



Río Canandé Reserve

Project title: Expanding the Río Canandé Reserve in the Ecuadorian Chocó

Location: Ecuador

Coordinates: 0.52609606, -79.21289453

Size: 520 acres

Grant Amount: \$40,000

Date: 2023

Partners: American Bird Conservancy

Project Description

The Chocó region of northwest Ecuador is a top priority for the future of endangered birds. The Ecuadorian Chocó forest is the second most biodiverse and one of the five most threatened biodiversity hotspots on Earth. It rivals the Amazon in biodiversity and endemism and also, unfortunately, surpasses the Amazon in percent deforestation. Less than two percent of the lowland rainforest remains, and habitat loss and fragmentation are now much worse than they were 30 years ago. The Chocó region has 62 endemic birds—more than any other Endemic Bird Area in the world—as well as neotropical migratory birds including Cerulean Warbler, Olive-

sided Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and both Eastern and Western Wood Pewees.

To counter habitat loss in the Chocó region, ABC's Ecuadorian partner Fundación Jocotoco established the Río Canandé Reserve in 2000. In 2023, Jocotoco continues to seek the acquisition of new properties with the goal of expanding the reserve to improve connectivity with other protected areas and enhance bird conservation across the region. The reserve is currently 20,974 acres in size and protects populations of several endangered species, including 14 globally threatened bird species such as the rare Banded Ground-Cuckoo, Great Green Macaw, Purple Quail-Dove, and Baudo Guan (all species that are Endangered with global populations sizes of less than 5,000 individuals).

More than 100 species of mammals have also been recorded thus far in the reserve, including iconic species such as the Jaguar, and probably the world's most important population of the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider monkey—one of the 25 most endangered primate in the world. The area around Canandé also has the highest number of amphibians and reptiles west of the Andes, with approximately 130 species found there so far. The reserve also protects the largest population of two Critically Endangered magnolia tree species and the endangered *Ecuadendron acosta-solisianum* tree.

ABC and Jocotoco are currently pursuing the acquisition of additional properties at Canandé to help expand the reserve. The map below identifies six properties in the Canandé totaling 520 acres (210.50 hectares) consisting of lowland rainforest and that are targeted for purchase over the next six months. ABC currently has \$78,000 in hand from private donors to support these acquisitions, and we respectfully ask for your support in helping Jocotoco cover a portion of the funds still needed for these acquisitions. Jocotoco will also provide matching support of funds received.

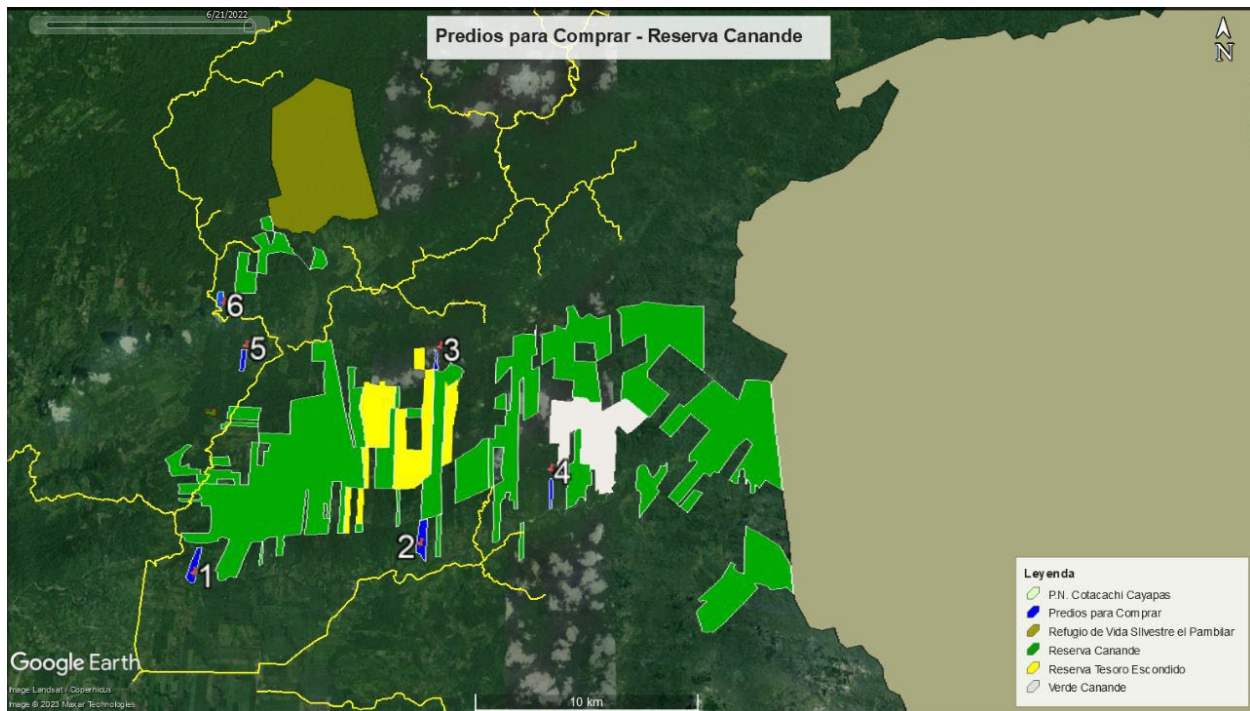
List of Neotropical Bird Species using the Project Site:

A complete list of bird species at the Río Canandé Reserve can be found at the eBird hotspot [here](#). Neotropical migratory birds include Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk, Peregrine Falcon, Acadian Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-pewee, Eastern Wood-pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Black-and-white Warbler.

Neotropical resident birds include Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Common Black-hawk, Gray-lined Hawk, Purple Gallinule, Tropical Kingbird, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, House Wren, and Tropical Parula.

List of Other Bird Species of Concern or Focus:

Baudo Guan (Endangered), Rufous-headed Chachalaca (Vulnerable), Great Curassow (Vulnerable), Harpy Eagle (Vulnerable), Gray-backed Hawk (Endangered), Brown Wood-rail (Vulnerable), Purple Quail-Dove (Endangered), Banded Ground-cuckoo (Endangered), Plumbeous Forest-falcon (Vulnerable), Great Green Macaw (Critically Endangered), Ochraceous Attila (Vulnerable), Long-wattled Umbrellabird (Vulnerable), Slaty Becard (Vulnerable), Rufous-brown Solitaire (Endangered), Scarlet-breasted Dacnis (Vulnerable), and Yellow-green Bush-tanager (Vulnerable).



This map shows the six properties (in blue, numbered 1-6) at Canandé that Jocotoco is seeking to acquire, as well as current protected areas (green = Rio Canande Reserve; yellow = Tesoro Escondido Reserve, white = Verde Canande, olive = El Pambilar Wildlife Refuge, tan = Cotacachi Cayapas National Park). The land purchases targeted here are part of a larger effort to consolidate this corridor and reserve network, as well as block critical access points to reduce the risk of logging throughout this area.