

# Ecuador Birds & Mammals | Species List

## November 6 – 18, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



**With Wes Larson, Xavier Munoz, Jessie Hallstrom and nine participants:  
Lois, Mark, Betsy, David, Nate, Mary Jo, Guy, Michael and Suzy.**

Compiled by Wes Larson

**Summary:** We saw an astounding number of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians (and butterflies) on our unforgettable trip to the cloud forests, rainforests and mountains of Ecuador. Avian highlights included too many hummingbirds to count, Scarlet Macaw, Yellow-throated Toucan, Toucan Barbet, Agami Heron, Masked Trogon, Long-wattled Umbrellabird, tons of tanagers, flocks of parrots, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Crested Heron, Hoatzin, Zigzag Heron, Equatorial Antpitta, Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Andean Condor, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and many more! However, the bird voted most memorable and impressive by our group was the White-booted Racket-tail (bird of the trip). It wasn't an easy decision though, and we had a lot of candidates for bird of the trip as we truly saw such an amazing amount of beautiful and charismatic birds.

We had some serious good fortune with mammals that were a constant and welcome addition on our trip, particularly with primates in the Amazon. Mammal sightings included a wonderful tayra on Xavier's property, giant otter, olinguito, agouti, Napo saki monkey, squirrel monkey, capuchin monkey, golden-mantled tamarin, southern tamandua, proboscis bat, mountain tapir, white-tailed deer and many more. The mammal of the trip was the always charismatic giant otter! We enjoyed seeing them while traveling the creeks to and from the Napo Wildlife Center. Ecuador is one of the most biologically diverse and beautiful places that we had ever visited, and it's easy to see why it has gained such a reputation among wildlife fanatics. Join us next year.

### **BIRDS (137 species recorded):**

The link below will take you to the eBird Trip Report that details the 310 species of birds our group observed during the tour. Be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to see where and when each of the birds was seen and how many.

[Ecuador Birds and Mammals | November 6-8, 2023 | eBird Trip Report](#)

### **MAMMALS (23 species recorded):**

#### **SLOTHS AND ANTEATERS: Pilosa — (3)**

**Southern Tamandua** *Tamandua tetradactyla* —We had a brief sighting of a southern tamandua while traveling down the Napo River on our way to a cultural experience at a local village. Luckily everyone in the group got to quickly see this amazing mammal!

**Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** *Bradypus variegatus* —We had an incredible look at a beautiful sloth as we made our first journey up the creek toward the Napo Wildlife Center. Not only did we get to see the sloth, but it was a very active individual, and we watched it climb a nearby tree.

**Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth** *Choloepus didactylus* —A brief sighting while we were on top of the canopy lookout at Napo Wildlife Center.

### **PRIMATES: Primata — (8)**

**Golden-mantled Saddleback Tamarin** *Saguinus tripartitus* —Quick sightings of the Napo Wildlife Center mascot.

**White-tailed Titi** *Plecturocebus discolor* —A couple brief sightings of this primate while we journeyed around the Ecuadorian Amazon

**Napo Saki Monkey** *Pithecia napensis* —One of the rarer primates in the Amazon, we had amazing looks at a small group of these monkeys on our first journey down the creek in paddle canoes.

**Colombian Woolly Monkey** *Lagothrix lagothricha* —We saw this shy and beautiful monkey a few times during our various tours in the Amazon.

**Maranon White-fronted Capuchin** *Cebus yuracus* —A constant companion during the Amazon portion of the trip, these intelligent and playful monkeys seemed to be around every corner.

**Humboldt's Squirrel Monkey** *Saimiri cassiquiarensis* —Often seen with capuchins, we had long interactions with large groups of squirrel monkeys, some of the cuter and more playful primates found in South America.

**Colombian Red Howler Monkey** *Alouatta seniculus* —A loud and beautiful primate that we saw often in the Amazon.

**White-bellied Spider Monkey** *Ateles belzebuth* —A few nice looks at these incredible acrobatic primates.

### **RODENTS: Rodentia — (3)**

**Red-tailed Squirrel** *Sciurus granatensis* —These squirrels were common (and often unwanted) visitors at bird feeders in the cloud forest.

**Central American Agouti** *Dasyprocta punctata* —Seen at feeders in the western cloud forest portion of the trip.

**Black Agouti** *Dasyprocta fuliginosa* —Common in the montane cloud forests on the eastern side of the Andes.

### **RABBITS AND PIKAS: Lagomorpha — (1)**

**Andean Tapeti** *Sylvilagus andinus* —Seen a few times during the high Andes portion of the trip.

### **BATS: Chiroptera — (2)**

**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso* —A few amazing colonies of these tiny bats alongside the creek leading to Napo Wildlife Center.

**Fishing Bat** *Noctilio leporinus*—Commonly seen flying over the lake in front of Napo Wildlife Center.

### **CANINES, FELINES, AND ALLIES: Carnivora — (4)**

**Tayra** *Eira barbara* —An amazing sighting of a habituated tayra at the feeders on Xavier's cloud forest property.

**Giant Otter** *Pteronura brasiliensis* —We had incredibly good luck with large groups of giant otters on the creeks around Napo Wildlife Center, including one group with young that was spending time on the shore (mammal of the trip).

**Kinkajou** *Potos flavus* —Some in our group were lucky to have a very up-close sighting of a kinkajou in the dining area of Napo Wildlife Center during a blackout.

**Olinguito** *Bassaricyon neblina*—We were very lucky to get a quick but amazing sighting of this recently described mammal while staying at the Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge.

### **HORSES, RHINOS, AND TAPIRS: Perissodactyla — (1)**

**Mountain Tapir** *Tapirus pinchaque* —Great looks at a GPS-collared individual in a field near Termas de Papallacta.

### **EVEN-TOED UNGULATES: Artiodactyla — (1)**

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* —A well-known ungulate for most of our group, we saw dozens of these deer while in the high Andes.

**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (12 species recorded):**

**Black Caiman** *Melanosuchus niger* —The largest caiman species, and the only one that’s potentially dangerous to humans, we saw several during our stay at the Napo Wildlife Center.

**Yellow-headed Sideneck Turtle** *Podocnemis unifilis* —Common on logs near the shore around the Napo Wildlife Center.

**Northern Caiman Lizard** *Dracaena guianensis* —Our Napo guides found this beautiful and semi-aquatic lizard on the shores of the creek.

**Brown-eared Anole** *Anolis fuscoauratus* —A couple sightings during the Amazon portion of the trip.

**Equatorial Anole** *Anolis aequatorialis* —Beautiful, up-close looks at this lizard at the Sachatamia Lodge.

**Green Anaconda** *Eunectes murinus* —For some members of the trip (Wes) seeing these incredibly large and beautiful snakes was the highlight of the journey.

**Ecuador Poison Frog** *Ameerega bilinguis* —Seen along the trail to the canopy tower.

**Smoky Jungle Frog** *Leptodactylus pentadactylus* —A quick sighting on a night tour.

**Red-Spotted Glass Frog** *Nymphargus grandisonae*—Xavier’s friend helped us get a very up-close look at this beautiful frog.

**Palm Tree Frog** *Unknown species*—Xavier’s friend helped us get a very up-close look at this beautiful frog.

**Green Cipo Snake** *Chironius sp.*—One boat saw this beautiful snake drinking water on the side of the creek.

**Amazon Thornytail Iguana** *Uracentron flaviceps*—Nice looks at this very unique-looking lizard on the canopy tower.

It should be noted that we saw a number of other reptiles and amphibians that we could not reliably identify. In addition, we had great luck with butterflies, and blue morpho species were a common and welcome sight during the Amazon portion of the trip.

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