

ECUADOR: Eastern Andes, Cabañas San Isidro, and Wildsumaco Lodge

Saturday January 30 to Sunday February 7, 2010

Guided by Gary Rosenberg

Price: \$2300

Short one week tour (Saturday to Sunday) concentrating on two comfortable lodges on the eastern slope of the Andes of Ecuador. Excellent hummingbird watching. Fabulous diversity of tanagers. Roadside birding and well-maintained forest trails. Includes one night at Guango Lodge, three nights at Cabañas San Isidro, and two nights at Wildsumaco Lodge. Fun introduction to Andean birding.

The eastern Andes of Ecuador are spectacular in terms of both scenery and birding. The capital city of Quito is surrounded by volcanoes, some towering high above tree line with permanent snow-capped peaks. At the higher elevations on the slopes of these stunning mountains, the diversity of birdlife is impressive. Within a few hours of Quito are a series of comfortable, small birding lodges, situated in very productive birding locations, providing a perfect opportunity to sample the incredible diversity found on the east slope of the Andes. Our short tour, designed to run from Saturday to the following Sunday, will strategically visit these three lodges, beginning first at the high-elevation Guango Lodge located just below Papallacta Pass, then continuing to the middle-elevation Cabañas San Isidro, nestled in the wonderful Huacamayos, and finally descending to lower elevation in the foothills to the new Wildsumaco Lodge, which is rapidly becoming famous for an amazing set of formerly very difficult to see species. These three destinations will create a pleasurable transect from rich Paramo down to the edge of Amazonia, and we are likely to see more than 300 species during the week, including an amazing array of hummingbirds and tanagers.

The Paramo grasslands and rocky environments support numerous exciting birds, from Ecuadorian Hillstars and Carunculated Caracaras, to Stout-billed Cinclodes and Paramo Pipit. Patches of high elevation Polylepus forest are home to specialties such as Giant Conebill and the scarce Black-backed Bush-Tanager. We'll visit the stunningly scenic Antisana Reserve where we'll search the skies for soaring Andean Condors, and scope a high-elevation lake for Silvery Grebe and Yellow-billed Pintails. The grassland will be alive with caracaras and Andean Gulls, and we'll hope for views of the locally scarce Black-faced Ibis. Continuing east from Antisana, one climbs up to above tree line in, and at Papallacta Pass, where the highway crosses over to the Amazonian slope. The high elevation birding here is very productive, and we'll search for incredible birds such as Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, before dropping onto the east slope and continuing down to our high Andean lodge, Guango Lodge, where we will be bombarded by our first bout of hummingbird watching. Seeing specialties such as the incomprehensible Sword-billed Hummingbird will be a highlight of the trip.

Our next destination will be a lovely mountain lodge know as Cabañas San Isidro. The setting here is wonderful, nestled in the Huacamayos, a spur of the eastern Andes, with gorgeous vistas across the canopy of lush subtropical cloud forest. Here we will walk on nice maintained forest trails, and along roads that pass through relatively untouched forest. Large mixed species flocks of tanagers and flycatchers will be the order of the day, but we'll also look for spectacular birds such as Torrent Duck, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, which have a small lek on the property, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Black-chested Fruiteater, and both White-bellied and Chestnut-crowned Antpittas (Which both come in to worms on the trail!). One of the nicest aspects of San Isidro is how wonderful the management and service is, not to mention the nearly gourmet food!

Anyone who has birded in the Andes might recognize that the least accessible habitat is the foothill forest at about 1000 m elevation. The opening of a wonderful new lodge in the Andean Foothills called Wildsumaco, on the slopes of the Sumaco Volcano allows us, finally, to visit this incredibly rich environment, that is home to a huge number of rare and local birds. Just a few of the many specialties we'll look for here include Napo Saberwing, Black-throated Brilliant, Chestnut-crowned Gnateater, Blue-rumped Manakin, Gray-tailed Piha, Fiery-throated and Scarlet-breasted Fruiteaters, Yellow-throated Spadebill, Red-billed Tyrannulet, and a plethora of cool-looking tanagers!

In all, this short tour is an excellent introduction into the incredible diversity found in the Andes.

For those interested in a longer tour, this tour can be combined with our Ecuador West Slope tour.

Day 1: The tour begins this evening in Quito. **Night in Quito.**

Hotel: Sebastian in Quito

Day 2: We'll leave early this morning for the high páramo habitats at the recently opened Antisana Ecological Reserve and at Papallacta Pass, about an hour's drive from Quito. The scenery can be stunning, with often excellent views of the high volcanoes that surround Quito, including Cotopaxi and Antisana. The birding at the pass is equally thrilling, with good chances for Andean Condor and Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe. Other high-elevation specialties might include Silvery Grebe, Yellow-billed Pintail, Speckled Teal, Andean Ruddy-Duck, Black-faced Ibis, Carunculated Caracara, Variable (Puna) Hawk, Aplomado Falcon, Andean Gull, Andean Lapwing, Blue-mantled Thornbill, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Giant Hummingbird, Andean Tit-Spinetail, Many-striped and Streak-backed Canastero, Bar-winged and Stout-billed Cinclodes, Tawny Antpitta, Paramo Tapaculo, Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, Red-crested Cotinga, Grass Wren, Giant Conebill, Black-backed Bush-Tanager, Pale-naped Brush-Finch, and Plumbeous Sierra-Finch. We'll bird the high temperate forest east of the pass in search of mixed-species flocks of flycatchers and tanagers, which might include White-throated

Tyrannulet, Spectacled Redstart, Blue-backed Conebill, Scarlet-bellied and Lacrimose Mountain-Tanagers, and Black-headed Hemispingus, and then work our way to Guango Lodge for the night. The birding at the lodge can be superb as well, but the main attraction is the array of hummingbird feeders, where such fabulous hummers as Sword-billed Hummingbird, Tourmaline Sunangel, Mountain Velvetbreast and Buff-winged Starfrontlet are all possible. **Night at Guango Lodge.**

Hotel: Guango Lodge

Day 3: We'll bird the early morning back up above the town of Papallacta and visit patches of treeline cloud forest where we have the chance of seeing a few local specialties, such as Masked Mountain-Tanager and Black-backed Bush-Tanager. Other nice species at this elevation include Viridian Metaltail, White-chinned Thistle-tail, and Glossy Flower-piercer. Back around Guango Lodge we'll be hoping for a large mixed-species flock along the hedge rows on the property of the lodge. In the past we have seen numerous species in these flocks, including Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Mountain Cacique, Turquoise Jay, Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Dusky Piha, Blue-winged and Lacrimose Mountain-Tanagers, Blue-and-black Tanager and Slaty Brush-Finch among many others. Of course we'll have additional time to enjoy the hummingbird feeders again. After lunch, we'll continue lower in elevation, our destination being Cabañas San Isidro. The highway follows a scenic river, with wonderful views of a number of stunning waterfalls. Along the river we'll make several stops to look for Torrent Duck and White-capped Dipper. Near the town of Baeza we'll make a detour and bird some patches of forest that, in the past, have been very productive for tanager flocks, which may include a number of gaudy species such as Flame-faced, golden-eared, Golden, Black-capped, and Saffron-crowned – all in the same flock!! We'll arrive at Cabañas San Isidro in the late afternoon in time to relax before dinner, perhaps taking in the dusk chorus of Glossy-backed and Pale-eyed Thrushes, or maybe a quick visit to the hummingbird feeders. **Night at Cabañas San Isidro.**

Hotel: Cabañas San Isidro

Days 4-5: For the next two days we'll bird locally around San Isidro. The lodge is situated on a large, protected patch of beautiful cloud forest. We'll leisurely stroll along the road outside the lodge, where the birding is excellent. Here too we'll look for mixed species flocks chock full of interesting tanagers and flycatchers. Other more secretive species such as Long-tailed Antbird, Rufous-vented Tapaculo, Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant, and Rufous-crowned Tody-Tyrant can be seen in the dense *Chusquea* bamboo thickets along the road, and on the forest trails. One of the nice features at San Isidro is the early morning moth buffet that numerous species take advantage of right by the restaurant – a large street lamp remains on all night and attracts hundreds of moths, which, in the morning, many birds feed on! It is incredible to get point-blank views of birds such as Masked

Trogon, Green Jay, Scarlet-rumped (Subtropical) Cacique, Montane and Olive-backed Woodcreepers, Golden-crowned Flycatcher, Black-billed Peppershrike, Brown-capped Vireo, and Slate-throated Redstart, just to name a few. The birds are usually tame and preoccupied with feeding and offer great photographic opportunities.

One of the new features at San Isidro is the feeding of antpittas. Developed by Angel Paz near Mindo (see our Mindo tour that follows this tour), it is totally mind-boggling that some of the world's most secretive species now come out in the open and actively accept worms from humans! Who would have thought! The staff at San Isidro has achieved this for both White-bellied and Chestnut-crowned Antpittas, and we'll hopefully see both. There is also an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek on the property, and one afternoon we'll hike down and try for this amazing cotinga. Also in the forest we'll have the opportunity for both Golden-headed and Crested Quetzals, Powerful Woodpecker, Yellow-vented Woodpecker, and possibly both Sickle-winged and Wattled Guans. Of course one the key target birds we'll search for is the "San Isidro" Owl – almost certainly a yet-to-be described new species of owl that was discovered right on the grounds of the lodge! Hopefully the pattern of behavior has not changed, and the owl continues to frequent the trees right along the path to the cabins! If we are lucky, we may also see Rufous-banded Owl and Rufous-bellied Nighthawk. The birding at San Isidro will be for the most part easy and relaxing, and we'll have opportunities to enjoy yet another set of hummingbird feeders that attract such specialties as Collared and Bronzy Incas, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, and Booted Racket-tail. **Nights at Cabañas San Isidro.**

Hotel: Cabañas San Isidro

Day 6-7: We'll depart early this morning for lower elevations along the "Loreto Road" and bird our way to the new and wonderful Wildsumaco Lodge, our base for the next two nights. The birding along the route will be new and exciting, with virtually every species we see being new for the tour! The Loreto Road passes from the base of the Andes and travels down in elevation to the Amazonian town of Coca on the Napo River. Along the beginning of the road we look for numerous interesting species, including Wire-crested Thorntail, Coppery-chested Jacamar, Dark-breasted Spinetail, Lined Antshrike, Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, Foothill Elaenia, Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher, Lemon-browed Flycatcher, Olivaceous Greenlet, Spotted, Paradise, Green-and-gold, Turquoise, and Magpie Tanagers. We pass a rock face where Cliff Flycatcher is common, and we go by an historic nesting site for Orange-breasted Falcon – one can only dream!

We'll arrive at Wildsumaco in time for lunch, and we'll have all afternoon, the entire following day, and the last morning to bird around this very nice lodge. The birding will be a combination of roadside birding for tanager flocks, and inside the forest birding on very well-maintained trails. Some of the specialty birds we'll search for are some of the rarest and least seen Andean species, including

Foothill and Rufescent Screech-Owls, Band-bellied Owl, Chestnut-crowned Gnatcatcher, White-streaked Antwren, Foothill Antwren, Plain-winged Antwren, Red-billed and White-fronted Tyrannulet, Yellow-throated Spadebill, Green-backed Becard, Gray-tailed Piha, Blue-rumped Manakin, Fiery-throated and Scarlet-breasted Fruiteaters. In addition to the wonderful forest birding, the hummingbird feeders here are amazingly productive, and host a number of very rare species, such as Napo Saberwing, Black-throated Brilliant and Many-spotted Hummingbird. The lodge itself is very comfortable and just a joy to visit! **Nights at Wildsumaco Lodge.**

Hotel: Wildsumaco Lodge

Day 8: We'll spend the entire morning birding around the lodge looking for any specialties that we are still missing. After lunch we'll drive back to Quito, arriving in time for dinner. Night in Quito.

Day 9: The trip concludes this morning in Quito.

Please Note: Single occupancy may not be available at Guango Lodge. Maximum group size nine with one leader.

Maximum size of group: The maximum group size for our Ecuador: Mindo and the Western Andes tour is nine.

Tour Leader for your Ecuador Tour: Gary Rosenberg

Gary Rosenberg lives in Tucson, where he has designed and led about 50 birding tours to Ecuador during the past 25 years. He has spent nearly two years of his life (in terms of number of days in the field) birding in Amazonia, and has visited Guango Lodge and Cabañas San Isidro nearly 20 times. Wildsumaco Lodge just recently opened, but Gary stayed there in April 2009. He has been birding since early childhood, studied Ornithology for a Master's degree at Louisiana State University, and is the author or co-author of numerous scientific and popular articles on bird identification and behavior. Gary is also a passionate photographer, and has had numerous bird photos published in magazines and books. He is currently the secretary of the Arizona Bird Committee, which evaluates rare bird reports within Arizona. His current areas of expertise, apart from Ecuador, include most areas in North America, in particular Arizona, Florida, and Alaska, as well as Costa Rica, Panama, and Peru.

Pace of the tour: The pace of this tour is Easy to Moderate. Most of the birding will be done from roads, and along reasonably level forest trails. The trails are generally well-maintained, but a little hilly at times. The best birding in the Neotropics is done in the early mornings, so one should expect relatively early breakfasts (5:30). We will try and schedule mid-day siestas during the hottest part of the day. On the morning we depart San Isidro for Wildsumaco, we may leave predawn to reach the Loreto Road at dawn. On at

least a few nights, there will be before-dinner owling excursions that may prevent our normal break between birding and dinner.

Tour Price: \$2300. The cost of the tour includes all accommodations, food, within-tour transportation, baggage handling (when needed), entrance fees, water during the day's tour activities, and guide services, as indicated by the itinerary. In general the hotels and lodges we use on the tours are nice and comfortable, and often the best-available in the more remote areas we visit. In the cities we stay in above average (but not necessarily the most expensive) hotels. Meals are typically taken in local restaurants near the hotels and lodges.

The following items are not included in the tour price: travel to and from the location the tour begins and ends, laundry, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement = \$135

Deposit policy: At the time of booking a tour, a \$300 deposit is required to secure a space on the tour. This deposit is refundable or transferable up until 120 days prior to the departure date of the tour. The deposit must be received within 14 days of booking, or the reserved space will be released. Up to the 120 day prior to departure date, a deposit may be transferred to another Avian Journeys tour without penalty. Between 119 and 90 days prior to tour departure, cancellation of a reservation will result in forfeit of 50% of the \$300 deposit. Cancellation of a reservation within 90 days of the tour departure date will result in forfeit of the deposit.

Tour Registration: To register for this Ecuador tour, please first contact Avian Journeys by email or phone to check on availability. Once we have confirmed that there is space on the tour, please fill out the registration form, which is available on the "Register for a tour" page, and mail it to Avian Journeys. It is very important that you read all the information in this document, and then make sure you sign and date the waiver at the end of the registration form. A \$300 deposit is necessary to secure a space on the trip. Full payment for the tour will be invoiced 100 days prior to the departure date, and must be received within 90 days of departure.

Cancellation policy: Cancellation by a tour participant greater than or equal to 90 days prior to the departure date will result in full refund of payments to Avian Journeys (minus 50% of the deposit if the cancellation occurs between 119 and 90 days prior to the tour departure). Cancellation by a tour participant within 90 days of a tour will result in a refund of amounts we are able to recover from our hotels and ground agents. Fixed cost amounts can not be refunded. In general, the amount we can potentially refund may be as low as 50% or 25% of the cost of the tour.

Trip insurance. At the time of payment of your deposit for the tour, we highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. The following companies offer trip insurance, and/or emergency medical insurance: <http://www.travelinsured.com>,

<http://www.accessamerica.com>, www.aaa.com. One never knows when personal illness, or an illness in the family is going to strike. Given that a cancellation by a participant within 90 days of departure might result in a loss of most, if not all of the cost of a tour, trip insurance is a good idea. Furthermore, insurance is recommended in case of an illness on a tour, and in a worse case scenario, the need for an emergency medical evacuation, which can be prohibitively expensive. Purchasing insurance is a personal choice, and Avian Journeys does not recommend one company over another.

Travel to Ecuador

Once the tour is confirmed, you will need to purchase your airline ticket to Ecuador. Several major airlines, such as American, Continental, and Iberia Airlines service both Quito and Guayaquil. Please note in the detailed itinerary which city your tour begins at (all of our Ecuador tours begin and end in Quito **EXCEPT** our Southern Ecuador tour which begins and ends in Guayaquil). We strongly suggest planning your arrival in time for the Introductory Meeting on Day 1. If you are unable to arrive early on Day 1, please be aware that we often leave very early on Day 2, and there is the possibility that you will get very little sleep. An additional issue is that occasionally the weather in Quito can close the airport, resulting in the diversion of flights to Guayaquil. If this happens, there is the likelihood that you will miss our departure from Quito, and you will be responsible for the cost in catching up to the group. If you decide to arrive a day early, we would be happy to arrange for an extra night's hotel in Quito.

In this age of the Internet, booking a flight online is easy! Each individual airline has their own web site for booking flights, such as www.AA.com for American Airlines, and www.continentalairlines.com for Continental Airlines. Alternatively, one can visit sites such as www.orbitz.com or www.expedia.com which list multiple airline options.

IMPORTANT. You will need a valid passport to enter Ecuador. The passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your date of entry. A visa is not needed to enter Ecuador – you will need to fill out an entry form provided to you by the airlines and present this along with your passport to immigration. You will also be asked to fill out a customs declaration.

Entering Ecuador

Entering Ecuador is easy and should be stress free. When you deplane, follow the crowd to immigration. Hopefully your line will not be long, although there is a chance that multiple planes arrive simultaneously, and the immigration line can be long. Patience is a virtue! The immigration process is quick and professional. You will be handed back a small portion of your entry form. Please keep this piece of paper in your passport and try not to lose it. Don't worry though, if you do lose the paper, you will simply be asked to fill out a "new" one when you leave the country. Once through immigration you will arrive at the baggage claim area. Locate your carousel and retrieve your bags. You will next hand your customs declaration to a uniformed customs agent and likely be asked to

pass your luggage through an x-ray machine. This is just a formality, and it is unlikely that they will ask you to open any bags.

Once through immigration and customs, you will pass through a door and be engulfed by a crowd of agents and loved ones meeting the flight. There will be a person with a sign with YOUR NAME on it, and/or AVIAN JOURNEYS. Our ground agent in Ecuador is BIRD ECUADOR. One, two, or all three of these should be on the sign. The person making the transfer usually speaks English and will help you with your luggage. They will transfer you to the hotel.

The language of Ecuador is Spanish. While many Ecuadorians speak some English, please be aware that English is a second language. Typically the persons making the transfer, and those at the reception at the hotel speak some English. Learning a few important words, such as the Spanish word for “beer” is recommended.

The currency of Ecuador is the US dollar. All hotels accept cash or the major credit cards. We do not recommend bringing Travelers Checks – these have become more difficult to cash in recent years. ATM machines are usually available in the major cities.

Be aware that Quito is at nearly 9000 feet elevation, and if you are arriving in the evening, or if the weather is rainy, the temperature will be cool (not cold). A light jacket or sweater is advised.

Health Issues

We recommend checking with the CDC at www.cdc.com for recent warnings and recommendations for preventive medications and/or inoculations required (or suggested) for the areas you will be visiting in Ecuador. Be prepared that they will likely suggest a preventative for both Yellow Fever and Malaria.

In general we believe you will probably be surprised by the lack of biting insects. While some areas might have some mosquitoes, and small biting flies (no-see-ums), they usually don't present much of a problem. Chiggers are also occasionally present. We do recommend a relatively strong insect repellent that contains “DEET”.

Hotels and Food

Avian Journeys and Bird Ecuador (our ground agent in Ecuador) have many years experience organizing tours in Ecuador. The hotels and lodges we have selected are both comfortable and well-situated for the birding. All hotels and lodges provide rooms with private bathrooms (unless specifically indicated in the itinerary). Our hotel in Quito can store extra baggage if needed. Most of the hotels and lodges provide laundry service.

The food in Ecuador varies from standard international food (meat, chicken, fish) at the larger hotels, to relatively gourmet food at some of the lodges (such as San Isidro and La Selva). Most of the hotels and lodges we stay at cater to birders and provide early

breakfasts for our groups. Lunches are either taken at the hotel and lodges, or we have box lunches provided by them. All dinners will be at the hotels and lodges. A non-alcoholic beverage will be provided with all meals – bottled water is available everywhere. Beer and wine is available everywhere. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not included in the price of the tour.

Septimo Paraiso Lodge

For many years we had been looking for the ideal lodge to operate a tour to the Mindo area from, and we believe Septimo Paraiso is such a lodge. It is like a very large house with private bedrooms (all with private bath), but with the charm of its own. The food is excellent, and the service can't be beat. The management understands and caters to birdwatchers. There is also an excellent hummingbird garden to occupy ourselves during siestas, and there is an extensive trail system on their forested property.

Electricity

Ecuador has the same electric current as the United States – 110 volts. If you are from a country that uses 220 volts, please make certain that any charger you plan on using can function at 110 volts. Most chargers today have a voltage range of 100-240 volts.

Meeting the Group

There will be a meeting in the lobby of the hotel at 7:00 pm on Day 1. This meeting is designed to “get acquainted” with the other participants on the tour, and to meet the leader. Immediately following the meeting we will have dinner. Again, we recommend trying very hard to arrive in time for this meeting.

What to Bring

Clothing – Over the years we have discovered that “everyone” has their own tastes regarding clothes. We will suggest that you consider quick-drying pants and shirts, particularly if you plan on doing your own laundry. Many of the higher quality field clothes available from companies such as “Ex Oficio” or “REI” also offer protection from UV rays. We also recommend clothes with “neutral” colors, such as browns, tans, and greens that blend with the natural environment, which is less threatening to forest birds. Bright reds and pinks should please be avoided.

Footwear – Comfortable footwear is perhaps the most important item to consider, as we are on our feet most of the day, every day! We suggest lightweight hiking boots, preferably waterproof to a certain degree. “Goretex” type boots are an excellent choice. Rubber boots are sometimes useful for very muddy trails, but we understand that many simply don't like walking around in rubber boots all day. If you are considering rubber boots, we recommend a particular brand called “Extra Tuff,” available online at <http://www.xtratuffboots.com/>.

The following items are important:

Binoculars (waterproof)
Camera (optional)
Hat
Rain Jacket (lightweight)
Small Umbrella (ESSENTIAL!!)
Small Flashlight w/ replacement batteries
Small LED Headlamp (useful at poorly lit lodges)
Alarm Clock
Plastic Bags (to protect equipment)
Insect Repellent
Sunscreen
Water Bottle
Small backpack
Ear Plugs (optional)

Photography: Our leaders are typically very interested in photography, in particular “digiscoping”, and within the context of the tour, photography is encouraged. Certain sensible guidelines will be adhered to, such as not approaching a bird for photos until all in the group has had a satisfying look, and we will avoid unnecessary disturbance of a bird, particularly if it is nesting. At the end of the tour the leader will share his or her photo highlights, making them available on CD, or downloadable from a social network web site.

Field Guides and References. All books listed below are available from **Amazon.com**.

Dunning, John S. 1989. *South American Birds: A Photographic Aid to Identification*. Harrowood Books, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, USA.

Fjeldså, Jon and N. Krabbe. 1990. *Birds of the High Andes: A Manual to the Birds of the Temperate Zone of the Andes and Patagonia, South America*. Apollo, Denmark.

Forsyth, Adrian and Ken Miyata. 1984. *Tropical Nature*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. A superb and very readable introduction to the ecology of tropical rain forests. Recommended.

Green, Clive. 1996. *Birding Ecuador*. Second edition.

Hilty, S.L. 1994. *Birds of Tropical America*. Chapters Publishing, Ltd., Shelburne, CT.

Hilty, S.L. and W.L. Brown. 1986. *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia*. Princeton University Press.

Kricher, J.C. 1989. *A Neotropical Companion*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Ortiz, Fernando, Paul Greenfield and Juan Carlos Matheus. 1990. *Birds of Ecuador: locational checklist*. Feprotours, Quito, Ecuador.

Pearson, David et al. 1997. *New Key to Ecuador and the Galapagos* (New Key Guides). Soho Press. ISBN 1569750750.

Ridgley, Robert S. and Paul J. Greenfield. 2001. *The Birds of Ecuador*. Comstock Publishing Associates, Cornell University Press, Ithaca NY. **This is the recommended field guide for the tour.**

Ridgely, Robert S. and Paul J. Greenfield. 2001. *The Birds of Ecuador: Status, Distribution and Taxonomy*. Cornell University Press. This is the companion book to the field guide listed above.

Ridgley, R. S. and G. Tudor. 1989. *The Birds of South America Volume 1: The Oscine Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Ridgley, R. S. and G. Tudor. 1994. *The Birds of South America Volume 2: The Suboscine Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

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