

“Wild Treasures” Mural



Quinara - Loja - Ecuador
2026

Biocultural Educational Infographic

About the Species Artistically Represented
in the Mural



Andean Motmot

Momotus aequatorialis

Momot

Distribution:

Andes of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and northern Bolivia. Inhabits humid montane forests, forest edges, secondary forests, and areas near streams and creeks.

Size:

46 - 48 cm

Diet:

Insects, spiders, small vertebrates, and wild fruits.

Family:

Momotidae

Reproduction:

Nests in burrows excavated into banks or earthen slopes. Lays 3 eggs, which are incubated by both parents for approximately 3 weeks.

Characteristics:

- ★ Hunts from a perch, swooping down to the ground or into the vegetation to capture prey.
- ★ Usually observed alone or in pairs.
- ★ When alert, it swings its tail from side to side.
- ★ Its long racket-tipped tail feathers are its most distinctive feature.

Ecological Role:

Insect population control.
Seed dispersal.



Amazilia Hummingbird

Amazilia amazilia

Colibrí de Loja

Family:

Trochilidae

Diet:

Feeds primarily on nectar and supplements its diet with small insects and spiders.

Reproduction:

Breeds throughout the year. Lays 2 white eggs, with an incubation period of 16–18 days.

Characteristics:

- ★ The male defends feeding territories.
- ★ The female builds a small cup-shaped nest using plant fibers and spider webs.
- ★ It is recognized by its fast, zigzagging flight among flowers, its most distinctive characteristic.

Distribution:

Inhabits open and dry environments in western Ecuador and Peru, including scrublands, thorn forests, and semi-arid areas.

Bejaria

It is an evergreen shrub or small tree with striking flowers that may be white, pink, or red. Some species produce fragrant flowers. It is found in several regions of the Americas, including Ecuador.

Size:

9 - 11 cm

Ecological Role:

An important pollinator of native plants.



Fasciated Wren

Campylorhynchus fasciatus

Soterrey Ondeado

Family:

Troglodytidae

Reproduction:

Cooperative breeding in family groups. A dominant breeding pair. Lays 3–4 eggs. Incubation lasts approximately 17 days.

Characteristics:

- ★ Males and females have similar plumage.
- ★ Rests in groups inside communal nests.
- ★ Its song is used to defend territory and communicate with other individuals.

Diet:

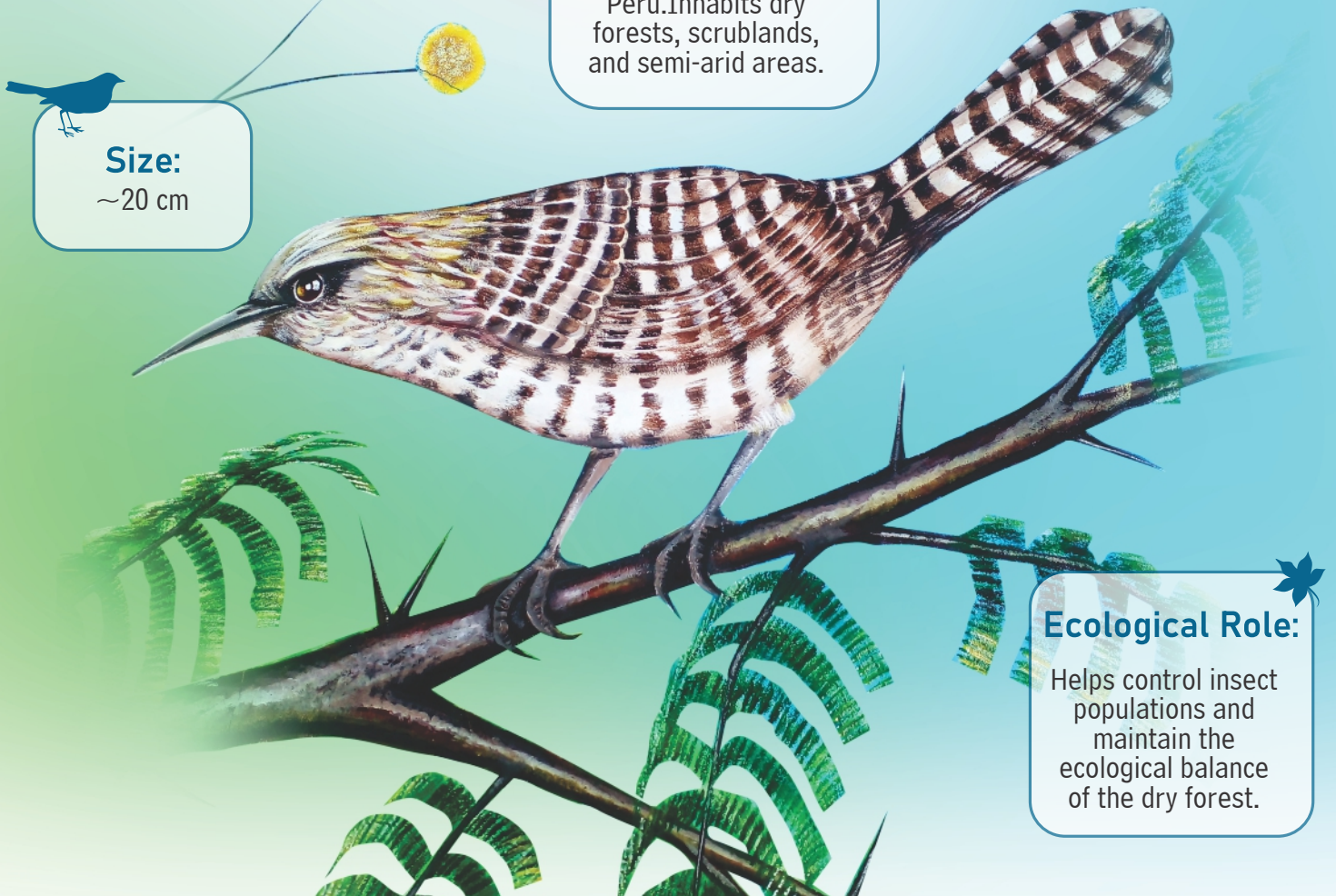
Feeds mainly on insects and other invertebrates, supplemented with plant material.

Distribution:

Western Ecuador and northwestern Peru. Inhabits dry forests, scrublands, and semi-arid areas.

Size:

~20 cm



Ecological Role:

Helps control insect populations and maintain the ecological balance of the dry forest.

Black-and-chestnut Eagle

Spizaetus isidori

Aguila Andina

Family:

Accipitridae

Size:

65–80 cm tall.
Up to 180 cm
wingspan.

Reproduction:

Raises a single
chick each year.

Characteristics:

- ★ Powerful flight and agile aerial maneuvers.
- ★ Females are larger than males.
- ★ Conservation Status: Critically Endangered (CR) in Ecuador.

Ecological Role:

An apex predator that regulates populations of other species and contributes to the balance of Andean ecosystems. Its presence is an indicator of healthy, well-conserved forests.

Diet:

Feeds mainly on birds
and medium-sized
mammals.

Distribution:

Inhabits Andean cloud forests and montane forests. In Ecuador, it is found between 1,500 and 3,500 m above sea level.



Yellow-tailed Oriole

Icterus mesomelas

Turpial Coliamarillo

Family:

Icteridae

Ecological Role:

Insect population control, seed dispersal, and occasional pollination.

Size:

22 - 23 cm

Diet:

Insects and other invertebrates, fruits, berries, and nectar.

Honey Bee

A social insect that lives in colonies and feeds on nectar and pollen. It plays a vital role in plant pollination and produces honey and beeswax.



Reproduction:

Builds a hanging, pouch-shaped nest woven from plant fibers. Lays approximately 3 eggs; the incubation period lasts about 14 days. Both parents feed the chicks.

Distribution:

From Central America to northern South America. Inhabits dry and humid forests, wooded scrublands, secondary forests, plantations, and areas near water.

Characteristics:

- ★ Resident (non-migratory).
- ★ Forages in pairs or small groups.
- ★ Frequently found in dense vegetation and near water.
- ★ Distinguished by its bright yellow and black plumage.



Red-masked Parakeet

Psittacara erythrogenys

Perico Caretirrojo

Family:

Psittacidae

Size:

30 - 33 cm

Distribution:

Southwestern Ecuador and northern Peru. Inhabits dry forests, scrublands, agricultural areas, and urban environments with trees.

Diet:

Feeds on fruits, seeds, flowers, tender shoots, and occasional nectar.

Characteristics:

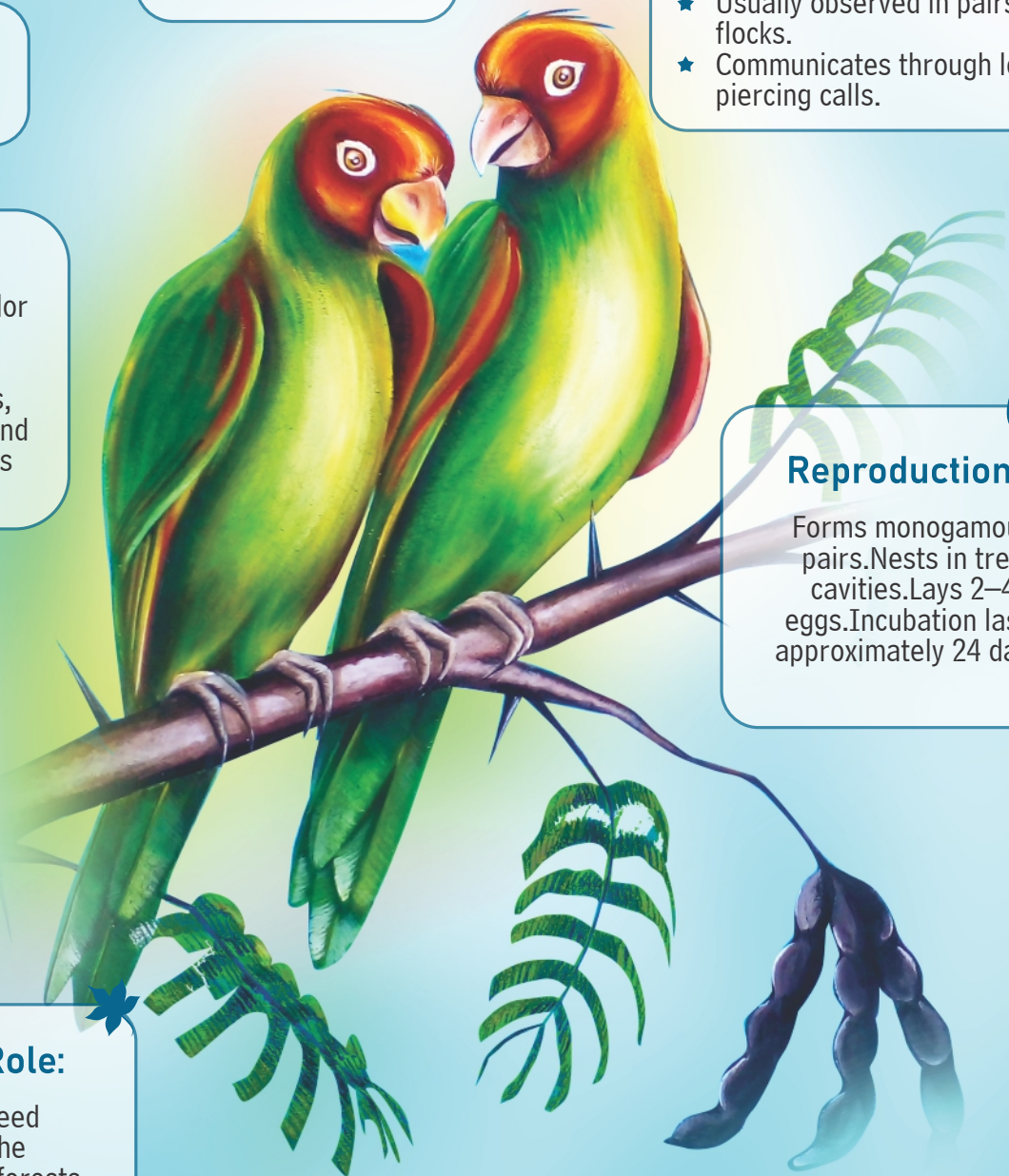
- ★ Distinguished by its bright red facial mask.
- ★ Its feet are adapted for climbing, with two toes facing forward and two backward.
- ★ Usually observed in pairs or flocks.
- ★ Communicates through loud, piercing calls.

Reproduction:

Forms monogamous pairs. Nests in tree cavities. Lays 2–4 eggs. Incubation lasts approximately 24 days.

Ecological Role:

Contributes to seed dispersal and the regeneration of dry forests.



Peruvian Pygmy-Owl

Glaucidium peruanum

Mochuelo del Pacífico (Peruano)

Family:
Strigidae

Size:
15-18 cm

Distribution:

Western Andean Region. In Ecuador, it inhabits tropical dry and humid forests, montane forests, and inter-Andean scrublands of the Coastal and Andean regions.

Characteristics:

- ★ Active during the day and at twilight.
- ★ Can adapt to human environments such as gardens and parks if suitable nesting cavities are available.

Diet:

Small vertebrates and invertebrates.

Reproduction:

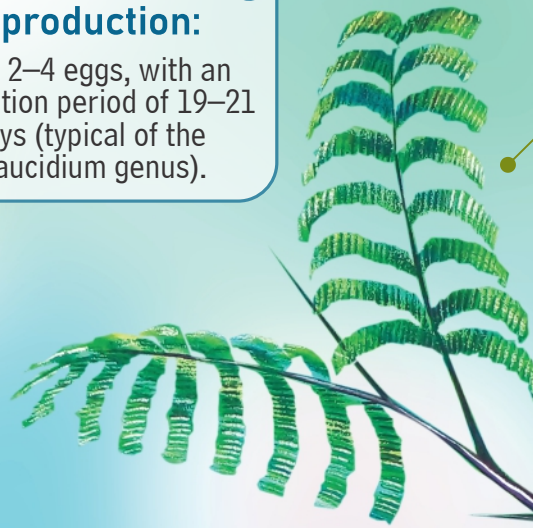
Lays 2–4 eggs, with an incubation period of 19–21 days (typical of the *Glaucidium* genus).

Faique

A thorny tree that can grow over 4 meters tall and is well adapted to dry climates. It produces yellow flowers and pod-shaped fruits. It grows in ravines, cultivated lands, hillsides, and dry slopes, flowering mainly during the rainy season.

Ecological Role:

A biological control predator. Helps regulate populations of insects and small vertebrates.



Sources Consulted for the Creation of the Mural and the Infographic



- **Local Community Knowledge**

Information and knowledge shared by the residents of the Quinara community.

- **About Quinara**

<https://quinara.gob.ec/>

<https://www.loja.gob.ec/contenido/quinara>

- **Quinara Territorial Development Plan (PDOT)**

<https://quinara.gob.ec/pdot/0/>

- **Andean Momot**

bioweb.bio: Arzuza, D. & Olmedo, I 2019. *Momotus aequatorialis* En: Freile, J. F., Poveda, C. 2019. Aves del Ecuador. Version 2019.0. Museo de Zoología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador.

<https://bioweb.bio/faunaweb/avesweb/FichaEspecie/Momotus%20aequatorialis>, acceso Lunes, 15 de Junio de 2026.

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- **Amazilia Hummingbird**

Ecología reproductiva del colibrí de Loja *Amazilia amazilia alticola* (Apodiformes: Trochilidae) en Loja, Ecuador:

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- **Bejaria**

<https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bejaria>

- **Fasciated Wren**

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exploraves.com: <https://exploraves.com/2020/10/13/la-sucaca-cucarachero-ondeado>

- **Black-and-chestnut Eagle**

E-BOOK: Monar-Barragán, Paul & Astudillo-Abad, Nicolás & Restrepo-Cardona, Juan & Araujo, Evelyn & Lopez, Joceline & Angulo, Pablo & Cadena, Belén & Kohn, Sebastian & Narváez Ponce, Leonardo. (2025). Plan de Conservación del Águila Andina (*Spizaetus isidori*), el principal depredador aéreo del Corredor Sangay -Podocarpus.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/390695225_Plan_de_Conservacion_del_Aguila_Andina_Spizaetus_isidori_el_principal_depredador_aereo_del_Corredor_Sangay_-Podocarpus

ebird.org: <https://ebird.org/species/baceag2>

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Sources Consulted for the Creation of the Mural and the Infographic



- **Yellow-tailed Oriole**

Bbioweb.bio: Freile, J. F., Poveda, C. 2019. *Icterus mesomelas* En: Freile, J. F., Poveda, C. 2019. Aves del Ecuador. Version 2019.0. Museo de Zoología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. <https://bioweb.bio/faunaweb/avesweb/FichaEspecie/Icterus%20mesomelas>, acceso Lunes, 15 de Junio de 2026.

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- **Red-masked Parakeet**

bioweb.bio: Freile, JF, Poveda, C. 2019. *Eritrogenia de Psittacara* En: Freile, JF, Poveda, C. 2019. Aves del Ecuador. Versión 2019.0. Museo de Zoología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. <https://bioweb.bio/faunaweb/avesweb/FichaEspecie/Psittacara%20erythrogenys>, acceso Lunes, 15 de Junio de 2026.

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- **Peruvian Pygmy-Owl**

bioweb.bio: Freile, J. F., Poveda, C. 2019. *Glaucidium peruanum* En: Freile, J. F., Poveda, C. 2019. Aves del Ecuador. Version 2019.0. Museo de Zoología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. <https://bioweb.bio/faunaweb/avesweb/FichaEspecie/Glaucidium%20peruanum>, acceso Martes, 26 de Mayo de 2026.

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- **Faique (*Vachellia macracantha*)**

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vachellia_macracantha

NOTE:

This infographic is a biocultural outreach resource with an artistic, clear, and accessible approach. Its purpose is to bring knowledge of nature closer to people and strengthen the connection between people and the natural world. It does not constitute formal education nor does it replace specialized scientific sources.

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www.HuellaSilvestre.com