

TOUR SAVE THE HARPY EAGLE

1 – 4 July 2022

By Camilo Orjuela and Elvis Felipe Quintero



[Photos - Ernesto Obando](#)

After 7 months of finding the Harpy Eagle's nest, we made our first tour for a group of Colombian photographers - Ernesto, Carlos, Gloria y Carolina. During these 7 months, Manakin Nature Tours, with its partners Orinoco

Nature Tours and Fundación Camaná, carried out donation campaigns to buy the land where the nest is present. We also started to involve the community so that they can benefit through bird watching and photography tourism.



The main objective of the tour was to photograph the Harpy Eagle, and the juvenal the call “Morochó” - 7 months old, so the frequency of adults is low, an average of 10% probability, that's why Ernesto, Carlos, Gloria and Carolina set 3 nights and 4 days to look for photo opportunities for adults and chicken!



Our tour to started in Camana Ranch Natural Reserve - is an agro-ecologic farm with only 1.7 acres, due to the recuperation process taking place on the forest and the integration with fruity and specialized gardens, it has become a place of excellence for birdwatching in the municipality of Restrepo. The reserve has a registry of 183 species and some of them like the Turquoise Tanager frequently arrive to the feeders in the Ranch. It is also possible to observe a nocturnal primate, which is endemic to Colombia. Camana has sustainable lodging with hot water and provides food and rustic services of great quality. Where owner Martha Lopez and Nathalia Otero y Elvis, they make this place a paradise for birdwatchers.





In day 2-3 we visit the nest from Harpy Eagle, this species is considered one of the most powerful and largest raptors globally. The length of the rear talons is about 4 to 5 inches, just the same as a grizzly bear's claws. Those talons give the Harpy enough power and grip to lift prey up to their own weight. As top predators in their food chain, Harpies feed on sloths, opossums, and monkeys. The Harpy Eagle is recognized as an ecological detective. The presence of this bird indicates that all species in the ecosystem are in total balance. It is an incredible bird to observe and photograph! As top predators, harpy eagles play a crucial ecological role, helping to keep populations of prey species in check. "If you achieve conservation for harpy eagles, then you achieve conservation for pretty much all biodiversity in the ecosystem they inhabit as well," says Richard Watson, president and CEO of the [Peregrine Fund](https://www.peregrinefund.org/).





Throughout the days, we had the opportunity to involve the community, enabling them to provide lunch, waters, snacks and local guides for our group! This project is very special, due work together with the community! They are the protagonists for the conservation of the Harpy Eagle in this region of Colombia.



On our last day, we took the opportunity to photograph the incredible **Ornate titis** (*Plecturocebus ornatus*), this is an endemic to eastern Colombia and live in the Department of Cundinamarca and south into the Department of Meta. They mainly inhabit tropic and sub-tropic levels of the forest. Ornate titis prefers areas of dense vegetation like thickets, tangles, underbrushes, and even wet or waterlogged areas.



[Photos - Ernesto Obando](#)



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