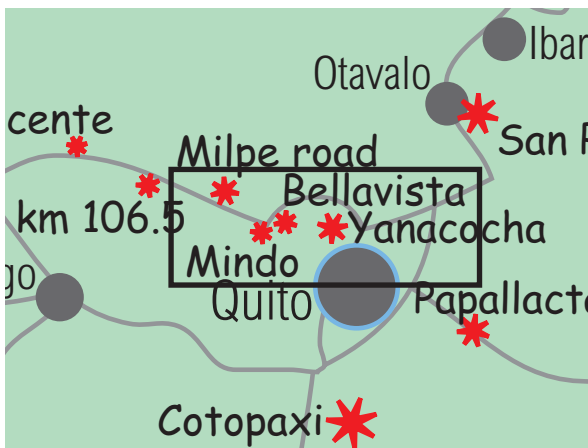
Over the next pages I will explain how I have divided the country and which sites can be found where. In the beginning of each chapter I will deal more in detail with each site and at the bottom of each site you can see how much time and when I was at each site. There are differences over the year even 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 north western lowlands, called the Chocò 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.

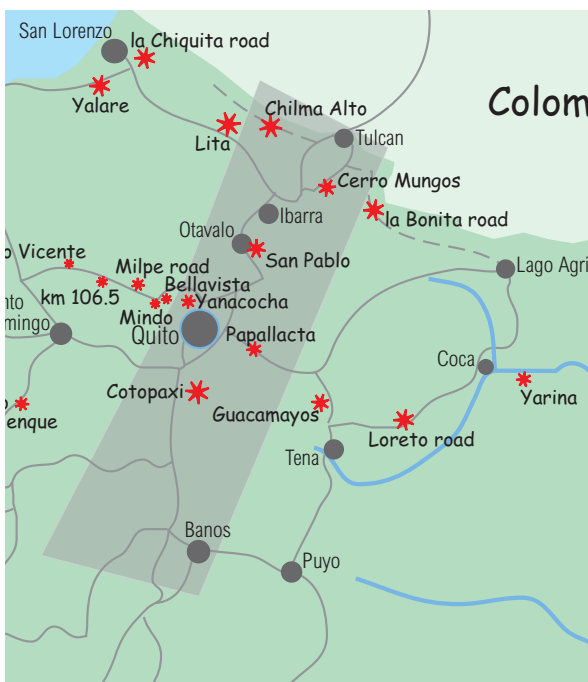


MINDO AND BELLAVISTA

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

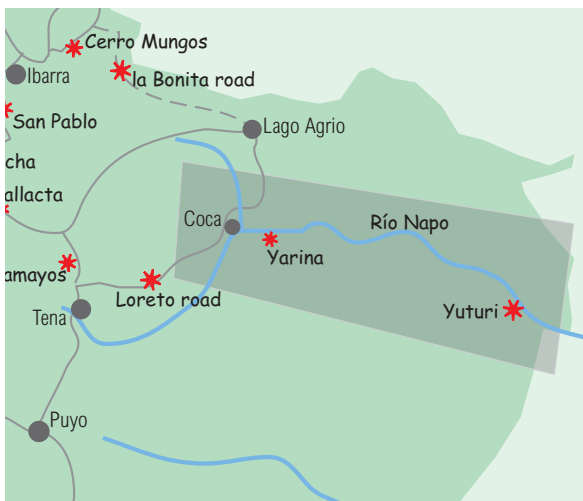
I have used this section to describe the sites in the higher parts from Riobamba and northwards, it also includes the interandean valley and one site on the northwest slope in the subtropics (Chilma Alto). Sites include: Cerro Mungos, la Bonita road, Papallacta, Yanacocha, Cotopaxi and roads the traverses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



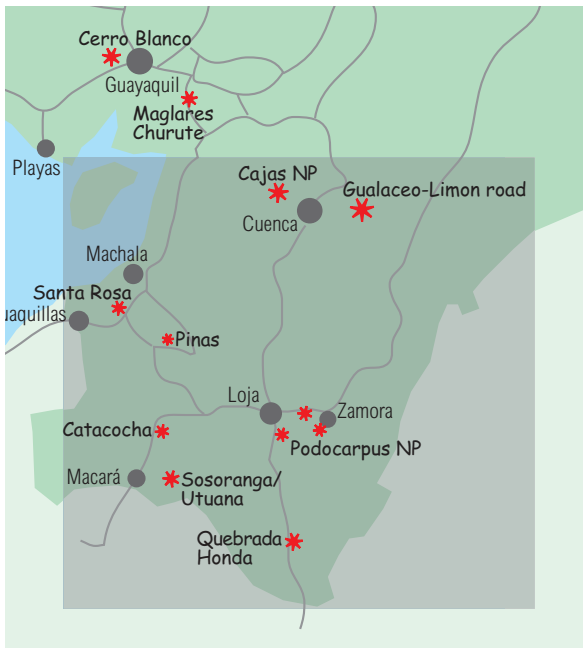
THE EASTERN LOWLANDS

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

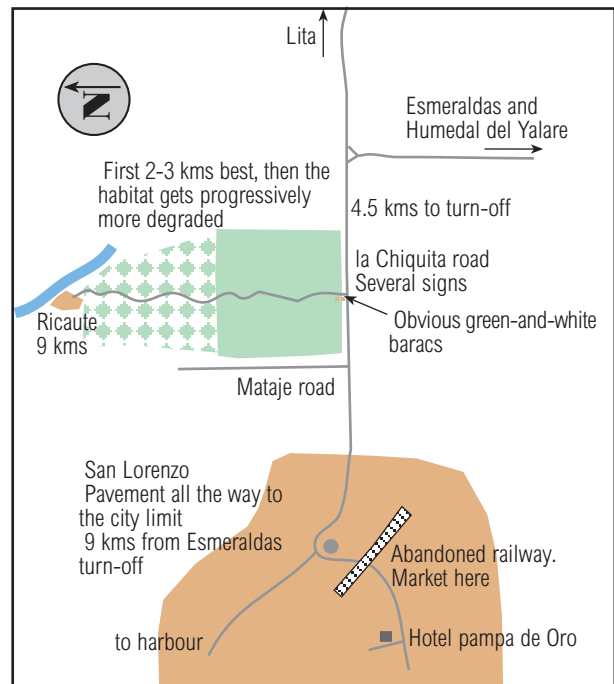
This section deals with the sites in the north western lowlands, called the Chocò region. The sites are all situated below 1000 masl. Mindo could have been included here but as I spend about 11 weeks in Mindo I have put that site on a separate account, and it is in the upper tropical/lower subtropical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

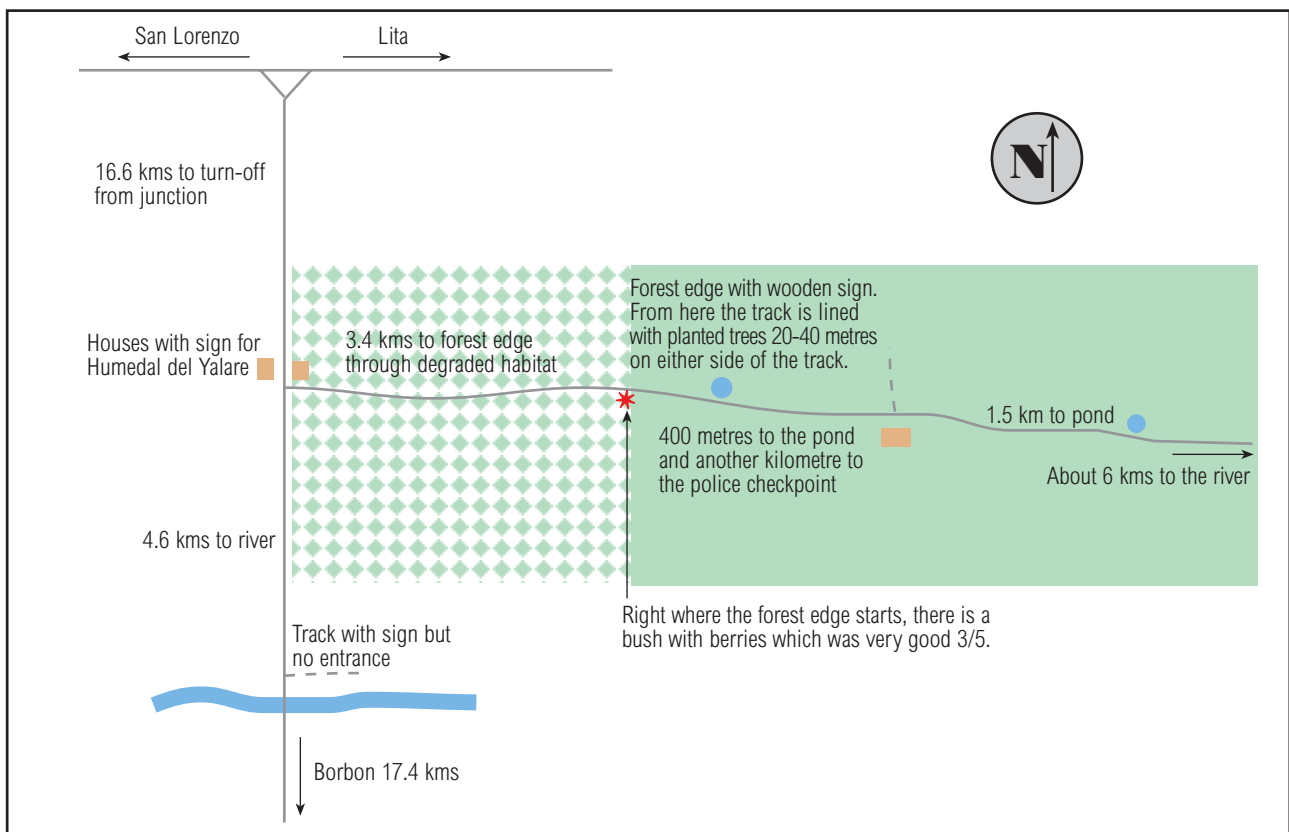
Specially the Esmeraldas sites are poorly known to birders and almost not covered at all by Heijnen et al. This report will open up the knowledge of that area considerably as I explored several trails into forest between Lita and San Lorenzo, trails that resident birders and guides in Ecuador haven't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

There could be a questionmark 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 to it. 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 recidencial in Lita and several hotels in San Lorenzo, the one I stayed at was adequate but



Map of San Lorenzo and la Chiquita road.



Map of Bosque Humedal del Yalare

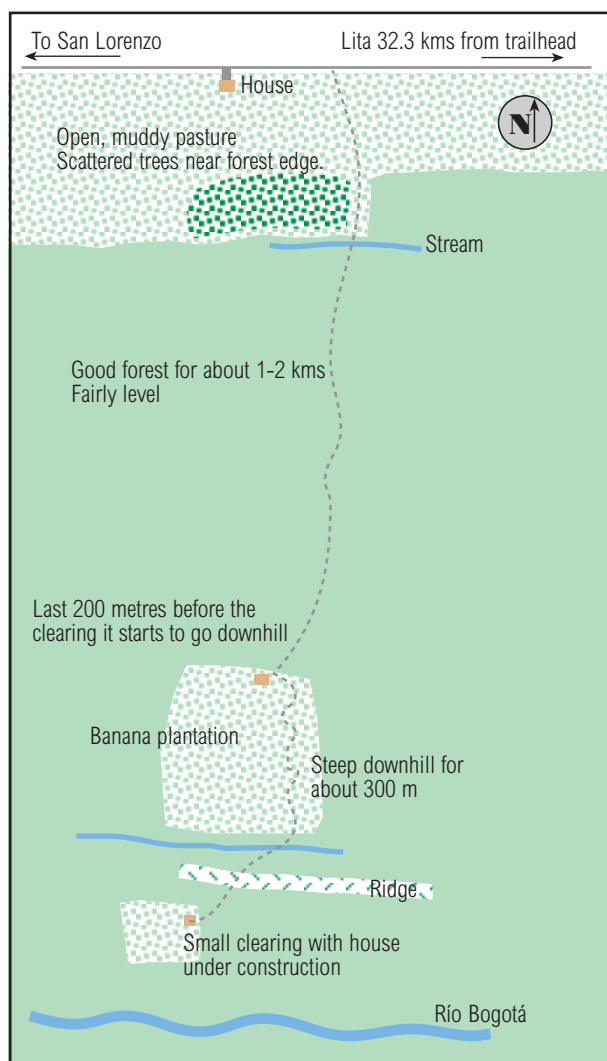
not fancy. For visiting the two sites near los Bancos (Milpe road and km 106.5) by far the best place to stay at is hotel Rio Blanco (8\$) in los Bancos. This place is a surprise as you enter from the main street through the town and on the other side of the restaurant you come out on a big platform 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 choice 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\$).

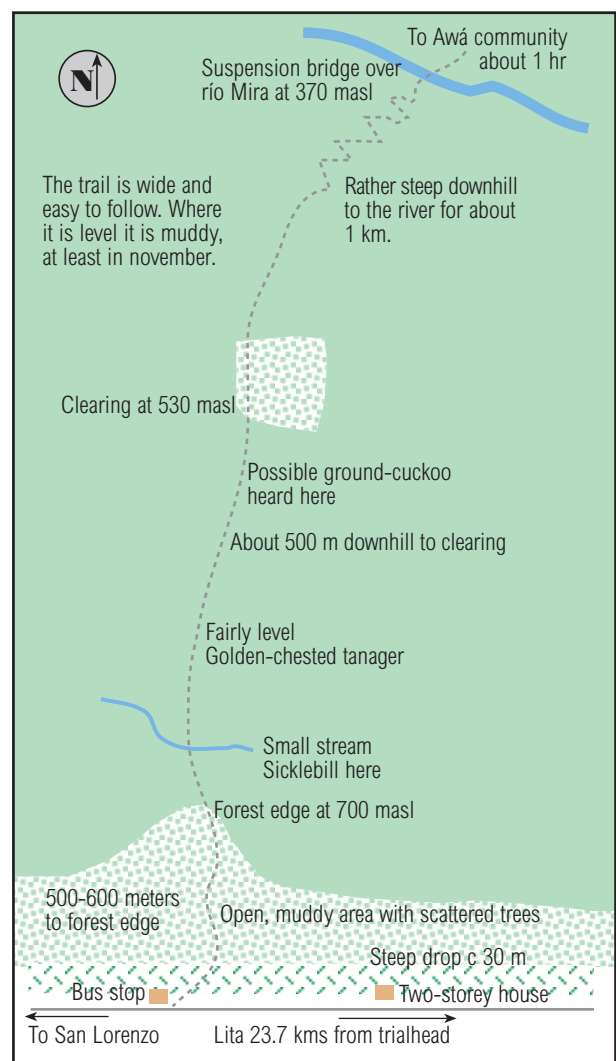
SAN LORENZO

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 cotingas, Scarlet-breasted dacnises etc. For directions, please see the maps.

I visited this ugly town and it's surroundings 2-5/5.



Map of the trail that starts 32.3 kms west of Lita



Map of the trail that starts 23.7 kms west of Lita

LITA-ALTO TAMBO

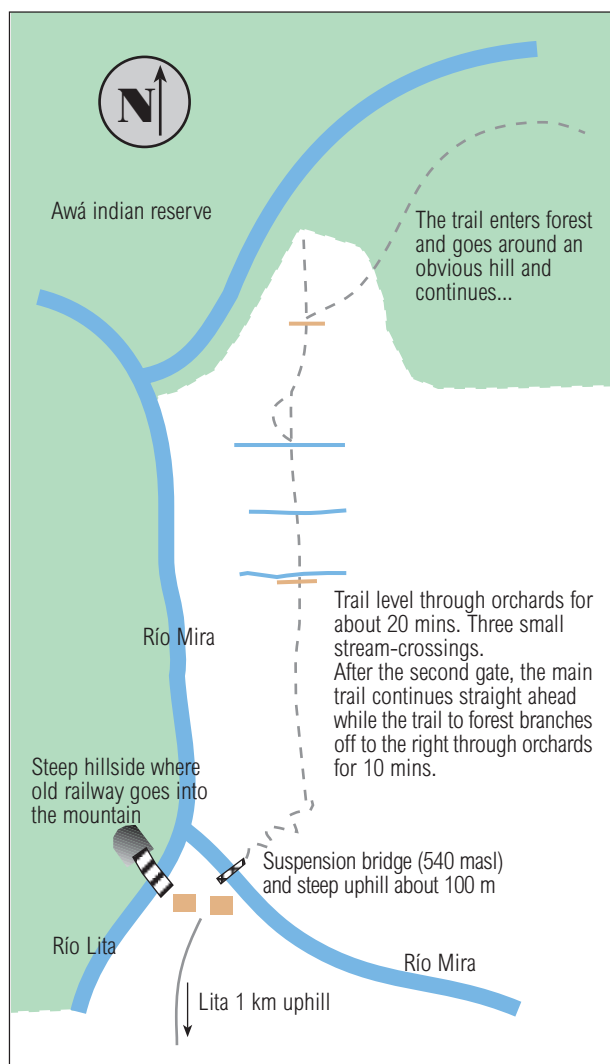
This area is in the foothills at about 350-800 masl. The only place to stay is at Recidencial Villalobos the Naraja (4\$ incl private bathroom) in Lita. There are also a few restaurants in Lita. Roadside birding is not worthwhile before Lita coming from Ibarra but can produce good stuff beyond. One very 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.

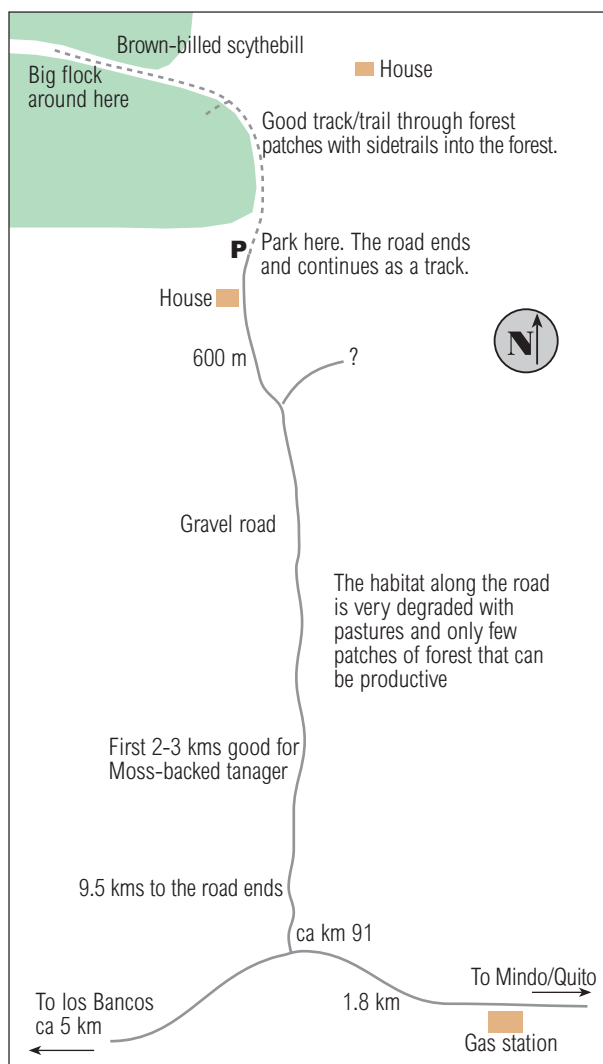
Other trails that I explored starts 32.3 kilometres west of Lita to the south of the road. Trailhead at 557 masl GPS coordinates N 00°59.759' W 78°35.360' This trail goes to rio Bogotá mostly through good forest. See map.

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 communities. 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-backed quail-dove, Tawny-faced quail and guans (Baudó or



Map of the Lita trail



Map of Milpe road

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 its 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 kilometers 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 off 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 restaurant 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.

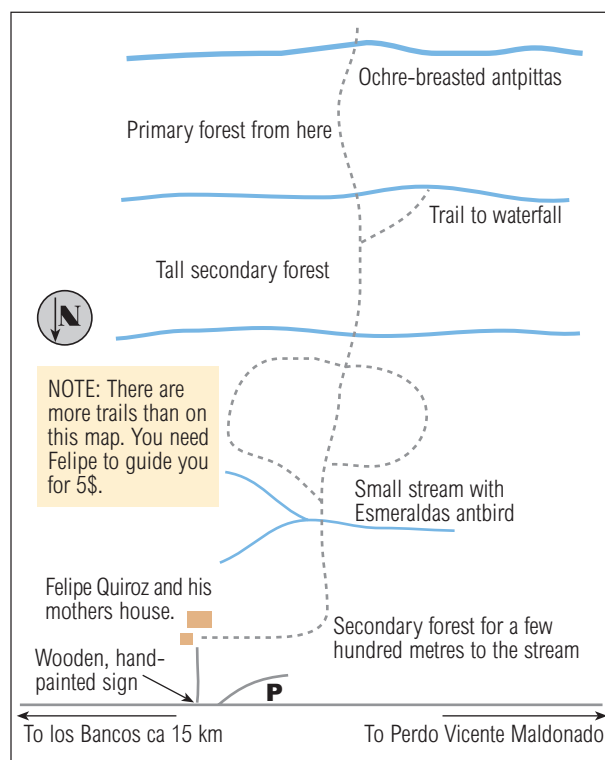
KM 106.5 ABOUT 15 KMS WEST OF LOS BANCOS

This is a private forestpatch 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 off 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

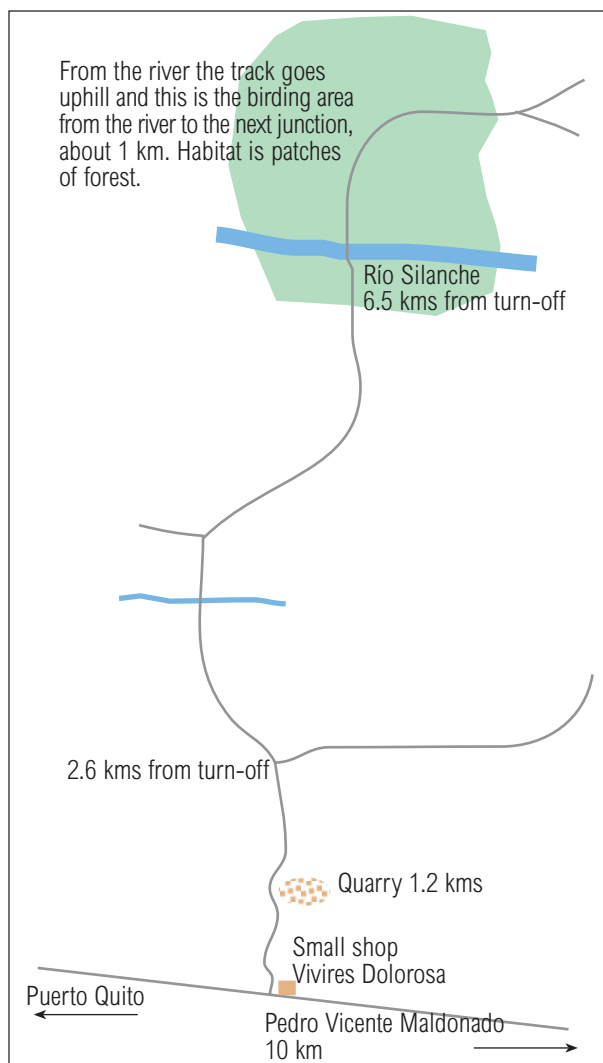
2 seen at Río Silanche

TINY HAWK

1 seen between Lita and Alto Tambo

PLUMBEOUS HAWK

1 seen in the first clearing along the Chiquita road



Map of Río Silanche

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

RUFIOUS-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 ANI

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 too 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 PLUMBEATEER

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

RUFIOUS MOTMOT

2 seen at Milpe road, 2 seen at 106.5, los Bancos

RUFIOUS-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 ANTIVIREO

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 ANT BIRD

4 seen at río Palenque

IMMACULATE ANT BIRD

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 ANT BIRD

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

OCELLATED ANT BIRD

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 seen 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 ATILA

2 heard 32.2 kms W Lita

RUFIOUS 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 COTINGA

1 male along the Chiquita road

BLACK-TIPPED COTINGA

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 masl.

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 cotinga 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-THIGHTED 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

RUFIOUS-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+1pair 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

RUFIOUS-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-SHOULDERED 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

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 house but 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

LA Y AND THE ACCESS ROAD

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 negotiated by foot although the habitat is severely 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.

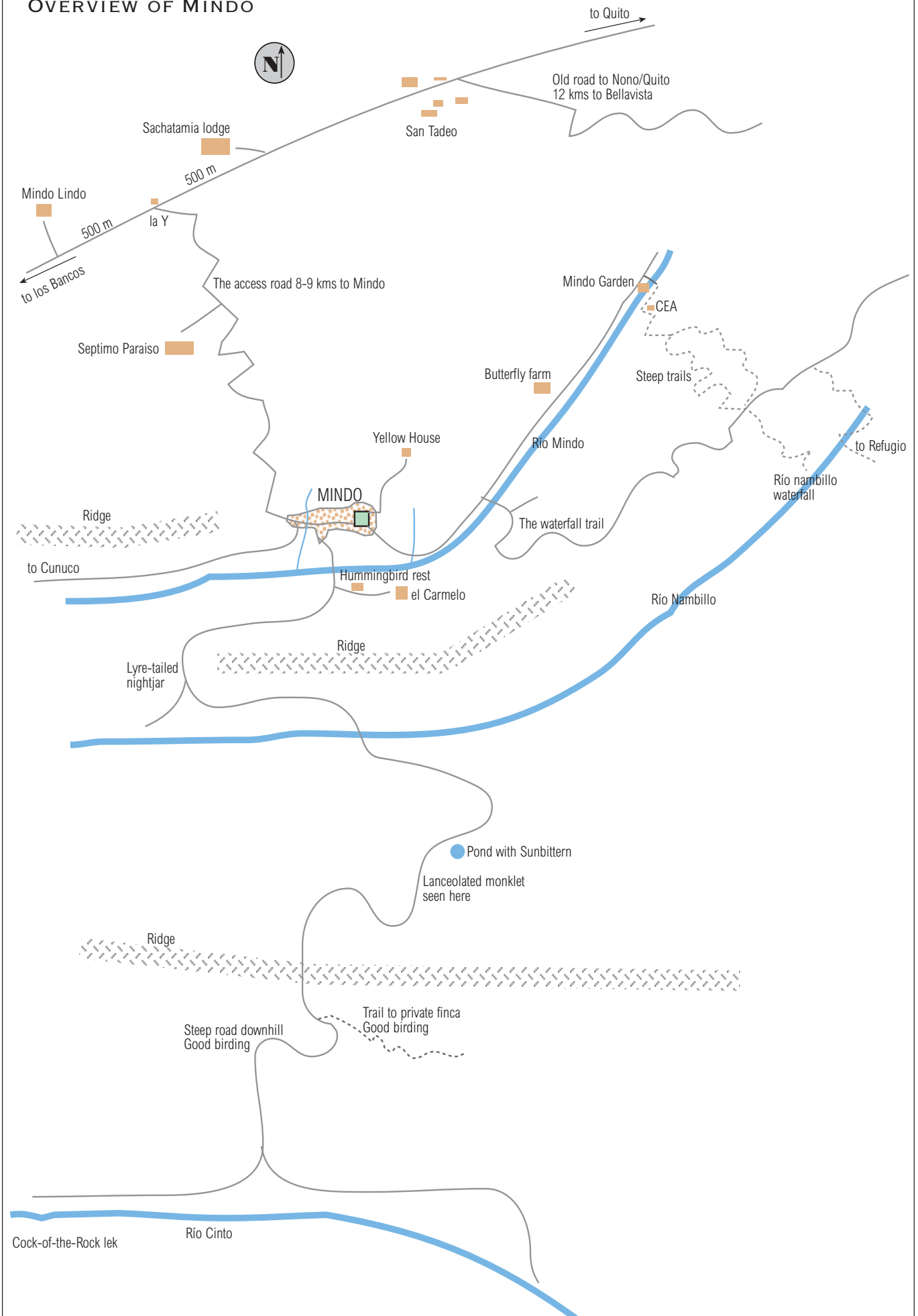
THE TRAIL TO THE RIO NAMBILLO WATERFALL

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 trail system 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 were 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. Bird densities 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 through 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 paid at the house.

OVERVIEW OF MINDO



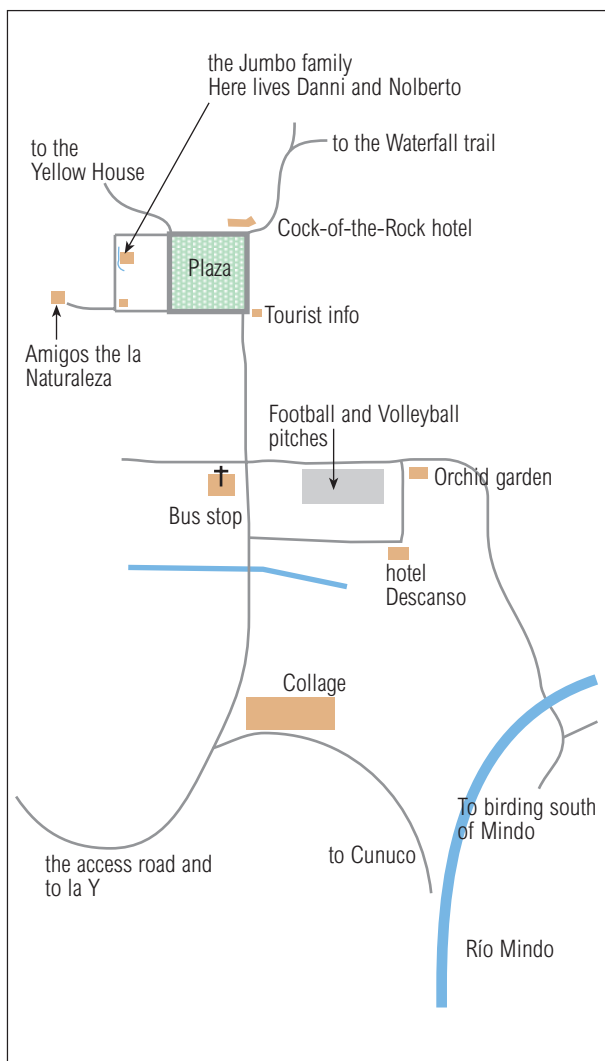
CONUCO

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.

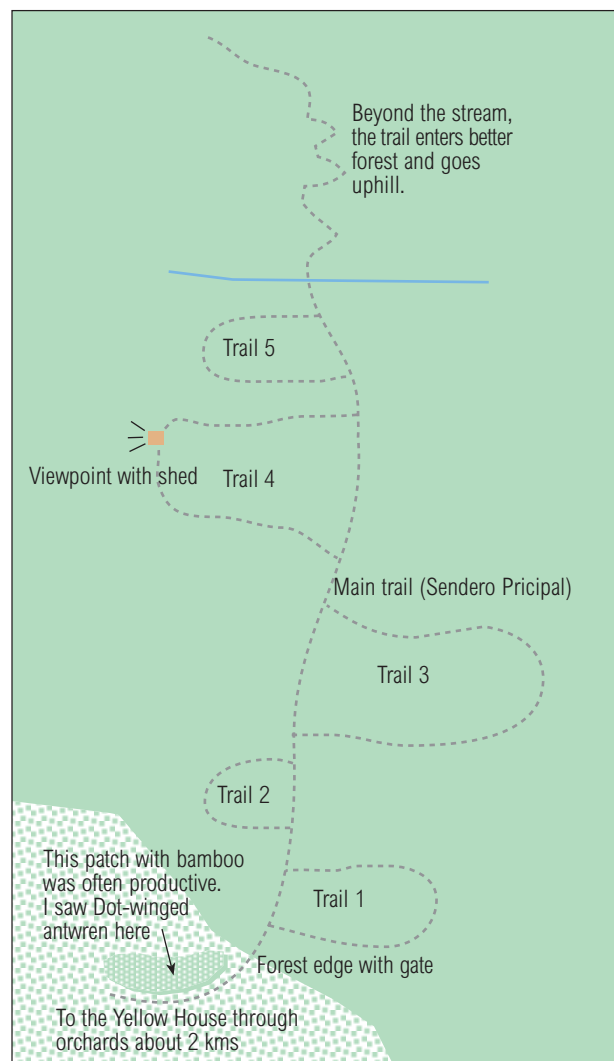
SOUTH OF MINDO

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).

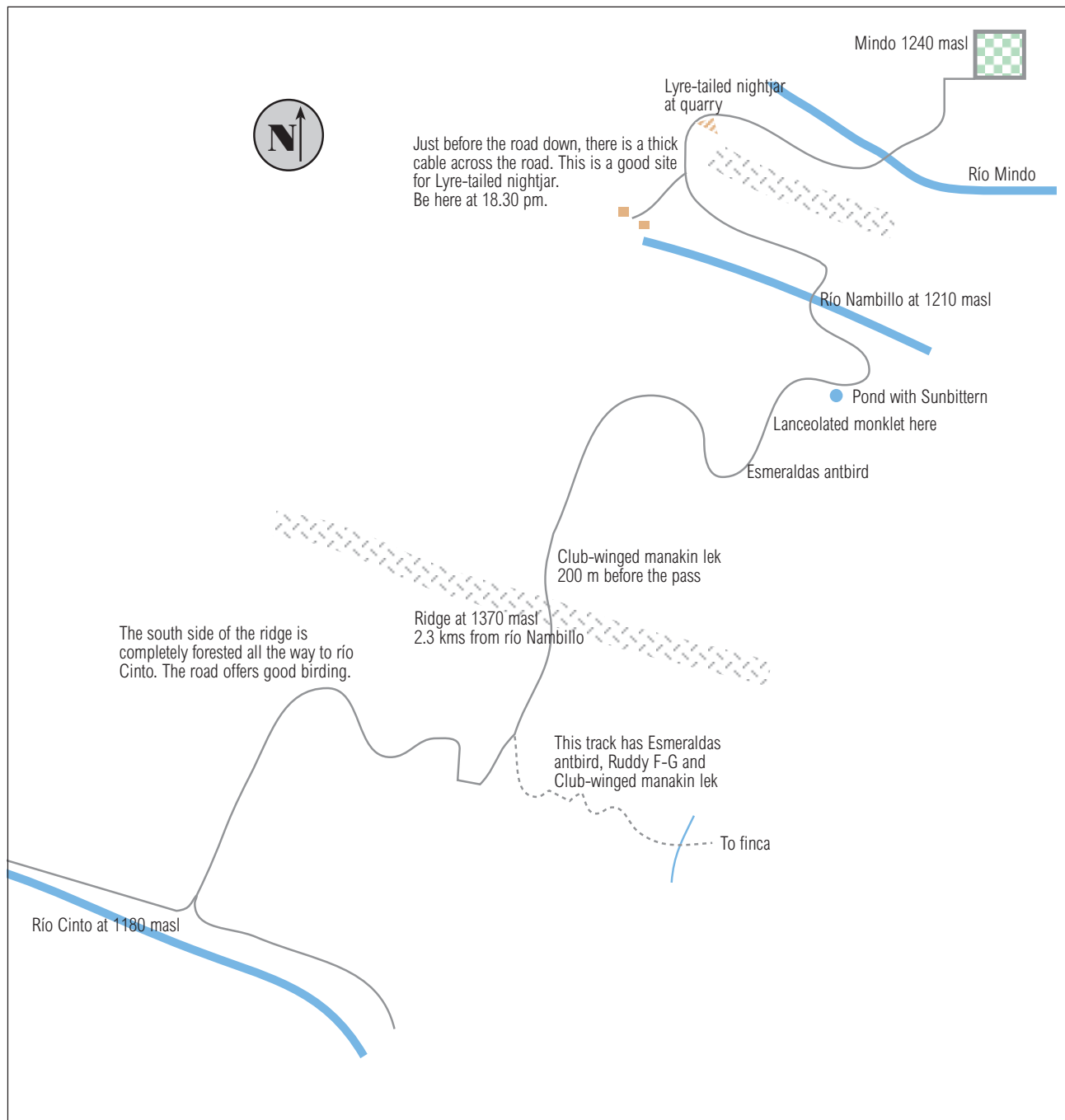


Map of Mindo village



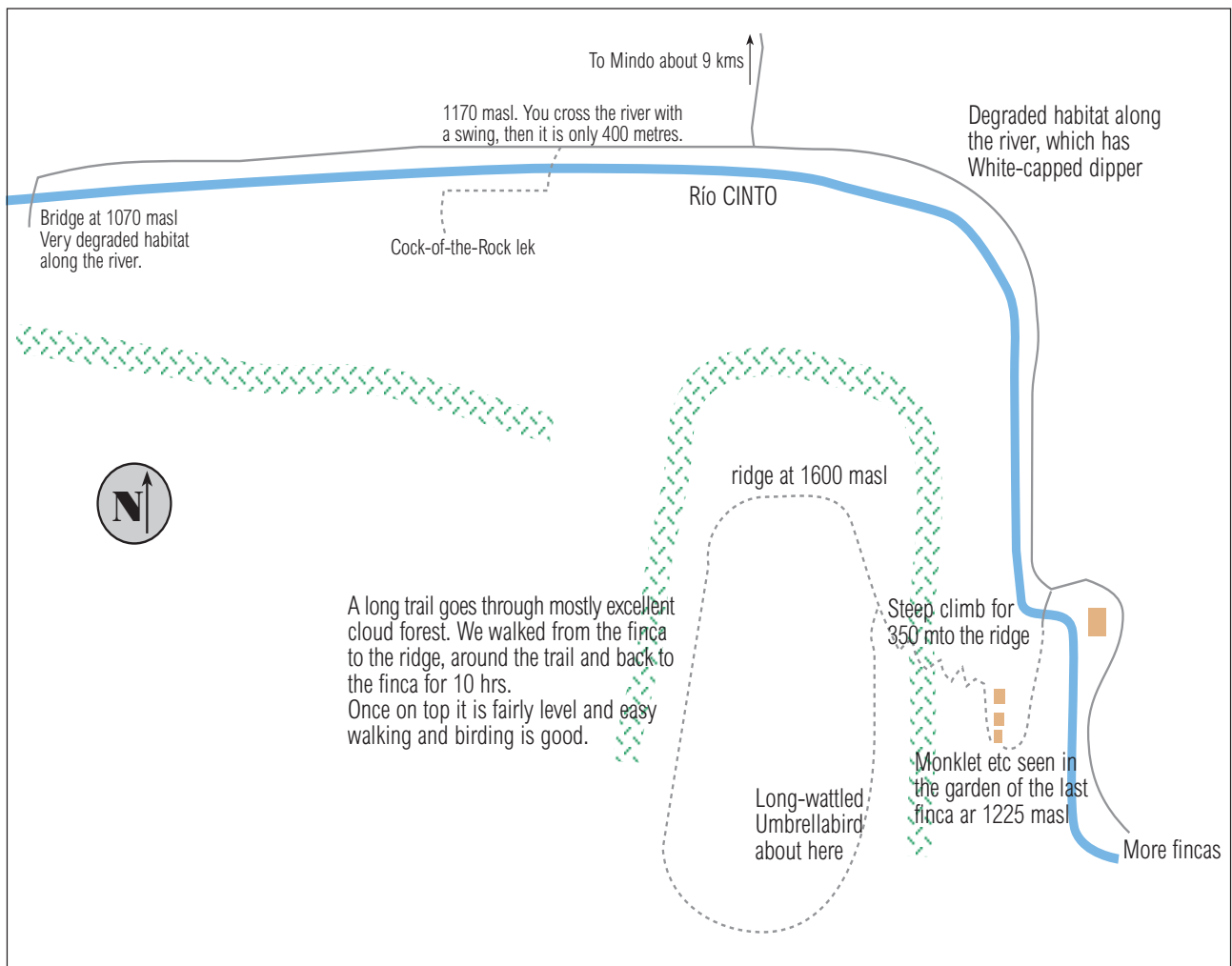
Map of the Yellow House trail.

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 definately 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.



Map of the Rio Cinto area south of Mindo



Mindo seen from the lower part of the trail to the Rio Nambillo waterfall.

SEPTIMO PARAISO

This is 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. They 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 preferred 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

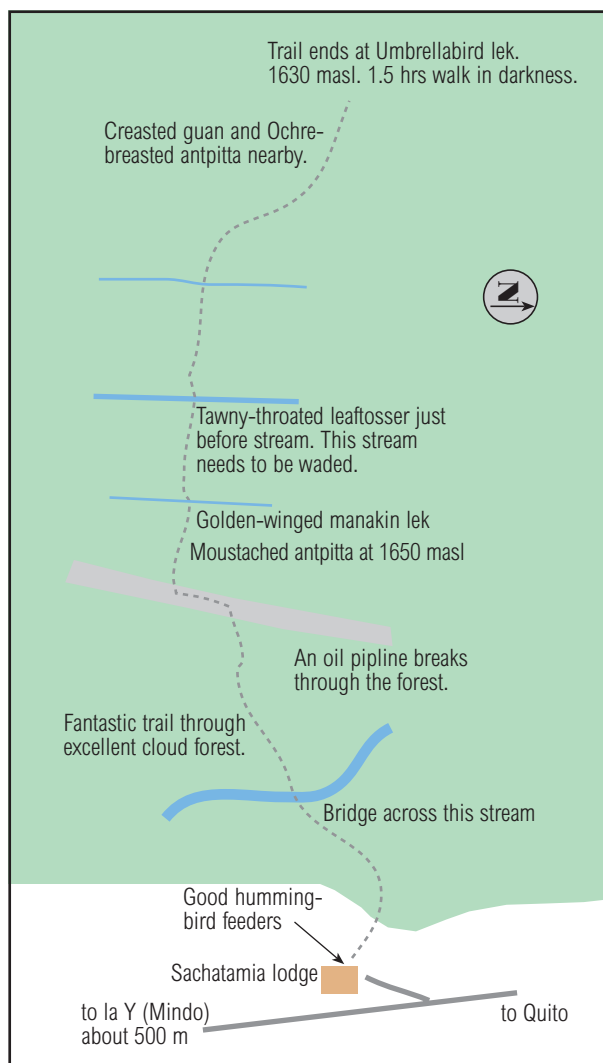
Up to ten seen more or less daily around Mindo.

STRIATED HERON

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

BLACK VULTURE

Common



Map of the Sachatamia lodge

TURKEY VULTURE

Common

HOOK-BILLED KITE

1 pair at the Yellow House, 1 seen along the road to Conuco and 1 seen along the accessroad and seen south of rio Nambillo.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

Fairly common with up ten seen on a single day.

DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE

1 seen along the trail up to the Yellow House trail. Seen on two occasions along the accessroad.

PLAIN-BREASTED HAWK

1 seen along the lower part of the Waterfall trail, 1 seen along the trail up the the Yellow house trail.

BARRED HAWK

Seen on three occasions along the waterfall trail, 1 seen near Septimo paraíso.

RAODSIDE HAWK

Singles seen most days, often along the accessroad.

[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 on 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.

CREASTED 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 río 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 accessroad.

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 POTOO

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

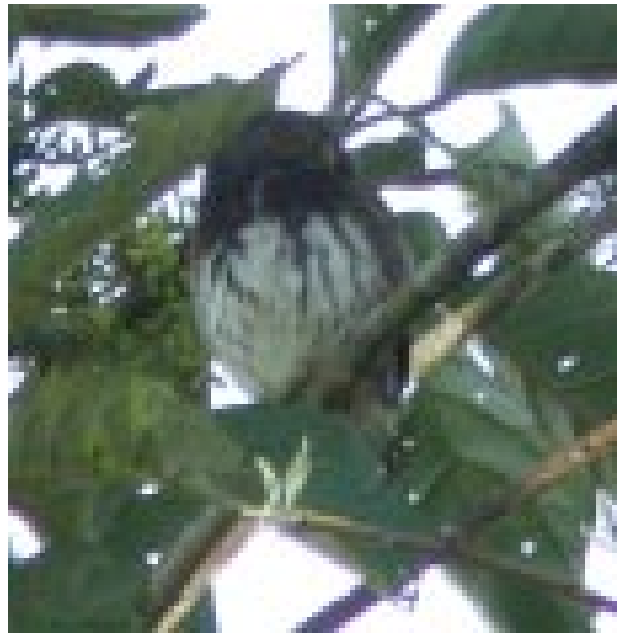
2 seen at the feeders at Sachatamia.

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.



Cloud-forest Pygmy-owl, a recently split species that can be seen around Mindo. This one was seen along the access road.

GREEN-CROWNED WOODNYMPH

Up to 8 at the Hummingbird restaurant. Only 4 seen away from the restaurant.

RUFIOUS-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 part 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.

CREASTED 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.

RUFIOUS 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 río Cinto

OLIVACEOUS PICULET

Singles seen weekly, often with flocks.

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER

Singles or pairs seen weekly.



Lineated woodpecker (left) and Guayaquil woodpecker (right). These two and Powerful woodpecker can all be seen along the upper part of the access road.

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 río 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 río Cinto.

STREAK-CAPPED TREEHUNTER

1 seen at la Y, 2 seen on the ridge south of río 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.

RUFIOUS-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 seen 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 río Cinto.

RUFIOUS-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 BEARDLESS 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

RUFIOUS-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 río 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-MARGINED 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 río 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

RUFIOUS 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

1 seen along the low 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-CROWNED 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 the 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 río 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.

OGRE-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.

RUFIOUS-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

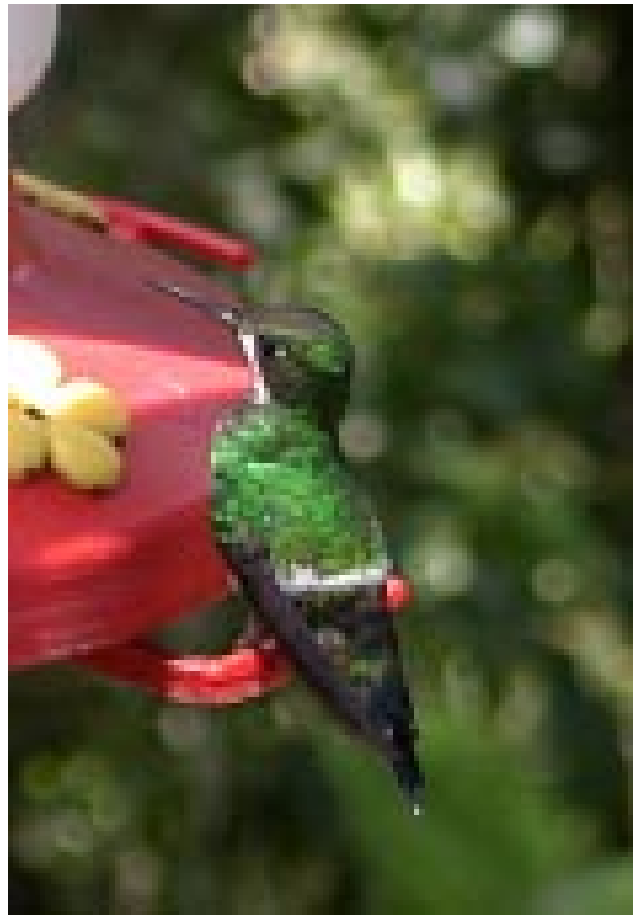
Fairly common

GIANT GOWBIRD

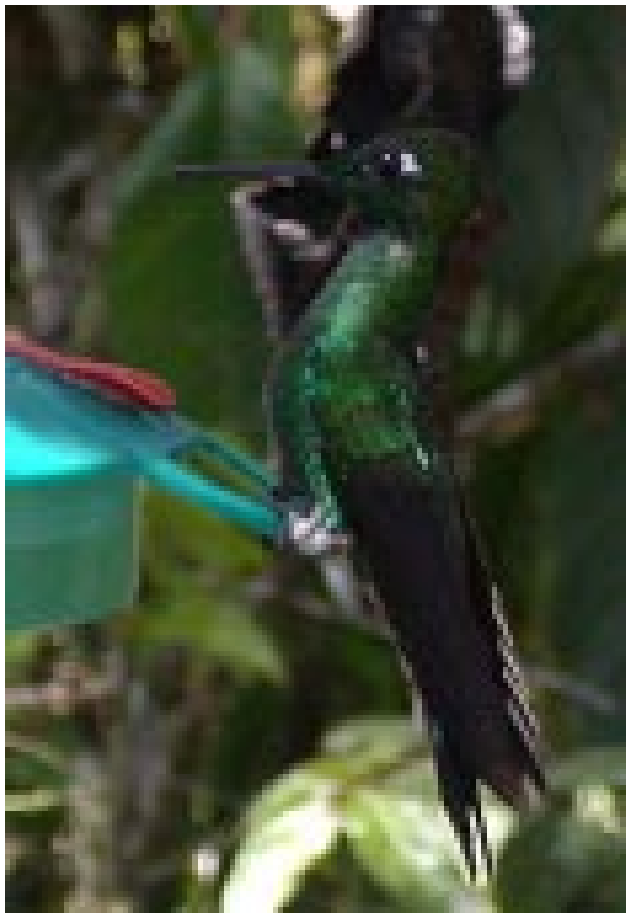
1 seen near the Yellow house.



Female Booted Raquet-tail



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



Green-crowned Brilliant - one of the specialties at Mindo.



Green-crowned Woodnymph - best seen at Mindo

BELLAVISTA LODGE

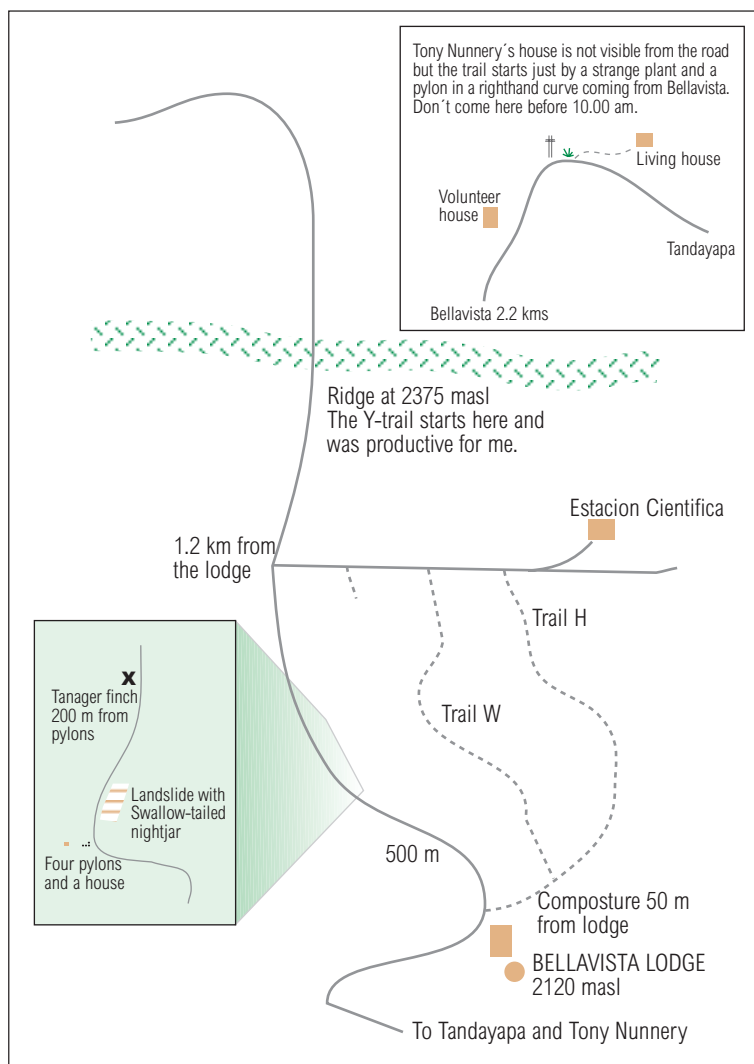
Bellavista lodge is situated at about 2000 meters in the upper Tandyapa valley just by the road. The lodge has an extensive trailsystem which is well marked and maintained. Birding from the road uphill and downhill from the lodge is also good. A bed in a dormitory including all food was about 44 USD. One night I woke up rather early and felt something under my neck and wiped "it" away and I heard a buns 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 Tandyapa 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 taperecorders 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 Bellavista 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 fruiteater! Some very sought-after species indeed. It is also a good place to see Black-chinned mountain-tanager whcih 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

PERGRINE FALCON

1 adlut 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

RUFIOUS 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 a 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 ANTIBIRD

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

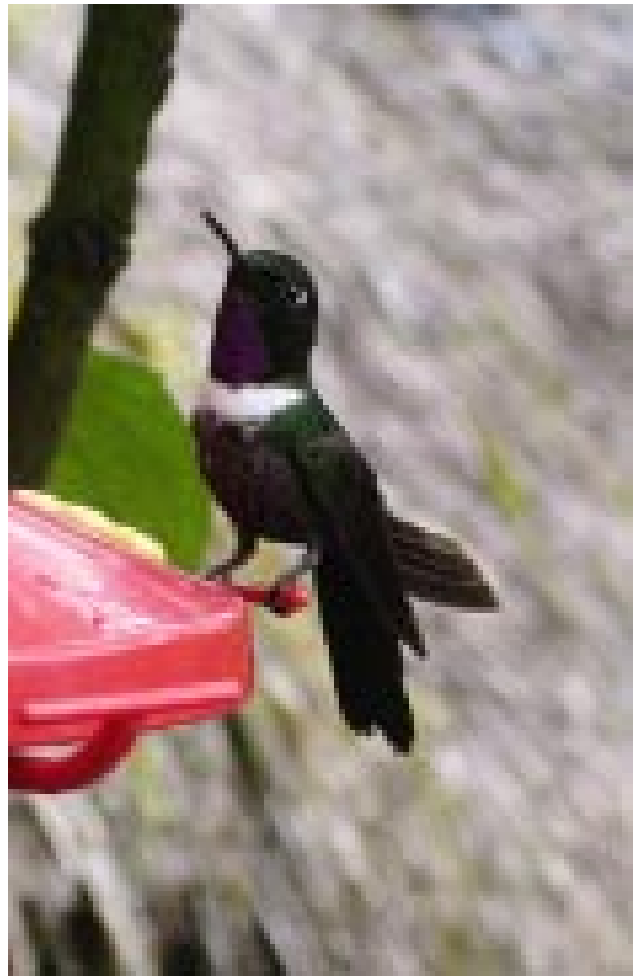
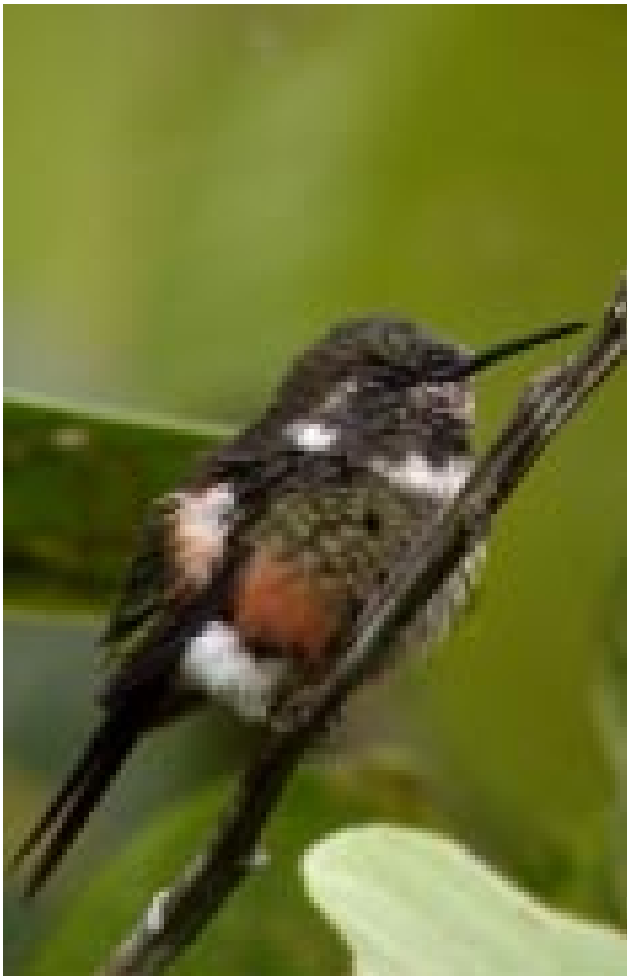
1 male seen and heard singing into the microphone at just 4 meter. It was about 600 meters up the road from the lodge. Learn the song and listen in the morning along the road. This is THE place on earth to see Tanager finch.

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW

Fairly common

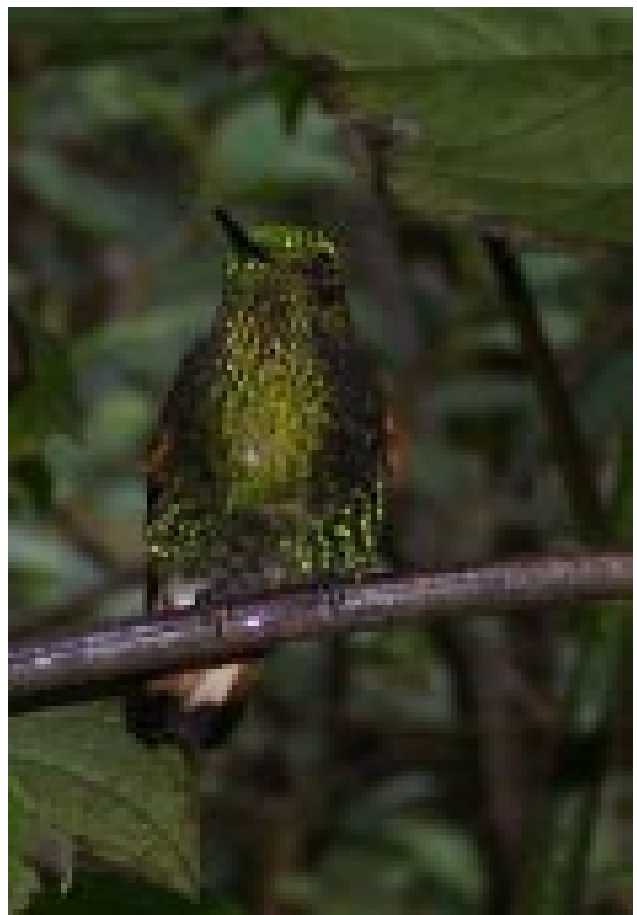


Speckled Hummingbird. Bellavista, Tony Nunnery's and other places in the Mindo area, offers good viewing facilities with feeders for hummingbirds. There are great changes in the species composition so you need to visit many places at different altitudes.



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 Agradade 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 weather 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 hostel in la Bonita. The birding was very good in the forested ravines with many diverse flocks.

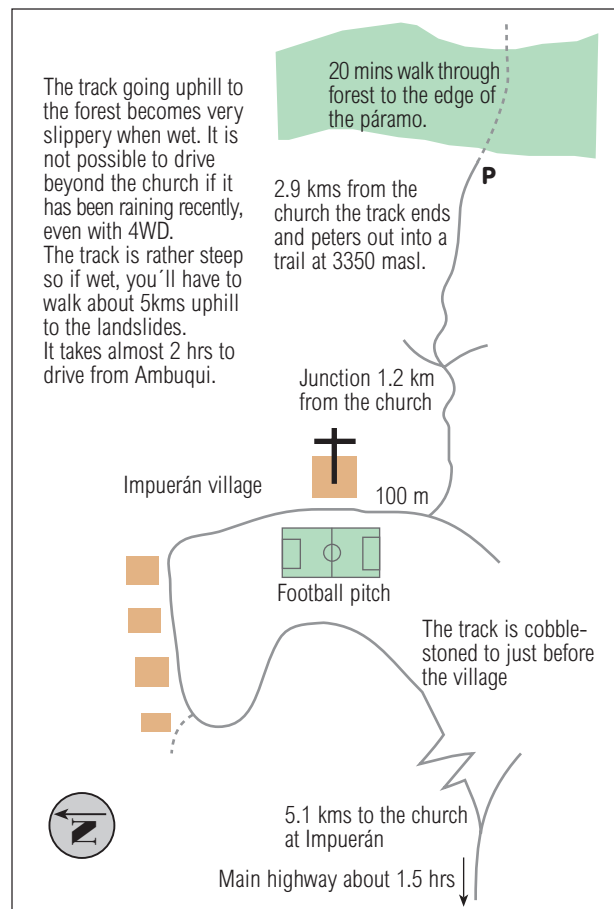
Stake-outs: Bicoloured antpitta 3.4 kms after the police station in Santa Barbara at 2680 masl at N00°65.000' W77°50.250'. Mountain avocetbill 25.4 kms from Julio Agradade towards Santa Barbara at 2890 masl 100 metres after a bridge in a sharp lefthand curve.

I visited this place 6-8/5.

CERRO MUNGOS

This is the best site for Chestnut-bellied cotinga and Crescent-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-crested 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.



Map of Impuerán and lower part of Cerro Mungos.

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 recidenciales in the village and better accommodation at the nearby hotsprings. Once at the pass (4000m) a track branches off 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 conebill and Black-backed bush-tanager. I saw this flock from the road on two occasions. Just after the patch a trail leads off 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 sunangel 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 launchingpoint 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.



The spectacular snow-capped peak of Cotopaxi, the highest active vulcan in the world.

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 volcán 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 turn-off 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.

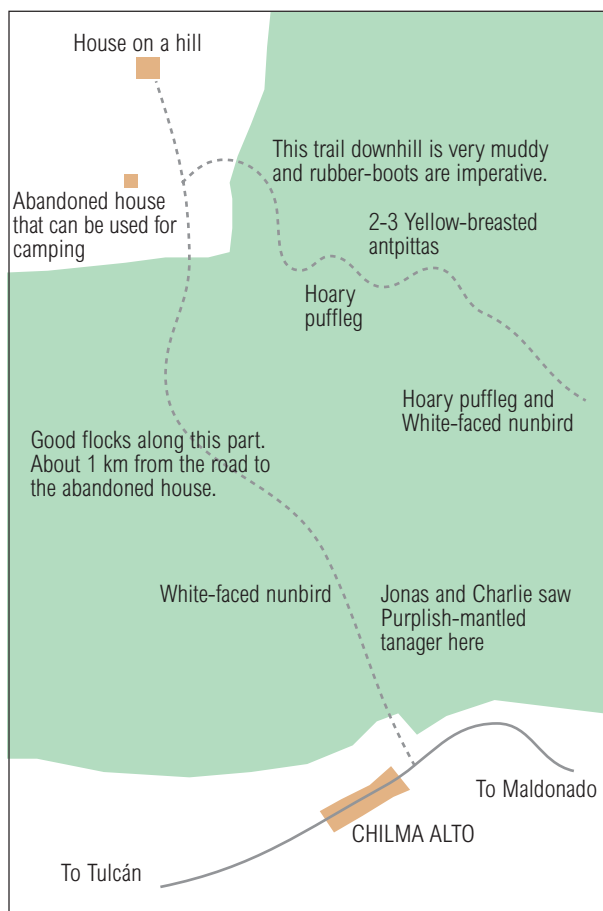
BIRDLIST

TAWNY-BREASTED TINAMOU

1 heard near vulcan Chiles in Carchi

PIED-BILLED GREBE

About 20 at laguna San Pablo



Map of Chilma Alto

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

ECUADORIAN 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 SNIFE

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

LAUGHIN 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 Sucumbíos.

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

RUFIOUS-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

ECUADORIAN 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

SHINGING SUNBEAM

3 seen at Yanacocha, 2 seen at Cotopaxi and 1 seen on vulcan 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 vulcan 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 (vulcan 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 vulcan 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 TUFTEDCHEEK

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 ANT BIRD

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

RUFIOUS-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

RUFIOUS 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

CLOSSY 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-CREASTED 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-FINCH

1 seen with the Slaty brush-finches.

STRIPE-HEADED BRUSH-FINCH

1 seen near Santa Barbara and 3 seen at Yanacocha

RUFIOUS-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

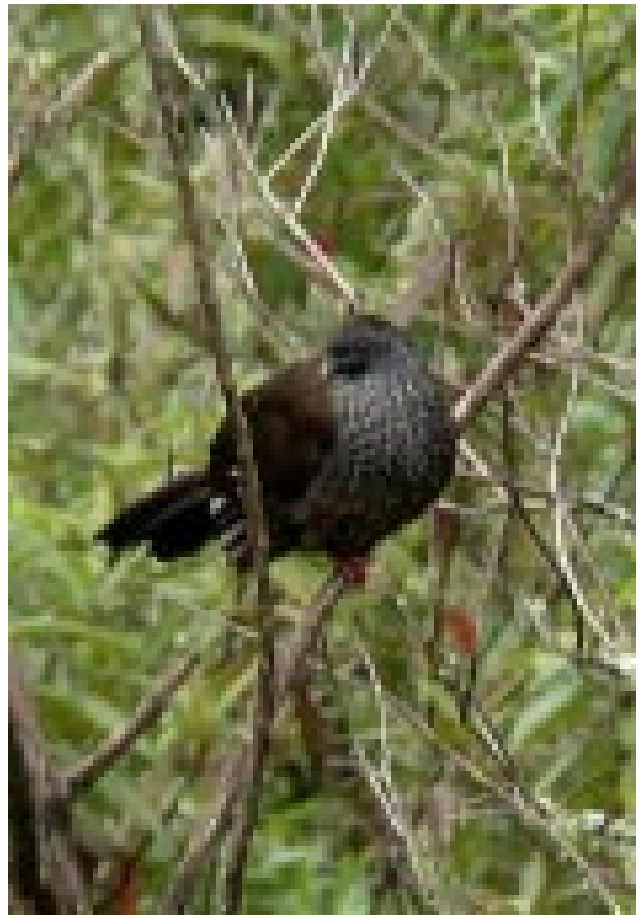
2 seen at Cerro Mungos



Lake Papallacta a week after a huge oil-spill in the lake..The temperate forest surrounding the lake offers good birding.



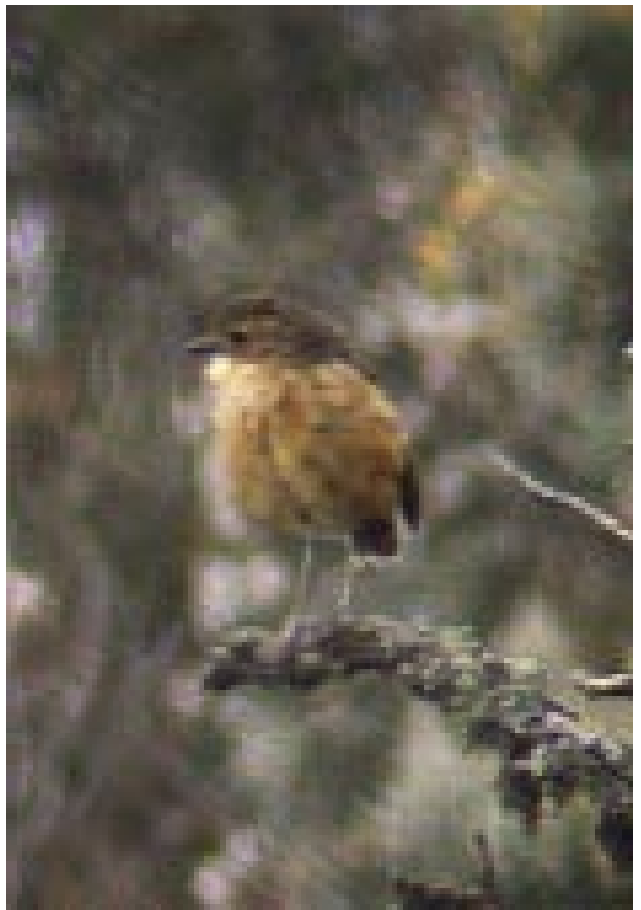
Andean Ruddy Duck at laguna San Pablo



Andean Guan along the la Bonita road



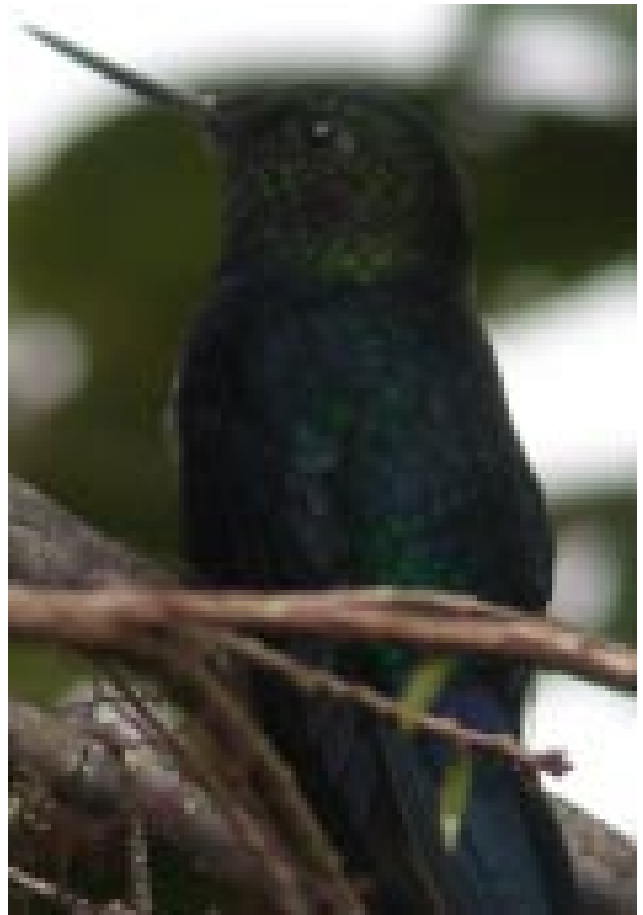
Greater Yellowlegs at lago Limpiopongo, Cotopaxi



Tawny antpitta at Cotopaxi. The easiest antpitta to see.



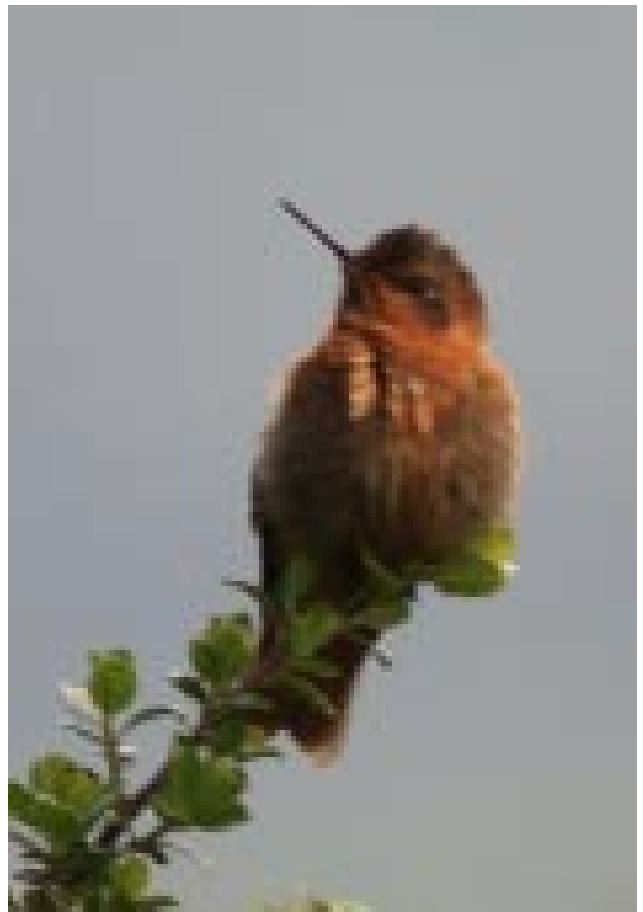
Male Black-breasted puffleg at Yanacocha 10/5



Black-breasted puffleg



Buff-winged starfrontlet at Yanacocha



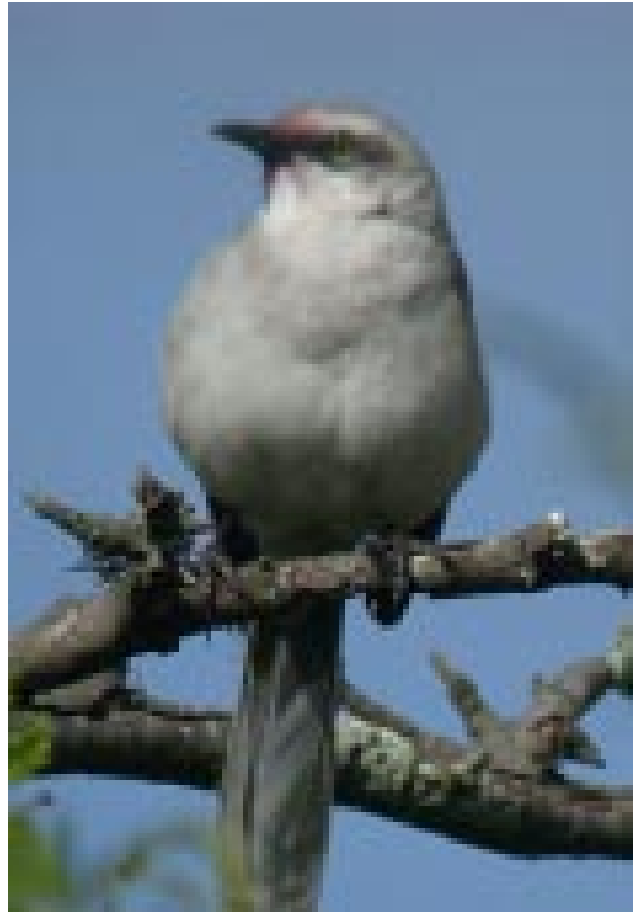
Shining Sunbeam at Yanacocha



Male Ecuadorian Hillstar along the road from Latacunga to Quevedo



Red-crested 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 off 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 let 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.

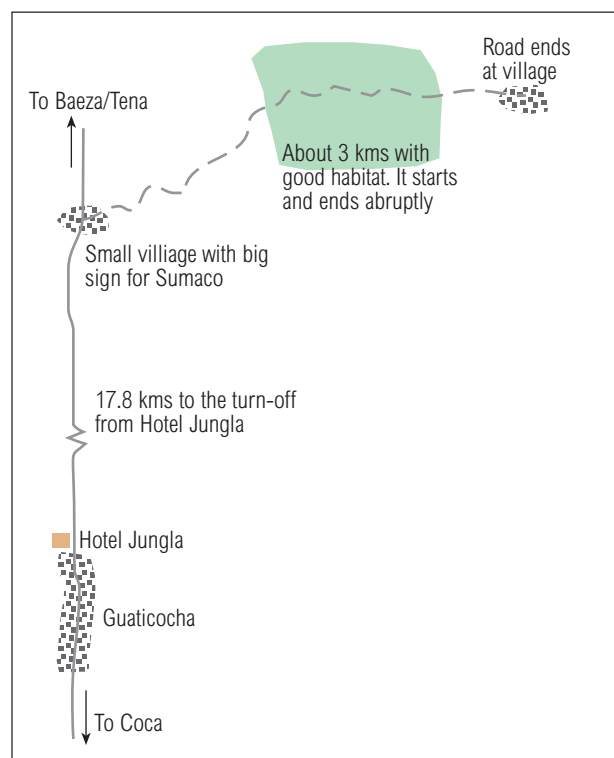
SUMACO ROAD (1300 METERS)

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



Map of the central part of the Loreto road and the track to Sumaco

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



Many-spotted Hummingbird showing everything along the track to Vulcan Sumaco.

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 VELVETBREAST

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

(RUFIOUS-)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 ANT BIRD

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 RUFIOUS-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

RUFIOUS-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

RUFIOUS-HEADED PYGMY-TYRANT

5 seen at Guacamayos and 1 seen at Yanuyacu

BRONZE-OLIVE PYGMY-TYRANT

2 heard at Yanuyacu

RUFIOUS-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 BUSHTYRANT

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 sen 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 Baeza, 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 DONACOBIOUS

5 seen along the Loreto road

THRUSH-LIKE WREN

1 seen along the lower Loreto road

RUFIOUS 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

RUFIOUS-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.

The next 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 birdguide called Jaime. He has been here for 14 years and is the most experienced birdguide along the rio Napo. He speaks only Spanish but knows the birdnames 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 birdwatching 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 barbtroat. 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

CINEROUS 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 CREASTED CARACARA

1 seen along río Napo

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA

A few seen along río 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 río 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 río Napo in Coca

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH

1 seen at Yuturi and 1 male seen from the tower at Yarina

RUFIOUS-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 STARHROAT

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-RUFIOUS 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

RUFIOUS-RUMPED FOLIAGE-GLEENER

2 seen at Yuturi

PLAIN XENOPS

3 seen along the trails at Yarina

SHORT-BILLED LEAFTOSSER

1 seen at Yuturi

BLACK-TAILED LEAFTOSSER

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 near 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

FASCIATED 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 ANT BIRD

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

RUFIOUS-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 ANTPIPIT

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-CREASTED 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 DONACOBIOUS

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 marsh 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 TROUPIAL

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



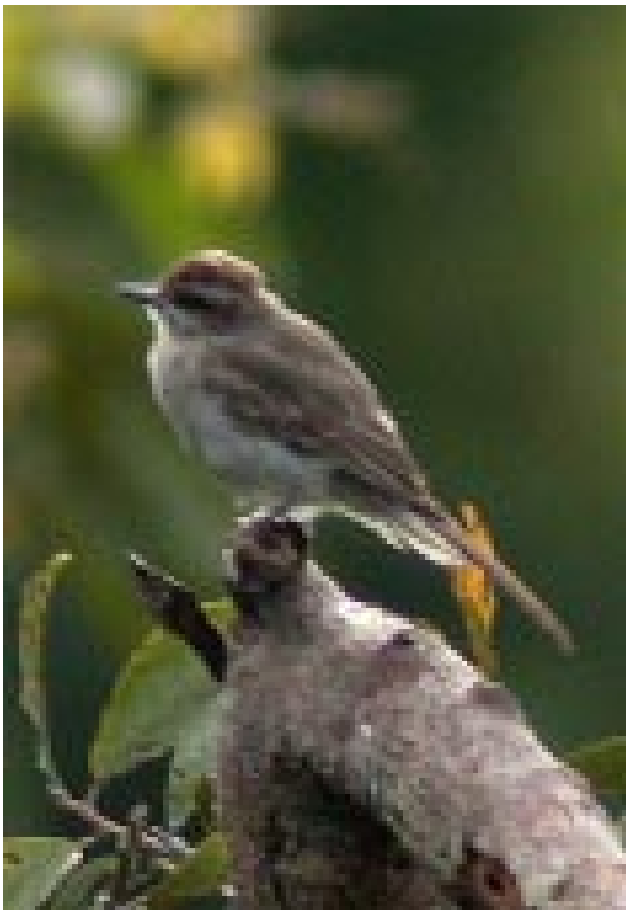
The excellent canopy tower at Yarina lodge. If you want, they bring warm breakfast from the lodge to the tower!



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.





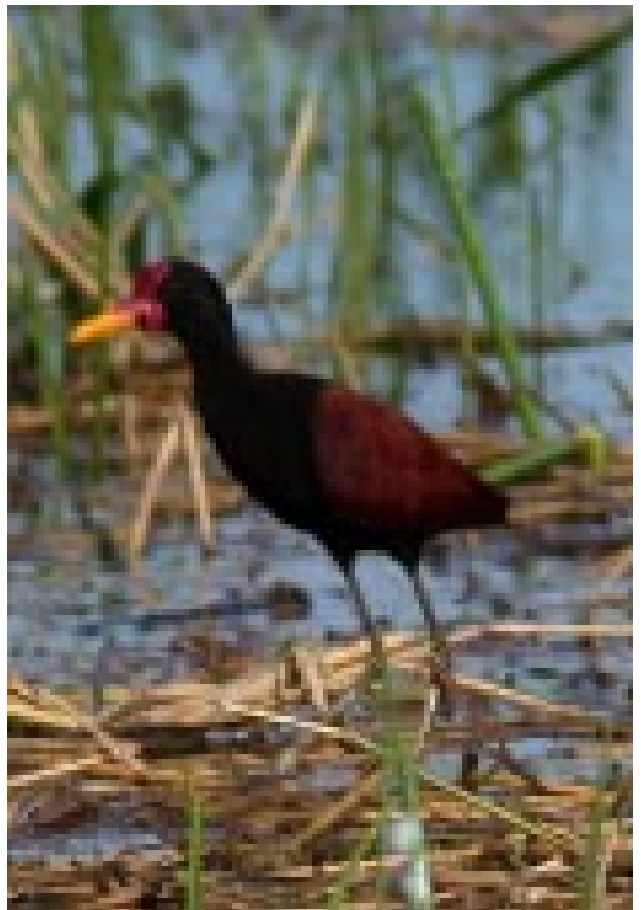
Solitary Sandpiper at Coca marsh in april.



One of the five Upland Sandpipers at Coca marsh in april.



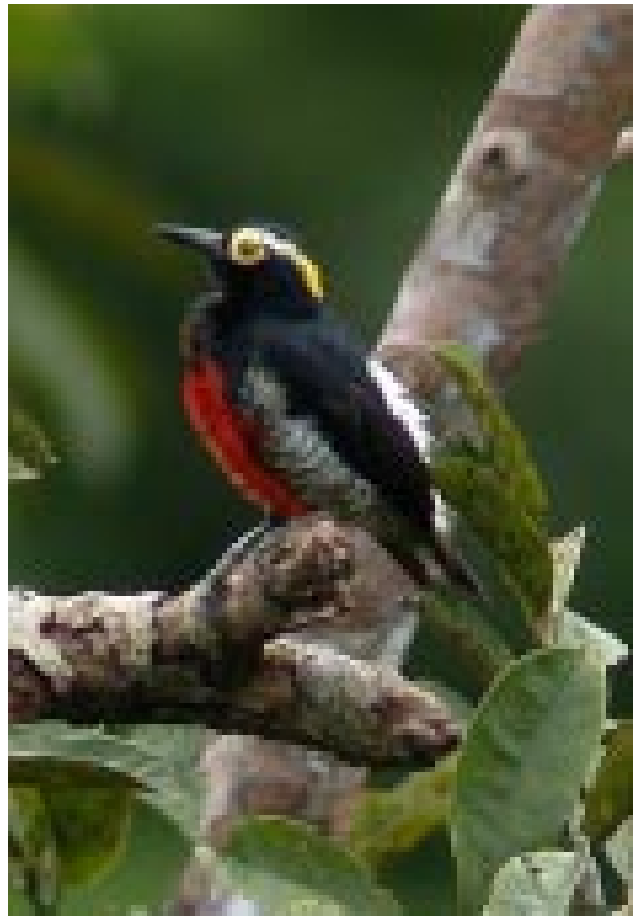
Southern Lapwing at Coca



Wattled Jacana at Coca



Cream-coloured Woodpecker near Coca



Yellow-tufted Woodpecker - common and often in small groups



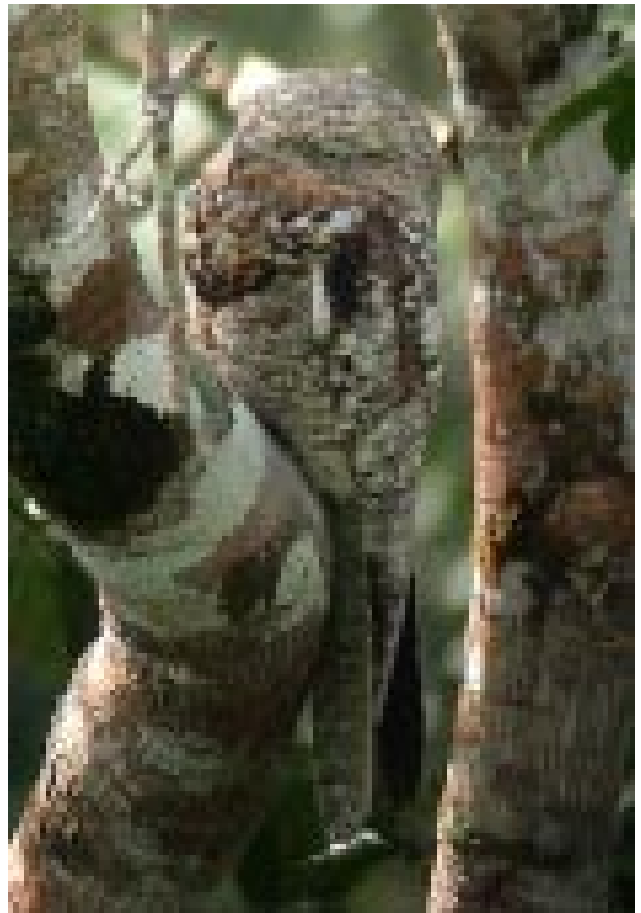
Scarlet-crowned barbet near Coca



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.

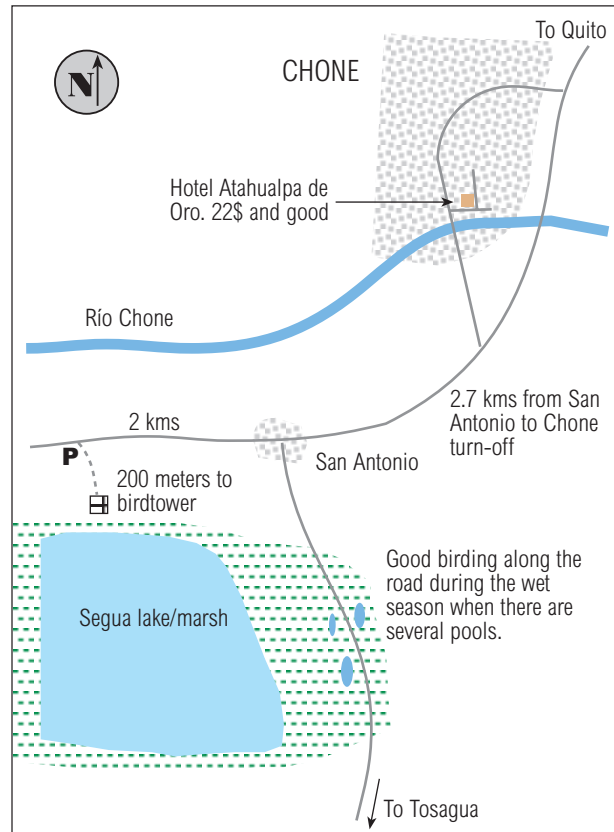
This area is convenient as there are many hotels and good food along here. Parts of the coast is very popular among tourists.

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 towards 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.



Map of Segua marsh

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 mans Galapagos). I didn't go there as there are few species and mainly seabirds to be seen.

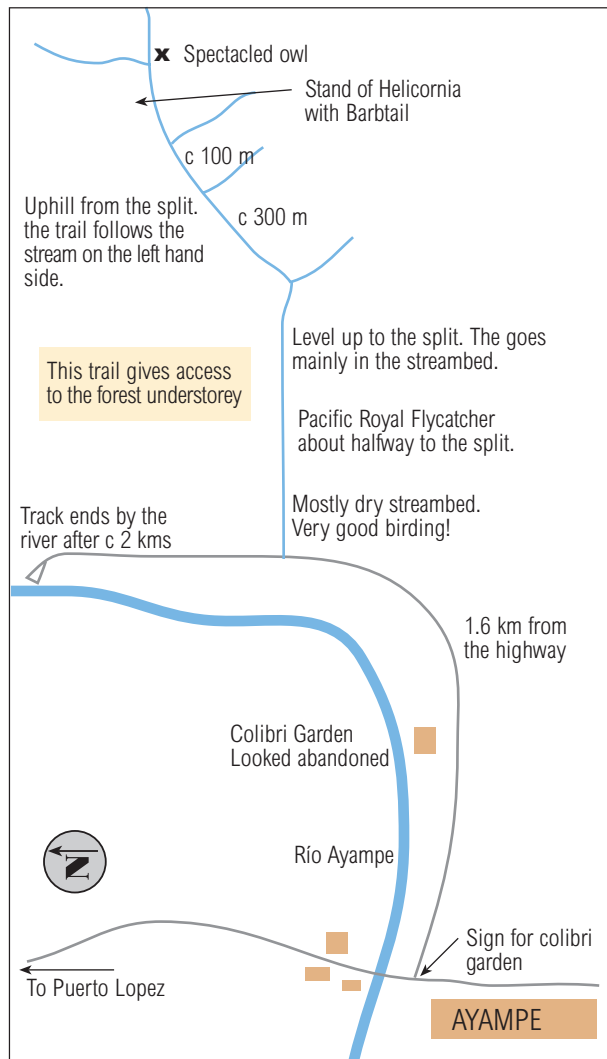
I visited this place 18-20/5.

AYAMPE

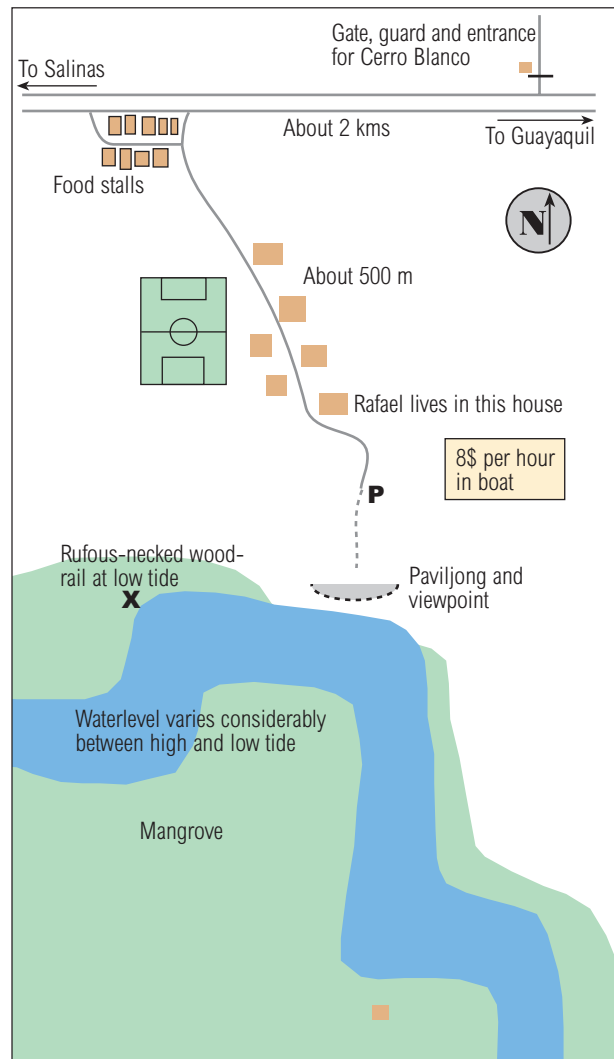
This tiny village is situated just south of the national park and you don't need to pay the entrance fee to visit this site. There are 3-4 hostals in Ayampe all situated along the same track. At least two of them have hummingbird feeders and Little woodstar has been claimed at one of them, Finca Punta 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.



Map of the Ayampe area



Map of Puerto Hondo

ECUASAL/SALINAS

The salt pans 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 salt pans. A good and sparsely trafficked road goes between the shore and the salt pans 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.

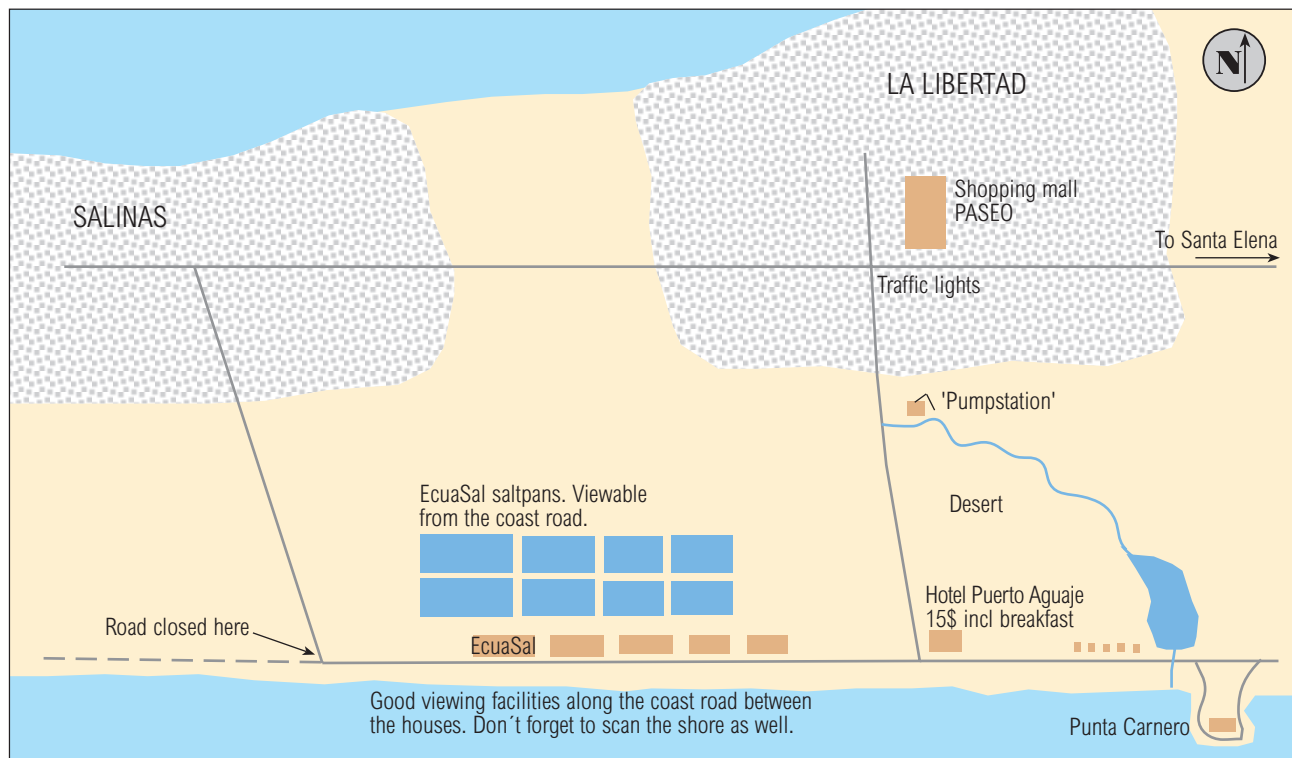
I visited this place 22-23/5 and 5-6/11.

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 where the macaws are however.

I visited this site 23-24/5, 31/5 and 7/11



Map of Salinas and Ecuasal

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-lore 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 morning 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.

JAUNECHE

This reserve owned by the Guayaquil univeristy 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. Noone did anything to stop them, it seemed like the fishermen 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 and 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 Elena, 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 subad seen near Aguas Blanca, Machalilla NP

HARRIS'S HAWK

Singles along the coast road near Machalilla NP

GRAY HAWK

1 ad 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 juv 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 juv 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 'Semiwesterns' 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 salt pans north of Santa Elena.

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

LAUGHIN 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 salt pans

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 Elena

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

PAURAQUE

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

STRIPE-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!

RUFIOUS-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

ECUADORIAN 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 SCYTHERBILL

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

SCALE-CREASTED PYGMY-TYRANT

See above

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

RUFIOUS-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

Firly 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

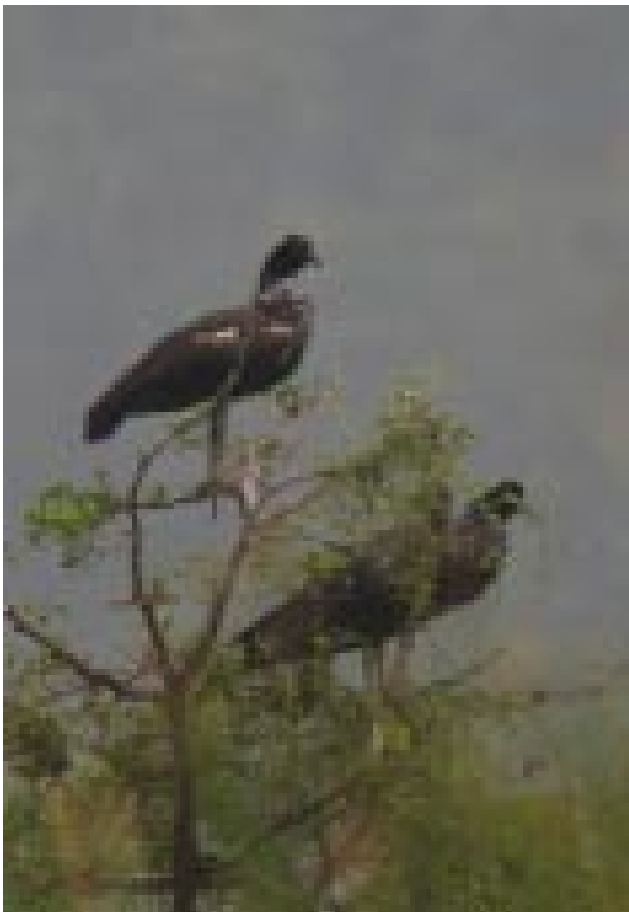
5 seen



Brown Pelican. Common along the coast



Magnificent Frigatebirds



Horned Screamers at Manglares-Churute east of Guayaquil



West-Peruvian Screech-Owl at Jauneche biological station



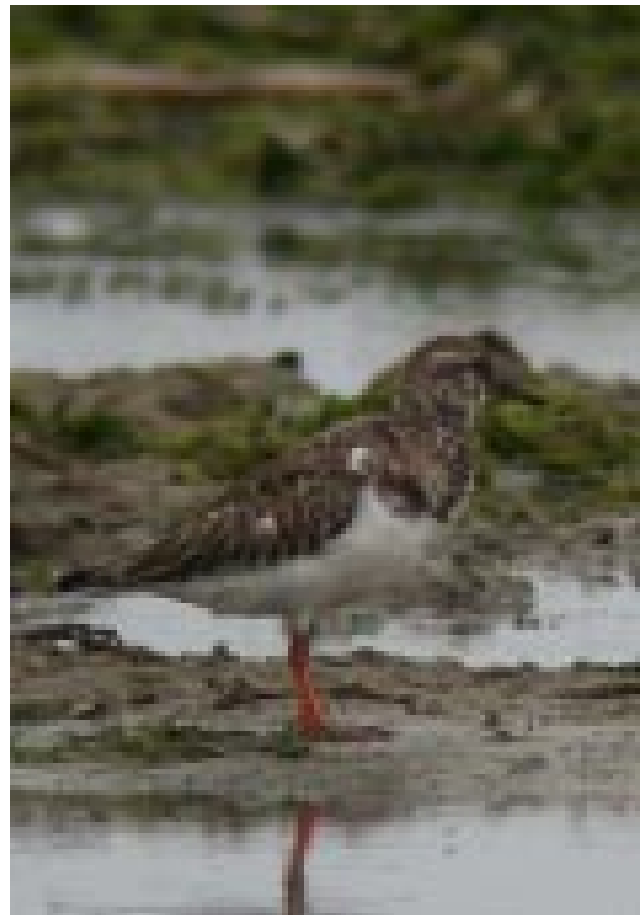
Cocoi Heron at Ricaurte sewage pond



Black-crowned Night-heron. The sewage pond offered good birding and opprtunities 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



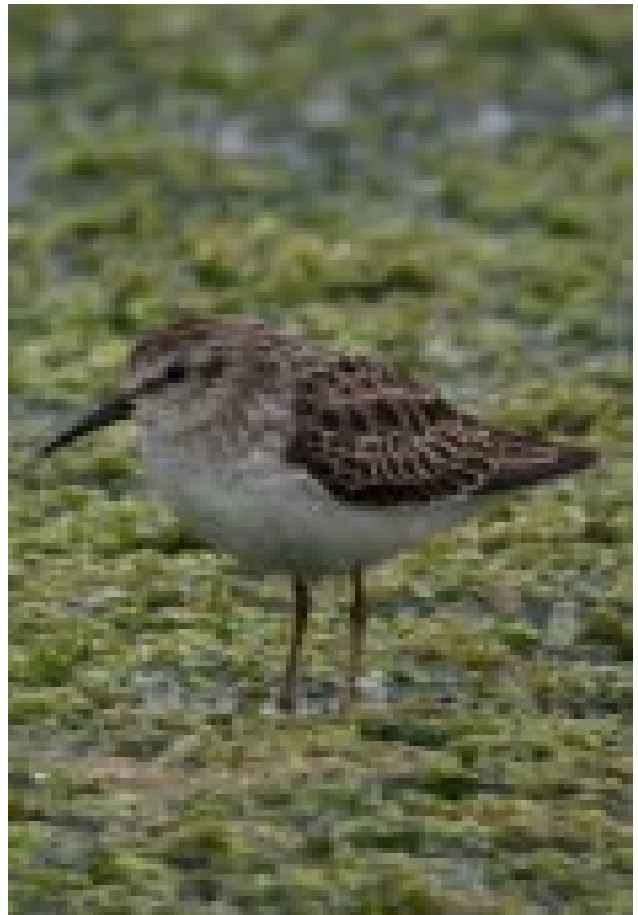
Juvenile Gray-hooded Gull at Salinas



Gray Gull at Salinas



Short-billed Dowitcher. Lots of waders on offer at Salinas



Least Sandpiper



Western Sandpiper



Semipalmated Sandpiper



Semipalmated Plover



Snowy Plover



Wilson's Phalarope



Snowy egret

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°428' W79°961' 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 Mollestero 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 hosteria 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-finch, yet another Ecuadorian endemic. The reserve is 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-LIMON 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 view-points over the valley below. I spend one day here in early june and birdactivity 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.

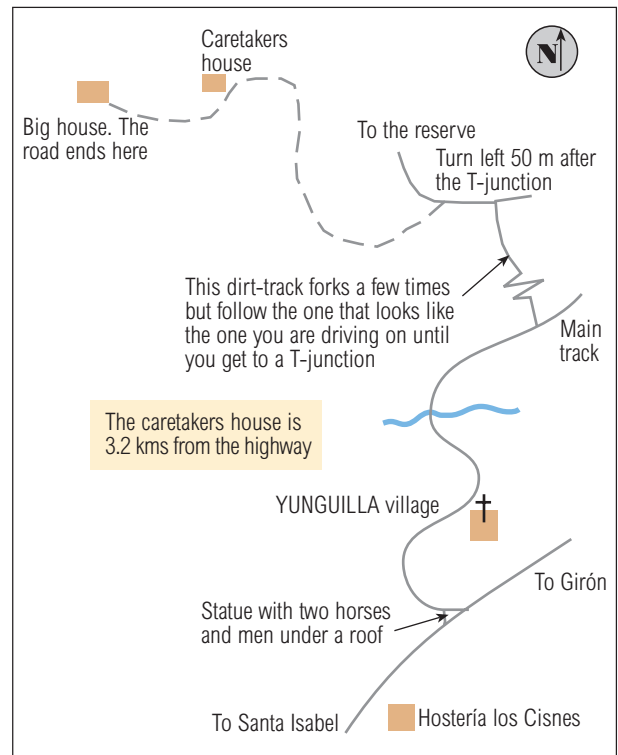
A few kilometers before the entrance there is a new lodge under construction called Copalinga owned by a Belgian couple, Baldwin and Catherine Vits. They have feeders in their garden and are currently building cabins for rent. They have a trail-system in the hills above which I walked for one day. Rather 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.

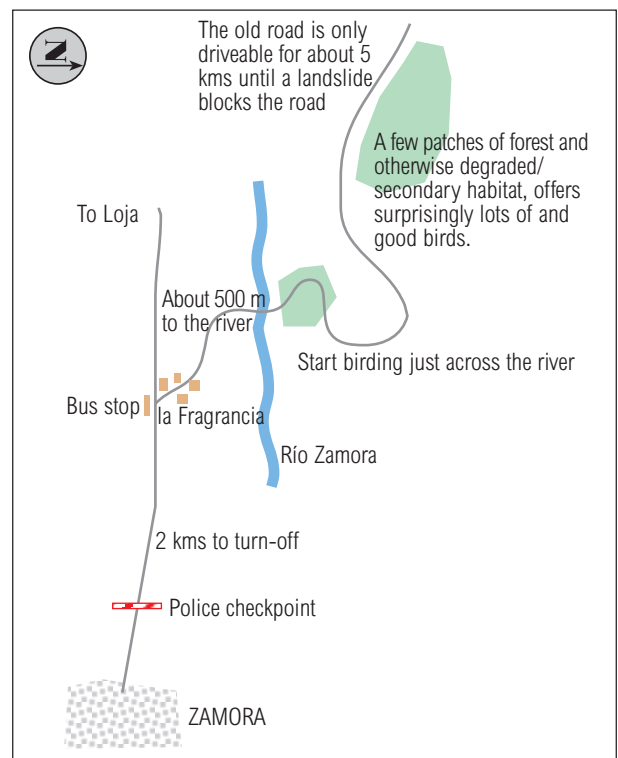
OLD LOJA-ZAMORA ROAD

Although the habitat is degraded here this site should not be neglected as I had some very good birds here like Spektacted prickletail, 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.



Map of how to find the caretakers house. If you should have problems, don't ask people for the Yunguilla reserve, ask for "la reserva de locotoco" that is more well-known.



Map of the old Loja-Zamora road.

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 recidenciales 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

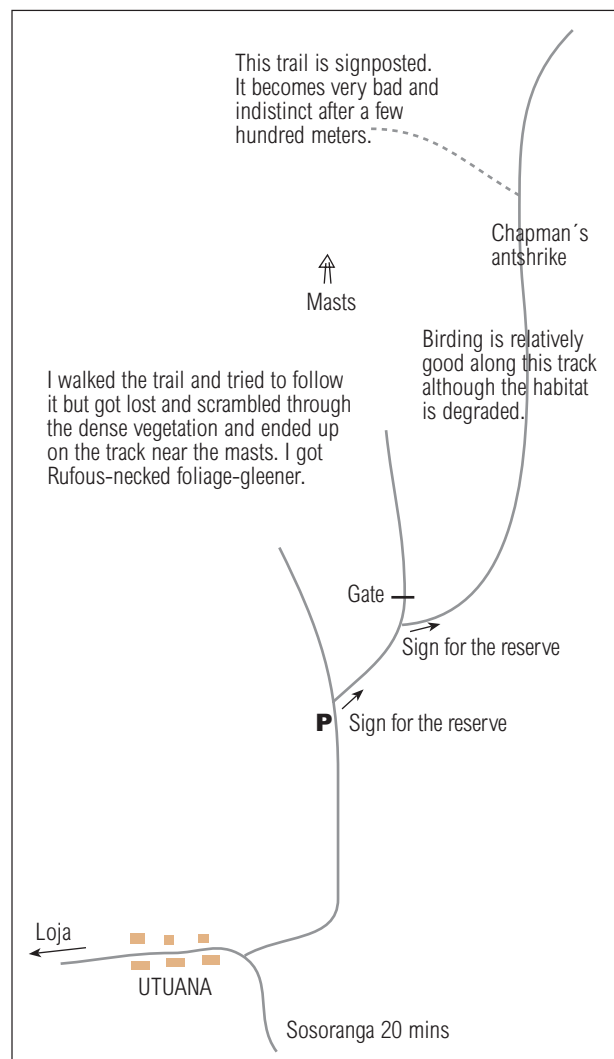
This site at about 2400 masl is easily reached from Soloranga where there is a simple but OK hostel near the plaza. Contrary to Reindt I found this place perfectly OK and clean (4\$). It takes 20 minutes to drive from Soloranga to Utuana. The habitat is rather degraded but has some good birds like Rufous-necked foliage-gleaner, Black-crested 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 Soloranga. 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 Soloranga, 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 Soloranga 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 Soloranga 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 north american vagrant would probably turn up during the northern winter.



The male Cinnamon Teal at Santa Rosa marsh on 1 June



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 Cajas

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

RUFIOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD

Singles at Buenaventura

AMAZILIA HUMMINGBIRD

3 seen at Yunguilla of the ssp *alticola* 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

RUFIOUS-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 HILLSTAR

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 RAQUETAIL

1 seen at Copalinga

GREEN-TAILED TRAINBEARER

1 male seen at Utuana

VIRIDIAN METALTAIL

6 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road of the race *atrigrularis*

VIOLET-THROATED METALTAIL

3 seen at Cajas

TYRIAN METALTAIL

2 seen along the Gualaceo-Limón road, singles at Cajanuma and Quebrada Honda

RUFIOUS-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 its 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

RUFIOUS 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

ECUADORIAN 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

RUFIOUS-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

RUFIOUS-WINGED TYRANNULET

1 seen at Buenaventura

TUFTED TIT-TYRANT

2 seen at Cajas

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

RUFIOUS-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

RUFIOUS-CROWNED 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

RUFIOUS-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

RUFIOUS-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-CREASTED 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 Soloranga

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 Soloranga

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 Soloranga town

FASCIATED WREN

10 seen along the road between Macará and Sosoranga

RUFIOUS 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

LACRIMOSE 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 we(s)t 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

OGRE-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

RUFIOUS-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

RUFIOUS-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 woodcrepers, 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.