

Birds and Mammals of Ecuador Species List | November 3 – 15, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



**With Wes Larson, Jorge Luna and eight participants:
Georgia, Jim, Beth, Patty, Jackie, Emily, Chuck and Barb**

Summary: We saw a huge number of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians (and invertebrates) on our nearly two-week adventure through the cloud forests, rainforests and mountains of Ecuador. Avian highlights included: an unreal number of hummingbirds, four species of macaw, eight species of toucan (!), Agami Heron, Masked Trogon, Rufous Motmot, tons of tanagers, flocks of parrots, Capped Heron, Hoatzin, Zigzag Heron, six species of antpitta, Andean Condor, Stygian Owl, Torrent Duck and many, many, many more. However, the bird voted most memorable and impressive by our group was the Andean Cock-of-the-rock (bird of the trip), as we had an amazing experience watching multiple males and females at a lek. It wasn't an easy decision though and we had a lot of candidates for bird of the trip as we truly witnessed an unbelievable amount of beautiful and charismatic birds.

We had some great luck with mammals on our trip, especially on the lowland Amazon portion of our trip, but mammals were consistently and excitedly called out throughout the entire trip. Mammal sightings included a prolonged and especially beautiful Tayra sighting on Xavier's property, the best Giant Otter experience you could hope for, Olinguito on a night walk, two species of Agouti, Napo Saki Monkey, Squirrel Monkey, Capuchin Monkey, Spix's Night Monkey, Proboscis Bat, White-Tailed Deer, and more. But the mammal that won mammal of the trip was the Andean Bear! We were very fortunate to see a bear walking the hillside in a search for food and it convincingly won the vote for favorite mammal. Ecuador is without a doubt one of the most biologically diverse and beautiful places that we had ever seen and it's easy to see why it has gained such a reputation among wildlife adventurers and enthusiasts. Join us next year.

BIRDS (352 species recorded):

This species report Ebird link below details the 352 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to Ebird, be sure to click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the list as this will expand the report to show you where and when all of the birds were seen and how many.

[Ecuador Birds and Mammals | November 3-15, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS (19 species recorded):

SLOTHS AND ANTEATERS: Pilosa — (1)

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus* — We had a quick look at a beautiful sloth near the Napo Community Center in a Cecropia Tree. Like is often typical with these mammals, the sloth was sleeping high in the tree.

PRIMATES: Primata — (6)

Spix's Night Monkey *Aotus vociferans*—Some of the people in our group got a nice look at two of these night monkeys in a tree cavity during a walk in the 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

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 a long interaction with a large group of squirrel monkeys on our first paddle down the creek, 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 brief looks at these incredible acrobatic primates during a walk in the Amazon

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 and once in the cloud forests as well

BATS: Chiroptera — (3)

Proboscis Bat *Rhynchonycteris naso* —A few amazing colonies of these tiny bats alongside the creek leading to Napo Wildlife Center, and under the main dock

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

Leaf-nosed Bat *Micronycteris giovanniae*—We saw a couple of these small bats while on a night walk near Sachatamia

CANINES, FELINES, AND ALLIES: Carnivora — (3)

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 a large family group of giant otters on the creeks around Napo Wildlife Center. We got to see everything from young otters, to feeding, to playing on the shore.

Olinguito *Bassaricyon neblina*—We were very lucky to get a quick but amazing sighting of this recently described mammal while on a night walk at Sachatamia lodge. Jorge helped describe this species when it was first differentiated from the Olingo

Andean Bear *Tremarctos ornatus*—Often called by its nickname "Spectacled Bear" we were very lucky to see the only South American bear species as it walked (and ran) along a hillside looking for food. These short-faced bears are unique among all 8 species of bears for many reasons and we were very fortunate to have a prolonged and beautiful sighting

EVEN-TOED UNGULATES: Artiodactyla — (1)

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

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (14 species recorded):

Black Caiman *Melanosuchus niger* —The largest caiman species, and the only one that's potentially dangerous to humans, we saw several while staying 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 and lake

Gem Anole *Anolis gemmosus* —A couple sightings during the cloud forest portion of the trip

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

Mist Whortail Iguana *Stenocercus varius*—One of these lizards was visible on a tree at Angel's place

South American Common Toad *Rhinella margaritifera*—Seen by some of our group on the Eastern side of the Andes

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

Palm Tree Frog *Unknown species*—We got up-close looks at these beautiful frogs on a night walk

Canelos Tree Frog *Boana appendiculata*—Nice looks on a night walk at Napo

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

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*—A brief look at a young iguana at the Tutti Frutti birding station

Seven-lined Ameiva *Holcosus septemlineatus*—Some of these lizards were eating scraps at the Tutti Frutti birding station

Amazon Dwarf Iguana *Enyalioides laticeps*—One of these brilliantly green-colored lizards was seen multiple times along the trail to the canopy tower in Napo

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 invertebrates and species like the Peacock Katydid and Purple Pinktoe Tarantula were interesting additions to the list.