

**EASTERN BOLIVIA
NOEL KEMPPF MERCADO NATIONAL PARK
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BENI**

JULY 14 - 29, 2007

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One of the last untraveled wilderness regions of South America, eastern Bolivia has remained unvisited by tour groups for the simple reason that there have been no facilities. A lack of roads and accommodations is good on the one hand because it usually indicates low human impact and undisturbed wildlife, but organizing a tour to such an area is often out of the question. This has been the case in eastern Bolivia -- until recently.

This tour features areas with relatively rich avifauna. Among the birds we may see are likely to be a few that have not been found previously on tours. A sample of specialties might include Red-throated Piping-Guan, Horned Sungem, Red-necked Aracari, Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant (rare), Snow-capped Manakin, and Tooth-billed Wren, as well as the fabled Maned Wolf. Undeniably, part of the reason for the design of this trip is to be one of the few organized groups ever to visit these beautiful and remote regions. We hope the trip is an adventure and a tremendous learning experience, as well as an opportunity to see terrific birds and wildlife, including some that few have seen before.

The waterfalls and imposing red cliffs of the Serranía de Huanchaca, where we plan to start the trip, are the centerpiece of a wilderness of more than two million acres. Based at a new visitor facility at the north end of the park, we will spend several days exploring terra firme rainforest, natural savanna, seasonally flooded or igapo forest, and blackwater rivers. Then we'll be ferried by bush plane to the southern, more humid end of Noel Kempff National Park. Here, amid wetter forest and near the largest savannas in the park, we'll spend several days. Exploring on foot and by truck along the roads, we should have excellent opportunities to see both birds and large mammals.

The trip concludes with a visit to the Department of Beni, north of Santa Cruz. Here we will visit a private ranch several hours away from the city of Trinidad, in hopes of seeing the rare Blue-throated Macaw, recently rediscovered by Dr. Charles Munn. This area has a very rich avifauna and the ranch is delightful. We believe this area will be a highlight of the tour.

July 14-15, Days 1-2: Flight and Arrival into Santa Cruz. There are a number of flights from different points of origin in the United States to Santa Cruz, Bolivia. You will need to arrive by the morning of July 15th for the first outing of your tour. Upon arrival in Santa Cruz, you will be met by a representative of Green Bolivia who will transfer you to our comfortable hotel. You will be given some time to rest from your journey before our early afternoon excursion to the Botanical Gardens just outside Santa Cruz. This

is an excellent birding location and a good place to become acquainted with many species that are typical of semi-open habitats, including chaco scrub and semideciduous forest. Birds occurring in the gardens include Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Blue-crowned Parakeet, Green-cheeked Parakeet (occasionally), Guira Cuckoo, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, White Woodpecker, Greater Thornbird, Mato Grosso Antbird, Plain Tyrannulet, White-crested Tyrannulet, Black-backed Water-Tyrant, Hudson's Black-Tyrant (winter resident), Brownish Jay, Fawn-breasted Wren, White-banded Mockingbird, Masked Gnatcatcher, Sayaca Tanager, Purple-throated Euphonia, White-bellied Seedeater, and Grassland Sparrow.

NIGHT: Hotel Cortez, Santa Cruz

July 16, Day 3: Flight to Flor de Oro. This morning we will transfer to a private airport for our charter flight to Flor de Oro, formerly a cattle ranch but now a key outpost guarding the northern end of the park. With newly remodeled and greatly enlarged guest facilities, and several new buildings, Flor de Oro now ranks as one of the most comfortable guest facilities available anywhere in the Amazonian region. Flor de Oro lies along the Río Iténez (known as the Río Guaporé to the Brazilians) in the extreme northeastern Department of Santa Cruz. En route, we will fly over hundreds of kilometers of pristine rainforest, as well as the spectacular Serranía de Caparuch (or Huanchaca), with its spectacular cliffs and waterfalls. Almost the entire serranía and a huge block of surrounding rainforest to the west and north lie within Noel Kempff National Park, a protected area encompassing more than four million acres of wilderness.

NIGHT: Flor de Oro Guest Ranch, Noel Kempff National Park

July 17-19, Days 4-6: Flor de Oro. We will spend three full days at the Flor de Oro guest facility, almost all of it within sight of the magnificent cliffs forming the northern edge of the long, low plateau that stretches away to the south. Flor de Oro is strategically situated within walking distance of several distinct habitats, including natural grassland, moist and humid terra firme forest, and seasonally flooded varzea forest. The ranch buildings are within 50-100 meters of the Río Iténez, and we will explore a number of forest-lined river channels and bays where wildlife is abundant. We may awake to the sounds of Black Howler Monkeys calling from riveredge forest and will take walks in nearby forest and savannah. More than 300 bird species have been recorded within walking distance of Flor de Oro, including Undulated, Cinereous and Little tinamous (all mostly only heard); Muscovy Duck; Maguari Stork; Jabiru; Southern Screamer; Snail Kite; Black-collared Hawk; Laughing Falcon; Blue-throated and Red-throated piping-guans; Pale-vented Pigeon; Ruddy and Picui ground-doves; Blue-and-yellow, Scarlet, and Chestnut-fronted macaws; White-eyed and Peach-fronted parakeets; Yellow-crowned and Orange-winged parrots; Tropical screech-owl; Band-tailed Nighthawk; Black-throated Mango; Glittering-throated Emerald; Horned Sungem; Short-tailed Swift; Black-tailed and Blue-crowned trogon; five species of kingfishers (including Pygmy); White-eared Puffbird; Black-fronted Nunbird; Chestnut-eared and Lettered aracari; Toco Toucan; Yellow-throated, White, Chestnut, Cream-colored, and Red-necked woodpecker; Striped and Straight-billed woodcreeper; Rusty-backed Spinetail; Amazonian Antshrike; Rusty-backed antwren; Silvered and Band-tailed antbird; Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Band-tailed and Fiery-capped manakin; Gray Monjita; Dusky-tailed Flatbill; Cinnamon Attila; Pale-tipped Tyrannulet (a form soon to be described as a new species); Stripe-throated Tody-Tyrant; Tawny, White-lored and Plain tyrannulet; Moustached Wren; Black-capped Mockingthrush; Creamy-bellied Thrush; Purple-throated Euphonia; and Turquoise, Burnished-buff, and Sayaca tanager.

Local specialties include Crimson-bellied Parakeet; Scissor-tailed Nightjar; Red-necked Aracari; Leaden Antwren; Sneathlages, and Tawny-rumped and Black-and-rufous seedeater. We should also see a variety of exciting mammals including Pink River Dolphins, Silvery Marmoset, and perhaps even Giant Otters. While at Flor de Oro, we should be busy with a constant variety of new sights and sounds.

During our nearly four days here we will make several trips upriver, exploring flooded forests, walking forest trails, and observing wildlife from the boats in the late evening and after dark. Our spotlights should pick up potoos, and probably the Scissor-tailed Nightjar, as well as Ladder-tailed Nightjar and both Great and Common potoo. We will also walk into the savanna in the early morning and visit several nearby forests, which have nicely-constructed, relatively level trails. Some trails are so close that people often wander back during the lazy, early afternoon hours and sit beside a quiet pool where there is always a chance of seeing a Pygmy or Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, or a shy antwren. Who knows what might turn up!

NIGHTS: Flor de Oro Guest Ranch, Noel Kempff National Park

July 20, Day 7: Fly from Flor de Oro Ranch to Los Fierros at South End of Noel Kempff National Park. Late this morning, or early in the afternoon, we will pack for our flights to the national park headquarters, a site known as Los Fierros. We should arrive in time to unpack, relax, and spend an hour or two late in the evening getting acquainted with Los Fierros. The facilities here are comfortable, but not elegant and not as nice as those at Flor de Oro. They include 3 to 4 double rooms (for couples), and 1 or 2 (as needed) large, multi-bed rooms with dormitory-style facilities for singles. All food is brought from Santa Cruz or flown in from Brazil, and we are assured of excellent meals. Forest completely surrounds the facility, and birding begins virtually at our doorstep.

NIGHT: Park Headquarters of Los Fierros, Noel Kempff National Park

July 21-23, Days 8-10: Los Fierros, the Park Headquarters. Using Los Fierros as our base, we will explore the surrounding forests and a nearby grassland over the next three days. We will be up early for walks in the forest, and we will make several night drives to spotlight nocturnal mammals. The area is probably one of the best for viewing large mammals anywhere on the continent! We have a good chance of seeing a large cat (Jaguar and Puma are surprisingly numerous), savanna (crab-eating) fox, and Maned Wolf. We will also visit humid forest in hilly terrain at the base of the Serrana de Huanchaca. An effort will be made to see some of the region's very distinctive birds, such as Razor-billed Curassow, Red-throated and Blue-throated Piping-Guan, Spix's Guan, Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Red-necked Aracari, Fiery-capped Manakin, Snow-capped Manakin, Rufous-tailed Flatbill, large numbers of Creamy-bellied Thrushes (there is a winter roost numbering in the thousands of birds), Tooth-billed Wren, and Gray-chested Greenlet (rare). Other rarities we've found in the past include Tiny Hawk, Gray-bellied Hawk, Harpy Eagle, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Pheasant Cuckoo, Festive Coquette, Ringed Woodpecker, Gray-cheeked Nunlet, and Dot-backed Antbird.

The large savanna a few kilometers south of our headquarters has been unusually productive over the years, providing an opportunity to see some of the rarest and most interesting birds and mammals of the trip. This is the region where Maned Wolves spend most of their time. We are sure to see tracks and with a bit of luck we may see the animals themselves (they've been seen on 4 of 5 previous trips). We have also found Ocellated Crakes here and Hudson's Black-Tyrant, the wonderful little Horned Sunbeam, as well as Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Blue-tailed Starfrontlet, White-eared Puffbird, the beautiful, but shy Collared Crescentchest, Chalk-browed Mockingbirds, lovely pairs of White-rumped Tanagers, and flocks of grassquits and seedeaters. If the grass has not burned in a couple of years, we also have a chance to see the very rare Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant.

We have found night spot-lighting to be quite productive, adding such species as Great Potoo, Black-banded Owl (a range extension), Crested Owl, Spectacled Owl (often at the park headquarters), Nacunda Nighthawks, Ocellated Poorwill, Little Nightjar, Spot-tailed Nightjar, Scissor-tailed Nightjar, Rufous Nightjar, and Pauraque. In the clearing right around our cabins we have found many excellent species, including Pied Puffbird, Spangled Cotinga, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, and Red-

necked Aracari. The rare and endangered Maned Wolf, though never a guarantee, is present in nearby savanna. We were particularly fortunate in 1992; we observed one pair on two occasions, both times for an extended period of time. In 1994 we also observed pairs of Maned Wolves on two occasions, as well as four species of cats within a 24-hour span: a Jaguar in mid-day, an ocelot one morning, a jaguarundi late one afternoon, and a mountain lion at night! A Harpy Eagle was also seen by part of our group in 1994. We saw three Maned Wolves on our 1997 tour and one in 1998 and 2000.

NIGHTS: Park Headquarters at Los Fierros, Noel Kempff National Park

July 24, Day 11: Trinidad. Following this last morning at Los Fierros, we will fly directly by chartered plane to the city of Trinidad, in the State of Beni, Bolivia. Trinidad lies well to the west of Noel Kempff National Park, in a region that is mostly grassland mixed with gallery forest and seasonally inundated woodland in low-lying areas. The flight is a little over two hours in a small plane.

This is “ranch country,” and large numbers of wading and raptorial birds can be found congregating around water holes and in areas of damp grass in fields. Though many birds can be seen right at the edge of the town of Trinidad, we will probably have an hour or two for exploration today since we will not arrive until mid-afternoon. Most participants will appreciate the hot showers and added comfort of the hotel where we stay tonight.

NIGHT: Hotel Aguai, Trinidad

July 25-27, Days 12-14: Search for the Blue-throated Macaw. The discovery of the Blue-throated Macaw in 1992 by Dr. Charles Munn, a scientist with the New York Zoological Society, made major headlines within conservation circles. This rare macaw occasionally turned up in international pet trade circles; but the whereabouts of its breeding grounds remained unknown, and it had not been seen in the wild by scientists or laymen for years. Through some clever backtracking, Munn located a ranch where a few pairs of this bird were known to breed, and in 1992, became the first modern scientist to see and initiate studies of these birds. Thanks to his efforts and willingness to share his information, we now have the opportunity to see the Blue-throated Macaw. These macaws are, of course, the primary reason for our visit to this area, but you will see many other birds here as well. In fact, this region of grassland and seasonally flooded woodland is very reminiscent of the more open parts of the famous Pantanal in Brazil, and we are likely to be treated to a spectacular array of birds here, almost all of which will be different from those of the forested Serranía de Huanchaca.

In addition to the opportunity to search for the Blue-throated Macaw (we have a very good chance of finding it), this region now lays claim to another record. In 1995 our group saw 213 species in a single day on the drive from the city of Trinidad to the Ranch and in a few afternoon hours near the ranch headquarters. This is the VENT record for the highest number of birds seen in a single day on any VENT tour. Furthermore, one participant saw 210 of the 213, and practically everyone in the group saw in excess of 150 that day. Such high numbers tell much about the region. It is extraordinarily rich in bird diversity. Because the habitats are mostly open or lightly wooded or marshlands, birds are very easy to see for the most part. Additionally, because most of the wooded habitats are dry or moist forest or woodland, birds tend to remain active throughout the day. We may not equal or exceed the 1995 number again, but we do believe that you will be absolutely amazed at the diversity of birds in this north central region of Bolivia. (It exceeds that of the northern llanos or the Brazilian Pantanal.)

During our three days at this ranch we should see most of the following: Greater Rhea; Maguari Stork; Wood Stork; Jabiru; Plumbeous, Buff-necked, and Green ibis; Southern Screamer; Whistling Heron; Orinoco Goose (listed by Red Data Book as threatened status); Snail Kite; Long-winged Harrier; Savanna Hawk; Great Black-Hawk; Limpkin; Picazuro Pigeon; up to five species of macaws, including the Blue-

throated, Blue-and-gold, Red-and-green, Golden-collared, and Chestnut-fronted; Peach-fronted Parakeet; Campo Flicker; Blue-crowned and Black-tailed trogons; Chestnut-eared Aracari; Toco Toucan; Great Rufous, Straight-billed, Buff-throated, and Narrow-billed woodcreepers; Red-billed Scythebill; Rufous Cachtolote; Greater Thornbird; Plain Softtail; Great Antshrike; Rusty-backed Antwren; Band-tailed and Mato Grosso antbirds; Hudson's Black-Tyrant; Fuscous and Euler's Flycatcher; Fawn-breasted Wren; Creamy-bellied Thrush; Purplish and Plush-crested jay; Gray, White and White-rumped monjita; Velvet-fronted Grackle; and Unicolored and Scarlet-headed blackbird.

Common ranch species found in open areas and woodlands between Trinidad and the Hacienda El Cielo include Black-bellied Whistling-Duck; Rufescent Tiger-Heron; Black-crowned Night-Heron; Capped Heron; Green Ibis; Limpkin; Savanna Hawk; Pale-vented and Scaled pigeons; Ruddy and Picui ground-doves; White-tailed Goldenthrout; Rufous-tailed Jacamar; Rufous Hornero; Black-backed Water-Tyrant; White-headed Marsh-Tyrant; Streaked and Vermilion flycatchers; Cattle Tyrant; Gray, White-rumped and White monjitas; White-winged becards; Black-capped Donacobius; Sayaca Tanager (abundant); Black-faced Tanager; Red-capped Cardinal; Crested Oropendola; Epaulet Oriole; and Orange-backed Troupial. In marshes and reed-beds we also may see such exciting and less numerous species as Scarlet-headed Blackbird and Long-tailed Reed-Finch.

Before our 1993 group, this area had never received eco-visitors. Almost timeless in its isolation, the estancias here blend a bit of the modern world with a great deal of the traditional lifestyle that has remained little changed since the first settlers entered this part of Bolivia with cattle herds in the 1660s. Everyone agrees that the ambiance of the old estancias, the mingled sounds of children, dogs, chickens, and the soft hum of a Swallow-tailed Hummingbird at a hibiscus, provides a glimpse into another era. A short drive away, Howler and Capuchin monkeys roam the forests. Antshrikes and chattering groups of Velvet-fronted Grackles enliven the dim forest understory. Sunbitterns daintily patrol the creek banks, Cabanis' Spinetails chuckle in tall grass, and Purplish Jays call from mango trees.

NIGHTS: Buenos Aires Ranch or
Hotel Aguai, Trinidad

July 28, Day 15: Santa Cruz. We will leave early this morning, birding near a large marsh enroute back to the city of Trinidad. This will be followed by a mid-day flight to Santa Cruz and our final dinner to-night.

NIGHT: Hotel Cortez, Santa Cruz

July 29, Day 16: Departure for Home. You may depart for home at anytime today. Please keep in mind that check out from the hotel is required by 11:00am.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to extend your stay or arrive early, please contact the VENT office at least **two months** prior to your departure date. These arrangements may range from an extra night at the initial hotel of the tour to a week or more extension including accommodations, sightseeing, and transportation. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

TOUR SIZE: The tour will be limited to 8 participants.

TOUR LEADER: Steve Hilty

Steve Hilty is the senior author of *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia*, and the recently published *Birds of Venezuela*, both by Princeton University Press. Other credits include *Birds of Tropical America*, *A*

watcher's introduction to behavior, breeding and diversity, originally published as part of The Curious Naturalist series. He has also written a number of scientific papers on birds and plants, and is presently preparing the text and species accounts for the tanagers for a forthcoming volume of the acclaimed *Handbook of Birds of the World*, published by Lynx Press in Barcelona. Steve holds a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Arizona and has worked at the Arid Lands Department at the University of Arizona, as a consultant to The Nature Conservancy, and as a stockbroker. Since 1975, he has led tours throughout North and South America, and co-led trips to India, the Orient, and Australasian regions. With three decades of experience in South America and a wide range of natural history interests, he brings a unique breadth of expertise to his Neotropical tours. At night he often turns his binoculars towards the skies for stargazing. Steve lives in Kansas City with his wife, Beverly. They have two college age daughters.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for the tour is **\$6555** per person in double occupancy from Santa Cruz. This includes all meals from lunch on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 16, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, internal flights, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Santa Cruz and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may have to be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$155**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refunds are made according to the following schedule: if cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, the deposit less \$125 per person is refundable. If cancellation is made fewer than 120 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions, as well as any transfers from one tour to another. *We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself.*

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$125.
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE: Application forms for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. We **strongly recommend** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering. Contact the VENT office prior to registration for details.**

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

BAGGAGE: Limit your luggage to 40 pounds. This includes all your gear. This is for your own safety, as we will be making several charter flights in small planes where weight restrictions are extremely important (there is no margin for error), and space for stowing it is limited. Please pack all of your belongings in **duffels or similar soft-sided bags**. (**No hard-sided suitcases**, as they do not fit in the compartments of the small planes and will be inconvenient to use in some of the small rooms.)

CLIMATE: This tour is scheduled for the dry season, but we still may encounter rain. The weather is generally warm and humid in the eastern lowlands. Daytime high temperatures average 81 to 90° F; night temperatures average 68 to 79° F. In any month, but especially June through August, unexpected Antarctic cold fronts from the south can bring days of rain and cold temperatures, which may range from 50 to 60° F during the day and 38 to 50° F at night. Combined with damp conditions, these temperatures can be very chilling.

CLOTHING: Lightweight, loose-fitting, field clothing (preferably cotton) is the rule, but avoid white or brightly colored clothes (including hats). Our movements in such clothing frighten shy birds and animals. Bring plenty of long pants and long sleeved shirts, as insects can be a problem (see below). Short-sleeved shirts and/or T-shirts are not sufficient protection against black flies, which are common in the Noel Kempff area. Everyone should bring a jacket or sweater or fleece in case of a cold front. A fleece vest and lighter weight jacket should be sufficient. Bring a good hat for sun and rain protection and a rain jacket or poncho (a small umbrella is also useful). Wear sturdy walking shoes or sneakers; rubber boots are not essential but some people wear them for chigger protection, although there are not many chiggers here. Thongs or Tevas may be useful for showers and when relaxing inside your room. We suggest about three to four sets of field clothes and a pair of light gloves to protect against black flies. Regular laundry facilities will generally not be available except at Santa Cruz. Some laundry services may be available at Flor de Oro and at the ranch.

DOCUMENTS: A valid U.S. passport is necessary for United States citizens to enter Bolivia. A tourist card is issued free on arrival.

EQUIPMENT: You should pack a pair of binoculars that are in good condition along with a belt pack or day pack (good for carrying books, sunscreen, extra film, etc.). As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medications, and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag (check for current airline security carry-on restrictions; see www.tsa.gov/travelers for more information). Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. You may also want to bring a few between meal snacks such as nuts, dried fruits, granola bars, etc.

Checklist of essential items:

1. 1-2 good LED flashlights (extra batteries and bulbs) or a headlamp (3 cell lights might be a bit much)
2. Insect repellent
3. Water bottle - 1 quart plastic bottle
4. Sunscreen lotion and good hat
5. Supply of plastic bags
6. Walking shoes (boots) and a pair of sneakers (also thongs/flip-flops for showers)
7. All personal medications, including first aid items; extra eyeglasses

8. Checklist, small pocket notebook, and pens
9. Binoculars
10. Day pack
11. Passport
12. Fine-mesh insect head net (see under Insects)

Useful but *optional* items: Compass, iodine water treatment tablets (also available from tour leaders), pocket knife, raingear, umbrella for sun or possible rain.

HEALTH: Malaria is present, including the chloroquine-resistant strain. There are several options for malaria prophylaxis including Mefloquine (Lariam), Malarone, and Doxycycline. These medications are available by prescription only. Please consult your physician or local travel clinic for recommendations.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line 877-FYI-TRIP (394-8747) or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

Leishmaniasis is present but rare. It is transmitted by a small fly that is active mainly at dusk or after dark. It is not common and only a few are carriers. Your best protection for this disease is proper clothing, insect repellent, and reduced exposure to particular areas within the forest (between tree buttresses, heliconia thickets, etc.) where the fly vectors occur.

If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

INSECTS: Ticks and mosquitoes are, or occasionally can be, a problem (mosquitoes are generally not a problem in the dry season when we are there) in some areas of the national park. Also bees and wasps are sometimes numerous on hot dry days so we ask, as a precaution, that all participants be prepared in case we encounter insect problems. In the past we have experienced more insect problems in the Los Fierros area, far fewer at Flor de Oro and few at all in the Trinidad area. Please follow these precautions:

1. Wear loose fitting long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
2. Bring several squeeze bottles of Cutters lotion and a pump-style container of OFF repellent.
3. We strongly recommend treating field clothing with permethrin.
4. All participants should bring a fine-mesh insect head net.
5. We recommend bringing along lightweight gloves.

MISC: Departure Tax - \$20 USD approximate (paid in USD currency)
Electricity - 110 volts
Language - Spanish
Time – same as Eastern Standard Time

SUGGESTED READING:

Our website at www.ventbird.com offers an affiliated online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers, including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from the store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You might also want to visit such other online stores as www.amazon.com, and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, www.abebooks.com, or www.buteobooks.com, which specializes in ornithology books.

Birds: Choices still, unfortunately, somewhat limited for eastern Bolivia.

Clements, J. and N. Shany. 2001. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Peru*. Ibis. Despite nearby coverage, a poor book with rather limited value for Bolivia because it lacks maps. Also expensive relative to what one gets.

Dunning, J., *South American Land Birds*. Harrowood Books. 1989. (Reprinted and updated). A photographic aid to identification. Of limited usefulness.

Hilty, S.L. and W.L. Brown. *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. Still quite useful in eastern Bolivia despite Colombia coverage.

Narosky, T. and D. Yzurieta, *A Guide to the Identification of Birds of Argentina and Uruguay*. Buenos Aires: 1987. (English edition available 1991.) Useful for the chaco and adjacent areas of south-eastern Bolivia.

Peña, Martín de La, and Maurice Rumboll. 1998. *Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica*. Collins Illustrated Checklist. Harper Collins. Covers only southeast corner of Bolivia but of some use. Small and compact.

Remsen, J.V. and M.A. Taylor, *An Annotated List of the Birds of Bolivia*. Buteo Books, 1989. Good list, region by region.

Ridgely, R.S. and G. Tudor, *The Birds of South America. Volume 1. The Oscine Passerines*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1989. Good resource but too large to carry (bring plates?).

Ridgely, R. S. and G. Tudor, *The Birds of South America. Volume 2. The Suboscine Passerines*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994. Good resource but too large to carry (bring plates?).

Souza, Deodata. *All the Birds of Brazil. An Identification Guide*. Dall Publishers, (dallanor@gd.com.br), 2002. Pictures only fair but will have virtually all the species we see and the maps are quite useful. All in all a useful book for this area despite its limitations. May be difficult to find in US.

Butterflies:

D'Abbrera, B., *Butterflies of South America*. Australia: Hill House, 1984. Good pocket guide, covers many genera, nice pictures.

Mammals:

Emmons, L., *Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1990. Paperback with good pictures and excellent text.

General:

Forsyth, A. and K. Miyata, *Tropical Nature: Life and Death in the Rainforests of Central and South America*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984. Excellent introduction to tropical ecosystems; now in paperback.

Kricher, J.C., *A Neotropical Companion. An Introduction to Birds, Animals, Plants and Ecosystems of the New World Tropics*. 1989. Another good introduction to tropical ecosystems.

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