

**AMAZON RIVER CRUISE:
A BIRDING AND NATURAL HISTORY
ODYSSEY, NORTHEASTERN PERU
JANUARY 10 TO 20, 2013**

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TOUR REPORT
AMAZON RIVER CRUISE
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January 10–20, 2013

By Steve Hilty

In a large and diverse avifauna such as that of the Iquitos area, much of one's enjoyment comes from the sum of visiting the many different habitats in which birds live and in observing their behaviors—their unusual, often novel songs, duets, and breeding activities. We made a point of visiting as wide a variety of habitats as possible, including river islands with their early successional growth stages, *várzea* (or floodplain) forests, riverbank and creekside habitats, moriche palm groves, and *terra firme* or high ground forest, all with the aim of a more well-rounded Amazonian experience. A few people also visited an Amerindian community, or went fishing one afternoon.

The great complexity and diversity of a rainforest avifauna is, perhaps, better illustrated in western Amazonia than anywhere else in the world. Our daily routine varied somewhat, but generally included early morning and mid-afternoon ship departures to explore small creeks, or work along the forested riverbanks of the Amazon, Ucayali, and Marañon. After spending a week searching for some of the avifaunal pieces in this greatest of all natural jigsaw puzzles, we came away with a better appreciation of how this diversity fits together. And, not all the pieces were in the forest. There is a rich and varied river island fauna. There was a sprinkling of long-distance migrants (e.g. Eastern Kingbird; Yellow Warbler; Barn and Bank swallows), and there were both white water (muddy really), and black water streams. Each of these components contributes, in various ways, to the overall diversity of birds in Amazonia.

For decades the Iquitos area has been under intense pressure from hunting and trapping of birds and mammals for food, and it was once an important supplier of caged wildlife and wildlife products for international markets. The results of this history of persecution are immediately obvious to naturalists—species that are edible, or have value for their hides, feathers, or for cage purposes, are absent or rare. More recently, selective cutting of trees for lumbering has become a problem, even in remote areas. This, combined with a dramatic increase in human population during this same period of time, suggests a future of hard decisions and discipline if Iquitos is to remain as wild as it is now, much less return to its more pristine earlier condition. Nevertheless, the Iquitos area remains one of the top rainforest destinations anywhere in the New World with an overall diversity that may just be the highest anywhere in the world. And, there are some encouraging signs such as daily sightings of large macaws (albeit still in small numbers) and parrots.

During our weeklong trip we experienced only a single small rain delay of about an hour one afternoon, but we did have one night with a dramatic thunderstorm. Most days were partly cloudy to cloudy and pleasant, with afternoons of sunny skies and higher temperatures and humidity. Water levels were quite high again this year (as in 2012), and certainly higher than is normal at this time of year. High water brings floating material (flotsam) moving down the major rivers, and one afternoon we even observed a Horned Screamer placidly riding a small log that was drifting downriver. High water permitted easy access even to small creeks. This is an advantage for birding and an important reason for visiting at this time of year. A downside to high water is that it may bring more mosquitoes, although we experienced few or no mosquitoes during our boat excursions; one forest walk in *terra firme* forest was an

exception, although one rarely goes anywhere inside lowland rain forest without encountering at least a few mosquitoes.

Our ship's crew did a great job of feeding us and looking after us, even bringing cool towels into the field, and the coolers both shipboard and on the skiffs were always well-stocked with cold water. Muddy boots were cleaned and dried after our land-based excursions, and on some evenings a band appeared to play during happy hour—actually a different band each evening, but always with the same musicians. Our mornings and late afternoons were filled with plenty of new and exciting birds, and this trip ranks as likely the best cruise for mammals that David and I have experienced since we began doing these trips some eight years ago. The week went quickly and a lot of adventure and learning was compressed into a relatively short span of time. Contrasting our first day along the coast with the utterly different Amazon experience, one begins to appreciate the tremendous diversity of habitats and wildlife that Peru offers to those who are willing to spend the time and effort to visit them. We thank all of you for participating in this cruise and hope to see you again soon.

Itinerary:

January 11 (Friday). Day of birding and observing along the coastal region south of Lima. Sites included the Pantanos (marshes) of Villa, and the fishing village of Pucusana.

Jan 12 (Saturday). Late morning departure from Lima to Iquitos, this followed by a brief birding stop along the Iquitos waterfront (called Belém) and superb lunch at a local restaurant called Fitzcaraldo, which served some of the best fish of the trip! Following lunch we boarded our ship, the “Aguamarina,” and then left, shortly thereafter, for a brief mid-afternoon outing, visiting some early successional stage vegetation on a river island within sight of Iquitos, before our late afternoon embarkation from the harbor at Iquitos.

Jan 13 (Sunday). Very early departure for Caño Yacapana (east bank of Amazon) which is near Tam but we were unable to enter the small curassow reserve (on foot) because of high water. Despite this disappointment Caño Yacapana proved to be one of the most bird-rich sites of our trip and we ended the day with well over a hundred species of birds, in large part due to the diversity of birds along this creek.. Our morning trip also included a brief visit to a lodge called Amazon Paradise Lodge. During the late afternoon we visited the Caño Yarapa and stayed until after dusk to search for owls and Potoos.

Jan 14 (Monday). Morning at Caño Sapuena, a blackish water creek that led to a large lake, all comprising a south bank tributary of the Río Ucayali. During late morning we made a few stops along the south bank of the main Ucayali channel and then visited Isla Cedro, a river island with extensive cane (*Gynerium* sp.) along the shore where we found Parker's Spinetail and a few other island species. Mid-day we continued up the Río Ucayali, passing the sizable town of Requena (population estimated at 35,000) and in the late afternoon explored a small stream called Caño Faucett, which is about 30 minutes above Requena. We anchored close to Dorado Creek late tonight.

Jan 15 (Tuesday). We spent the morning on Dorado Creek, a long and substantial black water river known for its diversity of raptors, and it did not disappoint as one group enjoyed good views of a Tiny Hawk here. During mid-day we moved further upriver, anchoring near Sapote (also spelled Zapote) creek, another black-water creek, where we spent the late afternoon following a brief mid-afternoon rain shower.

Jan 16 (Wednesday). Early morning on Sapote Creek (several hours above the town of Requena). Sapote Creek is one of the more pristine sites we visit and did not disappoint with a combined total of 19 species of raptors this morning as well as, sloths, Squirrel Monkeys, Monk Saki monkeys, extended scope views of an adult dark phase Crested Eagle (Hilty boat) and brief views of two Scarlet Macaws attacking a Harpy Eagle in flight (Ascanio boat). We spent the afternoon a short distance downstream on the Caño Yuracocha (which consists of a large blackwater lake and one of the blackest blackwater creeks I have ever visited. Afternoon birding was light but the area and the sunset were lovely and peaceful. Our highlight may have been a large roost of egrets observed just at dusk in fading light of a beautiful sunset.

- Jan 17 (Thursday). We spent the morning along Yanallpa Creek (apparently pronounced Yanashpa), the smallest and narrowest muddy water creek we visited and certainly one of the more productive for birding. Late morning we visited an even narrower creek named Iricaua Creek, which despite the late morning heat, proved surprisingly productive with a lovely Collared Trogon and Lemon-throated Barbets and other species for both groups. Our afternoon outing consisted of three options—a native community visit (Paranapura Village), a fishing trip (Huvos Oxbos), and a very productive (and very hot and humid) afternoon birding trip along a small creek passing Libertad Village. Shopping was available at the village. All of these sites were along the Río Ucayali (but close to its junction with the Marañon) and we passed this important junction shortly after dark and began moving up the Río Marañon, repositioning the mother ship Aquamarina for our land-based excursion tomorrow morning. Evening lecture (river islands) followed by the local band.
- Jan 18 (Friday). Early morning departure from ship for our only terra firme (upland) walk continuing from the elegant Samiria Lodge into a pasture, then second growth and finally into good primary terra firme forest. It was an interesting introduction to interior forest birding and a stark contrast to our creekside birding. For part of our group we opted to visit another small creek called Chiriyacu Creek, which was on the north bank of the Río Marañon and about 10-15 minutes upriver from the Samiria Lodge. We spend a remarkably bird-free late afternoon journey down a river island-cut channel and then up a small black water creek. We reason that the remarkably low bird activity this afternoon could have been related to the unusually cool temperatures this afternoon and evening. Nevertheless, the creek was beautiful and we enjoyed just being in such a lovely setting. Lovely and extended sunset, music from Johnnie and the local band, and a final farewell following dinner and checklist.
- Jan. 19. (Saturday). Early morning pre-breakfast birding run to a river island zone near Iquitos where Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, Purple Gallinule, Black-and-white Antbird, Red-and-white Spinetail, White-bellied Spinetail (hard to see) and a Cinereous Becard provided most of our sightings. Mid-morning drive through Iquitos and mid-day departure from airport for flight back to Lima where day rooms and some time to repack and prepare for international flights was welcome. Most guests departed on international flights late tonight with a few staying overnight for flights tomorrow.

KEY:

Asterisk (*) = heard only

Boldface blue: North American breeders

Boldface black: rare or infrequently seen or of interest for other reasons

SH - Steve Hilty; DA - David Ascanio

Note: the words “caño” and quebrada” are largely interchangeable and equivalent to “creek” or small stream in English]

BIRD LIST: (Taxonomy follows Clements checklist with updates)

Tinamous, TINAMIDAE

*Great Tinamou, *Tinamus major*, heard by DA on forest walk

*Cinereous Tinamou, *Crypturellus cinereus*, heard by DA group on the forest walk

*Little Tinamou, *Crypturellus soui*, heard by DA in flooded forest area

*Undulated Tinamou, *Crypturellus undulatus*, heard by DA on the forest walk

Screamers, Anhimidae

Horned Screamer, *Anhima cornuta*, heard and seen daily with numbers varying from 2-3 to up to a dozen; 1 seen stoically riding a driftwood log downriver (Ucayali) during an afternoon rain

Ducks & Geese, Anatidae

Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata*, 3-6+ seen on at least 4 separate days (most sightings were of pairs)

Guans and Chachalacas, Cracidae

Speckled Chachalaca, *Ortalis guttata*, seen on the 13th, 14th and briefly on the 19th; loud voice

New World Quail, Odontophoridae

*Marbled Wood-Quail, *Odontophorus gujanensis*, heard on terra firme forest walk by DA

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, almost daily but in small numbers (mostly 1-15; some larger groups of 20-30 at dawn on the 14th)

Anhinga, Anhingidae

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*, singles seen on four different days

Hérons & Egrets, Ardeidae

Rufescent Tiger-Heron, *Tigrisoma lineatum*, 1 heard after dark on the 13th by SH group; 1 seen by the “fishing” group led by Segundo

Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*, scattered individuals along riverbanks daily

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, 2-100+ daily along rivers; some small (5-7) very high-flying groups that appeared to be birds undergoing migratory movements (due to rising water levels?); large roost at dusk on 16th

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, small numbers almost daily

Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, apparently a few the last evening (19th) near Iquitos

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*, singles daily in numbers up to ca. 50; commonest heron

Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*, 2-5+ seen almost daily along rivers; spectacular plumage

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, seen on at least 4 different days; large day roost with 40+ individuals in cane on river island on afternoon of the 13th; many with a mixed rookery of egrets on evening of 16th

Ibises & Spoonbills, Threskiornithidae

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, singles or pairs seen in flight over creeks a few times; perhaps seen best on last morning (Chiriyacu Creek) when two crossed in good view in front of boat

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, daily; large numbers around Iquitos; small nos. elsewhere

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, small numbers daily; all of the ones we saw were residents told by narrow whitish nape band

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes burrovianus*, Iquitos; and in grassy open areas along rivers where typically soars/glides low; fairly common but seldom more than 1-3 daily

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes melambrotus*, remarkably few on this trip (soars higher than Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and always over forested areas); we saw only 2-3

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 1-2 seen on four different days (including our last morning at Iquitos); in western hemisphere known to breed only in North America; all are non-breeder in S America but some are present year-round)

Hawk & Eagles, Accipitridae

Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cyanensis*, 2 seen along Sapote (Sapote) Creek; one observed in scope from boat

Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, 1 seen and studied in scope (from boat) on Sapote Creek; this bird was a male in an intermediate plumage perhaps closest to a dark morph adult

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, a couple flocks (6-10+ individuals) along main Ucayali channel on late morning of the 14th and on 17th

Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, a bit local but 1-several seen almost daily; DA reported 1 apparent migratory flock of 30+ birds on morning of the 14th

Slender-billed Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, 2-6+ seen on four separate days; perched and flying

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*, 1-6 seen almost every day; perched and showing long wings protruding and also in flight; most numerous along Sapote Creek

Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*, up to 15 or more daily; this “fishing” hawk is one of commonest raptors along river and creek edges of western Amazonia

Tiny Hawk, *Accipiter superciliosus*, 1 seen by SH group along Dorado Creek and another that same afternoon along Sapote Creek; scarce and infrequently seen little *Accipiter* and perhaps the only time I have ever seen two individuals of this species in the same day; the Dorado bird appeared to be a subadult with slightly brownish upperparts; the Sapote bird was a full adult

Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*, 1-2 seen on the 14th and 15th and 16th

Slate-colored Hawk, *Leucopternis schistaceus*, 1-6+ seen on most days; common in swampy forest

Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*, adults and a couple immatures daily along riverbanks and creeks; perhaps fewer seen with high water (often seen walking on sandbars and river banks when water is low)

Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*, daily along river edges; the “Riverside” hawk

Short-tailed Hawk, *Buteo brachyurus*, 1 seen on morning of the 13th

Crested Eagle, *Morphnus guianensis*, 1 rare dark phase adult seen by SH group (and observed through scope from boat on upper Sapote Creek); only the 2nd time we’ve recorded this rare species on our cruise trips

Harpy Eagle, *Harpia harpyja*, 1 adult seen briefly in flight by part of DA group on Sapote Creek; this individual was being attacked by a pair of Scarlet Macaws and it flew in rapid twisting flight in an attempt to evade the macaws; unfortunately seen only briefly [but remarkable that both this species and a Crested Eagle were seen on same day and within less than 1 km of each other]

Black Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*, 1 individual seen on 14th while boat driver was attempting to fix a problem with an outboard engine!

Caracaras & Falcons, Falconidae

Collared Forest-Falcon, *Micrastur semitorquatus*, 1 seen by DA group and heard by SH boat group along Dorado Creek

Buckley’s Forest-Falcon, *Micrastur buckleyi*, 1 seen along Sapote Creek (same bird seen by both groups); notably scarce and local species; both groups enjoyed excellent studies of this bird

Black Caracara, *Daptrius ater*, singles or pairs on 3 or 4 days

Red-throated Caracara, *Ibyster americanus*, 3 seen very well along Dorado Creek by both groups; low density and wide-ranging raptor with highly specialized foraging behavior (often raids paper wasp nests for larvae; and also eats fruit)

Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*, daily and one of the commonest raptors

Laughing Falcon, *Herpetheres cachinnans*, 1 seen along south bank of Río Ucayali morning of 14th

Bat Falcon, *Falco rufigularis*, singles or pairs on 4 separate days

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, 1 seen on morning of the 16th

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, 1 seen along waterfront in Iquitos the day of our arrival

Rails and Gallinules, Rallidae

*Gray-necked Wood-Rail, *Laterallus exilis*, 1 heard evening of 17th

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*, immature seen on morning of 18th near Chiriyacu Creek; a couple adults seen on morning of 19th on short early morning excursion out of Iquitos dock

Azure Gallinule, *Porphyrio flavirostris*, 1 on the 15th; 4 on the 16th; and another the last morning (19th) out of Iquitos; most sightings were of flushed birds in flight

Finfoots & Sungrebe, Heliornithidae

Sungrebe, *Heliornis fulica*, heard frequently every day but seen only 1 time on the morning of the 16th; (difficult to see when high water allows them to move back into forest and under deeper cover; but they do frequently feed on grasshopper nymphs and adults in grass and emergent aquatic vegetation along creek margins)

Limpkin, Aramididae

Limpkin, *Aramus guarauna*, 1 seen perched well up in tree along banks of Ucayali

Plovers & Lapwings

Pied Lapwing, *Vanellus cayanus*, 5 seen on the 14th; another on the 17th and a pair on the 18th; few present because of high water and absence of sandbars which causes most individuals migrate away to areas of higher ground

Jacanas, Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*, daily in varying numbers but mostly singles, pairs or a few scattered birds in loose groups; two nests found including on the top of a giant water lily (Regina Victoria) and another in floating water lettuce

Sandpipers & allies, Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, scattered individuals were seen on 5 separate days; no more than 1-2 on each day

Gulls & Terns, Laridae

Large-billed Tern, *Phaetusa simplex*, 20-50+ daily on Ríos Amazon and Ucayali with various groups massed on driftwood or fallen branches along rivers and creeks

Yellow-billed Tern, *Sternula superciljaris*, 20-30 daily on Ríos Amazon and Ucayali but most common on upper portions of the Ucayali that we visited; fewer around Iquitos

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*, Iquitos

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*, singles or pairs seen on 3 days

*Plumbeous Pigeon, *Columba plumbea*, several heard but apparently not seen

Ruddy Pigeon, *Columba subvinacea*, singles heard almost daily; seen on at least 2 separate days; in one case close enough to see its red eyes

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columba talpacoti*, a couple seen along the Ucayali riverbank near Requena; another on the 16th; scarce in heavily forested areas

Gray-fronted Dove, *Leptotila rufaxilla*, mostly heard; a couple were seen flying across Chiriyacu Creek the last morning and possible also seen perched by part of our group (this is a forest species that overlaps only minimally with White-tipped Dove which is mainly on river islands and may move out of area during high water)

Parrots & Parakeets, Psittacidae (16 species recorded)

Maroon-tailed Parakeet, *Pyrrhura melanura*, pairs and 1 small flock reported on 3 separate days; a forest canopy species

White-eyed Parakeet, *Aratinga leucophthalma*, seen mainly in early morning when noisy groups were seen flying overhead recorded on the 13th and 15th and 18th; on Chiriyacu Creek 1 was seen perched close for a few moments

Dusky-headed Parakeet, *Aratinga weddellii*, daily along rivers; much more numerous than previous species

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severus*, pairs along Ucayali where surprisingly scarce) this year; seen on 15th and 16th and 17th; seen perched along Sapote Creek

Scarlet Macaw, *Ara macao*, pair recorded on Dorado Creek and another over Sapote Creek

Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna*, up to 4 pairs reported on four separate days; most numerous over Dorado and Sapote Creek

Red-bellied Macaw, *Orthopsittaca manilata*, scattered pairs or small groups most mornings; a few at a large dying “morichal” along river (Moriche Palms grow in very wet soil or in water and the large number of dead and dying palms we observed may have been the result of the river cutting into the swamp and draining it); singles and pairs seen almost every day of trip but most observations were of birds in flight

Blue-winged Parrotlet, *Forpus xanthopterygius*, a pair or two seen twice on river island and river edge sites; uncommon

White-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus*, multiple flocks of 20 to 100s daily along all creeks; dazzling flocks are a characteristic part of avifauna in this region; given boldface because this species is such an integral part of the western Amazonian river edge experience

Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanoptera*, numerous flocks daily most of which were seen in flight; quite similar to next species (see) which is largely confined to river edges and islands

Tui Parakeet, *Brotogeris sanctithomae*, pairs or small groups almost daily along river; a river edge bird; distinguished by yellow forehead and reddish bill and white eyes (but at a distance much like Cobalt-winged Parakeet)

Short-tailed Parrot, *Graydidascalus brachyurus*, 10-100s most days; only taller riverine forest and riverine *Cecropia*; noisy and screechy but only a few seen perched

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*, almost daily but mainly singles or pairs in flight high overhead (surprisingly low numbers); deep mostly “below the horizontal” wing beats

Festive Parrot, *Amazona festiva*, pairs or a few pairs seen in flight almost daily; red back stripe generally not visible but we were able to see it on a pair or two; mainly Dorado and Sapote Creek

Orange-winged Parrot, *Amazona amazonica*, one of the commonest *Amazona* parrots with a 10-50 or more seen on mornings of the 13th and 14th and 18th (Chiriyacu Creek)

Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*, a few seen or heard on 5 mornings; large green parrot with deep throaty voice; largest *Amazona* parrot

Hoatzin, Opisthocomidae

Hoatzin, *Opisthocomus hoazin*, great views of at a few on evening of the 14th (Caño Faucett); also heard on evening of 16th at edge of large black water lake; surely one of Amazonia’s strangest birds; molecular genetics apparently has now confirmed that it really is an ancient lineage (something long suspected but never proved) and not especially closely related to cuckoos; probably does not belong here in this taxonomic order

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Little Cuckoo, *Piaya minuta*, seen on morning of 13th and 15th; heard on the 17th; secretive

*Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, remarkably we did not actually see this relatively common species (was it nesting and thus quiet?)

Pheasant Cuckoo, *Dromococcyx phasianellus*, 1 seen along Sapote Creek

Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*, daily in numbers (flocks) large and small on morning of 14th DA reported a group estimated at 175 moving across a creek and through forest; on mornings of 16th and 17th SH reported flocks of at least 225 and 200+ respectively in similar manner flowing across streams and off into forest; a species in need of study to document local or migratory movements

Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*, common; daily in settled areas and along open grassy areas along riverbanks and river islands

Owls, Strigidae

Tropical Screech-Owl, *Megascops choliba*, 2 seen on evening of 13th (by one boat group; heard by other group);

*Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, *Megascops watsonii*, 1 heard on evening of 15th along Sapote Creek

Ferruginous Pygmy-owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*, 1 seen on the 15th along Sapote Creek; heard on 16th and 17th

Nightjars & Allies, Caprimulgidae

Short-tailed Nighthawk, *Lurocalis semitorquatus*, 1 at dusk on evening of 13th

Sand-colored Nighthawk, *Chordeiles rupestris*, seen on 12th and 13th and 17th

Band-tailed Nighthawk, *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*, 1 seen by SH at dusk at mouth of Yuracocha Creek; possible a couple others in gathering dusk (light to low to distinguish this small all dark bird); scarce and local here but common northward

Common Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*, apparently only heard on evening of 13th;

Ladder-tailed Nightjar, *Hydrosalis climacocerca*, males and/or females flushed and seen perched on at least 4 separate days (mornings and evenings)

Potoos, Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*, at least 5 spotted on day roosts (thanks especially to Johnny and to Jaime) and 1 additional bird seen at night

Common Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*, 1 seen in flight on evening of 15th

Swifts, Apodidae

Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*, seen on 14th and 16th and 17th and 18th; mostly small groups identified by broad wings and short tail

Pale-rumped Swift, *Chaetura egregia*, 1 dipped low once over Sapote Creek; distinctly pale almost whitish rump area identifies this relatively large swift but few saw this bird because of woodcreepers and woodpeckers being observed at the same time

Unidentified *Chaetura* swifts seen several times overhead

Fork-tailed (Neotropical) Palm-Swift, *Tachornis (Reinarda) squamata*, daily over all rivers but usually in vicinity of *Mauritia* palms (where they nest)

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsutus*, singles on the 16th and 18th

White-bearded Hermit, *Phaethornis hispidus*, 1 on forest walk by DA group

Reddish Hermit, *Phaethornis ruber*, 1 seen on morning of 14th

Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*, singles seen on at least 3 or 4 mornings

Blue-chinned Sapphire, *Chlorostilbon (Chlorestes) notata*, 1 seen at *Combretum* spp. on 16th; a couple others seen on 17th and 18th

Olive-spotted Hummingbird, *Leucippus chlorocercus*, 1 seen in early successional vegetation and disturbed area at edge of village of Libertad on late afternoon of the 17th; at least 3-4 others were heard here and later another individual was seen suggesting a small colony (singing lek?) of these birds here; remarkably dull little river island specialist and often the only hummer in this scrub habitat

Glittering-throated Emerald, *Amazilia fimbriata*, commonest hummer in area; almost daily

Trogons, Trogonidae

Black-tailed Trogon, *Trogon melanurus*, heard daily and seen almost daily; one of the commonest trogons in this flooded forest (várzea) lower Ucayali region

Green-backed Trogon (a split from White-tailed Trogon), *Trogon viridis*, 1-2 seen on 4 separate mornings surely one of the more misleading names for such a beautiful bird

Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris*, beautiful male seen late morning on the 17th along Iricaua Creek by both groups

Motmots, Momotidae

Amazonian (formerly Blue-crowned) Motmot, *Momotus momota*, mostly heard on several mornings but also 1 seen on the 16th along Sapote Creek; a recent split

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*, 15-40+ daily; commonest kingfisher (at least the most conspicuous); we observed a small river bank nesting colony (at least 4 nest holes visible but many more birds visible in area) a short distance above the Samiria Lodge

Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazona*, daily; somewhat fewer than previous species

Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*, only a few but fairly common along Dorado Creek

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle inda*, seen in flight flying low up small streams on a few occasions (hard to see when water is high and this species remains back inside forest); not seen perched

Pygmy Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle aenea*, 3 quick sightings of birds flying low over creeks and disappearing into vegetation

Puffbirds, Bucconidae

Black-fronted Nunbird, *Monasa nigrifrons*, common and seen daily

Swallow-winged Puffbird, *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*, singles or pairs seen in treetops mid-day or afternoons almost daily; Elliott noted that they seem to perch up high in open only in mid-day or afternoons; as far as I know none were observed on any early morning boat excursion

Jacamars, Galbulidae

White-eared Jacamar, *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*, most numerous jacamar; pairs and families of up to 6 seen repeatedly each day

Bluish-fronted Jacamar, *Galbula cyanescens*, 1-2 pairs on 4 days; seen (on both sides of Ucayali) were believed to be this species but potential or actual overlap with very similar White-chinned Jacamar (*G. tombacea*) is possible; we could not see any evident white feathering on chin

Barbets, Capitonidae

Scarlet-crowned Barbet, *Capito aurovirens*, common and seen daily in canopy of river edge trees;

*Gilded Barbet, *Capito auratus*, 1 heard on forest walk on last morning (18th) by DA group

Lemon-throated Barbet, *Eubucco richardsoni*, spectacular study of male and female (approaching in response to playback) late morning along Iricaua Creek

Toucans, Ramphastidae

Lettered Araçari, *Pteroglossus inscriptus*, singles or pairs on 4 separate days

Chestnut-eared Araçari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*, 2-8+ seen on 3-4 days; this is THE river edge Araçari

Many-banded Araçari, *Pteroglossus pluricinctus*, 1 seen flying across Sapote Creek (in front of SH boat) but no others seen accompanying it; may represent a tiny range extension or documentation of presence of this species on south side of Río Marañon.

Ivory-billed Araçari, *Pteroglossus azara*, 1 seen by DA group on *terra firme* forest walk

White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan, *Ramphastos cuvieri*, singles seen on 3 mornings and heard on a fourth morning; seems rather uncommon in area

Woodpeckers, Picidae

Bar-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus aurifrons*, 1 seen and identified as this species (DA group) but with some debate because underparts markings changed from barring on breast to spotting (rather than streaking) on lower underparts; seen on morning of 15th on Sapote Creek; identification provisional

Plain-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus castelnau*, singles seen on 13th and again very well in afternoon of 18th; river edges and disturbed creekside vegetation; not rare but confined to river islands and river edges where found in younger vegetation

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cruentatus*, seen on at least 4 days but most numerous along Caño Yacapana; high stubs

Little Woodpecker, *Veniliornis passerinus*, river islands and river banks where seen in early successional vegetation including cane (*Gynerium*) and sapling; in western Amazonia almost exclusively a "river island" and disturbed river edge species; seen on 13th and 16th; heard on 17th and last morning on 19th

Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes (Chrysoptilus) punctigula*, singles or pairs on river islands and younger river bank vegetation at least four mornings; a beautiful species that afforded us several opportunities to view it to advantage

Chestnut Woodpecker, *Celeus elegans*, seen along Yacapana Creek (both groups) and afternoon of 15th along Sapote Creek

Cream-colored Woodpecker, *Celeus flavus*, singles and pairs and groups of 4-5 seen (and also heard) almost daily; one of the handsomest *Celeus* woodpeckers

Ringed Woodpecker, *Celeus torquatus*, 1 individual seen quite well along Sapote Creek by SH boat group; everywhere a notably low-density species due to its large foraging/home range and consequently often difficult to find with any regularity

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus* individuals seen twice; told by narrow facial stripe and widely separated white “suspenders”

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*, males or females seen on at least 3 mornings; female told from female of previous species by broad white facial stripe and “suspenders” that button (meet) in mid-back

Ovenbird and allies, Furnariidae

Pale-legged Hornero, *Furnarius leucopus*, seemed rather quiet on this trip; heard on the 14th and a pair seen (not particularly well) on the 18th near along river bank about 1 kilometer above the Samiria Lodge on north bank of Río Marañon

Lesser Hornero, *Furnarius minor*, we saw only 1 individual of this species and it was on the tin roof of a building along the waterfront in Iquitos; normally on sand bars with driftwood and low grass which were completely flooded during our trip

Pale-billed (Bay) Hornero, *Furnarius torridus*, 1 heard on the 14th but we were unable to see it

Dark-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albigularis*, seen on at least three occasions; river islands (e.g. Cedro Island on the 14th); river edges with grass and shrubs

White-bellied Spinetail, *Synallaxis propinqua*, river island species that proved difficult to see (as usual); our only views (albeit brief) were the very last morning out of Iquitos where one bird barely showed itself in low morning glory vines and *Tessaria* sp shrubs but did call and respond

Parker’s Spinetail, *Cranioleuca vulpecula*, found in river island cane (Cedro Island) on the 14th where everyone had good view; a; this is another species found primarily in cane on river islands and river banks; usually quite responsive to song playback

Speckled Spinetail, *Cranioleuca gutturata*, 1 seen foraging with mixed species flock late morning on the 17th along Iricaua Creek; a forest species that we seldom see from boats

Yellow-chinned Spinetail, *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*, 1 seen by DA group (and photographed) on morning of the 14th on Caño Sapuena (or Supay) above Requena; a widespread species across northern S America but scarce and local as far south as Leticia (Colombia); this record is possibly a small range extension; a competitor with Red-and-white Spinetail for grass and shrub habitat along river edges and on river islands

Red-and-white Spinetail, *Certhiaxis mustelina*, surprisingly common even with high water; various pairs seen daily; river island bird that favors grass and bushes

Orange-fronted Plushcrown, *Metopothrix aurantiaca*, 1 seen on the 13th and a little group of 3 seen foraging in foliage of various river-edge trees late morning along Caño Iricaua; cute and warblerlike in appearance despite genetic affinities with the furnariids; generally in younger creekside vegetation but also occasionally fairly high in more mature trees along creeks (as where we saw it along the Iricaua; not rare but can be hard to find

Point-tailed Palmcreeper, *Berlepschia rikeri*, a pair in *Mauritia* palms along river edge near Requena on the 14th just before noon; seen by both groups (only a single bird by second group but this bird perched up full in open for several minutes); a low-density *Mauritia* palm specialist that is found nowhere else except in groves of *Mauritia* palms (but not in all colonies of these palms which are high localized themselves in areas with permanently wet soil)

*Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner, *Philydor pyrrhodes*, 1 heard on morning of 14th was unresponsive to playback

Slender-billed Xenops, *Xenops tenuirostris*, 1 on the 15th; another along the Caño Iricaua on the with a mixed species flock on the 17th

Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*, 1 seen on the 15th

Woodcreepers (subfamily Dendrocolaptinae); now merged within Furnariidae

White-chinned Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla merula*, 1 individual likely this species (based on voice and plumage) observed by DA on the Caño Yacapana (south bank of Ucayali near its mouth); generally a low-density army-ant follower but apparently not seen with ants; identification provisional

Olivaceous Woodcreeper, *Sittasomus griseicapillus amazonus*, 2 individuals seen; generally a widespread and fairly common species (or species group); note subspecies because this species likely to be split into multiple species in the future; seen on the 15th and 17th

Long-billed Woodcreeper, *Nasica longirostris*, several seen beautifully on at least 3 separate days and heard on at least 2 more days; spectacular and mainly a várzea species in Amazonia

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, *Dendrozetetes rufiflora*, enigmatic woodcreeper that looks and often acts more like a foliage-gleaner than a woodcreeper; seen on 13th and 16th (mornings); its long ripping call heard on other mornings and evenings

Strong-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus, heard on 13th (morning) and 15th in late evening (Sapote Creek)

Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*, seen only on 15th and 17th but a common species found low along creeks and rivers

Zimmer's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus kienerii*, this range-restricted species was seen along Sapote creek by DA group on the 15th and again on the 17th; occurs only along small creeks where it overlaps with Straight-billed Woodcreeper; the two are best told by voice rather than plumage which is exceedingly similar (Zimmer's marginally browner)

Striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*, heard along most creeks; seen quite well a couple times on the 13th and 14th

Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*, seen on at least 3 separate days and heard more or less daily; commonest woodcreeper in Amazonia although we did not see a great many of them

Antbirds, *Thamnophilidae*

Fasciated Antshrike, *Cymbilaimus lineatus, 1 heard on the 17th along Caño Yanallpa but apparently unresponsive to playback of its characteristic slow song of 4-5 slurred notes noted by SH and Lindsay

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*, heard almost daily; we observed one male along Sapote Creek; then a pair on the afternoon of the 17th beyond the village of Libertad on south bank of Ucayali

Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis*, pair at mouth of Caño Yanallpa Creek; male and female seen well by all parties

Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, heard almost daily along river borders; seen only on the 17th at mouth of Caño Yanallpa by part of group

Plain-winged Antshrike, *Thamnophilus schistaceus*, 1 male seen by part of group along Caño Yanallpa

Castelnau's Antshrike, *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*, a difficult species to see (and we proved this once again); heard on the 14th; then seen late in evening on the 16th in *Cecropia* and undergrowth shrubs along a channel of the Yuracocha; the bird (a male) perched in open but remained relatively distant

Pygmy Antwren, *Myrmotherula brachyura*, heard daily but only a single male bird was seen on the 15th; this tiny species typically stays high and is difficult to observe

Amazonian Streaked-Antwren, *Myrmotherula multistriata*, pairs seen on the 13th (p.m.) and 17th (Caño Iricaua) and heard most other days; male like a "Black-and-white Warbler" with a short tail and longer heavier bill

Plain-throated Antwren, *Myrmotherula huxwelli*, males seen by DA group on *terra firme* forest walk

Gray Antbird, *Cercomacra cinerascens* 1 bird high in trees seen on the 16th by DA group

Blackish Antbird, *Cercomacra nigrescens*, male and female seen (female less well) in river edge vegetation the last full morning along Caño Chiriyacu Creek (about 1 km above the Samiria Lodge) by SH group

Black-tailed Antbird, *Cercomacra melanurus*, several pairs heard and a male (and/or male and female) seen exceptionally well by both groups; brilliant red eyes; a **very local swamp forest and black-water species**; we have not been successful in locating this bird every year; seen on the 13th along Caño Yacapana

Peruvian Warbling-Antbird, *Hypocnemis peruviana*, 1 seen on *terra firme* forest walk by DA group; also heard by SH on the 16th

Yellow-browed Antbird, *Hypocnemis hypoxantha, 1 heard on *terra firme* forest walk

Band-tailed Antbird, *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*, pairs seen very well on the 15th and 17th along Dorado Creek and Yanallpa Creek

Black-and-white Antbird, *Myrmochanes hemileucus*, 1 seen on Cedro Island (below Requena) on the 14th; but seen best the last morning out of Iquitos when we watched a bird forage in the open for an extended period of time; observed capturing 2 medium-sized caterpillars; a species found in *Tessaria* sp. and other early succession plants on river islands and adjacent river banks

Silvered Antbird, *Sclateria naevia*, pairs seen very well on the 13th and 15th on Yacapana and Dorado Creek; loud song

Plumbeous Antbird, *Myrmeciza hyperythra*, seen well by all groups; one male and female pair seen exceptionally well along Dorado Creek; heard almost daily

Black-throated Antbird, *Myrmeciza atrothorax*, 1 male seen (with some difficulty) on the 14th and another on the 17th; a widespread Amazonian species but difficult to see

White-shouldered Antbird, *Myrmeciza melanoceps*, 1 male seen quite well on the 14th along the Caño Sapuena by SH group; highlighted here because this interior forest species is one that we do not normally see from boats

Scale-backed Antbird, *Willisornis poecilinotus*, 1 male seen on *terra firme* forest walk by DA group near Samiria Lodge

Black-spotted Bare-eye, *Phlegopsis nigromaculata*, 1 surprising male was actually seen quite well when it approached our playback (from boat along Caño Sapuena) and perched about 15 feet up in a shrub where it was clearly visible to virtually everyone on the boat; a first (!) highlighted here because this difficult-to-see-species (even when we are land-based) has never been seen from a boat by any of our previous cruise groups; an army-ant following species of várzea and transition forest

Antthrushes, Formicariidae

Rufous-capped Antthrush, *Formicarius colma*, 1 seen on *terra firme* forest walk by DA group at Samiria Lodge

Antpittas, Grallariidae

*Thrush-like Antpitta, *Myrmothera campanisona*, heard on *terra firme* forest walk by DA group at Samiria Lodge

Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, at least 3 seen at various sites including at mouth of the Caño Yanallpa; note peaked slightly bushy crest and cocked tail but otherwise undistinguished

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannous elates*, heard daily and seen a couple times including one at mouth of Caño Yanallpa; it will be better remembered by its call, which sounds like “free beer”

Yellow-crowned Elena, *Myiopagis flavivertex*, a couple seen along small streams

Slender-footed Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius gracilipes*, 1 seen by DA group on the 17th although not a species that is likely to make much of an impression

Slender-footed Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius gracilipes*, appears to have only been heard along Yanallpa Creek and seen there by some although its name will make more of an impression than its appearance

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, *Stigmatura napensis*, seen the first afternoon on short boat trip out of Iquitos and again seen very well the last morning on short boat trip also out of Iquitos; a charismatic river island specialist of *Tessaria* sp. and *Salix* sp shrubs

Spotted Tody-Tyrant, *Todirostrum maculatum*, we saw pairs (and also heard them) in river edge and creekside shrubbery on almost every morning or afternoon

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*, a couple seen high in trees; a tiny bird that looks like a large bumblebee high in canopy; not rare but difficult to spot

Yellow-olive Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphurescens insignis*, one along Caño Iricaua by SH group; another also seen by DA group on the 13th; this is the dull Amazon river race which shows only weakly-indicated wing markings and duller head pattern; call was a single loud SEEK, repeated about 3 times at rate of 1/sec or less

Gray-crowned Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*, another member of this difficult genus that was heard along Caño Sapuena (not really seen well by anyone because it was so high up in a tree); another apparently seen on the 18th on forest walk; a widespread but difficult-to-see Amazonian species that few will find inspiring or memorable (even if they saw it)

Eastern Wood Pewee, *Contopus virens*, 1 seen well along Caño Sapuena by SH group and apparently also this same bird seen by DA group later in morning; a N American migrant

Fuscous Flycatcher, 1 seen in dense shrubs late on a very hot and muggy afternoon near the village of Libertad on the 17th; another rather nondescript flycatcher with longish tail and flat head that lives in wet shrubby undergrowth

Drab Water Tyrant, *Ochthornis littoralis*, along riverbanks; we did not see many probably because of high water

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*, several pairs seen in marshy places where males perch on low shrubs where they are conspicuous with blackish bodies and white heads

Cinnamon Attila, *Attila cinnamomeus*, common in flooded forest and swampy areas and heard daily; single or pairs seen on the 13th and 15th and 17th; striking rufous plumage becoming golden yellow on rump and belly

Dull-capped (White-eyed) Attila, *Attila bolivianus*, seen along Dorado Creek and Sapote Creek; big fierce white eyes; now officially called (again) Dull-capped Attila (pronounce name *at-TIL-a*) by SACC but they certainly should have retained the more frequently used and more appropriate name of White-eyed Attila

Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*, seen in a few places with younger river edge vegetation including at mouth of Yanallpa Creek

Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*, daily along rivers and creeks at various heights

Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus (Philohydor) lictor*, daily along creeks where always low and close to water; voice (a burry “squeeze-me ba-by”) utterly unlike that of Great Kiskadee but we did not hear it often

Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*, seen or heard at a few sites

Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*, seen daily; THE common small flycatcher with a kiskadee look-alike head pattern
Gray-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*, seen only on the 13th and 18th
Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*, seen in stands of river island *Cecropia* a couple times toward end of trip
Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*, its loud whistles heard almost every morning; seen on the 14th and again on that hot muddy afternoon on the 17th near the village of Libertad
Sulphury Flycatcher, *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*, 1 seen in at mouth of Caño Yanallpa; a Tropical Kingbird look-alike but almost always in or near moriche palms)
Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, daily; common and conspicuous; at this time of year most are residents; austral migrants (from Argentina and Brazil) augment local populations from ca. Apr to Sept
Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, we saw more than might have been expected this trip with flocks of 5-150+ seen on five or six days; most birds were sallying from canopy for insects or eating fruit

Cotingas, Cotingidae

Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*, seen on the 13th along Yacapana Creek; heard once later in trip; distinctive whistles easily imitated; more common in *terra firme* regions
Amazonian Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus ornatus*, 1 female seen on the 14th and a male seen by Elliott and Chris on the 15th (from the cabin of their room on the mother ship no less!) while we were anchored off mouth of the Dorado Creek
Plum-throated Cotinga, *Cotinga maynana*, from one to four or five males were seen almost every morning (little blue spots in the canopy!); brownish females were seen as well although less frequently; males are spectacular and typical of *várzea* forest and river edge trees where they sit up in display (the display is mainly just sitting and showing off their dazzling color in early morning sunlight) each morning
Bare-necked Fruitcrow, *Gymnoderus foetidus*, seen almost every day with a large group in excess of 20 flying across the Caño Yacapana (apparently a local movement and this one mostly of males with only 1 female noted); others noted frequently and mostly flying quite high over creeks

Manakins, Pipridae

Striped Manakin, *Machaeropterus regulus*, 1 on *terra firme* forest walk
Blue-crowned Manakin, *Lepidothrix (Pipra) coronata*, male on *terra firme* forest walk
Wire-tailed Manakin, *Pipra filicauda*, 1 male seen along Caño Yacapana (while we also were attempting to see the Black-tailed Antbird); a species of low-lying forest

Tityras & allies, Tityridae

Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*, seen on at least 3 separate days
Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*, 4 birds seen on the 13th along Caño Yacapana but none later in trip
Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*, singles or pairs on 4 separate days
Várzea Schiffornis, *Schiffornis major*, heard almost daily 1 bird seen exceptionally well (for this species!) as it flew back and forth and eventually perched in front of us repeatedly along Dorado Creek; formerly called Greater Manakin
Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*, male seen the last morning out of Iquitos in river island shrubs
White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*, males were seen well on several occasions including the Caño Yacapana; Caño Yanallpa and Chiriyacu

Vireos & Greenlets, Vireonidae

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus* (or if split *Vireo chivi*, seen on the 14th on Isla Cedro river island; a half dozen or more heard along the Caño Chiriyacu on Río Marañon above the Samiria Lodge; this is a resident form with a simple two-note call; some austral (southern) migrants present ca. Apr to Sept

Crowns & Jays, Corvidae

Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*, seen on Dorado Creek on the 15th; heard on a couple other days; not a numerous species in the low-lying flooded-forest areas that we visited

Swallows & Martins, Hirundinidae

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, daily; some apparent roosting groups of 15-30+ individuals seen in small bare bushes at head of Caño Yanallpa and elsewhere; obviously with water levels high this species is not nesting now but there is certainly much to learn about its seasonal behavior and habits as is true of many of the commonest species here in western Amazonia; whether the species is even a resident in not is not known for sure

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*, a few at Iquitos and 10 or more at mouth of Caño Sapuena; another small group along Ucayali; apparently resident but some local or minor geographical movements likely

Brown-chested Martin, *Progne tapera*, one large roosting group of 400+ birds in early morning in a single bush in marshy area of the Río Marañon near the mouth of the Caño Chiriyacu (upstream from Samiria Lodge); these birds had smooth brownish chest bands typical of the resident race but apparently this species gathers in large groups when not nesting (?)

White-winged Swallow, *Tachycineta albiventer*, daily; common over all rivers and in pairs or little groups of less than a dozen perched on stick just above the water

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia* among the numerous flocks of Barn Swallow there were almost always a smaller number of individuals of this species present; on the 14th at mouth of Caño Sapuena we observed a large flock of a 100+ almost all of which were of this species and with few Barn Swallows; a North American breeder

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, daily in varying-sized flocks up to a few hundred including some flocks of ragged heavily molting juveniles of the previous year; several large groups on the 15th and 16th (Dorado Creek and Sapote Creek); a North America breeder (at least all of these birds)

Wrens, Troglodytidae

Thrush-like Wren, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*, heard most days; pairs seen high in trees several times including the first full morning on Caño Yacapana

Coraya Wren, *Pheugopedius coraya*, pair seen well by both boat groups at mouth of Caño Yanallpa

Buff-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus leucotis*, heard everywhere along creek sides; a few seen with diligent playback

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, heard (seen?) in Iquitos

Scaly-breasted Wren, *Microcerculus marginatus*, 1 heard and seen on Samiria Lodge forest walk

Gnatcatchers, Polioptilidae

Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila plumbea*, 1 seen along Dorado Creek

Donacobius, Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius, *Donacobius atricapilla*, heard or seen every day; wonderful tail-wagging display; now in a family of its own (this species has a checkered taxonomic history that may yet undergo more revision)

Thrushes, Turdidae

Hauxwell's Thrush, *Turdus hauxwelli*, 1 seen along Caño Yacapana; also heard along Dorado Creek

Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, Iquitos and scattered individuals or pairs daily along river edges and river islands

*White-necked Thrush, *Turdus albicollis*, 1 heard but not seen

New World Warblers, Parulidae

Yellow Warbler, *Setophaga petechia*, 1 in young successional growth shrubs and vines on river island near Iquitos the first afternoon; a North American breeding migrant

Tanagers, Thraupidae

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, a couple were seen along waterfront in Iquitos and at least 1 more along Dorado Creek; molecular genetics place it with tanagers and not in a separate family (despite being indicated as such on checklist); decidedly uncommon in western Amazonia and a dull-plumaged subspecies here as well

Hooded Tanager, *Nemosia pileata*, pairs or little groups 3-5 were seen daily in all areas where there were *Cecropias* or moderately open trees along river banks

Orange-headed Tanager, *Thlypopsis sordida*, we saw 1 along the waterfront in Iquitos and a pair (or trio?) on the hot muggy afternoon of the 17th near the village of Libertad (on south bank of Ucayali near its mouth)

Pearly-breasted Conebill, *Conirostrum margaritae*, seen on the same hot muggy afternoon as the previous species when a group of 3 responded well to tape playback near the village of Libertad; *Cecropia* specialist on river islands; quite local and always a good find

White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus*, 1 seen with a mixed species flock along the Caño Yanallpa; a species more typical of treefall openings inside forest canopy than of river edges

Masked Crimson Tanager, *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*, stunning plumage and common enough that it was seen daily in small groups along river and creek edges; we enjoyed numerous breath-taking views of this species

Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*, daily; common but fewer than previous species

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, daily; fairly common close to rivers; not nearly as numerous in natural environments as in settled areas and towns

Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*, only seen a couple times on the trip including 2-3 on Dorado Creek; generally scarce along rivers and in forested areas

Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*, 1 bird seen on the 14th near Requena
Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*, singles or groups up to about 9-10 were seen or heard distantly several times but fairly close only a time or two; a spectacular small tanager
Yellow-bellied Dacnis, *Dacnis flaviventer*, a male the first full morning along Yacapana Creek and thereafter seen several times later in the week
Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*, 1 male seen on the 17th along the Caño Yanallpa was the only sighting
Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*, for some reason not very obvious on this trip; we saw a couple along the Caño Yacapana and one the last morning along the Chiriyacu (above the Samiria Lodge); it was heard a few times in early to mid-stage successional growth along rivers

Finches & Sparrows etc, Emberizidae

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, we saw a couple the first afternoon near Iquitos but thereafter none; a widespread species but uncommon species in western Amazonia (unlike in drier areas where it is often abundant)
Caquetá Seedeater, *Sporophila murallae*, mostly single males seen on 4 different days; resident or seasonally present (depends upon sufficient grass seeds) in grassy and marshy areas
Double-collared Seedeater, *Sporophila caerulescens*, 1 male seen quite well the first morning in a grassy marsh near the Yacapana site
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila castaneiventris*, river islands and riverbanks; common and seen daily
Chestnut-bellied (Lesser) Seed-Finch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*, our only sighting appears to be one male seen on the afternoon of the 17th near the village of Libertad on south bank of Ucayali near its mouth
Large-billed Seed-Finch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*, a male (large and black with small white wing speculum and massive whitish bill) and a brown female together in large grassy marsh at mouth of the Caño Chiriyacu (upstream on Río Marañon from Samiria Lodge); the first time we have recorded this species here on our cruises although it is apparently fairly widespread here seasonally; its presence doubtless depends upon available seed crops; unfortunately this species may not have been seen by anyone else except SH because it flew before others could find it; unresponsive to song playback
Red-capped Cardinal, *Paroaria gularis*, daily along rivers, creeks and lakes
Yellow-browed Sparrow, *Ammodramus aurifrons*, a few each day along river edges and on river islands

Cardinalids, Cardinalidae

*Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, *Habia rubica*, heard on morning of the 13th

Blackbirds etc., Icteridae

Oriole Blackbird, *Gymnomystax mexicanus*, river islands and riverbanks throughout trip; gorgeous additions to riverbanks!
Velvet-fronted Grackle, *Lamprosar tanagrinus*, one group of 8-9 birds were seen on our afternoon visit to Caño Sapote; the next morning we saw three more along the Sapote; little or not vocalization
Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, curiously scarce; we noted only 5-6 female-plumage birds (young?) near the mouth of the Caño Chiriyacu (upriver from the Samiria Lodge) and again the last morning out of Iquitos
Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, scattered birds almost daily along river edges and island; in a few places alarmingly numerous as at Libertad (south bank of Ucayali near its mouth)
Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*, scattered individuals but not seen daily; mainly river edges and flying along river borders; parasitize mainly the Russet-backed Oropendola (and other large oropendolas)
Orange-backed Troupial, *Icterus croconotus*, we saw 1 along the Caño Yacapana and another on the 17th near the village of Libertad on south bank of Ucayali near its mouth; also heard the last morning near Iquitos
Solitary (Black) Cacique, *Cacicus solitarius*, heard and seen a few times including most notably on the afternoon of the 17th near the village of Libertad on south bank of Ucayali near its mouth when a pair were present with 1 bird perched in full view
Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*, daily; common; many nest colonies with nests clumped together (and now you know why!); possible the most numerous birds in the entire region
Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*, daily; very common with conspicuous nest colonies noted everywhere but curiously we saw no other species of oropendola on this trip

Siskins & Goldfinches & Euphonias, Fringillidae

Purple-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia chlorotica*, males or male and female pairs seen on 3 different days and heard along the Caño Yacapana as well; primarily a river-island and river edge species here
Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia lanirostris*, only 1 male seen; Caño Yacapana

Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*, 1 male seen by everyone in parasitic clumps of mistletoe in trees on Dorado Creek

White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*, males seen at least twice including by everyone when it was in or near mistletoe along Dorado Creek; a species that stays high in treetops where it was difficult to see this species' white under tail coverts; smaller than most other euphonias

LIST OF MAMMALS, HERPS and miscellaneous critters:

Sloths, Bradypodidae

Brown-throated three-toed Sloth, *Bradypus variegatus*, at least 7 or more seen at various sites including one climbing a tall tree the last afternoon before our return to Iquitos (CentroAmerica area)

Bulldogs Bats, Noctillionidae

Fishing (or Bulldog) Bat, *Noctilio leporinus* (and possibly other species of fishing bats), seen in evenings and on night excursion; mostly rather low over water; a large bat with distinctly rufous coloring

Sheath-tailed Bats, Emballonuridae

Long-nosed Bat, *Rhynchonycteris naso*, groups clinging in crevices of large tree buttresses and beneath tree trunks overhanging creeks; distinctly spotted or freckled with white on their backs

Marmosets & Tamarins, Callitrichidae

Pygmy Marmoset, *Cebuella pygmaea*, one pair seen by all parties along Sapote Creek in the afternoon; the smallest primate in the New World; kept as pets they can be carried in ones shirt pocket; scurry rapidly up and down dense vine tangles and feed by biting small holes in the bark of certain trees causing sap to flow on which they feed; colonies may remain for years in a small area as long as their favored tree sap can be obtained; the pair we observed remained for 10 minutes or more on a branch where one animal searched through the fur of another (apparently) for parasites

Saddleback Tamarin, *Saguinus fasciollis*, only one group seen (by 1 boat party); morning of the 16th along Sapote Creek; a great "leaper" as moves from trunk to trunk and higher up runs along large branches in squirrel-like manner; very cute!

New World Monkeys, Cebidae

Dusky Titi-Monkey, *Callicebus moloch*, a family of about 4 were seen along the Caño Sapuena by 1 boat party were we observed them at length in some mid-level vines; creek; these animals were quite and did not respond to playback but they often are quite noisy at dawn uttering raucous *Wauk-a, Wauk-a, Wauk-a . . .* vocalization that can be heard for nearly a kilometer

Common Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri sciureus*, several small troops were encountered in trees along banks of creeks; seen most days

Brown Capuchin, *Cebus apella*, a couple groups seen with Common Squirrel Monkeys; rather shy (doubtless due to hunting)

Monk Saki Monkey, *Pithecia monachus*, a family of about 4 adults and some offspring that were now able to move on there own (not clinging to the female) were observed at remarkably close range along the Caño Sapote by all parties; black with grayish white face; this species rather similar to Equatorial Saki which differs in being blackish with grayish white face (rather than with buffy brown underparts (not rusty) and less clearly defined whitish face; that these animals did not flee despite our close position and noise indicates that this area is not subject to hunting

Night Monkey (Owl Monkey), *Aotus* sp. (rufous-necked form), group of 4 seen in a tree hole about 6 m up (from boat) on Caño Yanallpa; very cute and charming little animals with rufous faces and large dark eyes; truly a nocturnal species that sleeps during the day and forages only at night; low hooting calls at night often betray its presence

Red Howler Monkey, *Alouatta seniculus*, this species was seen by the fishing party on the afternoon of the 17th at Huvos Oxbow lake; also heard distantly on a couple other days

White-bellied Spider Monkey, *Ateles belzebuth*, 1 seen by the "fishing party" on afternoon on the 17th on the Huvos Oxbow lake; a good find as this species is widely persecuted (as a meat source)

Squirrels

Bolivian Squirrel, *Sciurus ignitus*, seen a few times during course of trip; relatively small and dull-colored species

Spiny Rats & Tree Rats, Echimyidae

*Amazon Bamboo Rat, *Dactylopsys* sp., we heard its remarkably loud gattling-gun like rattle call during our night outing; this rat lives in trees and bamboo
Yellow-crowned Brush-Tailed Tree Rat, 1 seen peering out from a tree hole about 0.4 up at lake edge along Sapote Creek; seemed remarkably confident and easy to see even during our mid-day discovery of these animals; seen by both groups

Dolphins

Pink River Dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*, seen daily and in numbers especially at mouths of creeks and also well upstream of some moderate-sized creeks; most individuals look distinctly pink when they surface and show only a small knob-like dorsal fin
Gray River Dolphin, *Sotalia fluviatilis*, seen several times although distinctly less numerous than previous species; gray and has narrow and thin dorsal fin

Reptiles and Amphibians:

Caiman Lizard, *Dracaena* sp. (presumably *guianensis*) (Teiidae), 2 (or 3) of these large orange-headed adults seen; all basking on relatively low branches; 1 or 2 overhanging Yanallpa Creek; another the last morning along Chiriyacu Creek; always a good find as these large (nearly 4 feet long) creatures are decidedly uncommon; often eats snails

Amazon Green Iguana, *Iguana iguana*, we saw large adult iguanas almost daily; also a smallish and younger greenish one; old ones mainly grayish

Olive Whip Snake, 1 seen swimming Chiriyacu Creek

Invertebrates:

Blue Morpho butterflies

Owl butterfly (also known as *Caligo* Butterfly); a crepuscular species

Preying Mantis

Cicadas (including many coming aboard ship one evening)

Mosquitoes (plenty of these on the forest trails but rather few elsewhere)

Pink-toed Tarantula, several including some very fuzzy young ones

Rainbow Grasshopper, small clearings

For easiest identification of frogs and herps see: Bartlett, R. D. & P. Bartlett. 2003. *Reptiles & Amphibians of the Amazon. An Ecotourist's Guide*. Univ. Florida press.

PART II. LIST OF BIRDS SEEN IN LIMA-PUCUSANA AREA: January 11, 2013

Dusks & Geese, Anatidae

Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*, Pantanos de Villa; 25+ at Pantanos de Villa

White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis*, 15+ at Pantanos de Villa

Ruddy (Andean-Ruddy) Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis (ferruginea)* if split, <10 at Pantanos de Villa

Grebes, Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*, Pantanos de Villa (5+)

Great Grebe, *Podiceps major*, Pantanos de Villa (1)

Boobies, Sulidae

Peruvian Booby, *Sula variegata*, Lima coast (1000s)

Pelicans, Pelecanidae

Peruvian Pelican, *Pelecanus thagus*, Lima coast (est. 100+ total)

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*, Lima coast (est. 1000s)

Guanay Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*, Lima coast (1000s)

Red-legged Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax gaimardi*, Pucusana (<100)

Hérons & Egrets, Ardeidae

Great Egret, *Egretta alba*, Lima coast (ca. 6)

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, 10+

Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, Pantanos de Villa (1 small group in flight)

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*, Pantanos de Villa (2)

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Pantanos de Villa (2-3)

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, 1 (Pantanos de Villa)

Ibises, Threskiornithidae

Puna Ibis, *Plegadis ridgwayi*, Pantanos de Villa, 2-3+; (migrant from high Andean elevations)

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, many around Pantanos de Villa

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, a couple at Pucusana

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 2 at Pantanos de Villa

Hawks and Kites

Harris's Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*, 1 immature bird at Pantanos de Villa visitor center)

Falcons & Caracaras, Falconidae

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, 1

Rails & Coots, Rallidae

Plumbeous Rail, *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*, largely unresponsive to playback; 1 was seen by Daphne as it ran across a small opening; we did hear it a few times

Common Gallinule (Moorhen), *Gallinula chloropus*, Pantanos de Villa (est. 6+)

Slate-colored Coot, *Fulica ardesiaca* (includes all Andean forms), Pantanos de Villa (2 dozen or more)

Thick-knees, Burhinidae

Peruvian Thick-knee, *Burhinus superciliaris*, 2 seen near Pantanos de Villa (always a good find as this species is now in severe decline and being forced to occupy marginal sites like golf courses and school yards and city parks)

Plovers and Lapwings, Charadriidae

Semipalmated Plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa lake

Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*, 15-20+ (Pantanos de Villa marshes)

Oystercatchers, Haematopodidae

American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*, 8+ on beach (Pantanos de Villa)

Blackish Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ater*, 15+ at Pucusana

Avocets & Stilts, Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*, Pantanos de Villa (3-4)

Sandpipers etc, Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, 3 at Pantanos de Villa

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*, at least 100+ at Pantanos de Villa marshes

Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*, 50+ at Pantanos de Villa marshes

Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*, 100+ at Pucusana

Surfbird, *Aphriza virgata*, 30+ birds in winter plumage flock at Pucusana

Sanderling, *Calidris alba*, apparently 1 was seen by some member of the group

Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla*, 2 (or more?) at Pantanos de Villa

Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*, only 1 Pantanos de Villa

Gulls & Terns, Laridae

Gray-headed Gull, *Chroicocephalus* (formerly *Larus*) *cirrocephalus*, ca. 20 (Pantanos de Villa); beach and inland lagoon; none appeared to be in breeding plumage
Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus* (formerly *Larus*) *pipixcan*, est. 10,000 or more birds massed on beaches and inland lagoons and street lights at Pantanos de Villa and Lima and Pucusana; nonbreeding plumage
Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull, *Larus belcheri*, est. 100+; all beach and water areas; common
Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*, 2 seen along outer coast at Pucusana; not obvious to me why this species is so scarce the last few years
Inca Tern, *Larosterna inca*, 1000s in Pucusana (where they were everywhere in huge numbers)
Sandwich Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, at least 50-75 seen resting on boats at Pucusana; could have been many more than this number
Elegant Tern, *Thalasseus elegans*, at least 500+ on Pantanos de Villa beaches mixed with Sandwich Terns and Franklin's Gulls and others; also many at Pucusana
Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*, total of 5 individuals along beach at Pantanos de Villa

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

Feral (Rock) Pigeon, *Columba livia*, settled areas
Pacific Dove, *Zenaida meloda* (formerly *asiatica*), very common (Lima and all along coast)
Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, many in park by Hotel Olivar
Croaking Ground-Dove, *Columbina cruziana*, a few in Olivar Park by Hotel Olivar

Parrots & Parakeets, Psittacidae

White-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus*, flock of 35+ in flight over Hotel Olivar on our return from day trip to Pucusana; seen by only a few members of our group; an Amazonian species that is obviously an escaped exotic here; now common around city

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, roadside in Pantanos de Villa

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

Amazilia Hummingbird, *Amazilia amazilia*, 1 in park by Hotel Olivar the last morning where it was harassing the pygmy-owl

Owls, Strigidae

Peruvian Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium peruanum*, 1 seen in Olivar Park in Lima; resident here but hard to find and only the second time we have seen it here

Ovenbirds, Furnariidae

Surf (Peruvian Seaside) Cinclodes, *Cinclodes taczanowskii*, 1 on rocky coast at Pucusana
Wren-like Rushbird, *Phleocryptes melanops*, 1 seen well at Pantanos de Villa

Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, 1 or 2 in Olivar Park in Lima
Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, *Tachuris rubrigastra*, 5-6 immature birds at Pantanos de Villa; an abundance of immature birds seems to be the norm at this time of year (but where are the adults?)
Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, 15+; mostly dusky in Lima; mostly red outside city
Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, Lima area; plus another bird in heavy molt at Pantanos de Villa, which we ultimately believed to be a Tropical Kingbird (but only after considerable discussion)

Swallows, Hirundinidae

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon* (formerly *Notiochelidon*) *cyanoleuca*, several dozen; several along cliffs in region of Barrio Barranco and Barrio Chorillos immediately south of the Barrio of Miraflores (beach area in Lima); also at Pantanos de Villa
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa

Wrens, Troglodytidae

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, common voice; 1 or 2 were seen in Olivar Park

Mockingbirds & Thrashers, Mimidae

Long-tailed Mockingbird, *Mimus longicaudatus*, a couple at Pantanos de Villa

Tanagers, Thraupidae

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, 1 or more in Olivar Park in front of Hotel Olivar; dull subspecies

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, Lima area (seen by some of group)

Sparrows etc, Emberizidae

Chestnut-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila telasco*, we had excellent views of 2 males that perched up allowing scope views at Pantanos de Villa

Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*, 1-2 in grass in park in Lima

Grassland Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis luteola*, 2 in flight at Pantanos de Villa (seen only by a few people)

Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*, mostly Lima area where friendly and numerous

Blackbirds, Icteridae

Scrub Blackbird, *Dives warszewiczi*, several noisy birds in Olivar Park the last morning before leaving for Iquitos

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, 2 males in tall reeds just back from beach at Pantanos de Villa; in scope but not close

Old World Sparrows, Passeridae

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, Lima

MAMMALS ON LIMA COAST:

South American Sea Lion, *Otaria flavescens*, many seen loafing on rocks and cliff ledges during our boat trip (these creatures are huge!)

Squirrel, *Sciurus sp.*, in park in Lima; unidentified species that is introduced here; apparently this species is native to northern Peru; called White-bellied Squirrel although this name may not be widely accepted