

Mandari Panga

Amazon Rainforest | Yasuni National Park

4-8 February 2024 | Ecuador, Orellana prov.



Yellow-browed Antbird by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Trip Report

Report by Dušan Brinkhuizen, Charlie Vogt & Roger Ahlman

Our Amazonia journey commenced from Coca city with a two-hour drive to Freddy's finca. Over a delightful lunch, we enjoyed the sight of a majestic King Vulture through our scopes. With time constraints and the intense midday heat, our exploration of this private farm was brief. However, a pygmy-owl mob stirred up a flurry of activity at the forest edge, treating us to sightings of Yellow-bellied Dacnis, Short-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, Yellow-green Vireo, and Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, among others.

The boat ride to Mandari Panga was wonderful, taking us approximately an hour to reach the lodge. Along the way, we were treated to the mesmerizing sight of Swallow-tailed Kites quenching their thirst from the river. Another highlight was a Spectacled Owl perched at its day-roost, adding to our list of remarkable encounters. Late afternoon birding on the lodge grounds proved fruitful, with sightings including the striking Plum-throated Cotinga and a vibrant Scarlet Macaw, among other delightful species. As night fell, we retired to our comfortable accommodations, serenaded by the symphony of the jungle, which included the calls of Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and Tawny-bellied Screech-owl.



Blue-backed Manakin by Dušan Brinkhuizen



Blue-capped Manakin by Dušan Brinkhuizen

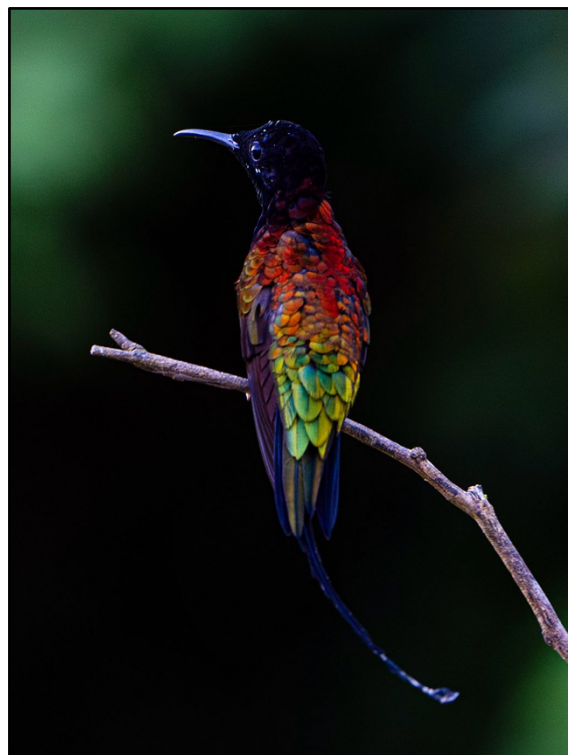
We set out early the next morning to explore the Ceibo trail in hopes of finding the rare and local Rufous-capped Nunlet. Although our search at the presumed territory proved fruitless, a little further along the trail, we had Brown Nunlet responding to our tape! Our birding adventure also led us to a small army ant swarm, where we observed a pair of

Lunulated Antbirds in action. While the elusive White-plumed Antbird remained a heard-only, we were fortunate to encounter a showy Black-banded Woodcreeper and a lively group of Red Titi Monkeys.

As late morning approached, a torrential downpour left us thoroughly drenched. The remainder of the day was washed out by relentless rain, a common occurrence in the Amazon. Despite the inclement weather, our late afternoon birding efforts were rewarded with sightings of Spix's and Blue-throated Piping Guans, albeit little else. Throughout the night, the sound of Smokey Jungle Frogs filled the air, their chorus a testament to the abundant rainfall.



Black-faced Hawk by Dušan Brinkhuizen



Fiery Topaz by Dušan Brinkhuizen

The following morning greeted us with overcast skies, hinting at potential rain and setting a subdued tone for bird activity. Undeterred, we embarked on a hike along the hilly trails, hoping to encounter elusive species like Ochre-striped Antpitta, albeit without success. Nonetheless, our efforts were rewarded with the delightful sighting of a Collared Puffbird, offering a pleasant consolation.

Throughout our hike, we encountered multiple understory mixed-species flocks bustling with activity, where Rufous-tailed Stipplethroats, Mouse-colored, Cinereous, and Dusky-throated Antshrikes, among others, kept us entertained. High up in the canopy, the melodious tunes of Lemon-chested Greenlets and Dugand's Antwrens echoed from the treetops, though spotting them amidst the dense foliage was tricky. A notable

highlight of the day was the discovery of a small lek of Blue-backed Manakins, adding a

touch of vibrancy to our hike. Despite our continued efforts to locate the Rufous-capped Nunlet, we only received responses from a Brown Nunlet, likely the same individual as the day before.

After a brief rainfall before lunch, the afternoon brought dry weather accompanied by intermittent sunshine. Venturing along the swamp trail, we were treated to a Long-tailed Potoo nestled at its day roost, offering a rare and captivating sight. Our return journey was punctuated by a stroke of luck with remarkable views of the



Wire-tailed Manakin by Dušan Brinkhuizen



Long-tailed Potoo by Dušan Brinkhuizen

rare Black-faced Hawk, a seldom-seen denizen of the forest! But the day's surprises were far from over. A late afternoon canoe ride provided us with enchanting glimpses of Varzea Schiffornis, a bird known for its elusive nature. However, the pinnacle of our adventure came with the appearance of two males of Fiery Topaz, gracefully perched along the river at close proximity, providing an unforgettable finale to another remarkable day in the heart of Amazonia!

The following morning, our journey down the Rio Tiputini was nothing short of exhilarating. In just a couple of hours, we were able to record over 100 bird species, a testament to the incredible biodiversity of the region! Among the myriad highlights were sightings of several species of hawks, toucans, and parrots, each adding a vibrant splash of color to the verdant landscape. While birding within the depths of the forest proved a bit slower-paced, our patience was rewarded with

exceptional views of sought-after species such as the Yellow-browed Antbird and the captivating Blue-capped Manakin!

A particularly thrilling moment came when we examined the camera trap images, revealing a majestic Jaguar captured just a few days prior—an awe-inspiring reminder of the untamed wilderness surrounding us. As we made our way back, we were treated to the unforgettable sight of Scarlet Macaws congregating at a tree lick, a mesmerizing display of nature's splendor. Indeed, Mandari Panga continued to astound with its boundless wonders.

Species Checklist

Total of 198 bird species recorded (4-8 Feb 2024). List follows eBird taxonomy.

More details available at: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/216503>

Great Tinamou	Great-billed Hermit
White-throated Tinamou	Blue-tailed Emerald
Cinereous Tinamou	Fork-tailed Woodnymph
Undulated Tinamou	Glittering-throated Emerald
Variegated Tinamou	Gray-breasted Crake
Speckled Chachalaca	Spotted Sandpiper
Spix's Guan	Anhinga
Blue-throated Piping-Guan	Striated Heron
Plumbeous Pigeon	Cocoi Heron
Ruddy Pigeon	King Vulture
Ruddy Quail-Dove	Black Vulture
Gray-fronted Dove	Greater Yellow-headed Vulture
Greater Ani	Gray-headed Kite
Smooth-billed Ani	Swallow-tailed Kite
Squirrel Cuckoo	Slender-billed Kite
Great Potoo	Double-toothed Kite
Long-tailed Potoo	Great Black Hawk
Common Potoo	Roadside Hawk
Gray-rumped Swift	Black-faced Hawk
Pale-rumped Swift	Tropical Screech-Owl
Fork-tailed Palm Swift	Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl
Fiery Topaz	Spectacled Owl
Straight-billed Hermit	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl

Black-tailed Trogon
Green-backed Trogon
Amazonian Trogon
Blue-crowned Trogon
Amazonian Black-throated Trogon
Amazonian Motmot
Ringed Kingfisher
Amazon Kingfisher
Green Kingfisher
White-necked Puffbird
Pied Puffbird
Collared Puffbird
Brown Nunlet
Black-fronted Nunbird
Swallow-winged Puffbird
White-eared Jacamar
Purplish Jacamar
Great Jacamar
Gilded Barbet
Lemon-throated Barbet
Lettered Aracari
Many-banded Aracari
Golden-collared Toucanet
White-throated Toucan
Channel-billed Toucan
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker
Crimson-crested Woodpecker
Lineated Woodpecker
Waved Woodpecker
Laughing Falcon
Buckley's Forest-Falcon
Red-throated Caracara
Black Caracara
Cobalt-winged Parakeet
Orange-cheeked Parrot
Blue-headed Parrot
Yellow-crowned Parrot
Black-headed Parrot
Maroon-tailed Parakeet
Dusky-headed Parakeet

Chestnut-fronted Macaw
Scarlet Macaw
White-eyed Parakeet
Great Antshrike
Plain-winged Antshrike
Mouse-colored Antshrike
Dusky-throated Antshrike
Cinereous Antshrike
Plain-throated Antwren
Spot-winged Antshrike
Rufous-tailed Stipplethroat
Pygmy Antwren
Moustached Antwren
Amazonian Streaked-Antwren
White-flanked Antwren
Gray Antwren
Dugand's Antwren
Peruvian Warbling-Antbird
Yellow-browed Antbird
Black Antbird
Gray Antbird
Black-faced Antbird
White-shouldered Antbird
Sooty Antbird
White-plumed Antbird
Lunulated Antbird
Common Scale-backed Antbird
Thrush-like Antpitta
Rusty-belted Tapaculo
Plain-brown Woodcreeper
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper
Black-banded Woodcreeper
Striped Woodcreeper
Buff-throated Woodcreeper
Duida Woodcreeper
Eastern Woodhaunter
Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin
Blue-backed Manakin
Blue-capped Manakin
Wire-tailed Manakin

Golden-headed Manakin
Plum-throated Cotinga
Screaming Piha
Bare-necked Fruitcrow
Black-crowned Tityra
Varzea Schiffornis
Chestnut-crowned Becard
White-winged Becard
Black-capped Becard
Tropical Royal Flycatcher
Wing-barred Piprites
Golden-crowned Spadebill
Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant
White-eyed Tody-Tyrant
Brownish Twistwing
Yellow-margined Flatbill
Gray-crowned Flatbill
Olive-faced Flatbill
White-lored Tyrannulet
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet
Forest Elaenia
Amazonian Elaenia
Yellow-crowned Elaenia
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Acadian Flycatcher
Drab Water Tyrant
Cinnamon Attila
Bright-rumped Attila
Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Short-crested Flycatcher
Lesser Kiskadee
Great Kiskadee
Boat-billed Flycatcher
Social Flycatcher
Gray-capped Flycatcher
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher
Piratic Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Lemon-chested Greenlet

Tawny-crowned Greenlet
Dusky-capped Greenlet
Yellow-green Vireo
Violaceous Jay
Black-capped Donacobius
White-winged Swallow
White-banded Swallow
House Wren
Thrush-like Wren
Coraya Wren
Golden-bellied Euphonia
Orange-bellied Euphonia
Yellow-browed Sparrow
Russet-backed Oropendola
Yellow-rumped Cacique
Casqued Cacique
Giant Cowbird
Scarlet Tanager
Amazonian Grosbeak
Red-capped Cardinal
Magpie Tanager
White-shouldered Tanager
Silver-beaked Tanager
Masked Crimson Tanager
Blue-gray Tanager
Palm Tanager
Opal-crowned Tanager
Yellow-bellied Dacnis
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater
Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch
Large-billed Seed-Finch
Buff-throated Saltator

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