



Southern Ecuador

18th November – 6th December 2019



Hummingbirds were a big feature of this tour; **with 57 hummingbird species seen**, that included some very rare, restricted range species, like this **Blue-throated Hillstar**. This critically-endangered species was only described in 2018, following its discovery a year before that, and is currently estimated to number only 150 individuals. This male was seen multiple times during an afternoon at this beautiful, high Andean location, and was widely voted by participants as one of the overall highlights of the tour (**Sam Woods**).

Tour Leader: Sam Woods

Photos: Thanks to participant Chris Sloan for the use of his photos in this report.

Southern Ecuador ranks as one of the most popular South American tours among professional bird guides (not a small claim on the so-called “Bird Continent”!); the reasons are simple, and were all experienced firsthand on this tour...

Ecuador is one of the top four countries for bird species in the World; thus high species lists on any tour in the country are a given, this is especially true of the south of Ecuador. To illustrate this, **we managed to record just under 600 bird species on this trip (597) of less than three weeks, including over 80 specialties**. This private group had a wide variety of travel experience among them; some had not been to South America at all, and ended up with hundreds of new birds, others had covered northern Ecuador before, but still walked away with 120 lifebirds, and others who’d covered both northern Ecuador and northern Peru, (directly either side of the region covered on this tour), still had nearly 90 new birds, making this a profitable tour for both “veterans” and “South American Virgins” alike.



This tour featured dozens of endemics to the Tumbesian region (shared between southern Ecuador and northern Peru).

This was one of them, the gaudy **White-edged Oriole** at **Jorupe (Sam Woods)**.

Secondly, the south of Ecuador offers up a circuit that delves into the widest variety of bird habitats in the country. The tour focused on where the greatest avian treasures can be found, in the Andes, comprehensively covering a range of altitudes in these bird-filled mountains.

Starting in the city of **Guayaquil**, Ecuador's southern capital, we begun in coastal lowlands (where **Rufous-necked Wood-Rail**, **Ecuadorian Trogon**, **Jet Antbird** and **(Pacific) Royal Flycatcher** were early highlights); before quickly moving up into the foothills (500m/1640ft) of the western slope of the Andes.

The wonderful **Buenaventura Reserve** was our base for this time, which led us to the extraordinary dawn displays of "mooing" **Long-wattled Umbrellabirds**, the extremely rare **El Oro Parakeet**, and the very local **Ochraceous Attila**, along with swarms of hummingbirds at their hyper-active feeders. We made a significant side-trip from there, up into the high paramo grasslands, above the treeline (c.3500m/11,480ft), at **Cerro de Arcos**, a site that hit the birding headlines for the first time as recently as 2018, when a completely new hummingbird was described from there; the dazzling **Blue-throated Hillstar**. A male of this already, critically-endangered species (estimated to number only 150 individuals currently) was enjoyed at length, while dawn display flights of **Andean (Jameson's) Snipe** was a bonus find there too. Staying in the western side of the region, we moved out of evergreen tropical forests into deciduous woodland with characteristic giant *Ceiba* trees at the **Jorupe Reserve**, (at around 480m/1575ft), looming above the border with Peru. This reserve revealed multiple Tumbesian specialties, many only shared with northern Peru. These



included a car-park dwelling **Watkins's Antpitta**, a **Pale-browed Tinamou** foraging in the forest, gaudy **White-edged Orioles** and **White-tailed Jays** competing with each other at feeders, and **Tumbes Tyrant**, **Elegant Crescentchest**, and **White-headed Brushfinch** in the surrounding area. The montane forest higher up (2000m/6560ft) in the southwestern Andes held some superb hummingbird feeders, where the dazzling **Rainbow Starfrontlet** (photo next page, [Chris Sloan](#)) headlined, alongside **Purple-throated Sunangel**.

After there, we changed course, moving into high temperate forest on the eastern slope of the Andes, with a brief stop in the city of **Loja** to check in on the recently discovered **Koepcke's Screech-Owl**, a former Peruvian endemic, found to also occur in this Ecuadorian city in recent years too. In the chilly, wet Andean forests of the eastern slope (c.2600m/8530ft) some of the greatest avian prizes were found, not least the **Jocotoco Antpitta**, another endangered species, which can only be seen at a single reserve in southern Ecuador. Other highlights of this zone included the **Neblina Metaltail** during a blustery morning up high, and **Golden-plumed Parakeets** hanging out near their nesting area. We continued on the eastern side of the Andes, by venturing lower into the diverse foothills (c.900m/2950ft), where the rare and extremely local **Orange-throated Tanager** resides, and was the clear standout species of our time there, as was a small party of **Gray Tinamous** at a unique forest feeding station at the wonderful **Copalinga Lodge**. A new, small private reserve was a must visit for the opportunity to admire plentiful beau male **Spangled Coquettes** (photo above, [Sam Woods](#)) feeding on the local, lilac, *Verbena* flowers, and a male **Fiery-throated Fruiteater** was found by Mike in the gold-laden hills near **Yankuam**. Next up, we returned to chilly temperate forests (3400m/11,155ft) on the same eastern side of the Andes, this time adding the enigmatic **Crescent-faced Antpitta**, and a polka-dotted **Ocellated Tapaculo** in doing so.

The final days saw us continue in high-altitude areas, where the country endemic **Violet-tailed Metaltail** pushed us over 50 hummingbird species for the tour. Some of the highest forests featured a much-wanted **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan**, and **Tit-like Dacnis** and **Giant Conebill** crept around the distinctive ruddy, peeling bark of the *polylepis* trees, the highest growing trees on Earth, once we'd reached around 3700m/12,140ft.



By the end of this very varied tour, we had covered multiple sites on both the west and east slopes of the Andes, and locales from near sea level to up to 4160m/13,650ft, leading to a large bird list, weighed down by a bounty of rare and local species hard/impossible to find elsewhere within this.

Thirdly, the region is home to many rare and local species, best looked for there, or a few sites in northern Peru. Southern Ecuador sits at the crossroads of a number of endemic bird areas and bioregions (e.g. the southernmost point of the Choco, and northernmost point of the Tumbesian bioregions). Aside from those already mentioned above, we also saw **Ecuadorian Piedtail**, **Tumbes**

Hummingbird, **(West) Peruvian Screech-Owl**, **Ecuadorian Piculet**, **Rufous-necked Foliage-Gleaner**, **Blackish-headed Spinetail**, and **Foothill Elaenia**. Other, less local species that were understandably highly-appreciated too, included **Ecuadorian Hillstar**, **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, **Rainbow-bearded Thornbill**, **Hoatzin**, **Solitary Eagle**, **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle**, **Lanceolated Monklet**, **Amazonian Umbrellabird**, **White-capped Dipper**, and a bounty of tanagers, especially in the eastern foothills of the Andes (**78 species from the tanager family were found on this tour**).

Finally, a note should be made concerning the conservation of many of these birds. An Ecuadorian NGO, the **Jocotoco Foundation** (or **Fundacion de Jocotoco**) has purchased vital bird habitat, and set up a network of fantastic birding reserves in which to view many of these species; we visited 6 Jocotoco reserves, and stayed in 4 of them (**Umbrellabird Lodge** in Buenaventura; **Urraca Lodge** in Jorupe; **Casa Simpson** in Tapichalaca; and **Copalinga Lodge**). This in itself, was another valued highlight, seeing (and contributing to), very productive, real conservation in action.

The top five birds of the tour, as voted for by participants, were:

- 1 **Jocotoco Antpitta** Tapichalaca Reserve
- 2 **Orange-throated Tanager** Maycu Reserve
- 3 **Long-wattled Umbrellabird** Buenaventura Reserve
- 4 **Blue-throated Hillstar** Cerro de Arcos (currently unprotected)
- 5=**Crescent-faced Antpitta** Cerro Acanama
- 5=**Sword-billed Hummingbird** El Cajas National Park

Day 1: Guayaquil to Manglares Churute and Buenaventura.

After a brief meeting following late-evening arrivals the night before, we were out just after sunrise, leaving the city of *Guayaquil* before it had fully awoken. Our first stop was the woods and mangroves of *Manglares Churute* and surrounds, which quickly brought us **Peruvian (Pacific) Pygmy-Owl** as one of the very first sightings of the tour; this was followed up by a furtive **(Pacific) Royal Flycatcher**, a male **Jet Antbird** and a pair of **Ecuadorian Trogons** (photo below, Chris Sloan). After picking up several popular **Horned Screammers** and **Comb Ducks**, we closed the afternoon in some mangroves, where right on cue, several **Rufous-necked Wood-Rails** (photo next page Sam Woods) walked out of their dark abode and on to the open mud. After dinner we all reassembled having said our good nights, once a **Black-and-white Owl** was found sitting beside the lodge.



A pair of **Ecuadorian Trogons** featured on the first morning in **Manglares Churute**: the male is pictured here (Chris Sloan), and the female on the next page.



Day 2: Buenaventura to Cerro de Arcos.

This was an auspicious day on the tour, although it started out rather inauspiciously. The plan was to “get” the *Long-wattled Umbrellabird* shortly after dawn, before heading up higher to the *Blue-throated Hillstar* site. However, the *umbrellabird* was not in its usual place at its usual time, and so the morning begun awkwardly. Birds that were seen within that period in *Buenaventura*, included **Collared (Pale-mandibled) Aracaris** cleaning out the fruit feeders at *Umbrellabird Lodge*; while along the trails and roadsides were **Red-rumped Woodpecker**, **Russet Antshrike**, **Ornate Flycatcher**, **Gray-and-gold Warbler**, **Northern Schiffornis**, and **Bay Wren**.



Blue-throated Hillstar was discovered in 2017, and then first described in 2018. Seeing this rare and recently discovered species was one of the tour highlights (Sam Woods)

Mid-morning, we met up with something of a local birding legend, *Francisco Sornoza*, who was to be our guide to take us in and out of the *Blue-throated Hillstar* site, *Cerro de Arcos*. Francisco, or “*Pancho*”, had not only had a significant hand in the discovery of this hummingbird, only described to science in 2018, but also was involved in the late 20th Century discovery of the *Jocotoco Antpitta*, which we were to go for later on the tour, and provided a kickstart for the foundation of the *Jocotoco Foundation*, which now has a critical network of reserves in Ecuador.



Pancho was nervous about the *hillstar*, not because they did not have a good stakeout, (far from it), but rather that inclement weather can be the biggest hindrance to finding it at the high altitudes at which it occurs. The drive up was therefore taken with few stops, with impending poor weather (i.e. low cloud and fog) seemingly on the horizon, but some of the vehicles did pick up a group of three **Gray-backed Hawks** soaring on a thermal before we left the Andean foothills. On reaching the site for the hummingbird, we swiftly set off on foot, first trying a couple of sites by the roadside, before setting off deeper into the paramo grasslands, when these did not lead to the **Blue-throated Hillstar** (previous page, **Sam Woods**). Once we reached the best site, *Pancho* was quick to declare he had one, and almost immediately afterwards, this spectacular male bird flew in and fed on orange chuquiragua flowers right in front of us, providing satiating views, and more than decent photos right off the bat. We were surrounded by beautiful Andean scenery, and were watching one of the world's rarest hummingbirds; life was good! We had repeated looks at this marvelous male, in direct view of the location of its original discovery in 2017, and were well aware that at this point we were one of only a handful of groups that had made the journey to see this species. Having

succeeded in one of the tour's most important goals, we then relaxed, while picking up various other paramo species in the local area, which included a very confiding **Mouse-colored Thistletail**, numerous sightings of **Mountain Caracaras**, in addition to **Many-striped Canastero**, **Plain-capped (Paramo) Ground-Tyrant**, and a **Tawny Antpitta** singing from the depths of a highland shrub.

At our humble abode for the night, a local refuge set up for hikers, we enjoyed their new hummingbird feeders, which offered regular views of **Shining Sunbeams** (above **Sam Woods**), **Viridian Metaltails**, and **Great Sapphirewings**. Dinner was interrupted that night to brave the cold night air of the high Andes, and to listen to the amazing roding calls of *Andean (Jameson's) Snipe*, but sadly, we could not catch sight of any by spotlight.

Day 3: Cerro de Arcos to Buenaventura.

In spite of the inevitable frigid temperatures of a high Andean dawn, we were up and out at that time, in the hope of finding the *snipes* that had been calling the night before. Soon after first light, their atmospheric calls were heard (a rarity in itself, with no other reliable sites in the country where this sound can even be heard). This time though, with the aid of the first evidence of daylight, we were able to see two different **Andean (Jameson's) Snipe** passing over in display flight, a wonderful way to begin our day. After breakfast, we spent further time with the hummer feeders (in the company of **Shining Sunbeams** and **Viridian Metaltails** mostly, although some also glimpsed a male **Black-tailed Trainbearer** in the area); and also encountered a female **Blue-throated Hillstar** close to the refuge. We decided to return to *Buenaventura* for lunch, although this almost did not happen, as we stumbled upon some good bird activity in the forest patches along the road, which yielded mixed flocks holding **Line-cheeked Spinetail**, **Pearled Treerunner**, **Three-banded and Black-crested Warblers**, **Spectacled (Whitestart) Redstart**, **Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant**, **Blue-backed Conebill**, **Scarlet-bellied and Lacrimose Mountain-Tanagers**, and **Blue-capped Tanager**. Outside of the flocks, **Red-crested Cotinga**, **Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant**, **Snowy-throated Kingbird**, a male **Green-tailed Trainbearer**, and a lengthy-lingering **Golden-headed Quetzal** were noted, along with our first encounters with **Purple-throated Sunangel** and **Rainbow Starfrontlet**, which were both to be seen much better later on the tour at the lively feeders in *Utuna*.



Green Honeycreepers were a very regular visitors to the feeders at **Umbrellabird Lodge in Buenaventura**, visible from the restaurant (**Sam Woods**).

We arrived back at *Buenaventura* for a late lunch, and plenty of time to watch their busy feeders by the restaurant. The most conspicuous species were **White-necked Jacobin**, **Green Thorntail**, **Violet-bellied Hummingbird**, **Andean Emerald**, **Green-crowned Brilliant**, **Green Honeycreeper**, and **Bananaquit**. **Rufous-headed Chachalacas** also visited the lodge, as did a regular, mischievous group of **South American Coatis**, which tried to steal food from the birds at every opportunity. At 3pm we left the lodge behind, returning to the “Umbrellabird Trail”, where the *umbrellabird* was again absent at a time and place it can usually be relied upon. Our time there did yield **Song Wren** though for some. A late afternoon flurry along the road to the lodge produced **Sooty-headed Tyrannulet**, **Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher**, **One-colored Becard**, **Blue-necked Tanager**, and *Yellow-bellied Siskin* before the daylight quickly dulled, as it so often does in tropical realm.



Ornate Flycatchers were encountered regularly in *Buenaventura*, where this photo was taken (Chris Sloan).

Day 4: Buenaventura.

In the morning we pursued one of the principal reasons this land was purchased as a reserve, for the *El Oro Parakeet*, an endangered Ecuadorian endemic, named after the small province, that it is confined to. The species is afforded excellent protection provided by this reserve, but the species remains rare due to little remaining habitat for it elsewhere, and an estimated world population of only around 2,000 birds. In spite of its rarity, chances of finding it are high in the reserve, where some much-used nest boxes allow ready access to various groups. We set off up there shortly after dawn, knowing that foggy weather typically inhibits viewing of the parakeets later in the morning, once the regular low cloud rolls in. We did make a strategic stop along the road on the way though, pausing to locate a vociferous **Ochraceous Attila** that even came down to eye level at one point, which had the photographers in the group champing at the bit.

Several other avian distractions impeded our journey further, like a perched **Gray-lined Hawk**, a **Fasciated Tiger-Heron** fishing in the shallows of a rushing Andean river, and a **Rufous Motmot**, which sat sentry beside the very same waterway. Once we reached the higher reaches of the reserve, the local guide (who had accompanied us for the morning), was quick to point out a party of **El Oro Parakeets** (*photo below, Sam Woods*) sitting quietly at eye level in the treetops.



El Oro Parakeet is endemic to Ecuador, numbers under 2000 birds, but can still be readily found at the **Buenaventura Reserve** in Southern Ecuador, where this was taken (**Sam Woods**).



White-necked Jacobins were abundant at the feeders at **Umbrellabird Lodge** in **Buenaventura Reserve** (Sam Woods).

On this day we encountered **12 different hummingbirds species** among the hundreds of individuals, by visiting both of the feeder set ups within the reserve, one by the restaurant at the lodge, and the other higher in the hills during our morning away. The high feeders held some specialties of the *Choco* bioregion, like **Velvet-purple Coronet** and **Violet-tailed Sylph**, as well as **Booted Racket-tail**, while the lodge ones held **Violet-bellied Hummingbirds**, **Green Thorntails**, **Green-crowned Brilliants**, and plenty of **Bananaquits** and **Green Honeycreepers** too. **Barred and Gray-backed Hawks** were seen on the wing, before we arrived back at the lodge for the lunch break. While most used this time to photograph the regular siege of local hummingbirds, Mike, Jeffrey, Gary and Sam took a short walk down a steep nearby trail, and were rewarded with a **Brownish (Flycatcher) Twistwing** for their efforts. The afternoon was quieter, with more time spent at the usual place and time for the *umbrellabird* to be about, but we met with no success once again.

Better luck was had back on the road between the lodge and the trail, where **Song Wrens** were finally notched up for all, a **Collared Trogon** was there for those who wanted it, several **Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucans** graced the treetops, and a pair of **Guayaquil Woodpeckers** spent a lengthy spell in our presence. Finally, the haunting deep sounds of an *umbrellabird* only served to add further steel to our resolve to return for one final try the next morning before departure...

Day 5: Buenaventura to Jorupe via El Empalme.



The allure of Southern Ecuador, (to both resident Ecuador-based bird guides and tour participants alike), is the many habitats in which to bird in, which subsequently offers up a large species list. It also produces a regular procession of rare and local species, many of which could justify the trip alone. This day provided ample illustration of all of this; during the morning we birded in evergreen tropical rainforest in the foothills of the Andes. However, by the afternoon, following a drive deeper south to near the border with Peru (visible from the lodge we stayed in for three nights), we were birding in the markedly different deciduous wooded hills, dominated by giant

Ceiba trees, absent where we had been that very morning. Naturally, this led to very different birds being seen from morning to afternoon. The morning opened with a jittery final walk into the forest at *Buenaventura* to look for their namesake bird, **Long-wattled Umbrellabird**, *photo above Chris Sloan* (after which the lodge was named). What we walked into that morning was nothing short of exhilarating, and well worth all the effort and former frustrations that led up to this satiating sighting. On descending down the trail once more, this time with dawn only just breaking, the soft cow-like moos of male umbrellabirds could be heard coming from above the now familiar trail. We hastily looked up and soon caught sight of several large black shapes; excitable males, extending their peculiar wattles to full length (around long), raising their “Teddy Boy” crests, and making clapping noises with their broad wings, all for the attentions of a nearby female that was enthusiastically pursued by several males during our time there. Let’s be clear here; this was not the average daily showing, as females do not visit each day, and this level of activity is confined to the limited days that females are present. It was a staggering performance that lasted for about thirty minutes, and then ended as abruptly as it had begun. Little of note occurred after this at *Buenaventura* before we needed to ship out (aside from a confiding **Esmeraldas Antbird** at last), but it mattered little, we had observed its star avian attraction, and had it as well as we could have ever hoped for...



After a lengthy drive south, (with **Gartered Trogon**, **Swallow Tanager** and **Crimson-rumped Toucanet** all being surprise finds during a coffee stop); and after swapping one habitat for another, we arrived in **El Empalme**. There, **Tumbes Sparrows**, **White-headed Brushfinch** (photo above, Sam Woods), and an angry appearing **Peruvian (Pacific) Pygmy-Owl** (photo below Sam Woods), were all viewed in quick succession. As we made our final approach to *Urraca Lodge*, within *Jorupe Reserve*, a couple of **Watkins's Antpittas** hopped out on to the darkening road, lit up by our van lights, to round off a superb afternoon's introduction to the birds of the distinctive Tumbesian region.



Day 5: Jorupe and Sozoranga.



This day saw the coffers of the bird list swell considerably, as we added plenty of birds peculiar to the Tumbesian region. At this point we were staying in *Urraca Lodge* within another *Jocotoco Foundation* reserve, *Jorupe*, very close to the frontier with Peru. The lodge has long been famous for its unique feeders, which attract species simply not found at feeders anywhere else on Earth. The lodge was named for one of the most spectacular of these, the striking blue, black and white **White-tailed Jay** (*photo left, Chris Sloan*). Soon after dawn, their strident calls let us know they were around, and

from that point forward for some time, we were glued to the front porch of the lodge as birds came into the feeders or surrounding trees in a substantial spike of early morning activity, which wrought lifebirds all around us. While the wonderful *jays* were the most conspicuous of these, orioles were not far behind; **Yellow-tailed Orioles** alternated with endemic **White-edged Orioles** (*photo page 2, Sam Woods*) at the sugar feeders. While we tried to take in this siege of new species, our attentions were dragged back behind the lodge, when a tame **Watkins's Antpitta** (*photo page 15, Sam Woods*) hopped out of the car park and insisted on feeding at length just beside the kitchen, making for wonderful photo opps of this regional specialty...Other visitors of note included **Loja (Amazilia) Hummingbird**, **Rufous-headed Chachalaca**, **Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero**, **Black-capped Sparrow**, **Plumbeous-backed and Ecuadorian Thrushes**, and some jawdropping **Whooping Motmots** (*photo page 16, Sam Woods*) that came in so close the only viable option for many of us was to take head shots with our lack of smaller lenses. Feeder action was forgotten for a minute too, when a male **Slaty Becard**, one of the scarcer local birds, suddenly appeared in front of the lodge, and was to be the only individual we ever saw of that species. Late arrivals were a flurry of **Blue Ground-Doves**, which then visited en-masse. After being gripped by the barrage of early morning birds around the lodge, the activity levels inevitably died, and birds returned back to the surrounding deciduous woodlands to feed. This was our cue to follow them inside these forests, searching for some of the less conspicuous species in doing so...

Wandering more widely in the reserve with local ranger and excellent bird-spotter Leo, brought us plenty more for our birdlist. Several **Ecuadorian Piculets** were noted, one of the World's smallest woodpeckers, equal in size to a North American *kinglet*. Another small woodpecker was also located there too, the larger and more brightly-colored **Scarlet-backed Woodpecker**. Groups of **Red-masked and Gray-cheeked Parakeets** passed overhead regularly but rarely lingered, a single **Gray-chinned Hermit** fed by the trail, and a handful of **Long-billed Starthroats** came in to the playback of a local pygmy-owl call.



*This **Watkins's Antpitta** was found hopping around behind the kitchen at **Urraca Lodge in Jorupe**, where it could be seen and photographed right by the main building (**Sam Woods**).*



Whooping Motmots gave cracking views right around **Urraca Lodge in Jorupe**, where it could be seen and photographed at length (**Sam Woods**).

The forest appeared tough work for spells, and then we would hit a section that seemed to contain almost all of the key species, like when we finally tracked down the local **Blackish-headed Spinetail** in an area with **Chapman's** and **Collared Antshrikes**, **Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner**, and even a foraging **Pale-browed Tinamou** too. Several **Gray-breasted Flycatchers** were also seen during the morning walk on the reserve trails that connected right back with the lodge by lunchtime. During lunch, *Leo* drew our attention to a distant **King Vulture** flying high on a thermal, which was later seen there again on another day.

In the afternoon, we drove further uphill in the Andes, birding close to the town of *Sozoranga*, where the marginally higher elevation brought other bird species in play. We enjoyed a hectic time here, with birds immediately visible as we got out of the car and it remained that way until we returned to *Jorupe* late in the afternoon. Just after arriving, **Tumbesian (Mouse-colored) Tyrannulet** and **Peruvian (Loja) Tyrannulet** made their first appearances, and we soon worked our way through some local brushfinches, adding both **White-winged** and **Bay-crowned Brushfinches** in doing so. Low shrubs hosted some **Saffron Siskins** that lingered for some time, but best of all was an excellent **Elegant Crescentchest** that repeatedly came in to view long after we had seen it well the first time!

We returned to the lodge via the small Andean town of *Sabiango*, where in the late afternoon, a large party of **Chestnut-collared Swallows** appeared from high in the sky and came into their nests under the eaves of some of the local houses.

That night, we put in an earnest attempt at trying to find some of the lodge's owls. However, the owls were far from conspicuous that night, and following a distant view of a calling *Spectacled Owl*, and many unsuccessful tries to get a better view, we retreated back to the lodge downbeat. Only to be alerted once we had arrived back, that *Dan* had had a pair of **Spectacled Owls** very well from his cabin! We quickly reassembled as a group and finally found a way through to where we could see this calling pair for a fully satisfactory view at last for all. Some, who had been dragged (willingly) from their beds for this – (*Shannon* was in pyjamas after all) – returned to their beds, only to be re-disturbed moments later by Gary, as he, Mike and Sam had managed to locate a local **(West) Peruvian Screech-Owl** (photo below, *Chris Sloan*), which remained in full view for the second late unscheduled meeting, this time, behind their cabin! *Chris and Shannon* had tried to go to sleep twice that night and had been prevented from doing so by first the *Spectacled Owl*, and then by the diminutive *Peruvian Screech-Owl*. However, they were far from complaining about this, and were only happy to see birds in bedwear, when needed!



After proving difficult initially, this **(West) Peruvian Screech-Owl** eventually showed well right behind Gary and Mike's cabin in *Jorupe*. Its late appearance meant that *Chris and Shannon* had to be happily dragged out of bed for this one (and for the second time that night, after another earlier, late show from a pair of *Spectacled Owls*, this time behind *Dan's* cabin (Photo *Chris Sloan*))

Day 6: Zapotillo and Jorupe.

Our objective on this morning, like so many others on this tour, was to find rare and local species. This time it was the **Tumbes Tyrant**, a handsome yellow flycatcher previously thought to be endemic to northern Peru. However, over a decade ago, a minute population were found near the town of *Zapotillo*, which is where we were headed. It was light already as we pulled out of *Urraca Lodge*, which aided us in finding the only **Laughing Falcon** of the tour, before we had exited the reserve. On the way south, we were treated to the courtship performance of an excitable male **Comb Duck** circling his chosen female, an unexpected highlight as we headed out that day. On arriving at *Zapotillo*, we quickly added **West Peruvian Dove** and **Croaking Ground-Dove** to our list, and not long after had both **Long-billed Starthroat** and a **Tumbes Hummingbird** buzzing around us, with the aid of a *pymgy-owl* call. Although we had previously seen the species, we were in no doubt we were in the best place of the tour for **Tumbes Sparrow**, with multiple sightings on site shortly after our arrival. Then *Leo*, our excellent local guide from *Jorupe*, quickly picked up on the subtle calls of a **Tumbes Tyrant** (*right, Sam Woods*), which after a time leapt out into a tangle where we could all see it; another was encountered just across the road from the first. A **Short-tailed Woodstar**, one of the World's smallest hummingbirds, was also seen repeatedly in the same area. After a little more work than usually necessary, several of the **Superciliated Wrens** calling there were also coaxed into view too. This proved to be the only site for them on this tour.



On the way back to *Urraca Lodge*, we stopped in on a wetland area at *La Ceiba*, where a low elevation record of **Andean (Slate-colored) Coot**, was accompanied by a series of wetland species, like **Collared Plover**, **Green and Ringed Kingfishers**, 6 species of heron, including **Tricolored and Cocoi Herons**, **Wood Stork**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, more **Comb Ducks**, and **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**. In the shrubs along the riverbank, several **Red-masked Parakeets** were found, along with a lone **Baird's Flycatcher**.

The afternoon was spent back in *Jorupe* reserve, trying to find our final target there, *Henna-hooded Foliage-Gleaner*, which although heard close, never revealed even a single feather during our very focused pursuit! **Plain Antvireo**, a very showy **Rufous-necked Foliage-Gleaner**, **Sooty-crowned and Gray-breasted Flycatchers**, some more **White-tailed Jays**, and a **Collared Antshrike** were the principal afternoon highlights.



*Hummingbirds were a daily feature of this tour, 57 species of hummingbirds were seen by the end, including this **Rainbow Starfrontlet** that was abundant at **Utuna** (Sam Woods).*

Day 7: Utuana to Vilcabamba.

Hummingbirds were (once again) the headliners of the day, with the active feeders at *Utuna* providing a backdrop to our boxed lunch in the field. While the *Utuna* feeders are not the most diverse, (they only attracted 3 species while we were there); two of the species are both regional endemics and very pretty, most notably the well-named **Rainbow Starfrontlet**, *photo above Sam Woods* (the other notable attendee being the **Purple-throated Sunangel**). Before, we reached the reserve though we paused at a spot along the road, near the town of *Utuna*, where we quickly picked up the hoped for **Black-cowled Saltator**, which rose into the treetops to call back at us. Trail walking in the reserve led to some, though far from all, of what we had been hoping to find. *Gray-headed Antbird* was heard at least, but was in such a dense swathe of bamboo, we could not find a way to it. The other hoped-for specialties, *Black-crested Tit-Tyrant*, *Jelski's Chat-tyrant*, and *Leymembamba Antpitta* were all unheard. Positives in a slow, sunny morning in the reserve, away from the aforementioned hummers, were **Red-crested Cotingas**, **Chapman's Antshrike**, **Three-banded Warbler**, **Line-cheeked Antshrike**, and **Silvery Tanager**.

However, the standout songbird of the morning went to a very cooperative pair of **Piura (Black-eared) Hemispingus** (*photo below, Sam Woods*) that circled us at length.

A short period of birding around the *Loja* airport, led us to **Drab Seedeater**, lots of **Peruvian Meadowlarks**, a **Short-tailed Field-Tyrant**, many **Pacific Parrotlets**, and plenty of **Chestnut-throated Seedeaters**. We did not arrive in the town of *Vilcabamba* (famed for its unusually high number of residents of over 100 years of age), as we stopped off for an owl and dinner in *Loja* first; the owl being **Koepcke's Screech-Owl** (*photo right Chris Sloan*), a species that until its discovery here a few years back was regarded as a poorly known Peruvian endemic. We saw two within minutes of darkness, and left for pizza shortly thereafter!



Day 8: Cerro Toledo to Tapichalaca.

We were now ready to make an ascent on the east slope of the Andes, having spent most of time until now on the western slopes. For this we were to visit *Cerro Toledo*, with the aid of 4WD vehicles, due to the dirt road leading up there necessitating this following recent rains. Our choice of venue to go birding was, again, dictated by a rare and local species, the **Neblina Metaltail**, a hummingbird that is only found very locally in Ecuador and extreme northern Peru. This Ecuadorian site is arguably the most reliable place to find it in the World. The Spanish word that forms the first name literally translates as “fog” for the high altitudes where it lives are often enshrouded in this. And so it was when we reached the location, lots of low cloud, and high wind, combined with a healthy dose of rain to inhibit our attempts at finding it. However, after several unsuccessful attempts to find one, a bit of playback finally brought one in close enough, and we were all relieved. It was however, arguably not the most popular hummingbird of the morning, which fell to the more widespread, but considerably more exquisitely-adorned, **Rainbow-bearded Thornbill** (*photo below, Sam Woods*). In between, and during, the bouts of regular rains, we managed to find **Orange-banded Flycatcher**, **Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager**, **Black-headed Hemispingus**, and a **Slate-crowned Antpitta**, but were thwarted by a close-calling *Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan*.



Although the much rarer Neblina Metaltail was seen the same morning, that dowdy species were overshadowed by this considerably more popular Rainbow Starfrontlet (Sam Woods).

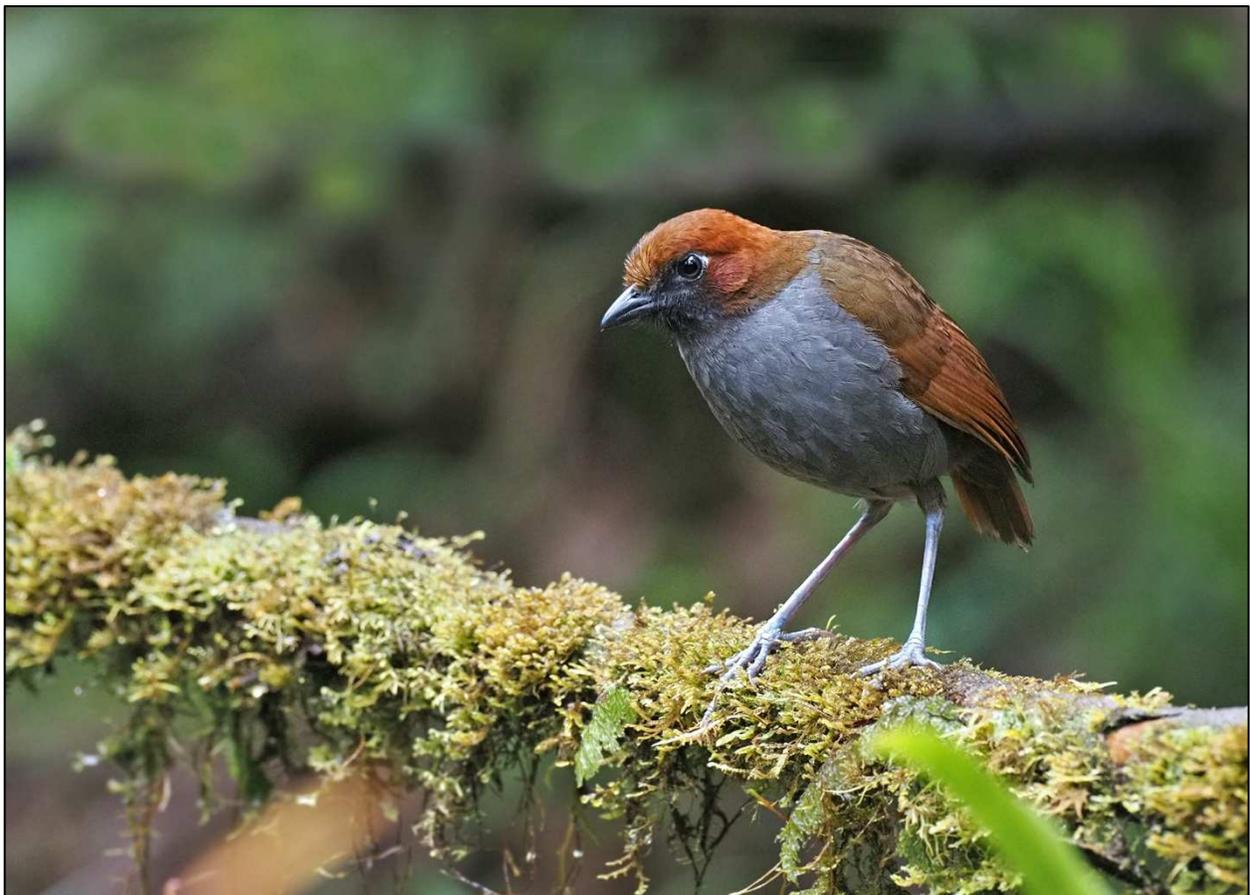
Day 9: Tapichalaca and Valladolid.

This day arrived, and (more by luck than terms judgement-due to lodge availability), for *Thanksgiving* we were to go in search of one of Southern Ecuador's star avian residents. Indeed, it is one of South America's most famous birds, the *Jocotoco Antpitta*, a distinctive bird that went undiscovered until the late 20th Century. Following this remarkable finding, the Fundación de Jocotoco, a very active Ecuadorian NGO, was formed to save the species. The foundation purchased this land as their first reserve, Tapichalaca, where we were based, and they continued to grow and protect other species, and now have a fantastic network of superb reserves in Ecuador, many of which we visited on this tour. And so, not only is the Jocotoco Antpitta a striking and rare and local species (it can still only be reliably found at this one reserve), but the antpitta has come to symbolize more than its own species, being a logo for a successful foundation, which is actively conserving habitat for many endangered birds in Ecuador. The Jocotoco Antpitta has therefore become an iconic emblem for conservation on a wider level in Ecuador. Indeed, we had arrived at Tapichalaca the day before with not only this antpitta, but a further 2-3 species in mind. We



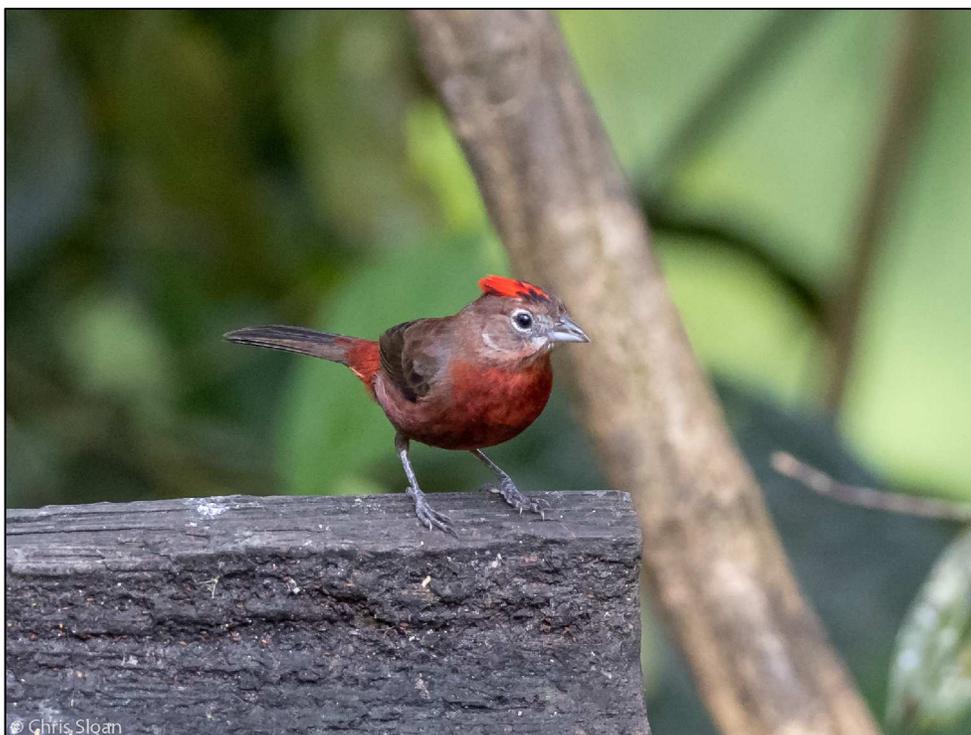
had got the Rufous the evening before, and saw another on our way up the trail for another species. We began after breakfast by visiting a forest feeding station near the lodge (*Casa Simpson*) for one of these antpittas, *Chestnut-naped*. However, in spite of some time spent there, and knowing we had to hike up to the Jocotoco Antpitta by a certain time, we left empty-handed, perhaps a little early, but knowing this was best for one of the major objectives of the entire trip. We headed up the trail in pursuit of that. While we were fairly single-minded, we did make some stops to pick up other temperate forest birds along the way, starting, notably, with some perched **Golden-plumed Parakeet**, another of the reserve's flagship birds. Not too far up the narrow trail set within bamboo-dominated wet forest, we found another specialty, with a cooperative **Black-throated Tody-Tyrant**. Then, when we arrived at another forest feeding station, we found a pair of **Bearded Guans** waiting alongside it, with the more expected **White-throated Quail-Dove**. Finally, around 8:15am, we arrived at a small shelter in the forest, where there sat alongside it was one of two adult **Jocotoco Antpittas** (*above Sam Woods*) that captivated us over the next thirty minutes or so, while the local ranger fed it native earthworms, and for which it would approach at very close range that were worthy of head shots!

During the remainder of the morning, we walked the local trails there, once the antpitta had retreated, and made our way back down the same way we came up: this yielded a cooperative **Chusquea Tapaculo** for all, following several less friendly individuals during our first tries. Flocks passed by here and there, with **Buff-breasted and Hooded Mountain-Tanagers**, a few fantastic **Grass-green and Golden-crowned Tanagers**, **Streaked Tuftedcheeks**, and **Pearled Treerunners**, among others. Several **Pale-footed Swallows** also put on a virtuoso performance, some even coming in to perch nearby, if only for a brief moment. Over lunch back at Casa Simpson, during the post-**Jocotoco Antpitta** "high", we got to enjoy the hummingbirds visiting the lodge feeders, which included **Amethyst-throated and Little Sunangels**, **Collared Incas**, and the ever-present, ever-aggressive, **Chestnut-breasted Coronets**. Our afternoon pursuits were very different, we drove out of the wet temperate forest into distinctly warmer environs in the eastern foothills downslope near the tiny town of *Valladolid*. Our primary avian objective was the local **Maranon Thrush**, which was seen immediately on arrival, sitting by the road, and even seen by *Shannon and Kathy* from the bus! While, sadly, much of the native cover had been cleared in this area, where remnant patches remain, there is excellent bird activity and birding possibilities. We spent hours in one such, small patch, which was alive with birds: **Black-faced Tanagers** cropped up here and there, while a fruiting cecropia tree not only yielded more **Maranon Thrushes**, but a **White-necked Thrush** too, along with a steady stream of tanagers. **Golden-cheeked, Silvery, Blue-gray, Palm and Blue-necked Tanagers** all visited during our short visit, as well as a popular pair of striking **Red-headed Barbets**. **Ash-browed Spinetail, Green-backed (Yellow-cheeked) Becard, Piratic Flycatcher, Golden-faced Tyrannulet, and Blackburnian Warbler** were also all seen in this small area. We returned to our lodge higher up at the end of the afternoon.



Day 10: Tapichalaca to Copalinga Lodge.

For this day we spent a final few hours at Tapichalaca, which led us to a forest feeding station again, where, this time, the **Chestnut-naped Antpitta** (*photo page before, Sam Woods*) was not tardy and turned up right on time, giving unbeatable looks. **Bearded Guan** was also seen before we took one last look at the **sunangels** at the *Casa Simpson* hummingbird feeders, and left *Tapichalaca* behind. We drove northeast to *Copalinga*, but made several important stops along the *old Loja-Zamora Road*. It was baking hot as we took our boxed lunch in the field there, but even so, three **White-capped Dippers** were watched foraging along the shaded edges of the rushing **Rio Zamora**, which also held a **Fasciated Tiger-Heron** lurking in the shadows of a giant rock, and hosted a **Green-**

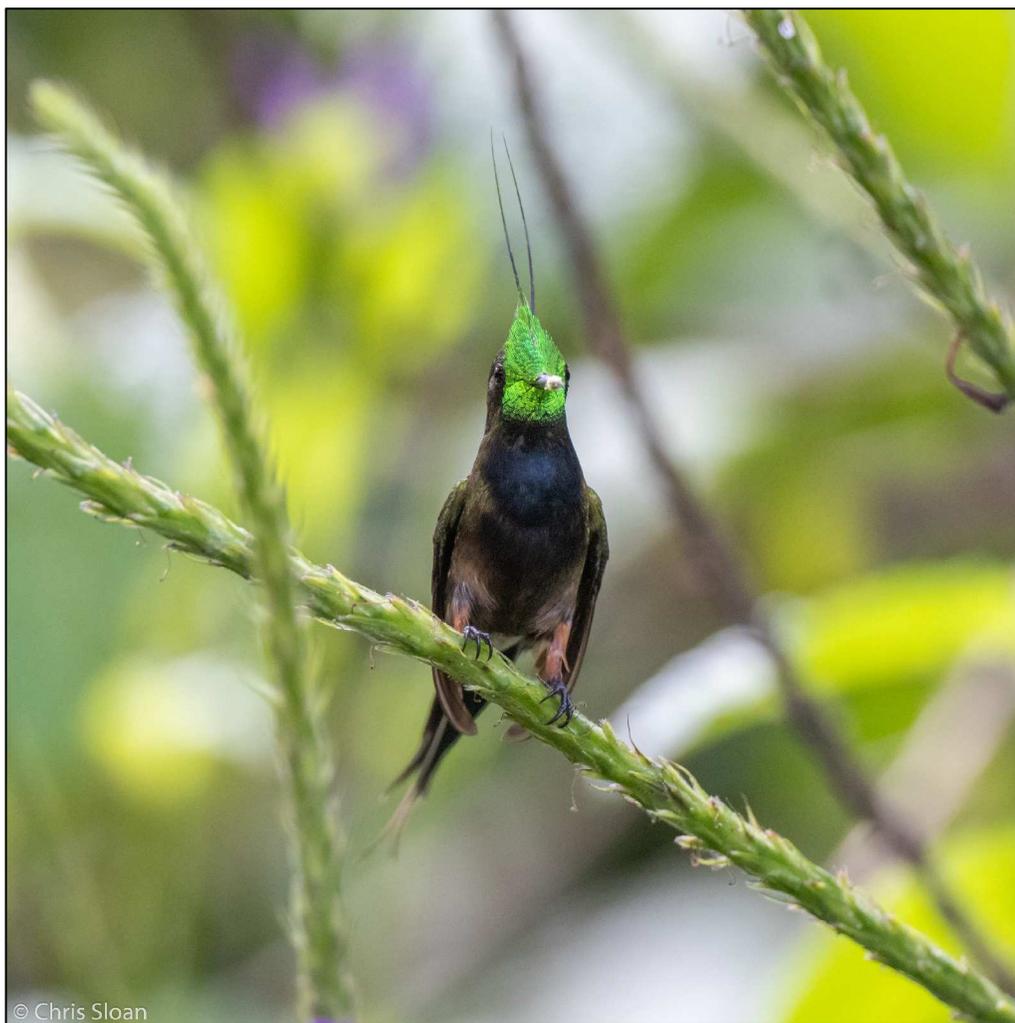


fronted Lancebill feeding on its mossy rockface, as well as a noisy pair of **Cliff Flycatchers** over the bridge too. That felt like as much as we could have hoped for at this ferociously humid time of day, but we ventured further up for a quick check for any passing birding parties, which can be epic in this area. An **Ecuadorian Tyrannulet** gave us a sign of a flock being present, and then the levy broke as it were, and a surge of birds came in to the trees around us, which included among them **Paradise, Guira and Green-and-gold Tanagers, Marble-faced and Variegated Bristle-Tyrants, Yellow-breasted Antwren, Lafresnaye's Piculet**, and a superb

Gray-mantled Wren found by *Mike*, that remained with us for some time. After that encounter, it was tempting for us to continue along the road, but we had an appointment with a *Gray Tinamou* at *Copalinga Lodge*, and so wanted to be sure we were there in time for its usual feeding schedule. We arrived at *Copalinga Lodge*, also located in the eastern foothills, at around 900m/2950ft, and so were quickly notching up new birds right in the garden. Before everyone had left the bus on arrival, others were admiring the **Violet-headed Hummingbirds** that regular came in to plunder the nectar offerings from a large verbena plant. Either side of unpacking and checking in, the group wandered the immediate area, taking in new species after new species: the hummingbird feeders were lively with new species for us, which included the abundant **Violet-fronted Brilliant**, and far less regular **Black-throated Brilliant**. Along with these larger species, smaller hummingbirds, like **Glittering-throated Emerald, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Golden-tailed Sapphire**, and **Fork-tailed Woodnymph** also visited, as did a **Green Hermit**, which seemed to prefer the feeder balance on the lodge bar than anywhere else! The other feeders lured in a pair of **Red-crested (Pileated) Finches** (*photo above, Chris Sloan*) too, along with further tanagers. The trees adjacent to the lodge itself were also lively with birds: a party of electric blue **Black-faced Dacnis** came in to forage in a local fruiting tree, which also attracted an **Olivaceous Greenlet** and others.

Before long, 4:30pm arrived, and so we made our way up to a feeding station in the forest, where the staff regularly feed a small group of *Gray Tinamous*. The ranger, *Walter*, indicated they were easy to see and regular at this time, but sadly they were not seen during a long wait by the blind, where an **Orange-billed Sparrow** came in to plunder the food, and a male **Golden-headed Manakin** was seen overhead by some. With dusk fast approaching, and another avian appointment looming, we returned to the lodge, and took a short drive towards *Podocarpus National Park*, where as darkness fell, we got several good looks at a **Blackish Nightjar** to close out the day birdwise. Over dinner, *Gary* spotted a **Lowland Paca**, a large spotted rodent, coming in to the feed on the corn laid out for the birds, to round off a nice day.

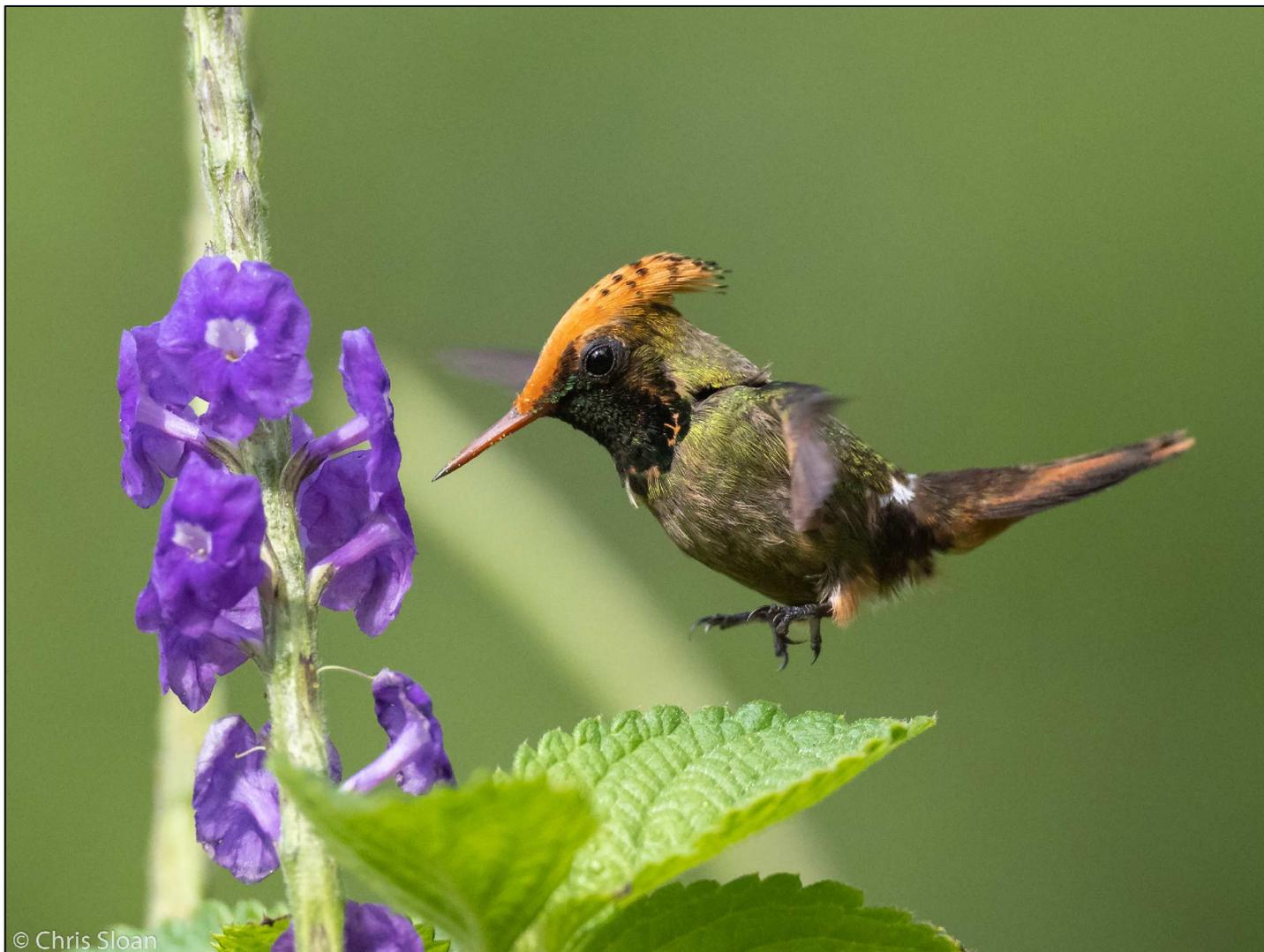
Day 11: Copalinga Lodge to Cabanas Yankuam via Mi Paradise.



The day opened at *Copalinga* with the sun just up, and a **Sickle-winged Guan** available from the breakfast table. The lodge garden then distracted us regularly with a few male **Wire-crested Thorntails** (photo left, *Chris Sloan*) feeding in one of the tall cecropias and lower verbena flowers. Most of the morning, however, was spent inside nearby *Podocarpus National Park* (the *Rio Bombuscaro* section), another area of rich and diverse forest in the eastern foothills. We birded within forest high up paralleling the banks of the *Rio Bombuscaro* far below. The diversity of the forest was difficult to appreciate in a rather quiet morning on site, with less activity than we had hoped for. However, highlights did include a pair of **Amazon Kingfishers** as we

took the short drive from lodge to park, a responsive pair of **Foothill Elaenias**, and confiding **White-necked Thrush** inside the park, as well as a close-perched **Barred Hawk**, another **Green-fronted Lancebill** found deep within the damp forest, along with further **Cliff Flycatchers**, and our first **Plumbeous and Double-toothed Kites**, **Orange-crested and Ruddy-tailed Flycatchers**, **Spectacled Bristle-Tyrant**, **Foothill Stipplethroat (Antwren)**, **Strong-billed Woodcreeper** and **Montane Foliage-Gleaner**.

However, the most appreciated birds were another stream of colorful foothill *tanagers*, like **Orange-eared**, **Yellow-bellied**, **Spotted**, **Paradise**, **Flame-crested**, **Green-and-gold**, and **Swallow Tanagers**. A lone **Canada Warbler** was also observed in the park too.



© Chris Sloan

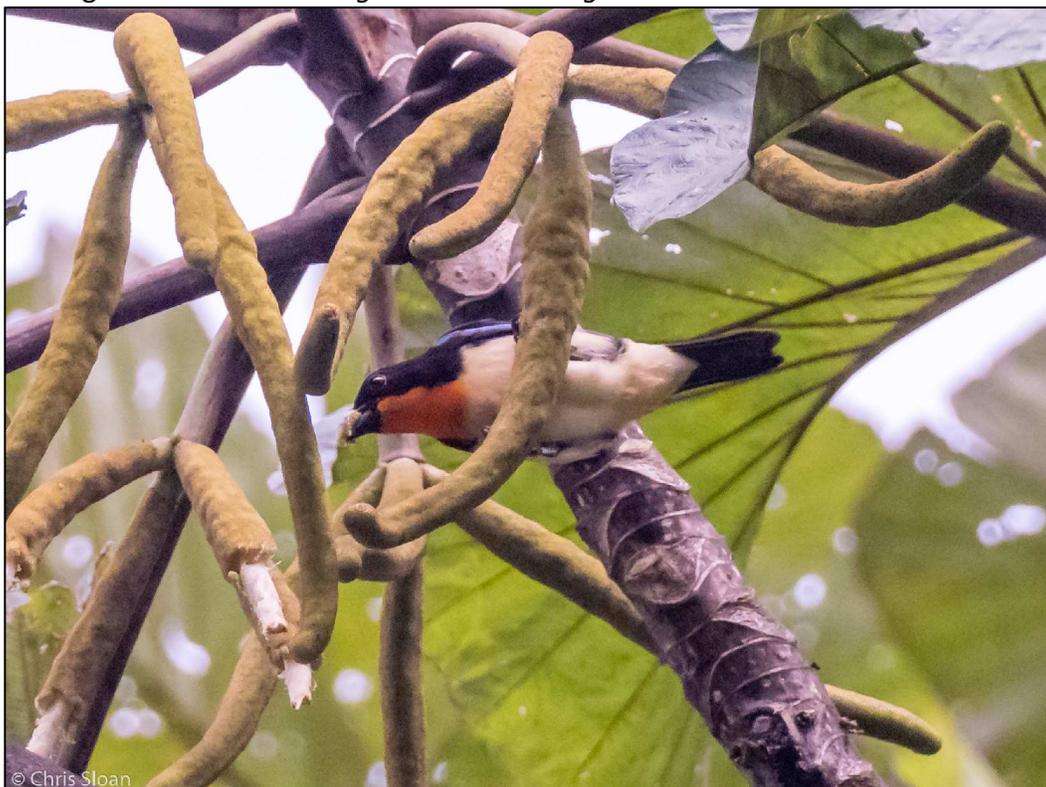
We visited a new small private reserve near **Zamora** to see the rare and local **Spangled Coquette**: the verbena flowers on site hosted multiple male coquettes along with a number of **Amethyst Woodstars** too (Chris Sloan).

After lunch back at *Copalinga*, we were soon on our way towards *Yankuam*, but chose to make a significant stop well before there, at a small new private reserve known as “*Mi Paradise*”, where we were quickly in the company of hummingbirds, and not just any hummingbird, but the delectable **Spangled Coquette** (photo above, Chris Sloan), several males of which came in and out of the *verbena* at below eye level, or perched above us, which delighted birders and birders with a camera alike. Leaving there, we had little time to do any lengthy periods of birding along the long journey to the cabins, but did manage to find **Violaecous Jay**, **Black Caracara**, **Bat Falcon**, and **Chestnut-bellied Seedfinch** at one such stop.

Day 12: Maycu, Shaime and Nuevo Paraiso areas (near Yankuam).

We all woke up with some palpable excitement for the day, for, once again, we were going in search of one of the most wanted birds on the continent, *Orange-throated Tanager*. Not only rare, but stunningly beautiful too. *Chris* was tense, this species had been a part of his birding story since boyhood, he simply had to see it! However, before we looked for that tanager, other tanagers delayed our departure from the lodging, as they were visible from the back of there, including a smashing pair of **Masked Tanagers** and a pair of **Turquoise Tanagers**, both new, both beautiful. **Golden-tailed Sapphires** and **Glittering-throated Emeralds** were also noticed feeding on the flowers in the garden. We set out by bus, and soon entered into the small *Maycu Reserve*, specifically set up to protect some of the remaining habitat of the *Orange-throated Tanager*. Before we started our search in

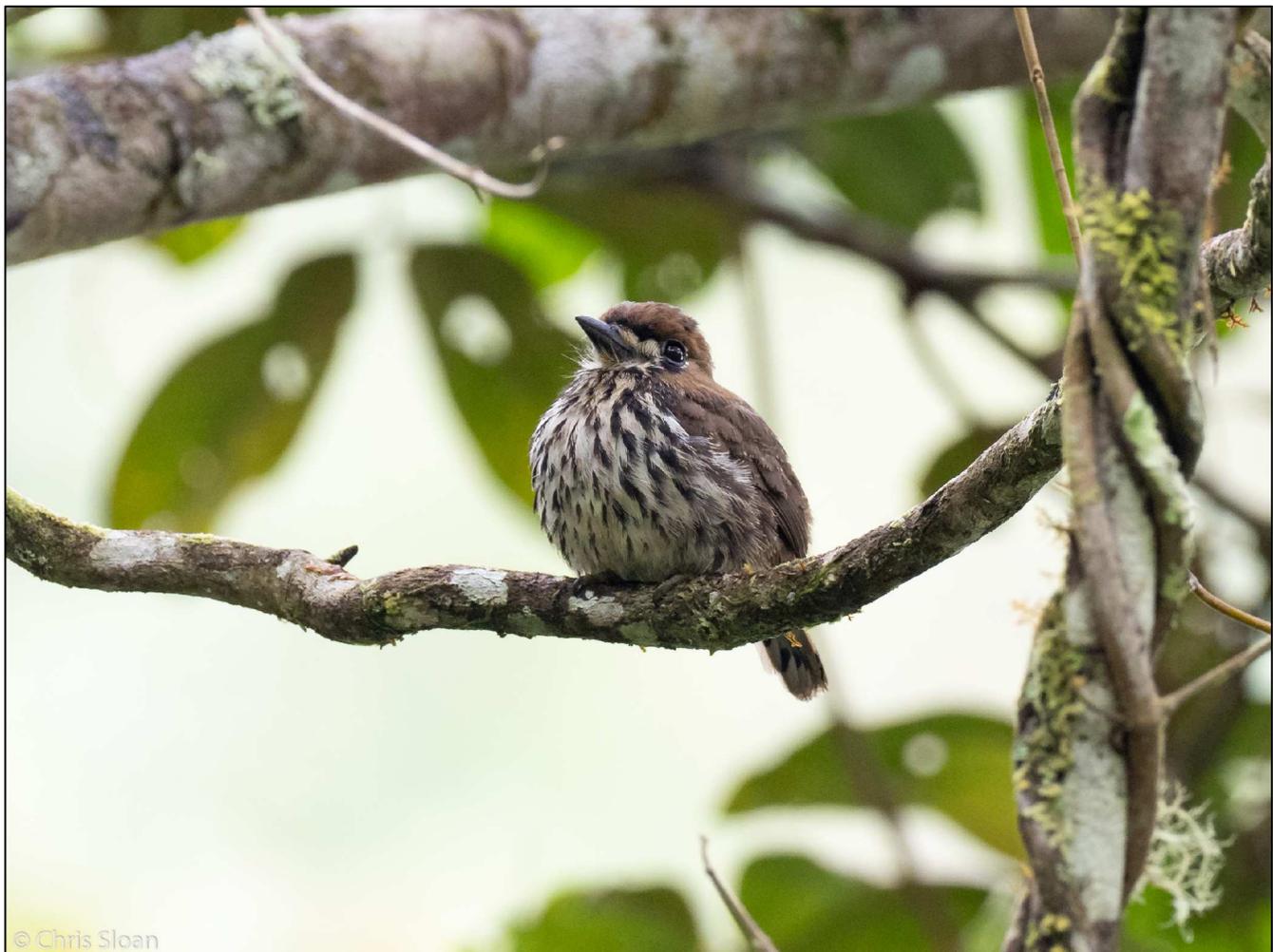
earnest a **Bat Falcon** beside the road had us hoping it was the rarer *Orange-breasted*, but that was not to be. Not long after this *Nestor's* vigorous gestures led to some excitement as we'd realized he'd found an **Amazonian Umbrellabird** to kickstart the morning off. Not much further on, **Plumbeous Kite** was also perched by the roadside, as rain fell, and hampered our viewing somewhat. Once we were on foot, we managed views of a **Peruvian Warbling-Antbird**, and *Shannon* led us to an **Ecuadorian Piedtail** by following its



extremely high-pitched notes. Then *Kathy* ensured we all had seen **Collared Trogon**, when she found a calling bird beside the road, and a **Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher** was tracked down with little fuss. Then *Nestor*, not for the first time that day, revealed a standout bird beside the road, with a pair of **Purplish Jacamars** ignoring the constantly falling rain, and perching out in the open on a roadside cable. This was all very entertaining, but tension remained in the air, as we had not even heard our main target. Then, finally, **Orange-throated Tanagers** (*photo above Chris Sloan*) began calling, *Jeffrey* found an angle into the treetops, and he got one within his sights. Unfortunately, the birds had chosen a difficult position for most to view, and although they departed after all had seen one, the views were such that many had not even seen its trademark orange throat. Further views were required, and our searches remained focused on this. After a time with no further activity found, we decided to bird our way along the road to its end at the village of *Nuevo Paraiso*, and then return back to search for the tanager in the same area later in the day. It was a fun day, with rain hampering some viewing for sure, but a long list of new species also added to the list in spite of this; **Greater Yellow-headed Vultures** swooped low over the treetops, and were also seen perched in the rain, and a **White-browed Purpletuft** was found by

the roadside and watched at length. This same spot, where we'd stopped for the rare **Blackish Pewee**, also paid off for that latter species, which betrayed its presence with its call, which was enough for *Kathy* to find it sitting a little back from the road. Various mixed flocks turned up a series of **Flame-crested Tanager** sightings too.

At the end of the road we admired a wide Amazonian River flanked by forest, which was found to hold a small group of **Hoatzin**, while the riverside trees hosted **Spot-breasted Woodpecker** and **Great Kiskadee**, giving it all a very Amazonian feel. Other trees hosted a boisterous group of **Thrush-like Wrens** and some striking **Maggie Tanagers**. A swift flock forced lower due to the road held the rare **White-chested and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts** as well as a few **Short-tailed Swifts** too, before the rain became so heavy we rapidly retreated towards the bus once more. On our return along the road, we stopped off at one particular spot where the road meandered for a short while into Peru, so that we could kickstart a Peruvian list, which held **Blue-headed Parrot**, **Lemon-throated and Gilded Barbets**, and **Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers** before a short movement quickly brought us back into Ecuador. **Cobalt-winged Parakeets** and **Golden-collared Toucanet** were also found that afternoon, but later searches for an upgraded view of *Orange-throated Tanager* turned up nothing and we retired to the lodge late in the afternoon, when rain poured again, which it had done, on and off all day long. Searches for *Band-bellied Owl* were also rescheduled for the morning, with rain being a major obstacle to this for the nighttime.

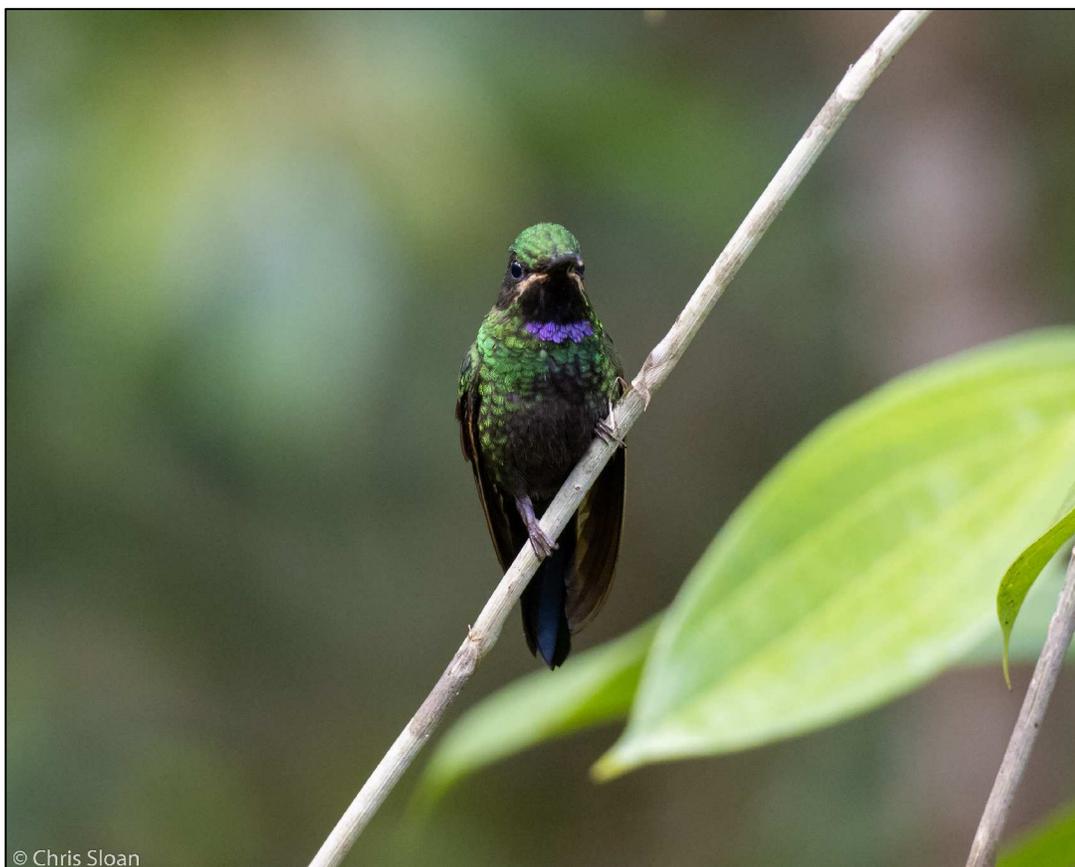


Day 13: Maycu (near Yankuam) to Saraguro (via Copalinga).

We started our day with some further birding at *Maycu*, with a better look at an **Orange-throated Tanager** right at the top of the wish list. This is exactly what we got, with super looks for all, and a distinct feeling following this sighting that it would take something very special indeed to beat this species in the top bird of the trip competition. That was not the only standout sighting that morning though, as another section of the forest held a fantastic **Fiery-throated Fruiteater**, the other morning headliner. A party of three **Green-backed Trogons** were also notable. Support for these crackers was provided by **Rufous-winged Antwren**, **Striped (Eastern) Woodhaunter**, **Rufous-tailed Foliage-Gleaner**, **Diuda Woodcreeper**, **Wing-barred Piprites**, **Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo**, (which were all new for us), while **Lafresnaye's Piculet**, **Long-tailed Tyrant**, **Gilded Barbet**, **Giant Cowbird**, and **Cobalt-winged Parakeet** were all repeat species from before. Sadly, our time was now running out, and so we headed back to the lodge, stopping to admire a perched **Gray-headed Kite**, and a **White Hawk** on the wing, on the way out. Few stops were made after checkout as we headed to *Zamora*, but during an unsuccessful attempt to find the rare *Bluish-fronted Jacamar*, at its sole location in Ecuador, *Chris* picked up a huge raptor that passed closeby and revealed itself to be a **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle**. The same location also produced a small group of **Black-billed Seedfinches** too.



For the evening, we had some way to go north to the highland town of *Saraguro*. However, as we were passing very nearby *Copalinga Lodge* on our journey, we decided on a late finish, in order to try again for the usually regular *Gray Tinamou*, which had *not* been present a few days earlier when we tried. We went straight there, picked up one of the local staff, and headed straight up the trail, where we were stopped in our tracks when a **Lanceolated Monklet** (*photo page 29 Chris Sloan*) was noticed by *Sam* sitting quietly above the trail. This was a long-time nemesis bird for some seasoned veterans of South American birding, and so was a bigger deal than in some cases! On reaching the blind a short time later, a nervous peak around its edge showed a massive, bluish-gray shape waiting in the



trail: **Gray Tinamou** (*photo page before Sam Woods*)! Over the course of the next thirty minutes or so we were treated to not only this individual, but a further two birds, the culmination of which being when one of these walked up from behind us, and came within inches of us! It was a remarkable way to see one of the most notoriously difficult tinamous of all, and *Copalinga* is the only place such sightings occur! With the tinamou seen, we were ready to complete our journey, although this was further delayed, with a

mechanical issue with the bus. However, this merely meant we waited, and birded, at *Copalinga* while waiting for the solution, not a bad place to be stranded! During this period we took in their regular feeder birds again, that included a **Black-throated Brilliant**, (*photo above, Chris Sloan*) **Green Hermit**, and a steady stream of **Violet-fronted Brilliants** too. Due to our planned (to try for the tinamou again) and unplanned (mechanical issue) late arrival, we took in a diner en-route in *Loja*, before arriving in *Saraguro* mid-evening.

Day 14: Cerro Acanama to La Union.

The day was spent at high altitude again, once more at the timberline on the eastern side of the Andes. We were ready to leave our *Saraguro* hotel before dawn, which allowed us to see a calling **Band-winged Nightjar** right around the entrance before departure. A fine day greeted us up there, with no rain at all on arrival. Soon after arrival we found a small flock which held some very confiding **Agile Tit-Tyrants** within it.

Then we got serious, once we heard the distinctive song notes of a **Crescent-faced Antpitta**. We tried one position with no luck, but then found a hole into the bamboo wall between us and the sound, which offered us the chance to creep inside and watch the bamboo stems in front of us for signs of movement. We had expected quite a battle with this species, and initial signs were this was just what was to happen, but then it called close, and a small movement led us to this striking bird as it sat on an open bamboo stem. I say open, but this was to only most of the group, but thankfully it remained there even following some repositioning in the group. We



climbed out of the bamboo flushed with our early success. However, our other hoped for species at the site proved rather more difficult; we never did find the rare *Chestnut-bellied Cotinga*, and Mike got a glimpse of a **Masked Mountain-Tanager**, which was never seen again in spite of prolonged looks in the same area. A pair of **Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers** were new to us there, and further looks at the gorgeous **Golden-crowned Tanager** were not scoffed at either, even if photographers were typically thwarted! Other highlights on the mountain included a beautiful male **Barred Becard**, another **Rainbow-bearded Thornbill**, and our only **Tyrian Metaltail** and **Black-capped Tyrannulet** of the trip. In the afternoon we went lower down to search for *Red-faced Parrot*, and came up with a great showing from a local **Ocellated Tapaculo**, before the heavens opened and we needed to depart north towards the city of *Cuenca*, with no further stops made. A late evening search for *Buff-fronted Owl* in Yungilla, after dinner, unsurprisingly came up empty-handed for this extremely rarely seen species.

Day 17: Yungilla to Cuenca and El Cajas NP.

The day was bookended by two very different habitats; opening within the scrubby hillsides of the Yungilla Reserve, our final *Jocotoco Foundation* property of the tour (our sixth), and finishing in the open windswept paramo grasslands in the high Andes of *El Cajas National Park*, just outside the city of *Cuenca*, known for being the source of some of the finest Panama hats in the World (which are from Ecuador, and not where the name would suggest). This tour typically focused on going after a series of very scarce and local bird species, and this morning involved one of the rarest avian prizes of them all; *Pale-headed Brushfinch*. This endangered species was lost from the world for some time, and went completely unrecorded from the 1960s to the late 1990s, when it was rediscovered following fears of its extinction. Now, the entire world population (stated recently as 113 pairs) occurs in one location, most of which is encompassed within the Yungilla Reserve. While this affords the species excellent protection, it will likely always remain a tiny population, hemmed in by limited remaining habitat outside of this protected area.

Although rare, the *brushfinch* is contrarily often readily found, as the local ranger, *Enrique*, monitors the population closely, and stocks a forest feeding station where they often (though not always) come in to early in the morning. Therefore, we ensured we arrived before well before 7am, in order for our best chance at finding it. After a short walk into the scrub, we arrived at the feeding station, where several **Pale-headed Brushfinches** (*photo below, Sam Woods*) were quickly found to be present, and over the next thirty minutes or so up to seven different birds came to and from the feeder and showed at length, a major highlight for some of the group due to its significant rarity.



The feeders also attracted a few **Scrub Blackbirds**, a lone **Gray-browed (Stripe-headed) Brushfinch**, and our final *antpitta* of the trip, with a **Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** or two. A **Yellow-tailed Oriole** on the way out completed our time in the reserve, before we loaded up and headed north to the Andean city of *Cuenca*.

Finally, we headed up from there into the rainy mountains above the city on the fringes of *El Cajas National Park*, where yet another hummingbird was added, and another scarce and local species for the day, the **Violet-throated Metaltail**. The entire range of this hummingbird is located within two southern provinces of Ecuador. Within this location though the bird can often be easy to find, and we stopped at three spots, finding them in each one, before the rain and cold had us retreating back to *Cuenca*, with our main goal achieved for the afternoon. Back at our hotel, a short walk in the garden revealed a **Black-tailed Trainbearer** feeding on the non-native *Bottlebrush*, a **Rusty Flowerpiercer** doing the same, and several **Chiguanco Thrushes** (our only ones of the tour), feeding on the hotel lawns

Day 18: El Cajas NP to Guayaquil.



© Chris Sloan

Nemesis no more: **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan** finally gave up the ghost in *El Cajas National Park* (Chris Sloan)

Our last day of the tour promised to be one of the most dramatic, both in terms of high Andean landscapes, and the birds. From the colonial city of Cuenca, we set out for *El Cajas National Park*, with a learned local guide, *Diego*. Virtually the first words he uttered (or rather exclaimed at full pitch), were “MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN!”, as he quickly latched on to a **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan** (*photo above Chris Sloan*), sitting quietly by the parking lot! He had been informed on the way there that this was one of the most wanted birds for this focused group, as they had been thwarted by this species not only earlier on this tour, but others they had taken previously to the “Bird Continent”. A *Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan* plucking large fruits from a car park side tree was a heck of a way to kickstart our final day. Our starting point for the day was some of the highest growing temperate forests within the park at the wonderful *Laguna Llaviucu*. Normally not open until 8am, we were in there well before then, due to our local connections, and soon after the toucan were quickly adding more high Andean birds to our trip tally.



The vivid blue colors of a male **Tit-like Dacnis** lit up the groves of *polylepis* trees in which it fed in **El Cajas National Park (Sam Woods)**.

On the lake, came **Andean Teal**, **Andean Duck**, **Yellow-billed Pintail**, **Andean Gull**, and **Slate-colored (Andean) Coot**. **Sedge (Grass) Wrens** sung from the reeds, sounding markedly different from the species they are lumped with in North America, as did **Virginia (Ecuadorian) Rails**, one of which finally walked out into the open. *Diego* was keen on finding one of South America's most famous hummingbirds, the absurdly long-billed **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, and met with success at our final try, with a bird launching into the air, revealing its utterly unique silhouette in doing so, and then landing for a prolonged look at this living cartoon as it rested in the trees overhead. This marvelous late bird almost succeeded in knocking *Crescent-faced Antpitta* out of the Top Five Birds of the Tour, and indeed it probably would have were it not for many of the group having previously seen it on earlier Ecuador/South American trips. It is indeed one of the celebrity birds of continent after all. Jeffrey was especially thrilled to see this "Bird of the Sun God" (in the words of a 1980s David Attenborough), and justifiably so! Cute **Tufted Tit-Tyrants** were also noted in the forest bordering the lake, as was **Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet**, and *Shannon* caught up with the endemic **Violet-throated Metaltail**, which she had shunned in favor of a spa at our *Cuenca* hotel the afternoon before! Having done a full circuit of this picturesque lake, with as many photos taken of the scenery as of the birds; we drove up higher, reaching above the treeline, where grassy paramo dominated the landscape.

We stopped in at one of the park's most popular photo stops, *Laguna Torreadora*, and were quickly admiring a bright blue male **Tit-like Danis** (*page before, Sam Woods*) emerging from the lakeside shrubbery. A walk into one of the coolest habitats in South America, the gnarled, rusty-barked *polylepis* woodland, yielded **Pearled Treerunner**, **Hooded Siskin**, **Spectacled (Whitestart) Redstart** and then....**Giant Conebill** (*below Sam Woods*), one of the ultimate *polylepis* specialists creeping along the lichen-covered, peeling bark of these trees that appear like they have been written into the pages of a *Lord of the Rings* novel...



*The distinctive branches of a polylepis tree, (one of the highest growing trees on Earth), hosted this handsome **Giant Conebill**, a specialist of this high Andean habitat (Sam Woods).*

In the surrounding shrubbery, we located an **Andean Tit-Spinetail** and a bearded **Blue-mantled Thornbill**. The *polylepis* trees also provided perches for a pair of nesting **Stout-billed Cinclodes**, a rather late addition to our list. On our approach to the highest point of the tour (*Tres Cruces* at a heady 4167m/13,670ft), we stopped in at another small lake, where a stand of flame-orange *chuquiragua* flowers hosted a territorial male **Ecuadorian Hillstar**, which stood sentry overlooking his favored blooms, and was seen chasing away a visiting female trying to steal nectar from his patch.

This tour has been book-ended by hillstars, the newly-described (2018) Blue-throated Hillstar in its own patch of *Chuquiragua* flowers on an isolated mountain peak on day two, and then this near endemic Ecuadorian Hillstar on the final day. Our final stop came as we slowly descended from the highest peak in the park, where rugged mountain scenery gave way to a flat grassy plain, where **Carunculated Caracaras** upset the local **Andean Lapwings** into taking flight and downright attacking them, and a richly-toned **Paramo Pipit** foraged among the tussock grass. This was to be our last significant bird addition of the tour, as we surpassed the 590-species barrier for the tour and headed directly down into the lowlands of *Guayaquil*, passing many **Snail Kites** en route as we did so, and shedding layers of clothing as we left the high mountains behind.



Once we had already surpassed 50 hummingbird species for the list, we added this **Blue-mantled Thornbill** in El Cajas National Park (Sam Woods).



The trip started early-on with the newly-described (2018) **Blue-throated Hillstar**, and then closed with our 57th hummingbird of the tour being this **Ecuadorian Hillstar** in El Cajas (Sam Woods).

BIRD LIST

The taxonomy of the bird 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 up until August 2019.

- Bornean endemic species/subspecies are indicated in **RED** and by the code **BE**.
- **(H)** Indicates a species that was HEARD only.
- **(GO)** Indicates a species that was seen by the GUIDE ONLY.
-

Tinamidae (Tinamous)

Gray Tinamou *Tinamus tao*: 3 came in to the blind at Copalinga Lodge at around 3pm.

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* **(H)**: A single was heard at Maycu Reserve, near Yankuam.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* **(H)**: Heard late one afternoon in Buenaventura.

Pale-browed Tinamou *Crypturellus transfasciatus**: 1 foraging in the forest at Jorupe, which lingered for all.

Anhimidae (Screamers)

Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta*: Half a dozen birds were seen at La Largatera.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: Recorded close to Manglares Churute and at La Ceiba.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*: A small group were seen at La Lagartera.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis sylvicola*: A few were at La Lagartera and La Ceiba: a male seen displaying near Zapotillo.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*: A couple only were found at La Lagartera and La Ceiba.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*: A small group were seen from the vehicle around Santa Rosa.

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*: A single was seen at Laguna Llaviucu.

Andean Teal *Oxyura ferruginea*: A few small groups were on Laguna Llaviucu.

Andean Duck *Oxyura ferruginea*: Small numbers were present on Laguna Llaviucu.

NOTE: Formerly lumped with Ruddy Duck, no split again.

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

Rufous-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis erythroptera**: Vocal groups were around the lodges at Buenaventura & Jorupe.

Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata*: A few were seen in the eastern foothills at Copalinga and near Yankuam.

Bearded Guan *Penelope barbata**: 2 groups were encountered in Tapichalaca.

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*: A couple of very shy individuals took flight in Buenaventura.

Sickle-winged Guan *Chamaepetes goudotii*: 1 quietly foraged in a cecropia tree as we ate breakfast at Copalinga.

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail *Odontophorus erythrops*: Some close groups were heard in Buenaventura.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*: 2 were found at La Lagartera.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Regularly seen within urban centers, like Guayaquil, Loja, and Sabiango.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*: Many seen on wires along banana plantations south of Guayaquil.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*: Noted on 5 dates (Sozoranga, Cerro Toledo, Yungilla, El Cajas).

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* (H): Several were heard in the Yankuam area.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*: A few were seen in Buenaventura.

Plain-breasted Ground Dove *Columbina minuta*: Half a dozen or so were found at La Lagartera.

Ecuadorian Ground Dove *Columbina buckleyi**: Common some areas, like Manglares Churute and Zapotillo.

Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana*: Noted at two sites, Zapotillo and Catamayo.

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa*: Over twenty birds came in to the feeders at Jorupe one day.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*: A few were seen around Jorupe and Yungilla (2 tour days).

Gray-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*: A few only got views of a skittish bird at the tinamou blind at Copalinga.

Pallid Dove *Leptotila pallida**: 1 was seen in short flight in Buenaventura by one or two people only.

White-throated Quail-Dove *Zentrygon frenata*: We got some excellent looks at the feeder at Tapichalaca.

West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda**: Recorded at one site, Zapotillo, where dozens were seen.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*: Recorded on 5 dates of the tour, generally around highland towns.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*: Regularly in the lowlands, especially in the east, where noted on 4 days.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*: Commonly encountered in the southwestern lowlands (e.g. Zapotillo).

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* (H): Heard in Yungilla.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*: Just a couple were seen, in Manglares Churute and Maycu.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

Blackish Nightjar *Nyctipolus nigrescens*: 1 gave some great flight views near Copalinga Lodge.

Band-winged Nightjar *Systellura longirostris*: 1 at our Saraguro hotel, and others were flushed at Cerro Acanama.

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*: A few were seen in Jorupe.

Apodidae (Swifts)

White-chested Swift *Cypseloides lemosi*: At least 1 was seen in a large flock of swifts at Nuevo Paraiso.

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila*: Recorded on 5 dates (e.g. Jorupe, Tapichacala, Bombuscaro).

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*: Noted on 5 days; hundreds counted in a single flock near Saraguro.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura brachyura*: Some were seen in a large mixed swift flock at Nuevo Paraiso.

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*: Regularly noted in Buenaventura and the western lowlands (5 days).

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*: Mike got 1 around Manglares Churute; others seen in Nuevo Paraiso.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*: One of the most abundant species at the Buenaventura feeders.

White-whiskered Hermit *Phaethornis yaruqui**: A few people got to a calling bird in the forest at Buenaventura.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*: A few birds were regularly visiting the feeders at Copalinga Lodge.

Long-billed (Baron's) Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris baroni**: 1 was seen along the road at Manglares Churute.

Gray-chinned Hermit *Phaethornis griseogularis*: 1 was seen in Jorupe.

Green-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera ludovicae*: 1 seen along the old Loja-Zamora Rd and another in Podocarpus NP.

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*: Several came to the feeders at Buenaventura.

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans*: One of the most abundant hummingbirds at Copalinga Lodge.

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliophryx barroti*: 1 was seen on our first morning, at Manglares Churute.

Green-breasted Mango *Anthracothorax prevostii iridescens*: 2 were found at Manglares Churute.

Amethyst-throated Sunangel *Heliangelus amethysticollis**: A regular visitor at the Casa Simpsom feeders.

Little (Flame-throated) Sunangel *Heliangelus micraster*: Also regular at the Tapichalaca feeders.

Purple-throated Sunangel *Heliangelus viola**: 1 in the hills above Zaruma, and regular at the Utuana feeders.

Wire-crested Thorntail *Discosura popelairii*: Two fantastic males were seen in the garden of Copalinga Lodge.

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*: One of the most common visitors to the Buenaventura feeders.

Spangled Coquette *Lophornis stictolophus*: 4 of this spectacular, rare, hummingbird were seen at Mi Paradise.

Ecuadorian Piedtail *Phlogophilus hemileucurus**: One was seen in Maycu.

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys*: Seen at the feeders at both Utuana and Tapichalaca Reserves.

Violet-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus coelestis**: A few came into the upper feeders in Buenaventura Reserve.

Ecuadorian Hillstar *Oreotrochilus chimborazo**: A male and female were seen on our final afternoon in El Cajas.

Blue-throated Hillstar *Oreotrochilus cyanolaemus**: One of the highlights of the entire tour was seeing this very recently described species (2018). A male and female were seen at Cerro de Arcos.

Black-tailed Trainbearer *Lesbia victoriae*: 1 at Cerro de Arcos and others were in the garden or our Cuenca hotel.

Green-tailed Trainbearer *Lesbia nuna*: A male was seen during the journey down to Zamora from Cerro de Arcos.

Blue-mantled Thornbill *Chalcostigma stanleyi*: At least one bird was seen in the paramo at El Cajas NP.

Rainbow-bearded Thornbill A memorable male showed its beard at Cerro Toledo; and another at Cerro Acanama.

Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina*: Several were seen in the elfin forest at Cerro Acanama.

Viridian Metaltail *Metallura williami*: A regular visitor to the refuge feeders at Cerro de Arcos.

Violet-throated Metaltail *Metallura baroni**: 5 birds were seen one afternoon just outside El Cajas NP.

Neblina Metaltail *Metallura odomae**: A single bird showed up in spite of abominable conditions at Cerro Toledo.

Glowing Puffleg *Eriocnemis vestita*: A few birds were seen at both Cerro Toledo and Cerro Acanama.

Shining Sunbeam *Aglaeactis cupripennis*: The most abundant, conspicuous visitor to the feeders at Cerro de Arcos.

Collared Inca *Coeligena torquata*: A regular species at the Casa Simpson feeders.

Rainbow Starfrontlet *Coeligena iris**: A regular attendee at the Utuana feeders; another was seen above Zaruma.

Sword-billed Hummingbird *Ensifera ensifera*: A single was seen at El Cajas, to Jeffrey's great relief!

Great Sapphirewing *Pterophanes cyanopterus*: 1-2 came in regularly to the feeders at the refuge in Cerro de Arcos.

Chestnut-breasted Coronet *Boissonneaua matthewsii*: Abundant at the Tapichalaca feeders: 1 also at Copalinga.

Velvet-purple Coronet *Boissonneaua jardini**: A single came in regularly to the upper feeders at Buenaventura.

Booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii*: A female came in regularly to the upper feeders at Buenaventura.

Black-throated Brilliant *Heliodoxa schreibersii*: A single male came in sporadically to the feeders at Copalinga.

Fawn-breasted Brilliant *Heliodoxa rubinoides*: 1 at the upper feeders in Buenaventura; also at Casa Simpson.

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*: One of the most conspicuous species at the Umbrellabird Lodge feeders.

Violet-fronted Brilliant *Heliodoxa leadbeateri*: The most numerous species at the Copalinga Lodge feeders.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*: A few were seen around Jorupe and Zapotillo.

Amethyst Woodstar *Calliphlox amethystine*: Numerous at the flowers in a small reserve near Zamora.

Short-tailed Woodstar *Myrmia micrura**: A few were seen well in Zapotillo.

Little Woodstar *Chaetocercus bombus**: A wonderful male turned up beside the lodge at Buenaventura.

White-bellied Woodstar *Chaetocercus mulsant*: 2 were seen in the garden at Copalinga.

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*: A regular at the verbena flowers in the garden of Copalinga Lodge.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata*: Several came in regularly to the feeders at Copalinga Lodge.

Many-spotted Hummingbird *Taphrospilus hypostictus*: A handful came in regularly to the feeders at Copalinga.

Tumbes Hummingbird *Leucippus baeri**: One was found at Zapotillo.

Amazilia (Loja) Hummingbird *Amazilia amazilia*: Recorded regularly in southwest Ecuador (e.g. Jorupe).

Andean Emerald *Amazilia franciae*: Another regular at the Buenaventura feeders.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata*: A regular at the Copalinga feeders: also at Mi Paradise Reserve.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*: Another regular species at the Buenaventura feeders.

Golden-tailed Sapphire *Chrysuronia oenone*: A few came in to the feeders infrequently at Copalinga.

Violet-bellied Hummingbird *Juliomyia Julie*: One of the most abundant visitors to the Buenaventura feeders.

Opisthocomidae (Hoatzin)

Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin*: 8 birds were seen close to the town of Nuevo Paraiso.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

Virginia (Ecuadorian) Rail *Rallus limicola aequatorialis**: Several were heard, and one seen at Laguna Llaviucu.

Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans*: One showed briefly at a stop on the journey to Yankuam.

Rufous-necked Wood-Rail *Aramides axillaris*: 3 birds were seen well at Puerto Jeli.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*: Recorded in double figures at Puerto Jeli and La Ceiba.

Slate-colored (Andean) Coot *Fulica ardesiaca*: Oddly, 1 seen in the lowlands at La Ceiba, others also at El Cajas.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*: 2 were found at Manglares Churute.

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis* (H): A close calling bird could not be found in Buenaventura.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*: Conspicuous in coastal lowlands south of Guayaquil; also at La Ceiba.

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*: 1 was seen at Puerto Jeli.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*: 4 birds were found just outside El Cajas NP on our final afternoon.

Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*: A single was seen at La Ceiba.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*: 2 were seen at Puerto Jeli.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous*: A single bird was found at La Ceiba.

Jacaniidae (Jacanas)

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*: Numerous along wet roadsides in the coastal lowlands of the west.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: Several were seen at Puerto Jeli.

Jameson's (Andean) Snipe *Gallinago jamesoni*: 2 birds were seen in early morning display flights at Cerro de Arcos.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*: A few were seen on 4 days of the tour.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*: 2 were found at Puerto Jeli.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*: Small numbers were seen around El Cajas National Park.

Ciconiidae (Storks)

Wood Stork *Mycteria Americana*: A handful were seen at Puerto Jeli and at La Ceiba.

Fregatidae (Frigatebirds)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*: A few were seen on the way in and out of Guayaquil.

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*: 4 birds were seen at La Lagartera.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*: Singles were seen on 3 days of the tour (La Lagartera & La Ceiba).

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

Fasciated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum*: 1 was found at Buenaventura, and another on the old Loja-Zamora Rd.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*: Recorded at Puerto Jeli and La Ceiba.

(American) Great Egret *Ardea alba egretta*: Regularly seen in the coastal lowlands near Guayaquil; (also La Ceiba).

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*: Noted on 3 days of the tour, including around Guayaquil.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*: A handful were seen over 3 days, at La Ceiba and around Manglares Churute.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*: 2 singles were seen, 1 at La Lagartera and another at La Ceiba.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Scattered sightings in the lowlands, recorded on at least 8 days.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*: A few were seen in the coastal lowlands of the west.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: 1 at Puerto Jeli, and another single in El Cajas.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*: 2 birds were seen at Puerto Jeli.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*: Seen on the way in and out of Guayaquil, in the coastal lowlands.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: 1 was seen at La Ceiba.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*: A couple were seen at Manglares Churute, and another was seen in La Ceiba.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*: A few were seen from the lodge at Jorupe, and another was seen at Utuana.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*: Recorded on all but a few days of the tour.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*: Seen almost every day of the tour.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus*: 3-4 birds were found around Nuevo Paraiso.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: Two were found in the coastal lowlands on our first day heading south of Guayaquil.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*: The last new bird of the trip, just south of Guayaquil on the final afternoon.

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus*: A pair was seen at Manglares Churute.

Gray-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*: 1 flew low over Umbrellabird Lodge; another was perched near Yankuam.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*: Recorded on 8 days of the tour, on both east and west sides of the Andes.

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus melanoleucus*: 1 between Yankuam and Zamora.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*: Hundreds were seen between Manglares Churute and Guayaquil.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*: 1 was seen on our morning inside Podocarpus NP.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*: Seen inside Podocarpus and also near Yankuam, both in the east.

Sharp-shinned (Plain-breasted) Hawk *Accipiter striatus*: 1 was seen in the mountains above Zaruma.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens*: A few were seen at Manglares Churute on our first morning.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*: A handful were found in and around Manglares Churute.

Solitary Eagle *Buteogallus solitarius*: A superb low-flying bird was being harassed by a Harris's Hawk in Jorupe.

Barred Hawk *Morphnarchus princeps*: A few in flight at Buenaventura; another was found perched in Podocarpus.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*: Recorded 6 times on the tour (e.g. Buenaventura, Yankuam area).

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*: Seen at Manglares Churute and Jorupe only.

Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma*: Noted 3 times, at Cerro de Arcos, Cerro Acanama and Yungilla.

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*: One was seen in low flight at Maycu, near Yankuam.

Gray-backed Hawk *Pseudastur occidentalis**: Seen on 3 occasions around Buenaventura.

Gray-lined (Gray) Hawk *Buteo nitidus*: A perched bird was seen at Buenaventura.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*: A few flyovers were seen in the foothills on both sides of the Andes.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*: Twice recorded in Buenaventura.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*: Two were seen in a single afternoon (near San Antonio and at El Empalme).

Strigidae (Owls)

White-throated Screech-Owl *Megascops albogularis*: On of a calling pair was seen very well above Casa Simpson.

Koepcke's Screech-Owl *Megascops koepckeae**: A pair was seen well in the city of Loja. Long thought to be a Peruvian endemic, this tiny population in Ecuador was discovered just a few years ago.

Peruvian Screech-Owl *Megascops roboratus**: One was seen very well behind Gary and Mike's cabin at Jorupe.

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*: A pair was seen by the cabins at Jorupe one night.

Band-bellied Owl *Pulsatrix melanota* (H): A distant bird was heard one morning beside Yankuam.

Andean Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium jardinii* (H): One called for a short time by Laguna Llaviucu.

Peruvian (Pacific) Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium peruanum**: Seen at Manglares Churute, El Empalme & Sozoranga.

Black-and-white Owl *Ciccaba nigrolineata*: 1 was seen on two nights beside Umbrellabird Lodge.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

Golden-headed Quetzal *Pharomachrus auriceps*: A female was watched perched in the open above Zaruma.

Ecuadorian Trogon *Trogon mesurus**: A pair at Manglares Churute and a single at Jorupe.

Green-backed Trogon *Trogon viridis*: Three birds were seen in Maycu.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*: A male was seen during a coffee stop on the journey to El Empalme.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*: One was seen at Buenaventura and another was seen in Maycu.

Momotidae (Motmots)

Whooping Motmot *Momotus subrufescens*: Some stunning close ups were had by the lodge in Jorupe.

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*: One was found sitting beside a river in the upper part of Buenaventura.

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum* (H): Heard several times around Buenaventura.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*: Recorded 5-6 times in the coastal lowlands south of Guayaquil.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*: A pair was observed just beyond Copalinga Lodge.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*: Up to 4 birds were seen at La Ceiba, during our morning trip to Zapotillo.

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*: Gary photographed 1 near his cabin at Umbrellabird Lodge.

Lanceolated Monklet *Micromonacha lanceolata*: 1 was found sitting motionless in the forest near Copalinga.

Galbulidae (Jacamars)

Purplish Jacamar *Galbula chalcothorax*: A pair was found by Nestor near Nuevo Paraiso.

Capitonidae (New World Barbets)

Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus*: Two were seen in Maycu in the eastern foothills.

Lemon-throated Barbet *Eubucco richardsoni*: Another striking barbet, also seen at Maycu.

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*: A wonderful pair were seen near Valladolid.

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

Chestnut-tipped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus derbianus* (H): One was heard in the eastern foothills.

Crimson-rumped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*: 1 was seen at a café stop on the drive to Jorupe.

Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan *Andigena hypoglauca*: Nemesis no more, found by Diego in El Cajas.

Collared (Pale-mandibled) Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus erythropygius**: 1 group at the Buenaventura feeders.

Ivory-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus azara*: One was seen briefly in the pouring rain at Maycu.

Golden-collared Toucanet *Selenidera reinwardtii*: One was found near the village of Shaime.

Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*: A few were seen at Buenaventura.

Choco Toucan *Ramphastos brevis**: A couple were seen briefly in Buenaventura.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

Lafresnaye's Piculet *Picumnus lafresnayi*: 2 were found in the eastern foothills, near Zamora and near Yankuam.

Ecuadorian Piculet *Picumnus sclateri**: Noted on 4 days, (at Manglares Charute, Jorupe and Zapotillo).

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus*: 2 groups near Yankuam included one just inside of Peru!

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*: 1 was seen in flight near Manglares Churute.

Red-rumped Woodpecker *Dryobates kirkii*: One was found at Buenaventura.

Little Woodpecker *Dryobates passerines* (H): One was heard while we were surfing a mixed flock, near Zamora.

Scarlet-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates callonotus*: A handsome woodpecker, seen close to Urraca Lodge in Jorupe.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*: A male was seen in flight on the journey into Yankuam.

Guayaquil Woodpecker *Campephilus gayaquilensis**: A cooperative pair was seen close to Umbrellabird Lodge.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*: Found 5 times on the tour (e.g. Jorupe, Valladolid).

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula*: A fine individual was located by the town of Nuevo Paraiso.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater*: A handful were seen on two days in the Andean foothills of the east, near Yankuam.

Carunculated Caracara *Phalcoboenus carunculatus**: 2 on our final afternoon, just outside El Cajas NP.

Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*: Frequently seen at Cerro de Arcos; also found at Cerro Acanama.

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*: Recorded 6 times in the lowlands of the west.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans*: One was found perched inside Jorupe Reserve.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*: 4 scattered sightings, including near Zaruma and Valladolid.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*: 1 was being pursued by a Mountain Caracara at Cerro Acanama.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*: Two were found in the Yankuam area.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: One was seen by the group in the lowlands south of Guayaquil.

Psittacidae (New World and African Parrots)

Gray-cheeked Parakeet *Brotogeris pyrrhoptera**: Several groups were seen at both Manglares Churute and Jorupe.

Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanopectera*: A few perched groups were seen near Yankuam.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*: Overflying groups were noted regularly in Maycu: also seen in Copalinga.

Bronze-winged Parrot *Pionus chalcopertus*: A few groups were found perched in Buenaventura.

Red-ored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*: A couple in flight and one sitting bird were seen at Manglares Churute.

Scaly-naped Parrot *Amazona mercenarius*: A few were seen around Tapichalaca.

Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis**: Recorded on 4 days, with dozens at the airport at Catamayo.

El Oro Parakeet *Pyrrhura orcesi**: 2 small groups (6 birds) were seen close at their last stronghold, Buenaventura.

Golden-plumed Parakeet *Leptosittaca branickii**: Good scope looks before the fog rolled in at Tapichalaca.

Red-masked Parakeet *Psittacara erythrogenys**: Recorded on 5 days (Manglares Churute, Buenaventura, Jorupe).

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus*: A large noisy group were seen in flight in Maycu.

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* (H): Heard once in the Maycu Reserve.

Great Antshrike *Taraba major*: Jeffrey's landmark 1000th species, was seen on our morning in Manglares Churute.

Chapman's Antshrike *Thamnophilus zarumae**: This specialty was seen at Jorupe, then at Sozoranga.

Lined Antshrike *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus* (H): One was heard near Valladolid.

Collared Antshrike *Thamnophilus bernardi**: Seen on the way to Jorupe and in the reserve several times too.

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*: Several were seen around Buenaventura.

Uniform Antshrike *Thamnophilus unicolor* (H): Heard once along the trails in Buenaventura.

White-shouldered Antshrike *Thamnophilus aethiops* (H): A close-calling bird could not be found near Yankuam.

Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus*: A couple were found in a mixed flock in Buenaventura.

Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis*: Encountered twice in the deciduous woods of Jorupe.

Foothill Stipplethroat (Antwren) *Epinecrophylia spodionota*: 1 was seen in Podocarpus National Park.

White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris* (H): Several were heard around Yankuam.

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*: Two pairs were seen during our time in Buenaventura.

Yellow-breasted Antwren *Herpsilochmus axillaris*: Good looks within a huge, mixed species flock near Zamora.

Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*: 1 was found in the wonderful Maycu Reserve.

Peruvian Warbling-Antbird *Hypocnemis peruviana*: Some good looks in the Maycu Reserve.

Jet Antbird *Cercomacra nigricans*: A male was found after some effort in Manglares Churute.

White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys*: Once gave only brief looks near Nuevo Paraiso.

Black-faced Antbird *Myrmoborus myotherinus* (H): A few were heard on the road to Nuevo Paraiso.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul*: Heard regularly, and seen very briefly, at Buenaventura.

Gray-headed Antbird *Ampelornis griseiceps** (H): One was heard calling from in a dense bamboo stand at Utuana.

Esmeraldas Antbird *Sipia nigricauda**: Great looks were had of one of the many calling birds in Buenaventura.

Zeledon's (Immaculate) Antbird *Hafferia zeledoni* (H): Several pairs were heard at Buenaventura.

Melanopareidae (Crescentchest)

Elegant Crescentchest *Melanopareia elegans**: A very cooperative bird showed repeatedly above Sozoranga.

Grallariidae (Antpittas)

Undulated Antpitta *Grallaria squamigera* (H): Heard closeby at Tapichalaca, when it was not visiting the feeder.

Plain-backed Antpitta *Grallaria haplonota* (H): Heard distantly in the west (Buenaventura) and east (Bombuscaro).

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta *Grallaria ruficapilla*: At least 1 appeared at the feeders at Yungilla several times.

Watkins's Antpitta *Grallaria watkinsi**: Seen three times in Jorupe, including hopping around behind the kitchen.

Jocotoco Antpitta *Grallaria ridgelyi**: Two adults came to the unique feeding station in Tapichalaca, the only place to see them in the World. VOTED AS THE TOP BIRD OF THE TOUR.

Chestnut-naped Antpitta *Grallaria nuchalis*: On the second try, one came into a feeder near Casa Simpson.

Rufous Antpitta *Grallaria rufula*: Two great looks along the trail near Casa Simpson.

Tawny Antpitta *Grallaria quitensis*: Seen up in the paramos at Cerro de Arcos and El Cajas.

Thrush-like Antpitta *Myrmothera campanisona* (H): A distantly calling bird was heard near Shaime.

Slate-crowned Antpitta *Grallaricula nana*: One was seen singing from some bamboo in Cerro Toledo.

Crescent-faced Antpitta *Grallaricula lineifrons**: One of South America's most wanted was seen at Cerro Acanama.

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

Ocellated Tapaculo *Acropternis orthonyx*: A well-photographed bird was much appreciated near Saraguro.

Blackish Tapaculo *Scytalopus latrans* (H): A few were heard singing around the hills in Utuana.

Chusquea Tapaculo *Scytalopus parkeri**: Some superb looks were had along the trails at Tapichalaca.

Paramo Tapaculo *Scytalopus opacus*: A confiding bird ignored the wind and rain, giving good looks at Cerro Toledo.

Formicariidae (Antthrushes)

Black-headed Antthrush *Formicarius nigricapillus*: One gave some cracking looks at all at Manglares Churute.

Rufous-breasted Antthrush *Formicarius rufipectus* (H): Heard calling from steep, forested slope in Buenaventura.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (east) *Sittasomus griseicapillus amazonus*: 1 in a flock along the old Loja-Zamora Rd.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (west) *Sittasomus griseicapillus aequatorialis* (GO): Sam only saw this one at Jorupe.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*: A bird was seen briefly at Buenaventura.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*: A few were seen in the foothills of the west and east.

Strong-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*: A single was seen during a morning in Bombuscaro.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*: A handful were seen in Buenaventura.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*: Only seen in Jorupe, where several were seen.

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*: Oddly, just one was seen near Valladolid.

Duida (Lineated) Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes duidae*: A responsive bird was found in Maycu.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*: A few were seen in the west; at Manglares Churute and Buenaventura.

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*: A few were found in the eastern foothills, around Yankuam.

Streaked Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*: A pair was found in a mixed flock in Tapichalaca.

Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero *Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus**: Common in dry western areas, seen on 13 days.

Chestnut-winged (Bar-winged) Cinclodes *Cinclodes albidiventris*: Noted at Cerro de Arcos and El Cajas.

Stout-billed Cinclodes *Cinclodes excelsior*: A rambunctious pair were seen inside El Cajas.

Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis*: One was seen during a quiet morning in Bombuscaro.

Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia ruficaudata*: 4 were seen in a single flock at Maycu.

Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla ruficollis**: Several individuals were seen well in Jorupe.

Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner *Clibanornis erythrocephalus** (H): 2 birds were heard in Jorupe.

Flammulated Treehunter *Thripadectes flammulatus* (H): A single was heard calling from bamboo in Tapichalaca.

Striped (Eastern) Woodhaunter *Automolus subulatus subulatus*: One was seen well in Maycu.

Striped (Western) Woodhaunter *Automolus subulatus assimilis*: 1 showed up in Buenaventura.

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens* (H): 1 was heard in Buenaventura.

Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger*: These handsome flock followers were seen at 3 temperate forest sites

Andean Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura andicola*: One was found foraging in the paramo at El Cajas on the last day.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons* (H): A single uncooperative bird was heard below Valladolid.

White-browed Spinetail *Hellmayrea gularis*: Seen at two temperate sites; Tapichalaca and Cerro Acanama.

Many-striped Canastero *Asthenes flammulata*: Good views near the Blue-throated Hillstar at Cerro de Arcos.

Mouse-colored Thistletail *Asthenes riseomurina**: Seen well at Cerro de Arcos, and again at Cerro Acanama.

Ash-browed Spinetail *Cranioleuca curtata*: A small group was found near Valladolid.

Line-cheeked Spinetail *Cranioleuca antisiensis**: Seen twice in the southwest; above Zaruma, and in Utuana.

Dusky Spinetail *Synallaxis moesta*: Chris found one of these on the old Loja-Zamora Road in the eastern foothills.

Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis*: We all caught up with this on the journey out of Yankuam.

Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae*: Heard regularly and seen at least twice (Buenaventura, El Cajas).

Blackish-headed Spinetail *Synallaxis tithys**: This scarce and very local species showed well at Jorupe.

Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa*: Only a singleton was seen at Tapichalaca.

Pipridae (Manakins)

Golden-winged Manakin *Masius chrysopterus*: A female was observed at Buenaventura.

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* (H): Heard close at Manglares Churute, but couldn't catch sight of it.

Club-winged Manakin *Machaeropterus deliciosus**: A few females of this Choco species were seen (Buenaventura).

Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopira erythrocephala*: A couple of people caught sight of a male at Copalinga.

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

Barred Fruiteater *Pipreola arcuate*: One showed up only briefly at Tapichalaca.

Fiery-throated Fruiteater *Pipreola chlorolepidota*: The male of this species was a major highlight at Maycu.

Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus*: Seen on 2 days, below Cerro de Arcos and at Utuana.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus*: Sam only saw the male below Valladolid; others were heard.

Gray-tailed Piha *Snowornis subalaris* (H): A single bird was heard repeatedly in Maycu.

Amazonian Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus ornatus*: Nestor created some excitement when he found this near Maycu.

Long-wattled Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus penduliger**: The enthusiastic, dramatic downtime displays of this giant black cotinga were a major highlight of the entire tour. ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR.

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*: A female was seen near Nuevo Paraiso.

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis*: A few were heard and 1 seen, in Buenaventura.

Foothill Schiffornis *Schiffornis aenea* (H): Just the one was heard in Maycu.

White-browed Purpleuft *Iodopleura isabellae*: 2 were found along the road to Nuevo Paraiso.

Green-backed (Yellow-cheeked) Becard *Pachyramphus viridis xanthogenys*: 1 near Valladolid; 1 near Zamora.

Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor*: A handsome male was found at Cerro Acanama.

Slaty Becard *Pachyramphus spodiurus**: A single male was seen over breakfast at Jorupe.

One-colored Becard *Pachyramphus homochrous*: Several were located in the western foothills at Buenaventura.

Oxyruncidae (Sharpbill, Royal Flycatcher, and Allies)

Royal (Pacific) Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus occidentalis**: 1 was seen close up at Manglares Churute.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terentotriccus erythrurus*: A single was found in Rio Bombuscaro.

Tawny-breasted Flycatcher *Myiobius villosus*: A few were seen in passing flocks at Buenaventura.

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius*: One of these hyperactive birds was found in Buenaventura.

Black-tailed Flycatcher *Myiobius atricaudus*: A responsive bird gave us some great looks at Manglares Churute.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris*: A pair was found in Maycu.

White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus* (H): One was heard at Buenaventura.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*: seen a couple of times in the western foothills at Buenaventura,

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliosus*: A few were found in mixed parties in the eastern foothills

Variigated Bristle-Tyrant *Phylloscartes poecilotis*: A few were encountered in a mixed flock near Zamora.

Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant *Phylloscartes ophthalmicus*: A few were also found in the eastern foothills.

Spectacled Bristle-Tyrant *Phylloscartes orbitalis*: One was found in a mixed party in Bombuscaro.

Ecuadorian Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes gualaquizae**: Frequently found in bird parties in the eastern foothills.

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *ophotriccus pileatus*: A few were seen in the western foothills at Buenaventura.

Black-throated Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus granadensis*: A few were seen along the forest trails in Tapichacala.

Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus ruficeps*: One was noted in Tapichalaca and also in Utuana

Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus capitalis*: A gorgeous male was found in Maycu Reserve.

Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus calopterus*: Gary and a few got one on the journey out of Yankuam.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*: Commonly encountered in the lowlands and foothills, both slopes.

Brownish Twistwing *Cnipodectes subbrunneus*: Good views were had one lunctime below Umbrellabird Lodge.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*: A handful were seen in the western lowlands.

Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*: Frequently encountered in temperate forests flocks.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*: 3 feisty groups were found around Zamora and in Podocarpus NP.

Ornate Flycatcher *Myiotriccus ornatus*: Frequent encounters in the foothills on both sides of the Andes.

Orange-banded Flycatcher *Nephelomyias lintoni**: A group of around six individuals was found up on Cerro Toledo.

White-lored Tyrannulet *Ornithion inerme*: One calling bird was seen in Rio Bombuscaro.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*: Recorded on 5 days (e.g. Jorupe, Zapotillo & Yungilla).

White-tailed Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus poecilocercus*: Only noted on 1 day, in Utuana.

White-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus stictopterus*: Seen twice, in Tapichalaca and El Cajas.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys*: Noted 3 times, at Cerro de Arcos, Cerro Acanama & El Cajas.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus*: 3 birds were seen on our final day in El Cajas.

Agile Tit-Tyrant *Uromyias agilis*: 3-5 birds were seen on our single day at Cerro Acanama, with some superb views.

Mouse-colored (Tumbesian) Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina tumbesana**: A couple were found at El Tundo.

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus* (H): Heard in the eastern foothills, at the coquette reserve.

- Foothill Elaenia** *Myiopagis olallai**: A calling pair was found in a flock at Rio Bombuscaro.
- Pacific Elaenia** *Myiopagis subplacens**: Our first was at Manglares Churute, then San Antonio, and finally at Jorupe.
- Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata* (H): Heard at the Pale-headed Brushfinch reserve, Yungilla.
- Highland Elaenia** *Elaenia obscura*: At least one was identified near Valladolid.
- White-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia albiceps*: A few were observed at Utuana.
- Sierran Elaenia** *Elaenia pallatangae*: One was seen above Zaruma, on the journey from Cerro de Arcos.
- Torrent Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga cinerea*: A pair was found beside a river below Valladolid.
- Sooty-headed Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias griseiceps*: 1 was seen in the west at Buenaventura; 1 heard at Maycu.
- Black-capped Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*: A single was found in a mixed flock near Saraguro.
- Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias uropygialis*: A vocal bird was seen by Laguna Llaviucu, El Cajas.
- Golden-faced Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius chrysops*: 1 gave excellent views just south of Valladolid.
- Peruvian (Loja) Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius viridiflavus**: Just a couple were seen, near Sozoranga and Utuana.
- Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant** *Euscarthmus meloryphus*: A few were found in the western lowlands.
- Orange-crested Flycatcher** *Myiophobus phoenicomitra*: This scarce flycatcher was seen twice in Rio Bombuscaro.
- Olive-chested Flycatcher** *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus** (H): Heard at the Spangled Coquette site near Zamora.
- Bran-colored Flycatcher** *Myiophobus fasciatus*: 1 was found near San Antonio, and 1 was noted at Jorupe.
- Gray-breasted Flycatcher** *Lathrotriccus griseipectus**: At least 2 were found in the deciduous woodland at Jorupe.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi*: One was found warming a wire in Maycu reserve in the eastern foothills.
- Smoke-colored Pewee** *Contopus fumigatus*: Recorded twice in the west, at Buenaventura and near Sozoranga.
- Western Wood-Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus*: A couple of calling birds were identified at Buenaventura.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens*: A single was identified by voice, near Yankuam.
- Tropical (Tumbes) Pewee** *Contopus cinereus punensis**: A few were seen inside Jorupe.
- Blackish Pewee** *Contopus nigrescens*: This rare and local species was located near Shaime.
- Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: A few were seen in the lowlands near Guayaquil.
- Rufous-tailed Tyrant** *Knipolegus poecilurus*: One was seen along the road down to Valladolid.
- Plain-capped (Paramo) Ground-Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola alpinus*: A few were seen at all 3 paramo sites visited.
- Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant** *Agriornis montanus*: 2 were seen at the hillstar site at Cerro de Arcos.
- Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant** *Myiotheretes striaticollis*: 1 was noted in the mountains above Zaruma.
- Masked Water-Tyrant** *Fluvicola nengeta*: 2 were found near Manglares Churute, during a regular ice cream stop!
- Tumbes Tyrant** *Tumbezia salvini**: 2 of these very local birds were found near Zapotillo. This species was formerly thought to be a Peruvian endemic, before this small population was discovered just over 10 years ago.
- Crowned Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca frontalis*: A single was seen only by Sam and Gary in Tapichalaca.
- Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*: Nice views with Pancho coming back from Cerro de Arcos.
- Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca fumicolor*: At the 3 high altitude sites, Cerro de Arcos, Acanama & El Cajas.
- Long-tailed Tyrant** *Colonia colonus*: A few were seen in open areas around Yankuam.
- Short-tailed Field Tyrant** *Muscigralla brevicauda*: A single was seen on the side of the runway at Catamayo airport.
- Ochraceous Attila** *Attila torridus**: One of the specialties at Buenaventura, a single showed very well there.
- Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*: Just the one was seen, at Yungilla reserve.
- Sooty-crowned Flycatcher** *Myiarchus phaeocephalus**: 2 singles were found in the deciduous woods of Jorupe.
- Pale-edged Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cephalotes* (H): Heard in the Tapichacala area.
- Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*: A couple were seen near the town of Nuevo Paraiso.
- Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua*: Encountered regularly at Jorupe and Manglares Churute.
- Rusty-margined Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes cayanensis*: A few were identified around La Lagartera.
- Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis*: Several were seen around Manglares Churute and also near Yankuam.
- Gray-capped Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes granadensis*: A handful was found along the roads near Yankuam.
- Dusky-chested Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes luteiventris*: A pair was found in Maycu Reserve, in the eastern foothills.
- Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus*: Singles were found at Valladolid and Copalinga, in the eastern foothills.
- Baird's Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes bairdii**: Singles were found at both La Lagartera and La Ceiba.
- Snowy-throated Kingbird** *Tyrannus niveigularis*: 2 singles, at Manglares Churute and in hills above Zaruma.
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*: Seen on all but one day of the tour.

Vireonidae (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*: Recorded at Jorupe, Sozoranga, Valladolid & Yungilla (5 days).

Olivaceous Greenlet *Hylophilus olivaceus*: One was seen in the garden of Copalinga Lodge.

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis*: One turned up in a mixed flock at Maycu.

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*: Several were seen on one day in Buenaventura.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*: Noted in Sozoranga and Utuana.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*: One was seen on the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi*: One was seen at Manglares Churute.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

Turquoise Jay *Cyanolyca turcosa*: A couple were seen in both Tapichalaca and Yungilla.

Green (Inca) Jay *Cyanocorax yncas yncas* (H): Heard around Bombuscaro and Copalinga Lodge.

Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus*: A few were sighted on the journey to Yankuam.

White-tailed Jay *Cyanocorax mystacalis**: This striking endemic was regularly seen at Jorupe (e.g. at the feeders).

Donacobiidae (Donacobius)

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla*: Several groups were seen between Zamora and Yankuam.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*: An abundant swallow, noted every single day!

Pale-footed Swallow *Orochelidon flavipes*: 2 small groups were located in Tapichalaca, some coming into land.

Brown-bellied Swallow *Orochelidon murina*: A high altitude bird, found at Cerro de Arcos, Tapichalaca & El Cajas

White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata*: One flew over Copalinga one morning.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*: Encountered on 7 days of the tour.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*: Commonly seen in coastal lowlands, near Guayaquil & Manglares Churute.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: A few were seen south of Zapotillo.

Chestnut-collared Swallow *Petrochelidon rufocollaris**: Dozens were seen around the town of Sabiango.

Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila plumbea*: Recorded on 5 days in the lower, drier parts of the west (e.g. Jorupe).

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* (H): Heard regularly at Maycu.

Gray-mantled Wren *Odontorchilus branickii*: Mike picked this one out of a flock in Zamora that gave lengthy views.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*: Noted on at least 7 days of the tour.

Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis*: A couple were seen by Casa Simpson, Tapichalaca.

Sedge (Grass) Wren *Cistothorus platensis aequatorialis*: One showed well near the refuge in Cerro de Arcos.

Fasciated Wren *Campylorhynchus fasciatus**: Conspicuous in the drier parts of the west (e.g. Jorupe, Catamayo).

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus*: 3 were seen beside the river in Nuevo Paraiso.

Plain-tailed Wren *Pheugopedius euophrys*: A pair was located inside a bamboo stand in Tapichalaca.

Whiskered Wren *Pheugopedius mystacalis*: A pair was seen in Buenaventura.

Coraya Wren *Pheugopedius coraya* (H): A few were heard along the road in Maycu.

Speckle-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius sclateri**: A few birds were found inside the deciduous forest at Jorupe.

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*: One showed eventually in Buenaventura.

Superciliated Wren *Cantorchilus superciliaris**: Heard regularly, and finally seen, at Zapotillo.

Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa*: A few were seen around Tapichalaca and Cerro Acamana.

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte* (H): One was heard at Copalinga Lodge.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* (H): Heard at Buenaventura.

Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*: Seen twice in Buenaventura, when everyone got good views in the end!

Musician Wren *Cyphorhinus arada* (H): This beautiful songster was heard in Maycu.

Cinclidae (Dippers)

White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus*: A big want for continent first-timers, we got 3 near Zamora.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

Long-tailed Mockingbird *Mimus longicaudatus**: Encountered regularly in the dry, lower parts of the west (5 days).

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

Spotted Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus dryas*: This beautiful songster was seen at Buenaventura.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*: This widespread migrant was located on 9 days of the tour.

Pale-vented Thrush *Turdus obsoletus* (H): Heard in the upper part of Buenaventura Reserve.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis*: 2 sightings, one in Valladolid and another in Rio Bombuscaro.

Ecuadorian Thrush *Turdus maculirostris*: Recorded on 3 days of the trip, at Buenaventura and Jorupe.

Plumbeous-backed Thrush *Turdus reevei**: Only encountered during our few days around Jorupe.

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis*: Particularly common around small villages in the east, like Nuevo Paraiso.

Marañon Thrush *Turdus maranonicus**: A few were seen just south of Valladolid.

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater*: Common in the highlands, recorded on 10 days.

Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco*: 3-5 birds were in our hotel garden in Cuenca.

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* (H): A few unseen birds were heard at Utuana and Tapichalaca.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: A few scattered sightings only, on 4 tour days (e.g. Guayaquil, Zapotillo).

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

Paramo Pipit *Anthus bogotensis*: One of the final trip additions, just outside El Cajas on our final day.

Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)

Orange-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia saturate*: A few at the center at Manglares Churute were the sole sightings.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris*: Encountered regularly, on 10 days.

Golden-rumped Euphonia *Euphonia cyanocephala*: Several seen in Yungilla Reserve were the only ones found.

Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonia *Euphonia chrysopasta*: One was found near Nuevo Paraiso.

Bronze-green Euphonia *Euphonia mesochrysa*: One was seen during a quiet morning in Rio Bombuscaro.

White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta*: A single male was found at Maycu.

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*: Recorded on at least 6 days and 4 locations.

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthogastrus*: A pair was seen in Buenaventura.

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*: Observed in Catamayo and in El Cajas.

Saffron Siskin *Spinus siemiradzkii**: A group were seen near Sozoranga.

Passerellidae (New World Sparrows)

Yellow-throated Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavigularis*: Recorded 5 days, in the foothills on both sides.

Ashy-throated Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus canigularis*: First at Buenaventura, then again in the eastern foothills.

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus*: A few were seen in Buenaventura on one day only.

Tumbes Sparrow *Rhynchospiza stolzmanni**: A handful were seen in both El Empalme and Zapotillo (2 days).

Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons*: A few were seen around Valladolid, Copalinga and Yankuam.

Gray-browed Brushfinch *Arremon assimilis*: 1 joined the Pale-headed Brushfinches at the Yungilla feeders.

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris*: Regular views of 2 from the tinamou blind at Copalinga.

Black-capped Sparrow *Arremon abeillei*: Recorded near San Antonio, Sozoranga and Jorupe (2 days of the tour).

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch *Arremon brunneinucha*: One came into a feeder at Casa Simpson a couple of times.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*: A common species, recorded on at least 10 days.

White-headed Brushfinch *Atlapetes albiceps**: This handsome endemic (3 birds) was seen near El Empalme.

Yellow-breasted Brushfinch *Atlapetes latinuchus*: Recorded at Utuana and Tapichalaca.

White-winged Brushfinch *Atlapetes leucopterus*: 1-2 parties were seen during a single afternoon above Sozoranga.

Pale-headed Brushfinch *Atlapetes pallidiceps**: 7 came to the Yungilla feeders; World population is c.120 pairs.

Bay-crowned Brushfinch *Atlapetes seebohmi**: At least 3 birds were seen one afternoon above Sozoranga.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

Peruvian Meadowlark *Leistes bellicosus*: Found 3 times: at La Lagartera, in Zapotillo, and at Catamayo airport (17).

Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons*: Only a handful of sightings near Yankuam.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*: Recorded regularly in the eastern foothills (e.g. Copalinga, Yankuam).

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*: Observed on 4 days, at Jorupe and in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

White-edged Oriole *Icterus graceannae**: Recorded on both of our days around Jorupe, including at their feeder.

Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas*: Conspicuous in Jorupe, and also seen in Yungilla.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*: Locally abundant on some of the journeys in the western lowlands.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*: A few were seen in the eastern foothills (e.g. Yankuam, Copalinga).

Scrub Blackbird *Dives waczewiczii*: Commonly encountered in the lowlands of the west (8 days of tour).

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*: A local species in Ecuador, recorded around Guayaquil and Puerto Jeli.

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava*: One was seen in rank grassland at Buenaventura.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*: Singles were seen on 2 days in Buenaventura.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi*: One of the most regularly encountered warblers, observed on at least 8 days.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*: A handful were seen in the eastern foothills, near Zamora, and Valladolid.

Three-banded Warbler *Basileuterus trifasciatus**: Seen first above Zaruma, and then again in Sozoranga & Utuana.

Citrine Warbler *Myiothlypis luteoviridis*: Seen in mixed bird parties in Tapichalaca, Cerro Toledo and near Saraguro.

Black-crested Warbler *Myiothlypis nigrocristata*: Noted on 5 days, e.g. Zaruma, Tapichalaca, Yungilla and El Cajas.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*: Observed several times around Buenaventura; also one in Maycu.

Gray-and-gold Warbler *Myiothlypis fraseri**: Regularly recorded in the western lowlands and foothills (7 days).

Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiothlypis coronata*: Recorded at Tapichalaca and in the lower part of El Cajas.

Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis*: A single of these migrants was seen in Podocarpus National Park.

Slate-throated (Whitestart) Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*: Noted on 6 days of the tour (e.g. Yankuam area).

Spectacled (Whitestart) Redstart *Myioborus melanocephalus*: Observed in Tapichalaca, Cerro Acanama & El Cajas.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

(Highland) Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*: 3 sightings in the Sozoranga/Utuana area.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*: 3 records on the tour, two from the eastern foothills.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*: One was seen near Nueva Paraiso.

Golden (Southern Yellow) Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysogaster*: Noted on 5 days (Sozoranga, Utuana & Yungilla).

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia cyanooides*: Chris photographed one at Buenaventura.

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

Black-faced Tanager *Schistochlamys melanopis*: A few were seen just south of Valladolid one afternoon.

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus*: A handful were seen in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Black-capped Hemispingus *Kleinotheraupis atropileus*: A pair was found in Tapichalaca.

Black-eared (Piura) Hemispingus *Sphenopsis melanotis piurae**: A confiding and feisty pair was seen in Utuana.

Superciliaried Hemispingus *Thlypopsis superciliaris*: A pair was found in a mixed flock near El Cajas NP.

Rufous-chested Tanager *Thlypopsis ornata*: A couple of these handsome birds were seen in Yungilla.

Flame-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus cristatus*: Picked up in mixed flocks about four times in Maycu.

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*: Noted on 3 days in the Buenaventura area.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*: Seen around the garden of Copalinga Lodge.

Flame-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Tanager *Ramphocelus flammigerus*: Observed daily in Buenaventura.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*: Abundant in the eastern lowlands/foothills, seen on 5 days.

Masked Crimson Tanager *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*: A single party was found in Maycu Reserve.

Orange-throated Tanager *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron**: ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR. Seen twice, once very well, in the Maycu Reserve, which was purchased to protect this exceedingly rare species.

A boyhood dream realised for Chris.

Hooded Mountain-Tanager *Buthraupis montana*: Recorded at two sites; Tapichalaca and near Saraguro.

Masked Mountain-Tanager *Buthraupis wetmorei**: Only Mike got to see one in a passing flock at Cerro Acanama.

Black-chested Mountain-Tanager *Cnemathraupis eximia*: 2-3 were seen at Cerro Acanama.

Grass-green Tanager *Chlorornis riefferii*: One of the classic Andean species, seen well at Tapichalaca.

Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus lacrymosus*: Noted on 5 days: e.g. Tapichalaca, Cerro Acanama.

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus igniventris*: A couple were flock attendees in El Cajas.

Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager *Dubusia taeniata*: 1 at Cerro Toledo, and an adult and juvenile at Tapichalaca.

Golden-crowned Tanager *Iridosornis rufivertex*: This beautiful tanager was seen at Tapichalaca & Cerro Acanama.

Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota*: One on old Loja-Zamora Rd; another in a bird party in Yungilla.

Orange-eared Tanager *Chlorochrysa calliparaea*: One of the highlights of our morning in Rio Bomuscaro.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*: The most regularly recorded tanager, on at least 13 days.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*: Recorded on at least 8 days of the tour, in lowlands and foothills.

Blue-capped Tanager *Thraupis cyanocephala*: Found twice, near Zaruma, and at Utuana.

Yellow-bellied Tanager *Ixothraupis xanthogastra*: Seen on 3 consecutive days in the eastern foothills (e.g. Maycu).
Spotted Tanager *Ixothraupis punctate*: Found in mixed flocks in Rio Bombuscaro and on the old Loja-Zamora Rd.
Silvery (Silver-backed) Tanager *Stilpnia viridicollis*: Recorded at 3 sites: Sozoranga, Utuana and Valladolid.
Masked Tanager *Stilpnia nigrocincta*: 3 birds were seen from Cabanas Yankuam.
Blue-necked Tanager *Stilpnia cyanicollis*: Recorded on 8 days, in Buenaventura, and in the eastern foothills too.
Blue-and-black Tanager *Tangara vassorii*: A single was noted at Tapichalaca.
Turquoise Tanager *Tangara Mexicana*: Our single sighting was a pair seen from Cabanas Yankuam.
Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis*: This spectacular tanager was seen at Copalinga and around Yankuam (4 days).
Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*: Noted on 8 days, regularly in Buenaventura and also in the eastern foothills.
Golden-eared Tanager *Tangara chrysotis*: Another stunner, seen twice around Valladolid.
Green-and-gold Tanager *Tangara schrankii*: Regularly recorded in mixed flocks in the eastern foothills of the Andes.
Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus*: Recorded twice in the eastern foothills and also in the west, at Buenaventura.
Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*: A pair was seen in Buenaventura, our only record.
Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*: Recorded 4 times, including in Rio Bombuscaro and near Yankuam.
Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata*: This dazzling species was observed at Copalinga and near Yankuam.
Yellow-bellied Dacnis *Dacnis flaviventer*: An individual was found along the road near Yankuam.
Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*: A single bird was located in the garden of Copalinga Lodge.
Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*: Several males were encountered in Maycu in the eastern foothills.
Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*: Recorded regularly at the feeders both in Buenaventura and Copalinga.
Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira*: A large, overwhelming mixed flock held this species on the Old-Loja Zamora Rd.
Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis* (GO): Sam saw one briefly at Maycu Reserve.
Giant Conebill *Conirostrum binghami*: One of the most wanted birds on the final day; a pair was located in El Cajas.
Blue-backed Conebill *Conirostrum sitticolor*: Recorded 3 times, including in Tapichalaca and Cerro Acanama.
Cinereous Conebill *Conirostrum cinereum*: Observed on 3 days, including in Cuenca and Valladolid.
Glossy Flowerpiercer *Diglossa lafresnayii*: Noted in temperate forests at Cerro Toledo & Cerro Acanama (2 days).
Black Flowerpiercer *Diglossa humeralis*: Recorded on all 3 days at high altitude (Cerro de Arcos & El Cajas).
White-sided Flowerpiercer *Diglossa albilatera*: 2 sightings; near Zaruma and in Utuana.
Rusty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa sittoides*: A single bird was found in our hotel garden in Cuenca.
Masked Flowerpiercer *Diglossa cyanea*: Recorded on 7 days: e.g. Tapichalaca, Cerro Toledo, El Cajas.
Tit-like Dacnis *Xenodacnis parina**: A handsome bird seen at several polylepis spots on the final day in El Cajas.
Plumbeous Sierra-Finch *Geospizopsis unicolor*: This paramo species was seen at Cerro de Arcos & El Cajas.
Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch *Geospizopsis plebejus*: Seen once, near Sozoranga.
Black-headed Hemispingus *Pseudospingus verticalis*: 4 at Cerro Toledo, and a pair near Saraguro.
Gray-hooded Bush Tanager *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*: 2 were seen by the Jocotoco feeding area at Tapichalaca.
Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*: Observed on 8 days in the western lowlands and foothills (e.g. Buenaventura).
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*: Recorded on 5 dates, including at Catamayo.
Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco*: About thirty birds were seen at Catamayo.
Drab Seedeater *Sporophila simplex*: One was located by the airport at Catamayo.
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris*: Recorded once, on the journey to Yankuam.
Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Sporophila funerea*: A single was seen at La Lagartera.
Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch *Sporophila angolensis*: A handful was seen on the journeys in and out of Yankuam.
Black-billed Seed-Finch *Sporophila atrirostris*: 3 birds were seen on the journey between Yankuam and Zamora.
Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*: Recorded twice: at Manglares Churute and in the Jorupe area.
Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis*: Noted twice: Buenaventura and near Valladolid.
Plain-colored Seedeater *Catamenia inornate*: Twice noted in the paramo at El Cajas NP.
Red-crested Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus*: A male and female regularly came into the feeders at Copalinga.
Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*: Recorded on at least 12 days, including daily at the Buenaventura feeders.
Dull-colored Grassquit *Asemospiza obscura*: Recorded once, a party of 4 south of Valladolid.
Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*: Recorded 6 days, including at the feeders of Buenaventura & Copalinga.
Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens*: Seen once, south of Valladolid.
Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*: Recorded on 5 days, including multiple times at Jorupe.
Black-cowled Saltator *Saltator nigriceps**: 1 was seen calling from the treetops near the village of Utuana.

MAMMALS

Common Opossum *Didelphis marsupialis*: 1 was seen in Jorupe.

Venezuelan Red Howler *Alouatta seniculus*: A small group of 3-5 animals was seen on the journey to Yankuam.

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*: 1 was seen at Buenaventura.

Guayaquil Squirrel *Sciurus stramineus*: Regular in the Jorupe area; also at Manglares Churute.

Amazon Dwarf Squirrel *Microsciurus flaviventer*: 1 was seen in Podocarpus NP.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*: A few were seen around the cabins at Umbrellabird Lodge.

Lowland Paca *Cuniculus paca*: 1 came in to the corn feeder over dinner at Copalinga.

South American Coati *Nasua nasua*: A mischievous group were regular scavengers at Umbrellabird Lodge.

Kinkajou *Potos flavus*: 1 was seen during a short nightwalk at Buenaventura.

Brazilian Rabbit (Tapeti) *Sylvilagus brasiliensis*: A few were seen in Jorupe and also in El Cajas.

OTHER ANIMALS

Black-collared Snake *Drepanoides anomalus*: 1 was seen at Jorupe.

Cope's Vine Snake *Oxybelis brevirostris*: Jeffrey discovered this one at Buenaventura.



It may have taken two attempts, but views like this of the normally difficult **Gray Tinamou** made the return trip to Copalinga well worth it (Chris Sloan).