

## Birds of the Rio Sucusari

within 2 km of ACEER, ExplorNapo, and the Canopy Walkway (Explorama Lodges)

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R. Haven Wiley  
Minna S. Wiley  
Department of Biology  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3280  
rhwiley[at]email.unc.edu

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### INTRODUCTION

The following list was compiled while studying individual variation in vocalizations of birds in the forest interior. Some of these species were new for me, so there might be some mistakes. Please send any suggestions or corrections (in English or en espanol) to [Haven Wiley](mailto:Haven.Wiley).

Scientific names follow Stotz et al. (1996); English names follow Ridgely and Tudor (1989, 1994) and Hilty and Brown (1986).

Each species' name is followed by a code indicating its relative frequency:

c, common, encountered almost everyday;  
u, uncommon, encountered more than once but not every day;  
r, rare, recorded only once.

There is also a brief note about where the species occurred or other features of its biology.

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For further information on some of the unusual/problematic species . . .

cracids,  
raptors,  
swifts,  
swallows,  
and others . . .

see the addenda below.

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### BIRDS OF THE RIO SUCUSARI (JULY 1998)

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1 Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) -- u  
scattered, calling in evening

2 Gray Tinamou (*Tinamus tao*) -- r  
once

3 Cinereous Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinereus*) -- c  
scattered, calling during day

- 4 Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) -- u  
scattered
- 5 Variegated Tinamou (*Crypturellus variegatus*) -- c  
frequently heard, mostly in evening
- 6 Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*) -- c  
always a few soaring over canopy
- 7 Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) -- u  
in emergent
- 8 Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) -- u  
above forest
- 9 Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) -- u  
in forest
- 10 Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) -- u  
above forest
- 11 Gray-bellied Hawk (*Accipiter poliogaster*) -- r  
in emergent after prolonged rain
- 12 White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) -- u  
in emergent
- 13 Black-faced Hawk (*Leucopternis melanops*) -- r  
in emergent after prolonged rain
- 14 Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) -- u  
usually near clearings
- 15 Crested Eagle (*Morphnus guianensis*) -- r  
in emergent after prolonged rain
- 16 Ornate Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*) -- u  
soaring over forest
- 17 Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) -- u  
soaring over forest
- 18 Red-throated Caracara (*Daptrius americanus*) -- c  
noisy
- 19 Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) -- u  
in emergents, calling occasionally
- 20 Lined Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur gilvicollis*) -- r  
calling early, only once
- 21 Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*) -- u  
calling early
- 22 Orange-breasted Falcon (*Falco deiroleucus*) -- u  
male and female seen repeatedly near Platform 5
- 23 Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*) -- u

- near river
- 24 Variable Chachalaca (*Ortalis motmot*) -- u  
thick canopies along quebrada
- 25 Spix's Guan (*Penelope jacquacu*) -- r  
flushed in canopy twice
- 26 Nocturnal Curassow (*Nothocrax urumutum*) -- r  
calling at night, only once
- 27 Razor-billed Curassow (*Crax mitu*) -- r  
single bird flushed beside quebrada
- 28 Marbled Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus gujanensis*) -- u  
heard in evenings occasionally
- 29 Gray-winged Trumpeter (*Psophia crepitans*) -- r  
small group flushed once (species by range)
- 30 Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*) -- r  
at edge of Jardín Botánico
- 31 Plumbeous Pigeon (*Columba plumbea*) -- c
- 32 Ruddy Pigeon (*Columba subvinacea*) -- u
- 33 Gray-fronted Dove (*Leptoptila rufaxilla*) -- c
- 34 Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*) -- u
- 35 Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*) -- u  
flying over
- 36 Cobalt-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*) -- c  
numerous
- 37 Tui Parakeet (*Brotogeris sanctithomae*) -- u
- 38 Black-headed Parrot (*Pionites melanocephala*) -- c  
frequent, noisy
- 39 Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) -- u
- 40 Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) -- c
- 41 Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) -- u
- 42 Black-bellied Cuckoo (*Piaya melanogaster*) -- u  
frequent, forest canopy, one close to the canopy walkway  
devoured an enormous caterpillar

- 43 Little Cuckoo (*Piaya minuta*) -- r  
thick foliage near edges
- 44 Pheasant Cuckoo (*Dromococcyx phasianellus*) -- u  
one heard frequently near ACEER clearing
- 45 Red-billed Ground-Cuckoo (*Neomorphus pucheranii*) -- r  
once, beneath large mixed flock, no ants present
- 46 Crested Owl (*Lophotrix cristata*) -- u  
heard regularly at night
- 47 Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*) -- r  
one seen and heard beside canopy walkway  
Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) not heard
- 48 White-collared Swift (*Streptoprogne zonaris*) -- r  
about 10 above canopy in heavy rain
- 49 Chestnut-collared Swift (*Cypseloides rutilus*) -- r  
about 10 above canopy in heavy rain
- 50 Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*) -- c  
most numerous swift, often with other species
- 51 Chapman's Swift (*Chaetura chapmani*) -- r  
one or two with other swifts
- 52 Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) -- u  
numerous in groups of swifts
- 53 Pale-rumped Swift (*Chaetura egregia*) -- u  
once above canopy
- 54 Band-rumped Swift (*Chaetura spinicauda*) -- u  
several in large groups of swifts
- 55 Ashy-tailed Swift (*Chaetura andrei*) -- u  
several in groups of swifts -- now *C. meridionalis*, paler rump  
than *C. pelagica* but identification tentative
- 56 Fork-tailed Palm-Swift (*Reinardia squamata*) -- c  
alone or with other swifts
- 57 Little Hermit (*Phaethornis longuemareus*) -- u
- 58 Reddish Hermit (*Phaethornis ruber*) -- c
- 59 Long-tailed Hermit (*Phaethornis superciliosus*) -- c
- 60 Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania forcata*) -- u
- 61 Pavonine Quetzal (*Pharomachus pavoninus*) -- r  
once, calling

- 62 White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*) -- c  
numerous, other species also calling but not identified
- 63 Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) -- c  
along Napo
- 64 Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) -- u
- 65 Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus ruficapillus*) -- c
- 66 Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) -- c
- 67 Yellow-billed Jacamar (*Galbula albirostris*) -- r
- 68 Paradise Jacamar (*Galbula dea*) -- u
- 69 White-chinned Jacamar (*Galbula tombacea*) -- r
- 70 White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchus*) -- u
- 71 Lanceolated Monklet (*Micromonacha lanceolata*) -- r  
in canopy at Platform 10
- 72 White-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa morphaeus*) -- c  
in forest canopy
- 73 Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*) -- c  
along rivers
- 74 Black-spotted Barbet (*Capito niger*) -- c
- 75 Lemon-throated Barbet (*Eubucco richardsoni*) -- u
- 76 Ivory-billed Aracari (*Pteroglossus flavirostris*) -- u
- 77 Chestnut-eared Aracari (*Pteroglossus castanotis*) -- u
- 78 Lettered Aracari (*Pteroglossus inscriptus*) -- u
- 79 Golden-collared Toucanet (*Selenidura reinwardtii*) -- c
- 80 Cuvier's Toucan (*Ramphastus tucanus*) -- c
- 81 Yellow-ridged Toucan (*Ramphastus culminatus*) -- u

- 82 Plain-breasted Piculet (*Piculus castelnau*) -- r  
once in mixed flock
- 83 Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*) -- c  
frequent, everywhere
- 84 Red-stained Woodpecker (*Veniliornis affinis*) -- u
- 85 Yellow-throated Woodpecker (*Piculus flavigula*) -- u  
frequent, in canopy
- 86 Chestnut Woodpecker (*Celeus elegans*) -- u
- 87 Cream-colored Woodpecker (*Celeus flavus*) -- u
- 88 Scaly-breasted Woodpecker (*Celeus grammicus*) -- u  
near river
- 89 Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucus*) -- c
- 90 Red-necked Woodpecker (*Campephilus rubricollis*) -- u
- 91 Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) -- u  
once, no ants present
- 92 Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) -- u
- 93 Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) -- c  
in every antshrike/antwren flock, also alone
- 94 Long-billed Woodcreeper (*Nasica longirostris*) -- u  
often heard near river and quebrada
- 95 Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper (*Dendrexetastes rufigula*) -- u
- 96 Buff-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*) -- c  
numerous
- 97 Ocellated Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus ocellatus*) -- c  
often with mixed flocks
- 98 Straight-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus picus*) -- u  
near Sucusari
- 99 Elegant Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus elegans*) -- r
- 100 Lineated Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lineatus*) -- u  
pair, in canopy

- 101 Ruddy Spinetail (*Synallaxis rutilans*) -- u
- 102 Speckled Spinetail (*Cranioleuca gutturata*) -- u  
with tanager flocks
- 103 Chestnut-winged Hookbill (*Ancistrops strigilatus*) -- r
- 104 Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner (*Phylidor erythrocerus*) -- r
- 105 Chestnut-winged Foliage-gleaner (*Phylidor erythropterus*) -- r
- 106 Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner (*Phylidor ruficaudatus*) -- r
- 107 Olive-backed Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus infuscatus*) -- u
- 108 Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus ochrolaemus*) -- u
- 109 Chestnut-crowned Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus rufipileatus*) -- u  
all foliage-gleaners with mixed flocks
- 110 Striped Foliage-gleaner (*Hyloctistes subulatus*) -- r
- 111 Short-billed Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus rufularis*) -- u  
scattered, on forest floor
- 112 Spot-winged Antshrike (*Pygiptila stellaris*) -- c  
heard often at dawn in canopy
- 113 Black-capped Antshrike (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*) -- u
- 114 Mouse-colored Antshrike (*Thamnophilus murinus*) -- c  
heard often in forest
- 115 Dusky-throated Antshrike (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*) -- c  
in every antshrike/antwren flock
- 116 Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) -- u
- 117 Cinereous Antshrike (*Thamnomanes caesius*) -- c  
in every antshrike/antwren flock
- 118 Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) -- c  
heard often in forest
- 119 White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*) -- c  
in every antshrike/antwren flock
- 120 Gray Antwren (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*) -- c  
in every antshrike/antwren flock

- 121 Short-billed Antwren (*Myrmotherula obscura*) -- c  
frequent in canopy
- 122 Streaked Antwren (*Myrmotherula surinamensis*) -- c  
frequent in tangles near water
- 123 Banded Antbird (*Dichrozona cincta*) -- u
- 124 Chestnut-shouldered Antwren (*Terenura humeralis*) -- u  
in mixed flock
- 125 Gray Antbird (*Cercomacra cinerascens*) -- c  
heard often, vine-tangled emergents
- 126 Black-faced Antbird (*Myrmoborus myotherinus*) -- c  
heard often, near ground in forest
- 127 Warbling Antbird (*Hypocnemis cantator*) -- c  
heard often, possibly also Yellow-browed
- 128 Yellow-browed Antbird (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*) --
- 129 Silvered Antbird (*Scateria naevia*) -- u
- 130 Slate-colored Antbird (*Percnostola schistaceus*) -- r
- 131 Spot-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax naevia*) -- u
- 132 Reddish-winged Bare-eye (*Phlegopsis erythroptera*) -- r  
pair with other antbirds, no ants present
- 133 Black-spotted Bare-eye (*Phlegopsis nigromaculatus*) -- u  
heard occasionally
- 134 Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) -- c  
numerous in forest
- 135 Rufous-capped Antthrush (*Formicarius colma*) -- c  
numerous in forest
- 136 Noble Antthrush (*Chamaeza nobilis*) -- u  
several heard regularly at widely scattered sites
- 137 Thrush-like Antpitta (*Myrmothera campanisona*) -- u  
heard often
- 138 Rusty-belted Tapaculo (*Liosceles thoracicus*) -- c  
scattered but often heard
- 139 Slender-footed Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius gracilipes*) -- u
- 140 Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias murina*) --



- 141 Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*) -- c  
heard frequently
- 142 Yellow-crowned Elaenia (*Myiopagis flavivertex*) --
- 143 Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*) -- r
- 144 Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleaginea*) -- u  
occasional in flocks or alone, including in canopy
- 145 Ringed Antpipit (*Corythopsis torquata*) -- c  
scattered but often heard
- 146 Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis ecaudatus*) --
- 147 Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus vitiosus*) -- c  
widespread, numerous
- 148 White-eyed Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus zosterops*) -- u
- 149 Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*) -- u  
in mixed flocks in canopy
- 150 Brownish Flycatcher (*Cnipodectes subbrunneus*) -- u
- 151 Dusky-tailed Flatbill (*Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*) -- r  
in mixed flock
- 152 Large-headed Flatbill (*Ramphotrigon megacephala*) -- r  
calling
- 153 Olivaceous Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*) -- r  
calling
- 154 Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) -- u  
occasional
- 155 Yellow-breasted Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*) -- u  
occasional
- 156 Gray-crowned Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*) -- c  
numerous in canopy
- 157 Orange-eyed Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias taylori*) -- u  
near Jardin Botanico and Platform 6
- 158 Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terentriacus erythrus*) -- u  
scattered in forest
- 159 White-eyed Attila (*Attila bolivianus*) -- r

- 160 Cinnamon Attila (*Attila cinnamomeus*) -- u
- 161 Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) -- c  
calling regularly in several places
- 162 Grayish Mourner (*Rhytipterna simplex*) -- u  
several calling
- 163 Cinereous Mourner (*Laniocera hypopyrrha*) -- u  
2-3 males calling regularly at two sites
- 164 Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) -- c  
in clearing or atop canopy
- 165 Dusky-chested Flycatcher (*Tyrannopsis luteiventris*) -- u  
small groups in canopy
- 166 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) -- c  
near river
- 167 Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) -- u  
occasional in canopy
- 168 Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*) -- u  
occasional in canopy
- 169 Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) -- c  
near clearings
- 170 Black-capped Becard (*Pachyramphus marginatus*) -- r
- 171 Pink-throated Becard (*Platypsaris minor*) -- r
- 172 White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) -- r
- 173 Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) -- u
- 174 Varzea Schiffornis (*Schiffornis major*) -- u  
in floodplain forest
- 175 Thrush-like Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdinus*) -- u  
scattered in upland forest
- 176 Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin (*Tyranneutes stolzmanni*) -- c  
many calling males
- 177 Striped Manakin (*Machaeropterus regulus*) -- u  
calling at one site
- 178 Blue-backed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia pareola*) -- c  
scattered calling males
- 179 Blue-crowned Manakin (*Pipra coronata*) -- c  
widespread, numerous

- 180 Golden-headed Manakin (*Pipra erythrocephala*) -- c  
many small leks
- 181 White-crowned Manakin (*Pipra pipra*) -- c  
widespread, not so numerous as Blue-crowned
- 182 Black-necked Red-Cotinga (*Phoenicircus nigricollis*) -- u  
little activity at lek at dawn, male and female seen frequently  
along Central Trail
- 183 White-browed Purpletuft (*Iodopleura isabellae*) -- u  
pair with flying young seen often from Platforms 6-9A
- 184 Screaming Piha (*Lipaugus vociferans*) -- c  
large congregation of calling males under canopy walkway
- 185 Spangled Cotinga (*Cotinga cayana*) -- c  
one male used habitual perches atop canopy
- 186 Bare-necked Fruitcrow (*Gymnoderus foetidus*) -- u
- 187 Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*) -- c  
groups in canopy easily located by calls
- 188 Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) -- c  
along Napo
- 189 White-banded Swallow (*Atticora fasciata*) -- c  
along rivers
- 190 Black-collared Swallow (*Atticora melanoleuca*) -- r  
several with swifts after rain -- see note below
- 191 Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) -- c  
numerous along rivers
- 192 Coraya Wren (*Thryothorus coraya*) -- c  
numerous
- 193 Southern Nightingale Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*) -- c  
scattered but often heard
- 194 Musician Wren (*Cyphorhinus arada*) -- r  
singing once
- 195 Collared Gnatwren (*Microbates collaris*) -- u  
twice, with antshrike/antwren flocks
- 196 Slate-colored (Slaty) Grosbeak (*Pitylus grossus*) -- u  
in canopy, occasional
- 197 Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) -- u  
in clearings
- 198 Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leveriana*) -- u  
in clearings

- 199 Yellow-backed Tanager (*Hemithraupis flavicollis*) -- u  
in canopy
- 200 Fulvous Shrike-Tanager (*Lanio fulvus*) -- u  
with mixed flocks
- 201 Fulvous-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus surinamus*) -- u
- 202 Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) -- u
- 203 Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*) -- u  
in clearings
- 204 Masked Crimson Tanager (*Ramphocelus nigrogularis*) -- u  
in clearings
- 205 Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) -- u  
in clearings
- 206 Golden-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia chrysopasta*) -- r  
with mixed flock
- 207 White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuta*) -- r
- 208 Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*) -- u
- 209 Opal-browed Tanager (*Tangara callophrys*) -- u  
in canopy flocks
- 210 Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*) -- c  
in canopy flocks
- 211 Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) -- r
- 212 Turquoise Tanager (*Tangara mexicana*) -- u  
in canopy flocks
- 213 Green-and-gold Tanager (*Tangara schrankii*) -- c  
often in mixed flocks
- 214 Opal-rumped Tanager (*Tangara velia*) -- u  
in canopy flocks
- 215 Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) -- u
- 216 Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*) -- u
- 217 Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) -- u
- 218 Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*) -- u

- 219 Short-billed Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes nitidus*) -- u
- 220 Swallow Tanager (*Tersina viridis*) -- r  
once, in mixed flock
- 221 Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) -- u  
singing in emergents beside river or quebrada
- 222 Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) -- u  
occasional, singing in canopy
- 223 Dusky-capped Greenlet (*Hylophilus hypoxanthus*) -- u  
scattered in mixed flocks or alone in forest
- 224 Lemon-chested Greenlet (*Hylophilus thoracicus*) -- r  
once in canopy flock at edge
- 225 Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*) -- u  
scattered in mixed flocks
- 226 Russet-backed Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*) -- c  
numerous
- 227 Green Oropendola (*Psarocolius viridis*) -- u  
occasional
- 228 Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*) -- c  
numerous
- 229 Solitary Black Cacique (*Cacicus solitarius*) -- r

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### **Gamebirds, primates, and other mammals**

As a rule, we avoid talking while working in the forest, so we often see mammals and large birds if they are present. However, during our two weeks at ACEER, other than Variable Chachalacas calling near the quebrada, we encountered cracids only three times.

A curassow flushed from a thicket beside the quebrada above ACEER lodge. I saw only a thin flash of white, a suggestion that it was a Razor-billed Curassow, rather than a Salvin's. It also seemed bigger than the Salvin's we have seen in Ecuador. The bird was extremely wary (unlike curassows in unhunted areas of Ecuador) and could not be relocated. Twice we flushed Spix's Guans in the forest canopy. They too were extremely wary; after one or two honks they could not be relocated. Once we flushed a small group of trumpeters, presumably Gray-winged Trumpeters, north of ACEER. Nocturnal Curassows called in the distance only one night during the two weeks we worked at ACEER (July is probably the wrong season for calling).

Primates were much scarcer than during my visit in March 1997. In the area from ExplorNapo past ACEER to the previous and current tambos, we encountered *Saguinus* only twice and *Callicebus* only once (although we heard a troop several other times). One morning we saw a small group of *Pithecia* in an emergent south of the canopy walkway. We heard *Cebuella* at several places along the Quebrada Trail.

Other mammals were also scarce. We repeatedly saw a Black Agouti on the hillsides north of ACEER and smelled them several other places. We encountered the large Amazonian Red Squirrel only once, again a very wary animal. On one occasion we could smell peccary on the trail about one kilometer west of ACEER. Other than those of agouti (and humans), we saw no tracks on any trails. Small squirrels were seen regularly in the forest.

All of this evidence suggests that the area accessible by trails within several kilometers of ACEER had recently been subjected to substantial hunting. During our visit, this area was a rather "empty forest". Staff agreed but explained that hunting in the area had recently stopped. If hunting can be prevented in the area around ACEER, wildlife will eventually become much easier to find and observe.

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### Unusual raptors

Several of the unusual raptors perched in sunshine in emergent canopies after heavy rainfall. Gray-bellied Hawk and Black-faced Hawk perched in plain view near the canopy walkway. Two Crested Eagles perched in a distant canopy to the east, but their enormous size, lanky proportions, and general coloration, clear in 10x binocs, excluded Harpy Eagle and Gray-headed Kite. Two other biologists saw these birds the following day.

The Orange-breasted Falcons remained near the Canopy Walkway throughout our visit. Usually just the male perched atop a snag near platform 5, but several times both sexes were there. Bat Falcon was seen along the Rio Sucusari. The Orange-breasted Falcons were identified by large size (estimated on the spot at close range), large sexual dimorphism in size, large talons, and heavy-set shoulders and heads. They had extensive orangish on the breast, but, contrary to descriptions in field guides, the bars on the blackish belly looked whitish. The size and the sexual dimorphism in size were well outside the range for Bat Falcon. The calls resembled the calls of Orange-breasted Falcons, which I have heard in Belize, and also the calls of Bat Falcons, which I have heard many places. Perhaps the pitch and rate were a little lower than Bat Falcons'.

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### Unusual swifts

Usually there were few or no swifts in evidence from the canopy walkway. With patience, we would see small groups of swifts, mostly Short-tailed and Gray-rumped Swifts and Fork-tailed Palm-Swifts. One morning, however, we had the most spectacular display of swifts I have ever seen. It had rained hard all night and into the morning. Because we could not taperecord in the forest, we climbed to platform 6 where we stood in the driving rain under umbrellas (there was no thunder to concern us!). Suddenly, we were surrounded by swifts swooping low over the canopy and around emergents. Often we were looking down on them. Minna held the umbrella while I used my binocs in the pouring rain.

At first most of the swifts were large. White-collared Swifts were easily identified -- complete white collars were clearly seen. Other swifts were nearly as long but slenderer. They had longish tails and some had dark

rufous around the neck. At the time I was puzzled that some lacked rufous, but I had forgotten that female Chestnut-collared Swifts often lack the rufous. Those without rufous had exactly the same size and shape as those with rufous.

As the rain eventually slackened to a steady drizzle, the big swifts disappeared, perhaps by rising higher in the sky, and scores of smaller swifts replaced them. There were many Short-tailed Swifts and Gray-rumped Swifts. A few were Band-rumped Swifts, very distinctive when seen from above. With them were a half dozen black-and-white swallows (see notes on unusual swallows). Fork-tailed Palm-Swifts were present also.

Finally, as the rain slowly ended, the swallows disappeared. Only small swifts remained. These included an occasional (perhaps only one) stocky, nearly uniformly dark swift (slightly paler on throat and rump), presumably Chapman's Swift (or Amazonian Swift, if we follow Marin 1997). In addition, an occasional swift (again perhaps one individual seen several times) had much more extensive pale gray on the rump. Unlike the Gray-rumped Swifts, the gray extended to the end of the tail, presumably Ashy-tailed Swifts (or Sick's Swifts, according to Marin 1997).

On other occasions on the canopy walkway, we noted an occasional Chapman's (Amazonian) Swift. On one occasion, an individual (or perhaps more) with Gray-rumped Swifts had noticeably paler (almost whitish rump) and more contrasty pattern below, possibly Pale-rumped Swift.

These were the first occasions I had seen Ashy-tailed or Pale-rumped Swifts. In addition to those already mentioned, I have seen one other swift in lowland Loreto. In February 1997, I watched a flock of Chimney Swifts bathing early one morning in the Rio Tapiche (see <http://www.unc.edu/~rhwiley/birdsloreto/tapichelist.html>). These birds were dark with pale throats and rumps slightly paler than the back.

Nothing resembling Chimney Swifts was seen at ACEER in July, when Chimney Swifts should of course be nesting in North America. The birds called Ashy-tailed (Sick's) Swifts above were noticeably paler on the rump and upper tail-coverts than are Chimney Swifts. The all-dark swifts mentioned above always looked stocky, a shade larger than other *Chaetura* present, and thus were presumably not Vaux's Swift, which in any case would be far out of its known range.

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### **Black-collared Swallow *Atticora melanoleuca***

Six or more birds above the canopy with large group of swifts after heavy rain -- long forked tail, blackish above, white belly, black under tail, black across upper breast -- long tail and black-and-white pattern were very conspicuous.

Black-collared Swallow is out of known range (closest Mitu, Colombia) and habitat (rivers with rocks). Blue-and-white Swallow has shorter tail and no black on forward underparts (southern migrants possible in July, birds from slopes of Andes also possible particularly since White-collared Swifts and Chestnut-collared Swifts were present at the same time). Barn Swallow has white in tail and lacks black/white pattern below (northern migrants not expected in July). Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift has similar long tail but completely different pattern below. Fork-tailed Palm-Swifts (present at the same time) also have long forked tails but completely

different flight and pattern above and below. The birds in question were slightly bulkier than the palm-swifts, otherwise about the same size.

Black-collared Swallow seems very unlikely -- but perhaps we do not know everything about this species. More likely is Blue-and-white Swallow (possible if I misjudged tail length and black pattern on breast). I had previously seen all of these species but Black-collared Swallow not recently.

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#### **Miscellaneous observations of note**

White-browed Purpletuft. A pair accompanied a flying young bird, often close to the canopy walkway. Otherwise, little indication of breeding by any species.

Lanceolated Monklet. One beautiful and confiding bird beside Platform 11.

Orange-eyed Flycatcher several times permitted close study by eye and ear in the canopy at platform 6, often at the same time as Gray-crowned Flycatcher.

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