

**AMAZON RIVER CRUISE: A BIRDING
AND NATURAL HISTORY ODYSSEY,
NORTHEASTERN PERU**

[LIMA BIRD LIST INCLUDED SEPARATELY AT END]

MARCH 20 - 30, 2014

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TOUR REPORT
AMAZON RIVER CRUISE
A BIRDING AND NATURAL HISTORY ODYSSEY
March 20–30, 2014

By Steve Hilty

We opted to go further up the Ucayali this year and forego a short visit to the Río Marañon because we feel the wilder upper section of the Ucayali offers better opportunities for birding and mammal viewing than does the Marañon, which has more Amerindian settlements and a far greater number of villages, gardens, and human intervention. During our weeklong trip we experienced essentially no delays due to rain. Most days were cloudy to partly cloudy and pleasant with spectacular late afternoon skies and some gorgeous sunsets. Water levels were a little higher than in January, but still several meters below peak levels, which were clearly indicated by watermarks on trees. Rising river levels bring an abundance of floating material (flotsam) down the major rivers, and on a number of occasions we observed Snowy Egrets and other birds “rafting” downriver on driftwood. High water also permitted easy access to oxbow lakes, flooded marshes, and even the smallest creeks, as well as river islands. This is an advantage for birding and an important reason for visiting during the high water period of the year, which is generally December or January through May or June. High river water levels, of course, have almost nothing to do with rainfall around Iquitos, but are determined by rainy seasons far to the north and south in the Andes and other river tributaries.

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 generally included early morning and late afternoon ship departures to explore small creeks or work along the forested riverbanks of the Amazon or Ucayali and small tributaries. After spending a week searching for some of the avifaunal pieces in this greatest of all natural jigsaw puzzles, we hopefully came away with a better appreciation of how this diversity fits together. And, not all the pieces are in the forest. We discovered a rich and varied river island fauna and witnessed firsthand a remarkable overnight roost of White-winged Parakeets and Yellow-rumped Caciques. We also observed firsthand a remarkable example of long distance migration of mostly young Fork-tailed Flycatchers from southern (Austral) regions, all of them moving northward across Amazonia during their austral winter season. Simultaneously, the Fork-tailed Flycatchers were joined by many flocks of Eastern Kingbirds beginning their northward movement. Other long-distance migrants in smaller numbers included Barn Swallows, a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, and a few Yellow-green Vireos, all moving northward for the boreal summer.

We also experienced white water (muddy really), and black water streams (but a bottle of this water isn't really that black, as we found out!), both of which contribute, in various ways, to the overall diversity of birds in Amazonia. 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. To this end we tried to visit as wide a variety of habitats and microhabitats as possible including river islands, *várzea* forest, and moriche palms among others.

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. However, we have noticed that in the past few years we are beginning to see macaws and large parrots in greater numbers again, and this year, once again, we surely saw more Blue-and-yellow Macaws than on any previous trips, as well as a remarkable increase in the number of sightings of Monk Saki Monkeys. All of this is a gratifying sign of improvement.

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 be the highest anywhere in the world.

Our ship's crew did a superb job of feeding us and looking after us, even bringing cool towels into the field. The coolers, both shipboard and on the skiffs, were always well-stocked with cold water. Muddy boots were cleaned and dried after the land-based excursion to the village. On most evenings the ship's bands (several names but always the same musicians) played during happy (or was it "Harpy") hour. The week went quickly and a lot of adventure and learning was compressed into a relatively short span of time. Three lectures filled brief afternoon spots, as did a couple of map overviews given by Johnnie. 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:

- Mar 20 (Thursday), Arrival in Lima
- Mar 21 (Friday), Day along the coast from Lima to the Pantanos de Villa (marshes) and fishing village of Pucusana. Visits included the beach and marshes at Pantanos de Villa, a boat trip at Pucusana, and a brief stop along the banks of the Lurín River (which had considerable water flow) on our return to Lima.
- Mar 22 (Saturday). Late morning departure from Lima to Iquitos and a thirty-minute delay before we could land at Iquitos because of a heavy rain and low clouds. Late lunch at the Restaurante Fitzcaraldo (light rain alternating with brief periods without rain). After lunch we spent a few moments birding immediately across the street at the waterfront (even it was raining lightly) before taking a bus to Explorama headquarters from which we boarded the "Estrella Amazonia." We embarked from Iquitos at about 5:30 p.m. for the short ride northward on the Río Itaya where we then soon entered the true Amazon River. Thereafter, after dark, we gradually set course southward and upriver.
- Mar 23 (Sunday). Early departure for Río Tahuayo (a south bank tributary of the Río Amazon) and it provided a good introduction to birds of western Amazonia. After lunch and siesta we disembarked on another skiff trip for our first afternoon birding session on the Cocha (lake) Lucero Pata (an old oxbow of a portion of the Río Amazon)
- Mar 24 (Monday). Early morning departure for lower Río Yarapa (called Yarapa Uno). This is the lower end of the Yarapa, which forms a loop and reconnects further upstream with the Río Ucayali. Our afternoon excursion was on a small creek called the Caño Huacarayco, which was flooded regrowth/successional, and secondary forest (a non-climax) that yielded Bay Hornero (briefly), Amazonian Motmot, White-shouldered Antbird, lots of White-winged Parakeets and welcome shade during the late afternoon hours.
- Mar 25 (Tuesday). Early morning outing to a river island at dawn where we saw thousands of Yellow-rumped Caciques and White-winged Parakeets just leaving a gigantic roost located in tall cane (*Gynerium*). Later in the morning we visited Caño Faucett (Faucett Creek) and Lake Yuracocha, a large lagoon where we saw Horned Screamers and Hoatzins and Victoria Amazonica water lilies and a couple Caiman Lizards (the first

- of a surprising number of them). Afternoon visit to the Caño Dorado, a substantial blackwater river, which is located well above Requena and one of our favorite “wild” rivers in this area. We enjoyed a surprising number of Blue-and-yellow Macaws flying overhead this evening, a Muscovy Duck perched in a tree, and after dark some spot-lighting on our return to the boat yielded Great Potoo, fishing bats, several Ladder-tailed Nightjars, and a surprising group of 72 Red-capped Cardinals roosting on a partly submerged bare branch.
- Mar 26 (Wednesday). Morning outing on Río Zapote, another blackwater river and a major tributary of the Río Putinaya, which flows into the Ucayali. The Zapote is perhaps the wildest river that we visit on this cruise. The entire upper end, beyond the little Amerindian settlement a few minutes above the river mouth, is administered as a preserve by this community and they receive compensation from us (and other groups) that visit here in return for not hunting. They do fish here on the river, however. This is the furthest upriver that we reach on this cruise, now about 250 river miles from Iquitos. Highlights were many Monk Saki monkeys quite close, a number of sightings of both Scarlet, and Blue-and-yellow Macaws, and many Black-collared Hawks and Great Black Hawks. This afternoon we retraced our route back downriver a short distance and for some evening birding along a river island, and a black water creek and later enjoyed a spectacular sunset as we returned to the boat.
- Mar 27 (Thursday). Morning on the Caño Yanallpa, (apparently pronounced Yanashpa), one of the narrowest creeks we visited and certainly one of the more productive for birding with some terrific mixed species flocks. It is a “white-water” or muddy water creek. We also paid a visit to a sleepy group of Owl (Night) Monkeys roosting in a tree cavity along this creek. Highlights were Black-crested Antshrike, Orange-cheeked Parrots and many tanagers and euphonias. For our afternoon trip we visited a small, Iricawa Creek, briefly and then the banks of a large river island. Key birds here were Bluish-fronted Jacamar; Lesser Horner; and Black-and-white Antbird.
- Mar 28 (Friday). Morning visit to the upper Caño Yarapa (the up-stream end of this loop river) on the south bank of the Río Ucayali. This outing was notable for a huge group of Sand-colored Nighthawks roosting in a large dead tree by an Amerindian village as well as a pair of Sulphury Flycatchers and numerous small birds. Late morning part of our collective groups disembarked for a visit to an Amerindian village (San Jose), while the balance of us (in one boat) visited a small creek passing by Libertad Village. Notable sightings here were a male Ladder-tailed Nightjar (repeatedly flushed), Olive-spotted Hummingbird, and Spotted Tody-Flycatcher among others. All of these sites this morning were along the Río Ucayali, but close to its junction with the Marañon. We passed the junction of these two rivers (Ucayali and Marañon) during lunch. For our last afternoon outing we visited some early successional stage vegetation (much like that on river islands) along the banks of the Río Amazon (a site called Caño Centro America). Our best species here were Lesser Wagtail-Tyrants, River Tyrannulets and several White-bellied Spinetails and this was followed by quite a lengthy run in the skiffs back to the mother ship. Pre-dinner music (“Harpy” hour) by Johnny Elastic and his Rubber Band (or any of several other names for his band) and our final dinner and crew introductions followed the final evening meal.
- Mar 29 (Saturday). Early morning pre-breakfast birding run to a river island zone near Iquitos where we saw Purple Gallinule, Red-and-white Spinetail, Black-and-white Antbird, River Tyrannulet, an unidentified spinetail (somewhat like Parker’s Spinetail), and a few other birds typical of early vegetation stages on river islands. After leaving the ship at 0900 hours we visited a new museum in Iquitos and toured (by Bus) the floating village, the Belen market and other sites in Iquitos. Part of our group then departed for the airport and an early afternoon departure flight back to Lima. The rest of us remained in Iquitos at the Hotel Plaza Dorado in preparation for our late afternoon flight to Tarapoto and the post-cruise extension. For those continuing onto the post-trip extension to Tarapoto we retired to the luxurious Plaza Hotel for lunch and a short wait before our late afternoon flight (c. 4:00 p.m.) flight to Tarapoto. And that is another story with an entirely new collection of cloud forest birds.

KEY:

Asterisk (*) = heard only

Blueface blue: North American breeders

Redface red: Austral breeders (=Argentina; Paraguay; southern Brazil)

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

SH - Steve Hilty; PG – Paul Greenfield

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

[] = enclosed in brackets if seen only by SH or PG or by Segundo or Johnnie

Spellings of some place names may be arbitrary, e.g. the Río Yanallta (= same as Yanallpa); also note that Caño=creek or small river (thus Caño Dorado=Río Dorado etc.)

BIRD LIST: (Taxonomy follows Clements checklist with updates)

Screamers, Anhimidae

Horned Screamer, *Anhima cornuta*, heard daily; seen most days with numbers varying from 2 to c. a dozen

Ducks & Geese, Anatidae

Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata*, 1 male seen on Dorado Creek and a pair flying across Dorado

Guans and Chachalacas, Cracidae

Speckled Chachalaca, *Ortalis guttata*, seen twice

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, daily but in small numbers (mostly 1-15)

Anhinga, Anhingidae

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*, single seen on Río Zapote

Hérons & Egrets, Ardeidae

Rufescent Tiger-Heron, *Tigrisoma lineatum*, 1 adult seen on Río Yarapa on Monday

Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*, scattered individuals along riverbanks daily except first day

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, mostly 5-20+ daily along rivers; no migratory movements noted

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, small numbers daily; also several seen “rafting” downriver on logs

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*, singles and about 4-15+ a day in some areas; commonest heron

Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*, all sightings were singles; 1-4 daily

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, singles or pairs on at least 4 days

Ibises & Spoonbills, Threskiornithidae

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, heard several times; singles seen in flight on first three days

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, daily; large numbers around Iquitos; smaller nos. elsewhere but common throughout

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, small numbers more or less daily but far outnumbered by next species; 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; common; up to two dozen some days

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes melambrotus*, few as usual (soars higher than Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and always over forested areas); we probably saw about a half dozen birds

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 1-3 or so seen every day; 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

Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, only a single individual seen

Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*, seen by both groups on two days

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, wasn't this species also seen? (not marked on my list)

Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*, daily with up to 20-25 seen along Río Zapote; this “fishing” hawk is the commonest raptors along river and creek edges of western Amazonia

Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, seen a few times but mainly singles; one small group circling together may have represented a local migratory moment

Slender-billed Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, 2-4 seen on four separate days; perched and flying; one individual was seen carrying a stick (apparently to a nest)

Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus*, only one seen on entire trip

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*, seen every day; perched and showing long wings protruding and also in flight

Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*, we reported two sightings

Slate-colored Hawk, *Leucopternis schistaceus*, daily and usually several; common in swampy forest where it is the second commonest raptor after Black-collared Hawk
Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*, adults and 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*, almost daily along river edges; the “Riverside” hawk

Rails and Gallinules, Rallidae

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*, one seen from the Iquitos waterfront the day of arrival; 3-4 seen the last morning on our brief pre-breakfast boat trip thus only around Iquitos
[Azure Gallinule, *Porphyrio flavirostris*, one seen in flight only by Johnnie]

Finfoots & Sungrebe, Heliornithidae

Sungrebe, *Heliornis fulica*, heard most days and particularly vocal the first morning; we had at least 4 sightings (some better than others but some seen exceptionally well a couple times and well photographed); a rather elusive species that is normally difficult to see during high water because they can move back into forest and under deeper cover but it also is possible that they are beginning to breed now judging from the amount of vocalizations we heard

Jacanas, Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*, almost daily but mostly singles and pairs or a few scattered birds in loose groups; we saw males with 3-4 babies on at least 4 occasions (possibly more) with juveniles ranging from fuzzy week-old birds to near-adult-sized juveniles

Sandpipers & allies, Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, scattered individuals were seen on at least three days

Gulls & Terns, Laridae

Yellow-billed Tern, *Sternula superciliaris*, probably seen every day but in rather low numbers (e.g. <10); most numerous at mouth of the Río Zapote
Large-billed Tern, *Phaetusa simplex*, 20-50+ daily on Río Amazon and Río Ucayali; much commoner and more conspicuous than previous species

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*, Iquitos etc
Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*, a few seen daily; semi-open areas and treetops along edges of creeks
Ruddy Pigeon, *Columba subvinacea*, singles heard most days; seen on at least 4 days
Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columba talpacoti*, disturbed areas and river edge vegetation; a single the first day; a rather dense flock of c. 55 on Río Yarapa the next to last morning
White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, reported twice by Paul (and his group) and around small villages
Gray-fronted Dove, *Leptotila rufaxilla*, heard; singles flying across creeks on 3 or more occasions

Hoatzin, Opisthocomidae

Hoatzin, *Opisthocomus hoazin*, several seen on the 25th and 26; mainly around quiet lake edges well away from river traffic; one of the Amazon’s oddest birds and also a signature species

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Little Cuckoo, *Piaya minuta*, only one bird reported
Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, we saw this species on three days; generally fairly common although perhaps fewer this trip
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*, 1 seen by some of group from top deck of ship during an early afternoon break; not seen by PG or SH
Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*, daily in numbers (flocks) up to 20-30 birds and a few large flocks of 50 or more crossing rivers
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*, heard after dark along Caño Dorado

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*, seen once and another time glimpsed flying; heard by all parties

Nightjars & Allies, Caprimulgidae

Sand-colored Nighthawk, *Chordeiles rupestris*, varying-sized flocks seen at dawn twice; large group of 400+ seen roosting in bare tree by Amerindian village at mouth of Río Yarapa and these allowed remarkably close approach

Common Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*, one seen roosting at eye-level inside shady forest along Río Yanallta

Ladder-tailed Nightjar, *Hydropsalis climacocerca*, males and/or females flushed and seen perched on the Río Dorado; male seen in brush in open along Río Yanallta; another male flushed from small creek near Village of Libertad

Potoos, Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*, at least two sighted at night along the Río Dorado and one was seen very well by everyone

Swifts, Apodidae

Unidentified *Chaetura* sp. swift, one seen over Río Yanallta by SH; moderately large and apparently all dark with fast direct flight

Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*, daily in small numbers; mostly small groups identified by broad wings and short tail

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

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

Great-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis malaris*, 1 seen by one boat party

Reddish Hermit, *Phaethornis ruber*, 1 seen by one boat party

Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*, one female seen by one boat party

Long-billed Starthroat, *Helimaster longirostris*, seen twice (25th and 26th)

Blue-tailed Emerald, *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*, 1M seen the first morning (23rd)

Blue-chinned Sapphire, *Chlorostilbon (Chlorestes) notata*, singles seen twice

Fork-tailed Woodnymph, *Thalurania furcata*, a single seen the first afternoon

Olive-spotted Hummingbird, *Leucippus chlorocercus*, 2-3 seen the first morning in river edge vegetation along the Caño Yarapa; also seen near the village of Libertad late morning of the last full day while part of group was at the village' remarkably dull little river island specialist and often the only hummer in this scrub habitat

Glittering-throated Emerald, *Amazilia fimbriata*, commonest hummingbird in western Amazonia; we saw one in Iquitos (opposite Fitzcaraldo Restaurant) and 1-2 were seen on three days of the cruise

White-chinned Sapphire, *Hylocharis cyanus*, 1 seen last morning near village of Libertad was almost certainly this species; seen only by SH (despite waiting some time for the possibility of the bird returning)

Trogons, Trogonidae

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

Green-backed Trogon (a split from White-tailed Trogon), *Trogon viridis*, 1-2 seen on 3 separate mornings surely one of the more misleading names for such a beautiful bird

Blue-crowned Trogon, *Trogon curucui*, one male seen by one by one boat party; for some reason this seems to be a scarce trogon along this river route

Motmots, Momotidae

Amazonian (formerly Blue-crowned) Motmot, *Momotus momota*, two seen by one boat party along the Caño Huacarayco in late afternoon; also heard by the other boat party

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*, daily; commonest kingfisher (and the most conspicuous)

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

Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*, only a few seen although we recorded it on four days

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle inda*, one female bird responded to playback and perched in open for one boat party; also seen in flight flying low up or down or parallel to border of small a few times by both boat parties; hard to see when water is high and this species remains back inside forest

Puffbirds, Bucconidae

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

Swallow-winged Puffbird, *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*, only 2-3 seen the first two days but we saw quite a few on the Caño Zapote

Jacamars, Galbulidae

White-eared Jacamar, *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*, most numerous jacamar; pairs (mostly) seen repeatedly each day

Bluish-fronted Jacamar, *Galbula cyanescens*, pair the first morning by both boat parties; a second pair on the 27th by one boat party; birds 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 almost daily in canopy of river edge trees

Lemon-throated Barbet, *Eubucco richardsoni*, one male seen; also singles heard a couple times

Toucans, Ramphastidae

Lettered Araçari, *Pteroglossus inscriptus*, groups up to c. 6 seen mornings and afternoons on at least three days

Chestnut-eared Araçari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*, almost daily although usually only one or two groups each morning; this is the common river edge Araçari although on this trip we saw more individuals of Letter Araçari

White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan, *Ramphastos cuvieri*, only one bird seen (on Río Dorado); also heard on the Río Zapote; seems rather uncommon in area

Channel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus*, much as in previous species; we saw about 4 individuals along the Río Dorado but none elsewhere

Woodpeckers, Picidae

Lafresnaye's Piculet, *Picumnus lafresnayi*, a single bird seen the first morning on Río Yarapa by one boat party

[Plain-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus castelnau*, remarkably the only individual seen was one by naturalist-guide Segundo and this bird flew and could not be relocated by either boat party; confined to river islands and river edges where found in younger vegetation]

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cruentatus*, heard or seen on five days; high stubs

Little Woodpecker, *Veniliornis passerinus*, recorded on three days on 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 three mornings

Red-stained Woodpecker, *Veniliornis affinis*, apparently one seen briefly in flight by one boat party

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

Chestnut Woodpecker, *Celeus elegans*, we saw this lovely woodpecker on three mornings

Cream-colored Woodpecker, *Celeus flavus*, singles and pairs on four days; one of the handsomest *Celeus* woodpeckers; excellent views in several areas

*Ringed Woodpecker, *Celeus torquatus*, 1 individual heard by one boat party but bird unresponsive]

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, common woodpecker seen at least four or five days; told by narrow facial stripe and widely separated white "suspenders"

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

Falcons and Caracaras, Falconidae

Black Caracara, *Daptrius ater*, singles or pairs or threes seen on at least two days

Red-throated Caracara, *Ibycter americanus*, groups of three seen nicely by one boat party on Río Yarapa

Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*, daily along rivers and larger creeks; common

Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*, singles seen twice; also heard
Bat Falcon, *Falco ruficularis*, one bird at dusk on Río Dorado was seen briefly by some members of both groups

Parrots & Parakeets, Psittacidae (16 species recorded)

Bonaparte's Parakeet, *Pyrrhura lucianii*, one or two (more?) birds seen by Paul and Renzo (and some others of his boat party) was apparently this species or a form close to it (no visible red on head) and these individuals were also with the next species (which did have red on the head) and all individuals flew off together as a group; the distributions and species limits of the various forms (species?) of *Pyrrhura* parakeets remain poorly defined; seen on Río Tahuayo (=south bank of Amazon well below bifurcation with Río Maraño; and by-the-way ; there is apparently an early French bird collector and author by the name of Jules Laurent Lucien who also held the title of Prince Bonaparte (if I have this correct; nothing to do with Napoleon Bonaparte)

Rose-fronted Parakeet, *Pyrrhura roseifrons*, small group seen also by Paul (as above) and some of his boat party; these individuals were in association with at least two (more?) individuals that had no red on head on lower Río Tahuayo; clearly more distributional/taxonomic information need on this group
White-eyed Parakeet, *Aratinga leucophthalma*, seen every morning; noisy groups flying overhead
Dusky-headed Parakeet, *Aratinga weddellii*, daily along rivers; somewhat more numerous than previous species

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severus*, surprisingly few; we saw singles or pairs on three mornings including a couple in an area with many dead Moriche palm stumps along banks of Ucayali

Scarlet Macaw, *Ara macao*, pairs or threes seen on three mornings; less numerous than Blue-and-yellow Macaw

Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna*, pairs or threes or groups of up to five were seen on all mornings except our first morning outing; several groups totaling at least 15 seen over Río Dorado

Red-bellied Macaw, *Orthopsittaca manilata*, scattered pairs or small groups every morning including 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);

Blue-winged Parrotlet, *Forpus xanthopterygius*, one to pairs our first morning and last morning were the only ones

White-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus*, multiple flocks of 10s and 20s and up to 100s daily along all creeks; dazzling flocks are a characteristic part of avifauna in this region; we also witnessed a huge island roost at dawn in tall flowering cane (*Gynerium*) close to the lower end of Faucet Creek; this species is an integral part of the western Amazonian river edge experience; in early morning flocks fly rather high and in dense swarms that look almost like a swarm of insects at a distance

Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanoptera*, a few flocks seen mainly in flight; not nearly as many as in previous years; quite similar to next species (see) which is largely confined to river edges and islands

Tui Parakeet, *Brotogeris sanctithomae*, pairs or small groups daily along river including one pair entering and leaving a nest hole in the bottom of a large termite nest that was positioned relatively low and near a lake; a river edge bird; distinguished by yellow forehead and reddish bill and white eyes (but at a distance much like Cobalt-winged Parakeet)

Black-headed Parrot, *Pionites melanocephalus*, two birds perched high in a tree along the Río Zapote was seen by both boat parties

Orange-cheeked Parrot, *Pyrrhula barrabandi*, a pair responded to playback and eventually perched fairly close by for all to see well along the Río Yanallta; also seen less well the first morning

Short-tailed Parrot, *Graydidascalus brachyurus*, an "angry" and noisy bird seen in pairs or mostly small groups almost every day; inhabits tall riverine forest and riverine *Cecropia* but does not venture back into tall forest; noisy and screechy

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus* mainly singles or pairs in flight high overhead (surprisingly low numbers) a few times but not particularly common for some reason; deep mostly "below the horizontal" wing beats

Festive Parrot, *Amazona festiva*, pairs or a few pairs seen in flight on four mornings; red back stripe generally not visible but we were able to see it a few times; commonest on Río Dorado and Zapote

Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala*, we recorded it on four days including pairs relatively close a couple mornings e.g. the Río Yanallta

Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*, a few seen or heard on at least four mornings; large green parrot with deep throaty voice and large bare eyering and yellow distal half of tail; largest *Amazona* parrot

Orange-winged Parrot, *Amazona amazonica*, commonest *Amazona* parrots with a 10-50 or more seen every day; pairs within larger groups seen flying back to roosts on several evenings

Antbirds, *Thamnophilidae*

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*, one male seen the first morning on Río Tahuayo by one boat party

Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis*, a pair at mouth of Yanallpa was cooperative for both boat parties

Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, heard and/or seen on first and last morning

Castelnau's Antshrike, *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*, a difficult species to see (and we proved this once again); we saw a female rather poorly and on another day both boat parties had good views of a male; river edge/island bird of *Cecropia* and *Heliconia* mixed with other older stage successional plants

*Spot-winged Antshrike, *Pygiptila stellaris*, heard in morning on Río Yarapa (second morning) by one boat party

*Pygmy Antwren, *Myrmotherula brachyura*, heard daily but apparently never seen by either boat party despite considerable effort

Amazonian Streaked-Antwren, *Myrmotherula multistriata*, pairs seen a few times by everyone; male like a "Black-and-white Warbler" with a short tail and longer heavier bill

*Band-tailed Antbird, *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*, surprisingly it was heard only once and never seen

*Blackish Antbird, *Cercomacra nigrescens*, heard first morning and again a few days later but not seen by either boat party despite some effort

Ash-breasted Antbird, *Myrmoborus lugubris*, one bird seen by one boat party in dense *Heliconia* and ginger understory with an overstory of *Cecropia* on a river island in the upper Yuracocha area; this bird required a lot of patience to see; similar habitat where Castelnau's Antshrike was found

Black-and-white Antbird, *Myrmochanes hemileucus*, seen in various places along river banks several times and a pair especially well the last morning on our brief outing from Iquitos to a nearby river island; a species found in *Tessaria* sp. and other early succession plants on river islands and adjacent river banks

*Black-throated Antbird, *Myrmeciza atrothorax*, heard in dense river bank grass the first morning

White-shouldered Antbird, *Myrmeciza melanocephala*, one male seen several times (including in flight across the Huacarayco Creek) in the late afternoon of the second day

Plumbeous Antbird, *Myrmeciza hyperythra*, male and female seen well by all groups; also heard several times

*Black-spotted Bare-eye, *Phlegopsis nigromaculata*, one heard on afternoon we visited Huacarayco Creek (Monday afternoon) but not seen

Ovenbird and allies, *Furnariidae*

Woodcreepers (subfamily *Dendrocolaptinae*); now merged within *Furnariidae*

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes rufifigula*, enigmatic woodcreeper that looks and often acts more like a foliage-gleaner than a woodcreeper; seen at least two by all boat parties

Long-billed Woodcreeper, *Nasica longirostris*, several seen beautifully on two or three days; also heard often; mainly a várzea species in Amazonia

*Strong-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*, one heard by both boat parties

Striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*, common várzea and river edge bird; we saw it two or three times and heard it regularly in low dark undergrowth of shady little creeks

Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*, notably vocal and heard every day although we saw it only once or twice; one boat party watch a pair drop wood chips into a next hole and later defend it again an apparent hostile takeover by a larger Long-billed Woodcreeper

Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*, like Striped Woodcreeper a common species found low along creeks and rivers; we saw it a few times

Zimmer's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus kienerii*, this range-restricted species was seen by both groups quite late in the evening on the Río Dorado where we illuminated it in a spotlight; another was seen in better lighting conditions by one boat party; much like Straight-billed Woodcreeper and the two are best told by voice rather than plumage (Zimmer's marginally browner)

Point-tailed Palmcreeper, *Berlepschia rikeri*, a pair seen by one boat party in *Mauritia* palms the first morning along the Río Tahuayo; a low-density *Mauritia* palm specialist that is found nowhere else except in groves of *Mauritia* palms

Pale-legged Hornero, *Furnarius leucopus*, a few seen and heard on various days

Pale-billed (Bay) Hornero, *Furnarius torridus*, seen by both boat parties along the dense *Heliconia*-choked banks of the Huacarayco ; in both cases seen mainly as it flew back and forth across the creek or perched only briefly; scarce and notably local and a good find; much darker than similar Pale-legged Hornero

Lesser Horner, *Furnarius minor*, a river island specialist of driftwood on sandy river islands; one along banks of the Ucayali by both boat parties

Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner, *Philydor pyrrhodes*, 1 seen 2-3 times in flight (once quite close) by SH boat party near mouth of Río Yanallta; a surprising find as it is usually well inside tall forest

Orange-fronted Plushcrown, *Metopothrix aurantiaca*, 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; apparently seen only one morning by one boat party

Parker's Spinetail, *Cranioleuca vulpecula*, another species found primarily in dense cane on river islands and river banks; usually responsive to song playback; seen only by one boat party; generally hard to see well; named in honor of Theodore Parker who formerly worked for VENT and died tragically in a plane crash in Ecuador in the early 1990s

Red-and-white Spinetail, *Certhiaxis mustelina*, common; various pairs seen daily; river island bird that favors grass and bushes; we watched pairs constructing nests in several cases

Dark-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albigularis*, seen very well by all parties a few times

White-bellied Spinetail, *Synallaxis propinqua*, river island species that almost always proves difficult to see; however it was seen the last afternoon in early succession vegetation where it was common (near mouth of Centro America Creek) and was eventually seen very well by at least one boat party and at least seen by everyone

Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, seen on two days; peaked slightly bushy crest and cocked tail but otherwise undistinguished

*Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannous elates*, heard daily uttering its "free beer" call although it apparently was never seen

Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*, seen on at least three mornings including coming to pygmy-owl playback and another time with a large mixed tanager flock along the Río Yanallta

Yellow-crowned Elena, *Myiopagis flavivertex*, seen by one (or both?) boat parties along small flooded streams; a loud explosive call for such a small and insignificant-looking bird; only seen the first two days; heard a time or two thereafter

Brownish Elaenia, *Elaenia pelzelni*, pair seen in young river island vegetation by PG boat party near Faucett Creek; scarce this far up the Amazon river drainage; primarily on river islands

River Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga hypoleuca*, pair or three in young river island-type vegetation near mouth of Centro America creek the last afternoon; another pair our last morning out of Iquitos on nearby island

Slender-footed Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius gracilipes*, one seen the first morning by one boat party; tiny and not particularly distinctive

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, *Stigmatura napensis*, pair seen (and photographed) the last afternoon near mouth of Centro America Creek before our return to Iquitos; a charismatic river island specialist found mainly in *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*, glimpsed high in a tree by one boat party; 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 or two seen; Amazon river race shows only weakly-indicated wing markings and dull head pattern; call a single loud SEEK repeated about 3 times at rate of 1/sec or less

Yellow-margined Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias assimilis*, one seen by PG boat party one morning

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias flaviventris*, another species seen only by one boat party along the Río Yanallta

[Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, *Terenotriccus erythrurus*, 1 seen only by SH along Lucero Pata creek the first afternoon]

Fuscous Flycatcher, *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*, one seen by one boat party in a patch of low brush in a large wetland called Lucero Pata the first afternoon; a rather nondescript flycatcher with longish tail and flat head that (at least here) lives in wet shrubby undergrowth

Alder Flycatcher, *Empidonax alnorum*, one seen by SH near mouth of Río Yanallta; unfortunately not seen by any of the boat party; apparently a rather low density North American migrant here]

Riverside Tyrant, *Knipolegus orenocensis*, one seen by Paul and his boat party; a scarce early succession vegetation species that is usually on islands or river banks with similar vegetation; incidentally this seems to be the first time it has been reported on our Amazon cruises in this area

Drab Water Tyrant, *Ochthornis littoralis*, along riverbanks usually but because the river was high we saw them in low vegetation and on driftwood in areas where river banks should have been

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*, pairs seen on a few days 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 although we saw them well only a couple times

Dull-capped (White-eyed) Attila, *Attila bolivianus*, harder to see than previous species but also quite vocal; seen especially well by some along the Río Yarapa the last full morning; big fierce white eyes; now officially called (Ugh! again) Dull-capped Attila (pronounce name *at-TIL-a*) by SACC but a more appropriate name really should be White-eyed Attila

Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*, heard and/or seen daily in young river edge vegetation; a typical *Myiarchus* in appearance

Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus (Philohydor) lictor*, daily along creeks where usually 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

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

Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*, seen in Iquitos and once or twice on the cruise

Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*, seen daily; THE common small flycatcher with a kiskadee look-alike head pattern

Gray-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*, singles seen the first two days of the upriver cruise

Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*, two or three seen the last morning on the Río Yarapa

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*, one bird was seen by SH boat party on the Río Yanallpa; this individual was well studied and with the black chin connecting the malar streaks verified; overall not as “yellow” below as shown in *Birds of Peru*

Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*, its loud whistles were heard almost every morning; it was seen only on the first morning outing and again on Thursday

Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher, *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*, 1 seen by PG boat party on the Río Yarapa on our second morning outing

Sulphury Flycatcher, *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*, pair seen in Moriche Palms near mouth of Río Yarapa (upper end) the last morning of last full day; a Tropical Kingbird look-alike but almost always in or near moriche palms

White-throated Kingbird, *Tyrannus albogularis*, seen in the tall cane (*Gynerium*) on the large river island near the Río Faucett early in morning; also seen later that day at a lake edge, and once more a couple days later (total of three birds); these are early arriving Austral migrants

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 c. Apr to Sept

Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, we saw varying-numbers (dozens to hundreds) daily traveling with the huge flocks of Fork-tailed Flycatchers that were migrating northward along the Ucayali

Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana*, we saw hundreds to thousands in flocks every day (apparently they began arriving three weeks ago); only the last morning along the upper Río Yarapa did we see a significant decline in their numbers but we apparently caught up to them (at least some remaining birds) later that same day and further down (northward) the Amazon when in the afternoon near the mouth of the Río Centro America we again witnessed 100s to 1000s resting in the tall flowering cane and then starting to move northward along the Amazon river border just a dusk; 95% of all individuals were short-tailed and brownish-capped immature austral migrant birds presumably arriving from their birthplace in Brazil and Paraguay and northern Argentina; seeing this remarkably concentrated migratory movement was an amazing sight and we can only wonder if the corridor through which these birds move northward is significantly wider than the Ucayali/Amazon flyway we observed and/or if we seeing a significant proportion of the entire austral population of immature birds; or do they also funnel up other large rivers such as the Río Madeira and Río Tapajós and Río Negro; most of these birds will likely end up spending their first “austral winter” in eastern Colombia and south and central Venezuela (especially in semiopen areas); oh and maybe a couple will “overshoot” and show up in Massachusetts this spring!

Cotingas, Cotingidae

Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*, one pair seen by both boat parties; also heard a couple times

Plum-throated Cotinga, *Cotinga maynana*, males seen daily in treetops in early morning and late evening; one male along Río Yanallta came down to within about 30 feet of one boat party where it offered unparalleled viewing (and photo) opportunities; a few females also were seen; not rare but boldface because we had such terrific views of this beautiful bird; 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 daily; no large movements but we did see one group of 8 in a high bare tree and later observed this group flying high and northward across the Ucayali; a few other smaller groups were also seen

Tityras & allies, Tityridae

Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*, almost daily

Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*, one male seen on the last morning on the Caño Yarapa

Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*, a couple seen on only one morning

Várzea Schiffornis, *Schiffornis major*, heard and/or seen on the first two days of trip and again along the Río Yanallpa; formerly called Greater Manakin

White-browed Purpleletuft, *Iodopleura isabellae*, cute pair in treetop along Río Yanallta; seen by both boat parties; a good find!

Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*, males and female seen mostly in river island and river edge shrubs on three days

Chestnut-crowned Becard, *Pachyramphus castaneus*, one bird seen

White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*, one bird seen by one boat party

Pink-throated Becard, *Pachyramphus minor*, male seen close by one boat party

Vireos & Greenlets, Vireonidae

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus* (or if split *Vireo chivi*, a few scattered birds along river edges; we heard many of them singing the first morning on Río Tahuayo but little vocalization thereafter; this is a resident form with a simple two-note call; some austral (southern) migrants present ca. Apr to Sept; it seems unlikely that any of the birds we saw were North American breeders

Yellow-green Vireo, *Vireo flavoviridis*, singles were seen by both boat parties along the Río Zapote or near there and in both cases these individuals were with mixed species flocks

Gray-chested Greenlet, *Hylophilus semicinereus*, seen (and heard singing constantly) by both boat parties the first morning near the mouth of the Río Tahuayo (s bank of Amazon) but not heard or seen elsewhere (which seems curious?) on the cruise; why so local?

Crowns & Jays, Corvidae

Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*, seen the first morning; seen very well again in the evening along the Río Dorado by both boat parties; another curiously local species here

Swallows & Martins, Hirundinidae

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, daily but numbers varied with this species much more numerous on some creeks than others; obviously with water levels high this species is not nesting but there is much to learn about its seasonal behavior and habits as is true of many of the commonest species here in western Amazonia; apparently it is resident here

Purple Martin, *Progne subis*, a couple (apparently this species) males seen by PG boat party the first morning

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*, seen on at least the last four days of the trip including some fairly large groups (e.g. 50+) perched in trees along the Ucayali in one or two places; apparently some local or minor geographical movements

Brown-chested Martin, *Progne tapera*, scattered individuals or pairs seen on at least 3 days of trip; these could be residents and/or migrants coming from Austral regions; at least in one case SH noted (from a photo) that based on the chest markings the birds was probably an Austral breeder

White-winged Swallow, *Tachycineta albiventer*, daily; common over all rivers; mostly in pairs; a few small groups; perches on sticks just above the water and often flies (forages) by skimming the water surface

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*, a couple seen with a large flock of Barn Swallows near the Yuracocha (on Tuesday) by SH; usually more numerous

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, daily in varying-sized flocks; many were ragged heavily molting juveniles of the previous year; flocks of 100+ on the Yuracocha; a North America breeder (at least all of these birds); and no Cliff Swallows noted

Wrens, Troglodytidae

Thrush-like Wren, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*, heard most days; and pairs seen high in trees several times

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

Donacobius, Donacobiidae

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

Thrushes, Turdidae

Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*, one bird seen by one boat party that last morning on Río Yarapa
Hauxwell's Thrush, *Turdus hauxwelli*, seen by SH and part of boat party the last morning on the Río Yarapa; it was retiring and difficult to see (as we proved!)

Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, Iquitos and scattered individuals or pairs along river edges on three days; most numerous in one locality along the Río Tahuayco (south bank of Amazon) the first morning where we saw and heard several individuals in one area

Tanagers, Thraupidae (many taxonomic changes in this family)

Red-capped Cardinal, *Paroaria gularis*, daily along rivers and creeks and lakes; all boat parties witnessed an unusual night roost after dark on the Río Dorado when we spotlighted c. 72 individuals sleeping together on a bare partly submerged branch that had fallen into the water near the shore; all individuals were sleeping completely in the open and c. 0.5-1.5 m above the water; we have not previously seen such communal roosting behavior in this species

Hooded Tanager, *Nemosia pileata*, pairs or little groups 3-5 were seen on three days by all boat parties; generally in rather open trees along river banks

Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*, a family of three were seen by one boat party along the Río Yarapa (lower end) on Tuesday morning

White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus*, one female was seen by one boat party with a mixed species flock of other tanagers and euphonias and flycatchers along on the Caño Yanallpa

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 but than 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 few times on the trip; this species always occurs in rather low density in forested areas

Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*, pairs or threes seen the first morning along the Río Yarapa (lower end) and again later in the week along the Río Yanallta

Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*, singles or groups up to about 6 were seen on two days; a spectacular little tanager than almost always stays very high in trees and sometimes perches in open on top of canopy; seen by all boat parties

Opal-crowned Tanager, *Tangara callophrys*, seen on two different days; with other canopy tanager flocks; not a species that we see often on this cruise

Green-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*, one seen by SH and possibly by some others with a mixed tanager flock along the Río Yanallta

Yellow-bellied Dacnis, *Dacnis flaviventer*, one to several seen on at least four day; interesting we saw mostly males (maybe because they are more conspicuous) but one or more females were seen along the Río Yanallta; a common bird in this region

Pearly-breasted Conebill, *Conirostrum margaritae*, several were seen in stands of even-aged *Cecropia* on river islands or island-like early succession stage vegetation; a habitat specialist found mainly in *Cecropia* on river islands and river edges

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, 1F (and possibly also a M) seen the last morning on the Río Yarapa; was with other seedeaters

Caquetá Seedeater, *Sporophila murallae*, males and females seen on three different days; resident but may move locally (depends upon sufficient grass seeds) to other grassy and marshy areas

Lesson's Seedeater, *Sporophila bouvronides*, males (and females) seen on three different days and usually in association with previous species; both species are notably erratic and presumably nomadic for at least part of the year because they wander in search of seed crops

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila castaneiventris*, common and seen daily; river islands and riverbanks; resident

Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*, heard and/or seen most days (actually this common bird was heard much more than seen)

Finches & Sparrows etc, Emberizidae

Yellow-browed Sparrow, *Ammodramus aurifrons*, a few along river edges and on river islands

Blackbirds etc., Icteridae

Oriole Blackbird, *Gymnomystax mexicanus*, river islands and riverbanks throughout trip; gorgeous additions to riverbanks!

Velvet-fronted Grackle, *Lamprosar tanagrinus*, a group of four were encountered only by PG boat party; I do not know why this species is so scarce in this area

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, some groups seen by all boat parties on at least three days of the trip; river edges and islands and marshes

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, a few scattered birds along river edges and islands on Sunday and Tuesday; then numerous large flocks (40-100+) seen along flying eastward and with some groups stopping along the banks of the Río Yarapa (upper section the last full day) to forage in grassy areas and on the ground; the scale of movement (est. 600-750 birds total) suggests some kind of coordinated local (or longer distance?) movement although this sort of movement does not seem to have been reported previously; why would a nest parasite species like this gather in these large flocks? And migrate?

Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*, only a couple birds the last morning on the Río Yarapa; parasitizes mainly the Russet-backed Oropendola (and other large oropendolas)

Orange-backed Troupial, *Icterus croconotus*, we saw a few singles the first two days

Solitary (Black) Cacique, *Cacicus solitarius*, apparently seen only the first morning by one boat party

Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*, daily; common; many nest colonies with nests clumped together (and do you know why! If not you can find out the answer in a chapter I wrote on the nesting behavior of caciques and oropendolas in *Birds of Tropical America-A watcher's Introduction to Behavior and Breeding and Diversity*); at dawn on Tuesday morning we watched 100s (or perhaps 1000s) departing their roost in cane (*Gynerium*) on a river island close to the Río Faucett; it was a roost composed primarily of these caciques and White-winged Parakeets a (remarkable pairing in itself); many larger strong flying species utilize young island vegetation as roosting sites because they are relatively predator-free

Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*, daily; very common with conspicuous nest colonies noted everywhere

Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*, a couple on the Río Dorado were our only records

Siskins & Goldfinches & Euphonias, Fringillidae

Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*, singles or pairs seen on two days; mainly high in mistletoe clumps

White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*, one seen by one boat party

Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*, seen twice during trip

Rufous-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia rufiventris*, seen twice during trip; one male was with a mixed species flock of tanagers in the canopy along the Río Yanallpa

LIST OF MAMMALS, HERPS and miscellaneous critters:

Sloths, Bradypodidae

Brown-throated three-toed Sloth, *Bradypus variegatus*, 1-2 seen every day or trip; total of at least eight

Anteaters, Myrmecophagidae

Southern Tamandua, *Tamandua tetradactyla*, 1 seen but it ran (climbed) away rapidly never to be seen again

Marmosets & Tamarins, Callitrichidae

Pvgmy Marmoset, *Cebuella pygmaea*, one seen by both boat parties on the Caño Yarapa (lower end) the first morning; 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

Saddleback Tamarin, *Saguinus fasciollis*, seen on at least four days; charming little group seen by both boat parties; we watched one animal flee rapidly as it was being attacked by a pair of Lesser Kiskadees near the Yuracochoa; 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

Common Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri sciureus*, troops seen along banks of creeks on three days

*Brown Capuchin, *Cebus apella*, heard but never actually seen (as far as I know) by either boat party

Monk Saki Monkey, *Pithecia monachus*, up to a dozen (or more) were seen by both boat parties on the Río Zapote; black with grayish white face marks; remarkably tame and unafraid and almost all animals allowed close approach by boat; a real population explosion here and likely the result of these animals no longer being hunted on this river (this is the river where the Amerindian community has an agreement with IE and others not to hunt in return for payment and other favors); the agreement obviously is working

Night Monkey (Owl Monkey), *Aotus* sp. (rufous-necked form), three or four seen in tree hole about 6 m up and on Caño Yanallpa; very cute little animals with rufous faces and large dark eyes; a nocturnal species that sleeps during the day and forages at night and they looked sleepy as they peered out at us; low hooting calls at night betray its presence

Squirrels

Northern Amazonian Red Squirrel, *Sciurus ignitus*, surprisingly we saw only one animal; a rather large and distinctive squirrel with mainly reddish fur; often stays rather low in forest

Spiny Rats & Tree Rats, Echimyidae

Yellow-crowned Brush-Tailed Tree Rat, *Isothrix bistrata*, these were seen by all boat parties on several occasions; typically peering out from a tree hole; remarkably confiding and easy to see (but not so easy to spot in the first place) and rather cute; obviously mammalogists don't mind long English names (unlike ornithological checklist committees who seem to reflexively abhor any name longer than two words)

Amazon Bamboo Rat, *Dactylomys dactylinus*, we heard their distinctive “machine-gun” rattles on two days; usually heard at night although we heard one during morning daylight

Sheath-tailed Bats, Emballonuridae

Long-nosed Bat, *Rhynchonycteris naso*, groups clinging beneath sides of large tree trunks overhanging creeks; distinctly spotted or freckled with white on their backs; seen on three or four days

Bulldogs Bats, Noctilionidae

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; Caño Dorado mainly (both evenings)

Weasels, Mustelidae

Tayra, *Eira barbara*, a group of 3 (or maybe even 4) seen by both boat parties; what on earth were these usually solitary animals all doing together up in trees?

Dolphins

Pink River Dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*, seen daily and in numbers especially at mouths of creeks and also well upstream in 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 daily although less numerous than previous species; gray and has narrow and thin dorsal fin

Reptiles and Amphibians

Spectacled Caiman, *Caiman crocodilus*, seen on the Caño Dorado; eye reflections of many others

Black Caiman, *Melanosuchus niger*, seen and photographed on Río Dorado at night

Caiman Lizard, *Dracaena* sp. (presumably *guianensis*) (Teiidae), we saw a half dozen or more of this large and impressive lizard which grows to some four feet in length; uncommon; one boat party saw one eat a snail which is its principal food

Amazon Green Iguana, *Iguana iguana*, we saw several large grayish adults and three or more smaller younger green ones

Amazonian Tree Boa, *Corallus* sp. (prob. *hortulanus* but now split into four species so difficult to know which one was seen); one seen on the 13th
Olive Whip Snake, *Chironias fuscus* (genus possibly now changed), Río Zapote
Side-necked Turtle, *Podocnemis* sp., the turtles we saw on logs a few times
Racerunner sp., *Ameiva* sp., probably this genus; a small lizard seen swimming across Caño Faucett; this pitiful little creature clearly did not want to be crossing this stream but it eventually made it safely across and immediately climbed to the safety of a small bush

Invertebrates:

Blue Morpho butterflies
Owl butterfly (also known as *Caligo* Butterfly); a crepuscular species
Pink-toed Tarantula, one rather fuzzy small one

For 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: March 21, 2014

Note that population numbers of many coastal species such as boobies and cormorants are quite high at the moment and some of these species may be poised for a population crash (or decline) with a forthcoming "el niño" event. Cyclical population build-ups and declines seem to be a normal event and are closely associated with water temperature changes that dramatically affect the aquatic food change—when cold ocean currents fail to reach the Peruvian coast this adversely affects fish populations and, in turn, birds along the coast.

Dusks & Geese, Anatidae

Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*, Pantanos de Villa; 12+ at Pantanos de Villa
White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis*, 15+ at Pantanos de Villa

Grebes, Podicipedidae

White-tufted Grebe, *Rollandia rolland*, 1 seen by part of group
Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*, Pantanos de Villa (3)
Great Grebe, *Podiceps major*, Pantanos de Villa (4 plus a couple juveniles)

Penguins, Spheniscidae

Humboldt Penguin, *Spheniscus humboldti*, estimate of c. 35 individuals in the sea cave plus another 5 seen swimming at sea

Boobies, Sulidae

Peruvian Booby, *Sula variegata*, Lima coast (10000+)
Blue-footed Booby, *Sula variegata*, 1 seen perched on a rock in Pucusana harbor by one boat group

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*, Lima coast (many)
Red-legged Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax gaimardi*, Pucusana 40+
Guanay Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*, Lima coast (many)

Pelicans, Pelecanidae

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

Hérons & Egrets, Ardeidae

Great Egret, *Egretta alba*, Lima coast (3-4)
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, many
Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, Pantanos de Villa (a few); large flock near Río Lurín
Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, 2 (Pantanos de Villa)

Ibises, Threskiornithidae

Puna Ibis, *Plegadis ridgwayi*, Pantanos de Villa; seen part of group (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 or near Pucusana (not seen by everyone)

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa

Falcons, Falconidae

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, 1 flying in front of bus; seen by SH and a few others

Rails & Coots, Rallidae

*Plumbeous Rail, *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*, heard at Pantanos de Villa and along banks of Río Lurín; one individual was seen by a few group members at Pantanos de Villa

Common Gallinule (Moorhen), *Gallinula chloropus*, Pantanos de Villa (est. 5-7+)

Slate-colored Coot, *Fulica ardesiaca* (includes all Andean forms), Pantanos de Villa (father few+<5); we saw only white shield color; not yellow and white and reddish chestnut)

Thick-knees, Burhinidae

Peruvian Thick-knee, *Burhinus superciliaris*, 6+ (including two adults with nearly grown offspring) Pantanos de Villa (always a good find as this species is now declining and being forced to occupy marginal sites like golf courses and school yards and city parks)

Oystercatchers, Haematopodidae

American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*, 6-8+ on beaches (Pantanos de Villa)

Blackish Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ater*, 10-12+ pairs at Pucusana

Plovers and Lapwings, Charadriidae

Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*, 6-7 (Pantanos de Villa marshes)

Sandpipers etc, Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, 6-8 at Pantanos de Villa

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa marsh (near beach)

Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*, 30+ at Pucusana

Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*, 2+ Pantanos de Villa

Gulls & Terns, Laridae

Gray-headed (hooded) Gull, *Chroicocephalus* (formerly *Larus*) *cirrocephalus*, ca. 20 (Pantanos de Villa); beach and inland lagoon; a few in breeding plumage

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus* (formerly *Larus*) *pipixcan*, est. 30,000+ birds massed on beaches and inland lagoons and street lights at Pantanos de Villa and Lima and Pucusana; most were in breeding plumage with obvious pinkish tinge on chest

Belcher's (formerly Band-tailed) Gull, *Larus belcheri*, est. 250+; all beach and water areas; common; most birds at Pucusana were second year birds

Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*, 2 seen along coast at Pucusana and both were immature birds; not obvious to me why this species is so scarce the last few years

Inca Tern, *Larosterna inca*, 1,000s in Pucusana (in large numbers)

Elegant Tern, *Thalasseus elegans*, 25+ on Pantanos de Villa beaches and at Pucusana

Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*, possibly 50+ individuals at Pantanos de Villa

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

Feral (Rock) Pigeon, *Columba livia*, settled areas

Pacific (West Peruvian) Dove, *Zenaida meloda* (formerly *asiatica*), very common (Lima and all along coast and even on airport tarmac)

Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, we saw only 1-2 on wires at Pucusana but people who arrived a day or two early and birded Olivar Park saw many there

Croaking Ground-Dove, *Columbina cruziana*, a few seen in scopes at the Río Lurín

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, 1-2 at Pantanos de Villa; 2+ at Río Lurín

Owls, *Strigidae*

Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia*, 3 at Pantanos de Villa

Hummingbirds, *Trochilidae*

Amazilia Hummingbird, *Amazilia amazilia*, seen only in flight at the Río Lurín (but seen in Olivar park by those who arrived early)

Peruvian Sheartail, *Thaumastura cora*, 1 male seen by a couple people as we leaving San Isidro (barrio) by bus the first morning; bird apparently in treetop

Purple-collared Woodstar, *Myrtis fanny*, one seen briefly by P. Greenfield and a few others at Río Lurín

Falcons & Caracaras, *Falconidae*

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, 1 flew in front of our bus at Pantanos de Villa (by seen only by SH and possible a few others)

Parrots & Parakeets, *Psittacidae*

[Red-masked Parakeet, *coelestis*, pair seen from bus window in Lima (San Isidro barrio) by SH but not seen by others]

Ovenbirds, *Furnariidae*

Wren-like Rushbird, *Phleocryptes melanops*, 2 seen (even in scope) at Pantanos de Villa

Surf (Peruvian Seaside) Cinclodes, *Cinclodes taczanowskii*, 6-7 on rocky coast at Pucusana (birds more visible because the tide was low and they were more visible when foraging—or just doing more foraging at low tide)

Tyrant Flycatchers, *Tyrannidae*

Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, *Tachuris rubrigastra*, 2 nice adults in cattails at Pantanos de Villa

Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, 15+; mostly dusky in Lima; mostly red outside city

Swallows, *Hirundinidae*

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon* (formerly *Notiochelidon*) *cyanoleuca*, several over Río Lurín

Mockingbirds & Thrashers, *Mimidae*

Long-tailed Mockingbird, *Mimus longicaudatus*, 8+ at Pantanos de Villa; a couple also at Pucusana and at Río Lurín

Tanagers, *Thraupidae*

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, 1 seen at Pantanos de Villa

Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*, 1 distantly at Río Lurín

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, 2-3 at Río Lurín (birds seen flying across the dirt road)

Chestnut-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila telasco*, 1 female in scope at Río Lurín

Parrot-billed Seedeater, *Sporophila peruviana*, 1 male perched up; even seen in scope by some people

Blackbirds, *Icteridae*

Peruvian Meadowlark, *Sturnella bellicose*, 4+ at Río Lurín (where birds were in agricultural fields)

Scrub Blackbird, *Dives warszewiczi*, 2+ at Río Lurín; surprisingly we didn't see any others today but people who arrived a day or two early saw many around the hotel and in Olivar Park

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, 1 male in tall reeds just back from beach at Pantanos de Villa

Old World Sparrows, *Passeridae*

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, seen mainly by those people who arrived early; not sure any were seen today

MAMMALS ON LIMA COAST:

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