



A [Tropical Birding](#) set departure tour

ECUADOR: Photo Journey

Main Tour 15th - 23rd July 2017

Extension 24th - 29th July 2017

Tour Leader: Pablo Cervantes D

Thanks to participants Wendy Naruo, Oddvar Drange, John McCaine, and Julie McCaine for also providing photos for this trip report



Violet-tailed Sylph
(Wendy Naruo)
Tandayapa Bird Lodge

Day 1: 15 July

Quito. This was the arrival day as everyone landed in Quito and spent the night in a nice hotel near the airport.

Day 2: 16 July

We started at 6:00am with a succulent breakfast at the hotel in Quito. At 6:45 am we boarded the bus and headed to the eastern slope of the Andes, where we spent 3 full days. Guango Lodge was our base, where the feeders attracted more than 8 species of hummingbirds, and we also found other birds like tanagers and dippers. We had a lot of rain today, but still managed to get some nice shots, especially of hummingbirds, both at Guango and at another spot nearby.

These are the birds that we saw and photographed:

BIRDS
Tourmaline Sunangel
Speckled Hummingbird
Long-tailed Sylph
Tyrian Metaltail
Bronzy Inca
Collared Inca
Buff-winged Starfrontlet
Sword-billed Hummingbird
Buff-tailed Coronet
Chestnut-breasted Coronet
Booted Racket-tail
Violet-fronted Brilliant
White-bellied Woodstar

Turquoise Jay
White-capped Dipper
Great Thrush
Gray-hooded Bush Tanager
Masked Flowerpiercer



Hummingbird photography near Guango



Bronzy Inca
(Pablo Cervantes D)

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Booted Racket-tail
(Oddvar Drange)



Speckled Hummingbird
(Oddvar Drange)



Tourmaline Sunangel
(Oddvar Drange)



Sword-billed Hummingbird
(John McCaine)

Day 3: 17 July

Our plan this morning was to visit the upper part of Papallacta, accessed by a road up to some antenna towers. This place is at 4300 meters (14000 feet) above sea level, a wonderful place to photograph landscapes and some high Andean species. When we reach the top, a snowstorm covered the area, which is unusual in Ecuador, so after some scenery shots we decided to go back to our base at Guango Lodge to photograph more hummingbirds and other birds around the lodge. After lunch we went to another part of Papallacta with stunted forest at 3700 m (12000 ft).

These are the birds that we saw and photographed.

BIRDS
Tourmaline Sunangel
Speckled Hummingbird
Long-tailed Sylph
Tyrian Metaltail
Shining Sunbeam
Collared Inca
Buff-winged Starfrontlet
Sword-billed Hummingbird

Buff-tailed Coronet
Chestnut-breasted Coronet
White-bellied Woodstar
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta
Rufous Spinetail
White-banded Tyrannulet
White-throated Tyrannulet
Turquoise Jay
Brown-bellied Swallow
Rufous Wren
White-capped Dipper
Great Thrush
Black-chested Mountain-Tanager
Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager
Golden-crowned Tanager
Blue-backed Conebill
Black Flowerpiercer
Masked Flowerpiercer
Black-backed Bush Tanager
Rufous-collared Sparrow
Pale-naped Brushfinch



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Torrent Duck
(Pablo Cervantes D)



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Tyrrian Metaltail
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Papallacta, antennas
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Papallacta, antennas
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Papallacta, forest
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Chestnut-breasted Coronet
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Chestnut-crowned Antpitta
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Andean Teal
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Black-backed Bush Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Blue-backed Conebill
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Pale-naped Brush-Finch
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Tufted Tit-Tyrant
(Pablo Cervantes D)

Day 4: 18 July

Our day started with an early breakfast at Guango Lodge. At 7:00 am we departed Guango and headed to the Antisana National Park, an area of windswept grassland (paramo) at 4000 meters (13000 ft) above sea level. The landscape is dominated by the impressive Antisana volcano. On the way up we stopped to photograph the fabulous Giant Hummingbird. We also photographed birds in and around a high elevation lake. We had lunch at a nearby hacienda with traditional Ecuadorian food. In the afternoon we drove to Quito, where we spent the night.

These are the birds that we saw and photographed.

BIRDS
Silvery Grebe
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Variable Hawk
Slate-colored (Andean) Coot
Andean Lapwing
Andean Gull
Rock Pigeon
Black-winged Ground-Dove
Eared Dove
Long-tailed Sylph
Black-tailed Trainbearer
Tyrian Metaltail
Shining Sunbeam
Buff-winged Starfrontlet
Buff-tailed Coronet
Chestnut-breasted Coronet
Giant Hummingbird

White-bellied Woodstar
Carunculated Caracara
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta
Tawny Antpitta
Montane Woodcreeper
Andean Tit-Spinetail
Turquoise Jay
Brown-bellied Swallow
Sedge (Grass/Paramo) Wren
Rufous Wren
Great Thrush
Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart)
Black Flowerpiercer
Plain-colored Seedeater
Rufous-collared Sparrow
Hooded Siskin



Giant Hummingbird
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Silvery Grebe
(Pablo Cervantes D)



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Andean Lapwing
(Pablo Cervantes D)



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Black-faced Ibis
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Caracululated Caracara
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Tawny Antpitta
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Ecuadorian Hillstar
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Plain-colored Seedeater
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Yellow-billed Pintail
(Pablo Cervantes D)



White-tailed Deer
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Spectacled Whitestart
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Sedge Wren
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Chestnut-winged Cinclodes
(Pablo Cervantes D)

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch
(Pablo Cervantes D)





Eared Dove
(Pablo Cervantes D)

Day 5: 19 July

We started the day in the private reserve of Yanacocha. This is located at 3500 meters (11500 ft.) above sea level. We spent a lot of time trying to photograph mountain-tanagers. The fruit feeders had great activity, and most of our best shots came from them. In the afternoon we drive down the west slope of the Andes to Tandayapa Bird Lodge.

These are the birds that we saw and photographed.

BIRDS
Andean Guan
Black Vulture
Variable Hawk
Rock Pigeon
White-necked Jacobin
Brown Violetear

Sparkling Violetear
Violet-tailed Sylph
Tyrian Metaltail
Sapphire-vented Puffleg
Shining Sunbeam
Buff-winged Starfrontlet
Sword-billed Hummingbird
Great Sapphirewing
Booted Racket-tail
Fawn-breasted Brilliant
Green-crowned Brilliant
Little Woodstar
Andean Emerald
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Rufous Motmot
Red-headed Barbet
Crimson-rumped Toucanet
Carunculated Caracara
Golden-crowned Flycatcher
Blue-and-white Swallow
Brown-bellied Swallow
Great Thrush
Russet-crowned Warbler
Black-chested Mountain-Tanager
Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager

Cinereous Conebill

Glossy Flowerpiercer

Masked Flowerpiercer

Rufous-collared Sparrow

Pale-naped Brushfinch

White-winged Brushfinch



Yanacocha Area
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Yanacocha Area
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Andean Guan
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Black-chested Mountain-Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Glossy Flowerpiercer
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Masked Flowerpiercer
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Shining Sunbeam
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Sparkling Violetear
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Sapphire-vented Puffleg
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)

Day 6: 20 July

This day was one of the most anticipated by the group since we were able to take photos of the spectacular Andean cock-of-the-rock, one of the emblematic birds of the region. It's a bright red bird that squeals and flaps its wings while displaying at the lek. It was spectacular to see a group of 8 of these birds jumping around in front of us. In order to appreciate this show, we had to be there early, having breakfast at 4:40am before heading to the Paz de las Aves reserve. Angel Paz, who besides taking us to the cock-of-the rock lek, also showed us antpittas and other birds. Afterwards, we enjoyed Angel's famous mid-morning "snack", and then returned to Tandayapa Bird Lodge to photograph more hummingbirds, flycatchers, toucanets and other species.

These are the birds that we saw and photographed.

BIRDS
Crested Guan
Black Vulture
Roadside Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Rufous-bellied Nighthawk
Lyre-tailed Nightjar
White-necked Jacobin
Tawny-bellied Hermit
Wedge-billed Hummingbird
Brown Violetear
Green Violetear
Sparkling Violetear
Violet-tailed Sylph
Brown Inca
Buff-tailed Coronet
Booted Racket-tail
Fawn-breasted Brilliant

Green-crowned Brilliant
Little Woodstar
Purple-throated Woodstar
Andean Emerald
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Golden-headed Quetzal
Rufous Motmot
Red-headed Barbet
Toucan Barbet
Crimson-rumped Toucanet
Moustached Antpitta
Montane Woodcreeper
Golden-crowned Flycatcher
Andean Cock-of-the-rock
Blue-and-white Swallow
House Wren
Three-striped Warbler
Russet-crowned Warbler
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart)
Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager
Rufous-collared Sparrow



Andean-cock-of-the-rock blind



Andean-cock-of-the-rock
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Torrent Tyrannulet
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Toucan Barbet
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Moustached Antpitta
(John McCaine)



Violet-tailed Sylph
(Julie McCaine)

Day 7: 21 July

This day we visited two more magnificent places for bird photography: Rancho Suamox and San Tadeo. Our first stop was Suamox, a private reserve that is working on a reforestation project. This place is located in the humid lower foothills and had a great variety of birds visiting the fruit feeders. In the afternoon we head to some feeders near the village of San Tadeo, located at middle elevations and very good for photographing tanagers.

These are the birds that we saw and photographed

BIRDS
Cattle Egret
Black Vulture
Hook-billed Kite
Rock Pigeon
Pallid Dove
Squirrel Cuckoo
White-necked Jacobin

Bronzy Hermit
Band-tailed Barbthroat
White-whiskered Hermit
Brown Violetear
Purple-crowned Fairy
Green-breasted (Black-throated) Mango
Green Thorntail
Violet-tailed Sylph
Buff-tailed Coronet
Velvet-purple Coronet
Purple-bibbed Whitetip
Fawn-breasted Brilliant
Little Woodstar
Crowned (Green-crowned) Woodnymph
Andean Emerald
Blue-chested Hummingbird
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan
Black-cheeked Woodpecker
Laughing Falcon
Bronze-winged Parrot
Montane Woodcreeper
Plain Xenops
Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero
Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant
Black Phoebe
Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Rusty-margined Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
White-thighed Swallow
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
House Wren
Ecuadorian Thrush
Three-striped Warbler
White-lined Tanager
Flame-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Tanager
Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager
Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager
Blue-gray Tanager
Palm Tanager
Golden-naped Tanager
Black-capped Tanager
Flame-faced Tanager
Golden Tanager
Silver-throated Tanager
Variable Seedeater
Bananaquit
Buff-throated Saltator
Dusky Chlorospingus (Bush-Tanager)

Orange-billed Sparrow
Rufous-collared Sparrow
Scrub Blackbird
Thick-billed Euphonia
Orange-bellied Euphonia



White-necked Jacobin
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Black-cheeked Woodpecker
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Lemon-rumped Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Violte-tailed Sylph
(Wendy Naruo)



Flame-faced Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Blue-gray Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Golden Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Lemon-rumped Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Yellow-throated Toucan
(John McCain)

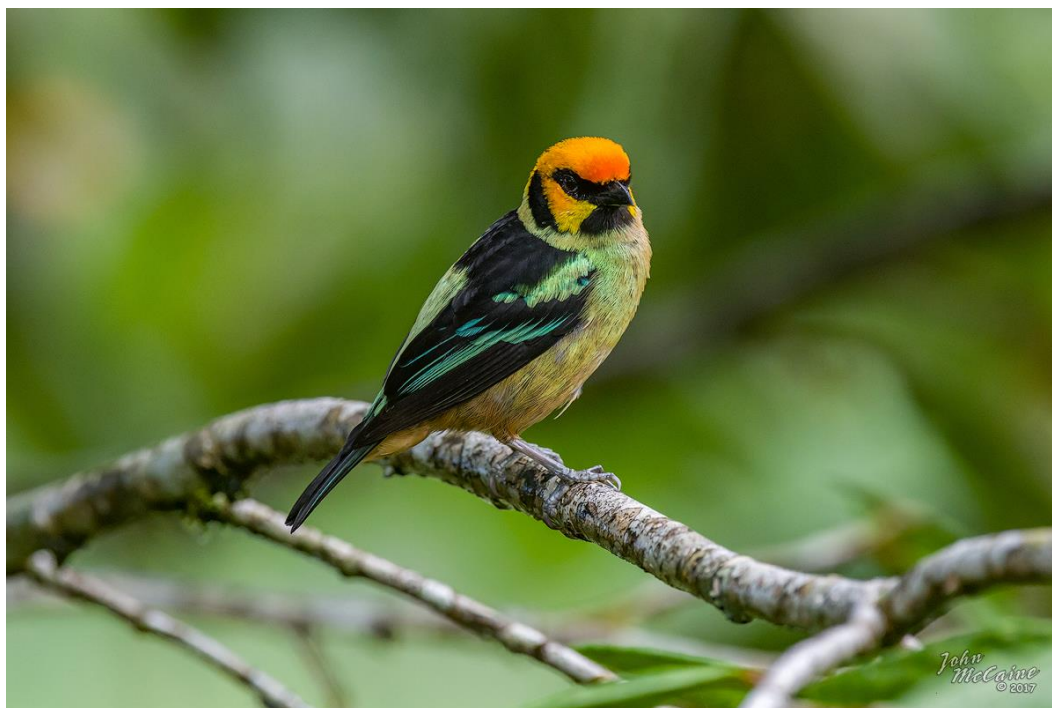
Day 8: 22 July

We visited the Mashí Amagusa reserve, about 1.5 hours from Tandayapa, a great place that allowed us to photograph fabulous tanagers such as Moss-backed Tanager and Glistening-green Tanager. Fruit feeders were also visited by toucanets, saltators, euphonias, other tanagers, and more. On the way back to Tandayapa, we stopped at a place where we could see and photograph Oilbirds, a strange nocturnal species that navigates with echolocation.

BIRDS
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Hook-billed Kite
Rock Pigeon
Squirrel Cuckoo
Oilbird

Violet-tailed Sylph
Velvet-purple Coronet
Booted Racket-tail
Purple-bibbed Whitetip
Empress Brilliant
Little Woodstar
Andean Emerald
Rufous Motmot
Crimson-rumped Toucanet
Bronze-winged Parrot
Rufous Antpitta
Buffy (Pacific) Tuftedcheek
Ornate Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Orange-breasted Fruiteater
Barred Becard
Cinnamon Becard
Brown-capped Vireo
Black-billed Peppershrike
Blue-and-white Swallow
Bay Wren
Russet-crowned Warbler
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart)
Flame-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Tanager
Golden-chested Tanager

Glistening-green Tanager
Flame-faced Tanager
Golden Tanager
Swallow Tanager
Golden-collared Honeycreeper
Buff-throated Saltator
Tricolored Brushfinch
White-winged Brushfinch
Thick-billed Euphonia
Orange-bellied Euphonia



Flame-faced Tanager
(John McCain)



Bronze-winged Parrot
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Empress Brilliant
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Flame-faced Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Golden-collared Honeycreeper
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Moss-backed Tanager
(Pablo Cervantes D)



One-colored Becard
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Orange-breasted Fruiteater
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Pacific Tuftedcheek
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Black-billed Peppershrike
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Yellow-collared Chlorophonia
(Pablo Cervantes D)



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Violet-tailed Sylph
(Pablo Cervantes D)



John
McCaine
© 2017

Glistening-green Tanager
(John McCaine)

Day 9: 23 July

Today was our last day of photography on the west side of the Andes. We spent more time doing multiframe hummingbird photography. Tandayapa Bird Lodge is one of the best places to do this anywhere in the world. We also photographed birds coming to the fruit feeders.

BIRDS
Black Vulture
White-necked Jacobin
Brown Violetear
Green Violetear
Sparkling Violetear
Violet-tailed Sylph
Buff-tailed Coronet
Velvet-purple Coronet
Booted Racket-tail
Purple-bibbed Whitetip
Andean Emerald
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Masked Trogon
Rufous Motmot
Red-headed Barbet
Crimson-rumped Toucanet
Montane Woodcreeper
Ornate Flycatcher
Russet-crowned Warbler
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart)

Tricolored Brushfinch

White-winged Brushfinch

Thick-billed Euphonia



Brown Violetear
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Violet-tailed Sylph
(Wendy Naruo)



Crimson-rumped Toucanet
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Red-headed Barbet
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Velvet-purple Coronet
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Booted Racket-tail
(Julie McCaine)



Sparkling Violetear
(Julie McCaine)



Booted Racket-tail
(Julie McCaine)

AMAZON EXTENSION



Hoatzin
Pablo Cervantes D
Sani Lodge

Day 10-14: 24-28 July

After visiting the eastern and western slopes of the Andes, we headed to the Amazon, where Sani Lodge was our base for 5 days in the lowland rainforest. Its flora and fauna are amazing. We first took a flight to the city of Coca, then traveled by boat for 2 hours to Sani lodge. During our stay we spent time photographing from canoes, from the superb canopy tower, and from various trails and hides.

BIRDS
Speckled Chachalaca
Blue-throated (Common) Piping-Guan
Rufescent Tiger-Heron
Cocoi Heron
Great Egret
Capped Heron
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture
Double-toothed Kite
Slate-colored Hawk
Sungrebe
Gray-winged Trumpeter
Pied Lapwing (Pied Plover)
Yellow-billed Tern
Pale-vented Pigeon
Plumbeous Pigeon
Gray-fronted Dove
Hoatzin

Squirrel Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
Striped Cuckoo
Tropical Screech-Owl
Crested Owl
Ladder-tailed Nightjar
Green-backed (Amazonian White-tailed) Trogon
Ringed Kingfisher
Green Kingfisher
White-eared Jacamar
Scarlet-crowned Barbet
Many-banded Aracari
White-throated Toucan
Lafresnaye's Piculet
Crimson-crested Woodpecker
Black Caracara
Cobalt-winged Parakeet
Red-lored Parrot (Amazon)
Mealy Parrot (Amazon)
Dusky-headed Parakeet
Blue-and-yellow Macaw
Scarlet Macaw
Great Antshrike
Straight-billed Woodcreeper
Slender-footed Tyrannulet

Gray-crowned Flycatcher (Flatbill)
Cinnamon Attila
Short-crested Flycatcher
Lesser Kiskadee
Great Kiskadee
Boat-billed Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Plum-throated Cotinga
Wire-tailed Manakin
Golden-headed Manakin
Black-tailed Tityra
Violaceous Jay
Blue-and-white Swallow
White-thighed Swallow
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Gray-breasted Martin
Brown-chested Martin
White-winged Swallow
House Wren
Black-capped Donacobius
Buff-rumped Warbler
Silver-beaked Tanager
Masked Crimson Tanager

Blue-gray Tanager
Turquoise Tanager
Black-faced (Yellow-tufted) Dacnis
Yellow-bellied Dacnis
Purple Honeycreeper
Yellow-rumped Cacique
Russet-backed Oropendola
Thick-billed Euphonia
Rufous-bellied Euphonia



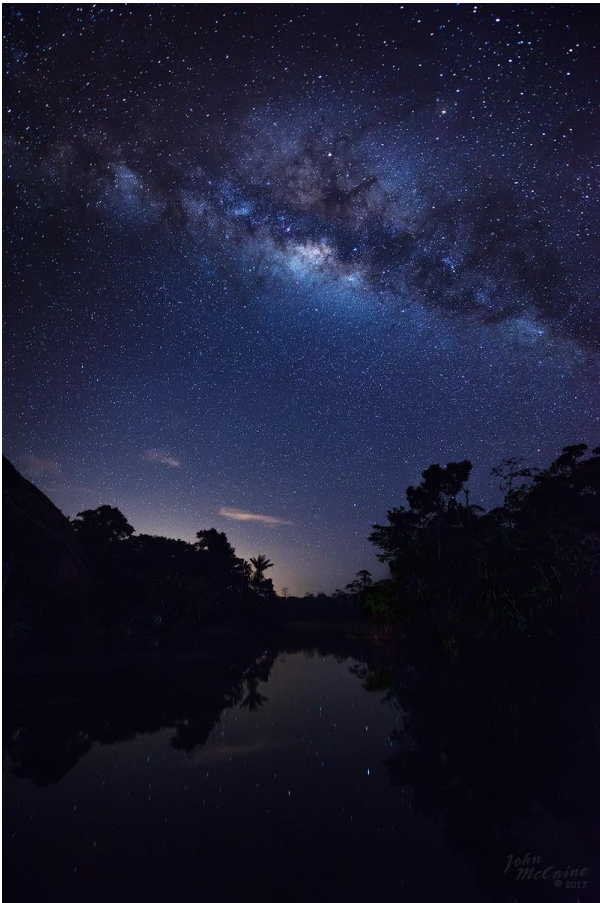
Challuacocha Lagoon

Wendy Naruo

[Sani Lodge](#)



Challuacocha Lagoon
John McCain
Sani Lodge Sani Lodge



Challuacocha Lagoon and Milky Way

John McCain

[Sani Lodge Sani Lodge](#)



Capped Heron
(Oddvar Drange)



Ladder-tailed Nighthawk
(Oddvar Drange)



Hoatzin
(Oddvar Drange)



Lafresnaye's Piculet
(Pablo Cervantes D)



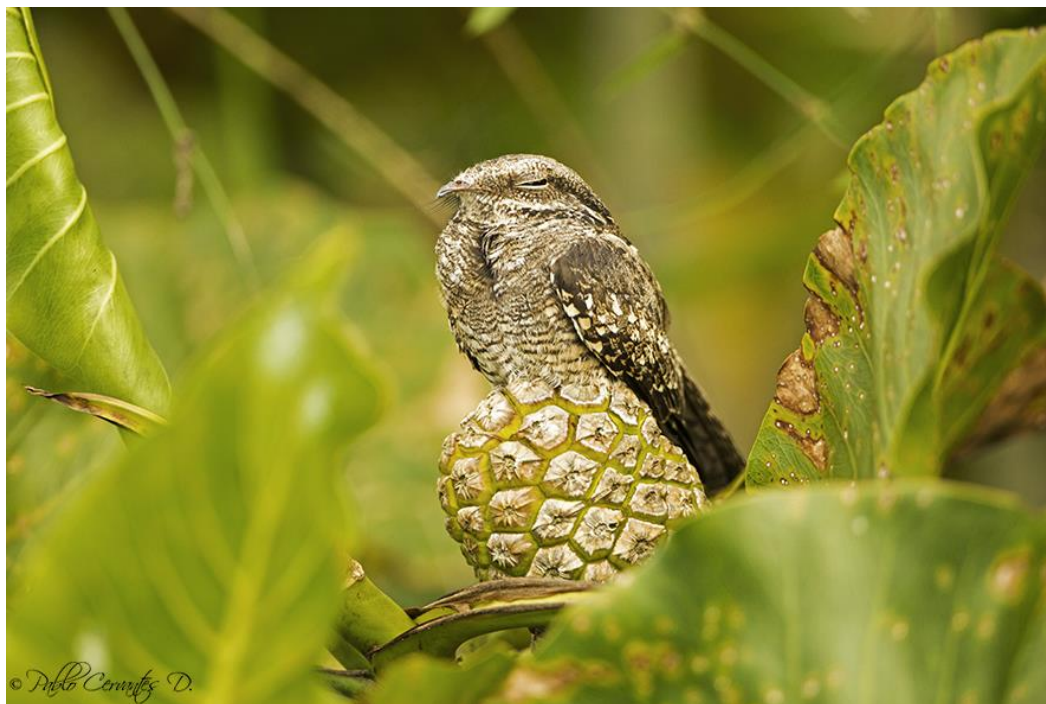
Black-capped Donacobius
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Crested Owl
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Greater Ani
(Pablo Cervantes D)



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar
(Pablo Cervantes D)



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Scarlet Macaw
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Scarlet Macaw
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Scarlet-crowned Barbet
(Pablo Cervantes D)



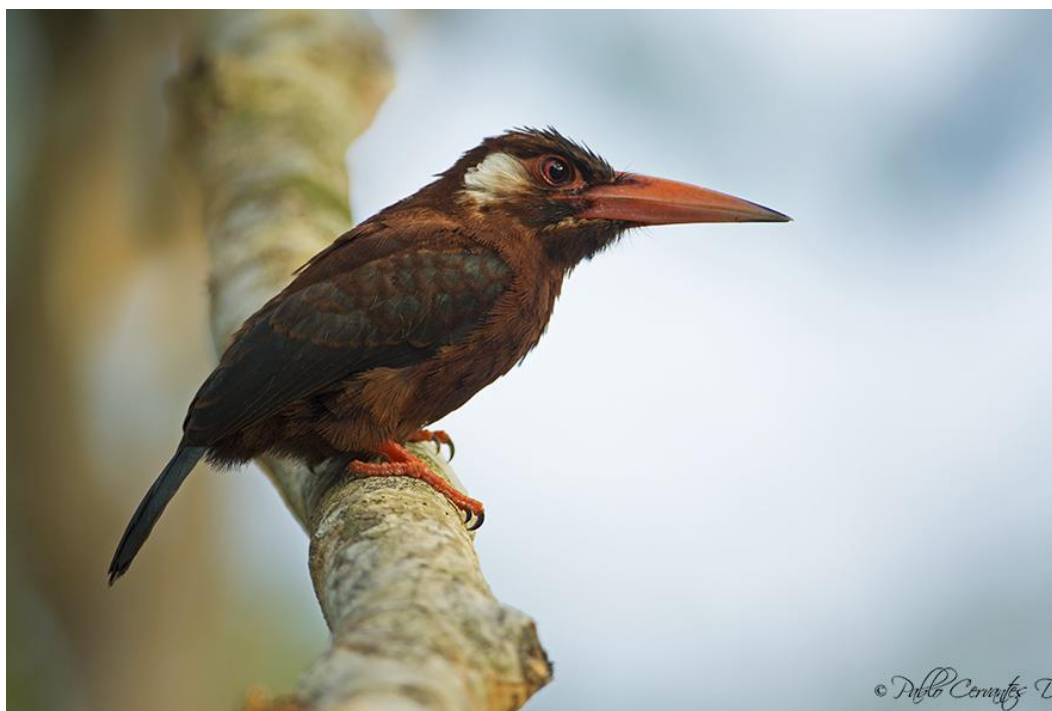
Squirrel Monkey
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Tent-making Bats
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Tropical Screech-Owl
(Pablo Cervantes D)



White-eared Jacamar
(Pablo Cervantes D)



White-throated Toucan
(Pablo Cervantes D)



Wire-tailed Mankin
(John McCain)



Golden-headed Manakin
(John McCaine)



Cobalt-winged Parakeets
(Julie McCaine)