



Northwest Ecuador: In Search of Chóco Endemics

11 – 23 July 2009



BEAUTIFUL JAY

Tour Leader: Sam Woods

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July 12 **YANACOCHA** *Temperate forest, 3400m elevation &*

OLD NONO-MINDO ROAD *Subtropical forest 2300 – 1700m elevation.*

The tour began at the highest point, in the rich temperate forests and scrub of Yanacocha. The weather was splendid allowing for great views of the snow-capped Cayambe volcano as we walked the “Inca Trail” within this superb Fundacion Jocotoco reserve, a short drive from Ecuador’s capital, Quito.

Hummers and tanagers are a big feature of this reserve, and this day was no exception. Our first taste of the avian delights of Yanacocha came not too far down the trail when a flash of crimson drew us to our first flock weaving its way through the moss-laden *polylepis* trees, and our first striking **Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers**. Also in the same mixed feeding flock were another sturdy mountain-tanager, the **Black-chested Mountain-Tanager**, and a few **Superciliaried Hemispingus**. However, further along the same scenic Andean track we found the most gorgeous of them all, the **Golden-crowned Tanager**, a mixture of deep velvety blues, burnt reds, and jet black, all topped off nicely with a crown of bright gold. For me always Yanacocha’s star tanager, and judging from the appreciative tones resonating from the group it was their favorite too.



MASKED TROGON

The hummers were mostly easy to come by as they came in to feed at a number of the well-placed feeders dotted along this beautiful Andean mountain trail. As usual the best of the hummer action came near the last part of the trail, where a ring of sugar feeders was buzzing with activity. The star performer was unquestionably the outrageous **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, a living cartoon, that we watched hover a good distance back from the feeders in order to fit its extraordinarily long bill between itself and the feeder. There was a hive of activity there though with all sorts of colorful "colibris" (the Spanish word for hummingbirds), coming in to feed. These included the epaulet-bearing **Buff-winged Starfrontlet**, **Golden-breasted and Sapphire-vented Pufflegs**, the burnt orange **Shining Sunbeam**, **Mountain Velvetbreast**, and the tiny **Tyrian Metaltail**. While watching the feeders a scarce raptor, an austral migrant to Ecuador, **White-throated Hawk**, over flew the area. Away from the hummer feeders there was other spellbinding action too, we were drawn away from the "sword-billed hummer show" when the high whistles of a **Barred Fruiteater** were heard upslope and our first few scans came up blank, we eventually found a pair of these chunky cotingas feeding in a close tree.

After lunch we were Tandayapa-bound, although before we checked into that famous Andean birding lodge we birded our way down the **Old Nono-Mindo Road**, that is carpeted with rich subtropical forest. This was an eventful journey, packed with many avian highlights. Not far down from the Yanacocha reserve, and still within the temperate zone we stumbled onto a group of **White-browed Ground-tyrants** feeding within a high Andean pasture. Once we had dropped down into the Alambi Valley we, and our keen-eyed driver, Jorge, kept a sharp eye on the rushing river for any signs of the "Rio trio" (Torrent Duck, Torrent Tyrannulet, and White-capped Dipper), although first made a stop by this rushing river to admire a singing **Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant**. Pretty soon after Jorge slammed on the breaks uttering the word "Pato", the Spanish word for duck, and we were soon out of the bus and onto the deserted mountain road, where we watched as a ghostly white male **Torrent Duck** made his way down this fast-flowing Andean river. Not much further on another river stop turned up another of the "rio trio", with a pair of **White-capped Dippers** found hopping around the spray-splashed boulders within the Alambi River, and a tree in the same area held our first **Hooded and Blue-winged Mountain-Tanagers** too. All classy birds for sure, although not what the afternoon was remembered for. Two other star turns occurred a little lower down this steep-sided valley. The first came at a designated stop where we set the scope up across the valley and watched for splashes of color in the trees. Ugly, low guttural noises coming from across the valley betrayed the presence of displaying Andean Cock-of-the-rocks within and not long after a flash of vivid vermillion red drew us to a fantastic male sitting in the open, and we watched on for some time as one after another male came into the treetops to flash their vibrant colors at an unseen female below. Magic moments in the Andes. The final flurry came even lower down this beautiful mountain road that seemed quiet for a while, until some harsh calls just outside the bus had Jorge slam on his brakes not for the first time. I uttered the words "**Beautiful Jay**", and we all prepared to disembark, only for one of these deep blue jays to pop up just in front of the bus in a convenient low shrub on the side of the road, clearly visible out of the bus window. After much appreciative murmurings from within the bus at our first of the Chóco endemics that were the focus of this whirlwind tour of the northwest, and with light waning, we headed down and checked into the Tandayapa Bird Lodge, our well-placed base for exploring this rich Andean region over the coming few days.

July 13 **UPPER TANDAYAPA VALLEY** *Subtropical forest, 1800-2300m elevation*

Although we had begun to explore the rich birding possibilities of the subtropical zone the day before, this forest zone requires a bunch of time to dig out the myriad of avian delights on offer, so we spent another day in this habitat chasing the many amazing target birds found within. To be honest the morning started quietly, although the heat turned up in the late morning when we

tried once again to find the rare and distinctive **Tanager Finch**, and a movement in the bamboo led us to a superb bird that then climbed up and began singing its heart out by the roadside giving us long, breathtaking views of this top Chóco bird in the process. There were other less "critical" targets for us up there that we found, like the "mouthy" **Striped Treehunter** that we taped out and then could not shut up or get rid of as it seemed to stalk us down the road! Another cotinga is always welcome too, and we found a nice male **Green-and-black Fruiteater** to add to our burgeoning cotinga list for the tour, along with some boisterous **Turquoise Jays**, and a couple of **Masked Trogons**. Another of the big Chóco targets, the **Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan**, made us sweat a little before Peter picked out one feeding high in a *cecropia* tree a little lower down within this famous birding valley.



TURQUOISE JAY

By late afternoon we had "retired" to **Tandayapa Bird Lodge** to take in some of the frenetic feeder activity, and have a long hard look at the hummers scattered around the feeders. **Purple-throated Woodstars** buzzed back and forth, while **Buff-tailed Coronets**, Tandayapa's most aggressive species, tried their best to keep all comers away. However, they had their hands full as **Sparkling, Green and Brown Violet-ears** all regularly came in to feed, along with **Fawn-breasted Brilliants**, and the frankly ridiculous **Booted Racket-tails**. While some continued their hummer vigil, a few of us wandered onto the Tandayapa trails in the late afternoon, which were generally fairly quiet, although we did manage to dig out a skulking **Narino Tapaculo**, and an impressive pair of **Powerful Woodpeckers**, just a stones throw from the frantic feeder action on Tandayapa's famous hummingbird veranda.



EMPRESS BRILLIANT

July 14 **REFUGIO PAZ DE LAS AVES** *Subtropical forest, 1900m elevation & UPPER TANDAYAPA VALLEY* *Subtropical forest, 1800-2300m elevation*

A lot of hype has been written about this "Antpitta Farm" in the past, and all that can be said is you just never know what to expect from the fruit feeders, the feeding flocks and frankly the antpittas at this great little forest reserve as every visit is different. We set off down the trail in the half-light, and walked into a **Giant Antpitta** sitting beside the trail, that unfortunately on this occasion never returned for the official feeding later in the morning. Our first port of call was a blind deep down in the valley, where we watched on as for our second day running we were treated to wonderful views of a rowdy group of displaying Andean Cock-of-the-rocks, before we checked in on the fruit tables where a clumsy group of **Sickle-winged Guans** was clambering around the bananas. The star performer though was deep down in the valley bottom, where we lined ourselves alongside a rushing mountain stream and watched in amazement as a **Yellow-breasted Antpitta** hopped onto a close boulder to feed on some specially laid out worms, allowing for great close up looks at this usually shy antpitta. Good stuff. We then made our way back up to the top of the track, stopping for more than a while to admire a large inconspicuous cotinga, **Olivaceous Piha**, before checking in on his buzzing hummer feeders that held some special Chóco targets of their own. While some of the hummers were the same as we had experienced at Tandayapa Bird Lodge, two particularly dapper species were not. A large "snouty" hummer visiting the feeders there was the impressive **Empress Brilliant**, although this was

overshadowed by the glistening **Velvet-purple Coronet**, a living work of art. If the light catches this bird just right, nothing can prepare you for the range of vivid colors on offer. The bird quickly turns from appearing as just another dark hummer into a bird splashed with sparkling violet and vibrant azure, giving the ultimate "wow moment". We experienced this firsthand on this day, and it was pretty clear that after our initial looks no one could understand what all the fuss was about with this bird, and then the light changed, and so too with it did peoples feeling about this very special bird. Having squeezed out all we could out of his feeders we retired for a brunch in Angel paz's makeshift café, where we "lunched" with a **Black-and-white Seedeater** feeding in the grass below and a **Yellow-bellied Siskin** hopping around on the ground below the café.



SICKLE-WINGED GUAN

There was no rest for the wicked though as we had a date with another flashy Andean cotinga, and with news reaching us that Angel's son had the bird staked out for us we raced up the road to the spot in hot pursuit, if a little weighted down from our recent heavy brunch offerings of bolones and empanadas. Predictably on arrival at the chosen tree though we were greeted with the dreaded "se fue", the **Orange-breasted Fruiteater** had just flown the coop. Hope was not lost though as we could still hear its high ventriloquial whistles close by, and after a few poor views of the gaudy male buried within a mass of dark leaves he flew into a much better position in an open tree across the road where we sat for some time in our scope allowing us all to thoroughly lap it up in the process. This same rich fruiting area also produced a gorgeous Golden-headed Quetzal and a tree full of tanagers, including the breathtaking **Flame-faced and Metallic-green Tanagers**.

On the way out of the reserve we lucked into a pair of **Toucan Barbets**, a flashy multicolored barbet that has recently been moved into a new family the Toucan Barbets, along with a stunning **Crimson-mantled Woodpecker**.

We then checked a couple of spots along the **Old Nono-Mindo Road** as we made our back to Tandayapa, where we found a group of perched **Red-billed Parrots** plundering some fruiting trees, although a certain spotty number, the shy **Ocellated Tapaculo**, made the headlines for those that got a look at it, as it hid in the dense undergrowth along a narrow forest trail.



ORANGE-BREASTED FRUITEATER

July 15 **TANDAYAPA VALLEY** *Subtropical forest, 1700 - 2300m elevation & CALACALI* *Dry Andean scrub 2800m elevation*

We began our day at dawn in the blind at Tandayapa Bird Lodge, where all was quiet until some low guttural sounds led us to a pair of extremely obliging **Immaculate Antbirds** picking insects off the nightlight. It was pretty quiet apart from this until a **White-throated Quail-Dove** did a sneaky walk by a little later on, and proved to be our only sighting of the trip. We checked along the forest trails for a bit too and found one of the regular lekking **Wedge-billed Hummingbirds**, along with a pair of dinky **Slaty Antwrens** and a **Uniform Antshrike** buried within a dark vine tangle, in addition to a tree hugging **Spotted Barbtail**. When we returned to the lodge we jammed into two different Brush-finches in five minutes, when first a pair of **White-winged Brush-finches** came past the lodge, and then a **Chestnut-capped Brush-finch** came in to check out my tape.



WHITE-WINGED BRUSH-FINCH

We lunched at a small Andean orchid reserve where we staked out their lonely humming feeder that pulled in the hoped-for **White-tailed Hillstar** over lunch, before we drove back in the direction of Quito and checked a dry scrubby track within the desert-like inter-Andean valley that Ecuador's capital is settled within. Birding this area was in stark contrast to the forested areas covered before as we walked a dry, dusty track surrounded by thorny scrub and cacti. The reason for this jaunt was simple, the rare **White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant** which can be hit and miss in the afternoon, although for us on this day was very much hit, with five different birds seen. Other birds were thin on the ground though, we saw a few **Black-tailed Trainbearers**, **Common Ground-Doves**, **Tufted Tit-tyrants**, **Ash-breasted Sierra-finches**, and dowdy female **Band-tailed Seedeaters**, and some poor flybys from a couple of gaudy **Golden-rumped Euphonias**. Best of all though was an adult male **Purple-collared Woodstar**, a seasonal visitor to the area. With a slight delay caused by a bizarre moment when we had two simultaneous punctures to the tires of our bus (caused by a poor bit of construction work on site that left some large dangerously protruding nails on the roadside!), we were on our way back to the **Tandayapa Valley**, where we made a stop lower down for the awesome **Lyre-tailed Nightjar**, the male of which sports an absurdly long streamer tail. We got to see this most extravagant feature when he alighted several times on an open branch in the spotlight.

July 16 **MILPE** *Foothill forest, 1100 – 900m elevation*

Today we opted for a marked change of scene as we left the lodge under cover of darkness for the foothills, dropping down from the subtropical zone into the humid foothills, with their whole new suite of avian possibilities. During the day we birded the marvelous little Milpe Bird Sanctuary, a small vital property owned by the Mindo Clouforest Foundation, an Ecuadorian NGO,

in addition to another private reserve in the area and also birded down the road from there dropping down to around 900m in the process. All in all it was a day full of new birds as we got our first taste of foothill species. The sanctuary is always a top spot for scarce species and Chóco specialties, and this day was no exception.

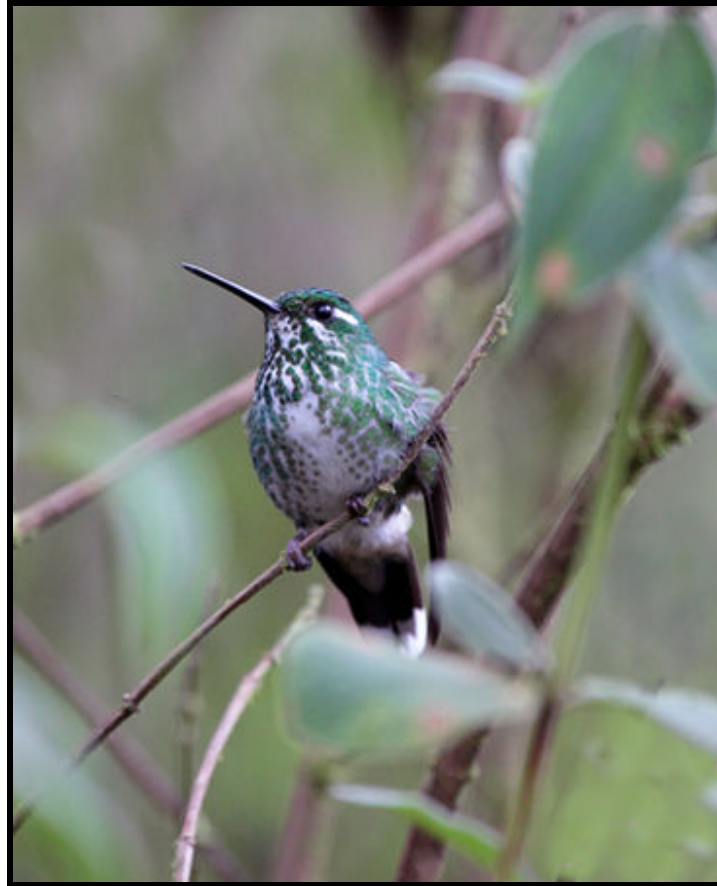
We headed down to the forest (although not before Peter had worked some magic by finding a **Rufous-winged Tyrannulet** a short distance from the parking lot), and were soon hearing the familiar Milpe sound of **Club-winged Manakins** lekking below, where they were making mechanical beeping sounds by rubbing their wings together at high speed. The excitement of hearing these regional endemics for the first time is always palpable, and it rose further when we struggled to find them as they displayed downhill a little out of sight. However, by the end of the morning we all caught up with a male or two and all got to see their extravagant display when they flashed their pied wings above their heads while beeping away!



MASKED WATER-TYRANT

The manakins are hard to beat, but one swirling flock of birds in the same area would not leave us alone, and bought us swathes of new species. The rarest was perhaps the **Brown-billed Scythebill** hugging the mossy trunks of large rainforest trees, that we encountered a number of times as we stuck with the flock for around three hours, picking out new species every time it came around for another frantic circuit. Also in the flock were multiple **Chóco (Golden-bellied) Warblers**, their ascending buzzing trills betraying the continued presence of the flock every time we began to think it had slipped away for the last time. The understory was alive with noisy mobs of **Ochre-breasted Tanagers**, a few **Slaty Antwrens**, and the odd **Tawny-breasted Flycatcher**. Ovenbirds were well represented with **Scaly-breasted, Lineated and Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaners** all hiding out in the flock, in addition to the odd **Red-capped Spinetail**. Other birds within this frenzied feeding band included **Russet Antshrike** and a pair of **Smoky-brown Woodpeckers**. The same area produced other distractions too like a couple of **Golden-winged Manakins** feeding in a low fruiting tree on the periphery of the flock activity, a statuesque **Broad-billed Motmot**, and a pair of **Pallid Doves** in some kind of courtship tussle too. However, for me the birds of the morning were the group of vivid **Yellow-**

collared Chlorophonias that fed in a low tree and allowed us to scope them so that we could all get great looks at the male's salmon-pink bill, and blinding yellow-and-emerald green plumage.



PURPLE-BIBBED WHITETIP (female)

We then took some time out from the neck straining of all that flock watching and lunched by the reserve's small set of busy hummer feeders. Dominating proceedings were a number of **Green-crowned Woodnymphs** along with a few larger **Green-crowned Brilliants**, and tiny, tiny **Green Thorntails**. A couple of Chóco "specials" were also in attendance, with the expected **White-whiskered Hermit** checking out the feeders from time to time, and less expected but very welcome (considering they were strangely absent from Tandayapa's crowded feeders), were at least three **Purple-bibbed Whitetips**, including two males in full spanking plumage.

We then spent a little time on another forest trail, chasing around yet another feeding flock, this one holding a **Rufous-throated Tanager**, and **Rufous-rumped Antwren**, that unfortunately both managed to avoid most of us. Also in the same flock were a much more obliging pair of **Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireos**, that showed their mean expressions to all. Also in the same area a superb male **Chóco (Pale-eyed) Trogon** succumbed to the tape and let itself be lined up for all in the 'scope, before we were then led a merry dance by a pair of **Esmeraldas Antbirds**, with just a few in the group managing to get satisfactory looks. All was not lost though as we redeemed ourselves with this bird on the very last day of the trip. For our final act we birded our way down the Milpe Road, dropping altitude we did so, picking up both **Pale-mandibled**

(Collared) Aracaris and **Chóco Toucans**, in addition to a few **Swallow Tanagers**, a **Laughing Falcon**, and best of all, a pair of **White-ringed Flycatchers** at the roads end.

July 17 **PEDRO VICENTE MALDONADO & RIO SILANCHE**

Lowland forest, 500m elevation

The trip started up in the highlands of Yanacocha and generally we dropped downslope from there. This day was no exception, dropping us out of the foothills and into some fragments of lowland forest scattered between the large tracts of oil palms that sadly dominate some of the landscapes in the northwest. We begun the day birding the PVM road and also spent a little time in the magical **Rio Silanché Bird Sanctuary**, another great purchase by the Mindo Cloudforest Foundation. Then around lunch time we headed off for the long bumpy ride to the Fundacion Jocotoco's Rio Canandé reserve, in the humid lowlands of Esmeraldas province.

The morning was about getting a head start on some of the lowland species we would be seeking around Canandé, but also about going after a few that are difficult there but sometimes be more gettable at Silanché. For this latter task we arrived just after dawn and headed into a small patch of forest weaving our way into through the understory (and sadly also through some recently hacked areas too), then I popped the I-pod and we waited to see if the loud raucous call of the **Brown Wood-Rail** I had played would draw a response. At first we were greeted with stony silence and then suddenly one piped up and called not too far away. Soon enough I picked out its dark shape in the understory, although he had chosen his place well, some people got a look while others were frustrated by its cleverly chosen position. Others enjoyed some glimpses a little later, and one person even had it walk right out in front of her, before it slinked away and fell silent once more. For those who got it they were treated to a rarely encountered Chóco endemic, that many experienced neotropical are still found wanting for. Once we clambered out of the forest we set about calling in a pair of **Dusky Pigeons** which obliged by landing on a near palm, another Chóco special chalked up for the tour, so we set off in earnest for the Silanché sanctuary in the hope of getting onto THE flock and some of the special tanagers held within this once we got there. Before we entered the forest proper we tried the call of another regional endemic, the **Stub-tailed Antbird**, from the road and quickly drew a response but it was long way off and I held little hope. I continued my pursuit though and we waited as slowly but surely a couple of birds moved in closer, and soon after we noticed some twitching stems closeby. All seemed lost a little later when that bird moved out of sight before giving any of us any kind of look at all, and I wondered if our chance had passed us by, when another bird piped up closeby, I played the call again and watched in amazement as a male bird leapt up onto an open bamboo branch in front of us all at eye level, puffing up his white mantle patch as he did so. We then spent a little time in the reserve where we found a calling male **Spot-crowned Antwireo**, a male **Rufous-winged Tanager** and several **Purple-chested hummingbirds** feeding on some lilac blooms by Silanché's observation tower.

Pretty soon though time moved us on, and we had to leave this magical little sanctuary behind, and we were on our way into the steamy lowlands of Rio Canandé. We found a number of birds along the way including a **Scarlet-backed Woodpecker**, **Pale-vented Thrush**, a pack of tiny **Pacific Parrotlets**, our first **Ecuadorian Ground-Doves** in the bustling, dusty town of Los Golondrinas, in addition to a singing **Striped Cuckoo** that chose to sing from an open cable, and a pair of **Barred Puffbirds** that similarly were found still-hunting from a nearby wire too. A small pool buried in amongst a sea of palms en-route also brought us a **White-throated Crake**.

Late in the day we checked into the wonderfully rustic little lodge at **Rio Canandé**, and "welcomed" (i.e. resigned ourselves to) three nights of cool showers in this humid reserve. Darkness fell with a **Plumbeous Forest-Falcon** calling closely, although in the limited light we

just could not find its hiding place.



ORANGE-FRONTED BARBET

July 18 **RIO CANANDÉ** *Lowland forest, 420 - 620m elevation*

This was to be the most challenging day of the tour, birding inside the forest along some steep sections of trails trying to track down some of Canandé's trickier species (with mixed results). While it was undoubtedly challenging we got some goodies out of it and it was well worth the effort. Things started slowly, but soon enough we found a calling male **Red-capped Manakin** at his lek site. This most famous of all manakins is known for his Michael Jackson moonwalk display, and while we did not get to see that fascinating behavior we did get cracking looks at him. A displaying **Golden-crowned Spadebill** in the same area afforded us great views as we could readily track him down from the sound of his wing-whirs as he moved from post to post. We then headed up towards a scenic lookout, stopping along the way for one of Canandé's magic feeding flocks, one of which held a pair of **Scarlet-breasted Dacnis**, **Orange-fronted Barbet** and further **Rufous-winged Tanagers** to boot. A little further up the trail and catching snatches of another flock saw us run into another flashy tanager, indeed the most flashy of them all, a vivid male **Scarlet-and-white Tanager** amidst the throng of activity. Once we had reached the well-named **Black-tipped Cotinga** viewpoint we lunched and scoped a few of these snow white birds perched in the treetops below, and finally found a **Rufous Piha** up in the trees that had been loudly announcing its presence for some time. On the way down we ran into a small antswarm that held a striking obligate ant follower, the cool **Ocellated Antbird**, in addition to a **Northern Barred Woodcreeper** too.

July 19 **RIO CANANDÉ area (Hoja Blanca area)** *Lowland forest, 220 - 440m elevation*

After a long sweaty day blazing the trails at Canandé the day before we opted for a more relaxed style of birding along a forested road, searching for flock species in the main. Dull overcast weather kept the flock activity suppressed for a while, although eventually we started picking up some birds including further **Scarlet-breasted Dacnis**, **Rufous-winged Tanagers**, and added **Scarlet-browed, Golden-hooded and Tawny-crested Tanagers** to the list, along with a trio of euphonies: **Orange-crowned, White-vented and Fulvous-vented Euphonias**. Other flock species included more **Gray-and-Gold Tanagers**, a few **Black-striped Woodcreepers**, and an unusually obliging **Griscom's (Moustached) Antwren** that came down from its usual heady heights in the treetops to check us out. A scenic viewpoint at lunch produced a magnificent **King Vulture** cruising over the rainforest canopy that spread back as far as the eye could see. Outside of the flocks we chanced upon a number of perched parrots (no mean feat in the neotropics), a few of which turned out to be the scarce **Red-lored Amazon (Parrot)**, and late in the day we also found a few **Mealy Amazons (Parrots)** too raucously calling from the treetops. Star find during the morning went to our local guide, who noticed a small hermit feeding at some roadside *heliconias*. We returned to the spot and over the next ten minutes or so watched as a **Bronzy Hermit** returned time and again to feed on these scarlet blooms and perch up in front of us on several occasions exposing his bronzy upperparts as it did so. A **Rufous Mourner** sitting quietly in the treetops was also a good pick from Peter. The afternoon saw us run into further **Orange-fronted Barbets**, **Chóco Toucans**, and a marvelous pair of **Guayaquil Woodpeckers** chipping away at a large rainforest tree. Lurking in the undergrowth we found a pair of **Dusky Antbirds**, and the tiny **Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant** that vies for the title of the world's smallest passerine at just over 6cm. An action-packed day with many new species added to the list and some good flashy birds among them.

July 20 **RIO CANANDÉ area (Hoja Blanca area) to Santo Domingo** *Lowland forest, 220 - 440m elevation*

Our final morning in the Canandé area saw us return once more to the Votrosa Road, as we were itching to get back there and try especially for a pair of **Spotted Antbirds** that had proved vocal but elusive the day before. For this reason we headed there as soon as we could and soon got a response, and this time both the female and male popped up on several occasions, giving us all great looks in the process. Dorothy was rewarded with close up looks at a foraging party of **Rufous-fronted Wood-Quails**, ironically while we were all in the forest trying to call in another covey of these shy gamebirds! After several hours with nothing much more than that and flocks appearing to have gone AWOL we were itching to get on the road and begin our long onward journey to Santo Domingo, although it is of course then that the flocks relent and came down for our viewing pleasure. The first one we ran into and had us scrambling out of the car held a pair of **Scarlet-breasted Dacnis**, and a pair of brilliant **Blue-whiskered Tanagers** that fed on a spray of flowers and allowed us to observe them at length in the 'scope as they did so. Now that's something that does not happen everyday! A little further on, a large bird standing sentry on a large palm spike led us to alight once more so that we could get the striking pink patch of the Rose-faced Parrot lined up for all in the 'scope. Then the final magical flock along the road delayed us further when we caught sight first of a little party of three **Scarlet-and-white Tanagers**, that can often seem more like the Scarlet Pimpernell in your efforts to see them, although on this occasion were far from elusive, feeding low down within a feeding flock, allowing us to thoroughly ogle the flashy adult male in their midst with his vibrant red upperparts and ventral stripe, and spotlessly clean, snow white underparts. To top all of that off the flock also held our only **Slate-throated Gnatcatcher** of the trip, trying to slink past us but failing miserably as many of us got a decent shot of it. All in all, a fitting finale to our time in Canandé. I long to return soon to this wonderfully rich birding area. We then hit the road to Santo Domingo passing all too many palm plantations along the way and arriving at our city hotel just in time for a

little light late afternoon birding on the grounds where a beefy mob of red-eyed male **Giant Cowbirds** and a few **Ecuadorian (Spectacled) Thrushes** were the highlights, just before the sun came down.

July 21 **RIO PALENQUE** *Lowland forest, 200m elevation*

Although we had spent the past few days in the lowlands, we dropped even further down in altitude on this day to the humid forest "island" of Rio Palenque, that is hemmed in on all sides by plantations of palms and macadamias. However, do not let that put you off, this one top birding site, and for me was one of the most enjoyable days of this tour. As we had driven further south from where we had been previously this opened up a whole new realm of birding possibilities and offered us some additional species not possible anywhere else on the tour. We began with one of these straight off. A small plantation flanking the lowland rainforest was our first stop of the day for one of the rarest birds of the tour, the extremely localized **Ochraceous Attila**, that prefers this semi-open environment to the deep dark depths of the rainforest. This like many other attilas is one highly vocal bird, so I was a little alarmed on arrival when I was greeted by a "wall of silence", and not hint of the attila's presence in the area. I tried a little playback and swiftly afterwards was replied with one of its calls as the bird sailed in from across the road and landed in the trees above. After much chasing and waiting for the bird to settle down, we all managed some great looks at this ginger Attila perched in the plantation. We then spent the rest of the day alternating between various spots chasing after particular species we were looking for. The pace was fast, new birds came aplenty and we all had great fun in the process. Once the Attila was in the bag we opted to search for some open country birds, and a young plantation on the edge of the forest provided the best opportunity for this. A little use of a pygmy-owl tape here usually works wonders and brings birds in from all around and this day was no exception. Soon after playing the owl a few **Crimson-breasted Finches**, including some rose-breasted males came into with the mobbing party that also included **Southern Beardless-Tyrannulets**, **Yellow-crowned and Yellow Tyrannulets**, and **Greenish Elaenia** among others. Some dense clumps of bamboo held a trio of calling **Speckle-breasted Wrens** that eventually gave up the ghost and came out to the edges to let us have a decent look at them. This wren, like the Attila, illustrates the lure of Palenque, where there is a strange mix of Chóco species mixed in with Tumbesian birds that are more typically found further south, although Palenque is the northern limit for some of these. So on this tour where most time is spent further north this single day at Palenque provides the only shot at some of these "southern" species like this wren, and the Ochraceous Attila.



WHITE-WHISKERED PUFFBIRD

We then began a “wild chachalaca chase” as we heard two separate groups of these small guans giving their ugly calls from the far treetops, we moved this way and that and could not get an angle on their calling posts, so hopped into the bus and went off in hot pursuit. We soon found another spot and could hear them much closer but again struggled to get an angle on the calling birds until our driver found a little window with a **Rufous-headed Chachalaca** perched right in the middle of it. Not for the first time, Jorge had proved himself a first rate spotter as well as a decent driver to have on a tour! The same area of forest road held a few other new birds for us including our first **Purple-throated Fruitcrows**, **Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner**, **Red-rumped Woodpecker** and **Great Antshrike** of the trip, and also gave us our first good looks of **Chestnut-backed Antbirds** (whose incessant calls had haunted over the past few days!). We then tried another open area where a couple of dark macadamia trees played host to a fine pair of **Red-billed Scythebills**, that proved these trees can be good for more than just a few nuts! Then we checked in on another spot where a dirt road passes through beautiful roadside rainforest, where after some battling some managed to get looks at a constantly calling **Black-headed Antthrush**, and some dark rainforest tangles brought us a calling male **Plain Antvireo** and a **Long-billed Gnatwren**. A short walk into the rainforest also brought us the stunted **White-throated Spadebill** calling from within the understorey.

After a break for an excellent lunch to recover from the siege of new birds, when we were serenaded by an unseen **Little Tinamou**, we checked the Rio Palenque itself and searched the stony banks for any lurking shorebirds. After a couple of gravelly spits turned up nothing I glanced directly across the river and found a pair of adults and a couple of fluffy **Pied Lapwing** chicks as I’d hoped. We then hit another area of roadside forest where pretty quickly a **White-whiskered Puffbird** responded to my “overtures” by landing in a couple of great spots allowing

everyone to get choice looks at this smart puffbird. We then tried a small rainforest track where the hoped for Gray-and-gold Warblers were nowhere to be found, although we grabbed some compensation from a nice showing by a **Whiskered Wren**. We rounded out the day within the open country we had started in, as the rainforest became too dark to bird in we finished in the brighter open country adding the scarce **Black-lored (Masked) Yellowthroat**, **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**, and a very smart **Rufous-browed Peppershrike** proved to be our final addition of the day. In summary, the day brought us around twenty new species even at this late stage, and included some top Tumbesian treats, like Speckle-breasted Wren, Ochraceous Attila and Rufous-headed Chachalaca. A most enjoyable day indeed, and so I look forward to returning here again in November.

July 22 **CHIRIBOGA ROAD**

Foothill, subtropical and temperate forest, 1100 – 3400m elevation

Along with Palenque this is one of the most enjoyable days of the tour. Largely for me this is because you are never quite sure what to expect out of it. This back road to Quito passes through a range of elevations and correspondingly a number of different forest types and so the birding possibilities are varied and difficult to predict. The road starts by a rushing mountain river, the Rio Toachi in the foothills at some 1100m elevation and then climbs up into some rich areas of subtropical forest like we had previously experienced around the Tandayapa Valley, then climbs up further into the chilly temperate zone, a little similar to that found around Yanacocha on our very first day, before plunging down rapidly through agricultural fields into the outskirts of the southern section of Ecuador's capital Quito.

We began our day shortly after dawn looking down the Rio Toachi, where a few saw a Torrent Duck before it disappeared into some whitewater rapids. A pair of **White-capped Dippers** was a little more obliging, and continued their watery business as we watched on. We then spent a little time birding the patchy foothill forest that flanks this powerful river, finding a mixed feeding flock that contained more **Russet Antshrikes** and **Chóco Warblers** for the trip, along with a new addition in the form of several **Ashy-throated Bush-Tanagers**. Having been messed around by a pair of frustrating **Esmeraldas Antbirds** earlier on the trip in Milpe I tried a couple of territories here too, and struck gold with the second attempt when a male bird emerged out of the dense understorey and perched out in the open for us, a far cry from our Milpe experience with this devious Chóco endemic. We then chanced onto a surprise **Gray-backed Hawk** perched brazenly by the roadside, a bird more expected in the Tumbesian realm further south from here.

Further up the road, once we had reached the higher elevations of the subtropical zone, where swathes of bamboo choked the forested hillsides we added a male **Long-tailed Antbird**, and also enjoyed more looks at a male **Powerful Woodpecker** that remained hugging the same large truck for some time. At the same time a pair of **Barred Hawks** gave prolonged looks as they glided above in sunny skies. Hitting another section of subtropical forest where the bamboo was at its thickest and there seemed to be a small flock in attendance we managed to tape out first a small group of **Western (Black-eared) Hemispingus**, followed soon after by a very cooperative **Plushcap (Plush-capped Finch)** that sung in my 'scope for some time. A calling **Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** unfortunately was less helpful. The Peter alerted us to a hawk gliding above the forest canopy that turned out to be an adult **White-rumped Hawk**, not an easy find anywhere in Ecuador.

Our final flurry for the tour came in the temperate zone higher up where again large tracts of thick *chusquea* bamboo cloaks the hillsides. Here we picked up a noisy group of **Rufous Wrens**, and a great pair of **Agile Tit-tyrants** attempting to hide out in a feeding flock, along with a **Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet**, and a great look at a calling **Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan**,

along with further **Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers** and a lone **Barred Fruiteater**. As we descended towards Quito through agricultural fields our final addition for the tour involved a **Southern Yellow (Golden-bellied) Grosbeak** sitting in a cornfield, just as we started to catch glimpses of the sprawling Andean city of Quito lying far below.



GRAY-BACKED HAWK

In the end we ended up with over 420 species recorded on the tour (over 380 species of these were seen by at least one member of the group), including over 30 of the Chóco endemics that were a special target for this endemic hunting trip. Within this total some 39 species of hummingbirds were seen, and an amazing 50 species of tanagers to name but a few!

SPECIES LIST

The taxonomy of the list follows: Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007.

This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell in December 2008.

TINAMOUS	TINAMIDAE
H Great Tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>
H Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>
DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS	ANATIDAE
Torrent Duck	<i>Merganetta armata</i>
<i>A superb ghostly white male duck was seen in the Alambi Valley, on our first day as we made our way to Tandayapa.</i>	
GUANS, CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS	CRACIDAE
Rufous-headed Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis erythroptera</i>
<i>Their loud and distinctly non-musical calls attracted our attention in Rio Palenque, and the chase was on. We struggled to get an angle on the calls and so drove to another spot where our sharp-eyed driver Jorge found a single bird sitting quietly in the top of a tree.</i>	
H Wattled Guan	<i>Aburria aburri</i>
<i>Heard calling under cover of darkness around Tandayapa Lodge.</i>	
Sickle-winged Guan	<i>Chamaepetes goudotii</i>
<i>Paz de las Aves was good for this one, where a mob of them were waiting for their daily feed when we arrived at the fruit blind!</i>	
NEW WORLD QUAIL	ODONTOPHORIDAE
Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus erythrops</i>
<i>While some of us chased after one calling party and went in after them in the forest, Dorothy calmly stood on the road where the local guide found a couple from another covey feeding close to the road. Galling for the rest of us but great for Dorothy!</i>	
GREBES	PODICIPEDIDAE
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
CORMORANTS AND SHAGS	PHALACROCORACIDAE
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS	ARDEIDAE
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
NEW WORLD VULTURES	CATHARTIDAE
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>
<i>A couple of these magnificent raptors were seen gliding over the rainforest along the Votrosa Road, near to Canandé.</i>	
HAWKS EAGLES AND KITES	ACCIPITRIDAE
Hook-billed Kite	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>

A female bird was found perched in the Upper Tandayapa Valley just before the cloud rolled in and the bird rapidly dissolved from view. When the cloud rolled back again minutes later the bird had slipped away.

Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>
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A few of this most elegant of raptors were seen first around Milpe, and later around Canandé .

White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>
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One was seen hovering from the bus as we were en-route to Santo Domingo.

Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>
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An adult and a juvenile bird were seen in the Canandé area.

Sharp-shinned (Plain-breasted) Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus ventralis</i>
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Barred Hawk	<i>Leucopternis princeps</i>
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Our first sighting involved a bird glimpsed flying over through the treetops as we were on a forest trail surrounded by a mega flock at Milpe, and later a pair were seen for a longer period cruising over a subtropical forest patch along the Chiriboga Road.

Gray-backed Hawk	<i>Leucopternis occidentalis</i>
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This was a surprise find, perched along the lower reaches of the Chiriboga Road on our final day.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>
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One flew over while we were birding the dry scrub of Calacali.

Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>
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Gray Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>
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An immature bird was seen at Rio Silanche and an adult was seen in the Canandé area.

White-rumped Hawk	<i>Buteo leucorrhous</i>
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An adult gliding over the forest canopy along the Chiriboga Road was a great find by Peter.

Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>
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One was seen gliding over in the Pedro Vicente Maldonado area.

White-throated Hawk	<i>Buteo albigula</i>
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One overflew at Yanacocha on our first day.

Variable Hawk	<i>Buteo polyosoma</i>
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Good perched views were obtained at Calacali.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS **FALCONIDAE**

Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>
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First seen along the Milpe Road, with another picked up en-route to Canande.

H Barred Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>
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H Plumbeous Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur plumbeus</i>
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An extremely close bird was heard calling very close to the lodge at Canande, although we just could not locate it as dusk fell.

American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
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Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>
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RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS **RALLIDAE**

White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>
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One was seen by a tiny pool en-route to Canande, thanks to some sharp spotting by Ian.

Brown Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides wolfi</i>
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Typically tricky, we decided to try for it anyway in the Pedro Vicente Maldonado area. Soon after we made our way into a known spot we got a loud and close response to our tape, and I managed to find it standing in a pretty difficult spot, where some got it and some didn't. We moved around and a few people managed to get onto it, with one person even being blessed that it walked out in the open in front of their position. For those who got it a great and rare sighting!

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS

CHARADRIIDAE

Pied Lapwing (Pied Plover)	<i>Vanellus cayanus</i>
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A pair of adults and two fluffy pied chicks were found on the stony banks of the Rio Palenque.

PIGEONS AND DOVES

COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>

A few were seen as we made our way to Canande, with others seen in the grounds of our Santo Domingo hotel, and also in Rio Palenque.

Plumbeous Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>
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One was seen perched in the subtropical forests of Paz de las Aves.

Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>
Dusky Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas goodsoni</i>

Two were seen really well in Pedro Vicente Maldonado, and many others were heard in the Canande area.

Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>

A few were seen in the dry country of Calacali.

Ecuadorian Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina buckleyi</i>
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First seen in the dusty town of Los Golondrinas en-route to Canande, with others seen on various journeys in the lowlands, as well as in the Rio Palenque reserve.

H Blue Ground-Dove	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>
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Heard around the lowland forest island of Rio Palenque.

White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Pallid Dove	<i>Leptotila pallida</i>

Ian found a frolicking pair along a trail in the Milpe Bird Sanctuary, and another flew across the road in Pedro Vicente Maldonado.

H Sapphire (Indigo-crowned) Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon saphirina purpurata</i>
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One was heard distantly from a forest trail in Rio Canande.

White-throated Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon frenata</i>
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One was seen inconspicuously walking past the blind at Tandayapa Bird Lodge.

PARROTS

PSITTACIDAE

Maroon-tailed Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura melanura pacifica</i>
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Good perched views were obtained in Milpe.

Pacific Parrotlet	<i>Forpus coelestis</i>
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Several were seen on the way from PVM to Rio Canande, and others were seen in Rio Palenque.

Rose-faced Parrot	<i>Pyrilia pulchra</i>
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Ecuador has a bunch of parrots, although this is arguably the very best of them. We heard a number of them flying over at Canande, and on our final morning there finally got the views we craved, of a bird perched up in the 'scope.

Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
Red-billed Parrot	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>
Bronze-winged Parrot	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i>
Red-lored Parrot (Amazon)	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>

We managed two separate sightings of perched birds in the Canande area.

Scaly-naped Parrot (Amazon)	<i>Amazona mercenaria</i>
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A single party flew over in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Mealy Parrot (Amazon)	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>
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Some great perched views were had in the Canande area.

CUCKOOS

CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>

One was seen singing from a wire en-route to Canande, and another was heard in Pedro Vicente Maldonado.

Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
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OWLS

STRIGIDAE

H Crested Owl	<i>Lophostrix cristata</i>
H Peruvian (Pacific) Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium peruanum</i>
H Mottled Owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>

NIGHTJARS

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Rufous-bellied Nighthawk	<i>Lurocalis rufiventris</i>
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After many missed a brief flyover in the Upper Tandayapa Valley we were pleased to get another one, as we waiting for the Lyre-tailed Nightjar in the Lower Tandayapa Valley.

Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
Lyre-tailed Nightjar	<i>Uropsalis lyra</i>

One of the most extravagant of all the nightjars, the males of which exhibit a ridiculous half meter long tail. Normally fairly straightforward, on this occasion he gave us the run around, although right "at the death" it finally gave us all perched looks, with his huge tail flailing around behind him as he sat on an open branch. Well worth the effort methinks!

SWIFTS

APODIDAE

Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>

A few were seen well enough to nail them to this species in the Canande area.

Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
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Recorded around Milpe and Pedro Vicente Maldonado.

White-tipped Swift	<i>Aeronautes montivagus</i>
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One was seen within the Tandayapa Valley during a hot sunny morning there.

GO Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>
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One seen on the way to Canande did not linger long enough for everyone to get out of the bus unfortunately.

HUMMINGBIRDS

TROCHILIDAE

Bronzy Hermit	<i>Glaucis aeneus</i>
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A great find by the local guide at Canande, where the bird obliged by returning to feed in the same heliconia patch multiple times over a ten-minute period.

White-whiskered Hermit	<i>Phaethornis yaruqui</i>
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<i>First recorded several times at the Milpe feeders, and later again at Canande.</i>	
Tawny-bellied Hermit	<i>Phaethornis syrmatophorus</i>
<i>A single was seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, with another along the Tandayapa Bird Lodge trails.</i>	
Stripe-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>
White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>
<i>The most frequent and abundant visitor to the feeders by the lodge at Canande.</i>	
Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>
Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>
Sparkling Violetear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>
Green Thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>
<i>This tiny, and adorable hummer was a regular fixture at Milpe's feeders.</i>	
Western Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus</i>
<i>Frustratingly difficult on this trip. Usually an expected bird at the Tandayapa feeders, they had recently gone AWOL for a while so that we just managed a single brief sighting of a male bird feeding in a flowering Inga tree lower down in the same valley.</i>	
Green-crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania fannyi verticeps</i>
<i>Regularly seen coming to the feeders at Milpe.</i>	
Andean Emerald	<i>Amazilia franciae</i>
<i>Regular at Tandayapa's feeders, and also recorded at both Paz de las Aves and Milpe.</i>	
Purple-chested Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia rosenbergi</i>
<i>First seen within the Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary, they were also seen visiting the lodge feeders at Canande.</i>	
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>
Speckled Hummingbird	<i>Adelomyia melanogenys</i>
<i>A few were seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, and also along the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Fawn-breasted Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa rubinoides</i>
<i>Regularly recorded at the feeders in Tandayapa and also at Paz de las Aves.</i>	
Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>
<i>Seen regularly visiting the feeders at Milpe and Canande.</i>	
Empress Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa imperatrix</i>
<i>At least one male of this spectacular hummer was seen visiting the feeders at Paz de las Aves.</i>	
White-tailed Hillstar	<i>Urochroa bougueri</i>
<i>This was the sole visitor to the feeders while we lunched in the orchid reserve at El Pahuma, (although was the very reason we were lunching there).</i>	
Buff-tailed Coronet	<i>Boissonneaua flavescens</i>
<i>One of the most comonly recorded hummers at the Tandayapa feeders, and also recorded at Paz de las Aves and in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
Velvet-purple Coronet	<i>Boissonneaua jardini</i>
<i>Arguably the best hummer on northwest Ecuador, seen regularly visiting Angel's feeders at paz de las Aves.</i>	
Shining Sunbeam	<i>Aglaeactis cupripennis</i>
<i>This aggressive little hummer was seen at Yanacocha on our first morning.</i>	
Mountain Velvetbreast	<i>Lafresnaya lafresnayi</i>
<i>A female came in regularly to the feeders at Yanacocha during our first morning.</i>	
Brown Inca	<i>Coeligena wilsoni</i>

Another hummer that had taken a leave of absence from Tandayapa, where they are usually regular. Just the one bird was seen along the Old Nono-Mindo Road, near San Tadeo.

Collared Inca	<i>Coeligena torquata</i>
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Recorded in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Buff-winged Starfrontlet	<i>Coeligena lutetiae</i>
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Regularly recorded during the first morning of the tour up at Yanacocha.

Sword-billed Hummingbird	<i>Ensifera ensifera</i>
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Yanacocha's star hummer was seen regularly during our first morning of the tour up there. A true living cartoon.

Great Sapphirewing	<i>Pterophanes cyanopterus</i>
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A few of these large hummers were regularly visiting the Yanacocha feeders during our first morning of the tour.

Gorgeted Sunangel	<i>Helianthus strophianus</i>
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A few were seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Sapphire-vented Puffleg	<i>Eriocnemis luciani</i>
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Regularly seen visiting the feeders at Yanacocha.

Golden-breasted Puffleg	<i>Eriocnemis mosquera</i>
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A few were coming to the feeders at Yanacocha.

Purple-bibbed Whitetip	<i>Urostitte benjamini</i>
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At least two different males and a female were visiting the feeders at Milpe, while we had our lunch there.

Booted Racket-tail	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>
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You could not dream this cartoon hummer up, regularly coming to Tandayapa's crowded feeders while we were there, and a definite crowd favorite.

Black-tailed Trainbearer	<i>Lesbia victoriae</i>
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A few were seen in the dry scrub of Calacali.

Tyrian Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>
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Another regular visitor to the feeders at Yanacocha.

Violet-tailed Sylph	<i>Agelaiocercus coelestis</i>
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Just a couple of sightings, one along the Old Nono-Mindo Road, and another at Paz de las Aves. Can be much more abundant than this!

Wedge-billed Hummingbird	<i>Augastes geoffroyi</i>
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A singing male was seen at a "lek site" along the Tandayapa Bird Lodge trails, and at one point another bird came in to tussle with the first bird.

Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliodytes barroti</i>
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A couple of singles were seen in the Canande area.

Purple-throated Woodstar	<i>Calliphlox mitchellii</i>
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Regularly seen visiting Tandayapa's crazy feeders.

Purple-collared Woodstar	<i>Myrtis fanny</i>
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An adult male was seen in the dry country of Calacali, where it is only a seasonal visitor.

TROGONS

TROGONIDAE

(Western) White-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis chionurus</i>
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A few were seen in the Canande area.

(Northern) Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus concinnus</i>
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One was seen along a logging road in Canande.

H Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>
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Heard at both Palenque and in Canande.

Masked Trogon	<i>Trogon personatus</i>
<i>Three to four birds were seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
White-eyed (Chocó) Trogon	<i>Trogon comptus</i>
<i>A male was 'scoped in a small private reserve in Milpe.</i>	
Golden-headed Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>
<i>Excellent prolonged views were had of a male in Paz de las Aves, with others seen in the Tandayapa Valley too.</i>	
H Crested Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus antisianus</i>
<i>A calling bird unfortunately could not be tempted out in the Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
MOTMOTS	MOMOTIDAE
Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>
<i>A couple of people managed to get looks at a calling bird in the Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary.</i>	
Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>
<i>A couple of birds were seen at Milpe, with another seen later in Canande.</i>	
KINGFISHERS	ALCEDINIDAE
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquatus</i>
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
PUFFBIRDS	BUCCONIDAE
Barred Puffbird	<i>Nystalus radiatus</i>
<i>We had a good run on this species, with a pair found still-hunting from wires en-route to Canande, with another seen by a forested roadside around Canande later on the tour, and finally another bird was seen sitting on wires on the journey from Canande to Santo Domingo.</i>	
White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>
<i>One showed well in Rio Palenque.</i>	
JACAMARS	GALBULIDAE
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>
<i>A pair were seen during our journey to Rio Canande.</i>	
NEW WORLD BARBETS	CAPITONIDAE
Orange-fronted Barbet	<i>Capito squamatus</i>
<i>A scattering of sightings were made during two days at Canande, where several birds were found within some of the magical mixed feeding flocks we encountered there.</i>	
Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>
<i>A superb scarlet-hooded male was seen at Milpe, with a couple more sightings made in the Canande area too.</i>	
TOUCAN-BARBETS	SEMNORNITHIDAE
Toucan Barbet	<i>Semnornis ramphastinus</i>
<i>Two pairs of these multicolored birds were seen at Paz de las Aves. They have only recently been moved into this newly created family.</i>	
TOUCANS	RAMPHASTIDAE
Crimson-rumped Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus haematopygus</i>
<i>One was seen at Paz de las Aves, with another found in the Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan	<i>Andigena laminirostris</i>
<i>A pair were found in the Upper Tandayapa Valley near the start of the tour, and then a closer bird was 'scoped for some time on the Chiriboga Road right at the end of the tour.</i>	
Collared (Pale-mandibled) Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus erythropygius</i>

<i>Seen first around Milpe, and then later a number of times around Canande.</i>	
Chestnut-mandibled Toucan	<i>Ramphastos swainsonii</i>
<i>A few birds were seen around Canande where they were commonly heard.</i>	
Chocó Toucan	<i>Ramphastos brevis</i>
<i>Several were found along the Milpe Road, and a good number of them were seen later in the Canande area.</i>	
WOODPECKERS	PICIDAE
Olivaceous Piculet	<i>Picumnus olivaceus</i>
<i>A pair were seen near the parking lot at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.</i>	
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>
<i>The commonest woodpecker around Canande where we saw them frequently during our stay.</i>	
Scarlet-backed Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis callonotus</i>
<i>Our keen-eyed driver Jorge picked out one of these on our journey to Canande.</i>	
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis fumigatus</i>
<i>A single bird was found at the entrance to Mindo, and another pair was found within the swirling feeding flock we followed for some time in the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.</i>	
Red-rumped Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis kirkii</i>
<i>A single bird was seen in Rio Palenque.</i>	
Lita Woodpecker	<i>Piculus litae</i>
<i>Heard three times in Canande from within separate feeding flocks, although the bird quickly moved off each time, much to my frustration.</i>	
Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>
<i>Recorded in the Tandayapa Valley, Paz de las Aves, and also in Milpe.</i>	
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rivolii</i>
<i>This extremely smart woodpecker was first seen along the Old Nono-Mindo Road when we were en-route to Tandayapa Lodge, and another was found when we were leaving Paz de las Aves.</i>	
Cinnamon Woodpecker	<i>Celeus loricatus</i>
<i>One was heard from the tower at Rio Silanche, and others were heard in Canande.</i>	
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
<i>Recorded around Pedro Vicente Maldonado, and also around Canande.</i>	
Powerful Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus pollens</i>
<i>A pair were seen on the Tandayapa Bird Lodge trails, and another male was "glued" to a tree trunk along the upper sections of the Chiriboga Road on our final day.</i>	
Guayaquil Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus gayaquilensis</i>
<i>A couple of pairs were seen in the Canande area.</i>	
OVENBIRDS	FURNARIIDAE: FURNARIINAE
Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero	<i>Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus</i>
<i>Regularly seen in the lowland areas of the tour.</i>	
Azara's Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis azarae</i>
<i>A couple were seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
Rufous Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis unirufa</i>
<i>One was seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
Slaty Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis brachyura</i>
<i>Heard in the Tandayapa Valley, and around Milpe, and finally seen en-route to Canande.</i>	
White-browed Spinetail	<i>Hellmayrea gularis</i>

One showed on our first morning of the tour at Yanacocha.

Red-faced Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca erythroptera</i>
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This species was first seen in the feeding flock in the Tandayapa Valley, with later records coming from Milpe, Paz de las Aves, and the Chiriboga Road.

Spotted Barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>
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One was seen along the trails at Tandayapa Bird Lodge.

Pearled Treerunner	<i>Margarornis squamiger</i>
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A few were seen in mixed feeding flocks in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, Paz de las Aves, and along the Chiriboga Road.

Streaked Tuftedcheek	<i>Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii</i>
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A pair were found within a mixed feeding flock in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Anabacerthia variegaticeps</i>
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One was seen at Paz de las Aves, and further sightings were made in Milpe.

Lineated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>
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One was in a frantic mixed feeding flock within the foothill forest at Milpe.

Striped (Western) Woodhaunter	<i>Hyloctistes subulatus assimilis</i>
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One was seen along the Pedro Vicente Maldonado Road, and another was heard in Canande.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner	<i>Philydor rufum</i>
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A few were in a huge mixed feeding flock that seemed filled with a variety of different ovenbirds, at Milpe.

Striped Treehunter	<i>Thripadectes holostictus</i>
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Having got one of these treehunters thoroughly worked up with a little use of playback, we just could not shut it up, and the bird even seemed to stalk us, following us along the road, in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>
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A single bird was seen in Rio Pelenque, where their loud and distinctive calls were heard frequently emanating from the lowland rainforest.

Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>
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Seen a couple of times passing through within mixed flocks in the steamy lowland forests of Canande.

GO Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>
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One came through in the massive mixed flock that we chased around for several hours at Milpe.

WOODCREEPERS	FURNARIIDAE: DENDROCOLAPTINAE
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Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>
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One was seen in a small private reserve at Milpe.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>
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Regularly encountered in the foothills and lowlands around Milpe, PVM, Canande, Palenque and on the lower sections of the Chiriboga Road.

H Strong-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>
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Just one distant calling bird was heard early in the morning in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae</i>
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Having come across a pair of Ocellated Antbirds (an obligate ant follower) along the trail at Canande, and knowing this woodcreeper too can also be around antswarms I tried playing the call whereupon one landed in the tree right beside us!

Black-striped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i>
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Two were seen along a logging road close to the Rio Canande reserve.

Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythrogygius</i>
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A few were recorded in Milpe and around Canande.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>
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Just a solitary bird seen within the steamy lowland forest of Rio Palenque.

Montane Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger</i>
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Seen in the subtropical forests of the Upper Tandayapa Valley and also along the Chiriboga Road.

Red-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus trochilirostris</i>
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A pair of these impressive woodcreepers were seen in some macadamias on the edge of the Rio Palenque reserve.

Brown-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus pusillus</i>
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We had some great fortune with this bird, seeing one or two birds a number of times within a large feeding flock that we followed around for some time within the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.

TYPICAL ANT BIRDS

THAMNOPHILIDAE

H Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>
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Just a single distant calling bird was heard along a logging road close to Canande reserve.

Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>
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Frustratingly thin on the ground during our visit to Rio Palenque, where just a single pied male bird was seen.

Western Slaty-Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>
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A calling male bird was seen well in the Canande area.

Uniform Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus unicolor</i>
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Heard around Paz de las Aves and in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, with one bird seen along the Tandayapa Lodge trails.

Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>
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One bird showed well in a large feeding flock in the Milpe Bird Sanctuary, and others were in a small bird party in the lower foothill section of the Chiriboga Road.

Plain Antwreos	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>
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A singing male was seen in Rio Palenque.

Spot-crowned Antwreos	<i>Dysithamnus puncticeps</i>
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A singing male bird was seen in the Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary.

H Checker-throated Antwren	<i>Epinecrophylla fulviventris</i>
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Heard by the restaurant at Canande, although it could not be tempted out into the open.

Moustached (Griscom's) Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula ignota ignota</i>
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Uncharacteristic low down, and close up views were obtained along a logging road near Rio Canande reserve.

Pacific Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula pacifica</i>
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Regularly heard around Pedro Vicente Maldonado where a pair were eventually seen. Also heard around Canande and Palenque.

White-flanked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris</i>
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A couple were seen along the forest trails at Canande.

Slaty Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>
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Recorded along the trails at Tandayapa Lodge, and also in a large flock in the foothills at Milpe.

Dot-winged Antwren	<i>Microrhoptias quixensis</i>
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Seen at both Canande and Rio Palenque.

Long-tailed Antbird	<i>Drymophila caudata</i>
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A bird with a stunted tail (not appearing long-tailed in the slightest) was seen in a dense bamboo stand in the subtropical sections of the Chiriboga Road.

GO Rufous-rumped Antwren	<i>Terenura callinota</i>
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A calling bird was in a mixed feeding flock within a small private reserve at Milpe.

Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>
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A pair were seen along a logging road near the Rio Canande reserve.

Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>
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A common sound at Pedro Vicente Maldonado and Canande, we eventually got looks of a pair at Rio Palenque.

Esmeraldas Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza nigricauda</i>
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We spent quite a bit of time trying to see a calling bird at Milpe with limited success, just a few people snatching glimpses of the bird. On our final day we tried a couple more territories on the lower sections of the Chiriboga Road, and hit the jackpot with the second one, when a male emerged up onto an open stem and finally put us out of our misery!

Stub-tailed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza berlepschi</i>
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Knowing we had limited chances for this anywhere else we tried a couple of spots for this at Rio Silanche, and had unbelievable success with the second spot where a male emerged out of the under storey and perched up on an open bamboo stem at eye level in front of us, puffing up his white mantle patch as he did so. Rare views indeed of this shy Choco endemic.

Immaculate Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza immaculata</i>
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The resident pair showed well at the Tandayapa Lodge blind shortly after dawn, picking juicy moths off the nightlight there.

Bicolored Antbird	<i>Gymnophrys leucaspis</i>
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A vocal group showed along the trails at the Rio Canande reserve.

Spotted Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevioides</i>
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A male and female bird were both seen well on our final morning at Canande.

Ocellated Antbird	<i>Phaenostictus mcleannani</i>
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As we descended from the ridge at Canande we came across a calling pair of these sharp-dressed antbirds. A Northern Barred Woodcreeper in the same spot indicated an antswarm must have been somewhere in the area.

ANTTHRUSHES

FORMICARIIDAE

Black-headed Antthrush	<i>Formicarius nigricapillus</i>
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A calling bird showed a couple of times at Rio Palenque.

H Rufous-breasted Antthrush	<i>Formicarius rufipectus</i>
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Unfortunately only heard some distance away along the Tandayapa Lodge trails, and on the Chiriboga Road.

ANTPITTAS

GRALLARIIDAE

Giant Antpitta	<i>Grallaria gigantea</i>
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A bird was seen on the trail as we descended toward cock-of-the-rock lek at Paz de las Aves.

H Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	<i>Grallaria ruficapilla</i>
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Heard at a number of spot in the subtropics, although never anywhere we could really get at it unfortunately.

	Yellow-breasted Antpitta	Grallaria flavotincta
	<i>A very showy bird came into feed on specially laid out worms at Paz de las Aves.</i>	
H	Rufous Antpitta	Grallaria rufula
	<i>Heard a few times around Yanacocha on our first morning of the tour.</i>	
	Tawny Antpitta	Grallaria quitensis
	<i>One hopped off the trail at Yanacocha on our first day.</i>	
H	Ochre-breasted Antpitta	Grallaricula flavirostris
	<i>A close calling bird refused to show itself at Paz de las Aves.</i>	
	TAPACULOS	RHINOCRYPTIDAE
H	Blackish (Unicolored) Tapaculo	Scytalopus (unicolor) latrans
	<i>Regularly heard in Yanacocha.</i>	
H	Chocó Tapaculo	Scytalopus chocoensis
	<i>Heard close (but no cigar) at Canande.</i>	
	Nariño Tapaculo	Scytalopus vicinior
	<i>One was seen along the Tandayapa Lodge trails one afternoon.</i>	
GO	Spillman's Tapaculo	Scytalopus spillmanni
	<i>One gave a typically brief showing in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
	Ocellated Tapaculo	Acropternis orthonyx
	<i>One of these spotty numbers was seen along a narrow trail along the Old Nono-Mindo Road.</i>	
	TYRANT FLYCATCHERS	TYRANNIDAE
H	Brown-capped Tyrannulet	Ornithion brunneicapillus
	<i>Heard in the lowlands at Rio Palenque.</i>	
	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	Camptostoma obsoletum
	<i>Seen in a young plantation on the edge of Rio Palenque.</i>	
	White-tailed Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus poecilocercus
	<i>Recorded in the subtropical forest at Paz de las Aves.</i>	
	White-banded Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus stictopterus
	<i>One was seen at Yanacocha reserve.</i>	
	White-throated Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus leucophrys
	<i>One passed through with a few Superciliaried Hemispingus, in a feeding flock at Yanacocha reserve on our first morning.</i>	
	Rufous-winged Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus calopterus
	<i>Peter found one of these handsome tyrannulets feeding in an area of secondary growth in the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.</i>	
	Tufted Tit-Tyrant	Anairetes parulus
	<i>A pair were seen in the dry inter-Andean valley at Calacali.</i>	
	Agile Tit-Tyrant	Anairetes agilis
	<i>A pair were found along the higher sections of the Chiriboga Road on our final day.</i>	
	Yellow Tyrannulet	Capsiempis flaveola
	<i>A single bird came in with a mobbing party in response to a pygmy-owl tape at Palenque.</i>	
	Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	Tyrannulus elatus
	<i>Several birds were in an area of young plantations at Rio Palenque.</i>	
	Greenish Elaenia	Myiopagis viridicata
	<i>A single calling bird came in to mob a pygmy-owl tape in a young plantation at Rio Palenque.</i>	

Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>
<i>Ian found a pair of these striking flycatchers sitting on boulders along a fast-flowing Andean river along the Chiriboga Road on our final day.</i>	
Streak-necked Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes striaticollis</i>
<i>Recorded in the Tandayapa Valley, and also along the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Olive-striped Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>
<i>One was seen in the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.</i>	
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>
<i>One was seen in a young plantation on the edge of the rainforest at Rio Palenque.</i>	
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>
<i>Recorded in the foothills of Milpe and on the lower section of the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias griseiceps</i>
<i>Recorded a number of times in the lowlands (Canande).</i>	
Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias uropygialis</i>
<i>Recorded first briefly in a mixed feeding flock in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, with another bird found in the same area as the Agile Tit-Tyrants along the Chiriboga Road on our final day.</i>	
Chocó (Golden-faced) Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius (chrysops) albigularis</i>
<i>Seen first in Pedro Vicente Maldonado, then later in Canande, Palenque and even in the grounds of our Santo Domingo hotel.</i>	
Ornate Flycatcher	<i>Myiotriccus ornatus</i>
<i>This fancy flycatcher was seen first at Milpe, and later again along one of the lower sections of the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
H Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Pseudotriccus pelzelni</i>
<i>A close calling bird was heard at Paz de las Aves.</i>	
H Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Pseudotriccus ruficeps</i>
<i>A single bird was heard along the Inca Trail at Yanacocha.</i>	
Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Myiornis atricapillus</i>
<i>One smart little bird, that vies with Short-tailed Pygmy-tyrant for title of "World's Smallest Passerine", several were heard at Rio Silanche, and one showed really well along a logging road at Canande.</i>	
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>
<i>Two birds were seen well on the forest edge at Rio Palenque.</i>	
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
<i>Seen at several lowland sites, including within the grounds of our Santo Domingo hotel.</i>	
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>
<i>Rod and Dorothy nailed one of these tiny flycatchers while they hung back at the lodge one day at Canande.</i>	
White-throated Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>
<i>We unsuccessfully chased a bird at the end of the Milpe Road, although had much better luck along a forest trail at Rio Palenque, where the bird was much more vocal and obliging.</i>	
Golden-crowned Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus coronatus</i>
<i>An extremely responsive bird was seen well along the forest trails at Canande, where at one point it almost took my head off when it flew in angrily!</i>	
Cinnamon Flycatcher	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus</i>

<i>Several were seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, and another was found along the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Tawny-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius villosus</i>
<i>One was seen in a massive feeding flock within the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.</i>	
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>
<i>One of these brightly marked flycatchers was seen along a forest trail at Canande.</i>	
Flavescent Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus flavicans</i>
<i>A couple of sightings were made in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
Bran-colored Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
<i>One was seen en-route to the Rio Canande reserve.</i>	
Smoke-colored Pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>
<i>Several were seen in the Tandayapa Valley, with another seen in the subtropics along the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
<i>Seen frolicking around some Andean mountain streams and rivers at a number of spots on the trip.</i>	
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
<i>Peter picked up a female bird from the bus on the outskirts of Santo Domingo.</i>	
White-browed Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola albilora</i>
<i>Several of these austral migrants were found as began our descent down from Yanacocha reserve towards Tandayapa, feeding in some highland agricultural fields.</i>	
White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis albicauda</i>
<i>An incredible five separate birds were seen in the dry country of Calacali, just a short distance from the famous Mitad del Mundo, equator monument.</i>	
Smoky Bush-Tyrant	<i>Myiotheretes fumigatus</i>
<i>A single bird was heard along the trail at Yanacocha.</i>	
Masked Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>
<i>Commonly encountered in the lowland areas of the tour. An extremely handsome and common ground-dwelling flycatcher.</i>	
Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca diadema</i>
<i>One was seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris</i>
<i>One was seen in the Alambi Valley as we made our way to Tandayapa Lodge on our first day, with another heard along the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca fumicolor</i>
<i>A pair were seen on the journey down from Yanacocha to the Old Nono-Mindo Road, on our way to Tandayapa Lodge.</i>	
Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>
<i>Several of these striking flycatchers were seen in the Canande area, including from the lodge itself.</i>	
Ochraceous Attila	<i>Attila torridus</i>
<i>A rare and extremely localized flycatcher, that was seen in a young plantation on the edge of the forest at Rio Palenque.</i>	
Rufous Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>
<i>Another great find by Peter, along a logging road a short distance from the Rio Canande reserve.</i>	
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>

<i>Heard around the lower Tandayapa Valley, and seen at Milpe.</i>	
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
<i>Recorded at Milpe, and later around Canande and Rio Palenque..</i>	
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
<i>Commonly recorded throughout the lowlands.</i>	
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
<i>Recorded at Milpe.</i>	
Gray-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>
<i>One was 'scoped up around Pedro Vicente Maldonado.</i>	
White-ringed Flycatcher	<i>Conopias albobittatus</i>
<i>A couple were seen at the end of the Milpe Road, and another one was seen along a logging road close to the Canande reserve.</i>	
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</i>
<i>Several were seen in the Tandayapa Valley, and also around Paz de las Aves.</i>	
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
<i>Recorded in Pedro Vicente Maldonado, and in the Canande area too.</i>	
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
<i>Singles were seen in Canande (including from the lodge itself), and at Rio Palenque.</i>	
Snowy-throated Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus niveigularis</i>
<i>This austral migrant was especially common during our stay, being recorded multiple times in Canande, Pedro Vicente Maldonado, and in Rio Palenque.</i>	
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
<i>Commonly recorded throughout the lowlands, and also in the highlands in the Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
COTINGAS	COTINGIDAE
Red-crested Cotinga	<i>Ampelion rubrocristatus</i>
<i>One was seen "standing guard" high in a tree within the Yanacocha reserve on our first morning.</i>	
Green-and-black Fruiteater	<i>Pipreola riefferii</i>
<i>A single bird was seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
Barred Fruiteater	<i>Pipreola arcuata</i>
<i>A pair were seen feeding close by at Yanacocha on our first day, and another was seen in one of the higher temperate sections of the Chiriboga Road on our last day.</i>	
Orange-breasted Fruiteater	<i>Pipreola jucunda</i>
<i>We had to abandon our bolones brunch at Paz de las Aves when news filtered to us than Angel's son had a male fruiteater lined up for us just up the road. We raced up there, only to hear the bird had flown minutes before! We waited though and soon enough its high whistles were heard emanating from a dense clump of foliage, and after a couple of bad looks of him in there he obliged by moving into an open tree, where we could tee him up in the 'scope for all to see. Great bird.</i>	
Andean Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola peruvianus</i>
<i>One of the ultimate Andean birds. We ran into them twice on the trip, first as we made our way to Tandayapa we made a special stop at a lek site where a number of vermilion red males displayed in the treetops. The a few days later we could not resist another look at them in Paz de las Aves, where a specially constructed blind got us up close with them as they displayed a short time after sunrise.</i>	
Rufous Piha	<i>Lipaugus unirufus</i>

This must have one of the loudest and most shocking bird calls out there. We heard their loud "outbursts" a number of times as climbed up to the ridge on the Canande trails, and finally nailed one up on the ridge itself.

Olivaceous Piha	<i>Snowornis cryptolophus</i>
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In complete contrast to the Rufous Piha this one is almost mute, illustrating well the diversity of this fascinating family. As we made our way back up the trail from the Yellow-breasted Antpitta performance at Paz de las Aves we found an obliging piha feeding on some low fruits.

Black-tipped Cotinga	<i>Carpodectes hopkei</i>
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Two or three snow white males were seen from the aptly named "Black-tipped Cotinga viewpoint" at Canande.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow	<i>Querula purpurata</i>
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Another one of the noisier cotingas, we found a vocal party in the lowland forest at Rio Palenque.

MANAKINS

PIPRIDAE

Golden-winged Manakin	<i>Masius chrysopterus</i>
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A young male and an adult male were seen along a forest trail at Milpe.

Club-winged Manakin	<i>Machaeropterus deliciosus</i>
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No trip to the northwest would be complete without a visit to Milpe's famous manakin lek. As we descended towards the forest we could hear the intriguing beeping noise made by the male manakins as they flash their pied wings above their heads rapidly in the throws of their display. Something we all got to see firsthand several times during that morning.

White-bearded Manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>
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First seen at Milpe, with further sightings en-route to, and in, Canande.

Green Manakin	<i>Xenopipo holochlora</i>
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One was seen along the trails at Canande.

Red-capped Manakin	<i>Pipra mentalis</i>
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A male of this famous "moonwalking" manakin was seen along the forest trails at Canande.

TITYRAS AND ALLIES

TITYRIDAE

Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>
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Seen in the lowlands of Canande and Rio Palenque.

Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>
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A smart male was seen in a mixed flock within Paz de las Aves.

Cinnamon Becard	<i>Pachyramphus cinnamomeus</i>
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The most frequently recorded becard in the lowland feeding flocks around Canande, PVM and Milpe.

Black-and-white Becard	<i>Pachyramphus albogriseus</i>
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One was seen within the Milpe reserve.

One-colored Becard	<i>Pachyramphus homochrous</i>
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Recorded a number of times around Canande.

VIREOS

VIREONIDAE

Brown-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>
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Seen within feeding flocks in the Tandayapa Valley, Paz de las Aves, and in the foothills at Milpe.

Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
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A number individuals from the resident races that occur on northern South America were recorded in the Tandayapa Valley, Milpe, Canande, and Rio Palenque.

Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i>
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Just recorded in the lowlands of Rio Palenque.

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius leucotis</i>
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A pair were seen in a mixed feeding flock that also held Rufous-throated Tanager and Rufous-rumped Antwren, in a small private reserve at Milpe. Another bird was in an impressive feeding flock along a logging road at Canande that also held three Scarlet-and-white Tanagers, several Scarlet-breasted Dacnises, and a Slate-throated Gnatcatcher.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
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A bright bird was seen singing in the open in a small plantation at Rio Palenque.

CROWS JAYS AND MAGPIES

CORVIDAE

Turquoise Jay	<i>Cyanolyca turcosa</i>
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Having got a few glimpses of a small group in Yanacocha on our first day, we upgraded to much better looks in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Beautiful Jay	<i>Cyanolyca pulchra</i>
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During our action-packed drive from Yanacocha to Tandayapa (where we scored among other things cock-of-the-rock, White-capped Dippers, and Torrent Duck), we stopped the bus suddenly when a call of these jays came at us from the roadside. I was just about to jump out to try and find them when one popped up in a low shrub clearly visible through the windshield just in front of the car. I wish they were always so obliging!

SWALLOWS

HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
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Commonly recorded at many sites throughout the tour.

Brown-bellied Swallow	<i>Orochelidon murina</i>
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This highland swallow was recorded at Yanacocha and Calacali.

White-thighed Swallow	<i>Atticora tibialis</i>
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Recorded a number of times in the foothills around Milpe, and also in the lowlands around Canande.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
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Commonly seen in the foothills and lowlands.

Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
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A few were seen on our way into Canande.

WRENS

TROGLODYTIDAE

Band-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus zonatus</i>
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Regularly seen in the Canande area.

Rufous Wren	<i>Cinnycerthia unirufa</i>
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Just a few were seen in Yanacocha on our first day, with a much better sighting when we returned to the temperate zone along the Chiriboga Road on our final day.

H Sharpe's (Sepia-brown) Wren	<i>Cinnycerthia olivascens</i>
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Heard briefly at Paz de las Aves.

Plain-tailed Wren	<i>Thryothorus euophrys</i>
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A pair were seen skulking around in the bamboo in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Whiskered Wren	<i>Thryothorus mystacalis</i>
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One showed well in the afternoon along a forest trail in the lowlands of Rio Palenque.

H Bay Wren	<i>Thryothorus nigricapillus</i>
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Heard frequently in the foothills and lowlands, although always devilishly difficult to see on these occasions, just poor flight views being obtained.

H Stripe-throated Wren	<i>Thryothorus leucopogon</i>
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Regularly heard calling along the forest trails at Canande.

Speckle-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus sclateri</i>
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Two to three birds emerged out of a dense clump of bamboo in response to playback at Rio Palenque.

House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
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Just a few scattered sightings in the lowlands.

Mountain Wren	<i>Troglodytes solstitialis</i>
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One was seen along the Chiriboga Road during our final day.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>
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A few were seen (and many more heard) in the Tandayapa Valley.

H Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren	<i>Microcerculus marginatus</i>
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Heard frequently at all the lowland sites visited.

DIPPERS

CINCLIDAE

White-capped Dipper	<i>Cinclus leucocephalus</i>
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A pair were seen in the Alambi Valley during our first day, with another pair found along the Rio Toachi on our final day along the Chiriboga Road.

GNATCATCHERS

POLIOPTILIDAE

Tawny-faced Gnatwren	<i>Microbates cinereiventris</i>
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A couple were seen on the forest trails at Canande.

Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>
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One was seen darting around a vine tangle in the lowland forest at Rio Palenque.

Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>
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A couple were seen in Palenque, with another seen en-route to Canande.

Slate-throated Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila schistaceigula</i>
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Our final feeding flock during our final morning at Canande produced this one, the same flock also holding three Scarlet-and-white Tanagers among others. Great flock.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>
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Having heard them frequently in the subtropical zone in the Tandayapa Valley and Paz de las Aves, we finally saw one on our final day along the Chiriboga Road.

Pale-vented Thrush	<i>Turdus obsoletus</i>
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One was seen along the Milpe Road, and another was picked up on the journey between Pedro Vicente Maldonado and Canande.

Spectacled (Ecuadorian) Thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis maculirostris</i>
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Fairly common in the grounds of our Santo Domingo hotel, and later seen again in Rio Palenque.

Great Thrush	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>
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Very commonly encountered in the highlands.

H Glossy-black Thrush	<i>Turdus serranus</i>
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Frequently heard singing in the Tandayapa Valley.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

PARULIDAE

Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>
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A few scattered sightings in the subtropics, lowlands and foothills.

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis semiflava</i>
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<i>One showed well on the journey to Canande.</i>	
Masked (Black-lored) Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis auricularis</i>
<i>An unexpected find in a young plantation on the edge of the rainforest at Rio Palenque.</i>	
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart)	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
<i>Recorded at a number of sites in the highlands.</i>	
Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart)	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>
<i>Seen a few times in the temperate zone of Yanacocha, and along the upper section of the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Golden-bellied (Chocó) Warbler	<i>Basileuterus chrysogaster chlorophrys</i>
<i>A few birds were seen regularly within the large mixed flock we followed in the foothill reserve of Milpe, with more seen in a bird party along the first section of the Chiriboga Road (also in the foothills).</i>	
Black-crested Warbler	<i>Basileuterus nigrocristatus</i>
<i>Seen well at Yanacocha on our first morning, with another found in the Upper Tadayapa Valley the following day.</i>	
Russet-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus coronatus</i>
<i>A few different sightings were made in the Tadayapa Valley.</i>	
Three-striped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>
<i>Recorded several times in the Tadayapa Valley, with others being seen at Milpe, and along the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Phaeothlypis fulvicauda</i>
<i>One was seen hopping along boulders on our way out of Canande.</i>	
BANANAQUIT	COEREBIDAE
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
<i>Encountered first in the foothills at Milpe, and later around Pedro Vicente Maldonado, Canande, and Palenque.</i>	
TANAGERS AND ALLIES	THRAUPIDAE
Superciliated Hemispingus	<i>Hemispingus superciliaris</i>
<i>Several were found within a mixed feeding flock during our morning at Yanacocha.</i>	
Black-eared (Western) Hemispingus	<i>Hemispingus melanotis ochraceus</i>
<i>Three birds were found within a large stand of chusquea bamboo along the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Blue-backed Conebill	<i>Conirostrum sitticolor</i>
<i>A few small groups were seen along the trail at Yanacocha.</i>	
Capped Conebill	<i>Conirostrum albifrons</i>
<i>A few were found within a mixed feeding flock in the Upper Tadayapa Valley.</i>	
Plush-capped Finch (Plushcap)	<i>Catamblyrhynchus diadema</i>
<i>A great singing bird was 'scoped up along the Chiriboga Road, where it shared the same bamboo stand with a small party of Western Hemispingus.</i>	
Dusky Bush-Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus semifuscus</i>
<i>This dowdy and locally common endemic was recorded regularly in the Tadayapa Valley.</i>	
Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus flavigularis</i>
<i>A few were found within a large mixed feeding flock in the foothill reserve of the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.</i>	
Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager	<i>Chlorospingus canigularis</i>

A pair of these tanagers was found within a mixed flock containing Choco Warblers and Russet Antshrikes along the lower section of the Chiriboga Road on our final day.

Guira Tanager	<i>Hemithraupis guira</i>
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A pair were found within a small flock around the feeders at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.

Scarlet-and-white Tanager	<i>Chrysothlypis salmomi</i>
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This bird has unquestionably got the "wow" factor. We ran into them several times, although the best was saved for last when a party of three birds fed just above us in the trees at Canande on our final morning. This little party included a scintillating adult male, with pure white underparts and vivid crimson upperparts. A true stunner. One of the birds of the trip.

Dusky-faced Tanager	<i>Mitrospingus cassinii</i>
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Several parties were seen in the understorey at Canande, although the best looks were just as we made our way to the ferry to leave at the end of our stay there.

Ochre-breasted Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis stolzmanni</i>
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A good understorey group of these bulky tanagers was seen in the Milpe foothills and also around Canande.

Scarlet-browed Tanager	<i>Heterospingus xanthopygius</i>
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A few were seen everyday during our time within Canande.

White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>
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Seen first in Milpe, and then later around Pedro Vicente Maldonado, and along the Chiriboga Road.

Tawny-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus delatrii</i>
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A few were seen everyday in Canande, within the many mixed flocks roaming the lowland forest there.

Flame-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus flammigerus icteronotus</i>
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One of the commonest lowland tanagers, recorded frequently at all the foothill and lowland sites on the tour.

Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
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Regularly recorded in the lowlands and foothills.

Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
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Regularly recorded in the lowlands and foothills.

Blue-capped Tanager	<i>Thraupis cyanocephala</i>
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Seen a few times in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, and along the Old Nono-Mindo Road.

Hooded Mountain-Tanager	<i>Buthraupis montana</i>
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One was seen along the Old Nono-Mindo Road on our way to Tandayapa, with a further single seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Black-chested Mountain-Tanager	<i>Buthraupis eximia</i>
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Two single birds were seen along the trail at Yanacocha on our first day.

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager	<i>Anisognathus igniventris</i>
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A few small groups were seen along the trail at Yanacocha, with another small group seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, and a final party of these was seen on the Chiriboga Road.

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager	<i>Anisognathus somptuosus</i>
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Regularly seen in the Tandayapa Valley, and at Paz de las Aves. Also seen on the Chiriboga Road.

H Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager	<i>Anisognathus notabilis</i>
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Heard a couple of times at Paz de las Aves, right when we were heading down to the Yellow-breasted Antpitta feeding area, although they had unfortunately moved on when we returned.

Grass-green Tanager	<i>Chlorornis riefferii</i>
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A couple of sightings were made in the Tandayapa Valley, and later also on the Chiriboga Road.

Golden-crowned Tanager	<i>Iridosornis rufivertex</i>
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One of these smart tanagers was seen along the trail at Yanacocha.

Fawn-breasted Tanager	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>
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One was seen at Paz de las Aves, and another was found on the Chiriboga Road.

Gray-and-gold Tanager	<i>Tangara palmeri</i>
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A small group of these tanagers was found just as we were leaving Pedro Vicente Maldonado, with others seen within mixed feeding flocks in the Canande area.

Blue-whiskered Tanager	<i>Tangara johanna</i>
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This scarce Choco tanager appeared suddenly within a mixed flock of Scarlet-browed and Rufous-winged Tanagers on our second day at Canande, although slinked away before most people got a shot at it. Thankfully though John pulled a pair of these dapper tanagers out of the bag during our final morning at Canande feeding on a spray of flowers (that moments earlier had hosted Rufous-winged Tanager and Scarlet-breasted Dacnis), where they remained long enough for us to line them in the 'scope for all. Marvelous.

Emerald Tanager	<i>Tangara florida</i>
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Peter found one within a great mixed flock on our final morning around Canande, that also contained a pair of Scarlet-breasted Dacnises and a pair of Blue-whiskered Tanagers, along with Rufous-winged Tanager.

Golden Tanager	<i>Tangara arthus</i>
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Recorded in mixed feeding flocks around the Tandayapa Valley, Paz de las Aves, and Milpe.

Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>
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A few were found during our day in the foothills at Milpe.

Flame-faced Tanager	<i>Tangara parzudakii</i>
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The Blackburnian Warbler of the tanager world, a real stunner, that was seen well within some of the mixed flocks encountered as we tried to leave Paz de las Aves (although were frequently delayed by the non-stop flock action). Another couple were also seen in the foothills at Milpe.

GO Rufous-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara rufigula</i>
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Uncharacteristically difficult during our day in the foothills at Milpe, where despite good flock activity, just a single bird was seen that decided not to hang about.

Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>
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Regularly recorded in the lowlands and foothills.

Rufous-winged Tanager	<i>Tangara lavinia</i>
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A male was seen in the Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary, where it a scarce bird. More were seen in Canande where they are decidedly more common, and they were seen on all three of the days we were there.

Golden-naped Tanager	<i>Tangara ruficervix</i>
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A few were seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley and at Paz de las Aves.

Metallic-green Tanager	<i>Tangara labradorides</i>
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One was seen at Paz de las Aves, with another along the Old Nono-Mindo Road on the way back from there.

Blue-necked Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>
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One of the more common lowland tanagers, seen at Pedro Vicente Maldonado, Canande, and Palenque.

Golden-hooded Tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>
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Seen several times along a logging road near the Rio Canande reserve.

Beryl-spangled Tanager	<i>Tangara nigroviridis</i>
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Seen at three subtropical sites: Tandayapa Valley, Paz de las Aves, and the Chiriboga Road.

Blue-and-black Tanager	<i>Tangara vassorii</i>
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Just a few were seen in a mixed flock on one of our days in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.

Black-capped Tanager	<i>Tangara heinei</i>
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A couple of singles were seen on our way out of Paz de las Aves, where one flock after another delayed us from leaving when originally intended.

Black-faced (Yellow-tufted) Dacnis	<i>Dacnis lineata aequatorialis</i>
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Our first spanking male was 'scoped from the tower in the Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary, with further sightings coming from the lowland forests of Canande, and a final observation was made in Rio Palenque.

Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
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Surprisingly just two birds were seen, by the restaurant of our lodge at Canande.

Scarlet-breasted Dacnis	<i>Dacnis berlepschi</i>
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One of the best-looking tanagers out there, that was slightly outshone by the "perfect ten" performance from a certain red-and-white tanager at Canande. We saw at least three pairs of these impressive tanagers, on every occasion within a feeding flock, and some of them even allowed us to get them 'scoped up too.

Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>
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Recorded first at Silanche, with multiple sightings around Canande too.

Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>
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A couple of deep, velvety blue males were seen in a low fruiting tree at Milpe.

Swallow-Tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>
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A couple were seen along the Milpe Road, with further sightings around Pedro Vicente Maldonado, and Canande.

SPARROWS AND SEEDEATERS

EMBERIZIDAE

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus plebejus</i>
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A single female was seen during our afternoon at Calacali.

Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
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A small group were seen in agricultural land around Rio Palenque.

Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>
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Commonly seen along roadsides in the lowlands.

Black-and-white Seedeater	<i>Sporophila luctuosa</i>
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One was seen while we ate a heavy brunch of Bolones at Paz de las Aves.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>
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Recorded along roadsides in a few lowland sites.

Band-tailed Seedeater	<i>Catamenia analis</i>
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Several female birds were seen at Calacali.

H Plain-colored Seedeater	<i>Catamenia inornata</i>
<i>Heard as we made our way into the Yanacocha reserve.</i>	
Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>
<i>Ian and Norma saw a couple of these striking seedeaters at Paz de las Aves.</i>	
Glossy Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa lafresnayii</i>
<i>One of the most commonly seen birds up in the Yanacocha reserve, even coming to their feeders there.</i>	
White-sided Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa albilatera</i>
<i>A single male was seen in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, with another seen on our final day along the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Masked Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa cyaneus</i>
<i>Regularly coming to the feeders at Yanacocha, and also seen a number of times in the Upper Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
Tanager Finch	<i>Oreothraupis arremonops</i>
<i>One of the best birds of the trip was this fine "finch". We tried a known spot at dawn in the Upper Tandayapa Valley, drew a complete blank, and so returned there again at noon and then had a very different experience when the bird came up and sung in full view, giving us all crisp views of this extremely rare and local Choco endemic.</i>	
Tricolored Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes tricolor crassus</i>
<i>A couple were seen collecting nesting material in the Upper Tandayapa Valley during one morning.</i>	
Yellow-breasted (Rufous-naped) Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes latinuchus spodionotus</i>
<i>A few were seen moving though with various mixed flocks in the highlands at Yanacocha.</i>	
White-winged Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes leucopterus</i>
<i>A pair were seen around the Tandayapa Lodge balcony moments before we also saw a Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch there too. Others were seen later that morning in another area within the Tandayapa Valley.</i>	
Crimson-breasted Finch	<i>Rhodospingus cruentus</i>
<i>This largely southern finch reaches its northern limit around Palenque where we had three to four birds coming in to mob an owl tape, including two rosy-chested males.</i>	
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>
<i>One responded very well by the Tandayapa Lodge veranda.</i>	
Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>
<i>One was seen near the parking lot at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary, with another seen along a forest trail at Canande.</i>	
H Stripe-headed Brush-Finch	<i>Arremon torquatus</i>
<i>Just heard distantly during our morning in the Yanacocha reserve.</i>	
Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>
<i>A family party were seen near a small village along the Chiriboga Road.</i>	
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
<i>Regularly recorded in open areas throughout.</i>	
SALTATORS AND CARDINALS	CARDINALIDAE
Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
<i>Recorded a number of times at lowland and foothill sites.</i>	
Black-winged Saltator	<i>Saltator atripennis</i>

Singles were seen at Paz de las Aves, Rio Palenque, and also along the Chiriboga Road.

Slate-colored Grosbeak	<i>Saltator grossus</i>
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Several sightings were made in the Canande area.

Golden-bellied (Southern Yellow) Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus chrysogaster</i>
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A single bird seen in an open agricultural area on the way down into Quito from the Chiriboga Road proved to be our final addition of the trip.

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES

ICTERIDAE

Scrub Blackbird	<i>Dives warszewiczi</i>
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Recorded at a number of lowland sites, with a good number coming in to roost at our Santo Domingo hotel on one night.

Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
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Recorded around Pedro Vicente Maldonado, along the Chiriboga Road, and also coming in to a large icterid roost at our Santo Domingo hotel.

Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
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At least three red-eyed males were found within a large icterid roost on our hotel grounds in Santo Domingo.

Yellow-tailed Oriole	<i>Icterus mesomelas</i>
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One was seen in the Pedro Vicente Maldonado area.

Scarlet-rumped Caciue	<i>Cacicus uropygialis</i>
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One was seen at Canande, with another sighting along the Chiriboga Road.

SISKINS AND ALLIES

FRINGILLIDAE

Orange-crowned Euphonia	<i>Euphonia saturata</i>
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Two separate sightings were made along a logging road near to the Canande reserve in Esmeraldas. Rod also found a recently dead bird by the boot wash at Canande.

Thick-billed Euphonia	<i>Euphonia laniirostris</i>
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Several birds were seen at Rio Palenque, and also along a logging road near to Canande reserve.

Golden-rumped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia cyanocephala</i>
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John was gifted a male at Paz de las Aves, while the rest of us had to settle for flight views of several pairs at Calacali.

Fulvous-vented Euphonia	<i>Euphonia fulvicrissa</i>
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Two males were seen along a logging road near Canande, in Esmeraldas province.

White-vented Euphonia	<i>Euphonia minuta</i>
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Several males were seen near the Canande reserve.

Orange-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
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The most commonly recorded euphonia, seen along the Old Nono-Mindo Road, Paz de las Aves, Milpe, Canande, and along the Chiriboga Road.

Yellow-collared Chlorophonia	<i>Chlorophonia flavirostris</i>
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The highlight of our morning in Milpe was a small party of these colorful "finches" lined up in the scope for some time, when we could even see the males handsome, salmon-pink bill.

Yellow-bellied Siskin	<i>Carduelis xanthogastra</i>
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One was seen from Angel Paz's café at Paz de las Aves.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
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A few were picked up in various towns along the way, although no one seemed too pleased about that!