

Natural history and birds of ECUADOR

Biodiversity, birds and animal behavior of tropical mountains

5 to 15 Nov 2017 (plus maybe Dec 2017, or Jan, Feb or Mar 2018)

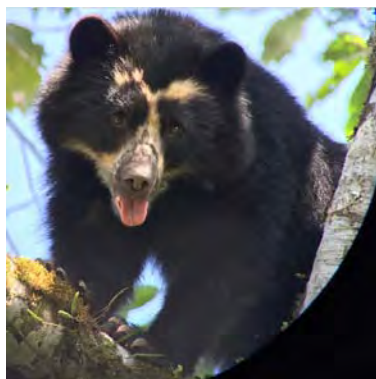
What: 10-day trip to Ecuador

When: 5 to 15 Nov 2017 (possible 2nd trip, Jan, Feb or Mar 2018)

Where: Central valley of northern Ecuador (2 hours north of Quito)

Leader: Dr. David McDonald, UW professor, 6 years Ecuador research, 30+ years in the tropics

You: Anyone with an interest in tropical natural history and travel (and binoculars)



Left:: 2 of Ecuador's 123 species of hummingbirds © P. Arnold. Center: Spectacled bear. Right: right: one of the rooms

South America has more birds than anywhere else. Ecuador straddles the equator and Andes (20,000' peaks). Although it is only slightly larger than WY, Ecuador has 4 times as many bird species (>1,600). 10-day trip will introduce you to a biodiversity hotspot, instill appreciation for the plants and animals (especially birds), and provide hands-on experience with their fascinating behaviors, based in a comfortable ecolodge in the high central valley (7,000 foot elevation). The garden has a rare hummingbird and several uncommon tanagers. We will travel in a comfortable minibus (safe driver!) to a diversity of habitats, from near-desert to lush cloud forest. Last day might be to best site in Ecuador for Andean Condor. Because of the elevation, temperatures are never extreme. Non-birding activities will include yoga lessons, and visits to archaeological, cultural and agricultural (coffee, avocados, cacao) sites. Zoology Professor Dave McDonald has studied birds (especially manakins) for 30+ years in Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil and Ecuador. Evening lectures and presentations will supplement the outings.

Expected cost: ~\$2,900 (total includes airfare ~\$1,200 RT U.S. to Quito Ecuador plus ~\$1,700 (depending on room choice) that will cover ALL in-country travel, lodging and meals).

Accommodations: Comfortable lodge with shared or private rooms.

Three hot meals per day (or box lunch for all-day field trips)

Contact/follow-up: If you are interested

email **Dave McDonald** dbmcd@uwyo.edu 307-760-9360



From left: Golden-winged Manakin,

orchid,

the grounds of the lodge (gorgeous!),

Chocó Trogon