

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

JANUARY 21–31, 2016

(Lima bird list separately at end)

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By Steve Hilty

During our weeklong trip on the Río Amazon, Río Ucayali, Río Marañon, and various tributaries of these rivers, we experienced no measurable rain and also were witness to one of the lowest river water levels for this time of year that has been reported. This dryness was, undoubtedly, the result of a particularly strong El Niño year. Most days were partly cloudy to cloudy and pleasant, although we had one particularly sunny and hot morning on our visit to the Río Zapote. Despite the low water levels we were still able to access and navigate all of the small creeks that we planned to visit, although access by boat to river islands was not always possible. And, surprisingly, there were still good numbers of gulls and boobies at Pucusana, although cormorant numbers (Guanay and Neotropic) were down somewhat.

No overview of a cruise like this would be complete without mentioning highlights. These will be many different things to different people, but a few of the following should surely be included: the Horned Screamers (immense and ancient); the Black Hawk-Eagle (because it was so close); numerous Blue-and-yellow Macaws (especially the pairs gathered riverside in early morning light); the many kingfishers (the low water helped); five Gilded Barbets at La Posada; Black-tailed Antbird (a rare and local species); Long-billed Woodcreeper (unusual appearance); Point-tailed Palmcreeper (because we made such an issue of it!); River Tyrannulets (because they were cute); Plum-throated Cotinga (so blue and so far away); Black-capped Donacobius (best display and antiphonal duet); Caquetá Seedeater (with a name like that...you just want to see it); Oriole Blackbird (common, but real eye candy). You'll have many more to add. I liked the Night Monkeys, the Saki Monkeys—all of the monkeys actually. I also liked the river dolphins because these freshwater creatures have such an interesting distribution and live in a world all their own (blind and all), and because of the local stories that have evolved about them. Yes, if in doubt about who got your daughter pregnant...the dolphin did it!

The great complexity and diversity of a rainforest avifauna is certainly as well illustrated in Amazonia as anywhere. Our daily routine generally included early morning and mid-afternoon ship departures to explore small creeks, or work along the forested riverbanks of the Amazon and Ucayali. After spending a week searching for some of the avifaunal pieces in this greatest of all natural jigsaw puzzles, we hopefully leave with a better appreciation of how this diversity fits together. And, not all the pieces are in the forest. There is a rich river island fauna, a sprinkling of long distance migrants (e.g. Eastern Kingbird, Barn Swallow), and both white water (muddy really) and black water rivers, as well as igapó (swamp), várzea (seasonally flooded) and terra firme (high ground) forest. And then there are all those microhabitats—moriche palms, tank bromeliads, dead curled leaves, and so on, and all of these components 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.

Our ship's crew did a great job of feeding us and looking after us, even bringing cool (frozen in most cases) 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 any land-based excursion, and we shopped whenever little impromptu vendors in boats came around. On most evenings the ship's bands (there was a new one every night) played during happy (oh, or was it "Harpy") hour. And when some of you were thinking of skipping a morning, or an afternoon, David always told you which ones not to skip. With so much going on, it all went quickly, and a lot of adventure and learning were compressed into a relatively short span of time.

Steve presented three lectures, Dennis provided an update on our navigation, and Segundo guided our group on a short visit to an Amazonian village, as well as providing numerous impromptu discussions of life in Amerindian communities, and he never missed an opportunity to interact with local fisherman and "fisherboys" (remember the little boy holding the giant Tambaquí fish!). 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:

Jan 8 (Thursday), Arrival in Lima

Jan 9 (Friday), Day along the coast from Lima to the Pantanos de Villa (marshes) and small village of Pucusana; late afternoon return to Lima (see separate bird list at end of this report)

Jan 10 (Saturday). Morning departure from Lima to Iquitos, where we went directly to the Fitzcaraldo Restaurant. After lunch we spent a few moments birding immediately across the street at the waterfront. Our group embarked from Iquitos c. 4:00 p.m. for the short cruise northward where we entered the true Amazon River and then gradually set course southward and upriver.

Jan 11 (Sunday). Early departure for small village (Comunidad Huaysi) and the Río Tahuayo (a tributary of the Río Amazon). This trip 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 a narrow flow channel ending at a cocha (lake) called Lucero Pata, an old oxbow of a portion of the Río Amazon.

Jan 12 (Monday). We passed the junction of the Río Marañón last night and were today on the Río Ucayali today. Our morning departures were along the Yarapa Uno (Yarapa One), which is the lower end of a loop channel. During the afternoon, as the ship continued upriver we birded along the banks of the Ucayali. Tonight (sometime around 2-3 in the morning) we passed the town of Requena, the only town of any size in this area. Afternoon Mini-lecture: *Diversity: Why are there so many birds in the Amazon?*

Jan 13 (Tuesday). We visited the Río Yanallpa, (apparently pronounced Yanashpa) this morning, one of the narrowest creeks on our itinerary, and in the afternoon motored by skiff ahead

to the mouth of Faucet creek for an excursion between c. 4:00 and 6:00 p.m., then went out again from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for a night excursion. Afternoon mini-lecture: *The Many Faces of the Amazon*.

Jan 14 (Wednesday). Morning outing on the Río Zapote, a blackwater river and one of the two wildest rivers that we visit on this cruise. This was a hot, sunny morning. A small Amerindian settlement is located a few minutes above the river mouth and this village receives 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. Afternoon along the banks of the Ucayali as we began our navigation back down the Río Ucayali. Afternoon mini-lecture: *Navigation update*.

Jan 15 (Thursday). Morning at the Yarapa Dos (upper end of a loop channel). We visited the lower end of this channel on Monday. Sometime after mid-day we entered the Río Marañón and started upstream toward the La Posada Lodge where we will undertake a land-based excursion tomorrow. We visited the Amerindian community of Prado (Comunidad Prado) this afternoon and later undertook a short outing along the banks of the Marañón and also a second night excursion on the Quebrada Pawachiro about a kilometer above the village of Nauta and on the opposite bank of the Río Marañón. Afternoon mini-lecture: *River Island Ecology*.

Jan 16 (Friday). Morning departure to La Posada Lodge (the lodge is not operational for overnight guests) for our land-based excursion. For those not on the forest walks there was a boat trip (with Dennis Osorio) on the nearby Quebrada Perdida (Lost Creek). Late afternoon passing the bifurcation of the Río Amazon (where it splits into the Río Ucayali and the Río Marañón) and then downstream to Iquitos, arriving c. 1:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Jan. 17 (Saturday). Early pre-breakfast birding trip to a flooded river island near Iquitos. Highlights included Red-and-white Spinetail, White-bellied Spinetail, Parker's Spinetail, Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, River Tyrannulet, and Black-and-white Antbird, as well as assorted Black-crowned Night-Herons, Red-capped Cardinals and Yellow-headed Caracaras among others. Then followed a mid-morning visit to the Belen Waterfront Market and a little birding afterward. Highlights here included Lesser Hornero, Orange-headed Tanager, Yellow-browed Sparrow, Black-billed Thrush and Palm Tanager. From there we toured, by bus, the food market, and continued to the airport for an early afternoon flight to Lima and dinner and day rooms at the Costa del Sol airport hotel.

KEY:

Asterisk (*) = heard only

Boldface red: North American breeders

Boldface black and underlined: 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]

[] = enclosed in brackets if seen only by SH or DA or by Segundo or Usiel

BIRDS: (Taxonomy follows Clements checklist with updates)

Tinamous, *Tinamidae*

*Cinereous Tinamou, *Crypturellus cinereous*, heard the last couple of days

*Undulated Tinamou, *Crypturellus undulatus*, heard daily

Screamers, *Anhimidae*

Horned Screamer, *Anhima cornuta*, seen on Jan 24, 26th and 27th

Ducks & Geese, *Anatidae*

Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata*, 2-20+ seen almost all days (most sightings were of pairs although at least one flocks of 15 or more was seen

Guans and Chachalacas, *Cracidae*

Speckled Chachalaca, *Ortalis guttata*, heard along Río Tahuayo; seen next to last day on Río Yarapa Bajo (lower)

Storks, *Ciconiidae*

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana*, 3 seen the first afternoon near mouth of Lucero Pata; another the next day; all were immatures

Cormorants, *Phalacrocoracidae*

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, daily with a huge roost/nest rookery on Lucero Pata

Anhinga, *Anhingidae*

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*, singles or twos seen on last four days

Hérons & Egrets, *Ardeidae*

Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*, 1-4 seen

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, daily in small numbers along rivers; but up to 600 gathered near mouth of Río Zapote

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, 5-15 daily

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*, singles but in numbers with 40+ some days; the commonest heron of the trip

Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*, 4 seen along Río Zapote and a single the previous day

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, only a few seen on the main cruise; then 40+ flushed from roost or feeding area at dawn on Saturday morning at an island near Iquitos the last morning

Boat-billed Heron, *Cochlearius cochlearius*, 1 seen on the first boat trip; 6+ seen on the second boat trip including one with a remarkably large fish that it eventually swallowed (presenting a less than pretty sight) but seeing this heron eat anything (its diet is poorly known) is a rare event and an exciting event

Ibises & Spoonbills, *Threskiornithidae*

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, two were seen including one in flight and one with a very muddy bill that was perched on a high bare branch; also another heard along the Río Zapote

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

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

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

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes burrovianus*, river banks and islands near Iquitos and in grassy open areas along the min Amazon and Ucayali river banks were there are large grassy areas; typically soars/glides low; fairly common; up to a dozen or more seen on some days

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes melambrotus*, only 2-3 seen over forest on the Río Zapote; another seen the last day; soars much higher than Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and always over forested areas)

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 1-4 seen every day; in western hemisphere known to breed only in North America; all S American birds are non-breeders but some are present year-round

Hawk & Eagles, Accipitridae

Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*, 1 seen along the Río Yarapa

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, one group of 15 and another group of 8-10; both groups may have been a local migratory event; also a single seen on the Yanallpa

Black Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*, 1 seen flying across river and then perched quite close along Río Yarapa

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

Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, a few at Iquitos (where they were seen from the waterfront); also a single and a pair on two days and a “kettle” of 21 and another group of 19-20; both of these groups may have been local or short-distance migratory groups

Slender-billed Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, singles seen on 3 days; often soars quite high

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*, 1-6 seen every day but no large flocks; perched and showing long wings protruding and also in flight

Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*, singles or pairs seen on three days

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

Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*, adults and a several immatures almost daily (singles or pairs but probably fewer than 8 a day) along riverbanks and creeks

Roadside Hawk, *Rupornis (Buteo) magnirostris*, almost daily along river edges; the “Riverside” hawk although this species did not seem as numerous this year as on previous occasions

Sunbittern, Eurypygidae

Sunbittern, *Eurypyga helias*, 1 seen on the La Posada boat trip

Rails and Gallinules, Rallidae

*Rufous-sided Crake, *Laterallus melanophaius*, heard along the Río Tahuayo

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*, one seen from the Iquitos waterfront the day of arrival; on an island near Iquitos; two the last morning (Saturday) in same area

Finfoots & Sungrebe, Heliornithidae

Sungrebe, *Heliornis fulica*, because of the low water this year we saw from 1-6+ individuals every day; on the other hand we did not hear much vocalization; the low water greatly helped observation of this interesting bird

Jacanas, Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*, daily but mostly singles and pairs or a few scattered birds in loosely associated groups

Sandpipers & allies, Scolopacidae

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

Gulls & Terns, Laridae

Yellow-billed Tern, *Sternula superciliaris*, a few every day but 100-150 or more were scattered along a shallow area near the mouth of the Río Yanallpa

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

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*, Iquitos

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*, not especially numerous; our groups saw perhaps 10-15 the first day and thereafter seen at only a couple additional sites

Plumbeous Pigeon, *Patagioenas plumbea*, one seen along the Río Faucet; another heard along the Yarapa

Ruddy Pigeon, *Columba subvinacea*, singles heard a few times; one or two seen

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columba talpacoti*, a few seen in disturbed areas and river edge vegetation the first two days (especially near Amerindian villages) and the last day

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, one seen on the 27 and 28th; edge and scrub and primarily around islands (not inside forest)

Gray-fronted Dove, *Leptotila rufaxilla*, mostly heard; a couple seen flying across narrow creeks; this species occurring in forested areas, or inside forest (cf. with previous species)

Hoatzin, Opisthocomidae

Hoatzin, *Opisthocomus hoazin*, seen on twos; mainly around quiet lake edges well away from river traffic; one of the Amazon's oddest birds; seen at mouth of the Zapote and also along the Pawachiro

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Little Cuckoo, *Piaya minuta*, a single seen the first morning along the Tahuayo
Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, seen on three days including the forest walk at La Posada
Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*, daily in numbers (flocks) up to 20 to (in one case) more than 50 birds
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*, one heard from our Zodiacs on the 28th was our only record
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*, at least 4 heard and one seen

Nightjars & Allies, Caprimulgidae

Sand-colored Nighthawk, *Chordeiles rupestris*, about a half dozen at mouth of the Río Zapote
Short-tailed Nighthawk, *Lurocalis semitorquatus*, one seen along the Quebrada Pawachiro about a kilometer above the town of Nauta; always difficult to see well because they fly through the forest canopy at dusk
Common Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*, a few along the Río Zapote
Ladder-tailed Nightjar, *Hydropsalis climacocerca*, 3-4 near mouth of the Río Faucet creek on a night excursion

Potoos, Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*, one seen on our second night excursion near the mouth of the Caño Pawachiro (upriver from town of Nauta)
Common Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*, 4 seen after dark along Faucet creek

Swifts, Apodidae

Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*, only a couple seen
Fork-tailed (Neotropical) Palm-Swift, *Tachornis (Reinarda) squamata*, daily over all rivers; usually in vicinity of *Mauritia* palms (where they nest)

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsutus*, a couple seen briefly the first morning along the Río Tahuayo
Black-eared Fairy, *Heliothryx auritus*, one seen on the La Posada forest walk
Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*, one or two seen almost every day
Blue-chinned Sapphire, *Chlorostilbon (Chlorestes) notata*, one male seen
Olive-spotted Hummingbird, *Leucippus chlorocercus*, we had at least three sightings of this bird: remarkably dull little river island specialist (also along river edges) and often the only hummer in this scrubby degraded habitat
Glittering-throated Emerald, *Amazilia fimbriata*, one seen the first morning

Trogons, Trogonidae

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

Green-backed Trogon (a split from White-tailed Trogon), *Trogon viridis*, we saw one or more individuals of this species on five of six days; at least at this time of year less vocal than the Black-tailed Trogon; surely one of the more misleading names for such a beautiful bird

Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris*, our only record was of one seen the first morning along the flooded Río Tahuayo

Motmots, Momotidae

Rufous Motmot, *Momotus martii*, one bird seen by most of the “forest explorers” at La Posada on our last morning; double hoot and a longer rolling call

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

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

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

Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*, seen on most days

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle inda*, at least 5 individuals seen of this scarce species

American Pygmy Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle aenea*, seen on at least 3 days with up to 5 sightings by one boat group and at least 4 by the other boat group on our first morning outing along the Tahuayo

Puffbirds, Bucconidae

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

Swallow-winged Puffbird, *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*, small treetop groups daily

Jacamars, Galbulidae

White-eared Jacamar, *Galbalcyrrhynchus leucotis*, most numerous jacamar; pairs and families of up to 4 individuals seen repeatedly each day

Yellow-billed Jacamar, *Galbula albirostris*, 1 seen on forest walk at La Posada

Bluish-fronted Jacamar, *Galbula cyanescens*, singles and pairs seen on only two days; birds on both sides of Ucayali are believed to be this species but potential or actual overlap with very similar and more northerly White-chinned Jacamar (*G. tombacea*) is possible

Barbets, Capitonidae

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

Gilded Barbet, *Capito auratus*, large colorful barbet; five birds responded by flying into a large open tree almost immediately after vocal playback at the La Posada swimming pool and then just stayed for all to admire them; one just wonders what was going on in their minds?

Lemon-throated Barbet, *Eubucco richardsoni*, at least 3 or 4 sighting during the first 3 days

Toucans, Ramphastidae

Lettered Araçari, *Pteroglossus inscriptus*, seen on 4 days but usually just singles or twos

Chestnut-eared Araçari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*, almost daily and typically up to half a dozen that fly in follow-the-leader formation across rivers or open spaces; this is THE river edge Araçari

Ivory-billed Araçari, *Pteroglossus azara*, 1 group of three seen along the Río Yanallpa
White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan, *Ramphastos cuvieri*, one seen on the Río Yanallpa; two on the Yarapa Dos (upper end) on the 28th; also heard a few times distantly
Channel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus*, one seen on the Río Yarapa on the 25th; two (together for a few minutes with previous species) on the Río Yarapa Dos (upper end); these large *Ramphastos* toucans are rather uncommon in this area and may suffer from some persecution

Woodpeckers, Picidae

Lafresnaye's Piculet, *Picumnus lafresnayi*, seen twice; Río Yanallpa and Río Zapote

Plain-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus castelnau*, singles on two days; Río Tahuayo and Yanallpa; 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 five of six days; often in groups on high stubs; a close relative of Acorn Woodpecker

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 four days

Yellow-throated Woodpecker, *Piculus flavigula*, one seen on Yarapa and another on the Zapote river; quite uncommon here

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

Scale-breasted Woodpecker, *Celeus grammicus*, seen only once on the Río Yanallpa

Chestnut Woodpecker, *Celeus elegans*, we saw this lovely woodpecker on four days including a pair on the Yarapa Dos (upper end) that (curiously) responded strongly to playback of Ringed Woodpecker

Cream-colored Woodpecker, *Celeus flavus*, another *Celeus* seen on four different days; one of the handsomest *Celeus* woodpeckers; excellent views

*Ringed Woodpecker, *Celeus torquatus*, heard along Río Yarapa Dos; everywhere a low-density species due to its large foraging/home range; consequently often difficult to find with any regularity

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, seen on two different days (26th and 28th); same genus as our Pileated Woodpecker in North America

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*, seen on four different days including especially well along the Río Yarapa Dos (upper end); 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 and pairs seen on five days; common river edge bird and a "light-weight" scavenger

Red-throated Caracara, *Ibycter americanus*, one group of three seen by both boat parties on the Río Yanallpa; these caracaras often attack large wasp nests for the wasp larvae; a species in decline over much of its range and especially in Central America where it is virtually gone

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

Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*, seen twice (25th and 26th) and heard on the 28th at the Amerindian village of Comunidad Pardo; a snake-eating specialist

Bat Falcon, *Falco ruficularis*, and one seen on the 26th

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, one on the 29th during our final late afternoon descent of the Río Amazon to Iquitos

Parrots & Parakeets, Psittacidae (18 species recorded)

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)

Canary-winged (White-winged) Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus*, multiple flocks of 10s and 20s and up to 100s daily along all creeks but most numerous on the Tahuayo; dazzling flocks are a characteristic part of avifauna in this region; 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 recall a swarm of insects at a distance; there is a lot of confusion regarding the English name. Both Canary-winged and White-winged have been used and will be seen in the literature

Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanoptera*, flocks on four of six days but most were seen in flight

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*, singles seen on three of six days but only in flight high overhead (surprisingly low numbers); deep mostly “below the horizontal” wing beats

Short-tailed Parrot, *Graydidascalus brachyurus*, a noisy bird seen in pairs or more often small groups almost every day along tall riverine forest and riverine bands of *Cecropia*; noisy and screechy; few seen perched

Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala*, singles or pairs seen on the Tahuayo and Yarapa Uno and Zapote rivers; also along the banks of Ucayali

Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*, heard more than seen although several were seen in flight on 4 of 6 days; commonest along the Tahuayo and Zapote; large green parrot with deep throaty voice; largest *Amazona* parrot

Orange-winged Parrot, *Amazona amazonica*, commonest *Amazona* parrots; we saw 15-20 flying over the Yarapa Uno on the 25th; pairs or threes within larger flocks; others seen over the Yanallpa and Zapote

Blue-winged Parrotlet, *Forpus xanthopterygius*, two flocks seen on the Zapote; another

Black-headed Parrot, *Pionites melanocephalus*, 4 along Río Dorado perched for a few minutes in high tree; flocks in flight also seen on all but the first and last day

Maroon-tailed Parakeet, *Pyrrhura melanura*, last day at La Posada (where seen near swimming pool and again in palms near the port)

Dusky-headed Parakeet, *Aratinga weddellii*, daily along rivers; commonest “large” parakeet

Red-bellied Macaw, *Orthopsittaca manilatus*, scattered pairs or small groups of 5-8 seen on all mornings; a small macaw and also the most numerous

Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna*, pairs or 4s or 5s on all days except the first and last days; at least 12 over Río Zapote

Scarlet Macaw, *Ara macao*, seen on the 26th and 27th and 28th (Yanallpa; Zapote and Yarapa Dos)

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severus*, only one group of about 6 seen on the afternoon of 26th along banks of Ucayali not far below the mouth of Faucet creek

White-eyed Parakeet, *Psittacara leucophthalma*, flock of 30+ at mouth of Yarapa Uno; also seen again flying overhead at La Posada the last day; mainly seen in early morning

Antbirds, *Thamnophilidae*

*Fasciated Antshrike, *Cymbilaimus lineatus*, heard at La Posada

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*, seen the first morning along Río Tahuayo; another male seen well along the Pawachiro in late evening; also heard in one or two additional places

Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis*, pair at mouth of Yanallpa

Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, seen (or heard) on the Tahuayo; also the Yanallpa

Castelnaud's Antshrike, *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*, one seen along Lucero Pata channel in the late afternoon the first afternoon; a river edge/island bird of older second growth

Dusky-throated Antshrike, *Thamnomanes ardesiacus*, seen with mixed species flock at La Posada

Cinereous Antshrike, *Thamnomanes caesius*, one on Yarapa Uno; another with mixed species flock at La Posada

Spot-winged Antshrike, *Pygiptila stellaris*, pair seen by one boat party along the Yarapa Dos

*Pygmy Antwren, *Myrmotherula brachyura*, only heard this trip; one or two along the Yanallpa

Amazonian Streaked-Antwren, *Myrmotherula multistriata*, pairs seen three times in dense vines along creeks

White-flanked Antwren, *Myrmotherula axillaris*, La Posada (with mixed species flock)

Long-winged Antwren, *Myrmotherula longipennis*, La Posada (with mixed species flock)

Gray Antwren, *Myrmotherula menetriesii*, La Posada (with mixed species flock)

Peruvian Warbling-Antbird, *Hypocnemis peruviana*, one seen by one boat party along the Zapote; heard at La Posada

Band-tailed Antbird, *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*, nice views of this species by all parties; close to water

*Blackish Antbird, *Cercomacra nigrescens*, pair heard along the Tahuayo but were unresponsive

Black-tailed Antbird, *Cercomacra melanurus*, a couple pairs found the first morning along Río Tahuayo and seen by both boat parties; a **very local swamp forest and black-water species**; we have not been successful in locating this bird every year

Black-and-white Antbird, *Myrmochanes hemileucus*, one seen along a river island edge below the Zapote River; best seen (a pair) repeatedly near Iquitos the last

morning; a species found in *Tessaria* sp. and *Salix* (willow) other early succession plants on river islands and adjacent river banks

Plumbeous Antbird, *Myrmeciza hyperythra*, good views of this species the first two mornings; Tahuayo and Yarapa Uno

*Dot-backed Antbird, *Hylophylax punctulatus*, 1 heard calling loudly along the Yanallpa but was unresponsive; this is an uncommon bird and has been seen on only one previous cruise but unfortunately the bird today was unresponsive

Ovenbird and allies, Furnariidae

Woodcreepers (subfamily Dendrocolaptinae); now merged within Furnariidae

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, *Dendrozetetes rufigula*, enigmatic woodcreeper that looks and often acts more like a foliage-gleaner than a woodcreeper; seen on 3 or 4 different days

Long-billed Woodcreeper, *Nasica longirostris*, several seen beautifully; heard every day; seen most days

Striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*, common várzea and river edge bird; heard regularly and seen on at least two different days; in low dark undergrowth of shady creeks

Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*, not much vocalization from this species this trip; only a couple seen on the 26th (Yanallpa); also 28th (Yarapa Dos) and La Posada

Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*, seen on 4 days; common river edge and creek edge bird

Zimmer's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus kienerii*, this range-restricted species was seen by a couple times but always with voice for confirmation because it is doubtfully distinguishable from Straight-billed Woodcreeper in field (Zimmer's marginally browner); Yanallpa and Zapote and Yarapa Dos

Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*, Yanallpa

Point-tailed Palmcreeper, *Berlepschia rikeri*, one in top of Moriche Palm along banks of Ucayali that was seen by almost everyone; a Moriche Palm specialist that forages and nests in these palms and is rare seen away from them

Pale-legged Hornero, *Furnarius leucopus*, one seen the first morning after arrival in Iquitos

Bay (Pale-billed) (Hornero, *Furnarius torridus*), heard several times; eventually seen on the Yanallpa and Yarapa Dos but seen reasonably well by only one boat party; this is typically a very difficult bird to see and we often are able to see it only in flight

Lesser Horner, *Furnarius minor*, a specialist of driftwood on sandy river islands; seen along banks of Ucayali on the 27th (below Zapote); again at mouth of Yarapa and finally one seen walking around on an old rusty ship deck at the Iquitos waterfront

Parker's Spinetail, *Cranioleuca vulpecula*, a species found primarily (but not exclusively) in dense cane on river islands and river banks; usually responsive to song playback; heard along Lucero Pata; seen near the Yarapa and Zapata and last morning on island (mainly *Salix* spp) near Iquitos; named in honor of Theodore Parker who formerly worked for VENT and died tragically in a plane crash in Ecuador in the early 1990s

Yellow-chinned Spinetail, *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*, cute pair on Lucero Pata the first afternoon of first full day;

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

Dark-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albigularis*, seen or heard three times; mainly river islands and river banks with grass and shrubs; seen at the Tahuayo; heard along banks of Ucayali below the Zapote; surely not seen well by everyone

White-bellied Spinetail, *Synallaxis propinqua*, river island species that almost always proves difficult to see; our best (and only) views were the last morning near Iquitos and today one of the two pairs we found were actually remarkably cooperative with one bird ascending well up into a willow where it was quite visible

Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, seen once; Río Yarapa Dos; slightly bushy crest and cocked tail but otherwise undistinguished

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannous elates*, heard daily uttering its “free beer” call; we saw it a few times but not particularly well; it is better remembered by its call

*Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*, only a single bird heard; Río Yarapa Dos the 28th

River Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga hypoleuca*, lively pair in *Salix* shrubs on river islands near Iquitos the last morning

Slender-footed Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius gracilipes*, one on the Zapote; a forgettable little bird on forest canopy

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, *Stigmatura napensis*, pair seen the last morning near Iquitos; a charismatic river island specialist of *Tessaria* sp. and *Salix* sp. shrubs

Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus vitiosus*, one seen on La Posada forest trail; another little bird unlikely to make a strong or lasting impression unless you heard it well . . . and even then . . .

Spotted Tody-Tyrant, *Todirostrum maculatum*, we saw pairs (and also heard them) in river edge and creekside shrubbery on the first two mornings (Tahuayo and Yarapa); also calling sounding off loudly at the Explorama boat dock when we disembarked the ship

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*, heard or seen a couple times (26th and 27th and heard the 25th but seen rather well at La Posada (treetop near the swimming pool; bird looks a bit like a large bumblebee high in canopy; not rare but difficult to spot

Olivaceous Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*, one seen along Río Yarapa Uno then seen again on the 28th at Yarapa Dos; surprisingly to see this species twice because we have usually not recorded it on previous trips

Gray-crowned Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*, one seen well high in tree by swimming pool at La Posada

Fuscous Flycatcher, *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*, one on the 27th in dense vegetation along a river island below the Zapote; rather nondescript flycatcher with longish tail and flat head that lives in wet shrubby undergrowth

Drab Water Tyrant, *Ochthornis littoralis*, along riverbanks almost daily; it may be dull in color but its presence along river banks usually makes an impression

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*, one on the Lucero Pata; another along banks of the Ucayali some distance below the Zapote; in marshy places where males perch on low shrubs where they are conspicuous with blackish bodies and white heads

Cinnamon Attila, *Attila cinnamomeus*, heard and seen along the Río Yarapa Uno and heard and seen several times after that including Faucet creek and Río Zapote

Dull-capped (White-eyed) Attila, *Attila bolivianus*, harder to see than previous species but also quite vocal; seen along the Río Yarapa; now officially called (again) Dull-capped Attila (pronounce name *at-TIL-a*) by SACC but a more appropriate name should be White-eyed Attila

*Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*, heard at La Posada

Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*, heard and seen frequently along river edges

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

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

Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*, seen or heard several times including in Iquitos

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

Gray-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*, seen only the second day on the Río Yarapa; heard at La Posada

Dusky-chested Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes luteiventris*, one seen along Yarapa Uno; almost always a low-density species

Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*, one seen the last morning on boat trip from La Posada (trip led by Dennis Osorio)

Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*, its loud whistles were heard on the 24th and 26th and it was also seen by some on the 26th at Yanallpa

Sulphury Flycatcher, *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*, pair seen in Moriche Palms along banks of Ucayali the first day; another coming to a fruiting palm to take the nuts at La Posada

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 6-8 birds the first afternoon along banks of Amazon; these birds winter in western Amazonia and will soon gather in much larger groups to migrate northward

Cotingas, Cotingidae

Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*, seen along the Yarapa and at La Posada

Plum-throated Cotinga, *Cotinga maynana*, single males seen on 4 mornings; a species 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 on three days; no large movements and mainly single males or females crossing high overhead or perched high up in a tree

Manakins, Pipridae

*Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin, *Tyrannetes stolzmanni*, 1 heard at La Posada

*Blue-crowned Manakin, *Lepidothrix coronata*, heard at La Posada

*White-bearded Manakin, *Manacus manacus*, lek at La Posada but birds were only heard (or possibly glimpsed by one or two people)

Wire-tailed Manakin, *Pipra filicauda*, one female seen (by one boat party) near entrance to Yanallpa creek

Golden-headed Manakin, *Ceratopipra erythrocephala*, one female seen at La Posada

Tityras & allies, Tityridae

Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*, seen on at least three days including female in nest cavity with head sticking out

Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*, singles or pairs the first two days

Várzea Schiffornis, *Schiffornis major*, heard and/or seen almost every morning; seen perched a couple times; formerly called Greater Manakin

Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*, three along the Yarapa Uno (including pair at nest); another pair at a nest on the Yarapa Dos

White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*, one male was seen well along the Yarapa Uno

Vireos & Greenlets, Vireonidae

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus* (or if split *Vireo chivi*, a few scattered birds heard along river edges; a couple were seen; this is a resident form with a simple two-note call; some austral (southern) migrants present ca. April to September

Gray-chested Greenlet, *Hylophilus semicinereus*, heard and seen the first morning near mouth of the Río Tahuayo by one boat party

Crowns & Jays, Corvidae

Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*, pair or small group seen the first morning along Tahuayo

Swallows & Martins, Hirundinidae

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, daily; some small groups of half dozen; this species is not nesting now (high water) 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 does not migrate

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*, up to 50+ along banks of Ucayali above the Yarapa Uno on the 25th; otherwise only seen in two or three other areas and only a few birds

Brown-chested Martin, *Progne tapera*, 10-15+ of this species with the Gray-breasted Martins along banks of the Ucayali (not an especially numerous resident here); also seen on the 28th along the Yarapa Dos

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

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*, apparently only a few were seen the first morning at mouth of the Tahuayo although it was almost certainly present with several of the groups of Barn Swallows we saw elsewhere

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, daily in varying-sized flocks but mostly heavily molting juveniles of the previous year; we saw one large flock of 100+ (or 100s) the first

afternoon along the Lucero Pata; otherwise flocks rather small and scattered in areas with grass; a North America breeder (at least all of these birds are)

Wrens, Troglodytidae

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, Iquitos and at least also along the Yanallpa

Thrush-like Wren, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*, heard most days; pairs seen high in trees a few times including one cooperative trio along Faucet creek; one of the most characteristic bird sounds around Amazonian communities

Buff-breasted Wren, *Cantorchilus leucotis*, heard everywhere along creek sides; a few seen with diligent playback at the Yarapa Uno and Yarapa creeks

Donacobius, Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius, *Donacobius atricapilla*, heard and 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*, a couple seen along the Yanallpa and then seen very well at the La Posada (vicinity of swimming pool)

Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, mainly around Iquitos; a few along Río Tahuayo and Yarapa

Tanagers, Thraupidae (many taxonomic changes in this family)

Red-capped Cardinal, *Paroaria gularis*, daily along rivers and creeks and lakes

Hooded Tanager, *Nemosia pileata*, pairs or little groups 3-5 were seen near river banks at Tahuayo and Yarapa and Yanallpa creeks

Orange-headed Tanager, *Thlypopsis sordida*, seen along Yarapa Dos but probably best seen on the grassy lawn along the waterfront in Iquitos

Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*, seen along the Yanallpa

Masked Crimson Tanager, *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*, stunning plumage and common enough that it was seen almost daily in small groups along river and creek edges

Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*, daily but not particularly numerous

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*, a couple seen the first morning along the Tahuayo; then seen quite close in Iquitos

Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*, we saw this species only a few times and usually they were quite far away and high

Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*, pairs or little groups but often they also were rather far away and quite high

Opal-rumped Tanager, *Tangara velia*, one with a *Tangara* flock on the Zapote but it was seen only by Dennis Osorio and one or two others and it also was rather far away

Green-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*, yet another little "*Tangara*" tanager that we saw only once or twice and far away and high in trees; these *Tangara* flocks are always difficult to see because the flock members stay so high but they also are so very beautiful when seen close

Black-faced Dacnis, *Dacnis lineata*, one seen on the Quebrada Perdida (Lost Creek) for those that took the boat trip rather than the La Posada forest walk (Dennis Osorio trip)
Yellow-bellied Dacnis, *Dacnis flaviventer*, scattered singles or pairs throughout the trip but not particularly numerous

Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*, one seen on the Río Zapote at c. 09:15 a.m. just before we returned for our morning break; this bird was with a large tanager flock that was (as usual) high up and difficult to see

Purple Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*, one seen by the boat trip group at La Posada
Pearly-breasted Conebill, *Conirostrum margaritae*, we saw only one and this was the

first morning near the mouth of the Río Tahuayo; in a *Cecropia* but not a large even-aged stand of *Cecropia* trees (their favorite habitat); this is a river island specialist

Lesson's Seedeater, *Sporophila bouvronides*, 8-10 birds (mostly female-plumaged but with 2-3 males) seen the first morning along the banks of the Río Tahuayo; in flooded grassy areas along riverbank; notably erratic and nomadic as they wander in search of seed crops

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

Chestnut-bellied (Lesser) Seed-Finch, *Sporophila (Oryzoborus) angolensis*, one seen the second morning by one boat party

Caquetá Seedeater, *Sporophila murallae*, one seen on the La Posada boat trip (Dennis Osorio group) was our only one; seasonally present (depends upon sufficient grass seeds) in grassy and marshy areas

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, apparently the only one seen was on the Río Zapote; a bird with the tanager flock that included Turquoise Tanagers and a Blue Dacnis; not common in Amazonia

Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*, we saw pairs of this species on at least three mornings and always in early successional stage vegetation along river edges

Finches & Sparrow, Emberizidae

Yellow-browed Sparrow, *Ammodramus aurifrons*, small numbers along river edges and on river islands; seen in Iquitos and most days during the cruise

Blackbirds etc., Icteridae

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

Velvet-fronted Grackle, *Lamprospira tanagrinus*, two small groups seen including one on the Tahuayo and another along the Yanallpa

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, varying sized groups seen on three days of the trip; grass and young vegetation along riverbanks

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, scattered birds and small groups along river edges and river islands almost daily

Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*, one seen along the Tahuayo; also one seen the first afternoon of our departure from Iquitos; surprisingly uncommon this trip; a bird typical of river edges and often seen flying along river borders; it parasitizes mainly the Russet-backed Oropendola and other large oropendolas

Orange-backed Troupial, *Icterus croconotus*, singles were seen a couple times

Solitary (Black) Cacique, *Cacicus solitarius*, one seen the first morning by one boat party along the Tahuayo; it also was heard near the village near the Yarapa Dos entrance; has a great variety of odd vocalizations and is generally shy and retiring and as indicated by its name it is solitary

Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*, daily; common; nest colonies with nests clumped together (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*); one of the commonest birds of the trip

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

[Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*, as far as I am aware this species was never seen; it was heard by Segundo and Hilty along the Quebrada Yanallpa; this is a species more typical of human-disturbed areas and is seldom along riverbanks]

Siskins & Goldfinches & Euphonias, Fringillidae

Purple-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia chlorotica*, males or male and female pairs seen a couple times along river edges; this is **the common river edge and river island euphonia** in western Amazonia and it is replaced in high ground forest interior by the very similar Orange-bellied Euphonia; this latter species is rarely or never in river edge habitat

Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris*, another species seen only a couple times in mistletoe clumps

Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*, only 1 seen (in mistletoe); usually more numerous

White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*, another euphonia that was seen relatively well only a couple times but almost certainly we saw it distantly several times; a species that stays high in treetops where it is difficult to see its white under tail coverts; smaller than most other euphonias

MAMMALS, HERPS and miscellaneous critters:

Sloths, Bradypodidae

Brown-throated three-toed Sloth, *Bradypus variegatus*, three seen in as many days

Marmosets & Tamarins, Callitrichidae

Pygmy Marmoset, *Cebuella pygmaea*, two seen very well by virtually everyone at a known site along the Caño Yarapa; 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*, groups of these charming little primates were seen on at least two occasions; 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*, we saw good view of this primate (much better than usual) and we heard them give their loud rollicking calls several times; at dawn families utter a loud raucous *Walk-a Walk-a Wauk-a . . .* vocalization that can be heard for nearly a kilometer to warn neighboring families away

Common Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri sciureus boliviensis*, troops seen along banks of creeks on several occasions; the ones we saw were of the “black-capped” *boliviensis* race that some regard as a separate species from the more gray-capped nominate race. Apparently both forms occur in this area (lower Río Ucayali)

Monk Saki Monkey, *Pithecia monachus*, some of us had excellent studies on the Río Zapote of this interesting primate with the long thick hairy tail and heavy body hair; later everyone obtained fine views of groups along branches of the Yarapa Dos the next to last morning. This primate is very similar to the Equatorial Saki Monkey *Pithecia aequatorialis* but differs in a darker bare face and usually a grayish (not rufous to brown) chest.

Night Monkey (Owl Monkey), *Aotus* sp. (rufous-necked form), three were seen in a tree hole about 6 m above our boat on Caño Yanallpa; then some of us saw two others (probably there were others) that had been sleeping under the roof of the La Posada Lodge but were disturbed by our arrival; very cute little animals with rufous faces and large dark eyes; a nocturnal species that sleeps during the day and forages at night; low hooting calls at night betray its presence when it ranges out to search for fruit

Spiny Rats & Tree Rats, Echimyidae

*Amazon Bamboo Rat, *Dactylomys dactylinus*, these were heard after dark on several occasions during our night outings; their loud call sound like a “gattling” gun

Yellow-crowned Brush-Tailed Tree Rat, *Isothrix bistrriata*, we had good views of a couple of these interesting little rodents that sit in tree holes and peer out; remarkably confiding and easy to see (if you can spot their holes and Segundo is particularly good at this!)

Sheath-tailed Bats, Emballonuridae

Long-nosed Bat, *Rhynchonycteris naso*, group clinging beneath side of a tree trunk overhanging the Río Yarapa; several other groups flushed; distinctly spotted or freckled with white on their backs

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)

Dolphins

Pink River Dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*, seen daily 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; nearly blind and catch fish by echolocation

Gray River Dolphin, *Sotalia fluviatilis*, seen on numerous occasions and especially around the back of our ship when it was parked, and at river mouths; on this trip we saw as many of this species as the pink species; Gray River Dolphins have a pointed dorsal fin that looks like a shark fin and overall this species is smaller and dark

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

Caiman Lizard, *Dracaena sp.* (presumably *guianensis*) (Teiidae), we saw this interesting and remarkably large lizard only one time when one was swimming across a small section of the Zapote River; uncommon; feeds heavily on snails
Amazon Green Iguana, *Iguana iguana*, we saw several large grayish adults and an equal number of smaller younger green ones
Tegu Lizard, *Tupinambis spp.*, one was seen (and photographed) along the waterfront in Iquitos
Polka Dot Frog, a tiny frog seen on one of our night excursions and also found later in tall grass
Crested Forest Toad (leaf color and shape), one in the swimming pool at La Posada
Spotted-thighed Poison-dart Frog, also in the swimming pool at La Posada
Red-backed Poison-Dart Frog, a tiny frog (mainly red with blue legs and rearparts) captured by Usiel during our forest walk at La Posada
Anaconda, one seen at La Posada Lodge (it was captured in a lake and brought down to the river edge so our group could see it)
Social or Communal spider nest (one of 100s of species in several families), seen on a boat trip

INVERTEBRATES:

Blue Morpho butterflies
Owl butterfly (also known as *Caligo* Butterfly); one seen at dusk along the Quebrada Pawachiro (above Nauta) on our second night outing; this butterfly is a very large but crepuscular species

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. Or, Duellman's *Frogs of Iquitos* (University of Kansas Nat. History Mus. Publ.)

PART II: BIRDS SEEN IN LIMA-PUCUSANA AREA: January 10, 2013

Dusks & Geese, Anatidae

Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*, Pantanos de Villa; 1 at Pantanos de Villa
White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis*, 4 at Pantanos de Villa
Puna Teal, *Anas puna*, 4 at Pantanos de Villa

Grebes, Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*, 2 at Pantanos de Villa
Great Grebe, *Podiceps major*, 2 at Pantanos de Villa

Penguins, Spheniscidae

Humboldt Penguin, *Spheniscus humboldti*, 4 seen standing on rocks at Pucusana

Boobies, Sulidae

Peruvian Booby, *Sula variegata*, Lima coast (3000+)

Blue-footed Booby, *Sula nebouxi*, 5 on rocks at Pucusana

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*, Lima coast (50+)

Red-legged Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax gaimardi*, Pucusana 25+

Guanay Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*, Lima coast (8-10)

Pelicans, Pelecanidae

Peruvian Pelican, *Pelecanus thagus*, Lima coast (est. 25-35+) and especially at Pucusana

Hérons & Egrets, Ardeidae

Great Egret, *Egretta alba*, Lima coast (1)

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, (2-3)

Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*, 2

Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, Pantanos de Villa (many)

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*, 1

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, 5-6 at Pantanos de Villa

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, 1 immature at Pantanos de Villa

Ibises, Threskiornithidae

Puna Ibis, *Plegadis ridgwayi*, 2 seen at Pantanos de Villa (migrant from high Andean elevations)

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

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

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

Hawks and Kites

Harris's Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*, 2 at Pantanos de Villa

Rails & Coots, Rallidae

Common Gallinule (Moorhen), *Gallinula (chloropus) galeata*, 4-5 at Pantanos de Villa

Slate-colored Coot, *Fulica ardesiaca* (includes all Andean forms), only 1 at Pantanos de Villa; forecrown shield color dark reddish chestnut (but can also be yellow and white)

Thick-knees, Burhinidae

Peruvian Thick-knee, *Burhinus superciliaris*, 1 at 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)

Oystercatchers, Haematopodidae

American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*, 6+ on beaches at Pantanos de Villa

Blackish Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ater*, 6+; Pucusana

Plovers and Lapwings, Charadriidae

Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*, 2 at Pantanos de Villa marshes

Sandpipers, Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, 4-5 at Pantanos de Villa

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*, 2 at Pantanos de Villa marshes [Lesser Yellowlegs also perhaps present?]

Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*, 8+ at Pantanos de Villa marshes; 1 at Pucusana

Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*, a few at Pucusana

Surfbird, *Aphriza virgata*, 12-14 at Pucusana (all in non-breeding plumage)

Gulls & Terns, Laridae

Gray-headed (hooded) Gull, *Chroicocephalus (formerly Larus) cirrocephalus*, >10 (Pantanos de Villa); beach and inland lagoon; none in breeding plumage

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus (formerly Larus) pipixcan*, est. 8000+ birds massed on beaches and inland lagoons at Pantanos de Villa; nonbreeding plumage but many already with rosy tinge to underparts

Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull, *Larus belcheri*, est. 200+; all beach and water areas; common

Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*, 1 adult seen at Pantanos de Villa; not obvious to me why this species is so scarce the last few years

Inca Tern, *Larosterna inca*, 1000s in Pucusana (everywhere in large numbers)

Sandwich Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, at least 25-35+ resting on boats at Pucusana

Royal Tern, *Thalasseus maximus*, 1 cruising up the beach at Pantanos de Villa; possibly also seen by some at Pucusana but all of my photos from there show only of Elegant Terns (including birds with orange bills and red bills and a few with orange bills with yellowish tips)

Elegant Tern, *Thalasseus elegans*, 250-300s+ at Pucusana; a few over ocean at Pantanos de Villa

Skimmer, Rynchopidae

Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*, 15-20 at Pantanos de Villa [not known to breed on coast but these are probably birds from elsewhere in South America)

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

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

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

Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, parks and city streets in Lima

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

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, 12+ roadsides in Pantanos de Villa

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

Peruvian Sheartail, *Thaumastura cora*, 2 in Lima

Amazilia Hummingbird, *Amazilia amazilia* 3-4 seen in Bolivar Park

Falcons & Caracaras, Falconidae

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, 1

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, 1

Parrots & Parakeets, *Psittacidae*

Pacific Parrotlet, *Forpus coelestis*, a few in Bolivar Park

Red-masked Parakeet, *Psittacara erythrogenys*, one flock of 25+ over Bolivar Park

Canary-winged (White-winged) Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus*, 2 in front of the Olivar Hotel (both names have been used in literature; at present apparently Canary-winged is the one that is used)

Ovenbirds, *Furnariidae*

Wren-like Rushbird, *Phleocryptes melanops*, 2 seen (but not without some difficulty) at Pantanos de Villa

Surf (Peruvian Seaside) Cinclodes, *Cinclodes taczanowskii*, 1 on rocky coast at Pucusana

Tyrant Flycatchers, *Tyrannidae*

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, 2-3 in Bolivar Park

Bran-colored Flycatcher, *Myiophobus fasciatus*, 1 at Lurín

Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, *Tachuris rubrigastra*, 2 seen very well at Pantanos de Villa

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

Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, 1 or 2 in Lima

Swallows, *Hirundinidae*

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon* (formerly *Notiochelidon*) *cyanoleuca*, a few 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

Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa

Wrens, *Troglodytidae*

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, common voice; 4 or more; Lima and Pantanos de Villa (near the beach)

Mockingbirds & Thrashers, *Mimidae*

Long-tailed Mockingbird, *Mimus longicaudatus*, 3-4+; Bolivar Park and Pantanos de Villa

Tanagers, *Thraupidae*

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, a couple in Lima area

Cinereous Conebill, *Conirostrum cinereum*, 2 in Bolivar Park

Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*, 2 at Lurín

Grassland Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis luteola*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, 10+ at Río Lurín

Chestnut-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila telasco*, 20+ at Pantanos de Villa and Río Lurín

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, 1 seen (Bolivar Park)

Streaked Saltator, *Saltator striatipectus*, 1 seen (briefly) along Río Lurín

Buntings and Sparrows, Emberizidae

Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*, 2 in Lima

Blackbirds, Icteridae

Peruvian Meadowlark, *Sturnella bellicose*, 3-4 at Pantanos de Villa

Scrub Blackbird, *Dives warszewiczi*, several of these noisy birds in Lima and at Pantanos de Villa; much more common now than a decade or two ago

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

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, several in Lima and Pantanos de Villa

Finches, Fringillidae

Hooded Siskin, *Spinus magellanicus*, 8-10 seen at Lurín

Old World Sparrows, Passeridae

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, Lima (seen by some of the group)

MAMMALS ON LIMA COAST:

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

White-naped Squirrel, 1 in Bolivar Park where it has been introduced (native to NW Peru)

Peruvian Hairless Dog, a few in Pucusana; not a wild species of course but of particular interest because this animal seems to enjoy some status among the residents of this little fishing village