

## Mindo: Birding the West Slope of Ecuador

*October 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (6 Days)*



*Club-winged Manakin by Luis Gonzalez*

South America is the birding continent, this is something being told by just about every birdwatcher under the sun and it is a goal destination for most. Earlier this year I visited the region for the first time with a 10-day birding trip to Guyana that can only be described as unforgettable due to how close and easy it was to bird the Northern reaches of the Amazon rainforest and the Guianan Shield. However, I wanted to reach the first big milestone of every birder and pass 1,000 species before the year ended, so I booked a flight to Quito and spent 4 and a half days of hardcore birding making sure I reached that goal. Spoilers for all, since I've never been to the Andes, I reached the big number in the morning of day 2 and left the country with 235 lifers out of the 331 birds seen, the heard only list boosted the species total to 363. Obviously, in such a short time, I couldn't get all the targets of the region and I even missed some expected targets, but with seeing 40 species of Hummingbirds, 57 species of Tanager and allies, and point-blank views of 8 of the 11 Antpittas encountered throughout the trip, I can only say it was a success!

Before the detailed itinerary I would like to say that I did use a local guide for logistics, driving and bird ID for the trickier species. The man in question is Nelson Apolo from [Ecuador Nature Tours](#), he's one of the top guides in the country and one of the best catering to my birding and budgetary needs. Great hearing and seeing skills, that once again reminded me how unprepared I would have been making this trip on my own. If you are ever in the country, reach out to him, his services are worth every penny you can spend in the region.

## Detailed Itinerary:

- October 25-26 (Flight and first day in the high Andes)

I arrived at Ecuador in the middle of the night and emigration was pretty easy to get through, I even got out before my transport to the hotel arrived to pick me up! Once we met up, we took a 20 minute drive to the Zaysant Ecolodge in Puembo, which I couldn't really see much of or enjoy the amenities since we were out of there by 5AM. Thankfully, the room I got was big and cozy, the hot shower was welcomed after the flight, and if it wasn't because of an extremely high pitched frog outside my room (could have also been my excitement) I could have taken full advantage and sleep 4 hours, but instead I only got 2 before it was time to get up.

At 5, I got out of my room, met up with Nelson and began driving through Quito to reach our first birding stop on the West Slope, outside of a brief stop for coffee and noticing some garden type birds like **Great Thrush**, **Rufous-collared Sparrow** and the only **Tropical Mockingbird** of the trip, not much else was seen until our first stop on the roadside to Yanacocha. This first stop was overlooking the treeline and soon, we got great views of high elevation targets like **Pearled Treerunner**, **White-banded Tyrannulet**, **Spectacled Redstart** and **Blue-backed Conebill**. We also began my long saga of hearing but not actually seeing **Ocellated Tapaculo**.



*Sword-billed Hummingbird by Luis Gonzalez*

Moving on from the first stop, we decided to go downhill to a relatively new Reserva Zuro Loma that's notable for having the only known feeders for Chestnut-naped Antpitta in this part of

Ecuador. When arriving to the parking area, we had our boxed breakfast, which was really hard for me to enjoy since there were lifers everywhere (even in the restroom!), from there we were guided to the hummingbird feeders and while Nelson kept reminding me that we were in the low season for feeder activity as most of the birds would be foraging the fruiting flowers and trees in the forests. Nonetheless, the activity was still high from my newbie perspective, with 7 different hummingbirds IDed while sitting down, some of these included **Sapphire-vented Puffleg**, **Buff-winged Starfrontlet**, **Mountain Velvetbreast** and the iconic **Sword-billed Hummingbird** (this property was actually better to see and photograph this species compared to the more popular Yanacocha. The nearby feeders also brought in **Glossy**, **Black**, **White-sided** and **Masked Flowerpiercer**, along with **Gray-browed** and **Yellow-breasted Brushfinch**, and **Blue-capped Tanager**.

Eventually, the big show was to begin as we heard the **Chestnut-naped Antpitta** come in, we sat down and waited for a few brief moments before seeing this beauty out in the open, which offered amazing views (and pictures!) of my first member of this family. Once we had our fill of this Antpitta, we moved to one of the trails where the second Antpitta of the property came in a pair, this was the adorable **Equatorial Antpitta**, which seems to follow the idea of a ball on stilts by literally jumping all around us while waiting for the worms.



*Chestnut-naped Antpitta by Luis Gonzalez*

Outside of the feeders and the Antpittas, the property has a third attraction that requires a modest uphill hike to get to, this being a roosting White-throated Screech-Owl, sadly when we got to the site, the bird was not roosting in the area, but we did see a second **Chestnut-naped**



**Antpitta** as far away as possible from the feeding station. The owl, wasn't the only dip of the hike as we tried and got very close to seeing a calling **Undulated Antpitta**, but I would have to take my consolation prize in seeing my first member of the Cotinga family for the trip, **Red-crested**, the only views I would have of any tapaculo thanks to a slightly more indulgent **Blackish Tapaculo**, and enjoying a mobbing flock that included **Yellow-bellied** and **Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant**, **Black-crested** and **Russet-crowned Warbler**, and a trio of **Cinereous Conebills**. On the drive out, we scanned the nearby cattle pens to eventually connect with a pair of **Andean Lapwings** and the first raptor of the trip in an **American Kestrel**.



*Black-chested Mountain Tanager by Luis Gonzalez*

We arrived in Reserva Yanacocha little after 11 and while Nelson notified the staff to prepare us lunch, I enjoyed the feeder activity that included the only views of **Great Sapphirewing** and **Shining Sunbeam** for the trip. From there, we did a short walk around the Paramo area where we had a pair of singing **Grass Wren**, brief views of **Tawny Antpitta**, and the only mammal sighting of the day with an Andean Rabbit. On the fruit feeders, we also enjoyed a pair of **Black-chested Mountain Tanager** and after a delicious hot lunch, we went down the trail as the fog crept up the mountain.

The foggy trail was a fun test for someone with mild vertigo, but overall, it was more disappointing, and worrying, that we couldn't enjoy or see most of our targets. A total of 7 **Ocellated Tapaculos** were heard but none to be seen, we also briefly connected with a Tyrannulet trio in the forms of **White-banded**, **White-throated** and **Black-Capped Tyrannulet**, plus a small family of **Crowned Chat-Tyrant**. The only members of the Cracidae family were seen

as a pair of **Andean Guan** flew down the mountain in front of us, and luck would dictate that I had my bins up just as a pair of **Barred Fruiteaters** briefly flew across my view in the fog.

Eventually we arrived at our destination about 2km into the trail. This was another hummingbird feeder station, but this one was necessary to connect with **Golden-breasted Puffleg**, which rarely show up in the feeders by the entrance of the reserve. Together with this lonesome Puffleg, we also enjoyed the antics of an **Equatorial Antpitta** that was moving around our feet while foraging, a skulkier **Rufous Wren** in the understory and a size chart difference between **Buff-breasted**, **Scarlet-bellied** and **Hooded Mountain Tanager**. Eventually, the sandflies forced us to leave these feeders and we walked back towards our car with a much clearer view of the valley as the fog had dissipated.



*Golden-breasted Puffleg by Luis Gonzalez*

From there, it was a long drive towards Mindo, with roadside stops giving us views of **Short-tailed** and **Roadside Hawk**, **Black Phoebe**, **White-tipped Dove** and a small mixed flock that included my first boreal migrant in the form of **Blackburnian Warbler**, alongside some local species like **Fawn-breasted Tanager**, **Rusty-winged Barbtail**, **Golden-rumped Euphonia** and **Glossy-black Thrush**. We could hear an Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek while driving through the Tadayapa Valley, that gave us a prelude for what would come tomorrow, but today, we arrived in Mindo after enjoying a beautiful sunset, had dinner in the restaurant of choice when in town and by 9PM, I was already in bed and ready for an early start tomorrow.



- October 27 (Refugio Paz de las Aves, Tandayapa Valley and Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge)

Today was an early start, with us leaving around 4 towards what's likely the most popular birding hotspot in the whole of the Mindo area, Refugio Paz de las Aves. Normally, such an early rise isn't needed, but Nelson brought the temptation by saying we would try for owls before sunrise. The first stop was just outside of the turn to enter Mindo, and outside of the gigantic cock-of-the-rock statue, no birds were seen or heard, though we heard plenty of rain frogs, thankfully no rain.



*Lyre-tailed Nightjar by Luis Gonzalez*

From here we moved to the entrance road of Paz de las Aves in an attempt for two nocturnal specialties of the area. The first was the strictly nocturnal **Rufescent Screech-Owl**, there's a known roosting site high up on the forest next to the road and we spent about 40 minutes playing back and forth with this vocal but uncooperative for views owl. While waiting, I couldn't help but take notice of how clear the sky was and how many stars I could see in it, the lack of light pollution was a huge welcome and needless to say that I cursed my incapability to take a good shot with either my phone or camera of the view. Eventually, while Nelson was trying to switch calls to see if the owl could be coaxed into view, a brown blur flew past us and I only saw it because of luck and the spotlight hitting the right area. This was the only views we'd get from the owl, but while trying to spotlight it and find the eyes (now from the bird calling below us), I noticed a snappy flight with two long extensions following behind it, my brain short-circuited for a bit because I thought I saw seeing a Scissor or Fork-tailed Flycatcher, before I properly registered that it was a male **Lyre-tailed Nightjar**! I told Nelson to get on it and eventually the

bird perched in front of us for about 5 minutes! At this point, the sun was rising and there was a change morning chorus, so we had to hurry to reach the first attraction of this great place, in the cock-of-the-rock lek. We met with Rodrigo Paz on the way and we told him of the nightjar since there wasn't one roosting elsewhere within the property to show guests, but it turns out the bird left the perch soon after we left and nobody else saw it.

The property currently has two different leks, with normally one having a shorter walk but a much further view of the birds, so we went to the one that required a slightly longer walk, but much better views of the birds. Along the way we heard a number of cloud forest species but we stopped for none, except for a calling, male **Golden-headed Quetzal**. When we finally reached the lek, we had about 40 minutes of activity before the birds dispersed for the morning, but I doubt anyone in the group complained of seeing a dozen **Andean Cock-of-the-rock** calling and showing off at eye level, at one point, a female briefly came in and needless to say, the males got a bit too excited. While in the lek, we were hearing the whistling calls of a **Scaled Fruiteater**, which sadly did not come to show, making it my only dipped fruiteater of the trip; we also heard a **Dark-backed Wood-Quail** further down the hillside and as we got ready to go to the first lek where Angel normally feeds plantains to them, instead he told us to follow him up the trail since he was trying to get a new bird accustomed to him. This bird gave us a good 30 minutes of expectation before we got some views of it in the understory, while waiting for it however, we had great views of **Gray-breasted Wood-Wren**, **Mountain Wren** and heard a few **Plumbeous Pigeons**.



*Andean Cock-of-the-rock by Luis Gonzalez*



Once we saw the wood-quail, we began walking back to the car, which we soon realized it was easier said than done with the overwhelming activity in the forest. From the trees in the distance called **Andean Solitaire**, **Ecuadorian** and **Pale-eyed Thrush**, a small mixed flock showed us views of **Montane Woodcreeper**, **Golden-bellied Flycatcher**, **Beryl-spangled Tanager** and **Dusky Chlorospingus** among others. A female **White-booted Racket-tail** was briefly seen by me before it flew off, and it would turn out to be the only one we'd see in the property, the clear highlight however was seeing and hearing a male Club-winged Manakin doing its amazing display out in the open. When we reached a clearing, we had a flock of **Maroon-tailed Parakeet** feed in the trees while a flock of **Barred Parakeet** showed themselves as they flew above us. Eventually we got back to the car and made our first antpitta spot of the morning; the bird in question is the **Yellow-breasted Antpitta**, of which Rodrigo called in to come get their "spaghetti" (chopped worms), Nelson later told me that there was a **Crested Guan** calling in the back, but antpittas are king here.



*White-throated Daggerbill by Luis Gonzalez*

After everyone got great views and pictures, we drove to the kitchen/garden area, it was around 9, so we were all wanting the famous breakfast that's offered in Paz de las Aves, but before that, our attention was taken to the hummingbird feeders and flowers of the garden. A number of hummers could be seen here including **Fawn-breasted Brilliant**, **Lesser Violetear**, **Speckled Hummingbird** and a total of three **White-throated Daggerbills**, an uncommon visitor to the flowers within Refugio Paz de las Aves. This last bird is especially noteworthy since it was my lifer number 1,000! I got a decent shot of this milestone bird and saw an attempt of a mating display, before going inside for breakfast; but that didn't stop me from looking outside, which



resulted in taking a big gulp of milk before calling out a **Crimson-rumped Toucanet**. After finishing breakfast, I went out and relocated the bird alongside the couple of British naturalists that were doing a day visit like I was (the other participants of the day were staying within the property's new cabins).

From there, it was back to the cars and time to move to the fruit feeders. The feeders were a mixed reception, as Nelson put it, we came in the low season, most of the big feeder action occur during the wet season since the trees in the forest are not fruiting. However, a mixed reception, is still a positive one when more than half of the species are lifers, **Blue-winged Mountain Tanager**, **White-winged Brushfinch**, **Yellow-bellied Siskin**, **Orange-bellied Euphonia**, and **White-crested Eleania** were a few of the visitors. In a nearby tree, Angel pointed us to the **Black-and-white Owl** that normally perches in the feeder at night, although normally the bird roosts far away from the site. The hummingbird feeders provided a bit more variety in both color and size, with **Purple-throated Woodstar**, **Andean Emerald**, **Brown Inca**, **Empress Brilliant**, **Violet-tailed Sylph**, **Velvet-purple** and **Buff-tailed Coronet** being just a few of the visitors.

But now, it was time for the big show and the stars were the antpittas. First we went down a couple dozen steps until we were signaled to stay quiet and keep an eye out since there were two different antpittas being called. It took less than 10 minutes before we were told to move further down the stairs as the **Ochre-breasted Antpitta** was coming in, very soon I got a few glimpses of it, along with a decent shot, before we were called to go back up the steps because the **Moustached Antpitta** came in! Soon enough, I also got views and pictures of this bird before it went into the bushes and I went going back down the steps for better of the **Ochre-breasted** and hoping the other visitors could take my spot and get better views. Turns out that this was my best decision, since no sooner after I got there, a second **Moustached Antpitta** showed alongside the **Ochre-breasted Antpitta** and I got great views and photos of both species out in the open!

Now, it was time to see the bird that truly made Angel Paz a household name for any international birder, the Giant Antpitta, but before reaching that part of the trail, we were greeted with what I can only call my first proper Neotropical mixed flock. There were at least 40 different species represented on this flock, many we had already seen, but some of the new additions included **Flavescent Flycatcher**, **Ashy-headed Tyrannulet**, **Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant**, **Metallic-green Tanager**, **Black-and-white Becard**, **Red-faced Spinetail**, **Rusty-winged Barbtail**, **Three-striped Warbler** and **Capped Conebill**.

Eventually we moved away from this monster-sized gift, partially because we thought we IDed every possible bird within the flock and partially because the descendant of Maria the Giant Antpitta was finally responding. I got there as fast as I could, I sat down in the dirt and waited to see what was probably one of the most iconic birds of Ecuador, if not all of the Americas, and that without a doubt, none of us would have seen without the effort and protection of the forest that Angel Paz and his brother Rodrigo have done. Sure enough, the **Giant Antpitta** came in, it saw us, then it saw the worms, it ate a few and took the rest back into the forest, probably nesting somewhere, moment gone in a few minutes but definitely a trip highlight.



*Giant Antpitta & Orange-breasted Fruiteater by Luis Gonzalez*



After this amazing experience, we began walking back to the trail entrance, but not before we were literally greeted at arm's length by a female **Masked Trogon**. Normally, I recommend to take a camera with good zoom if you want to get any good shots of birds, but while in Ecuador, I found out that at least a third of the species I saw, I probably could have taken great ID shots just from my phone, the birds were that close at times. But, even though the Scaled Fruiteater wasn't cooperating, Nelson and Angel's nephew, eventually got into a small competition to whistle in an **Orange-breasted Fruiteater** they were hearing. Soon enough we ended with not one, but two males of this beautiful cotinga moving close to where the owl was roosting alongside a third one singing in the distance.

The final stop of the day was for the **Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** and if you were willing to hike a bit more (and pay a small fee), you would be taken to see the Ocellated Tapaculo, I personally chose to skip the tapaculo in the vain hope to see it elsewhere and instead focused on seeing the last of the five possible antpittas in the property. The views were a bit further away than the other antpittas but great nonetheless and we said goodbye to everyone before driving out. By the end of checklist tracking we had encountered exactly 100 species during our time in Paz de las Aves, marking our first century day (and hotspot) but also showing how lucky we were that morning since we did miss a few species, but all the antpittas showed well without having to spend hours as it's the case sometimes and the mixed flock was an unexpected treat that nobody can predict.

While driving through Tandayapa Valley, we made a roadside stop in hope to see pretty much any of the big targets possible in the valley, Beautiful Jay, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Toucan Barbet, you name it. Unfortunately, the best we had was a trio of female hummingbirds with **Western Emerald** being the clear standout; we opted for a roadside lunch, while attempting for Beautiful Jay, but as anyone will tell you, this species is unpredictable at best, so no luck. Eventually, we began going up the road towards Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge and made a few stops in hope of seeing the nomadic but regularly reported White-faced Nunbird and coaxing into view a calling Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl, sadly neither would be gracing us with their presence, but I did get a big target in what's likely up there among the worst views of this species, with a **Toucan Barbet** that showed us nothing but it's behind while calling about 50+ feet above us, the other highlight of the stop would probably be the fast-moving flock of **Red-billed Parrot** that at least showed a nice contrast against the blue sky.

Little past 3, we arrived at Bellavista and went directly to the feeders, the fruit feeders only had a Red-tailed Squirrel taking the last plantain pieces, but thankfully the hummingbird feeders gave us a chance to connect with **Collared Inca** and the main target of the area, **Gorgeted Sunangel**. After getting good views of both species, we went down the trail with the cooing call of a **White-throated Quail-Dove** greeting us by the compost, this compost eventually did give us views of the species on the way out, but since they had just dumped waste, there was little activity. In the length of the trails we were experiencing what can only be called as tapaculo hell for me, we had four different **Ocellated Tapaculo** and at least two **Spillmann's Tapaculo** calling loudly and boldly, some were almost next to us but none came into view. The best birds of the walk were a **Turquoise Jay** that called above us for a while but never sitting for a photo, and a pair of male **Black-and-green Fruiteater** that seemed to like the jay's style, because they did not sit still for more than a few seconds. As we walked out of the trail with mixed results, we heard

the wailing calls of a **Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan** and sure enough, we found one bird perched close to a possible nesting cavity. Words cannot describe how amazing this toucan is and sadly, the distance from the bird and lighting don't do it justice in my photos.

Feeling good after the toucan, we got on the car and made an attempt for the Tanager Finch, a bird that's neither a tanager nor a finch, but it's in fact a New World sparrow, and while it certainly sounds like the sparrows I'm familiar with, its look, behavior and preferred habitat make me think that it's anything but one. Sadly, this bird is usually seen early morning, and this time too it was no exception, we spent nearly an hour in the location this species is usually seen at, but all we got was heard only of other species I would have liked to see like **Cinnamon Flycatcher**, **Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant** and **Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush**, thankfully having open views of a male **Crested Quetzal**, is a great consolation prize, even if again, the pictures I took don't do justice to this gorgeous bird.



*Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan by Luis Gonzalez*

From there, the sun was setting and we began the long drive down the valley and back to Mindo, along the way we enjoyed a second gorgeous sunset, which in Nelson's words, doesn't happen often in the area. As luck would have it, we would get one more bird for the day in the form of a **Band-winged Nightjar** in the middle of the road, sadly the bird didn't stick around for photos, but considering that it was at a lower elevation than where it is normally seen, we were pretty happy and drove back to Mindo after a long, productive day, which after a nice dinner and a shower, made for the best sleeping medicine anyone could ask for.



- October 28 (Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary and Milpe Bird Sanctuary)

We slept in a bit today and got on the road at the late hour of 4:30AM, after a quick stop to get drinks for our boxed breakfast, we drove through the palm plantations until we eventually reached a remnant of protected forest in the Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary. This place was formerly part of a larger lowland Choco rainforest, but these days, outside of some forest by the river, this is the only proper forest habitat left in the region and it acts like an island of greenery that provides access to a fair number of Choco specialties without having to leave the Pichincha province.

The first birds to greet us were an **Orange-billed Sparrow** briefly foraging on the road and the morning calls of a wintering **Summer Tanager**, alongside the resident **Whiskered** and **Scaly-breasted Wren**. When we finally parked within the sanctuary, we noticed a bit of activity in the trees, this turned out to be my first and only mediocre views of a flock of **Yellow-throated Toucan** that were heard calling throughout all the morning. The hummingbird feeders were sparsely visited by a few species, with **White-whiskered Hermit** and **Purple-chested Hummingbird** being a lot more appealing than **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** and **Crowned Woodnymph**, but it must be said that the best bird was a **Northern Barred Woodcreeper** that flew low next to us, as this species would not be heard or seen for the rest of the day.



*Scarlet-browed Tanager by Luis Gonzalez*

The morning was overall misty and overcast, not great for photos but best scenario for bird activity, when walking the short trail to the canopy tower we heard and eventually saw **Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail**, a very uncommon resident of the region and a positive sign of how productive Rio Silanche would be this morning. The start in the tower was slow with a **Black-striped Woodcreeper** being the first bird we heard and saw for a while; eventually we were greeted by a family **Scarlet-browed Tanager**, which would turn out to be the birds we'd see most often from the tower as they kept coming back to the fruiting trees around it. From there, the skies cleared up a bit and activity ramped up until we left the tower with over 60 species seen and heard, some of the highlights included **Scarlet-breasted** and **Black-faced Dacnis**, **White-tailed** and **Blue-tailed Trogon**, a bold **Broad-billed Motmot**, flyover **Hook-billed**, **Swallow-tailed** and **Double-toothed Kite**, and small mixed flocks that included **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher**, **Choco Tyrannulet**, **Thick-billed Euphonia**, **Scarlet-rumped Cacique**, **Golden-hooded**, **Blue-necked**, **Bay-headed** and **Rufous-winged Tanager**.



*Blue-tailed Trogon by Luis Gonzalez*

Once the heat was catching up with the canopy activity, we headed back down and began walking the trails of sanctuary. Our first stop was for two non-bird sightings, first it was a very vocal Mantled Howler Monkey that had apparently set up territory in the forest, but sadly nobody to vocalize and interact with, the second is probably the most infamous of all invertebrates in South America, the Bullet Ant, we had one relaxed ant on top of a leaf that seemed like it was confused but everyone knows that touching one of these guys is the same as asking to get shot, so we left it as is. Soon after though, Nelson noticed the whistling calls of a Neotropic mega and tried playing a recording to see if it would respond; the bird not only



responded but flew into a clear branch above us and began to sing and pose for photos, honestly never thought my lifer **Lanceolated Monklet** would turn out to be this cooperative or easy to see. From there, we tried for the normally more cooperative White-whiskered Puffbird, without much luck, and we turned our attention to a mixed flock that had both canopy and understory members like **Tawny-faced Gnatwren**, **White-shouldered** and **Tawny-crested Tanager**, **Slate-colored Grosbeak**, **Striped Woodhaunter**, and **Streak-headed Woodcreeper**. Going further through the trail, we didn't encounter much for a while, but eventually we connected with a small mixed flock, but this one had some more colorful members, these included **Red-headed** and **Orange-fronted Barbet**, **Dot-winged Antwren**, and the ever-present **Bananaquit**.



*Black-faced Dacnis by Luis Gonzalez*

Arriving back to the car, we decided to walk the road leading to an open agricultural area, this gave us a chance to see more open country species and see the results of human encroachment to the sanctuary. During the walk through the forested area, we saw Band-tailed Barbthroat foraging on heliconias and a Snowy-throated Kingbird calling from a high perch. Several coastal Ecuador/Tumbes specialties that have been spreading north were seen, including **Pacific Parrotlet**, **Masked Water-Tyrant**, **Scrub Blackbird** and **Violet-bellied Hummingbird** were seen; and a Pygmy-Owl recording later, a mobbing flock comprised of some of the birds listed before and a few new ones like **House Wren**, **White-lored Gnatcatcher**, **Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet** and a **Western Wood-Pewee** came boldly calling before being scattered by an incoming party of nearly 20 **Smooth-billed Ani**. While hoping for something new to appear, we

noticed a pair of **Ruddy Pigeon** in a small tree that would soon be the center stage for a calling **Striped Cuckoo**.

By this time, it was past 1 and we decided to go back to the car and start driving towards our well-deserved lunch. Unsurprisingly, Rio Silanche still had more to give, since we would encounter another mixed flock with **Guira Tanager** and **Sooty-headed Tyrannulet** thrown in for variety and two separate roadside stops gave us views of a trio of calling **Barred Puffbird** and a pair of **Choco Toucan**. We arrived at the restaurant for lunch after 2:30 and while enjoying the great food and fresh juice, I noticed, and soon after we were able to add one of our missing targets from the open habitat in the form of **Pale-legged Hornero**.

Our final stop for the day is the beautiful Milpe Bird Sanctuary, normally this would have been our stop for the last morning of the trip, but we chose to change things around since we were in the area. The hummingbird feeders had a lot of activity with a female **Purple-bibbed Whitetip** being a clear standout, but seeing **Green-crowned Brilliant**, **Green Thorntail**, and, finally connecting with, **White-necked Jacobin**, was a great experience on these feeders. From there, we began to walk the trails and were soon greeted by a **Speckled Nightingale-Thrush** out in the open; from here, things would get more interesting and frustrating. As previously mentioned, Milpe is beautiful, it honestly feels like you are walking through a fairytale forest with the steps that are covered with dirt and greenery making it all, including the few manmade aspects in the trail, to be a natural part of the forest, however, Milpe also has some amazing foothill forest in which the tree canopy is on average 50+ feet above our heads, combine this with either blaring sunlight and you can imagine how I felt about not being able to enjoy the mixed flock that was foraging above us. Birds could still be seen, but it was likely that we only saw about 40% of the species in the flock and heard a further 20% before calling it quits for the sake of our necks and eyesight, some of the picked up species included **Lineated** and **Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner**, **Cinnamon Becard**, **Tawny-breasted Flycatcher**, **Yellow-throated Chlorospingus**, and **Gray-and-gold Tanager**, we also heard **Ruddy Foliage-gleaner**, **Ecuadorian Thrush**, and **Yellow-collared Chlorophonia**. Of course, no trip to the Neotropics would be complete without a staple heard only tinamou, and the bird for this trip is of course the **Little Tinamou**, which in the words of bird guide for sanctuary: "you will have an easier time seeing Berlepsch's Tinamou in Rio Silanche than seeing a Little Tinamou in Milpe".

Eventually we moved towards the active nest of a Golden-winged Manakin, but sadly the bird was nowhere to be seen, the consolation prize we got was an **Ochre-breasted Antpitta** and a quick flush of a **Pallid Dove**. We went to the bird hide in hopes that maybe the corn placed down would attract a Pallid Dove or two, but the only sightings were a cute **Orange-billed Sparrow** and a hungry Central American Agouti. Eventually got back to the car as the sun was setting and while Nelson was taking a bathroom break, I got views and a decent shot of a **Silver-throated Tanager** and outline views in the bushes of a **Dusky-faced Tanager**. We took a short drive back to Mindo and similar to the previous nights, I was in bed by 9 and getting ready for another early start tomorrow.





*White-whiskered Hermit & Lanceolated Monklet by Luis Gonzalez*

- October 29 (Reserva Amagusa and Guayabillas Road)

Today was our last full of birding and I can only say that the universe seemed to align to make sure we got as many mega targets as possible. As we were driving through the dark to area of Reserva Amagusa, which is within the greater Mashpi protected region, I made the comment/hope to see Black Solitaire, a beautiful thrush of the cloud-forests of the Choco ecoregion. Nelson mentioned that we were at the right time of year for the species to be seen around this elevation and almost as if to prove his point, the first bird we saw that day was a **Black Solitaire** foraging across the open road. The lighting left a bit to be desired for photos, but the fact that we saw this amazing bird as our first one of the day was only a glimpse of what was to come.



*Black Solitaire by Luis Gonzalez*

From there, we drove past Reserva Amagusa, which doesn't open until 8 or so, and instead turned our attention to some of the fruiting trees and moth light close to the Mashpi Lodge. To say that the trees and surrounding area were lit up with colorful birds like Christmas lights would be an understatement. We began with some insectivores in the forms of **Rufous Motmot**, **Esmeraldas** and **Zeledon's Antbird**, **Streak-capped Treehunter**, **Spotted Barbtail** and the first of many **Ornate Flycatcher**. My trip nemesis bird in the lower elevations up to this point was the Bay Wren, we've heard so much that I was sure that this bird and Ocellated Tapaculo would haunt my dreams for weeks to come, sadly it would remain a heard only for now, but the morning chorus also had some amazing members here, a few of which would remain heard only for me, **Club-winged Manakin**, **Plain-backed Antpitta**, **Rufous-breasted Antthrush**, and **Toucan**

**Barbet** were among them. Over the skies, a group of **White-collared Swift** were briefly joined by flocks of **Bronze-winged Parrot** and **Maroon-tailed Parakeet**.

But as the sun properly rose and the light hit the trees, the frugivores and small mixed flocks came in, first it was a warbler quarter, with **Choco** and **Buff-rumped Warbler** feeding low, while **Tropical Parula** and **Slate-throated Redstart** went high, then came the tanagers with **Swallow**, **Golden** and **Beryl-spangled Tanager** seen particularly well. Finally, we had the becards, **Barred**, **Black-and-white** and **Cinnamon Becard** called as they foraged through, but in all this madness looking high, I took a moment to look down in hope of seeing the calling Bay Wren, only to have an **Olive Finch** literally feeding between our feet! Once the **Olive Finch** left our side, we looked back up and noticed that **Brown-capped** and **Chivi Vireo** took residence in the tree, and not long after I heard Nelson scream the most happily he had all trip, there was a **Choco Vireo** in the mixed flock. Normally this would be enough to make any birder in the Choco happy, but things got better as the bird stayed relatively still for photos and when we were both photographing the bird, we realized that we were looking at two different individuals! So not only did we have one of the rarest possible endemics of the region in our view, which Nelson said he could count in his hands how many times he's seen this species, we had a pair, which he said it was a first for him, how good was that?

Eventually, the fog from the cloud-forest began to roll in, taking away the sun, but that was fine as it was time to slowly walk towards Amagusa. However, it cannot be stressed how good the fruiting trees were, even though we were mostly in the same area, since we had so much activity around, we ended up walking about a kilometer just to see everything the trees were showing us. On the road to Amagusa we encountered our first **Indigo Flowerpiercer**, a **Green-fronted Lancebill** close to its nest, and a pair of **Olive-crowned Yellowthroat** in the cattle pen of someone's home. Once in the reserve, we had eye-level views of a quartet of **Rose-faced Parrot** feeding on plantains, these I can only say are now among my favorite parrots just from how gorgeous they are and how good the pictures I took of them came out. When it was finally time for the feeder action, we passed by the hummingbird feeders first and I could finally see why this was considered the low season, there were hummingbirds, but the number and variety was low compared to the videos I've seen of the reserve online. After confirming the hummers were species we've already seen previously like **Velvet-purple Coronet**, **Green-crowned** and **Empress Brilliant**; we moved on to where the fruit feeders and right away we were shown something uncommon but very welcomed. Nelson heard the aggressive calls of a few hummingbirds, which isn't uncommon in feeders, but it's rare away from them since usually you don't have 3 different species fighting at the same time, turns out there was a good reason for this odd behavior, and it was none other than a **Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl** that was perched on an open branch at eye-level! This is probably one of the birds we had tried the hardest for on a few days, the afternoon in Bellavista was literally alternating the recording between this and the nunbird in hopes that either species would appear, simply put, they did not, which made this up-close view of this little owl that much more amazing.





*Choco Vireo & Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl by Luis Gonzalez*

Once the owl had enough of the hummers, and we got great shots, the bird flew off and we turned our attention to the feeders. Since we were the first guests of the day, Nelson had the honor of putting the plantains and then we waited for the birds to fly in. It was a slow trickle with a few bumps in the form of a pair of **Crimson-rumped Toucanet**, which seemed to enjoy tossing the plantains out of the feeder area to the floor and scaring the smaller birds away. Eventually, things picked up, first with the ever-present **Flame-rumped Tanager**, but soon there was a carousel of other species coming through like **Black-chinned Mountain Tanager**, **Flame-faced**, **Moss-backed**, **Glistening-green** and **Rufous-throated Tanager**, and **Orange-bellied Euphonia** to name a few. The surrounding bushes finally gave me proper views of a **Bay Wren** and we even had a female **Orange-breasted Fruiteater** call above our heads.



*Glistening-green Tanager by Luis Gonzalez*

We had our fill of the feeders, so headed back out to the road, in hopes of connecting with a mixed flock and a few target species. The target species in question is the hummingbird with Velociraptor claw-like bill (eBird description not mine), the White-tipped Sicklebill, this area is great for this species as there are a couple dozen heliconia just growing on the side of the road. Sadly, our luck was not shining for this little guy, as today turned out to be the day that Mashpi Lodge would have someone trim the roadside vegetation with a loud weedwhacker...To make matters less appetizing, we could hear mixed flocks down in the forested valley, but we were simply too high up for them to respond or even care for our attempts to bring them in. We still connected with a few new species like **Tricolored Brushfinch**, **Slaty Spinetail** and the tiny **Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant** (whose name is probably longer than the bird). By 11:30 we



called it for the Amagusa area and drove out towards a roadside restaurant at the entrance of our hotspot for the afternoon.

We arrived at Sacha Guatusa Reserva Natural around 12, this is probably the only stop in our trip that's not a well-known birding destination in the Mindo circuit, but one that will become, at least for the local birders, one of the best places to see Choco endemics in the years to follow. The property mostly offers space for overnight camping with toilets and showers readily available. Add to that the opportunity of having fresh oven-baked pizza, coffee, and tea at a request ahead of time and that would be appetizing to any budget birder. However, the biggest appeal of the property is the newly made nature trail that went through the forested hillside, we were literally the first birders to use this trail. This forest has likely not been cut down in decades, bar a few select trees that were illegally taken against the owners wishes, the result of this, is some prime habitat that in previous years, bird surveys in the area, such as CBCs literally found Banded Ground-Cuckoo, Baudo Guan, Purple Quail-Dove and other highly sought-after species in the area.



*Black-chinned Mountain Tanager by Luis Gonzalez*

Sadly, we didn't have an amazing encounter with any of these species, though we tried for them, instead we heard the spaceship-like calls of the **Wattled Guan** and had a loose lek of **White-bearded Manakin** close to the entrance. The mixed canopy flocks included **Rufous-rumped Antwren**, **Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner**, **Choco Tyrannulet**, **Ochre-breasted** and **White-winged Tanager**, and **Choco Warbler**; while in the understory, **Chestnut-backed** and **Zeledon's Antbird**, **Striped Woodhaunter**, and **Ochre-breast Antpitta** could be



seen. Outside of birds, we also had a Central American Agouti run away from us (this is the mascot of the reserve, so you know they are there) and several frogs and invertebrates were also seen. The trail was tricky to get through at times, we were literally padding down the soil as we passed through, but eventually it leads to a beautiful waterfall if you are interested in that, but we opted to go back to the car instead. The roadside birding was equally productive with **Blue-chested** and **Purple-chested Hummingbird** showing side-by-side comparisons and **Dusky-faced Tanager** being slightly more cooperative than the previous evening.

Finally, we moved to driving and birding along the Guayabillas road, and this could easily be the most productive birding road I've ever been on, early morning here is like being a kid in a candy store but seeing over 60 species under 3 hours is not too bad for an afternoon drive. The road is overall begins in prime foothill forest habitat and it slowly winds its way until reaching areas that overlook the Mashpi protected region and some cattle farms. On the forested areas, the quality of what you can find depends on your luck with encountering a mixed flock, which we were able to connect with a few and gave us some mouth-watering targets like **Brown-billed Scythebill**, **Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner**, **Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo**, **Yellow-green** and **Scarlet-and-white Tanager**.



*Black-tipped Cotinga by Luis Gonzalez*

The more open areas gave us views of **Purple-crowned Fairy**, **Choco** and **Yellow-throated Toucan**, and **Rusty-margined Flycatcher**, at one point I heard an odd barking call outside the car and this would turn out to be a **Barred Forest-Falcon**, in the prospect of a lifer, I asked if it was possible to call it in since it flew past us even when we were right next to it, and Nelson tried but

said there's no guarantee it will respond. Turns out the falcon did respond so well in fact that we ended up with two individuals calling on either side of the road and we even got to see them fly across it at one point.

After the falcon encounter, we finally drove out of the mostly forested area and had a clear overlook of the Mashpi area, this area is important for scoping certain canopy species on clear days, and while our view was a bit foggy when we arrived, it was still clear enough for me to find our target **Black-tipped Cotinga** before Nelson even had a chance to set the scope up. This one was one of my top targets for the region due to my love for the cotinga family, and although the bird was a couple miles away, the contrast of white with the dark green canopy made it stand out and it was incredible to see it via the scope once it was set up. At one point we did get questioned by the local farmers asking if we were private contractors looking to survey their property against their wishes, but when we made it clear that we were looking at the paloma blanca (local name for the cotinga, if you know Spanish this name makes you chuckle a bit) and we were left to our devices. In the more open habitat, we tried again to play a pygmy-owl call and the response was big, in both size and variety, **Squirrel Cuckoo**, **Chivi Vireo**, **Pacific Antwren**, **Golden-hooded** and **Blue-necked tanager**, **Black-faced Dacnis**, and **Red-rumped Woodpecker** were all responding to the potential predator.



*Rose-faced Parrot by Luis Gonzalez*

As the sun was setting, we also got great views of **Rose-faced** and **Bronze-winged Parrot**, I failed again in my attempts to photograph a toucan, and while driving out, we made a stop close to a puddle by the road to see what would appear, this would mostly be seedeaters in the forms

of **Thick-billed Seed-Finch** and **Variable Seedeater** along with both **Black-winged** and **Buff-throated Saltator**. We drove back to Mindo as the sun was setting, and we made brief stop to get some fruits to snack on, I tried salak palm which was fun both because of the outside texture and the chewy, mildly sweet flavor of the fruit (it was like eating apple-flavored gum because of all the chewing I had to do). Once we reached Mindo, we had the farewell dinner and went to sleep early to prepare for the last morning in the country.

- October 30 (Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge and Departure)

The original plan for the last day was for us to visit Milpe, however, since we already visited the site earlier in the trip; Nelson said we should get a little payback on Bellavista and the road leading up to it for the many targets we missed. This was fine with me and we were out on the road up to Bellavista around 4 in the morning to get a few nocturnal species. The first target we had was the **Swallow-tailed Nightjar**, which is a buffy version of the lower elevation Lyre-tailed Nightjar. As we neared the site to try for them, we did briefly see a female of this species crossing the road and we connected again with the **Band-winged Nightjar**; once we reached the site, we did a bit of bushwhacking as there was a quarry where Nelson has better luck with this species and sure enough, in less than 5 minutes, we had a male fly in front of us showing the long tail feathers that gave the species its name. From there we attempted to see if any other nocturnal species would show up, but we mostly got replies from **Rufescent Screech-Owl** and a pair of **Andean Pygmy-Owl**. Eventually, we did get views of a new bird in the form of **Rufous-bellied Nighthawk** and for a brief moment, we even had an **Oilbird** calling above us! Sadly, it was not meant to be as the bird quickly moved on, and this will be a species I will have to connect with in a different trip.

As the sun rose, we moved to the section of the road that is best location to connect with the Tanager Finch, but sadly the bird was not cooperating when we arrived, but the lifer bonanza continued to pay off, with **Streaked Tuftedcheek**, **Flammulated Treehunter** appearing just as the sun rose for the first views. From there, we connected with a wintering **Broad-winged Hawk**, before hearing the same birds we didn't see last time like **Cinnamon Flycatcher** and **Chestnut-bellied Chat-Tyrant**, we also connected with a **Speckle-faced Parrot** high on the distant canopy and in the trees nearby, we also saw a pair of **Powerful Woodpecker**. Overall, we had spent a successful hour in the area, even if our main target just didn't wish to even call, walking back to the car we connected with one of the non-avian targets of the cloud forest in the form of a Giant Earthworm, and while it seemed like it could get bigger, the one we saw could easily have been used as bait to go fishing for sharks!





*Giant Earthworm & Tanager Finch by Luis Gonzalez*

After calling it a dip, we moved down the road and no less than 100 meters from where we spent the last hour, there was a very vocal pair of **Tanager Finch** that even stuck around enough for pictures. This was honestly the best we could hope for and eventually we moved on to Bellavista with big smiles on our faces since the revenge visit was giving back to us all of the big targets we'd missed so far. However, that doesn't mean the original afternoon visit wasn't worthwhile, as we would notice when reaching Bellavista that a number of our seen species that day were not around, including the White-throated Quail-Dove and the Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan.



*White-faced Nunbird by Luis Gonzalez*

The hummingbird feeders also had a bit less activity and variety compared to the last visit, but in its place, the trees had some larger species cooperating for great views and photos. The first of this was none other than our second big target for the morning, the **White-faced Nunbird**, as it was obvious to us before, this species is unpredictable and throughout most of its range it is considered nomadic, but here in Bellavista, just as Nelson was about to blast the recording in hope for the birds to at least call back, I had to quickly stop him because there was a pair of them looking at us in perfect morning light! We got to enjoy these beauties for a few minutes as they called and foraged around us, catching some huge insects and gulping them without a care in the world. Walking through the trail, we were once again greeted with the calls of **Spillmann's** and **Ocellated Tapaculo**, but sadly neither species would be seen, we also heard a **Wattled Guan** from further down the valley and it was clear that these species would be going to my heard only list for this trip. Not all was lost though; we did get proper views of **Chestnut-capped**



**Brushfinch** and **Tyrannine Woodcreeper**, both of these species surprised me as we had missed them until now, but better late than never. The great views continued, this time with close views of a male and female **Golden-headed Quetzal** and a hardworking **Masked Trogon** that was doing all in his power to feed a hungry chick while we enjoyed our breakfast.



*Masked Trogon by Luis Gonzalez*

Time was running out, so the drive down the mountain began, making several stops along the way in hopes to connect with a Beautiful Jay or two, but this though specialty of the Tandayapa Valley would not grace us with its presence. Instead, we made a stop overlooking the valley that gave us a chance to connect with three new species in the forms of **Spot-fronted Swift**, **Black-capped Tanager** and a soaring pair of **Barred Hawk**.

No more birds were seen or stopped for until reaching Quito, although it was nice to at least see the “Ciudad Mitad del Mundo” (Middle of the World City) which is where the mark for the equator line is; however, I give quotations with good reason as the actual equator line lies 240m North of the marked attraction, nonetheless, it looked like a beautiful park that I would have properly checked out if I had more time.

Since we arrived at the airport around 11, and my flight didn’t leave for a few hours, we made a quick stop at the airport pond to add a few more species to the trip list and my life list, even if the views were mediocre at best. From the lifer side, I added **Yellow-billed Pintail**, **Slate-colored Coot**, and **Harris’s Hawk**, which brought the lifer total to 235, but we also added some widespread species that I can see within an hour’s drive of my home depending on the time of



year, including **Great** and **Snowy Egret**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Neotropic Cormorant** and **Vermilion Flycatcher**.

I said goodbye to Nelson and thanked him for everything once again, passed through immigration with no issues and waited for my flight to departure. Thankfully the flight left without delays and by 9PM local time, I was already at home and talking about the trip with my family. Great views, great birds, great experience and one country that I'll definitely return to and check out the spots I missed/had to skip over this time around.



*View of the Tandayapa Valley by Luis Gonzalez*

**Bird List:**

	<b>Species</b>	<b>First Seen/Heard</b>
1	Little Tinamou (HO)	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
2	Yellow-billed Pintail (South American)	Quito airport pond
3	Andean Guan	Reserva Yanacocha
4	Crested Guan (HO)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
5	Wattled Guan (HO)	Sacha Guatusa Nature Reserve
6	Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
7	Dark-backed Wood-Quail	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
8	Pied-billed Grebe	Quito airport pond
9	Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	Quito airport pond
10	Band-tailed Pigeon (White-necked)	Ecoruta El Quinde
11	Plumbeous Pigeon	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
12	Ruddy Pigeon (Berlepsch's)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
13	White-tipped Dove (decolor)	Roadside stop to Mindo
14	Pallid Dove	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
15	White-throated Quail-Dove	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
16	Eared Dove	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
17	Smooth-billed Ani	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
18	Striped Cuckoo	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
19	Squirrel Cuckoo (nigricrissa)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
20	Rufous-bellied Nighthawk	Ecoruta (Nono-Mindo road), Bellavista<->San Tadeo
21	Band-winged Nightjar (Rufous-naped)	Via a Santa Rosa, Pichincha
22	Swallow-tailed Nightjar	Ecoruta (Nono-Mindo road), Bellavista<->San Tadeo
23	Lyre-tailed Nightjar	Nanegalito--road to Refugio Paz de las Aves
24	Oilbird (HO)	Ecoruta (Nono-Mindo road), Bellavista<->San Tadeo
25	Spot-fronted Swift	Ecoruta El Quinde
26	Chestnut-collared Swift	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
27	White-collared Swift	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
28	Gray-rumped Swift (occidentalis)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
29	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
30	White-necked Jacobin	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
31	Band-tailed Barbthroat	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
32	White-whiskered Hermit	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
33	Tawny-bellied Hermit	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
34	Green-fronted Lancebill	Reserva Amagusa
35	White-throated Daggerbill	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
36	Sparkling Violetear	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)

37	Lesser Violetear (Andean)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
38	Purple-crowned Fairy	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
39	Gorgeted Sunangel	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
40	Green Thorntail	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
41	Speckled Hummingbird (maculata)	Reserva Zuro Loma
42	Violet-tailed Sylph	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
43	Black-tailed Trainbearer	Reserva Zuro Loma
44	Tyrian Metaltail (Tyrian)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
45	Sapphire-vented Puffleg (Sapphire-vented)	Reserva Zuro Loma
46	Golden-breasted Puffleg	Reserva Yanacocha
47	Shining Sunbeam	Reserva Yanacocha
48	Brown Inca	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
49	Collared Inca (Collared)	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
50	Buff-winged Starfrontlet	Reserva Zuro Loma
51	Mountain Velvetbreast	Reserva Zuro Loma
52	Sword-billed Hummingbird	Reserva Zuro Loma
53	Great Sapphirewing	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
54	Buff-tailed Coronet	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
55	Velvet-purple Coronet	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
56	White-booted Racket-tail	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
57	Purple-bibbed Whitetip	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
58	Fawn-breasted Brilliant	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
59	Green-crowned Brilliant	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
60	Empress Brilliant	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
61	Purple-collared Woodstar	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
62	Purple-throated Woodstar	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
63	Western Emerald	Ecoruta El Quinde
64	Crowned Woodnymph (Green-crowned)	Ecoruta El Quinde
65	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (Rufous-tailed)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
66	Andean Emerald	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
67	Purple-chested Hummingbird	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
68	Blue-chested Hummingbird	Sacha Guatusa Nature Reserve
69	Violet-bellied Hummingbird	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
70	Slate-colored Coot	Quito airport pond
71	Andean Lapwing	Atajo/Shortcut from Yanacocha to Quito-Nono road
72	Greater Yellowlegs	Quito airport pond
73	Lesser Yellowlegs	Quito airport pond
74	Neotropic Cormorant	Quito airport pond



75	Great Egret (American)	Quito airport pond
76	Snowy Egret	Quito airport pond
77	Cattle Egret (Western)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
78	Black Vulture	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
79	Turkey Vulture (South Temperate)	Atajo/Shortcut from Yanacocha to Quito-Nono road
80	Hook-billed Kite (Hook-billed)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
81	Swallow-tailed Kite	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
82	Double-toothed Kite	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
83	White-rumped Hawk (HO)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
84	Barred Hawk	Ecoruta El Quinde
85	Roadside Hawk (Northern)	Ruta Tandayapa
86	Harris's Hawk	Quito airport pond
87	Broad-winged Hawk (Northern)	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
88	Short-tailed Hawk	Atajo/Shortcut from Yanacocha to Quito-Nono road
89	Rufescent Screech-Owl (Colombian)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
90	Andean Pygmy-Owl (HO)	Ecoruta (Nono-Mindo road), Bellavista<->San Tadeo
91	Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
92	Black-and-white Owl	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
93	Golden-headed Quetzal	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
94	Crested Quetzal	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
95	Blue-tailed Trogon	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
96	White-tailed Trogon	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
97	Masked Trogon	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
98	Collared Trogon (Collared) (HO)	Reserva Amagusa
99	Rufous Motmot	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
100	Broad-billed Motmot (Broad-billed)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
101	Barred Puffbird	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
102	Lanceolated Monklet	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
103	White-faced Nunbird	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
104	Orange-fronted Barbet	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
105	Red-headed Barbet	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
106	Toucan Barbet	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
107	Collared Aracari (Pale-mandibled) (HO)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
108	Crimson-rumped Toucanet	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
109	Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
110	Yellow-throated Toucan (Chestnut-mandibled)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
111	Choco Toucan	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary

112	Black-cheeked Woodpecker	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
113	Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (HO)	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
114	Smoky-brown Woodpecker	Roadside stop to Mindo
115	Red-rumped Woodpecker	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
116	Powerful Woodpecker	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
117	Lineated Woodpecker (Dusky-winged)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
118	Cinnamon Woodpecker	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
119	Golden-olive Woodpecker (rubripileus)	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
120	Barred Forest-Falcon	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
121	American Kestrel (South American)	Atajo/Shortcut from Yanacocha to Quito-Nono road
122	Bat Falcon	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
123	Barred Parakeet	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
124	Rose-faced Parrot	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
125	Red-billed Parrot	Ecoruta El Quinde
126	Speckle-faced Parrot (White-capped)	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
127	Blue-headed Parrot (Blue-headed)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
128	Bronze-winged Parrot	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
129	Pacific Parrotlet	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
130	Maroon-tailed Parakeet (Choco)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
131	Rufous-rumped Antwren	Sacha Guatusa Nature Reserve
132	Slaty Antwren (HO)	Reserva Amagusa
133	Russet Antshrike (Russet & Tawny)	Milpe Bird Sanctuary & Sacha Guatusa Nature Reserve
134	Checker-throated Stipplethroat	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
135	Pacific Antwren	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
136	White-flanked Antwren (White-flanked)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
137	Dot-winged Antwren (Boucard's)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
138	Chestnut-backed Antbird (Short-tailed)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
139	Esmeraldas Antbird	Reserva Amagusa
140	Zeledon's Antbird (Choco)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
141	Giant Antpitta	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
142	Undulated Antpitta (HO)	Reserva Zuro Loma
143	Moustached Antpitta	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
144	Scaled Antpitta (regulus/carmelitae) (HO)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
145	Plain-backed Antpitta (HO)	Reserva Amagusa

146	Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	Reserva Zuro Loma
147	Chestnut-naped Antpitta	Reserva Zuro Loma
148	Yellow-breasted Antpitta	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
149	Equatorial Antpitta	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
150	Tawny Antpitta (Western)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
151	Ochre-breasted Antpitta	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
152	Ocellated Tapaculo (HO)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
153	Ash-colored Tapaculo (HO)	Reserva Yanacocha
154	Blackish Tapaculo (Blackish	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
155	Nariño Tapaculo (HO)	Roadside stop to Mindo
156	Spillmann's Tapaculo (HO)	Roadside stop to Mindo
157	Rufous-breasted Antthrush (HO)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
158	Tyrannine Woodcreeper	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
159	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (pectoralis Group)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
160	Northern Barred-Woodcreeper (Western)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
161	Strong-billed Woodcreeper (Andean/Northern) (HO)	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
162	Black-striped Woodcreeper	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
163	Spotted Woodcreeper (Berlepsch's)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
164	Brown-billed Scythebill	Reserva Amagusa
165	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
166	Montane Woodcreeper	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
167	Streaked Tuftedcheek	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
168	Rusty-winged Barbtail	Roadside stop to Mindo
169	Pale-legged Hornero (Pacific)	Restaurante El Borojo
170	Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (Spot-breasted)	Sacha Guatusa Nature Reserve
171	Lineated Foliage-gleaner	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
172	Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
173	Ruddy Foliage-gleaner (Black- tailed) HO	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
174	Flammulated Treehunter	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
175	Streak-capped Treehunter	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
176	Striped Woodhaunter (Central American)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
177	Spotted Barbtail	Reserva Amagusa
178	Pearled Treerunner	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
179	White-browed Spinetail (gularis)	Reserva Zuro Loma
180	Red-faced Spinetail	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
181	Slaty Spinetail	Reserva Amagusa



182	Azara's Spinetail	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
183	White-bearded Manakin	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
184	Club-winged Manakin	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
185	Scaled Fruiteater (HO)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
186	Green-and-black Fruiteater (Green-and-black)	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
187	Barred Fruiteater	Reserva Yanacocha
188	Orange-breasted Fruiteater	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
189	Red-crested Cotinga	Reserva Zuro Loma
190	Andean Cock-of-the-rock	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
191	Purple-throated Fruitcrow	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
192	Black-tipped Cotinga	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
193	Masked Tityra	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
194	Barred Becard	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
195	Cinnamon Becard	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
196	Black-and-white Becard	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
197	Tawny-breasted Flycatcher	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
198	Slaty-capped Flycatcher (transandinus)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
199	Cinnamon Flycatcher (Andean) (HO)	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
200	Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
201	Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant (annectens/berlepschii)	Reserva Amagusa
202	Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
203	Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	Ecoruta El Quinde
204	Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant (HO)	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
205	Common Tody-Flycatcher (sclateri)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
206	Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
207	Ornate Flycatcher (Western)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
208	Brown-capped Tyrannulet	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
209	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (Southern)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
210	White-tailed Tyrannulet	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
211	White-banded Tyrannulet	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
212	White-throated Tyrannulet	Reserva Yanacocha
213	Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
214	White-crested Elaenia (White-crested)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
215	Sooty-headed Tyrannulet	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
216	Black-capped Tyrannulet	Reserva Yanacocha

217	Ashy-headed Tyrannulet	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
218	Choco Tyrannulet	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
219	Flavescent Flycatcher	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
220	Smoke-colored Pewee	Roadside stop to Mindo
221	Western Wood-Pewee	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
222	Black Phoebe (White-winged)	Roadside stop to Mindo
223	Vermilion Flycatcher (obscurus Group)	Quito airport pond
224	Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
225	Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant	Reserva Zuro Loma
226	Masked Water-Tyrant	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
227	Crowned Chat-Tyrant (Crowned)	Reserva Yanacocha
228	Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant	Reserva Zuro Loma
229	Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	Reserva Zuro Loma
230	Chestnut-bellied Chat-Tyrant (HO)	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindó Cloudforest Foundation)
231	Dusky-capped Flycatcher (nigriceps/atriceps)	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
232	Boat-billed Flycatcher (Tumbes)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
233	Rusty-margined Flycatcher	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
234	Golden-bellied Flycatcher	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
235	Streaked Flycatcher (Northern)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
236	Piratic Flycatcher	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
237	Snowy-throated Kingbird	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
238	Tropical Kingbird	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
239	Black-billed Peppershrike (HO)	Reserva Amagusa
240	Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo (Pale-legged)	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
241	Lesser Greenlet (Gray-headed)	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
242	Choco Vireo	Reserva Amagusa
243	Brown-capped Vireo	Roadside stop to Mindo
244	Chivi Vireo (resident)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
245	Turquoise Jay	Reserva Zuro Loma
246	Blue-and-white Swallow (cyanoleuca)	Roadside stop to Mindo
247	White-thighed Swallow	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
248	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
249	Gray-breasted Martin	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
250	Tawny-faced Gnatwren	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
251	White-browed Gnatcatcher	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
252	Plain-tailed Wren (Plain-tailed) (HO)	Reserva Zuro Loma
253	House Wren (Southern)	Roadside stop to Mindo

254	Mountain Wren	Roadside stop to Mindo
255	Grass Wren (Paramo)	Reserva Yanacocha
256	Scaly-breasted Wren (Scaly) (HO)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
257	Whiskered Wren (HO)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
258	Bay Wren (South American)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
259	Rufous Wren	Reserva Yanacocha
260	Sharpe's Wren	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
261	Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (Andean & Choco)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve & Sacha Guatusa Nature Reserve
262	Tropical Mockingbird (Tropical)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
263	Andean Solitaire (plumbeiceps)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
264	Speckled Nightingale-Thrush	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
265	Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (Slaty-backed) (HO)	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
266	Swainson's Thrush (Olive-backed)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
267	Black Solitaire	Reserva Amagusa
268	Great Thrush	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
269	Glossy-black Thrush	Roadside stop to Mindo
270	Ecuadorian Thrush (HO)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
271	Pale-eyed Thrush (HO)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
272	Yellow-collared Chlorophonia (HO)	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
273	Golden-rumped Euphonia	Roadside stop to Mindo
274	Thick-billed Euphonia (Thick-billed)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
275	Orange-bellied Euphonia	Roadside stop to Mindo
276	Yellow-bellied Siskin	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
277	Tanager Finch	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
278	Yellow-throated Chlorospingus (Yellow-throated)	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
279	Dusky Chlorospingus	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
280	Black-striped Sparrow	Reserva Amagusa
281	Gray-browed Brushfinch	Reserva Zuro Loma
282	Orange-billed Sparrow (aurantiirrostris Group)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
283	Chestnut-capped Brushfinch (Chestnut-capped)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
284	Olive Finch	Reserva Amagusa
285	Rufous-collared Sparrow (Rufous-collared)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
286	Tricolored Brushfinch (Choco)	Reserva Amagusa
287	Yellow-breasted Brushfinch (Yellow-breasted)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve



288	White-winged Brushfinch (White-winged)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
289	Scarlet-rumped Cacique (Pacific)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
290	Shiny Cowbird	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
291	Scrub Blackbird	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
292	Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (Olive-crowned)	Reserva Amagusa
293	Tropical Parula (South American)	Roadside stop to Mindo
294	Blackburnian Warbler	Roadside stop to Mindo
295	Blackpoll Warbler	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
296	Three-striped Warbler (daedalus)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
297	Black-crested Warbler	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
298	Buff-rumped Warbler	Reserva Amagusa
299	Choco Warbler	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
300	Russet-crowned Warbler	Reserva Zuro Loma
301	Slate-throated Redstart	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
302	Spectacled Redstart	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
303	Dusky-faced Tanager	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
304	Summer Tanager	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
305	White-winged Tanager	Sacha Guatusa Nature Reserve
306	Ochre-breasted Tanager	Sacha Guatusa Nature Reserve
307	Black-eared Hemispingus (Western)	Roadside stop to Mindo
308	Superciliaried Hemispingus (Superciliaried)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
309	White-shouldered Tanager	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
310	Tawny-crested Tanager	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
311	Flame-rumped Tanager (Lemon-rumped)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
312	Moss-backed Tanager	Reserva Amagusa
313	Yellow-green Tanager	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
314	Hooded Mountain Tanager	Reserva Yanacocha
315	Blue-capped Tanager	Reserva Zuro Loma
316	Grass-green Tanager	Reserva Oreothraupis (Mindo Cloudforest Foundation)
317	Black-chested Mountain Tanager	Reserva Yanacocha
318	Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager (Scarlet-bellied)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
319	Blue-winged Mountain Tanager (Blue-winged)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
320	Black-chinned Mountain Tanager	Reserva Amagusa
321	Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager (Buff-breasted)	Reserva Yanacocha
322	Fawn-breasted Tanager	Roadside stop to Mindo

323	Glistening-green Tanager	Reserva Amagusa
324	Blue-gray Tanager (Blue-gray)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
325	Palm Tanager	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
326	Rufous-throated Tanager	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
327	Golden-naped Tanager (Golden-naped)	Roadside stop to Mindo
328	Gray-and-gold Tanager	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
329	Black-capped Tanager	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
330	Golden-hooded Tanager	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
331	Blue-necked Tanager	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
332	Beryl-spangled Tanager	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
333	Metallic-green Tanager	Roadside stop to Mindo
334	Rufous-winged Tanager	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
335	Bay-headed Tanager (Bay-and-blue)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
336	Flame-faced Tanager (Yellow-faced)	Reserva Amagusa
337	Golden Tanager (aurulenta Group)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
338	Silver-throated Tanager	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
339	Swallow Tanager	Reserva Amagusa
340	Black-faced Dacnis (Yellow-tufted)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
341	Blue Dacnis	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
342	Scarlet-breasted Dacnis	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
343	Purple Honeycreeper	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
344	Green Honeycreeper	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
345	Scarlet-browed Tanager	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
346	Guira Tanager	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
347	Scarlet-and-white Tanager	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
348	Blue-backed Conebill	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
349	Capped Conebill (Blue-capped)	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
350	Cinereous Conebill (Ochraceous)	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
351	Glossy Flowerpiercer	Reserva Zuro Loma
352	Black Flowerpiercer	Road to Yanacocha Reserve
353	White-sided Flowerpiercer	Reserva Zuro Loma
354	Indigo Flowerpiercer	Reserva Amagusa
355	Masked Flowerpiercer (cyanea Group)	Reserva Zuro Loma
356	Blue-black Grassquit	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
357	Thick-billed Seed-Finch	La Delicia--Guayabillas road
358	Variable Seedeater (Variable)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
359	Yellow-bellied Seedeater	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)

360	Bananaquit (Continental)	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
361	Buff-throated Saltator	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
362	Black-winged Saltator	Refugio Paz de las Aves (Angel Paz)
363	Slate-colored Grosbeak	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary

#### **Mammal List:**

	<b>Species</b>	<b>First Seen</b>
1	Central American Agouti	Milpe Bird Sanctuary
2	Red-tailed Squirrel	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge
3	Andean Rabbit	Reserva Yanacocha
4	Mantled Howler	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary