

A **Tropical Birding** SET DEPARTURE tour

# ECUADOR: Hummingbird Extravaganza Part 2: The East

31st May- 7th June 2024

**TOUR LEADER: José Illanes** 

**Photos 7 Report: José Illanes** 



**Giant Hummingbird** from Tambo Condor Restaurant

Our first *Hummingbird Extravaganza* was a roaring success. This was merely one part, Part 2: The East, and it amassed a list exceeding 40 hummingbird species! Of course, we viewed many other great birds too by covering from the high Andes down into the foothills of the mountains. On the hummingbird front, the most popular species were the tiny **Peruvian Racket-tail**, the massive Giant Hummingbird, the gorgeous Gould's Jewelfront, and the spectacular Long-tailed Sylph. Other heavily admired hummingbird species included Napo Sabrewing, Chestnutbreasted Coronet, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Viridian Metaltail, Wire-crested Thorntail, Green-backed Hillstar and Black-throated Brilliant.

Among the non-hummingbirds there was plenty to admire too, and the ones highlighted by the group at the end included Green-backed Trogon, Torrent Duck, Andean Pygmy-Owl, Carunculated Caracara, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Golden-crowned Tanager, Andean Lapwing, Plain-backed Antpitta, Band-bellied Owl, and fittingly too, Ecuador's national bird, the huge **Andean Condor**.



Wire-crested Thorntail at Wildsumaco

# **TOUR SUMMARY: MAIN TOUR**

#### June 1st: Antisana to Papallacta Hot Springs.



Carunculated Caracara at Antisana National Park

This tour was the second part of the *Hummingbird Extravaganza* that focused on the *east* side of the northern Andes. The previous night was spent in *Puembo*, conveniently placed for our visit to Antisana, which lies to the east of Ecuador's capital, *Quito*. Near the entrance to the park smoke from a local fire threatened to derail our plan to enter the park. However, the smoke lifted, and we entered Antisana as planned after all. This high Andean, open country, park provided us with some easy opening birding with typical highland species like **Stout-billed and Chestnut-winged Cinclodes**, **Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant**, **Plumbeous Sierra-Finch**, **Andean Tit-Spinetail**, **and Streak-backed Canastero** all being found during this opening spell. We also saw a series of raptors on the wing, including four **Andean Condors**, in addition to **Variable Hawk** and **Black-chested Buzzard-eagle**. These were all seeing as we drove up the road ever higher. Once we reached the open plateau, we added a series of other highland species, most notably, **Carunculated Caracara** (*photo above*), **Andean Lapwing**, **Andean Gull**, **Black-winged Ground-Dove** and the endangered **Andean Ibis** for which the site is famous for.

We also made a stop at a large highland lagoon, La Mica Lake, where we found Andean Duck, Slate-colored Coot and Andean Teal. Late in the morning, we located a roosting Band-winged Nightjar, and we also saw some of our first hummingbirds, with several female Ecuadorian Hillstars.

We took lunch at a local café (*Tambo Condor*), where some special hummingbirds were also in attendance too. However, the most unexpected sighting was a **Spectacled Bear** walking up the slope opposite the restaurant! On the hummingbird front, **Shining Sunbeams** (*photo below*), were the most visible, and competed with **Tyrian Metaltail**, **Black-tailed Trainbearer**, **Sparkling Violetear**, **Great Sapphirewing** and the enormous, starling-sized, **Giant Hummingbird** for a place at the feeders. After a wonderful local lunch with hummingbirds in attendance, we drove to *Papallacta Hot Springs* where we spent the night, with private hot tubs steaming just outside of our rooms!



**Shining Sunbeam** at Tambo Condor

# June 2nd: Papallacta Hot Springs, Cayambe-Coca National Park & Guango Lodge.

The day's birding opened in the hotel garden, set within wonderful high Andean scenery. This enabled us to see **Grass Wren**, **Spectacled Redstart** and a handsome **Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager**. We then took breakfast at the hotel before driving a little higher up into the paramo within *Cayambe-Coca National Park*. Our star find there was a dreamy male **Ecuadorian Hillstar** (*photo below*), though we also managed to see **White-chinned Thistletail**, **Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager**, and **Tawny Antpitta**. In an area of *polylepis* woodland, the highest growing trees on Earth, we were fortunate to find a specialist of this habitat, a handsome **Giant Conebill**.



**Ecuadorian Hillstar** from Cayambe-Coca National Park.

By that time, lunch was calling, and so we visited *Guango Lodge* for both food and more hummingbirds. The main attendees at the lodge feeders were **White-bellied Woodstar**, **Chestnut-breasted and Buff-tailed Coronets**, **Long-tailed Sylph**, **Tourmaline Sunangel** and **Collared Inca**. Following this burst of new species, we decided to walk one of the lodge trails, specifically in the hope of finding an iconic Andean species, *Torrent Duck*. On our way down to the river, we came upon **Turquoise Jay** and **Andean Guan**, then got cracking looks at a photogenic male **Torrent Duck** (*photo next page*), once we reached the river. The final highlight of the afternoon came after we waited at some in-forest fruit feeders, which eventually brought in the hoped for **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan**, to cap off an extraordinary afternoon. The rain played with us some in the afternoon too, and so we retired a little earlier to our hot springs hotel.



**Torrent Duck** at Guango Lodge

### June 3rd: Cayambe-Coca National Park & Las Brisas; drive to WildSumaco.

After breakfast, we reluctantly checked out of our hot springs base, and drove up towards *Cayambe-Coca National Park*, this time investigating the *Oyacachi* entrance, which has some nice elfin forest near the park entrance. We managed to find a few high Andean hummingbirds there, some that we had seen before (**Great Sapphirewing** and **Shining Sunbeam**), and one that we had not (a female **Rainbow-bearded Thornbill**). We were also fortunate to see an **Andean Pygmy-Owl** up there. A mixed flock in this area also held **Golden-crowned**, **Scarlet-bellied and Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanagers.** We took lunch in a restaurant in the Andean town of *Baeza*, which was not too far from our next hummingbird-themed site, *Las Brisas*. It was raining during our visit there, though thankfully the hummingbirds did not seem to mind and we watched them from the comfort of a shelter. This site was lower in elevation than the others we had visited thus far, and so produced a swathe of cool new hummingbirds. Top billing came to **Geoffroy's Daggerbill** that visited the feeders, something this species generally does not regularly do.

The other two specialties, we'd been hoping for there, also showed up: **Peruvian Racket-tail** and **Green-backed Hillstar**. **Fawn-breasted Brilliant**, **Tawny-bellied Hermit**, **Bronzy Inca**, **Long-tailed Sylph**, and **Speckled Hummingbird** also all turned up there during our visit.



Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager from Papallacta Hot Springs & Green-backed Hillstar at Las Brisas



While most people reveled in the *hummingbird* photography, we also picked up some other birds on the property, like **Montane Foliage-Gleaner**, **Variegated Bristle-Tyrant**, **Barred Becard**, **Fulvous-breasted Flatbill** and the striking **Red-headed Barbet**. After that, we continued our journey to *WildSumaco Lodge*, breaking this with a stop in *Pachakutik* community to view a family of roosting **Band-bellied Owls**.



Western Fire-eye female at Wild Sumaco

# June 4th: Wildsumaco Lodge.

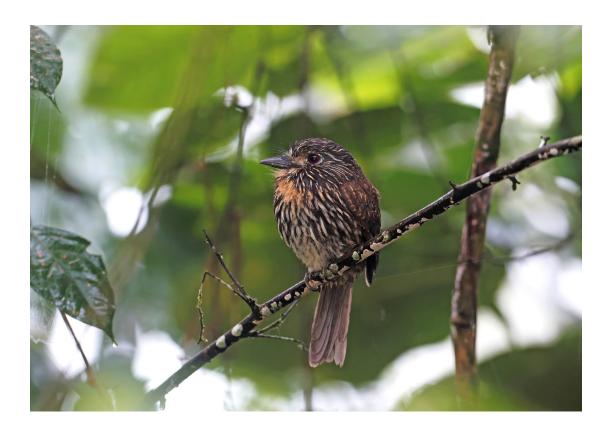
A full day was spent around the wonderful *WildSumaco Lodge*. Unfortunately for us this day was a very rainy one, restricting most of our activities to immediately around the lodge. We started out before breakfast visiting one of the moth sheets beside the lodge, which attracted some interesting birds, most notably a **Chestnut-crowned Gnateater!** Other birds picking at the moths included **Black-billed Treehunter**, **Olive-backed Woodcreeper**, and **Western Fire-eye** (*photo above*).

An eclectic mix of hummingbird species also visited the porch feeders, an captivated us for some time; Peruvian Racket-tail, Brown Violetear, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Golden-tailed Sapphire (photo below), Green-backed Hillstar, Black-throated Mango, Napo Sabrewing, Violet-fronted Brilliant, Green Hermit, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Gould's Jewelfront and the stunning Wire-crested Thorntail were all seen either at the feeders or in the lodge garden.



Golden-tailed Sapphire at Wildsumaco

After lunch and a rest, we continued to bird from the lodge veranda, to avoid the continuing rain, which yielded Chestnut-eared Aracari, Speckled Chachalaca, Yellow-throated Toucan, and Golden-collared Honeycreeper. Once the rain slowed, we birded the roadside nearby, seeing Green-backed and Masked Trogons, and a nice assortment of striking tanagers, including Blue-necked, Spotted, Golden-eared and Paradise Tanagers. In spite of the day's heavy rains, we had still; managed to see some really nice hummingbirds and other Andean foothill species.



**Black-streaked Puffbird** at Wildsumaco

June 5th: Wildsumaco area. We spent the entire day around WildSumaco again, starting out by a different moth sheet than the one from the day before. This attracted **Plain Antvireo**, **Western** Fire-eye, Black-faced Antbird, Black-billed Treehunter and Black-streaked Puffbird (photo above), the latter being an undoubted highlight. Unfoertunately, this day was also another rainy one, restricting us to around the lodge again. However, we did find some interesting birds all the same, like Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Russet-backed Oropendola, Russet Antshrike, Short-tailed Hawk and even the striking Andean Cock-of-the-rock.

After lunch, we took a siesta time as the rain continued to lash down. Thankfully, the rain eased for our scheduled afternoon visit to a forest feeding station, which drew in Plain-backed Antpitta and White-necked Thrush, before the rain strengthened once more, as we headed back to the lodge for the night!

#### June 6th: Amaru Pacha, Wildsumaco; drive back to Quito.

This was the final day of Part 2 of the *Hummingbird Extravaganza*, and we started out by visiting nearby Amaru Pacha Reserve, close to the lodge. The star there was not a hummingbird but Andean Cock-of-the-rocks, half a dozen or more males of which were seen displaying there in spectacular fashion. They also had some interesting hummingbird feeders on the property, that held Black-throated Mango, Long-billed Starthroat, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Glitteringthroated Emerald, Black-throated Brilliant, Many-spotted Hummingbird and Great-billed **Hermit.** After that, we returned to **WildSumaco** for one final lunch meal, afterwhich we packed up and drove back to Quito. Some final birding around the veranda at the lodge gave us Yellowthroated Toucan, Green-backed Trogon and a group of Many-banded Aracaris. There was little of note on the journey back aside from a soaring Black-and-chestnut Eagle, which was a very fortunate find, and nice final bird for the tour!



Andean Cock of the Rock from Amaru Pacha



**Black-throated Brilliant** from Amaru Pacha



**Green-backed Trogon** from Wildsumaco Lodge

#### **BIRD LIST**

Bird taxonomy follows Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, S. M. Billerman, T. A. Fredericks, J. A. Gerbracht, D. Lepage, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2023. The eBird/Clements checklist of birds of the world: v2023. Downloaded from http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/download/)

- (H) indicates a species that was HEARD only.
- (G) indicates a species recorded by the GUIDE ONLY.

TINAMOUS	TINAMIDAE	
Little Tinamou	Crypturellus soui	Н
DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS	ANATIDAE	
Torrent Duck	Merganetta armata	
Andean Teal	Anas andium andium	
Andean Duck	Oxyura ferruginea	
GUANS, CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS	CRACIDAE	
Speckled Chachalaca	Ortalis guttata	
Andean Guan	Penelope montagnii	
PIGEONS AND DOVES	COLUMBIDAE	
Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	
Plumbeous Pigeon	Patagioenas plumbea	
Ruddy Pigeon	Patagioenas subvinacea	
Black-winged Ground Dove	Metriopelia melanoptera	

Black-winged Ground Dove **Eared Dove** Zenaida auriculata **CUCKOOS CUCULIDAE** Smooth-billed Ani Crotophaga ani Squirrel Cuckoo Piaya cayana

**NIGHTJARS CAPRIMULGIDAE** Band-winged Nightjar Systellura longirostris Common Pauraque Nyctidromus albicollis

**SWIFTS APODIDAE** 

White-collared Swift Streptoprocne zonaris **HUMMINGBIRDS TROCHILIDAE** White-necked Jacobin Florisuga mellivora Green Hermit Phaethornis guy

Tawny-bellied Hermit Phaethornis syrmatophorus

**Great-billed Hermit** Phaethornis malaris Geoffroy's Daggerbill (Wedge-billed H.) Schistes geoffroyi Sparkling Violetear Colibri coruscans **Brown Violetear** Colibri delphinae

Black-throated Mango (east) Anthracothorax nigricollis nigricollis

**Tourmaline Sunangel** Heliangelus exortis Wire-crested Thorntail Discosura popelairii Ecuadorian Piedtail Phlogophilus hemileucurus Speckled Hummingbird Adelomyia melanogenys Long-tailed Sylph Aglaiocercus kingii Ecuadorian Hillstar Oreotrochilus chimborazo Mountain Avocetbill Opisthoprora euryptera

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Black-tailed Trainbearer Green-tailed Trainbearer Purple-backed Thornbill

Rainbow-bearded Thornbill

Tyrian Metaltail Viridian Metaltail Shining Sunbeam Bronzy Inca Collared Inca **Great Sapphirewing Buff-tailed Coronet** 

**Chestnut-breasted Coronet** Peruvian (Booted) Racket-tail

Green-backed (White-tailed) Hillstar

Black-throated Brilliant Gould's Jewelfront Fawn-breasted Brilliant Violet-fronted Brilliant Giant Hummingbird Long-billed Starthroat White-bellied Woodstar

Violet-headed Hummingbird **Gray-breasted Sabrewing** 

Napo Sabrewing

Fork-tailed Woodnymph Many-spotted Hummingbird Golden-tailed Sapphire Glittering-throated Emerald RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS

Slate-colored (Andean) Coot **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS** 

Southern Lapwing Andean Lapwing

**GULLS, TERNS, & SKIMMERS** 

Andean Gull

**IBIS AND SPOONBILLS** 

Andean Ibis

**NEW WORLD VULTURES** 

Andean Condor Black Vulture **Turkey Vulture** 

HAWKS, EAGLES, KITES

Black-and-chestnut Eagle Roadside Hawk Variable Hawk

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle

Short-tailed Hawk **BARN-OWLS** Barn Owl **OWLS** 

Band-bellied Owl

Lesbia victoriae Lesbia nuna

Ramphomicron microrhynchum

Chalcostigma herrani Metallura tyrianthina Metallura williami Aglaeactis cupripennis Coeligena coeligena Coeligena torquata Pterophanes cyanopterus Boissonneaua flavescens

Boissonneaua matthewsii Ocreatus peruanus Urochroa leucura Heliodoxa schreibersii Heliodoxa aurescens Heliodoxa rubinoides Heliodoxa leadbeateri

Patagona gigas Heliomaster longirostris Chaetocercus mulsant

Klais quimeti

Campylopterus largipennis Campylopterus villaviscensio

Thalurania furcata Taphrospilus hypostictus Chrysuronia oenone Chionomesa fimbriata

**RALLIDAE** Fulica ardesiaca **CHARADRIIDAE** Vanellus chilensis

Vanellus resplendens

**LARIDAE** 

Chroicocephalus serranus **THRESKIORNITHIDAE** Theristicus branickii

**CATHARTIDAE** Vultur gryphus Coragyps atratus Cathartes aura **ACCIPITRIDAE** 

Spizaetus isidori Rupornis magnirostris Geranoaetus polyosoma Geranoaetus melanoleucus

Buteo brachyurus **TYTONIDAE** Tyto alba **STRIGIDAE** Pulsatrix melanota G

Andean Pygmy-Owl	Glaucidium jardinii	
TROGONS	TROGONIDAE	
Green-backed (Amaz. White-tailed) Trogon	Trogon viridis	
Blue-crowned Trogon MOTMOTS	Trogon curucui MOMOTIDAE	Н
		н
Andean (Highland) Motmot <b>PUFFBIRDS</b>	Momotus aequatorialis aequatorialis BUCCONIDAE	п
Black-streaked Puffbird	Malacoptila fulvogularis	
JACAMARS	GALBULIDAE	
Coppery-chested Jacamar	Galbula pastazae	н
NEW WORLD BARBETS	CAPITONIDAE	••
Red-headed Barbet	Eubucco bourcierii	
TOUCANS	RAMPHASTIDAE	
Southern Emerald-Toucanet	Aulacorhynchus albivitta	
Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan	Andigena hypoglauca	
Chestnut-eared Aracari	Pteroglossus castanotis	
Many-banded Aracari	Pteroglossus pluricinctus	
Golden-collared Toucanet	Selenidera reinwardtii	Н
Yellow-throated Toucan (Black-mandibled) Toucan	Ramphastos ambiguus	
Channel-billed Toucan	Ramphastos vitellinus	G
WOODPECKERS	PICIDAE	
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	Melanerpes cruentatus	
FALCONS AND CARACARAS	FALCONIDAE	
Carunculated Caracara	Daptrius carunculatus	
PARROTS	PSITTACIDAE	
Red-billed Parrot	Pionus sordidus	Н
Blue-headed Parrot	Pionus menstruus	
Maroon-tailed Parakeet	Pyrrhura melanura [melanura Group]	
TYPICAL ANTBIRDS	THAMNOPHILIDAE	_
Lined Antshrike	Thamnophilus tenuepunctatus	G
Plain Antvireo	Dysithamnus mentalis	
Yellow-breasted Antwren	Herpsilochmus axillaris	
Western (White-backed) Fire-eye	Pyriglena maura	
GNATEATERS	CONOPOPHAGIDAE	
Chestnut-crowned Gnateater	Conopophaga castaneiceps	
ANTPITTAS	GRALLARIIDAE	
Plain-backed Antpitta	Grallaria haplonota	
Tawny Antpitta TAPACULOS	Grallaria quitensis RHINOCRYPTIDAE	
Paramo Tapaculo	Scytalopus opacus	н
Long-tailed (Eq. Rufous-vented) Tapaculo	Scytalopus micropterus	Н
Blackish (Unicolored) Tapaculo	Scytalopus latrans	Н
ANTTHRUSHES	FORMICARIIDAE	••
Short-tailed Antthrush	Chamaeza campanisona	н
OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS	FURNARIIDAE	••
Olive-backed Woodcreeper	Xiphorhynchus triangularis	
Streaked Xenops	Xenops rutilans	
Chestnut-winged (Bar-winged) Cinclodes	Cinclodes albidiventris	
Stout-billed Cinclodes	Cinclodes excelsior	
Montane Foliage-gleaner	Anabacerthia striaticollis	
Streak-capped Treehunter	Thripadectes virgaticeps	
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Black-billed Treehunter	Thripadectes melanorhynchus	
Andean Tit-Spinetail	Leptasthenura andicola	
Many-striped Canastero	Asthenes flammulata	
Streak-backed Canastero	Asthenes wyatti	
White-chinned Thistletail	Asthenes fuliginosa	
Azara's Spinetail	Synallaxis azarae	Н
MANAKINS	PIPRIDAE	
Blue-rumped Manakin	Lepidothrix isidorei	
COTINGAS	COTINGIDAE	
Red-crested Cotinga	Ampelion rubrocristatus	
Andean Cock-of-the-rock	Rupicola peruvianus	
TITYRAS AND ALLIES	TITYRIDAE	
Masked Tityra Barred Becard	Tityra semifasciata Pachyramphus versicolor	
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS	TYRANNIDAE	
Streak-necked Flycatcher	Mionectes striaticollis	
Variegated Bristle-Tyrant	Pogonotriccus poecilotis	
Fulvous-breasted Flatbill	Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus	
Cinnamon Flycatcher	Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus	
Cliff Flycatcher	Hirundinea ferruginea	G
Ornate Flycatcher	Myiotriccus ornatus	G
White-throated Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus leucophrys	
Tufted Tit-Tyrant	Anairetes parulus	
Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet	Phyllomyias uropygialis	G
Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans	
Plain-capped (Páramo) Ground-Tyrant	Muscisaxicola alpinus	
Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	Agriornis montanus	
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	Ochthoeca fumicolor	
Tropical Kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus	
VIREOS AND ALLIES	VIREONIDAE	
Brown-capped Vireo	Vireo leucophrys	G
CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES	CORVIDAE	
Turquoise Jay	Cyanolyca turcosa	
Green (Inca) Jay	Cyanocorax yncas yncas	G
SWALLOWS	HIRUNDINIDAE	
White-thighed Swallow	Atticora tibialis	
Brown-bellied Swallow	Orochelidon murina	
WRENS	TROGLODYTIDAE	
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	
Mountain Wren	Troglodytes solstitialis	
Grass (Sedge) Wren MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS	Cistothorus platensis MIMIDAE	
Tropical Mockingbird	Mimus gilvus	G
THRUSHES AND ALLIES	TURDIDAE	G
White-necked Thrush	Turdus albicollis	
Black-billed Thrush	Turdus aibicollis Turdus ignobilis	G
Great Thrush	Turdus ignobilis Turdus fuscater	•
WAGTAILS AND PIPITS	MOTACILLIDAE	
Paramo Pipit	Anthus bogotensis	G
SISKINS AND ALLIES	FRINGILLIDAE	_
Thick-billed Euphonia	Euphonia laniirostris	G
ı	•	

Orange-bellied Euphonia Euphonia xanthogaster **PASSERELLIDAE SPARROWS AND ALLIES** 

G Yellow-browed Sparrow Ammodramus aurifrons

Rufous-collared Sparrow Zonotrichia capensis TROUPIALS AND ALLIES **ICTERIDAE** 

Russet-backed Oropendola Psarocolius angustifrons G

Psarocolius decumanus Crested Oropendola **NEW WORLD WARBLERS PARULIDAE** 

Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart) Myioborus miniatus

Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart) Myioborus melanocephalus

**TANAGERS AND ALLIES THRAUPIDAE** 

Silver-beaked Tanager Ramphocelus carbo Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager Anisognathus igniventris

**Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager** Dubusia taeniata Golden-crowned Tanager Iridosornis rufivertex Blue-gray Tanager Thraupis episcopus Thraupis palmarum Palm Tanager **Spotted Tanager** Ixothraupis punctata Blue-necked Tanager Stilpnia cyanicollis Paradise Tanager Tangara chilensis

Bay-headed Tanager Tangara gyrola Golden-eared Tanager Tangara chrysotis

G Golden Tanager Tangara arthus

**Swallow Tanager** Tersina viridis

Golden-collared Honeycreeper Iridophanes pulcherrimus Giant Conebill Conirostrum binghami Cinereous Conebill Conirostrum cinereum Glossy Flowerpiercer Diglossa lafresnayii Black Flowerpiercer Diglossa humeralis Masked Flowerpiercer Diglossa cyanea G

Plumbeous Sierra Finch Geospizopsis unicolor Chestnut-bellied Seedeater Sporophila castaneiventris

Plain-colored Seedeater Catamenia inornata Coereba flaveola Bananaquit

**MAMMALS** 

Northern Amazon Red Squirrel Sciurus igniventris Tapeti (Brazilian Rabbit) Sylvilagus brasiliensis Spectacled Bear Tremarctos ornatus White-tailed Deer Odocoileus virginianus