

Black-crest Tit-tyrant



# BIRDS OF SOUTHERN ECUADOR 2010



White-edged Orioles

The Birds of Southern Ecuador inspire the most discerning birding enthusiast to explore the diverse landscape and exceptional avian diversity only found in this region of the country. A unique environment of several life zones, participants have access to a high degree of regional endemism providing a quality list of over 40 endemic species and a comprehensive count of South American species. Along with northern Peru, birding in this region of the country has been relatively overlooked, yet teeming with avifauna due to the semi-humid lowland rainforest, deciduous forest, cloud forest, foothill forest, montane forest, dry forest, elfin forest, páramo, and humid temperate forest, making for an ideal habitat and exceptional ornithology. Within the Cotingidae family, a key highlight is the Long-wattled Umbrellabird, found near the the most reliable lek of the Buenaventura Reserve. Also found in this region is the widely sought El Oro Parakeet and El Oro Tapaculo. The discovery of the newest Jocotoco Antpitta in recent decades, inspires our search for the Watkins Antpitta. The dry forest region of Tumbesian will bring us opportunities to observe the Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner and the West Peruvian Screech Owl. The montane forest may provide us the Black-crusted Tit-tyrant, the Rainbow Starfrontlet, and Black-cowled Staltator. As we climb in elevation to the Páramo and Elfin forest we may find the Golden plumed Parakeet, the Bearded Guan, and the Red-faced Parrot. Our lists goes on and on, and we invite you to plan your travels to explore the traverse rugged mountains and verdant valleys that make Southern Ecuador a top birding location.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Our quest will have us birding from sea level elevation to high elevation paramo in the Southern Andes for which you may reasonably expect 400-500 species in just 13 days
- Estimated at over 1600 species, Ecuador is said to host over 18% of all avian species worldwide
- Our travels will take us to the Tumbesian bioregion for firsthand explorations of recent discoveries, rare bird finds, and regional endemics
- Search for targeted species in the renowned Buenaventura Reserve considered to be the southern most region of the Choco center of endemism
- Explore exceptional birding diversity with over 3100 meters of elevation within 13 days providing multiple environments for keystone species found no where else in the world

## TRIP DETAILS

### SUGGESTED TRIP MONTHS

October-March

### TRIP LENGTH

13 days

### LAND PRICING

High Season:  
October-March  
Starting at:  
\$2595 - 6 people

Green Season:  
April - September  
Starting at:  
\$2295 - 6 people



Rates are based on double occupancy for participants. Complimentary leader accommodations are based on double occupancy; complimentary leaders of same gender are expected to share rooms. Holiday surcharges may apply. Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$200.00 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than four months prior to departure. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100.00 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849.

## Day 1 Guayaquil

Your adventure begins with your arrival in Guayaquil. You will meet your guide and be transferred to the hotel. This evening you will have a briefing and introduction to your program. **Overnight at Grand Hotel Guayaquil.** No meals are included.

## Day 2 Puerto Hondo

After an early breakfast, you will depart from the hotel to Cerro Blanco. This reserve is composed of deciduous forest and lies in the Tumbesian center. After a picnic lunch, you will drive a short distance to visit the mangrove estuary of Puerto Hondo. In a paddle canoe you will look for specialties of this ecosystem while you bird-watch before driving back to Guayaquil. If time allows, you will cross the Guayas River by boat to visit Isla Santay to do some birding at the river's edge. **Overnight at Grand Hotel Quayaquil.** (BLD)

## Day 3 Guayaquil – Manglares Churute -Buenaventura

Today you will depart Guayaquil to visit Manglares Churute Reserve, an area of almost 50,000 hectares containing deciduous, moist lowland forest and mangrove estuaries. You will be able to bird on three different stops before you continue traveling south via Huaquillas. Along the way you will stop at shrimp farm pools to look for sea birds and waders of the area. You will continue driving towards Buenaventura Reserve in the subtropical area of El Oro Province. This reserve is located near Piñas and Zaruma, an area that is renowned for being one of the most biologically rich and easily accessible birding sites in Ecuador. The reserve protects a narrow zone of cloud forest habitat on the otherwise seasonally dry west slope of the Andes in Southern Ecuador. **Overnight Buenaventura Reserve.** (BLD)

## Day 4 Buenaventura Reserve

Today will be spent birding at Buenaventura. This private reserve of 1680 hectares is located between 550 to 1100 meters above sea level. It contains two important ecosystems, lowland tropical rainforest and foothill forest. It is considered to be the southernmost region of the Choco center of endemism, and has an influence of the dry Tumbesian center as well. This area is the only site in Ecuador that features the El Oro Parakeet and the El Oro Tapaculo. The area also includes the most reliable lek for Long-wattled Umbrellabirds and species such as Club-winged Manakins, Song Wrens, Rufous-headed Chachalacas and others. **Overnight Buenaventura Reserve.** (BLD)

## Day 5 Zaruma - Jorupe

This morning will be spent birding at Buenaventura followed by a drive to Jorupe Reserve. The reserve is located just north of Macará near the Ecuadorian/Peruvian border. The journey will feature many birding stops along the way, with opportunities to see specialties such as Watkins's Antpittas, Black-cowled Saltators, White-tailed Jays, White-edged Orioles, and others. You will arrive at Jorupe Reserve late in the afternoon. **Overnight Jorupe reserve.** (BLD)

## Day 6 Jorupe Preserve

Jorupe is a 1050 hectare private reserve located in the Tumbesian region and is one of the last surviving dry forests in southwest Ecuador. Among the many bird species here are the Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, the Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner, and the West Peruvian Screech-owl. Depending on road conditions, today or tomorrow you will be able to visit Utuana Reserve. Utuana is a private reserve consisting of 250 hectares of montane forest and Tumbesian transitional forest. Its location at an elevation of 2650 meters above sea level allows for a diverse selection of bird species including the Black-crested Tit-tyrant, the Piura Hemispingus, the

Gray-headed Antbird, the Rainbow Starfrontlet, and the Black-cowled Saltator among others. **Overnight Jorupe reserve.** (BLD)

## Day 7 Jorupe – Vilcabamba

The day will begin with early morning birding at Jorupe or Utuana Reserve before continuing towards Vilcabamba, a journey that will include multiple stops for birding. The afternoon will be spent birding at Vilcabamba, an area known for its scenic beauty and the outstanding longevity of its residents. **Overnight Izhcayluma.** (BLD)

## Day 8 Podocarpus National Park

This morning you will travel to Cajanuma located in the highland part of Podocarpus National Park. Located 2750m above sea level, Cajanuma contains cloud forest, elfin forest, and páramo. It supports the highest number of bird species of any such ecotone in the world. Some of the specialties include the Golden-plumed Parakeet, the Bearded Guan, the Red-faced Parrot, and the Chestnut-bellied Cotinga among many others. In the afternoon you will return to Izhcayluma for more bird observation or relaxation at the hotel. **Overnight Izhcayluma.** (BLD)

## Day 9 Tapichalaca and Valladolid

Located between 1800 to 3100 meters above sea level, Tapichalaca encompasses humid temperate forest with a high level of endemism in its flora and fauna. It was here that the recently discovered Jocotoco Antpitta was found. Other notable species are the Bearded Guan, the Golden-plumed Parakeet, the White-capped Tanager, and the White-faced Nunbird. In the afternoon you will drive towards Valladolid where you will experience birding Northern Marañon, featuring specialties such as the Marañon Thrush, the Black-faced Tanager, and others. **Overnight Izhcayluma.** (BLD)

## Day 10 Vilcabamba- Loja - Zamora Road- Rio Bombuscaro

The morning will begin with some early birding at Vilcabamba before driving to Loja to bird the Loja-Zamora road.. The Loja-Zamora road is 60km long and embraces elevations between 1000 and 2800 meters above sea level, encompassing the eastern foothill and subtropical forests of the Andes. Later in the afternoon you will arrive at Copalinga lodge near Rio Bombuscaro. **Overnight at Copalinga.** (BLD)

## Day 11 Rio Bombuscaro

Rio Bombuscaro is the low limit of the Podocarpus National Park and supports lower montane cloud forest rich in mixed-species flocks. The bird list for the area currently stands at almost 300 species, including several threatened species such as the White-Breasted Parakeet and Coppery-chested Jacamar. The afternoon will be spent birding at Copalinga Lodge. **Overnight at Copalinga.** (BLD)

## Day 12 Zamora – Catamayo - Quito

This morning you will bird the Zamora area and the low part of the Zamora-Loja road before driving towards the Loja airport in Catamayo. Before catching your flight back to Quito you will have the opportunity to bird the Catamayo Valley. This evening you will have a farewell dinner at the hotel. **Overnight at Hilton Colon.** (BLD)

## Day 13 Departure

Today you will transfer from the hotel to the airport for your flight home.