

ECUADOR: AMAZONIA AT NAPO WILDLIFE CENTER

JANUARY 7-16, 2016



Black-necked Red-Cotinga © Ricardo Guerra

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By Paul Greenfield

A week of immersion into the world of Amazonia at Napo Wildlife Center touches you at many levels—the raw, crude reality of life on Earth from a perspective that most people never get to experience—its beauty, its natural complexities, its challenges and rewards; a world of megabiodiversity where you only get to see a mere smattering no matter how hard you try to or want to see everything; the Amazon rainforest reveals its precious secrets in bits and pieces. As we ventured into this world, it quickly became apparent that some external force might be altering conditions throughout the region...as the days passed we experienced consistently abnormal hot temperatures and absolutely no rain—strange for this “rainforest” environment. It seems that the infamous *El Niño* was dealing an unexpected blow to us all.

Our adventure began at Yasuní Ecolodge, which we reached after a half-hour flight from Quito, a brief transfer through the oil-town of Coca to a dock along the shores of the “café-con-leche” colored Río Napo, and a 2 ½ hour motor-canoe trip to a muddy landing on the south bank of the river. We took good advantage of this location to visit areas along the Río Napo, and just birding the Añangu Community and Yasuní Lodge surroundings on our first afternoon was a great initiation to experiencing this incredible avifauna. The following morning we headed out in a motor-canoe along the Napo for an early morning stop on a river island beach where we eventually got decent views of a male Amazonian Umbrellabird and a sleeping pair of Roseate Spoonbills. We then floated past two *saladeros* (salt licks) where hundreds of parrots (Yellow-crowned and Mealy amazons, Blue-headed Parrots, and Dusky-headed Parakeets) were gathered to ingest the clay that would help detoxify them from their primarily seed-fruit diet. We then disembarked on a river island to search for species that specialize in this particular habitat: Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Black-and-white Antbird, White-bellied Spinetail, Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, and Oriole Blackbird among them, including an exceptionally close encounter with a beautiful Gray-breasted Crake. We finished up the morning with a memorable visit to a forest *saladero* where we thrilled to hundreds of Cobalt-winged Parakeets and a nice band of Orange-cheeked Parrots—we had to duck our heads down when this mass of noisy birds flushed from the “lick” and jetted right at and past us! A lone Scarlet Macaw was a true highlight as it descended to the ground to lap up the mineral-soaked water (that formed a pool where parrots and other animals congregate), and a Green Manakin stopped by to greet us, too.

We spent much of that afternoon in a paddle-canoe, exploring Añanguyacu—the main black-water artery that leads to Napo Wildlife Center Lodge. Water levels were extremely low (barely passable due to a weeklong absence of local rain and none in the Andes either), and the provocative sights, smells, and sounds enveloped us as we advanced. Highlights were many—aside from two separate Red Brocket Deer, each watching us curiously as we floated by, we were graced with memorable views of Rufescent Tiger-Herons; our first Hoatzins (crazy!) and Greater Anis; Common Potoo; Ringed, Green-and-rufous, and Pygmy kingfishers; White-chinned Jacamar; Silvered and Dot-backed antbirds; Buff-throated Woodcreeper; Cinnamon Attila; Coraya Wren; Black-capped Donacobius; and Gray-headed Tanager; we even got decent looks at a Least Bittern as we entered the lake (Añangucocha) and neared the lodge, with the setting sun as a backdrop.

The following four days involved hiking forest trails, perching ourselves atop two canopy towers, and canoeing around Añangucocha (the lagoon) along narrow streams and canals in the vicinity of our lodge. Each outing unveiled another piece of the incredibly complex puzzle that lay before us, and although the diversity of birdlife may have been our primary focus, it was impossible not to revel in our serendipitous encounters with Woolly, Squirrel, Dusky Titi-, Monk Saki, and White-fronted Capuchin monkeys, Golden-mantled Tamarins, or Two and Three-toed sloths. Our repeated close encounters with a pair of Giant Otters will never be forgotten—as they consistently captured strange looking fish after fish and proceeded to devour them right alongside our canoe, totally ignoring our intrusion. But, back to the birds...from the Napo River Trail and Kurimuyu towers, we spent three mornings engaged in what really constitutes a “big sit,” as we carefully scanned 360° over the forest canopy to the tune of King Vulture; Double-toothed Kite; Black-faced Hawk; Amazonian Trogon; White-necked Puffbird; Gilded Barbet; Many-banded and Ivory-billed araçaris; nesting White-throated Toucan; Crimson-crested Woodpecker; Red-throated Caracara; Blue-and-yellow Macaw (flying right by us!); Chestnut-fronted Macaw; Pygmy Antwren; Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher; Yellow-margined Flatbill; Dusky-chested Flycatcher; Plum-throated and Spangled cotingas; Purple-throated Fruitcrow; Bare-necked Fruitcrow; White-browed Purpletuff; Flame-crested, Turquoise, Paradise, and Guira tanagers; Blue Dacnis; Green Oropendola; and Rufous-bellied Euphonia; to name a few species.

From our paddle canoe, (both day and night), we found some great species (some fantastic close views too!) during our various outings, including Spix’s Guan; Zigzag Heron (initially spotted by Jorge at night without a flashlight!); Least Bittern; Boat-billed Heron; Little Cuckoo; Black-banded Owl; Blackish Nightjar; Great and Common potoos; Rufous-breasted and White-bearded hermits; Green-backed Trogon; Cream-colored Woodpecker; Bat Falcon; Red-bellied Macaw; Amazonian Streaked-Antwren; Plumbeous Antbird; Long-billed, Striped, and Straight-billed woodcreepers; Swainson’s (first record for NWC!) and Sulphur-bellied flycatchers; Orange-crowned Manakin; Hauxwell’s Thrush; Red-capped Cardinal; and Masked Crimson-Tanager. Perhaps our most challenging birding was experienced inside this Amazonian forest along the Napo River, Tiputini, and forest *saladero* trails where the general viewing conditions along with the un-characteristic El Niño-influenced heat gave us a run for our money, along with some exciting gifts! Spix’s and Blue-throated Piping-guans; Great-billed Hermit; Collared Puffbird; Fasciated, Mouse-colored, and Dusky-throated antshrikes; Black-faced, White-shouldered, and Spot-backed antbirds; Rufous-capped Antthrush; Rufous-tailed Flatbill; Citron-bellied Attila; and Screaming Piha are noteworthy, but perhaps most memorable were the tiny Dwarf Tyrant-, Blue-crowned, (the spectacular) Wire-tailed, White-crowned, and Golden-headed manakins, along with the male Black-necked Red-Cotinga we observed so nicely along the Tiputini trail...so wonderful!

We finally departed NWC in the pitch-black pre-dawn and slowly canoed our way back along Añanguyacu to the Río Napo and then to the Kurimuyu Tower, an adventure that included a nail-biting *Amazonian-style* stand-off with a really huge Black Caiman. Later, in the afternoon, as we, with heavy hearts, made the motor-canoe trip return back to “civilization” and the town of Coca, we couldn’t but begin to reflect upon the magical Añangu area we had just experienced: its rich natural treasure—deemed *the world’s number one biodiversity hot-spot* by a team of international biologists and ecologists—and its mysteries, along with all that we managed to see and hear, and even those wonders that kept themselves hidden from us. How wondrous and unique is this tiny Amazonian hideaway and how precious is our Planet Earth. I guess civilization somehow doesn’t seem so civilized sometimes. As we settled into our urban hotel for the night, we (all but

one of us) were already anticipating our upcoming adventure on the Eastern Slope of the Andes tour—even more wonders to relish.

ITINERARY:

- Jan. 07 —Arrival in Quito (Mariscal Sucre Airport)—transfer to Hotel Quito
Jan. 08 —Quito-Coca flight; transfer to Rio Napo dock; 2 ½ hour motor-canoe trip east along the Rio Napo to Yasuní Kichua Ecolodge; afternoon birding around the community & Nearby (overnight at Yasuní)
Jan. 09 — Yasuní Kichua Ecolodge & Río Napo (river islands, river edge & forest saladeros (salt licks); lunch at the NWC landing and 2+ hour afternoon paddle along Añanguyacu to Napo Wildlife Center (overnight at NWC)
Jan. 10 — Morning excursion along the 'caños': Cariañangu and Añanguyacu; afternoon on the lodge tower (overnight at NWC)
Jan. 11 — Morning on the Napo River Trail Tower; afternoon to evening along Añanguyacu
Jan. 12 — Tiputini Trail—most of the day (overnight at NWC)
Jan. 13 — Morning along Napo River Trail & Tower; afternoon and evening along Añanguyacu (overnight at NWC)
Jan. 14 — Pre-dawn departure (4:30 am) along Añanguyacu (remember the Black Caiman!!); visit to Kurimuyu Tower; Return upriver to Coca (overnight at Coca)
Jan. 15 — Last morning around Coca; Mark departs for return to USA

BIRDS:

Abbreviations: **H** = Heard only

TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Cinereous Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinereus*)—**H** on four days in terra firme forest

Undulated Tinamou (*Crypturellus undulatus*)—**H** in varzea habitats along streams/river banks

CURASSOWS & GUANS: CRACIDAE

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)—**H** (surprisingly) on four days

Spix's Guan (*Penelope jacquacu*)—Richard saw 1 along the Tiputini Trail; a pair with young were observed along the Añanguyacu; others **H**

Blue-throated Piping-Guan (*Pipile cumanensis*)—2 were seen from the Napo River Trail Tower

Salvin's Currasow (*Mitu salvini*)—Its haunting song was **H** from the Napo River Trail Tower.

ANHINGAS: ANHINGADAE

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)—Between 1-3 were seen along Añanguyacu on six days (one heavily moulted bird could not fly away)

HERONS & BITTERNs: ARDEIDAE

Zigzag Heron (*Zebrius undulatus*)—Great looks at 1 along the Añanguyacu; Jorge spotted the bird perching in the pitch-black night!!

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)—1 was seen nicely as it flew past our canoe and perched in dense vegetation at the mouth of Añangucocha. This population has a very different voice

compared to North American birds

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)—Nice close looks at several (12 or so) along the

Añanguyacu mostly on about 5 days
 Cooi Heron (*Ardea cooi*)—Mostly singles were seen along the Rio Napo on four days
 Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)—Small to moderate numbers were seen along the Río Napo on three days (also at Coca)
 Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)—Only a few were seen on our first two days, along the Rio Napo were seen on sandbars along the Rio Napo (also at Coca)
 Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)—1 male was seen twice along the shore at Añangucocha
 Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)—A few were seen around Coca on our first and last days, and 1 around Añangucocha on the 11th
 Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*)—Between 1-4 were seen daily on all but our first day
 Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*)—1 was seen closely, then another 4 were seen on two days at the mouth of Añangucocha.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)—1 was seen by Regina at Yasuní
 Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*)—1 birds (dozing) were seen in a pool on an extensive island sand-bar along the Rio Napo

AMERICAN VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)—Many were seen on all but one day at Yasuní and NWC
 Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—Seen soaring over over Coca on our first and last days
 Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*)—The “regular” forest-based vulture along the Río Napo and NWC; seen on all but two days
King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*)— 1 soaring bird was seen from the Kurimuyu Tower

KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*)—Nice, close studies of 2 birds (perched and in flight) at the Yasuní community, also on a brief visit their on the 14th
 Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)—1 soar bird was seen from the Rio Napo Trail Tower
 Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)—Single soaring/calling birds were seen high overhead on the 10th and the 14thñ others **H**
 Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)—1 female was seen along the caño to the Río Napo Trail; and lakeside on the 10th and 14th
 Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*)—1 perched bird, then 4 soaring birds were seen well from the Kurimuyu Tower
 Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*)—2 were seen from the Rio Napo River Trail Tower; another was seen in flight a few days later from the same tower.
 Slate-colored Hawk (*Buteogallus schistaceus*)—1 perched bird was seen from the Rio Napo River Trail Tower on the 13th
 Black-collared Hawk ()—**H** along Añanguyacu on the 9th; a rare bird in this area
 Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)—**H** on the 10th along Añanguyacu; 1 was seen along Añanguyacu on the 11th
Black-faced Hawk (*Leucopternis melanops*)—1 was seen (scoped) from the Rio Napo Trail Tower on the 11th

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Gray-breasted Crake (*Laterallus exilis*)—Fantastic looks at 1 bird close-up in grassy vegetation on a Río Napo river island
 Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*)—**H** from Añangucocha on two days

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)—3 were seen in grassy lakeshore vegetation at Añangucocha on the 10th

FINFOOTS: HELIORNITHIDAE

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*)—First, 1 was seen through dense shoreline vegetation along Añanguyacu; then later the same day (Jan. 11) another was seen roosting on a low branch

LIMPKINS: ARAMIDAE

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)—Quite a few sightings (between 1-5 birds) along the shoreline of Añangucocha and yacu on five days

LAPWINGS & PLOVERS: CHARADRIIDAE

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*)—A pair was seen at the Añangu community (Yasuní Ecological area) on our first and last days

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)—4 were seen along the Río Napo on the 4th

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas [Columba] cayennensis*)—Between 2-10 were seen on four days; along the Río Napo and from the Añangu community (Yasuní Ecological area); others **H**

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)—**H** on four days (often from canopy towers)

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)—Mostly **H**; singles were seen from the Napo River Trail Tower and along Añanguyacu on our last morning

Gray-fronted Dove (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)—Mostly **H**; singles were seen or glimpsed along Añanguyacu on two days

HOATZIN: OPISTHOCOMIDAE

Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*)—This bizarre, entertaining and primitive-looking species was seen regularly along Añanguyacu and cocha at NWC (a few nestlings were seen).

CUCKOOS & ANIS: CUCULIDAE

Little Cuckoo (*Coccyzina minuta*)—1 was seen well along Añanguyacu on the 10th

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)—Singles were seen and/or heard on three days at Yasuní Ecological area, NWC and along Añanguyacu

Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*)—Relatively common in stream and lake-side vegetation; seen on all but our first and last days

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—Small numbers (1-4 or so) were seen, mainly in open habitats on all but one day

TYPICAL OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Tropical Screech-Owl (*Megascops choliba*)—**H** at Yasuní Ecological area and NWC

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)—**H** on three days; good scope views from Añangu community (Yasuní Ecological area)

Black-banded Owl (*Ciccaba huhula*)—A pair was seen in early dawn light high in a tree along the Añanguyacu

NIGHTHAWKS & NIGHTJARS: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Blackish Nightjar (*Nictipolus nigrescens*)—1 was seen well at the mouth of Añangucocha on the 11th

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)—**H** (mostly by Mark) on most nights and at dawn; 1 bird was seen by Mark on the 13th

Ladder-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)—1 female bird was flushed on a river island along the Río Napo on the 9th

POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE

Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*)—1 was seen way up in a tall tree along Añanguyacu on the 14th

Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*)—1 was seen on its day-roost; a second was seen hunting at night along Añanguyacu

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)—Medium-sized bands (4-10) were seen on two days at NWC

Neotropical [Fork-tailed] Palm-Swift (*Tachornis squamata*)—Common and seen on all but our last day

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsuta*)—Singles were seen on three days along Añanguyacu; 1 perched bird was seen super well

White-bearded Hermit (*Phaethornis hispidus*)—1 roosting bird was studied closely at night and on the following morning on its perch along Añanguyacu

Great-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis malaris*)—1 female was seen (and heard) singing at a Lek-site along the Napo River Trail

Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)—1 male was seen in the outskirts of Coca on the 15th

Olive-spotted Hummingbird (*Leucippus chlorocercus*)—At least 2 were seen on a river island in the Río Napo

Golden-tailed Sapphire (*Chrysuronia oenone*)—1 male was seen over and over again feeding and hawking insects at “our” forest canopy tree on two days; seen really well on the 14 Jan.

TROGONS & QUETZALS: TROGONIDAE

Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*)—**H** along Añanguyacu

Green-backed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*)—Single males were seen in subcanopy inside forest and along Añanguyacu; **H** on the 11th

Amazonian Trogon (*Trogon ramonianus*)—1 male was seen near Kurimuyu Tower

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Amazonian Motmot (*Momotus momota*)—**H** on six day (both Yasuní and NWC areas)

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*)—**H** near the forest ‘saladero’

KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*)—1-3 seen daily on six days along Añanguyacu

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*)—1 was seen on the 11th along the shore of Añangucocha

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle inda*)—At least 6 or so of this often hard-to-see species, on four days—low water levels helped;—always along streams (Añanguyacu mostly)

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*)—Quite a few of this adorable species were seen on five days (and a few nights!) with several exceptionally close views!

PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*)—Singles (perhaps the same individual) were seen from the Napo River Trail Tower on two days

Chestnut-capped Puffbird (*Bucco macrodactylus*)—**H** (unfortunately!) from varzea forest along Añanguyacu on three days

Collared Puffbird (*Bucco capensis*)—1 was seen (and **H**) at dawn along the Napo River Trail

Brown Nunlet (*Nonnula brunnea*)—**H** along the forest 'saladero' trail

Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)—Several were seen, mostly in varzea forest and Edge situations on four days (best seen at Yasuní Ecolodge area)

Swallow-wing (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)—Only 2 were seen by a few of us in the outskirts of Coca on the 15th. Often called Swallow-winged Puffbird.

JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

White-chinned Jacamar (*Galbula tombacea*)—1 male was seen along Añanguyacu on the 9th. Others **H** there on three additional days

Great Jacamar (*Jacamerops aureus*)—**H** from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 11th

NEW WORLD BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

Scarlet-crowned Barbet (*Capito aurovirens*)—3 of this varzea species were seen (others **H**) at the Añangu community (Yasuní Ecolodge) on the 8th

Gilded Barbet (*Capito auratus*)—1-2 were seen on three days (along Añanguyacu, from the Napo River Trail Tower and along the Tiputini Trail); **H** on other days, always in terra firme forest

Lemon-throated Barbet (*Eubucco richardsoni*)—**H** from the Kurimuyu Tower

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Many-banded Araçari (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*)—Small groups (4-8 individuals) were seen on three days, from Napo River Trail & Kurimuyu towers

Ivory-billed Araçari (*Pteroglossus flavirostris*)—2 were seen (scope views) from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 11th

White-throated (*Ramphastos tucanus*)—2-3 were seen on three days; best seen from the Napo River Trail Tower at a nest hole; others **H**

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)—Recorded (1-6 birds) on four days; others **H**

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)—4-6 of this beautiful and common species of cleared areas were seen on 5 days

Little Woodpecker (*Veniliornis passerinus*)—1 was seen well along the community trail on the afternoon of the 8th; at least another **H**

Spot-breasted Woodpecker (*Colaptes [Chrysoptilus] punctigula*)—1 was seen around the Añangu community area

Scale-breasted Woodpecker (*Celeus grammicus*)—1 was seen along the Tiputini Trail

Cream-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus flavus*)—2 of this stunning woodpecker were seen

beautifully along Añanguyacu
Ringed Woodpecker (*Celeus torquatus*)—**H** from the Napo River Trail Tower
Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)—**H** along the Tiputini Trail
Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)—Several were seen over four days; best was a pair from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 13th

FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Black Caracara (*Daptrius ater*)—Only singles were seen on three days 2 from the Napo River Trail Tower on separate days and 1 in flight on the 15th
Red-throated Caracara (*Ibycter americanus*)—1 noisy bird was seen from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 13th
Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*)—Only 1 was seen along the Río Napo on the 9th
Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)—**H** on three days
Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*)—Singles were seen on two days; along the Río Napo and along Añanguyacu

PARROTS & MACAWS: PSITTACIDAE

Cobalt-winged Parakeet (*Brotopteris cyanoptera*)—The most common psittacid in the area: 100s were seen at the forest *saladero*; **H** on most days, a few glimpsed along Añanguyacu on the 11th
Orange-cheeked Parrot (*Pyrilia barrabandi*)—6 were seen beautifully at the forest *saladero*
Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)—60 or so were seen at one of the Río Napo *saladeros* while additional birds in flight were seen overhead along Añanguyacu and from the Napo River Trail Tower
Yellow-crowned Amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*)—called Yellow-crowned Parrot by some authors. 30 were seen well at the Río Napo *saladeros*; a few pairs were seen in flight from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 11th
Mealy Amazon (*Amazona farinosa*)—The most common *Amazona* in the area; 50 or so were seen at the Río Napo *saladeros*; sightings of pairs and small flocks on four additional days
Orange-winged Amazon (*Amazona amazonica*)—**H** and pairs or so were seen on five days; best seen from the Napo River Trail Tower
Blue-winged Parrotlet (*Forpus xanthopterygius*)—2 were seen at the landing area on near the Añangu community (Yasuní Ecolodge) area on the 8th
Black-headed Parrot (*Pionites melanocephala*)—A small group of 3 were seen in flight in the Añangu community area, another flying bird was seen from the Kurimuyu Tower—best was a 1 perched from the Napo River Trail Tower
Dusky-headed Parakeet (*Aratinga weddellii*)—30 or so were seen at one of the Río Napo *saladeros*; others were **H** on the 11th
Red-bellied Macaw (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)—Mostly small bands of squealing fly-bys seen over varzea forest; best, group of at least 20 in flight over Añanguyacu on the 13th
Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*)—Stunning! Several pairs or threesomes in flight; including a spectacular 9-10 seen in wonderful light from the Napo River Trail Tower
Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*)—1 came down fantastically close at the forest *saladero*; pairs were seen on four additional days... wow!
Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severa*)—A pair was seen in flight from Kurimuyu Tower

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*)—A pair was seen in subcanopy tangles along the Tiputini Trail

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*)—A pair was seen at the Añangu community (Yasuní Ecolodge)

Plain-winged Antshrike (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*)—**H** on three days along the Napo River, Tiputini and Kurimuyu trails

Mouse-colored Antshrike (*Thamnophilus murinus*)—1 was seen along the Tiputini Trail; **H** also along the Napo River Trail

Dusky-throated Antshrike (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)—A pair was seen (in response to tape playback) along the Tiputini Trail; a typical understory flock leader

Pygmy Antwren (*Myrmotherula brachyura*)—1-2 were seen well forest canopy from the Napo River Trail Tower

Moustached Antwren (*Myrmotherula ignota*)—Formally known as Short-billed Antwren (*M. obscura*). 1 was seen along the Añangu community trail on the 8th

Amazonian Streaked-Antwren (*Myrmotherula multostriata*)—At least a pair was seen along Añanguyacu on the 10th; another 1 was seen nearby the following day

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)—**H** inside forest along the Tiputini Trail

Gray Antwren (*Myrmotherula menestriesii*)—A pair was seen with a small mixed foraging flock along the Tiputini Trail

Black-faced Antbird (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*)—1 was seen in the understory along the Tiputini Trail; **H** along the Kurimuyu Trail

Black-and-white Antbird (*Myrmochanes hemileucus*)—1 was glimpsed on a river island along the Río Napo we really tried to get better looks, but the heat...)

Silvered Antbird (*Sclateria naevia*)—Great looks at a few pairs and singles on three days; others **H**

Spot-winged Antbird (*Percnostola leucostigma*)—Good looks at 1 along the Kurimuyu Trail

White-shouldered Antbird (*Mymeciza melanocephala*)—Pairs were seen on two days (at the Añangu community and along the Napo River Trail); others **H**

Plumbeous Antbird (*Myrmeciza hyperythra*)—Nice looks at a pair along the Cariañangu stream

Spot-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax naevia*)—At least 1 was seen along the Tiputini Trail

Dot-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax punctulata*)—Nice looks at an ‘unsolicited’ pair along Añanguyacu; another seen the following day along that same stream; others **H**

always

in varzea and stream edge

Black-spotted Bare-eye (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*)—**H** (1 was glimpsed) along Añanguyacu on two days

TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Rusty-belted Tapaculo (*Liosceles thoracicus*)—1 was seen briefly and **H** in the Yasuní Ecolodge area; another was **H** along the Napo River Trail

ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE

Rufous-capped Antthrush (*Formicarius colma*)—1 was seen inside forest along the Tiputini Trail

Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*)—**H** on two days, along the Napo River and Tiputini trails

OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)—1 was seen with a mixed species foraging flock along the Tiputini Trail; also **H** along the Napo River Trail

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)—1 was seen along the Tiputini Trail

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper (*Dendrexetastes rufigula*)—1 was seen well along the Añangu community trail

Long-billed Woodcreeper (*Nasica longirostris*)—1 of this spectacular large woodcreeper was called in along Añanguyacu on the 10th

Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes certhia*)—**H** along the Napo River Trail

Striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*)—1 was seen well along Añanguyacu

Buff-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)—Sometime referred to as Lafresnaye's Woodcreeper (*X. guttatoides*] by some authors. Singles were seen along Añanguyacu and along the Tiputini Trail (others **H** elsewhere)

Straight-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus picus*)—1 was seen along Añanguyacu on the 10th;

also **H** the following day

Dark-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albigularis*)—**H** on a river island along the Río Napo

White-bellied Spinetail (*Synallaxis propinqua*)—2 or so of this river island specialist (of rank vegetation) were seen on a river island along the Río Napo

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)—**H** twice along shoreline of Añangucocha; distinct race *olivaceum*... why isn't this a separate species?

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)—**H** on three days, a pair was seen at close range from the Napo River Trail Tower

Yellow-crowned Elaenia (*Myiopagis flavivertex*)—**H** along Añanguyacu (varzea edge) on three days

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant (*Stigmatura napensis*)—1 was seen well in *Tessaria* shrubs on a river island on the Río Napo

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*)—1 of this adorable species was seen at close quarters in 'our' *Ceiba* tree—the Napo River Trail Tower

Yellow-margined Flatbill (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)—Aka Zimmer's Flatbill ('Flycatcher' is used by many authors for members of the *Tolmomyias* genus). 1 was seen rather close-by in 'our' tree—the Kurimuyu Tower

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)—**H** near Añangu community (Yasuní Ecolodge)

Drab Water-Tyrant (*Ochthornis littoralis*)—1 was glimpsed along the Río Napo on the 8th; 4 were seen close-by on some open branches along the shoreline of the Río Napo from the Añangu community trail

Rufous-tailed Flatbill (*Ramphotricon ruficauda*)—1 was **H** and also seen briefly along the Tiputini Trail

Cinnamon Attila (*Attila cinnamomeus*)—**H** often on five days; 1 bird was seen very well along Añanguyacu on the 9th in varzea edge

Citron-bellied Attila (*Attila citriniventris*)—Mostly **H** on three days; 1 bird was seen clearly but briefly in terra firme along the Napo River Trail on the 11th

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*)—**H** along Añanguyacu on the 9th

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)—Singles were seen from the Napo River and Kurimuyu towers

Swainson's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus swainsoni*)—Probably race: *phaeonotus*. 1 bird (pertaining to this race, which apparently has recently been found to breed in Ecuador) was seen

and heard along the 'caño' leading to the Napo River Trail. I first record for Napo Wildlife Center!

Lesser Kiskadee (*Philohydor lictor*)—Several were seen regularly on six days, always near water

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)—Common and seen daily; generally near water

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*)—Up to 8 were seen or **H** daily

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)—Generally small numbers were seen on 4 days; also **H** on the 14th

Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*)—Pairs were seen in the vicinity of the Añangu community (Yasuní Ecolodge) and along the Río Napo, on two days

Dusky-chested Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes luteiventris*)—Singles were seen; 1 along Añanguyacu and a second was seen in good light from Kurimuyu Tower

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*)—Singles were seen along the Añangu Community trail and along Añanguyacu on the 13th

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)—**H** on two days; singles were seen well from the Napo River Trail and Kurimuyu towers

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—Small numbers were seen on three days

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)—1 was seen along the Añangu Community trail

COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE

Black-necked Red-Cotinga (*Phoenicircus nigricollis*)—1 stunning male was watched at its Lek along the Tiputini Trail

Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*)—1 was seen from the Napo River Trail Tower; then, a group of 4 was from twatched close-by from the Kurimuyu Tower

Amazonian Umbrellabird (*Cephalopterus ornatus*)—1 male was seen at its Lek site from an island along the Rio Napo on the 9th

Plum-throated Cotinga (*Cotinga maynana*)—1 was seen well in canopy from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 13th

Spangled Cotinga (*Cotinga cayana*)—1-2 males were seen (scope views) on two days from the Napo River Trail Tower

Screaming Piha (*Lipaugis vociferans*)—1 'screaming' male was seen at its Lek site along the Tiputini Trail; **H** also along the Napo River Trail

Bare-necked Fruitcrow (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)—Singles were seen on two days; then 8 or so were seen (well) from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 13th

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin (*Tyraneutes stolzmanni*)—**H** often over six days; 4 were seen well at their 'singing' (more like a hiccup!) perches inside forest, along the Napo River Trail on two days

Blue-backed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia pareola*)—**H** the Napo Trail.

Green Manakin (*Chloropipo holochlora*)—1 was seen close-by at the forest *saladero*

Blue-crown Manakin (*Lepidothrix coronata*)—**H** inside forest on two days; a nice male was seen (scoped) along the Napo River Trail on the 11th

Orange-crowned Manakin (*Heterocercus aurantiivertex*)—1 was seen well along Añanguyacu on the 10th; not such a colorful species but a tough one to see and identify

White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*)—1 was seen along Cariañangu stream on the 10th

Wire-tailed Manakin (*Pipra filicauda*)—Nice looks, finally, at a gorgeous male along the Napo River Trail

White-crowned Manakin (*Dixiphia pipra*)—1 close male was seen (scoped) along the Tiputini Trail

Golden-headed Manakin (*Ceratopipra erythrocephala*)—2 flashy males were seen at their Lek site along the Tiputini Trail

TITYRAS & ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Black-tailed Tityra (*Tityra cayana*)— 1-2 were seen on three days apo River Trail & Kurimuyu towers

White-browed Purpletuft (*Iodopleura isabellae*)—a threesome was seen atop a tall tree from the Napo River Trail Tower

White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)—**H** along the Añangu Community trail

VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABBLERS & ERPORNIS: VIREONIDAE

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*)—Singles were seen on our last two days; 1 by Mark only in 'our' tree—Kurimuyu Tower and the other in the outskirts of Coca

JAYS: CORVIDAE

Violaceous Jay (*Cyanocorax violaceus*)—**H** on three days in the NWC area; fairly common to common in the Yasuní Ecolodge (Añangu Community) area

MARTINS & SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)—Seemingly common around Coca; seen there on our first day, afternoon of the 14th and the following, our last day

White-banded Swallow (*Atticora fasciata*)—This attractive swallow was seen only around Coca on the morning of the 15th

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)—4-6 were seen on six days, basically flying high overhead (Yasuní Lodge, Añangucocha, along the Rio Napo, etc.)

White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*)—This very attractive swallow was seen almost daily in near NWC lodge (Añangucocha) and along the Río Napo and around Coca

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—At one time considered a separate species—Southern House-Wren (*T. musculus*). Several were seen around the two lodges and at Coca; also **H** regularly

Thrush-like Wren (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)—A noisy pair was seen along the Añangu Community trail

Coraya Wren (*Thryothorus coraya*)—**H** on four days (mostly along Añanguyacu; singles were seen in dense vegetation along Añanguyacu and Cariañangu stream

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Hemicorhina leucosticta*)—**H** along the Tiputini Trail

DONACOBIUS: DONACOBIDAE

Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapillus*)—This charming and boisterous species was a regular in aquatic vegetation bordering Añanguyacu/cocha, inevitably greeting or scolding us as we floated by

THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Hauxwell's Thrush (*Turdus hauxwelli*)—**H** on three days; 1 was seen along the Añanguyacu on the 10th

Lawrence's Thrush (*Turdus lawrencii*)—This excellent mimic was **H** on three days (along the

forest *saladero* trail, the Tiputini and the Napo River trails)

White-necked Thrush (*Turdus albicollis*)—1 was seen inside forest along the Tiputini Trail

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*)—Singles were seen from the Napo River Trail Tower on two days

TANAGERS & HONEYCREEPERS: THRAUPIDAE

Red-capped Cardinal (*Paroaria gularis*)—Several were seen along the shores of Añangucocha and around the NWC Lodge dock on three days

Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leverianus*)—1 was seen around Yasuní Lodge on the afternoon of the 8th

Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucomestes penicillata*)—A pair, and then 3 were seen well along Añanguyacu on two days

Flame-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus cristatus*)—A pair was seen well from the Napo River Trail Tower

Masked Crimson Tanager (*Ramphocelus nigrigularis*)—Spectacularly colorful, but only 1 was seen along Añanguyacu on the 13th; surprisingly scarce this trip... the heat?

Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)—Surprisingly scarce this trip! Singles were seen on only two days, at edge along the Añanguyacu and cocha

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—Seen on six days, fairly common to common around NWC Lodge, only pairs around Yasuní Ecolodge; common in Coca

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)—Seen on five days; somewhat less numerous than the previous species; not recorded at Yasuní Ecolodge

Turquoise Tanager (*Tangara mexicana*)—A pair was seen from the Napo River Trail Tower; another 3 were seen briefly from the Kurimuyu Tower

Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)—1 was seen from the Napo River Trail Tower

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)—A pair was seen well in forest canopy from the Napo River Trail Tower

Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)—1 male was seen from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 11th

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)—A few single males were seen over three days; from the Napo River Trail & Kurimuyu towers

Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*)—1 was seen from the Kurimuyu Tower

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)—5 were seen in the outskirts of Coca on the 15th

Caquetà Seedeater (*Sporophila murallae*)—1 female was seen in the outskirts of Coca on the 15th

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacaina*)—6 or so were seen in the outskirts of Coca on the 15th

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)—2 or so were seen on a river island along the Río Napo on the 9th

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES: EMBERIZIDAE

Yellow-browed Sparrow (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)—2 were seen on a river island along the Río

Napo on the 9th

CARDINALS & ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)—Single females were seen at Coca on the afternoon of

the 14th and the morning of the 15th

TROUPIALS & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

- Oriole Blackbird (*Gymnomystax mexicanus*)—2 (only) were seen on a river island along the Río Napo
- Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)—A few were seen around the Añangu Community on the 8th
- Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)—2 were seen around the Añangu Community on the 8th
- Orange-backed Troupial (*Icterus croconotus*)—A pair was seen around the Añangu Community on the 8th; another pair was seen from the Kurimuyu Tower
- Solitary Cacique (*Cacicus solitaries*)—Aka Solitary Black-Cacique by some authors. **H** near the Añangu Community on the 8th
- Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*)—Very common and noisy; seen daily
- Russet-backed Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)—The most common oropendola in the area; common daily
- Green Oropendola** (*Psarocolius viridis*)—5 and then 2 were seen well from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 11th and 13th
- Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)—8 or so were seen (also **H**), mostly from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 11th and the 13th
- Olive (Amazonian) Oropendola (*Psarocolius bifasciatus*)—**H** but not seen from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 13th

FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

- Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)—3 were seen in the outskirts of Coca on the morning of the 15th
- White-lored Euphonia (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)—Aka Golden-bellied Euphonia by some authors. 1-2 were seen both from the Napo River Trail Tower and in the outskirts of Coca
- Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—**H** from the Napo River Canopy Tower on the 13th
- Rufous-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia rufiventris*)—2-3 males were seen from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 11th

MAMMALS & OTHER CREATURES:

THREE-TOED SLOTHS: BRADYPODIDAE

- Brown-throated 3-toed Sloth** (*Bradypus variegatus*)—1 was seen with difficulty high in dense vegetation on the 11th

TWO-TOED SLOTHS: MEGALONGYCHIDAE

- Southern 2-toed Sloth** (*Choloepus didactylus*)—Singles were seen from the Napo River Trail Tower

MARMOSETS AND TAMARINS: CALLITRICHIDAE

- Golden-mantled Tamarin** (*Saguinus tripartitus*)—Small groups (about 2-5) were seen on three days along Añanguyacu, the Tiputini Trail and the Napo River Trail. This species has a tiny range in the upper Amazon; adorable!!

NEW WORLD MONKEYS: CEBIDAE

- Dusky Titi Monkey** (*Callicebus moloch cupreus*)—A family group (parents with baby!) were

seen well along Añanguyacu on the 9th
Common Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)—Small troops this time were seen on three days, mostly along Añanguyacu
White-fronted Capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*)—Seen on two days; first a troop of 6 along Añanguyacu; then along the Napo River Trail
Monk Saki (*Pithecia monachus*)—3 adults, then a pair with baby were seen along Añanguyacu on two separate days
Common Woolly Monkey (*Lagothryx lagothricha*)—Two sightings; 2-3 along the forest *saladero* trail and a group of 4 along Añanguyacu

LARGE NEW WORLD MONKEYS: ATELIDAE

Red Howler Monkey (*Alouatta seniculus*)—**H** often; a few were seen distantly from the Napo River Trail Tower on the 11th

CAPYBARA: HYDROCHAERIDAE

Capybara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*)—1 was seen fairly close by along the banks for the Río Napo on the 14th; it rapidly plunged in and disappeared under the water as soon as it saw us

SHEATH-TAILED BATS: EMBALLONURIDAE

Long-nosed Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*)—Common around Añangucocha, near the lodge; found hanging (sleeping) on sticks protruding up from the water

BULLDOG BATS: NOCTILLIONIDAE

Bulldog [Fishing] Bat (*Noctilio sp.*)—Large numbers began flying around us at dusk along the Añanguyacu. Remember the smell?

WEASELS, OTTERS & ALLIES

Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*)—1 was glimpsed as it slipped out of the water and up the bank along Añanguyacu

Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*)—A wonderful pair was observed on four separate days, several times catching fish and devouring them right next to us (some ugly fish!!); a definite highlight of this trip

PECCARIES: TAYASUIDAE

White-lipped Peccary (*Tayasu pecari*)—**H** along the Tiputini Trail

DEER: CERVIDAE

Red Brocket Deer (*Mazama americana*)—2 separate individuals were seen on the 9th along Añanguyacu; both were incredibly tame and one was even curious and watched our canoe until we floated away

OTHER CREATURES:

Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*)—Nobody is going to forget this one! Apart from the many individuals we came across, our predawn departure brought us face-to-face with this 10-12 foot-long, pissed-off individual that held us to an intense stalemate along Añanguyacu... quite *the* experience!!

Yellow-Spotted River Turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*)— Several were seen on a couple of days, perched up on trunks or branches, along the shores of Añangucocha

Amazon River Turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*)—Small numbers were seen along the shores of the Río Napo.