

Cheepers! News



www.cheepersbirding.com

cheepers@sbcglobal.net

937-862-4505

December 28, 2011

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Welcome to Volume 2, Issue 6 of **Cheepers! News** issued by Jim Beckman with review, critique and photos provided by Cindy Beckman. If you are interested in reading previous newsletters, click [here](#).

As a reminder, the Cheepers! mission is to **bird the best birding locations using comfortable lodging and expert local bilingual birding guides while maintaining a lower per-day cost than comparable tours offered by the major birding tour companies.**

Cheepers! is accepting registrations for the following 2012 and 2013 escorted tours:

2012

Jun 2 - 10 **ALASKA**

Denali and Kenai \$3350 - \$3900*

Jun 10 - 14 **ALASKA**

Nome Extension \$1858 - \$2256*

Jul 8 - 13 **BRAZIL**

Cristalino Jungle Lodge \$1495 - \$1695*

Jul 13 - 27 **BRAZIL**

Cerrado, Pantanal & Eastern Forest
\$4595 - \$5495 *

Oct 1 - 19 **AUSTRALIA**

Eastern Australia - \$5485AUD

Oct 19 - 23 **AUSTRALIA**

Tasmania Extension - \$1485AUD

* Final trip price depends on number of registrations received.

2013

Feb 9 - 23 **Ecuador**

Northern Ecuador - \$3495

Feb 22 - 27 **Ecuador**

Amazon Extension - \$1295

Apr 20 - May 1 **Panama**

Canopy Tower & Canopy Lodge - \$2795

We are continuing to work our 2013 schedule and may include Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, a 2nd Panama trip, Thailand, Southeast Arizona, and/or Maine. If you are interested in any of these or other destinations for 2013, please let us know.

For 2012, the following partner trips have been confirmed:

Feb & Mar - Belize

Oct - South Africa

Nov - Namibia

Nov - Bhutan

What's new!

2012 Panama Trips Are Full

Our very popular Panama trips are filled for 2012. We just received registrations last week for the final 2 spots for the January trip and the final 2 spots for the April Canopy Lodge and Tower trip.

We currently have a Panama trip scheduled for 2013 (Canopy Tower & Canopy Lodge) and have already received 3 deposits for this trip. We expect this trip to fill quickly, so if you are interested in this trip, please let us know so we can save spots for you.

April 2012 Panama Custom Trip Has 4 Openings

We have a 10-day custom trip to Panama in April for a group of ladies from North Carolina and Virginia. This trip has room for four additional people for a group total of ten plus a trip leader and a guide. If you are interested in this trip, please contact Cindy at 937-862-4505 or via email at cheepers@sbcglobal.net.

Watch for 2013 South Africa Details

We will make a return visit to South Africa in the fall of 2013. We already have six spots saved for people who are waiting for the itinerary and registration forms to be finalized. Let us know soon if you are interested in this exciting tour.

Familiarization Trip to Honduras in March 2012

We have been invited to visit the Lodge at Pico Bonito on a familiarization trip to determine if we are interested in adding Honduras (and Pico Bonito) to our 2013 schedule. Let us know if you are interested in Honduras as a birding destination in 2013.

Website Trip Report and Photo Updates

Cindy has been updating the Cheepers! Website with Trip Reports, Photos and Checklists from recent trips. Here is the current update status on our recent trips to Peru, South Africa and Ecuador:

	Trip Report	Photos	Checklist of Seen & Heard
Peru	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Africa Cape	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Africa Sub-Tropical	Soon	Yes	Yes
Ecuador-Northern & Amazon Basin	Soon	Yes	Yes

Visit the **Cheepers!** website at www.cheepersbirding.com for prices, detail itineraries & registration forms.



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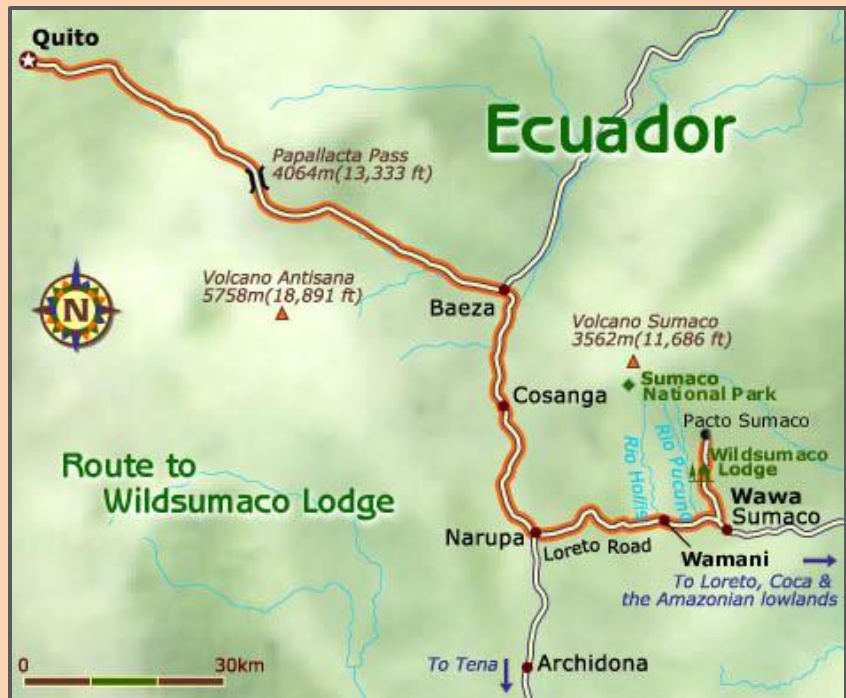
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One of our Favorite Lodges

One of our favorite lodges in Ecuador is the Wildsumaco Lodge located in the Andes' eastern foothills at an elevation of 4855 feet. Wildsumaco offers fantastic opportunities for birding, hiking, photography, flowers, butterflies, and moths.

Birders Bonnie and Jim Olson and Jonas Nilsson are the owners of Wildsumaco Wildlife Sanctuary S.A. and have done a fantastic job of building this birder's paradise which has an avian list of 491 species seen on the property and surrounding areas. A trip to Ecuador can not be considered complete until you have stayed at this lodge and birded the property and surrounding areas.

See page 7 for more information about Wildsumaco.



Do you need a guest speaker for a local chapter/club meeting?

Depending on our schedules and the proximity of your group to one of the birding festivals we plan to attend or if you are in Ohio or in a state bordering Ohio, we are available as guest speakers for your local group. We have the following presentations available:

- 2009 Harpy Eagle Trip to Panama
- Birding in Costa Rica (covers 3 trips)
- Birding in Ecuador (covers 4 trips)

I am working on Peru and South Africa presentations based on our birding adventures in these countries earlier this year.

Birding Festival Schedule

Cheepers! is currently scheduled to participate in the following birding festivals:

- Jan 2012 – Space Coast Birding Festival (Titusville FL)
- May 2012 – Biggest Week in American Birding (Port Clinton, OH)
- Nov 2012 – Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival (Harlingen TX)

If you attend one of these festivals, please look for us at our vendor's booth or say hello to us on the boardwalk at Magee Marsh.

2011 RGVBF Book Winners

Congratulations to our field guide drawing winners at the RGVBF:

- John and Christie Breuker – Birds of South Africa
- Diane & Mark Davis – Birds of Brazil
- Ellen and Peter Derven – Birds of South Africa
- Joann Saucier – Has not yet made a field guide selection

Guest Speaker Schedule

Jim will present "Birding in Central and South America" at the January 26, 2011, meeting of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Photography Club.

Trip Cancellation Policy

Sometimes, you have to cancel out of a trip after you have registered for the trip. If this happens, please notify *Cheepers!* in writing, either postal mail or email.

If notice of cancellation is received at *Cheepers!*:

- at least 6 months in advance, your deposit is fully refunded.
- between 4 and 6 months of the trip, 50% of your deposit is refunded.
- less than 4 months prior to your trip, 0% of your deposit is refunded

If cancellation occurs after full payment is made, a refund will be given only if the vacant spot is filled.



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Spotlight Tour - Brazil

From the tiny Minute Hermit to the flightless Rhea, Brazil is home to over 1800 species of birds in 72 families. No wonder it is considered one of the top birding destinations in the world! Our Brazilian tour includes three biomes (Atlantic Forests, Cerrado, and Pantanal) in the main tour and a fourth biome (Amazonia) in the pre-trip extension.

Located in Brazil's southern Amazonia, the stunning Cristalino Lodge will serve as our home away from home during our 5-day pre-trip extension. From here, we will explore pristine terra firme forest that harbors rich diversity in an area where two rivers separate many bird populations. The lodge has a 50 meter (164 feet) high galvanized canopy tower located in the middle of the Rainforest Reserve. The tower features three stations at 20, 30, and 50 meters high, allowing the viewing of many rainforest layers. At the top, you stand *above* the canopy where the view is remarkable, especially during sunrise and sunset. Many of the nearly 600 species of birds that live in this area inhabit the canopy and can be seen from the tower, including Falcons, Macaws, Toucans, and Cotingas, among others. We might also see sloths or up to six different species of monkey from this vantage point. Other resident mammals, including Jaguar, Tayra, Brazilian Tapir, Giant Otter, Porcupines, Agoutis, Capybaras, and a variety of small cats are more likely to be spotted from the ground.

Our main tour begins with the Pantanal, the world's largest freshwater wetland. World famous for its abundance of wildlife, the Pantanal has a variety of ecological sub-regions such as river corridors, gallery forest, perennial and seasonal wetlands, and lakes. We expect to see over 150 species a day birding in open areas where finding birds is much less difficult than in typical tropical birding conditions. Taking a boat ride (or two) will allow us to view wildlife along the riverbank, with about a 50% chance of spotting Jaguar. In addition, Tapirs, Giant River Otters, and many other mammals are real possibilities in the Pantanal.

Next we will experience the beautiful Cerrado landscape of Chapada dos Guimaraes. This Brazilian savanna features many waterfalls and steep sandstone formations and is home to a wide variety of species. The list of possible species is long as we move along the bird-rich Cerrado roads and trails, but a few of the targets we'll look for are Blue-winged and Red-and-Green Macaws, Greater Rhea, Red-legged Seriema, the Cerrado endemic Yellow-faced Parrot, Curl-crested Jays, and Black-faced, White-rumped, and White-banded Tanagers. The forests of the area are terrific for finding an assortment of Tyrannulets, Woodcreepers, Antshrikes, Antvireos, Manakins, and many more woodland species.

The main tour finishes with several days in the Atlantic Forests, a unique ecosystem that harbors more of Brazil's 232 endemic species than any other biome. We will enjoy 3 days in Ubatuba National Park and 3 days in Itatiaia National Park as we explore this area that boasts well over 400 species, many of which can be counted among the most beautiful birds in the world - Green-headed Tanager, Festive Coquette, Pin-tailed Manakin, Black-and-gold Cotinga, Saffron Toucanet, to name only a few!

Hyacinth Macaws feeding outside your cabin, Harpy Eagles nesting near your lodge, Jaguars moving quietly along the river as you float by - where else on Earth can you find such an adventure?

Come with us to experience the biodiversity that is Brazil!

TOUR DATES

Cristalino Jungle Lodge	July 8-13, 2012	\$1495 per person double occupancy, \$250 single supplement
Pantanal, Cerrado & Atlantic Forests	July 13-27, 2012	\$4595 per person double occupancy, \$597 single supplement

Hyacinth Macaws



Ornate Hawk Eagle



Blue Manakin



Jaguar



Green-headed Tanager

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Highlights of Recent South Africa Trip

Cheepers! visited South Africa from October 3 through October 29, 2011. During this trip, we birded around Capetown (the Western Cape Tour) and from Durbin north to Kruger National Park to Johannesburg (the Subtropical Tour). Our species counts were:

	Saw	Heard	Fly-bys	Seen by Guides Only
12-day Western Cape Tour	247	7	1	2
16-day Subtropical Tour	418	13	3	4
27-day Combined Tour	491	17	4	2

Lifers for Cindy = 370
Lifers for Jim = 456

Jim picked up 86 species on this trip that Cindy saw in Namibia in 2005.

Avian highlights included (N=Near-threatened, V=Vulnerable, E=Endangered, *=Endemic):

African Penguin (V)	Denham's Bustard (V)	Agulhas Long-billed Lark (N)(*)
African Openbill (N)	Kori Bustard (V)	Woodward's Batis (N)
Woolly-necked Stork (N)	Blue Korhaan (*)	Yellow-breasted Pipit (V)(*)
Saddle-billed Stork (E)	Chestnut-banded Plover (N)	Yellow-billed Oxpecker (V)
Greater Flamingo (N)	Collared Pratincole (N)	Cape Sugarbird (*)
Martial Eagle (V)	Knysna Woodpecker (N) (*)	Neergaard's Sunbird (N)
Lanner Falcon (N)	Botha's Lark (E)(*)	Pink-throated Twinspot (N)
Blue Crane (V)	Cape Long-billed Lark (*)	

Western Cape Tour mammal highlights included:

Great White Shark	Yellow Mongoose*	Bontebok
Cape Fur Seal	Small Grey Mongoose*	Springbok
Humpback Whale	Rock Hyrax*	Hartebeest
Southern Right* Whales	Cape Mountain Zebra	Bushbuk*
Chacma Baboon*	Grey Rhebuck*	Eland
Porcupine	Steenbok*	Black Wildebeest

Note: * denotes also seen on the Subtropical Tour

Subtropical Tour mammal highlights included (only those species not seen on Western Cape Tour): **and the really good ones**

Fruit-bat	Clawless Otter	Impala
Sheath-tailed Bat	Suncate (Meercat)	Tsessebe
Thick-tailed Bushbaby	Banded, White-tailed, Slender and Dwarf Mongoose	Waterbuck
Samango Monkey		Nyala
Vervet Monkey	Spotted Hyena	Blue Wildebeest
Cape and Scrub Hares	Burchell's Zebra	Red, Blue and Common Duikers
Smith's Red Rock Rabbit	Bush Pig	Mountain Reedbuck
Red and Tree Squirrels	Warthog	Klipspringer
Black-backed Jackel	Cape Buffalo	

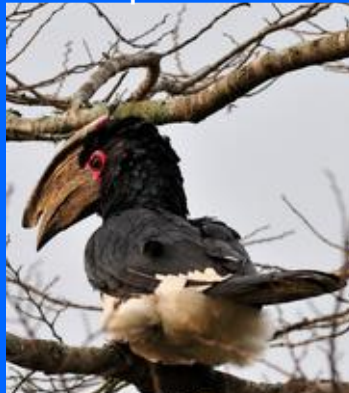
Aardvark
African Elephant
Cheetah
Giraffe
Hippopotamus
Honeybadger
Leopard
Lion
White Rhinoceros

Check the website for list of species seen and heard, photos and trip reports.

Knysna Turaco



Trumpeter Hornbill



Violet-backed Starling



African Hoopoe



Photos by Cindy Beckman



Highlights of Recent Ecuador Trip

Cheepers! visited Ecuador from November 20 through December 8, 2011. Our species counts were 525 seen, 61 heard but not seen, 6 fly-bys (needed better views to count as seen), and 13 seen only by the guides.

The trip covered three parts of Ecuador - the Northwest Andes, the Eastern Andes and an Amazon Basin extension to the Napo Wildlife Center. During the Northwest Andes part of the trip, we birded in and around Quito, Yanacocha, Old Nono-Mindo Road, Bellavista Lodge, Sachatamia Lodge, Refugio de las Aves, an Oilbird roosting site, Silanche, Milpe, and Calacali. During the Eastern Andes part of the trip, we birded in and around Antisana Reserve, Papallacta Lake, Guango Lodge, San Isidro Lodge, Guacamayas Ridge, Loreto Road, Wildsumaco Lodge, and Coca. During the final part of the trip, we birded in and around Napo Wildlife Center, on the Napo River and in Coca.

Trip highlights included:

- 70 species of Thraupidae (Tanagers, Honeycreepers, Bananaquit and Plushcap – including 3 seen by guides only)
- 64 species of Trochilidae (Hummingbirds - including 2 seen by guides only)
- 61 species of Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)
- 22 species of Psittacidae (Parrots including 1 fly-by)
- 20 species of Emberizidae (Emberizine Finches – including 1 seen by guide only)
- 18 species of Accipitridae (Kites, Eagles, Hawks, and Osprey – including 1 fly-by)
- 17 species of Furnariidae (Ovenbirds)
- 17 species of Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)
- 16 species of Picidae (Woodpeckers and Piculets)
- 13 species of Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)
- 12 species of Cotingidae (Cotingas)
- 12 species of Dendrocolaptidae (Woodcreepers)
- 12 species of Ramphastidae (Toucans)
- 10 species of Ardeidae (Hérons and Egrets)
- 10 species of Pipridae (Manakins)
- 8 species of Strigidae (Owls)

This was our 3rd Northern Ecuador/Amazon Extension trip since February 2010 and as a group, we added 47 new species to our Ecuador list bringing total seen for the 3 trips to 814 (almost 50% of the approximately 1640 species in Ecuador). Even more impressive is that we have seen 66% of the available hummingbirds (87 out of a possible 131).

Speaking of hummingbirds, our itinerary includes stops at Yanacocha Reserve, Sachatamia Lodge, Bellavista Lodge, Milpe Reserve, Guango Lodge, San Isidro Lodge, and Wildsumaco Lodge, all of which have excellent hummingbird feeders. Imagine sitting in front of 4 to 8 feeders with 6 to 10 species of hummingbirds and 20 to 40 individuals flitting around.

Our favorite non-hummingbird birding location in Ecuador has to be Antisana Ecological Reserve. This 296,000 acre reserve is home to the largest concentration of Andean Condors remaining in Ecuador. We have been fortunate to see this magnificent species on each of our trips, one in Feb 2010, ten in one binocular view in Nov 2010 and 3 separate sightings during this recent trip. Andean dwellers believed the condor was a messenger to the gods, flying into the upper world to carry prayers to the gods.

Other Antisana sightings this trip included Silvery Grebe, Andean Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Andean Duck, Black-faced Ibis, Carunculated Caracara, Aplomado Falcon, Andean Guan, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Shining Sunbeam, Black-tailed Trainbearer, Bar-winged Cinclodes, Stout-billed Cinclodes, Brown-bellied Swallow, and Hooded Siskin.

At Antisana Reserve, we bird at an elevation exceeding 13,000' with the snow-covered Antisana Volcano in the distance raising another 5800'. **What a breath-taking view!**



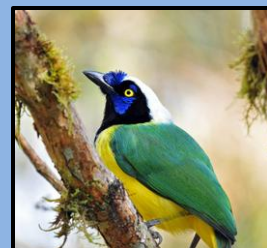
Swordbill Hummingbird



Red-capped Cardinal



Hoatzin



Inca Jay

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Cheepers! - Scheduled Custom Trips

Cheepers! custom tours are normally led by Jim and/or Cindy, depending on the preferences of the group arranging the tour. When the tour is led by the Beckmans, all of the services provided in escorted tours are available to the group. If the group opts to schedule an unescorted tour, we do all we can to ensure that their needs will be met by carefully planning every facet of the tour and arranging for a highly qualified local guide. The trip coordinator would then assume the duties as tour leader, in which case *Cheepers!* would not be able to provide the final list of sightings, the DVD of photos, or the trip report at the end of the tour.

Apr 2012 - Panama Canal Zone & Chiriqui Highlands

This standard itinerary offers opportunities to bird in most of the habitats that Panama has to offer. We will search the protected wet rainforests, mangroves, wetlands, and dry forests of the Canal Zone before we fly to the Chiriqui Highlands to search for Resplendent Quetzels and other birds of the cloud forest. The group should see 325 to 350 species on this trip. Cindy is leading this trip.

4 spots are open for this trip. If interested, please call or e-mail.

Apr 2012 – Texas (Upper Texas Coast and Hill Country)

We start this custom 9-day trip with a visit to the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge during the annual Prairie Chicken Festival. Then we head east to bird the Sam Houston National Forest, Jones State Forest, Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Bolivar Peninsula, and High Island. After visiting these Upper Texas Coast hotspots, we drive to the Texas Hill Country and bird Kerr Wildlife Management Area, South Llano River State Park, Lost Maples State Natural Area, and Garner State Park. Jim is leading this trip.

Sep 2012 – Northern Ecuador & the Amazon Basin

This is a custom 11-day itinerary jam-packed with many of the best Ecuador birding locations including Yanacocha, Old Nono-Mindo Road, the Antpitta Reserve, an Oilbird roost, Tandayapa Valley, Calacali, Antisana Reserve, Papallacta Pass, Guango, and the Napo Wildlife Center. Jim and Cindy are leading this trip.

If you have a group or organization interested in a birding destination, please allow us an opportunity to present a proposal. To develop a proposal, we need the following information:

- Where do you want to go (country or state)?
- Any specific locations?
- Any specific birds you want to see?
- When do you want to go?
- How many days should the trip be?
- What is your expected group size?
- If you are a non-profit organization, would you like this trip to be used as a fund-raiser?
- Do you want **Cheepers!** representatives to lead this trip?

Email or call for more information.

cheepers@sbcglobal.net

937-862-4505 or 937-974-0802

Itineraries are available for the following destinations:

Alaska	Costa Rica	Namibia
Argentina	Ecuador (Northern)	Panama
Arizona (Southeast)	Ecuador Photographer's Tour	Peru
Belize	Ecuador (Southwest)	South Africa
Bolivia	Florida	Texas (Gulf Coast)
Brazil	Guyana	Texas (High Country)
California (CA Specialties)	Maine	Texas (Rio Grande Valley)



Tourmaline Sunangel



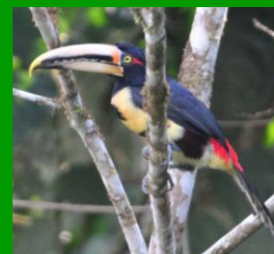
Giant Antpitta



Oilbird



Striped Manakin



Pale-mandibled Aricari

Photos by Cindy Beckman

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ONE OF OUR FAVORITE LODGES

What is Wildsumaco? Who are we? There's a road in Ecuador that winds southeast out of Quito, moving through the Andes' beautiful eastern foothills. From it, on the Guacamayos Ridge, a volcano can sometimes be seen rising to 3730 meters (12,250 feet) through the misty distance of the east. It is called Sumaco. The hills below and around Sumaco are covered in lush primary forest, so remote and difficult to access that to this day they remain virtually unexplored, unmapped, a mystery. Recognizing its significance, Ecuador has made Sumaco Volcano and the area around it a national park. Sadly, primary rainforest in and below the buffer zone surrounding the Sumaco National Park is threatened with ecological disaster.

In a classic example of slash and burn agriculture, the forest's largest trees are being sold to loggers and cut down, the remainder of the forest cleared and burned, the land turned into farms or pastures. The birds and animals living there will move on, fail to reproduce, or die out. These changes are happening rapidly, but we of Wildsumaco Wildlife Sanctuary S.A., a small, private company dedicated to conservation, are determined to save and preserve a sustainable piece of this fine rainforest and its wildlife before it disappears forever. We believe that we have found the perfect formula.

The general region of Sumaco encompasses a wide range of elevations, and is bird-rich. Many of the species found here are rare, endangered or very difficult to see elsewhere. Until now, there has been no comfortable lodging convenient to this superb destination.

We have changed that. As a significant part of our conservation effort, we have built Wildsumaco Lodge on a ridge that was cleared of forest some years ago by previous owners. The view from our deck is breath-taking, and our trails and scenery, our flora and fauna, will delight everyone who enjoys experiencing nature first hand. Our birds, butterflies and moths provide endless opportunities for photographers.

Most of our visitors are birders, and Wildsumaco should provide them with a wonderful experience. As nearly 500 avian species have been recorded on our reserve and the surrounding areas, a list of the birds that might be seen on even a short stay at our lodge is impressive.

In addition to managing our own forest and land, and running Wildsumaco Lodge, we are working with people in nearby communities, seeking economic alternatives to the slash and burn agriculture that threatens the area's remaining rainforest. In time we hope that Wildsumaco Wildlife Sanctuary will become a recognized base for scientific inquiry into ornithology, zoology, botany and other biological fields, within our own forest and in the nearby Sumaco National Park as well.

We are personally involved... in every aspect of Wildsumaco's land and lodge, and believe that our direct, hands-on approach to conservation will work well here. Our presence serves to preserve and protect the rainforest and its wildlife, birders have unrivaled access to some of Ecuador's finest species, and lodge income will maintain the property. Beyond this, most of any profit from the lodge will be used to buy and protect additional forest in the Sumaco region, through the non-profit Rio Pucuno Foundation (see link below).

Who we are and our philosophy... We are a handful of people from Sweden and the United States with long-term presence and experience throughout South America, although our total commitment is now in Ecuador's eastern foothills. Our backgrounds and training differ, but among our various talents we are all dedicated conservationists and birders, and one of us has been involved professionally in birding for many years.

Quite simply, we believe that as a private company we can successfully take on the challenge of doing something by ourselves that will make a difference in this very special part of Ecuador.

Wildsumaco Wildlife Sanctuary S.A. is a small independent company, privately financed and operated. Our key to successful land stewardship is our direct, hands-on management of our company, our lodge and our forest.

This is a deeply personal effort for all of us. We have put our talents, our hearts and our own resources into what we are doing in Sumaco; our driving force is conservation, not profit. We shall maintain our commitments to forest conservation and to running a fine lodge, returning profits to the land, and find the responsibility to be an exciting challenge. When you visit Wildsumaco, you'll see what a few individuals who are deeply committed to conservation can accomplish.

We're proud of what we have already achieved in Sumaco, and eagerly anticipate our future here on the eastern slope of Ecuador's Andes. We will be good stewards of our land. To read about or help our conservation efforts, please go to: www.riopucunofoundation.org

This information was copied from the Wildsumaco website with permission of Wildsumaco management.

For more information about this wonderful location, visit the Wildsumaco website at www.wildsumaco.com

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CLUBS FOR YOUNG BIRDERS

If you know a 12-18 year old with a strong interest in birding and nature, there are multiple young birders clubs in the United States. In 2006, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) sponsored and helped form the first young birders club in Ohio and the first in the country. During the past 5 years, clubs have been established in the following cities and states (many with guidance from BSBO):

Alabama Young Birders Club

CT Young Birders Club

Delaware Dunlins Young Birders Club

Audubon Young Birders Club (Naples Florida)

Georgia Young Birders Club

Idaho Young Birders Club

Illinois Young Birders Club

Indiana Young Birders

New York Young Birders Club

Wake Audubon Young Naturalist Club (North Carolina)

Oklahoma Young Birders Club

PA Young Birders Club

Central Texas Young Birders Club

San Antonio Young Birders Club

Tucson Young Birders Club

Vermont Young Birders Club

Encourage young birders to investigate the benefits of joining one of the existing young birder clubs or to help form one in their local area. Some of the benefits of a young birders club includes the chance to interact with other young people who share the same interest, field trips to many exciting birding destinations including overnight trips, and annual young birders conferences.

The young birders clubs also need adult assistance. Volunteer opportunities exist with every club. Financial assistance is always needed. **Get involved.** See and experience how these clubs help to encourage, educate and empower our youth conservation leaders. Clubs provide outdoor experiences that help develop a deeper awareness and appreciation of our natural world.

Adult sponsors and supporters recognize that it takes more than the ability to identify birds to be good stewards of our natural resources. The adults give young people the tools to empower their ability to be strong conservation leaders. Financial support is critical for conservation efforts, and teaching the students about fundraising and charitable giving is an important part of their leadership development.

This information was obtained from the OYBC website - www.ohioyoungbirders.org

News From The Ohio Young Birders Club

The 2012 OYBC Field Trip Schedule has been updated on the OYBC website. Lots of exciting trips are planned.

On November 5, 2011, around 100 people attended the OYBC's 5th Annual Conference. Attendees enjoyed a morning bird walk, a bird banding demo, a live raptor display, the bird ID quiz, a fine lunch, fabulous door prizes, a presentation on birding opportunities for young people, and amazing presentations by the students.

The 2011 OYBC Big Sit Fundraiser was held on Saturday, October 15 at the Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve. We knew it would be a tough spot to observe a lot of birds. We tallied 31 species. Spotting scopes were required. Strong W-SW winds battered us all day. 9 students and 19 adults visited and/or participated at least part of the day. The big sit raised over \$5000, so we exceeded our goal. Thanks to all who stopped by on Saturday, and a huge "**Thank You!!**" to everyone who donated.

For more information about the OYBC, visit the website often (www.ohioyoungbirders.org), field trips and events are updated frequently

Visit the Black Swamp Bird Observatory located at the entrance of Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

Call the Black Swamp Bird Observatory Nature Center - 419 898-4070

Email us: info@ohioyoungbirders.org

The Ohio Young Birders Club is a statewide group for nature enthusiasts ages 12 to 18.

The club is part of the education program of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, a research and education organization based in Oak Harbor, OH.

This information was obtained from the OYBC website - www.ohioyoungbirders.org

Jim and Cindy have been adult supporters of the OYBC since its inception on 2006.