

**ECUADOR:  
AMAZONIA AT NAPO  
WILDLIFE CENTER**

**JANUARY 5 – 14, 2007**

**LEADER: DAVID WOLF**

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**LEADERS: David Wolf and Marcelo Andy**

To visit the Napo Wildlife Center is to enter another realm, one totally different from our own. Here we left the veneer of “civilization” behind at the bustling frontier town of Coca and entered the world of the Amazonian rainforest. As we canoed the final segment of the journey to the lodge, we spotted our first birds, gawked at the luxuriant vegetation, and realized that we had left all artificial noise behind. Our explorations had begun, and for the next week we would immerse ourselves in tracking down the special sights of this pristine area, with the help of the alert eyes and ears of our native guides. This great forest is their home and they are eager to show it off, to reveal things to us that we would never find on our own.

Of the many birds here, the comical Hoatzin quickly became a group favorite. Though common over a wide area, this unique species is endlessly fascinating. Found only in South America, it is the only member of its family and is so odd that taxonomists can't agree on its closest relatives. They feed on leaves, mostly obtained at night, and have an extra “stomach” for digesting this mass, a strange diet indeed for a sizable bird. As we passed by in canoes they hissed and flapped and perhaps retreated a little, but rarely did they go very far. Their nests are crude bowls of twigs placed over the water (we checked on one almost daily), and the chicks have spurs at the bend of the wing for climbing back into the bushes if spooked from the nest. *Archaeopteryx* anyone?

One of the greatest avian sights at the Napo Wildlife Center is the spectacle of hundreds of psittacids coming daily to eat clay from “saladeros” along the Napo River. After watching the larger species restlessly gathering along the riverbanks, we hiked to a blind just inside the forest and watched breathlessly as a cacophonous mob of the smaller species descended to the ground right in front of us. The common Cobalt-winged Parakeets dominated, but amidst them were dozens of the exquisite and rarely-seen Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlets and several colorful Orange-cheeked Parrots, while eventually several Scarlet Macaws perched just above us. Does it get better than this?

Every excursion into the forest was like working on a complex jigsaw puzzle, every sighting one small piece of a grand picture. Birding from the tower, a very secure marvel of engineering, gave us a new perspective on the canopy as we spotted aracarís, fruitcrows, puffbirds, cotingas, and dacnis. Below us, in the shady midstory, we tracked down trogons and Golden-collared Toucanets, woodcreepers and jacamars, and much more. Far below, in the dark understory, antbirds and other skulkers were present along the trails. Leisurely canoe trips along the lakeshore and creeks produced two Zigzag Heron nests, the sitting

birds incredibly well-camouflaged, plus sparkling kingfishers, the incredible Long-billed Woodcreeper, and stunning Blue-and-yellow Macaws. Overhead we watched monkeys, including the lovely and very localized golden-mantled tamarin, and the rarely-seen monk saki. A stop on an open river island was highlighted by a normally elusive Gray-breasted Crake right at our feet—a rare look at an incredibly delicate and beautiful bird. All of this and much more is part of this marvelous realm that we were privileged to enter for a wonderful week that passed all too quickly.

**Itinerary:**

January 5: the group gathers in Quito, Ecuador.

January 6: a late-morning flight to Coca, where we transferred to the dock on the Napo River for the trip downriver by motorized dugout. Then several hours by canoe up the tiny creek that leads to Anyangu Cocha and the lovely Napo Wildlife Center.

January 7: early morning watching from the Tower across the lake and then along the trail to it. Afternoon excursion by canoe on Anyangu Creek.

January 8: morning hike into the terra firme forest on the Tiputini Trail. Afternoon birding around the lodge and up the small side creek nearby.

January 9: all-day excursion to the parrot clay licks on the Napo River and nearby; after lunch some birding at “the landing” and then a leisurely paddle back upstream to the lodge.

January 10: morning along the Tower Trail and then then an afternoon excursion by canoe on Anyangu Creek..

January 11: all-day excursion, birding down Anyangu Creek to the landing, and then visiting a young island. Lunch and birding at the landing (and nearby community trail) before paddling back up the creek.

January 12: Heavy clouds at dawn turned to a downpour just after we reached the Tower, so we retreated back to the lodge until the rain stopped around noon. A pleasant afternoon canoe trip around the lake.

January 13: we left Napo Wildlife Center in the half-light of dawn for the return trip to Coca and flight back to Quito; rest of the afternoon at leisure in Quito.

January 14: departure for those not continuing on the Northern Andes Tour.

**Bird List:** a few highlights, group favorites and rare sightings are underscored.

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) - heard only

Cinereous Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinereus*) – heard only

Undulated Tinamou (*Crypturellus undulatus*) - heard only

Variegated Tinamou (*Crypturellus variegates*) – heard only

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Cocoi (White-necked) Heron (*Ardea cocoi*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)  
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)  
Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*)  
**Agami Heron** (*Agamia agami*)  
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*)  
Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) - frequent along the stream.

**Zigzag Heron** (*Zebrilus undulatus*)

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*)

King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*)

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)

**Slender-billed Kite** (*Rostrhamus hamatus*) - a specialty of these swampy forests.

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*)

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*)

Slate-colored Hawk (*Leucopternis schistacea*)

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)

Black Caracara (*Daptrius ater*)

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*)

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)

Spix's Guan (*Penelope jacquacu*)

Blue-throated Piping-Guan (*Pipile cumanensis*)

**Hoatzin** (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) - this comical favorite was common and conspicuous along the stream and lakeshore, including chicks in nests along the stream.

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)

Chestnut-headed Crake (*Anurolimnas castaneiceps*) – heard only

**Gray-breasted Crake** (*Laterallus exilis*)

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*)

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*)

Pied Lapwing (*Vanellus cayanus*)

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) – Coca Airport

Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*)

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)  
Yellow-billed Tern (*Sterna superciliaris*)  
Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)  
Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*) – heard only  
Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)  
Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) - Quito  
Gray-fronted Dove (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)  
**Ruddy Quail-Dove** (*Geotrygon montana*)  
**Blue-and-yellow Macaw** (*Ara ararauna*) - always spectacular.  
**Scarlet Macaw** (*Ara macao*) - perched above forest interior “saladero”.  
Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severa*)  
Red-bellied Macaw (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)  
Dusky-headed Parakeet (*Aratinga weddellii*)  
Maroon-tailed Parakeet (*Pyrrhura melanura*)  
Cobalt-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris cyanopectus*)  
**Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet** (*Touit huetii*) - spectacular looks at this rarely-seen species at the interior lick.  
Black-headed Parrot (*Pionites melanocephala*)  
**Orange-cheeked Parrot** (*Pionopsitta barrabandi*) - an especially colorful parrot, at the forest interior salt lick.  
Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)  
Yellow-crowned Parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala*)  
Orange-winged Parrot (*Amazona amazonica*)  
Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*)  
Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) – heard only  
**Black-bellied Cuckoo** (*Piaya melanogaster*)  
Little Cuckoo (*Piaya minuta*)  
**Greater Ani** (*Crotophaga major*) - great hordes around the clearing and shore.  
Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)  
Tropical Screech-Owl (*Megascops choliba*) - heard only  
Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl (*Megascops watsonii*) - heard only  
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)  
Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) – at its day roost  
Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)  
Blackish Nightjar (*Caprimulgus nigrescens*)  
**Ladder-tailed Nightjar** (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)  
**Chestnut-collared Swift** (*Streptoprocne rutila*)  
White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)  
Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)  
Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*)  
Fork-tailed (Neotropical) Palm-Swift (*Tachornis squamata*)  
Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsuta*)

- Great-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis malaris*)  
Straight-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis bourcieri*)  
Gray-breasted Sabrewing (*Campylopterus largipennis*)  
White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) – females only  
Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)  
Golden-tailed Sapphire (*Chrysuronia oenone*)  
Olive-spotted Hummingbird (*Leucippus chlorocercus*)  
White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*)  
**Black-throated Trogon** (*Trogon rufus*)  
Blue-crowned Trogon (*Trogon curucui*)  
Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*)  
Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*)  
Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*)  
Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)  
**Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle inda*) - generally the toughest of the New World kingfishers to see  
**American Pygmy Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle aenea*)  
Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) – heard only  
White-eared Jacamar (*Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*)  
White-chinned Jacamar (*Galbula tombacea*)  
White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*)  
Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*)  
**Chestnut-capped Puffbird** (*Bucco macrodactylus*) - great look!  
**Brown Nunlet** (*Nonnula brunnea*)  
Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)  
White-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa morphoeus*)  
**Yellow-billed Nunbird** (*Monasa flavirostris*)  
Swallow-wing (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)  
**Scarlet-crowned Barbet** (*Capito aurovirens*) - colorful and easy to see.  
Gilded Barbet (*Capito auratus*)  
Lettered Aracari (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*)  
Ivory-billed Aracari (*Pteroglossus azara*)  
Many banded Aracari (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*)  
**Golden-collared Toucanet** (*Selenidera reinwardtii*) - “neck-breakers” high overhead in the canopy.  
Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)  
Red-billed (White throated) Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus*)  
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)  
Little Woodpecker (*Veniliornis passerinus*)  
Spot-breasted Woodpecker (*Colaptes punctigula*)  
Scaly-breasted Woodpecker (*Celeus grammicus*)  
Chestnut Woodpecker (*Celeus elegans*)  
Cream-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus flavus*)

Rufous-headed Woodpecker (*Celeus spectabilis*) - a very rare sighting.

**Ringed Woodpecker** (*Celeus torquatus*) - another uncommonly seen beauty.

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus rubricollis*)

**White-bellied Spinetail** (*Synallaxis propinqua*)

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)

Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor erythrocerus*)

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

**Long-billed Woodcreeper** (*Nasica longirostris*) - spectacular!

Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes certhia*)

Black-banded Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*)

Striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*)

Spix's Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus spixi*)

Buff-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

Straight-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus picus*) – heard only

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*)

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*)

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – heard only

**Castelnau's Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*)

Mouse-colored Antshrike (*Thamnophilus murinus*)

Spot-winged Antshrike (*Pygoptila stelleris*)

Dusky-throated Antshrike (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)

Pygmy Antwren (*Myrmotherula brachyura*)

Plain-throated Antwren (*Myrmotherula huxwelli*)

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)

Gray Antwren (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*)

Gray Antbird (*Cercomacra cinerascens*) - heard only

Black-faced Antbird (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*)

Warbling Antbird (*Hypocnemis cantator*)

Silvered Antbird (*Sclateria naevia*)

**Spot-winged Antbird** (*Percnostola leucostigma*)

Plumbeous Antbird (*Myrmeciza hyperythra*)

White-shouldered Antbird (*Myrmeciza melanocephala*) – heard only

Sooty Antbird (*Myrmeciza fortis*)

Bicolored Antbird (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*)

**Dot-backed Antbird** (*Hylophylax punctulata*)

Scale-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax poecilinota*)

**Rufous-capped Antthrush** (*Formicarius colma*)

Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) - heard only

Rusty-belted Tapaculo (*Lisoceles thoracicus*) - heard only

Screaming Piha (*Lipaugus vociferans*)

- Plum-throated Cotinga (*Cotinga maynana*)  
Spangled Cotinga (*Cotinga cayana*)  
Bare-necked Fruitcrow (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)  
Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*)  
**Wire-tailed Manakin** (*Pipra filicauda*)  
White-crowned Manakin (*Dixiphia (Pipra) pipra*)  
Blue-crowned Manakin (*Lepidothrix (Pipra) coronata*)  
Golden-headed Manakin (*Pipra erythrocephala*)  
Dwarf Tyrant- Manakin (*Tyranneutes stolzmanni*)  
Greater Schiffornis (*Schiffornis major*) – heard only  
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)  
Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)  
**Yellow-crowned Elaenia** (*Myiopagis flavivertex*)  
Mottle-backed Elaenia (*Elaenia gigas*)  
Slender-footed Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)  
**Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher** (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*) -  
colorful  
sprite in the Tower tree.  
Gray-crowned Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*) – heard only  
Olive-faced Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias viridiceps*) – heard only  
Fuscous Flycatcher (*Cnemotriccus fuscatus*)  
Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)  
Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*)  
Drab Water-Tyrant (*Ochthornis littoralis*)  
Cinnamon Attila (*Attila cinnamomeus*)  
Citron-bellied Attila (*Attila citriniventris*) - heard only  
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)  
Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*)  
Lesser Kiskadee (*Philohydor lictor*)  
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)  
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*)  
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)  
Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*)  
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*)  
Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)  
**Sulphury Flycatcher** (*Tyrannopsis sulphurea*)  
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)  
Black-tailed Tityra (*Tityra cayana*)  
Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*)  
Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)  
White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*)  
White-banded Sallow (*Atticora fasciata*)  
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
**Black-capped Donacobius** (*Donacobius atricapillus*) - a noisy friend  
always present along the lakeshore and stream.  
Thrush-like Wren (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)  
Coraya Wren (*Thryothorus coraya*)  
Buff-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus leucotis*)  
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)  
    “Southern” House Wren (*Troglodytes (a.) musculus*)  
White-breasted wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) – heard only  
Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*) – heard  
only  
Black-billed Thrush (*Turdus ignobilis*)  
Lawrence's Thrush (*Turdus lawrencii*) - heard only, but a remarkable  
mimic.  
White-necked Thrush (*Turdus albicollis*)  
Violaceous Jay (*Cyanocorax violaceus*)  
Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)  
Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)  
White-lored Euphonia (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)  
Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*)  
Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leveriana*)  
**Masked Crimson Tanager** (*Ramphocelus nigrogularis*) - brilliant!  
Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)  
Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)  
Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)  
Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)  
Green-and-gold Tanager (*Tangara schrankii*)  
Opal-rumped Tanager (*Tangara velia*)  
Opal-crowned Tanager (*Tangara callophrys*)  
Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*)  
Yellow-bellied Dacnis (*Dacnis flaviventer*)  
Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)  
Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)  
Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)  
Red-capped Cardinal (*Paroaria gularis*)  
Yellow-browed Sparrow (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)  
Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)  
Red-breasted Blackbird (*Sturnella militaris*)  
Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)  
Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)  
Moriche Oriole (*Icterus chryscephalus*)  
Orange-backed Troupial (*Icterus croconotus*)  
**Yellow-rumped Cacique** (*Cacicus cela*)

Solitary Cacique (*Cacicus solitarius*)  
Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)  
Russet-backed Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)  
**Oriole Blackbird** (*Gymnomystax mexicanus*)

**Mammal List:**

Golden-mantled Tamarin (*Saguinus tripartitus*)  
Dusky Titi Monkey (*Callicebus moloch*)  
Common Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)

**Monk Saki**

Red Howler Monkey (*Alouatta seniculus*) – heard only  
Northern Amazon Red Squirrel (*Sciurus igniventris*)  
Amazon Dwarf Squirrel (*Microsciurus flaviventer*)  
Green Acouchy (*Myoprocta pratti*)  
Long-nosed Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*)  
bulldog (fishing) bat (*Noctilio sp?*)

**Reptile & Amphibian List:**

“green tree frog” – probably one of the many species of *Hyla* found here.  
Black Caiman (*Caiman (Melanosuchus) niger*) – huge!  
Yellow-spotted River Turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*)  
Bark anole sp? – displaying male in tower tree; medium-small in size;  
dewlap dull orange with darker lines.  
“spotted lizard” – in tower tree.  
Collared Tree Runner (*Tropidurus (Plica) plica*) – attractive and sizable  
lizard low down on tree trunk, inside the forest.  
Northern Caiman Lizard (*Dracaena guianensis*)  
Black-skinned Parrot Snake (*Leptophis ahaetulla*) – very thin and beautiful  
iridescent snake with bright yellow eyes, in creekside marsh vegetation; feeds on  
frogs and small anoles.