

# Ecuador Birds!

## *Nature Photography Adventures*

November 15 – 22, 2026

### 2026 Northwest Ecuador Bird and Wildlife Photography Adventure!



Nov 14	Optional Early Arrival	Hotel Pickup	No meals included	EB Hotel
Nov 15	Arrive Quito	*Hotel Pickup *Orientation	No meals included	EB Hotel
Nov 16	Drive to Mindo, stopping at two great reserves for photography	*Yanacocha Reserve *Loma Reserve	BLD	Casa Colibri
Nov 17	Photography close to Mindo	*Angel Paz – cock of the rock lek and more	BLD	Casa Colibri
Nov 18	Bird Watchers House	*Moth trap attracts secretive birds *Plate-billed Mountain Toucan and more! *Flash photo setup (we'll hook your camera into a flash system to photograph hummingbirds in flight)	BLD	Casa Colibri
Nov 19	Mashpi and Sacha Guatusa	*Hummingbirds *Tanagers *Fantastic Endemic birds!	BLD	Casa Colibri
Nov 20	Milpe and Butterfly Garden	*Milpe has fantastic feeders for hummingbirds, tanagers, and bigger birds *Butterfly Garden has butterfly photography that is much better than most such centers	BLD	Casa Colibri
Nov 21	Optional morning outing, then Chocolate Tour	*Optional very early morning outing to find Umbrella Bird Lek (note difficult trail hiking in dark) *Lunch at chocolate tour – where you follow cacao all the way to finished chocolate	BLD	Casa Colibri

Nov 22	We make our way back to Quito, with a morning photography session at Rio Silanche	*Check out and depart Casa Colibri *Rio Silanche for Emdemic Birds *Lunch at Mirador Rio Blanco *Waterfall photography (time permitting) *Drive to Quito *Transfer to outbound flight OR optional overnight at EB Hotel	BL	Optional EB Hotel
Nov 23	Transfer to airport	Transfer to the airport for those staying the extra night	B	

## Notes

\*Weather and other issues could cause this itinerary to be rearranged

Following are some notes and bird lists from our guide

**Guide:** Pancho Enríquez

**Altitudes:** 500 – 3,300 mts.

**Weather:** Very sunny in the mornings & some rain in the afternoons.

**Ave. Temperatures:** Cold in the early mornings and at high altitudes, 10-22 C.

**Number of bird Species expected to Photograph** 100-120

## Synopsis:

Geographically, Ecuador is located on the north west part of South America, is the second smallest country of this subcontinent, is crossed by the high Andes from north to south and by the Equator line from east to west which gives the name to the country.

It possesses only 0,2 % of the planet ´s land surface yet is uniquely endowed with a dramatic topography and a variety of climatic zones which make it one of the most biodiverse countries in the planet with about 17% of the world ´s bird species.

## Symbols:

- Second Growth (2G), Forest (F), Hummingbird Feeders (hm)
- Names on **Red** color are the most likely to see and photograph due to the fact that they go to feeders or they are easy to play back in but of course we will find many other birds expected or unexpected.

## THE WEST SLOPE

**DAY 2.-** Today we will drive a couple of hours to reach Yanacocha & Zuro Loma Reserves, two great places located in the mountain forest above the city of Quito at about 3,300 m; here we ´ll find hummingbirds, Antpittas & Tanagers feeders. Lunch in the mountains, Dinner and O.N. Casa Colibrí.



Sword-billed Hummingbird

### Yanacocha-Zuroloma birdlist

Andean Condor	Masked Trogon	Grass Wren
Red-backed Hawk	Bar-bellied Woodpecker	Mountain Wren
American Kestrel.	Bar-winged Cinclodes	Páramo Pipit
<b>Andean Guan.</b>	White-browed Spinetail	Spectacled Whitestart
Sickle-winged Guan	Streaked Tuftedcheck	Black-crested Warbler
Imperial Snipe	Pearled Treerunner	Russet-crowned Warbler
White-capped Parrot.	Flammulated Treehunter	Cinereous Conebill
Andean Pygmy-Owl	Undulated Antpitta	Blue-backed Conebill
<b>White-throated Screech Owl</b>	<b>Rufous (Equatorial) Antpitta.</b>	Giant Conebill
Band-winged Night Jar	Tawny Antpitta	
White-collared Swift	Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	Masked Flowerpiercer
	Ash-coloured Tapaculo	Glossy Flowerpiercer
Sparkling Violetear	Unicoloured Tapaculo	Black Flowerpiercer
Speckled Hummingbird	Ocellated Tapaculo	Blue-and-black Tanager
Giant Hummingbird	White-crested Elaenia	Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager
<b>Shining Sunbeam</b>	White-throated Tyrannulet.	Hooded Mountain-tanager
<b>Mountain Velvetbreast</b>	Tufted Tit-Tyrant	Black-chested Mountain-Tanager
<b>Great Sapphirewing</b>	Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	Superciliaried Hemispingus
<b>Collared Inca</b>	Crowned Chat-Tyrant	Southern Yellow-Grosbeak
<b>Buff-winged Starfrontlet</b>	Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant	Rufous-naped Brush-Finch
<b>Sword-billed Hummingbird</b>	Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant	Stripe-headed Brush-Finch
<b>Black-breasted Puffleg</b>	Smoky Bush-Tyrant	Plain-coloured Seedeater
<b>Sapphire-vented Puffleg</b>	Red-crested Cotinga	Páramo Seedeater
<b>Golden-breasted Puffleg</b>	Barred Fruiteater	Plumbeous Sierra-Finch
<b>Black-tailed Trainbearer</b>	Brown-bellied Swallow	Rufouscollared Sparrow
<b>Green-tailed Trainbearer</b>	Great Thrush	
<b>Purple-backed Thornbill</b>	Glossy-black Thrus	Band-tailed Seedeater
<b>Tyrian Metaltail</b>		
<b>Rainbow-bearded Thornbill</b>	Rufous Wren	

**DAY 3.- Mindo area, visit Cock of the Rock lek site and drive to Angel Paz** for amazing Antpittas, tanagers & Hummingbird feeders. Lunch at Angel Paz place.

O.N. Casa Colibri



Andean Cock of the Rock

#### Angel Paz Birdlist.

**Common:** Band-tailed Pigeon (2G,F), **Tawny-bellied Hermit** (hf), **Brown Violetear**(hf), **Purple-bibbed Whitetip** (hf), **Fawn-breasted Brilliant** (hf), **Brown Inca** (hf), **Collared Inca** (hf), **Velvet-purple Cororet** (hf), **Buff-tailed Coronet** (hf), **Booted Racket-tail** (hf), **Violet-tailed Sylph** (hf), **Andean Emerald** (hf), **Purple-throated Woodstar** (hf), **Ornate Flycatcher** (2G, F), Flavescent Flycatcher (2G, F), Three-striped Warbler 2G, F), Golden Tanager (2G, F), Beryl-spangled Tanager (2G, F), Black-capped Tanager (2G, F). **Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager** (2G, F).

**Uncommon:** Barred Hawk (F), **Golden-headed Quetzal** (2G,F), **Toucan Barbet** (2G,F), Sickie-winged Guan (F), Red-billed Parrot (2G, F), Rufous-bellied Nighthawk ( F), **Green Violetear** (hf), Sparkling Violetear (hf), Empress Brilliant (hf), Speckled Hummingbird (hf), White-bellied Woodstar (hf) Masked Trogon ( F), **Crimson-rumped Toucanet** (2G,F), Spotted Barbtail (2G, F), Rusty-winged Barbtail (F), Uniform Treehunter (F), Tyrannine Woodcreeper (F), Strong-billed Woodcreeper(2G, F), Uniform Antshrike ( F), Slaty Antwren (2G, F). Nariño Tapaculo (F), Barred Becard (2G, F), Club-winged Manakin (F), Andean Cock-d-the-rock (F), Fawn-breasted Tanager (2G, F), Flame-faced Tanager (2G, F), Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager (2G, F). Black-winged Saltator (2G), Yellow-faced Grassquit (G), White-winged Brush-finch (2G).

**Rare:** Barred Forest-Falcon ( F), **Dark-backed Wood-Quail** ( F), Barred Parakeet (2G, F), Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet (2G, F), Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl (F), Rufescent Screech Owl (F), Crested Quetzal ( F), White-faced Nunbird (F), **Giant Antpitta** (F), **Moustached Antpitta** (F), **Yellow-breasted Antpitta** ( F), **Ochre-breasted Antpitta** (F), Orange-breasted Fruiteater Scaled Fruiteater(F), Olivaceous Piha ( F), Beautiful Jay (2G, F).

**DAY 4.- Plate-billed Mountain Toucan Site at Bird Watcher ´s House.** Today we will be early for the ultraviolet light that attracts a lot of birds that feed on moths, also a fantastic place for Plate-billed Mountain Toucans, tanagers feeders & Multiple Flash Photography for hummingbirds. Lunch and trails at Bellavista reserve.

O.N. Casa Colibri



Plate-billed Mountain Toucan

#### **Plate-billed Mountain Toucan Site Birdlist:**

Second Growth (2G), Forest (F), hummingbird feeders (hf)

**Common:** **Gorgeted Sunangel** (hf), **Booted Racket-tail** (hf), **Purple-throated Woodstar** (hf), **Masked Trogon** (2G, F), Spotted Barbtail (2G, F), Long-tailed Antbird (2G, F), "Spillmamm's Tapaculo (2G, F), Plain-tailed Wren (2G), Capped Conebill (2G, F), **Golden Tanager**(2G, F), **Flame-faced Tanager**(2G, F), **Golden-naped Tanager** (2G, F), Metallic-green Tanager (2G, F), Beryl-spangled Tanager (2G, F), Grass-green Tanager (2G, Dusky Bush-Tanager (2G, F).

**Uncommon:** Plain-breasted Hawk (F), Sickie-winged Guan (2G, F), Scaly-naped Amazon (2G, F), Band-winged Nightjar (2G), Rufous-bellied Nighthawk (2G, F), Violet-tailed Sylph (hf), **Golden-headed Quetzal** (2G, F), **Toucan Barbet** (G, F), **Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan** (2G, F), Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (2G, F), Rusty-winged Barbtail (2G, F), Striped Treehunter (2G, F), **Strong-billed Woodcreeper** (2G, F), Ocellated Tapaculo (F), Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant (F), Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant (F), Barred Becard (2G,F) (2G, F), Green-and-black Fruiteater (2G,F), Beautiful Jay (2G), Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (2G, F), Sepia-brown Wren , Western Hemispingus (2G, F), Plushcap (2G, F), White-winged Brush-Finch (2G).

**Rare:** Tawny-breasted Tinamou(F), Rufous-banded Owl(F), Swallow-tailed Nightjar (2G, F), Long-tailed Sylph (hf), Crested Quetzal (F), White-faced Nunbird (2G, F), Star-chested-Treerunner Flammulated reehunter(F), Black Solitaire (F), Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia (2G, F), Black-chinned Mountain Tanager (2G, F), Tanager Finch (2G).

**DAY 5.- Mashpi & Sacha Guatusa feeders Full day.** (Lunch at Mashpi). This is probably the most pristine area of the whole Choco Forest in Ecuador, the number of Choco endemic birds is huge plus they are very easy to see and photograph. O.N. Casa Colibri

Birds: Purple Quail Dove, Glistening-green, Rufous-throated, Golden-hooded, Emerald, Grey and Gold & Moss-backed Tanagers; Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, Rose-faced Parrot.

Hummingbirds: Velvet-Purple Coronet, Booted Racket Tail, Brown Inca, Empress Brilliant, White-whiskered & Tawny-bellied Hermits, White-tipped Sicklebill on flowers.



Purple Quail Dove

### Mashpi area Birdlist:

**Common:** Streak-necked Flycatcher (2G), Ornate Flycatcher (F,2G), Cinnamon Flycatcher (F,2G)

Choco Warbler (F,2G), Glistening-green Tanager (F,2G), Rufous-throated Tanager (F,2G), Back-chinned Mountain Tanager (F,2G), Moss-backed Tanager (F).

**Uncommon:** Pacific Tuftedcheek(F), Uniform Treehunter(F), Russet Antshrike (F,2G), Golden-winged Manakin (F), Orange-breasted Fruiteater (F), Indigo Flowerpiercer (F,2G), Yellow-collared Chlorophonia (F,2G).

**Rare:** Beautiful Jay (F,2G), Black Solitaire (F), Rufous-brown Solitaire

**DAY 6.- Milpe & Butterfly garden.** Two great places in order to get some special birds and Butterflies respectively.

Birds: Pale-mandibled Aracary, Choco Toucan, Red-headed barbet, Broad-billed & Rufous Motmots, Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Scarlet-browed Tanager, etc. Hummingbirds like Green Thorntail, Green-crown Woodnymph, Green-crowned Brilliant, etc. At night visit the frog concert for frogs Photography.



Choco Toucan

### Milpe bird list:

**Common:** Swallow-tailed Kite (2G, F), Maroon-tailed Parakeet (2G, F), Bronze-winged Parrot (2G, F), **White-whiskered Hermit** (hf), **Green-crowned Woodnymph** (hf), **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** (hf), **Green-crowned Brilliant** (hf), **Pale-mandibled Araçari** (2G, F), **Choco Toucan** (2G, F), **Golden-olive Woodpecker** (2G, F), Red-faced Spinetail (2G, F), Lineated Foliage-gleaner (2G, F), Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (2G), Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (2G, F), Spotted Woodcreeper (2G, F), Choco Tyrannulet (2G, F), Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (2G), **Cinnamon Becard** (2G, F), **Club-winged Manakin** (2G, F), Lesser Greenlet (2G, F), Southern Rough-winged Swallow (2G), Tropical Parula (2G, F), **Slate-throated Whitestart** (2G, F), Choco Warbler (2G, F), Thick-billed Euphonia (2G, F), Ochre-breasted Tanager (2G, F), **Yellow-throated Bush Tanager** (2G, F), **Yellow-bellied Seedeater** (G).

**Uncommon:** Double-toothed Kite (2G, F), Barred Hawk (2G, F), Barred Forest-Falcon (F), **Green Thorntail** (hf), Purple-crowned Fairy (2G, F), Choco Trogon (2G, F), Collared Trogon (2G, F), Broad-billed Motmot (2G, F), Rufous Motmot (2G, F), Red-headed Barbet (2G, F), Crimson-rumped Toucanet (2G, F), **Chestnut-mandibled Toucan** (2G, F), Guayaquil Woodpecker (2G, F), Spotted Barbtail (2G, F), Western Woodhaunter (2G, F), Russet Antshrike (2G, F), Slaty Antwren (2G, F), Immaculate Antbird (2G, F), Esmeraldas Antbird (F), Ashy-headed Tyrannulet (2G, F), White-throated Spadebill (2G, F), Black-and-White Becard (2G, F), Golden-winged Manakin (2G, F), Brown-capped Vireo (2G, F), Ecuadorian Thrush (2G, F), White-thighed Swallow (2G, F), Bay Wren (2G), Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (G), Buff-rumped Warbler (2G, F), Yellow-collared Chlorophonia (2G, F), Glistening-green Tanager (2G, F), Rufous-throated Tanager (2G, F), Moss-backed Tanager (2G, F), Swallow Tanager (2G, F), Black-striped Sparrow (2G).

**Rare:** Tiny Hawk (F), Plumbeous Hawk (2G, F), Plumbeous Forest-Falcon (F), Indigo-crowned Quail-Dove (F), Pearly-breasted Cuckoo (2G), Lanceolated Monardella (2G, F), Crimson-bellied Woodpecker (2G, F), Rufous-rumped Antwren (2G, F), Long-wattled Umbrellabird (F).

O.N. Casa Colibri



## DAY 7.- UMBRELLA BIRD SITE

In order to finish with the best of the Choco endemic birds, today we visit this fantastic site where the highlight is the magnificent lek of the “Long-wattled Umbrella Bird” Lunch at “El Quetzal” Chocolate Tour. Note: The hike to the Umbrella bird lek is a little demanding with a very early wake up 04:00 am, so it is an optional activity.



Long-wattled Umbrella Bird.

### Umbrella Bird Reserve Birdlist

**Common:** White-tipped Dove (2G), Pacific Parrotlet (2G), Bronze-winged Parrot (F,2G), Spectacled Owl (F), Choco Toucan (F,2G), Black-cheeked Woodpecker (2G), Golden-olive Woodpecker (2G), Pacific Homero (2G), Slaty pinetail (2G), Streak-headed Woodcreeper (2G), Western Slaty-Antshrike (F,2G), Checker-throated Antwren (F), Dusky Antbird (2G), Chestnut-backed Antbird (F), Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (2G), Choco Tyrannulet (F,2G), Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (2G), Olive-striped Flycatcher (2G), Yellow Tyrannulet (2G), Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (2G), Ornate Flycatcher (F,2G), Bran-colored Flycatcher (2G), Rusty-margined Flycatcher (2G), Cinnamon Becard (2G), White-bearded Manakin (F,2G), Lesser Greenlet (F,2G), Ecuadorian Thrush (2G), Band-backed Wren (2G), Bay Wren (F), Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (P), Choco Warbler (F,2G), Rufous-throated Tanager (F,2G), Golden-hooded Tanager (F,2G), Bay-headed Tanager (F,2G), Ochre-breasted Tanager (F,2G), Dusky-faced Tanager (F,2G), Tawny-crested Tanager (F,2G), White-lined Tanager (2G), White-shouldered Tanager (F,2G), Buff-throated Saltator (F,2G), Black-winged Saltator (F,2G), Orange-billed Sparrow (2G).

**Uncommon:** Crested Guan (F), Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail (F), Dusky Pigeon (F,2G), Maroon-tailed Parakeet (F,2G), Rose-faced Parrot (F,2G), White-whiskered Hermit (F,2G), Stripe-throated mit (F,2G), Green Thorntail (F,2G), Western Emerald (26), Purple-chested Hummingbird (F,2G), Purple Fairy (F,2G), Choc6 Trogon (F), Northern Violaceous Trogon (F), Orange-fronted Barbet (F,2G), -headed Barbet (F,2G), White-whiskered P&rd (F), Pale-mandibled Aracari (F,2G), Olivaceous let (26), Choc6 Woodpecker (F,2G), Scarlet-backed Woodpecker (26), Cinnamon Woodpecker (F), uayaquil Woodpecker (F,2G), Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (F,2G), Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (F,2G), uddy Foliage-Gleaner (2G), Western Woodhaunter (F), Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (F), Great Antshrike (2G), Russet Antshrike (F,2G), Spot-crowned Antvireo (F), Pacific Antwren (2G), Dot-winged Antwren (F,2G), Esmeraldas Antbird (F), Brown-capped Tyrannulet (F,2G), Rufous-winged



Tyrannulet (2G), Greenish Elaenia (2G), Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (2G), Streaked Flycatcher (2G), Rufous Mourner(F), White-thighed Swallow (F,2G), Stripe-throated Wren (F), Song Wren (F), Tawny-faced Gnatwren (F), Slate-throated Gnat Catcher (F), Purple Honeycreeper (F,2G), Yellow-tufted Dacnis (F,2G), Gray and Gold Tanager (F), Emerald Tanager (F), Rufous-winged Tanager (F), Scarlet-browed Tanager (F,2G), Yellow-bellied Siskin (2G).

**Rare:** Plumbeous Forest Falcon (F), Baudo Guan (F), Purple Quail Dove (F), Banded Ground Cuckoo (F), Rufous-crowned Antpitta (F), Slaty Becard (2G), Scarlet-breasted Dacnis (F,2G), Scarlet and White Tanager (F, 2G), Blue-whiskered Tanager (F).

**DAY 8 RIO SILANCHE & FRUITOUR FEEDERS** Fly home or EB hotel. Lunch at Mirador Río Blanco.

Rio Silanche is a fantastic reserve on a transition zone between the west slopes and the lowlands. It hosts several endemic species from the Choco bioregion not easy to see elsewhere at less you go in remote Choco regions.

On the way back to Quito we can stop at Pahuma Reserve for waterfall photography.

Birds: Purple-chested Hummingbird, Purple-crowned Fairy, Choco & White-tailed Trogons, Ringed Kingfisher, Rufous Motmot, Pale-Mandible Arazary, Choco Toucan, Golden-olive, Lineated, Black-cheeked, & Guayaquil Woodpeckers; pacific Hornero, Slaty Spinetail, Double-banded Graytail, Slaty Antshrike, Pacific Antwren, Plain Xenops, Dusky Antbird, Masked Water Tyrant, Cinnamon Becard, Masked Tityra, Red-eyed Vireo, Lesser Greenlet, Ecuadorian Thrush, Bay Wren, Tropical & Slate-throated Gnatcatchers; Tropical Parula, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Green Honeycreeper, Yellow-tufted, Scarlet-breasted & Scarlet-thighed Dacnises, Guira Tanager, Silver-throated Tanager, Bay-headed & Rufous-winged Tanagers, Swallow Tanager, White-shoulder Tanager, Black-winged Saltator, Tricolored Brush Finch, Orange-billed Sparrow and many others.



Lineated Woodpecker.