

# **ECUADOR: AMAZONIA AT NAPO WILDLIFE CENTER**

**JULY 9 – 17, 2008**

**LEADERS: PAUL GREENFIELD & SIXTO**

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Leaders: Paul Greenfield and Sixto

The Napo Wildlife Center (NWC) experience is truly diverse, as well as unpredictable. As we breezed downstream on the powerful current of the Rio Napo, I sensed that something was different; we weren't weaving back and forth as is customary on this two to two-and-a-half-hour journey, magically following deeper channels cut beneath the sandy-brown silt-laden waters. The water levels had risen visibly high due to the heavy rains that were falling along the eastern slopes of the Andes farther to the west, and there was almost no presence of sand-bars and newly formed river islands as we beelined it towards our destination. Little could I have imagined just how that would affect the Añangu drainage where the NWC is situated, until we actually began paddling upstream along what would normally have been a narrow blackwater stream towards the lodge. But not this time; the swollen waters of the Napo had pushed back towards Añangucocha and filled the stream, spilling over its edges, some two meters in height. We were able to glide through newly created detours on what were normally forest trails, which shortened our entrance time considerably. From this first surprising afternoon onward we would experience the constant drop in water levels and daily increase in the presence of certain bird species that had slipped back deep into the forest due to this flooding—we were eye-witnesses to what makes this seasonally flooded *varzea* forest what it is.

But this initial perception was only a small part of this first incursion into the world of the NWC. We were, of course, in search of wildlife, and we quickly found some. Even before making our transfer from our motorized canoe (which transported us from civilization) to our paddle canoe (which would be our principal mode of transport away from the main river) at the Napo landing area, we were finding birds. We were greeted by some 18–20 species, including a confiding band of Violaceous Jays, a luminescent Orange-backed Troupial, a small family group of White-eared Jacamars, another family of Scarlet-crowned Barbets, a troop of Chestnut-eared Araçaris, and three soaring King Vultures! As we then paddled upstream, mesmerized by the dense vegetation and engulfed in a concert of new sounds, we came upon a Great Jacamar, White-fronted Nunbird, Slender-billed Kite, two Great Potoos posed in their customary stump-like disguises, a sleepy Pauraque hidden away on its day roost, crazy-looking clumsy Hoatzins, and pairs of scolding Black-capped Donacobius—by this time we had eased from within this enclosed and mysterious Añanguyacu and out into the broad *cocha*, or lake, that would be our home for the following week. As the sun fell and our eyes were drawn to the whole Napo Wildlife Center vista that lay before us, I could hear the wows and sighs that have become so customary, almost like clockwork; even I let out an involuntary exclamation, as though I had never witnessed this spectacular sight before.

Early the following morning we were out at dawn, paddling across the still black waters of Añangucocha to then make our way on foot to the forest canopy tower, perched high (12 stories up a steel-encased stairwell) in an emergent *Ceiba* tree. From this incredible vantage point we scanned the forest canopy over and over again... "Scarlet Macaw!" Sixto, our local guide, carefully aimed one of our spotting scopes at a perched pair, preening away as the early

morning mist cleared. A small troop of red howler monkeys was spotted shortly afterwards. As the morning warmed up (yes, it was cool in the equatorial tropical rainforest this morning), a spectacular Spangled Cotinga flaunted its fluorescent turquoise plumage, followed by an equally resplendent Plum-throated Cotinga—the two eventually sat so close together that we scoped them both in the same field of view for a most convenient comparison. A tiny nest, propped up on a branch of “our” tree, held an incubating female Festive Coquette, and in a flowering tree below we watched an active crowd of Purple Honeycreepers...and then a pair of scarce Short-billed Honeycreepers. And so it went—araçaris here, oropendolas there, a Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, a pair of Yellow-bellied Dacnis, and then Sixto summoned me to the telescope once again. Way out in a distant tree his keen eyes had perceived a curious looking “spot”; after some focusing, checking, and refocusing, the verdict was in—yes, it was a Harpy Eagle (the “Hulk” of the Amazon rainforest)! We were so lucky, but it was so far away.

We continued finding and admiring more and more species. A pair of calling White-throated Toucans jerked their bodies around with every yelp, and then another large shape became evident, perched on a thick branch of another distant tree. The trusty telescope was summoned yet again and, sure enough, a closer Harpy Eagle sat preening. We all took turns watching—its broad bi-parted crest swung about as it arranged its feathers—for close to an hour! The huge forest predator finally took flight, only to land on a treetop not far away, where it sat some more.

Not all of our field trips were as easy as this first morning; after all, this is the upper Amazon Basin, where there’s just no way of knowing what will happen. While birding the Tiputini Trail we encountered floodwaters and were forced to abandon our original plan. We took an alternative side trail and eventually came upon a fairly large army ant swarm with definitely the best looks I have ever had of a Lunulated Antbird, singing his heart out in plain view. Our visit to the two *saladeros* (or clay licks) to watch what is billed as a great parrot show, was not very successful (although we managed to secure excellent looks at pairs of Spot-winged Antbirds and Yellow-billed Nunbirds), but we were able to repeat the visit a few days later in hopes of having better luck.

On that second visit, the situation did improve and we were able to witness this fascinating phenomenon at the Rio Napo *saladero*. As we hiked our way into the forest *saladero* along the newly-paved walkway being constructed through the forest, it was clear from the general silence that the psittacids were not close by. Would this be another “dud” like our first visit? As we came upon the constructed blind and could clearly view the whole scene, a large shape protruded...a Brazilian tapir stood firmly in the clearing! This large male lifted its head and slowly walked off, stage left—unbelievable! A few members of our group who had just arrived missed the action, and those of us who witnessed it began describing our fortunate sighting. A few minutes passed and from the left, the magnificent creature slowly came forward again, walked across the clearing, and calmly exited stage right. Everyone was thrilled! As we excitedly discussed what had just happened and compared photographs taken, the tapir returned yet again—this time positioning himself fully center stage in the small clearing—and began to drink the water that seeped from the small cave that was formed at the base of the steep embankment in front of us. He calmly quenched himself for some 45 minutes before quietly disappearing back into the forest. The parakeets followed.

## NWC Birdlist

This was definitely the result of the far-sighted, responsible care being taken by the Añangu community that has created this marvelous project through a series of wise decisions made over a decade ago, when its 43 families foresaw a more viable future for themselves and their children in conscientiously protecting the spectacular biodiversity that surrounded them. They opted to forgo traditional hunting and fishing practices to allow wildlife to live without the pressure and fear that is seen almost everywhere throughout the Amazon Basin. The results are becoming more and more evident. This, for example, was a first for the area, and even though we were apparently “deep” in the jungle, word spread quickly—the lodge and the community were buzzing with the news.

The increased and continued sightings of a healthy number of primates throughout the area is another constant reminder of what has been happening here; we saw six species of monkeys on this trip, including a curious group of monk sakis and repeated sightings of adorable golden-mantled tamarins (that came right in to the lodge grounds to feed in nearby *Inga* trees and on some bananas placed out by the dining hall), along with the regular troops of common squirrel monkeys and white-fronted capuchins that were seen crashing about on several occasions throughout the area.

Our birding was varied and challenging, including intense episodes and exciting moments for all. On our last afternoon, after having been only partially successful in locating a calling Zigzag Heron two nights earlier, it seemed that for most of our group the species would get away unseen. As Laurel was paddled back towards the lodge earlier than the rest of us, her trusty boatman spotted an active nest of this rare heron (boy, are these guys good!). Upon our return to “camp” we quickly organized a makeshift expedition to relocate the Zigzag, with some pretty vague directions as to its location. Incredibly, and clearly not sure where the nest was actually situated, our boatman spotted (without binoculars!) a truly hermetically disguised Zigzag at its nest. It took us a little while, maneuvering our canoe back and forth, until we all had it. Not bad for a last minute find!

## ITINERARY

July 09 —Arrival in Quito

July 10 — Morning flight (11:30AM) from Quito to Coca; transfer to the Napo River landing; 2 hour motor canoe trip downstream to NWC landing area; afternoon paddle/float along Añanguyacu (the “caño”) to NWC lodge on shores of Añangucocha (lake)

July 11 —Morning at forest canopy tower; PM float along Cariañangu and the *caño* (streams)

July 12 —Visit to both *saladeros*; some brding around landing area; the *caño* back to the lodge

July 13 —AM along Tiputini Trail/mid-afternoon around the lodge tower and grounds; afternoon and evening along Cariañangu and the *caño*

July 14 —Morning to two river islands, Community Trail and Napo Trail; midday and afternoon at forest canopy tower (also part of our group spent day at the lodge)

July 15 —Return to *saladeros*—back to the Lodge via the *caño*

July 16 —Return trip from NWC to Coca; flight to Quito

July 17 —Departure from Quito

## THE SPECIES LIST

### TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Cinereous Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinereus*)—Heard only on the 15th from terra firme forest understory along the *caño*

Undulated Tinamou (*Crypturellus undulatus*)—Heard often from varzea habitats along the *caño*

Variiegated Tinamou (*Crypturellus variegatus*)—Heard only, at fairly close range, along the Napo Trail *en route* from the forest canopy tower on 14 July

### HERONS & BITTERNs: ARDEIDAE

Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*)—A beautiful breeding plumaged adult was seen along the *caño* by the group on 13 July; seen again by Laurel two days later

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*)—1 was seen by Laurel along the *caño* on the 15th

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)—Only 1 was seen along the Río Napo on our return trip to Coca

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)—Surprisingly, only single birds were seen on sandbars along the Río Napo; water levels were very high this trip

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)—1-2 seen on three visits to the Río Napo on 12,14, 15 July

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*)—Only 1 was seen along the shores of Añangucocha

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*)—1 was seen by Laurel along the *caño* on 15 July

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)—Generally small numbers (1-4) seen along the *caño* on this trip (water levels were very high)

**Zigzag Heron** (*Zebrilus undulatus*)—Heard, with one seen by Rebecca on the evening of 13 July; then a nest was found two days later with attending adult—first seen by Laurel and then by the rest of us

### AMERICAN VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)—Small numbers (2 or so) were seen on three days at NWC; many were seen along the Río Napo, and especially over Coca on our return

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—Only 1 seen soaring over the landing area on 12 July—not a common sight at NWC

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*)—The “regular” forest-based vulture along the Río Napo and NWC; seen daily; also often at the Lodge

**King Vulture** (*Sarcoramphus papa*)— 3 soaring birds were seen well over the landing area upon arriving there on the 10th

### KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*)—1 perched adult bird was scoped from the forest canopy tower (11 July)

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*)—1 soaring bird was seen along the Río Napo on 14 July

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)—2 soaring birds were seen along the Río Napo

Slender-billed Kite (*Rostrhamus hamatus*)—Between 1-4 seen on most days along the *caño* and from the forest canopy tower

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)—1 was seen soaring along the *caño* on 12 July; at last 2 more were seen on the 14th

NWC Birdlist

**Gray-bellied Hawk** (*Accipiter poliogaster*)—1 of this rather rare hawk was seen perched in the subcanopy along the *caño* on 15 July

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*)—1 flew overhead across the *caño* on 13 July

Slate-colored Hawk (*Leucopternis schistaceus*)—2 perched birds were seen from the forest canopy tower on 11 July

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)—Three separate sightings of single birds at NWC; also heard

**Harpy Eagle** (*Harpia harpyja*)—Two sightings from the forest canopy tower on 11 July; first, a very distant perching bird, then another closer—with decent scope views as it preened for nearly an hour, this bird then flew to another perch and sat some more

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)—1 soaring/calling bird was seen pretty well from the Napo Trail

Ornate Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*)—Heard only (rats!!!!) above the Tiputini Trail; the bird responded for a short while but could not be seen through the dense canopy

FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Black Caracara (*Daptrius ater*)—8 or so were seen over three days at NWC and along the Rio Napo; including at the Lodge

Red-throated Caracara (*Ibycter americanus*)—At least a pair was seen well from the forest canopy tower on 11 July; also heard again from there on 14 July

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*)—2-3 were seen around the few sandbars that remained above the high water levels along the Río Napo on two separate days

**Collared Forest-Falcon** (*Micrastur semitorquatus*)—1 beauty was spotted by Steve and scoped nicely from the forest canopy tower; calling from a nearby tree canopy

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*)—1 perched bird was seen well from the Lodge canopy tower on three separate days

CURASSOWS & GUANS: CRACIDAE

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)—Between 2-5 birds were seen on three separate days; basically in riparian vegetation along the *caño*

Blue-throated Piping-Guan (*Pipile cumanensis*)—3 were seen along the *caño* on 11 July

**Salvin's Currasow** (*Mitu salvini*)—1 was seen well by Laurel along the *caño* on 15 July

HOATZIN: OPISTHOCOMIDAE

**Hoatzin** (*Opisthocomus hoazin*)—This bizarre, entertaining and primitive-looking species is common around the lake and streams at NWC.

LIMPKINS: ARAMIDAE

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)—Quite a few sightings (between 1-5 birds) along the *caño*; also heard often, recorded on all but our first afternoon

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Rufous-sided Crake (*Laterallus melanophaius*)—Heard only on a small grassy island along the Rio Napo on 14 July

Gray-breasted Crake (*Laterallus exilis*)—Heard only in shoreline vegetation of Añangucocha

FINFOOTS: HELIORNITHIDAE

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*)—First, 1 was glimpsed along the *caño* on the afternoon of 11 July; then another was seen close-by as it ducked into overhanging vegetation, also along the *caño* on 15 July

LAPWINGS & PLOVERS: CHARADRIIDAE

Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*)—At least 3 were seen on the beach of an island on the Rio Napo on 15 July; another was seen along the Rio Napo on our return to Coca

GULLS & TERNS: LARIDAE

Yellow-billed Tern (*Sterna superciliaris*)—Singles seen on several days on Añangucocha; also singles and pairs were seen along the Río Napo; recorded on all but our first afternoon

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas [Columba] cayennensis*)—1 or 2 were seen on five days; around Añangucocha and along the Rio Napo

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas [Columba] plumbea*)—A single bird was seen along the Tiputini Trail (scoped). Note: light iris

PARROTS & MACAWS: PSITTACIDAE

Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*)—4 were seen on the afternoon of 11 July; at least 2 were seen from the forest canopy tower on 14 July and others were heard only along the *caño*

**Scarlet Macaw** (*Ara macao*)—A beautiful pair were scoped from the forest canopy tower on 11 July; also seen in flight there

Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severa*)—Several seen; mostly pairs in flight; also a pair perched along the *caño*

Red-bellied Macaw (*Orthopsittaca manilata*)—Mostly small bands of squealing fly-bys were seen over varzea forest; best was a pair perched on Moriche Palm fruit along the Cariañangu stream

White-eyed Parakeets (*Aratinga leucophthalmus*)—Mainly two high-flying flocks (10 and 30 birds) were seen; first from forest canopy tower, then along the Rio Napo on 14 July

Dusky-headed Parakeet (*Aratinga weddellii*)—First, 4 were seen perched above the Río Napo *saladero* on 12 July; then at least 30 on our return there on the 15th

Maroon-tailed Parakeet (*Pyrrhura melanura*)—A single bird was recorded on 15 July near the forest *saladero*

Blue-winged Parrotlet (*Forpus xanthopterygius*)—A group of 3 were seen at the landing area on 12 July; another threesome (or the same group?) were seen along Rio Napo shoreline on the 14th

Cobalt-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris cyanopectus*)—The most common psittacid in the area: seen daily, but most impressive numbers were seen at close range at the forest *saladero* on 15 July

**Scarlet-shouldered Parakeet** (*Touit huetii*)—A surprising, noisy band of some 50 birds were seen flying high over the Rio Napo on 14 July (red underwing could be plainly seen); then heard again near the forest *saladero*, but never came in there

NWC Birdlist

**Black-headed Parrot** (*Pionites melanocephala*)—A small group of 3 were seen (not well) from the forest canopy tower on 11 July—best were a close pair feeding on Moriche Palm fruit along the Cariañangu stream

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)—6 or so were seen perched above the Río Napo *saladero* on our first visit; then at least 9 came down to the ground there on our second visit

Yellow-crowned Amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*)—Only a pair was seen perched above the Río Napo *saladero* on our first visit; then many were seen feeding on the clay on our second visit; heard elsewhere

Mealy Amazon (*Amazona farinosa*)—The most common *Amazona* in the area this time; seen well at the Río Napo *saladero*, most numerous on our second visit with dozens present

CUCKOOS & ANIS: CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)—1-2 were seen and/or heard on most days at NWC

**Black-bellied Cuckoo** (*Piaya melanogaster*)—1 was seen (though not very well by all) high overhead in the canopy along the Tiputini Trail with a small mixed foraging flock

Little Cuckoo (*Piaya minuta*)—Singles were seen on two separate days in rank vegetation along the *caño*

Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*)—Relatively common (less so this trip) in vegetation along water's edge. Seen on all but first day; remember the strange "boiling" sound?

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—Usually a half dozen or so seen around the lodge (where very tame) and in mainly altered habitats

TYPICAL OWLS: STRIGIDAE

**Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl** (*Megascops watsonii*)—1 beauty was seen at point blank range at its day roost in the understory along the Rio Napo Trail

**Crested Owl** (*Lophostryx cristata*)—A wonderful pair was seen at its day roost *en route* to the forest *saladero*

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)—Heard daily and nightly; pretty good scope views with long looks at the landing area

POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE

Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*)—Several sightings; 1-2 bird "glued", stumplike to their same perches; all along the *caño*, 1 near the landing area

Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*)—Heard only, always from the lodge area

NIGHTHAWKS & NIGHTJARS: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Short-tailed Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*)—At least 2 were seen flying over the *caño* at the mouth of Añangucocha

Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)—Heard on most nights and at dawn; 1 bird was seen repeatedly at its day roost along the *caño*

Ladder-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis climacocerca*)—2 female birds were flushed on a river island along the Río Napo on 12 Aug.

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)—A small band of 6 or so were seen in typical flight from the forest canopy tower on 14 July

## NWC Birdlist

Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*)—Only small numbers (5 or so) of this normally fairly common species were seen on two days, from the Lodge tower; with short stubby body (appears tail-less)

Neotropical [Fork-tailed] Palm-Swift (*Tachornis squamata*)—Generally common and seen on all but our first day, though expected large numbers were not seen this trip

### HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsuta*)—2 were glimpsed while chasing each other along the *caño* on 14 July

Great-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis malaris*)—1 was seen (and heard) singing at its Lek on our two visits to the forest *saladero*

Straight-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis bourcierii*)—1 was seen briefly in understory along the Rio Napo Trail *en route* to the forest canopy tower

Gray-breasted Sabrewing (*Campylopterus largipennis*)—2 were seen on our first afternoon at the landing area; another was seen building its nest near the forest *saladero* on 12 July and another was seen on the 15th

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*)—1-2 were seen on two days at NWC nectar feeder

**Festive Coquette** (*Lophornis chalybeus*)—1 female was watched at its nest in “our” forest canopy tower tree on two days; she came out to hawk insects a few times

Blue-tailed Emerald (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*)—2 different males were seen; one along the *caño* and the other along the Tiputini Trail—on 13 July

Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)—1 female was seen several times at NWC nectar feeder on 11 July; 1 male was seen along the *caño* on the 13 July

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 July

Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*)—A pair was seen working the NWC nectar feeder over three days

### TROGONS & QUETZALS: TROGONIDAE

Amazonian White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*)—Single birds were seen in subcanopy along the *caño* on two days; heard as well on a couple of additional days

**Blue-crowned Trogon** (*Trogon violaceus*)—A threesome was seen along the *caño* on 12 July

Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*)—3 were finally seen along the *caño* in response to an imitation to their calls

### KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*)—Seen daily along the *caño*; 1-2 on the first days, but as water levels dropped numbers increased with up to 8 or so being seen on the last days

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*)—1-2 seen daily; mostly along the *caño*

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)—Singles were seen on four days—a miniature version of Amazon Kingfisher

**Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle inda*)—At least 6-7 sightings of this often hard-to-see species, always along the *caño*; with water levels so high, we were lucky to see this species

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle aenea*)—We saw singles of this adorable species on two days along the *caño*; nice views!

## NWC Birdlist

### MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*)—Heard only, on only one day (must have been nesting?)

### JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

White-eared Jacamar (*Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*)—Mostly pairs and small family groups were seen around the Rio Napo landing area on four days; amazing and cute

Yellow-billed Jacamar (*Galbula albirostris*)—Heard only, unfortunately; it was really close, but slipped by us along the Napo Trail

White-chinned Jacamar (*Galbula tombacea*)—Singles and pairs seen (also heard) on four days along the *caño*; some very nice and close looks

**Purplish Jacamar** (*Galbula chalcothorax*)—Wonderful, close views of 1 calling bird perched on a guy wire on the forest canopy tower; the bird was absolutely unmoved by our close presence!

Great Jacamar (*Jacamerops aureus*)—1 was seen with a small mixed foraging flock right along the *caño* as we first floated and paddled upstream towards NWC Lodge on 10 July

### PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*)—Heard only, along the Tiputini Trail

Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)—Fairly common; 1-5 heard and seen daily; in varzea forest and edge

White-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa morphoeus*)—Several sightings on most days; along the *caño* and in terra firme forest (i.e., Tiputini Trail, Napo Trail). A mixed foraging flock leader

Swallow-wing (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)—Quite common along the Rio Napo on our first day—not seen subsequently—found always on bare snags along the river's shoreline

### NEW WORLD BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

Scarlet-crowned Barbet (*Capito aurovirens*)—A striking varzea species; seen on two days, heard fairly often in varzea habitats. Seen best and beautifully at NWC landing area

Gilded Barbet (*Capito auratus*)—Heard only (surprisingly invisible this trip!) on all but last day

**Lemon-throated Barbet** (*Eubucco richardsoni*)—Wonderful close looks at a beautiful male in "our" forest canopy tree; then a female joined us

### TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Ivory-billed Aracari (*Pteroglossus flavirostris*)—2 were seen (including scope views) from the forest canopy tower on 11 July

Chestnut-eared Aracari (*Pteroglossus castanotis*)—6 were seen upon our arrival at the Napo landing area and along the *caño* on our first afternoon

Many-banded Aracari (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*)—This most common araçari was seen on most days in relatively small numbers throughout the area

**Golden-collared Toucanet** (*Selenidera reinwardtii*)—A pair was seen after being called in high in canopy above the Tiputini Trail (we eventually had pretty decent scope views)

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)—Heard at first from time-to-time, but finally on two days between 2-3 were seen; from the forest canopy tower on 14 July and then along the *caño* on the 15th

## NWC Birdlist

White-throated [Red-billed]Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus*)—Between 2-8 we seen and/or heard almost daily throughout the area; best seen from the forest canopy tower. The largest toucan in Ecuador

### WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)—Only 1 or 2 of this beautiful and common species of cleared areas were seen at the Community Center/landing area on three visits there—surprisingly few this trip

Little Woodpecker (*Veniliornis passerinus*)—2 were seen along the Rio Napo shoreline on 14 July

Chestnut Woodpecker (*Celeus elegans*)—1 was seen on the afternoon of 11 July: another was seen on the 14th along the Napo Trail

Cream-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus flavus*)—Singles of this stunning woodpecker were seen on the first two days at NWC; also heard on the 14th

Ringed Woodpecker (*Celeus torquatus*)—Heard only from the entrance of the Tiputini Trail

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)—Several of this fairly widespread species were seen over four days; also heard only on our last morning

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)—At least 4 were seen on two separate days (12 & 15 July); a male was seen on our last morning along the *caño*

### OVENBIRDS: FURNARIIDAE

**Lesser Hornero** (*Furnarius minor*)—At least 1 was seen reacting strongly to tape playback on a small island at the mouth of Añanguyacu on 14 July

Dark-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albigularis*)—Heard only on two river islands along the Río Napo; unresponsive this trip

White-bellied Spinetail (*Synallaxis propinqua*)—This river island specialist of rank vegetation was heard only (we came close!) on an island along the Río Napo

Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor erythrocerus*)—1 was seen briefly with a mixed foraging flock along the *caño*

### WOODCREEPERS: DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)—2 were seen quite well following an army ant swarm along the Tiputini Trail

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)—1 individual only of this normally common species was seen with mixed flock along the forest *saladero* trail on 15 July

Buff-throated (Lafresnaye's) Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus [guttatoides]*)—Heard often; with at least 3 birds seen along the forest *saladero* trail and along the Tiputini Trail

Straight-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus picus*)—Heard only along the *caño* on 15 July

### TYPICAL ANTIBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*)—Heard only, along the *caño* on our last morning

Castelnau's Antshrike (*Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*)—A pair of this strictly island-dwelling species was heard only on a river island along the Río Napo

Plain-winged Antshrike (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*)—Heard only along the Napo Trail on 14 July

## NWC Birdlist

Dusky-throated Antshrike (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)—Heard only several times, but finally a male was seen from the stairs of the forest canopy tower on 14 July; a typical understory flock leader

Cinereus Antshrike (*Thamnomanes caesius*)—A pair was seen leading a small mixed foraging flock along the Napo Trail on 14 July

Pygmy Antwren (*Myrmotherula brachyura*)—Heard on our two visits to the forest canopy tower

Banded Antbird (*Dichrozona cincta*)—Heard only on the forest floor from the forest canopy Tower on 11 July

Warbling Antbird (*Hypocnemis cantator*)—3 birds were seen very nicely at the Río Napo "saladero"

Silvered Antbird (*Sclateria naevia*)—A single male, then a single female were seen well in low shoreline vegetation on two separate days along the *caño*; heard also there, but not calling much nor terribly responsive

Spot-winged Antbird (*Percnostola leucostigma*)—A nice pair was seen well in dense understory at the Rio Napo *saladero* on 12 July

Plumbeous Antbird (*Myrmeciza hyperythra*)—Mostly heard (almost daily), but at least a pair was seen along the *caño* on 15 July

White-shouldered Antbird (*Myrmeciza melanocephala*)—Heard only on two days, but a male was possibly glimpsed along the *caño* on 15 July when the previous species came into view

Sooty Antbird (*Myrmeciza fortis*)—Heard by most at an antswarm near the forest *saladero*; on 15 July; seen by a couple of us there

**White-plumed Antbird** (*Pithys albifrons*)—At least 1 was seen with an antswarm near the forest *saladero* on 15 July

Bicolored Antbird (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*)—At least 4 were seen with an antswarm along the Tiputini Trail

**Lunulated Antbird** (*Gymnopithys lunulata*)—Excellent looks at a pair attending an ant swarm along the Tiputini Trail; a female was seen at another ant swarm near the forest *saladero*

Spot-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax naevia*)—1 was seen (and actually photographed by John) at an ant swarm near the forest *saladero*

**Dot-backed Antbird** (*Hylophylax punctulata*)—Nice looks at a male sitting on a small stump in the middle of the Cariañangu stream

## TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Rusty-belted Tapaculo (*Liosceles thoracicus*)—Heard only; from up in the forest canopy tower on 11 July

## COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE

Screaming Piha (*Lipaugis vociferans*)—Heard only distantly along the Tiputini and Napo trails

**Plum-throated Cotinga** (*Cotinga maynana*)—At least 2 stunning males were seen from the forest canopy tower on our two visits there

**Spangled Cotinga** (*Cotinga cayana*)—Repeated scope views of at least 2 stunning males from the forest canopy tower on our two visits

Bare-necked Fruitcrow (*Gymnoderus foetidus*)—Only 1 distant flying male was seen from the forest canopy tower on 14 July

Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*)—A group of 5 were seen from the forest canopy tower on 11 July

NWC Birdlist

**Amazonian Umbrellabird** (*Cephalopterus ornatus*)—3 (a family group?) were seen from the small island at the mouth of the Añanguyacu in a huge fig tree (“higuerón”) along the banks of the Rio Napo on 14 July

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

**Green Manakin** (*Chloropipo holochlora*)—1 seen nicely and closely, feeding on berries at the forest *saladero* on 15 July

**Blue-backed Manakin** (*Chiroxiphia pareola*)—1 male was scoped well along the Napo Trail. Okay I got it in the scope, but just how Sixto actually spotted it is beyond me!!!

Wire-tailed Manakin (*Pipra filicauda*)—We “dipped” on the males—they were not singing! A close female was seen from the stairs at the forest canopy tower, apparently with a small mixed foraging flock

White-crowned Manakin (*Dixiphia pipra*)—2 males were ultimately seen along the Tiputini Trail

Blue-crown Manakin (*Lepidothrix coronata*)—2 separate females were seen (13 & 15 July) along the Tiputini Trail and near the forest *saladero*

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)—Heard first; then 1 was seen calling at the mouth of Añangucocha; race *olivaceum*

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)—Heard only, a few times on two days at NWC

Yellow-crowned Elaenia (*Myiopagis flavivertex*)—Heard only, along the *caño* in varzea edge—totally unresponsive to tape playback

Mottle-backed Elaenia (*Elaenia gigas*)—At least 1 was scoped on a small rivier island at the mouth of the Añanguyacu

Golden-faced Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius chrysops*)—Nice views, very closely at probably the same single bird in and around “our” forest canopy tower on two separate days

**Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant** (*Myiornis ecaudatus*)—Brief looks at 1, seemingly with a mixed flock, from the stairs of the forest canopy tower. This is one of the smallest birds in the

World Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus vitiuosus*)—Heard only, at close range but well overhead along the forest *saladero* trail

**Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher** (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*)—1 bird eventually came in really close in “our” forest canopy tree on 11 July; heard only again on our second visit there.

Olive-faced Flatbill (*Tolmomyias viridiceps*)—2 were seen along the Community Trail on 14 July. Also known as Yellow-breasted Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*) by some authors

**Vermilion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephala rubinus*)—1 male (juvenile or in heavy moult) was seen on the small river island at the mouth of the Añanguyacu, There are few records of this rather widespread species in eastern Ecuador—considered a rare austral migrant here

Drab Water-Tyrant (*Ochthornis littoralis*)—close looks (and even photos) of 1 and then 2 more on two days in shoreline vegetation along the Río Napo

Cinnamon Attila (*Attila cinnamomeus*)—Heard often and almost daily, but very reclusive this trip; 1 bird shot out and disappeared quickly in response to an imitation of its call. Mostly along the *caño* varzea edge

Citron-bellied Attila (*Attila citriniventris*)—Heard only; in terra firme forest along the Napo and Tiputini trails; also near the forest *saladero*

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*)—Heard only from the forest canopy tower on 14 July

## NWC Birdlist

- Eastern Sirystes (*Sirystes sibilator*)—1 was seen at very close range in forest canopy tower tree. Also known as Sirystes if eastern and western forms are lumped
- Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*)—Several were seen on five different days throughout the NWC area
- Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)—Surprisingly uncommon this trip! Only 1-2 seen on three days and heard only seldomly; generally near water
- Lesser Kiskadee (*Philohydor lictor*)—1-5 were seen on most days, always near water
- Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*)—Singles and pairs were seen mostly from near the Napo landing area on four days
- Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)—Small numbers were seen around the Napo landing area and always near the Río Napo
- Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*)—Only 1 and 2 individuals were seen at the Napo landing area and on a river island along the Rio Napo
- Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)—A pair was seen along the Community Trail
- Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*)—Several sightings of this fairly common austral migrant (excellent scope views too); best from forest canopy tower
- Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—Small numbers were seen daily
- Black-tailed Tityra (*Tityra cayana*)—A pair was seen by Rebecca and Laurel around the Lodge area on 14 July

## MARTINS & SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

- Brown-chested Martin** (*Progne tapera*)—Seen only at the Río Napo dock at Coca; 3 upon arrival on 10 July and 2 on our last morning
- Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)—Between 1-6 were seen on several days, basically high flying around Anangucocha; also one group along the Rio Napo on our last day
- White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*)—This very attractive swallow was seen daily in small numbers (2-6 or so), mainly near the lodge and also along the Río Napo
- Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)—A fairly large group was seen on a river island on the Rio Napo (possibly austral migrants)
- White-banded Swallow (*Atticora fasciata*)—This very attractive swallow was seen along the Río Napo, on our first and last days
- Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)—5-6 birds were seen along the Rio Napo on our return trip to Coca

## WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

- Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapillus*)—This charming and boisterous species was common in the aquatic vegetation that borders the lake and streams throughout the area, always greeting or scolding us as we passed by
- Thrush-like Wren (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)—Only 1 was seen briefly on our first afternoon; heard only on three different days
- Coraya Wren (*Thryothorus coraya*)—Heard only (unresponsive to tape playback) in dense foliage twice along the *caño*
- Buff-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus leucotis*)—Heard only on three days along the *caño*
- House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—At least a pair lives around NWC Lodge and were seen and heard from time-to-time
- White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Hemicorhina leucosticta*)—1 individual was seen well along the Napo Trail; another was heard near the forest *saladero*

## NWC Birdlist

Southern Nightingale-Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*)—Also known by some authors as Scaly-breasted Wren—Heard only in forest understory on three days

### JAYS: CORVIDAE

Violaceous Jay (*Cyanocorax violaceus*)—Seen and heard on several days in the area.

Excellent close looks at at least 3, repeatedly, at the Napo landing area where they came in close to feed on fruiting trees there

### SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*)—1 was seen from the forest canopy tower on 11 July

White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuta*)—A pair was seen along the *caño* on 13 July

Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—1 male was seen from the forest canopy tower on 14 July

Rufous-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia rufiventris*)—Single males were seen at the Napo landing area on our first afternoon, along the Tiputini Trail, and from the forest canopy tower on the 14th

### TANAGERS & HONEYCREEPERS: THRAUPIDAE

Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucomestes penicillata*)—At least a pair was seen well along the *caño* on our first afternoon

Masked Crimson Tanager (*Ramphocelus nigrigularis*)—Spectacularly colorful; at least 3 were seen along the *caño* on the afternoon of 11 July; surprisingly scarce this trip!

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—Seen on three days, common on the 11th, otherwise not that obvious this trip. This race with white in the wing

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)—Seen almost daily; surprisingly seen more often than the previous species this time

Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)—At least 1 was seen well in canopy above the Tiputini Trail

Green-and-gold Tanager (*Tangara schrankii*)—1 was seen with a canopy flock along the Tiputini Trail; then very well in “our” forest canopy tower tree on 14 July

Opal-rumped Tanager (*Tangara velia*)—1 was seen at the Napo landing area on 12 July

Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*)—A beautiful male was seen from the forest canopy tower on 14 July

Yellow-bellied Dacnis (*Dacnis flaviventer*)—Great looks at a pair in and around “our” forest canopy tower tree on 11 July; the male was seen there again on our second visit

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)—A pair was seen on both visits to the forest canopy tower tree; best on the 14th when seen quite closely

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)—A few were seen over three days; 2 & 3 from the forest canopy tower on our two visits there, and 2 along the Tiputini Trail

**Short-billed Honeycreeper** (*Cyanerpes nitidus*)—An adult and juvenile male were seen feeding in a flowering tree from the forest canopy tower on 11 July

Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)—At least a dozen were seen feeding on a flowering tree from the forest canopy tower on 11 July; then, on the 14th, many more were seen, both from the same canopy tower and also in another flowering tree along the Community Trail along the Río Napo

## NWC Birdlist

### BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES: EMBERIZIDAE

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila castaneivenris*)—At least 5 were seen on river islands along the Río Napo on 14 July

Yellow-browed Sparrow (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)—2 were seen on Río Napo river islands on 14 July; 2 more were seen at Coca Airport

### AMERICAN ORIOLES & BLACKBIRDS: ICTERIDAE

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)—3 were seen on the small river island at the mouth of the Añanguyacu on 14 July

Orange-backed Troupial (*Icterus croconotus*)—1 beauty was seen at the Napo landing area on our first afternoon

Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*)—Very common and noisy; seen daily though numbers were still markedly lower this trip

**Red-rumped Cacique** (*Cacicus haemorrhous*)—2 of this rather uncommon species (in Ecuador) were seen from the forest canopy tower on 11 July; heard again along the Tiputini Trail

Solitar Cacique (*Cacicus solitarius*)—Heard only—would not show itself—at the Napo landing area on 15 July

**Casqued Oropendola** (*Psarocolius oseryi*)—At least 1 was seen well from the forest canopy tower on 14 July with the following species (good comparison)

**Green Oropendola** (*Psarocolius viridis*)—4 were seen well from the forest canopy tower on 14 July

Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)—The second most common oropendola in the area; seen daily in fair numbers

Russet-backed Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)—The most common oropendola in the area; common daily

Oriole Blackbird (*Gymnomystax mexicanus*)—Between 1-6 were seen on various occasions on river islands and along the banks of the Río Napo, including good views

## MAMMALS & OTHER CREATURES

### SLOTHS: MEGALONGYCHIDAE

**Southern 2-toed Sloth** (*Choloepus didactylus*)—A juvenile was seen (not easy!) hanging from some pretty unlikely branches along the *caño* on 12 July

### MARMOSETS AND TAMARINS: CALLITRICHIDAE

**Golden-mantled Tamarin** (*Saguinus tripartitus*)—A troop of about 8 were seen from the Lodge where they would feed on *Inga* fruit and then come in to feast on bananas that were hung out for them This species has a tiny range in the upper Amazon; adorable!!

### NEW WORLD MONKEYS: CEBIDAE

Dusky Titi Monkey (*Callicebus moloch cupreus*)—A group of 5 were seen along the *caño* on 12 July; another group was seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> along the *caño*; also heard at the Napo landing area

Common Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)—Quite common; fairly large troops were seen on a couple of days (smaller numbers at other times) at edge along the *caño*, Cariañangu and inside forest; sometimes with the following species (quite confiding and playful)

## NWC Birdlist

White-fronted Capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*)—First heard only on the 11th; then two groups of 6 and 8 respectively were seen (12, 13 July) moving loosely with the previous species along the *caño* and the Cariañangu

Red Howler Monkey (*Alouatta seniculus*)—Heard often; small groups of 2, 3 and 4 were seen on 4 separate days; perhaps seen best along the *caño* on the 15th

**Monk Saki** (*Pithecia monachus*)—An excellent 3 of this “not-so-easy-to-see” species watched us and then the big male came closer to watch us some more ; along the “caño” on 12 July

## SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE

Amazon Red Squirrel sp. (*Sciurus sp.*)—Either Southern (*S. spadiceus*) or Northern (*S. ignivernstris*), was heard only on 12 July along the Napo Trail

Amazon Dwarf Squirrel (*Microsciurus flaviventer*)—1 really cute individual worked its way down the trunk of a tree and quickly disappeared along the Tiputini Trail

## CAPYBARA: HYDROCHAERIDAE

Capybara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*)—Fresh tracks were found along the beaches of a river island on 14 July

## SHEATH-TAILED BATS: EMBALLONURIDAE

Long-nosed Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*)—4 were found hanging (sleeping) from the ceiling of the Napo *saladero* blind on 15 July

## BULLDOG BATS: NOCTILLIONIDAE

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

## WEASELS, OTTERS & ALLIES

Crab-eating Raccoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*)—Fresh tracks were found along the Napo Trail on 14 July

Tayra (*Eira barbara*)—Fresh tracks were found along the Napo Trail on 14 July

## CATS: FELIDAE

Ocelot (*Felis pardalis*)—Fresh tracks were encountered along the Tiputini Trail

## TAPIRS: TAPIRIDAE

**Brazilian Tapir** (*Tapirus ferrestris*)—Fresh tracks were found on the Tiputini Trail on 13 July; then, a spectacular show by 1 at the forest *saladero* as it drank water totally oblivious to our “paparazzi” presence at the blind!

## OTHER CREATURES

Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*)—1 rather large adult was seen on Añangucocha from the Lodge tower on 11 July; some eye-shine was seen on the evening of the 13th

Tawny Forest Racer (*Dendrophidion dendrophus*)—2 , apparently the same species, were seen; one swimming across the *caño*, the other along shoreline vegetation on the Rio

NWC Birdlist

Napo; then another unidentified species was seen chewing off the tail of a giant earthworm along the Tiputini Trail

**Caimen Lizard** (*Dracaena guianensis*)—1 was seen along the *caño* on 11 July; high waters kept most away from the visible shoreline vegetation

Golden Tegu Lizard (*Tupinambis teguixin*)—1 was seen and photographed along forest *saladero* trail

Amazon Bark Anole (*Anolis ortonii*)—At least 1 was seen around the Lodge grounds on 13 July

Amazon Thorny-Tail (*Trapaduras flaviceps*)—2 were seen on "our" forest canopy tower tree on 11 July

Skink sp. (Family: Scincidae)—1 was seen along the Napo Trail on 11 July; several genera exist, species unidentified

Amazon River Turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*)—Possibly 1 of this species was seen as we first arrived at the NWC shores of the Río Napo. A large number of this (apparently were seen on our last morning as we traveled along the Rio Napo

Sting Ray sp.—1 was seen on the afternoon of 11 July along the *caño*