

# **ECUADOR: NORTHWESTERN ANDEAN SLOPES**

**NOVEMBER 11–19, 2017**



Toucan Barbet

© Paul J. Greenfield

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**By Paul Greenfield**

Our Northwestern Andean Slopes tour explored the Pacific Andean slope from high temperate zone forest at Yanacocha Reserve, down through the lower temperate zone, subtropical forest, and through foothill cloudforest and humid lowland forest. Highlights were many, as we sampled so many distinct sites in this bird-rich land. Our first of many hummingbird experiences was at high-Andean Yanacocha Reserve, enjoying close looks at so many wonderful species—Tyrian Metaltail, Sapphire-vented and Golden-breasted pufflegs, Shining Sunbeam, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, the incredible Sword-billed Hummingbird, and the oversized Great Sapphirewing. We watched as plantain banana feeders drew in a group of Andean Guans, a Yellow-breasted Brushfinch, and an onslaught of Glossy and Masked flowerpiercers. A mixed foraging flock included White-banded Tyrannulets, Spectacled Redstarts, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers, several Blue-backed Conebills, and a few Superciliated Hemispinguses. Later that morning, a chance stop as we descended in elevation afforded us close looks at a stoic Masked Trogon and a pair of handsome White-capped Dippers.

Our first early morning walk around Séptimo Paraíso's grounds really brought home the notion that we were amidst mega-biodiversity; what an amazing number of birds surrounded us! A Uniform Antshrike came into view, and Spotted Woodcreeper; Plain Xenops; Buff-fronted, Scaly-throated, and Lineated foliage-gleaners; Red-faced Spinetail; Chocó Tyrannulet; adorable Ornate Flycatchers; an inconspicuous Orange-crested Flycatcher; Acadian Flycatcher; Dusky-capped Flycatcher; Rusty-margined Flycatcher; a Scaled Fruiteater; Golden-winged and female Club-winged manakins in fruiting *Miconia*; Cinnamon and One-colored becards; Red-eyed Vireo; Gray-breasted Wood-Wren; Tropical Parula; Blackburnian and Three-striped warblers; Slate-throated Redstarts; Lemon-rumped, Fawn-breasted, Blue-gray, Palm, Beryl-spangled, Metallic-green, Bay-headed, Golden, Silver-throated, and Swallow tanagers; Variable Seedeater; Buff-throated and Black-winged saltators; Yellow-throated Chlorospingus; Tricolored (Chocó) Brushfinch; Summer Tanager; and Thick-billed and Orange-bellied euphonias were among the multitude of species we encountered before breakfast!

Later that morning we continued our quest at Séptimo, where we spotted a pair of noisy Crested Guans; at the nectar feeders we reveled in White-necked Jacobins, White-whiskered Hermit, Brown Violetears, Violet-tailed Sylphs (amazing males!), Green-crowned Brilliants, spectacular Crowned Woodnymphs, Andean Emerald, and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. Some other species we encountered included Squirrel Cuckoo, Collared (Pale-mandibled) Araçari, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Montane Woodcreeper, and Swainson's Thrush. In the afternoon, we transferred a short distance upslope to what I have coined as "Casa Rolando" for a very entertaining avian "fashion show"—plantain and nectar feeders tastefully placed out by local resident Rolando García—and we enjoyed a parade of multicolored glitz! First, a little handcrafted fountain attracted beautiful Velvet-purple Coronets to bathe; we checked out the nectar feeders last, to the tune of more Violet-tailed Sylphs (male's shockingly stunning tails), Brown Incas, Buff-tailed Coronets, gorgeous Velvet-purple Coronets, super cute Booted Racket-tails, Purple-bibbed Whitetips, Fawn-breasted and the incredible and rare Empress

brilliant, and Purple-throated Woodstar among the visitors. The plantain feeders attracted Red-headed Barbets; White-lined, Golden-naped, Black-capped, and Golden tanagers; Dusky Chlorospingus; Ecuadorian Thrush; Summer Tanager; and euphonias among other species. We also recorded Masked Water-Tyrant.

Rio Silanche's canopy tower was amazing; we spent much of the morning standing around the upper deck, checking out a 360° vista of forest sub-canopy, canopy, and sky with incredible results. Before we even arrived, we came upon an active family threesome of Hooked-billed Kites, but back to the tower: action was slow at times, but wow, when it picked up...Swallow-tailed Kite above, Ruddy Pigeon and a cuddling pair of the Chocó endemic Dusky Pigeon; Purple-chested Hummingbird (another Chocó endemic); a close pair of White-tailed Trogons; a threesome of Chocó endemic Orange-fronted Barbets; Yellow-throated and Chocó toucans; Black-cheeked, Red-rumped, Lineated, and Guayaquil woodpeckers; Bronze-winged Parrots; Yellow-crowned and Sooty-headed tyrannulets; Yellow-margined Flycatcher; Boat-billed, Streaked, and Piratic flycatchers; Masked Tityra; Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo; Lesser Greenlets; a pair of Slate-throated Gnatcatchers; Gray-and-gold and Blue-necked tanagers; Yellow-tufted (Black-faced) Dacnis; the rare and threatened Scarlet-breasted Dacnis; Purple and Green honeycreepers; Scarlet-browed Tanager; and Scarlet-rumped Cacique kept us busy! We later headed off to Rancho Suamox to enjoy our field lunch, some homemade ices, and more birds, which included among many: Green-breasted Mango, Blue-chested Hummingbird, the Tumbesian endemic Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Silver-throated Tanager, and Yellow-bellied Siskin. On our afternoon at Séptimo Paraíso, at leisure, among more species we finally called in a beautiful male Golden-headed Quetzal!

The following morning, we headed off a short way to Milpe Bird Sanctuary; although it was only moderately active, we did chalk-up some memorable species, including close looks at White-whiskered Hermit, Green Thorntail, more spectacular male Crowned Woodnymphs, Green-crowned Brilliant, Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, a Zeledon's Antbird, a pair or two of Buff-rumped Warblers, and Ochre-breasted Tanager. But definitely the highlight of our morning's experience were the active and even displaying Club-winged Manakins we came across! The afternoon found us leisurely working the roadside forest edge along the *Paseo del Quinde* Ecoroute where "right-out-of-the-gate" we came across a mixed foraging flock with a wonderful group of the Chocó endemic Black-chinned Mountain-Tanagers, and shortly after we lucked into a half-dozen (yup, 6!) fabulous Plate-billed Mountain-Toucans that kept us well entertained...we later came upon another. A bit farther up the road we checked out a flowering shrub with a pair of endemic Gorgeted Sunangels in great light (cameras snapping away!), followed by a flashy Collared Inca.

The next dawn found us enjoying a truly unforgettable Angel Paz experience! He and his brother Rodrigo worked their magic with 10 Andean Cock-of-the-rocks at their lek for starters, and then: a Double-toothed Kite (lifer for Angel!), a White-throated Quail-Dove and a roosting Rufous-bellied Nighthawk (!) perched in the canopy, great looks at a fabulous Toucan Barbet, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Powerful Woodpecker, Red-billed Parrots, a pair of Strong-billed Woodcreepers, White-winged Tanager, and...not to forget the *pièce-de-résistance*: unsurpassable looks at 'María' and 'Manuela' (the incredible Giant Antpittas), 'Susana' (Moustached Antpitta), 'Andreíta' (Chestnut-crowned Antpitta), the as-yet-to-be named Yellow-breasted Antpitta, and 'Shakira' the pint-sized Ochre-breasted Antpitta...how delightful! Oh, and it's hard to forget our tasty second breakfast. In the afternoon we dropped

down to the town of Mindo for some shopping, chocolate tasting, and a little birding, but with some surprising results! A few of us lucked onto the newly named Coopman's Elaenia!

The Mashpi-Amagusa Reserve was quite something; run by local residents, this wonderful area of mostly pristine cloud forest is truly unforgettable. The fruit and nectar feeders were very active with many Chocó endemic specialties, including in-our-face looks at more Violet-tailed Sylphs, Brown Incas, Velvet-purple Coronets, Purple-bibbed Whitetips, Empress Brilliants, and Crimson-rumped Toucanets, along with the superb Moss-backed, Glistening-green, Golden-naped, Rufous-throated, and Flame-faced tanagers! We also ran across Toucan Barbet; a close, perched Rose-faced Parrot; dazzling Orange-breasted and Scaled fruiteaters; and Black-billed Peppershrike. Our afternoon visit to Milpe Gardens brought with it views of Russet Antshrike, Plain Xenops, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, the rather scarce Uniform Treehunter, and Chocó Warbler among other species.

Our final day took us back over the *Paseo del Quinde* Ecoroute on our return to Quito. We spent a good part of the morning birding the lush roadside vegetation and took a midday coffee/birding-break at Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge. Sickle-winged Guan (the distinctly small western race); Tawny-bellied Hermit; Lesser Violetear; Speckled Hummingbird; Purple-throated Woodstar; 3 Masked Trogons; Streaked Tuftedcheek; Pearled Treerunner; Rufous Spinetail; White-tailed Tyrannulet; Sierran Elaenia; Streak-necked Flycatcher; Black-capped Tyrannulet; a cute pair of Cinnamon Flycatchers; Golden-crowned Flycatcher; Green-and-black Fruiteater; Glossy-black Thrush; Russet-crowned Warbler; Hooded and Blue-winged mountain-tanagers; Grass-green (Wow!), Blue-capped, and Beryl-spangled tanagers; close looks at a pair of Capped Conebills; White-sided Flowerpiercer; the Tumbesian bioregional endemic White-winged Brush-Finch; and Golden Grosbeak were just some of the highlights.



Glistening-green Tanager

© Paul J. Greenfield

And so went our journey. We shared many great birds, vistas, habitats, experiences, stories, and laughs. Birding is always such a pleasure for me, David, and Juan, and especially when in the company of such a fine group of enthusiastic and enjoyable trip participants. Thank you all for a very pleasant and productive experience.

## ITINERARY

- Nov. 11 – Arrival Quito/last day of Tinalandia Pre-trip
- Nov. 12 – Early departure from Quito; to Yanacocha (3300m) through midday; drive via *El Paseo del Quinde* Ecoroute to Séptimo Paraíso (1500m) with stops *en route*
- Nov. 13 – All day at Séptimo Paraíso (1500m); afternoon at ‘Casa Rolando’ (1600m).
- Nov. 14 – Drive to and morning birding at Río Silanche Bird Sanctuary (350m); field-lunch and birding at Rancho Suamox (300m). Afternoon at Séptimo Paraíso.
- Nov. 15 – Morning visit to Milpe Bird Sanctuary (1100m); afternoon roadside birding along the *Paseo del Quinde* Ecoroute to about 2100m
- Nov. 16 – Early morning adventure (& second breakfast!) to Angel Paz Antpitta Reserve (1700m); return to Séptimo Paraíso for lunch and midday rest; afternoon birding and shopping at the town of Mindo (1300m)
- Nov. 17 – Early drive to and morning birding at Mashpi area/Amagusa Reserve (1300m); afternoon at Milpe Gardens (1100m)
- Nov. 18 – Return to Quito via *El Paseo del Quinde* Ecoroute; birding with stop at Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge (2300m) until midday. Return to Quito for our farewell dinner and final checklist session at Hotel Quito
- Nov. 19 – Departure home



Crowned Woodnymph © Paul J. Greenfield



Giant Antpitta

© Paul J. Greenfield

## BIRDS

### Abbreviations:

- Yanacocha = YC
- Río Silanche Bird Sanctuary = RS
- Séptimo Paraíso = SP
- Milpe Bird Sanctuary = MS
- Milpe Gardens = MG
- Casa Rolando = CR
- Paz Antpitta Reserve = AP
- Amagusa/Mashpi = AM
- Paseo del Quinde Ecoroute = E
- Bellavista = B
- Rancho Suamox = SU

Mindo = MO

**H** = Heard only; Species names in **bold** = of special interest



Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan

© Paul J. Greenfield

TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*)—**H** at RS

CURASSOWS & GUANS: CRACIDAE

**Andean Guan** (*Penelope montagnii*)—5 were seen beautifully at YC feeders; 4 or so were encountered along the E

**Crested Guan** (*Penelope purpurascens*)—At least 2 were seen at SP

Wattled Guan (*Aburria aburri*)—**H** at SP on 13-14 Nov.

Sickle-winged Guan (*Chamaepetes goudotii*)—1 was seen at AP; then another was seen close-by along the E (this is a moteably small race)

#### NEW WORLD QUAIL: ODONTOPHORIDAE

Dark-backed Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus melanonotus*)—**H** at AP

#### HERONS & BITTERNES: ARDEIDAE

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)—1 was seen along the river at MO

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)—Flock seen in the mornings and afternoons at SP on all but our first day

#### AMERICAN VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)—Common throughout; seen on all but our first day

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—Fairly common throughout; seen on all but our first day

#### KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

**Hook-billed Kite** (*Leptodon cayanensis*)—5 in all were seen well along the road to and at RS

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)—1 was seen at RS; 2 or so were also encountered around MG (always in elegant soaring flight)

**Double-toothed Kite** (*Harpagus bidentatus*)—1 male seen close-by at AP ( a lifer for Angel!!)

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*)—Only singles were seen at SP, MS and AP

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)—1 was seen briefly along the E

#### PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)—Generally in the Quito área and around MO

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)—4 were seen in flight along E on our first day; 2 were seen perched in nice light along E on our second afternoon; fairly common along E on our last morning

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)—**H** along the E

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)—**H** only on three days; 1 was seen at RS

**Dusky Pigeon** (*Patagioenas goodsoni*)—A cuddly pair was seen from the tower at RS

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)—2 or so were seen along E; 1 flushed off the road en route to RS (also **H** at MS and MG)

Pallid Dove (*Leptotila pallida*)—**H** at RS

White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon frenata*)—1 was seen perched high in canopy at AP and also **H** at B

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)—A common highland species

#### CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—2 or so were seen *en route* from AM

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)—Singles were seen at SP, MS, RS, and MG

#### NIGHTJARS & ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE

**Rufous-bellied Nighthawk** (*Lurocalis rufiventris*)—Scope views of a roosting bird at AP

#### POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE



Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*)—H at SP on 16 Nov.

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*)—A fairly large band of were seen along the AM road

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)—The largest American swift; Singles and bands of over 30 or so were seen on five days, generally flying high

HUMMINGBIRD: TROCHILIDAE

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*)—Common, seen repeatedly and in our faces, mostly at feeders on five days; SP, CR, MS, and SU

**White-tipped Sicklebill** (*Eutoxeres Aquila*)—1 was seen by Carole at AM

**White-whiskered Hermit Hermit** (*Phaethornis yaruqui*)—Singles were seen on four days; seen well and repeatedly at SP, SU, MS, and AM

**Tawny-bellied Hermit** (*Phaethornis syrmatophorus*)—1-2 were seen along the E

Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*)—5 were seen on our first day at SP/CR, at least 1 at MS, and another at AP, mostly at néctar feeders

Lesser Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus cyanotus*)—2 seen at B feeders

Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*)—Only 1 (!) was seen at B feeders

**Gorgeted Sunangel** (*Heliangelus strophianus*)—Beautiful looks at 2 along E on the 15th; and again at the same shrub on our last morning

**Green-breasted Mango** (*Anthracothorax prevostii*)—2 were seen well at SU

**Green Thorntail** (*Popelairia conversii*)—3 at MS and 1 male at AM

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)—5 or so were seen at B nectar feeders

**Violet-tailed Sylph** (*Agelaiocercus coelestis*)—This Chocó bioregional endemic, male with its stunning tail, was observed on five days; at SP, CR, AP, AM, and at B

Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*)—8 seen at YC (mostly at feeders)

Sapphire-vented Puffleg (*Eriocnemis luciani*)—5 were seen at YC (best at feeders)

**Golden-breasted Puffleg** (*Eriocnemis mosquera*)—2 were seen at YC feeders

**Shining Sunbeam** (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*)—1 or so were seen at YC feeders

**Brown Inca** (*Coeligena wilsoni*)—3 or so were seen at CR feeders; singles were seen at AP and AM

**Collared Inca** (*Coeligena torquata*)—2 encountered along E and another 2 at B feeders

**Buff-winged Starfrontlet** (*Coeligena lutetiae*)—Super common (50+) and conspicuous at YC, best at and around feeders

Mountain Velvetbreast (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi*)—1 was seen briefly, near feeders, at YC

**Sword-billed Hummingbird** (*Ensifera ensifera*)—3 OR SO of this bizarre species were seen at YC feeders

**Great Sapphirewing** (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*)—This, the World's 2nd largest hummer was common at YC feeders

Buff-tailed Coronet (*Boissonneaua flavescens*)—2 or so were seen at CR; many were found at B feeders; always showing cinnamon wing-pits and glittering chartreuse face

**Velvet-purple Coronet** (*Boissonneaua jardini*)—Stunningly beautiful!! At least 10 were seen at CR; super common at AM ; a Chocó bioregional specialty

**Booted Racket-tail** (*Ocreatus underwoodii*)—May soon be split as White-booted Racket-tail. 1 -20 were seen on six days; a real charmer! male's puffy cotton boots and tail rackets will not be forgotten!

**Purple-bibbed Whitetip** (*Urosticte benjamini*)—A rather scarce Chocó bioregional endemic hummingbird; several were seen over four days; SP, CR, MS, AP, MA, and B

Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*)—Fairly common generally; seen on four days, at SP, CR,

B, CR, MS, SP, and AR feeders

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*)—Rather common on six days; at SP, CR, MS, AM, SU, and B

**Empress Brilliant** (*Heliodoxa imperatrix*)—This scarce and impressive Chocó bioregional endemic was seen at CR (5 or so), AP (1 spectacular male) , and 5 or so at AM

**Purple-throated Woodstar** (*Calliflox mitchellii*)—Only 1 female was seen at CR; 3 or so were seen at B

Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*)—Formally Green-crowned Woodnymph (*T. fannyi*). Rather common at lower elevation feeders; seen on five days at SP, SU, and MS; males are an eyeful!

Andean Emerald (*Amazilia franciae*)—Common at SP and CR; 1 was seen at MS feeders

**Blue-chested Hummingbird** (*Amazilia amabilis*)—A surprising 6 or so were seen at RS flowering and feeders

**Purple-chested Hummingbird** (*Amazilia rosenbergi*)—At least 1 of this Chocó bioregional endemic was seen at RS, beautifully from the canopy tower

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*)—Widespread humid west-slope lowland hummer; seen on six days

#### QUETZALS & TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

**Golden-headed Quetzal** (*Pharomachrus auriceps*)—H at SP and AP; 1 male was seen at SP on DEc. 14th

**White-tailed Trogon** (*Trogon chionurus*)—A beautiful pair was seen close from the RS canopy tower

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*)—H at RS

Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*)—1 male was seen well along E on our first afternoon; 3 were seen along E on our last day

#### MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*)—H on three mornings at SP; 1 was seen at MG

#### KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*)—1 was briefly in flight overhead at MO

#### BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

**Orange-fronted Barbet** (*Capito squamata*)—A threesome was seen from the canopy tower at RS; another Chocó bioregional endemic

**Red-headed Barbet** (*Eubucco bourcierii*)—2 males were seen beautifully at CR feeders, 1 was at MS; also H at SP

#### TOUCAN-BARBETS: SEMNORNITHIDAE

**Toucan Barbet** (*Semnornis ramphastinus*)—H distantly on two days at SP; *incredible* looks at singles at AP and AM

#### TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

**Crimson-rumped Toucanet** (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*)—1 was seen at AP; 3 more were encountered at AM feeders

**Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan** (*Andigena laminirostris*)—7 (!) called in along E; 2 more at

AP and a final one along E on our last day.

Collared Araçari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) (*erythropygius*)—Aka **Pale-mandibled Araçari** (*erythropygius Pteroglossus*), which is a bioregional endemic taxa. 4 were seen on two days at MS and RS; 2 more at SP

Yellow-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsonii*)—Aka Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsonii*). Singles were seen at SP and MS; 4 or so were seen from the RS canopy tower

**Chocó Toucan** (*Ramphastos brevis*)—1 was seen from the RS canopy tower; **H** at MS; a Chocó bioregional endemic

#### WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*)—At least 4 were seen RS

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Picoides fumigatus*)—1 was seen at MS

Red-rumped Woodpecker (*Veniliornis kirkii*)—1 was seen at RS

**Scarlet-backed Woodpecker** (*Veniliornis callonotus*)—4 of this Tumbesian bioregional endemic were seen at SU

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*)—Singles were seen at CR and MS

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)—1 male was seen at RS

**Powerful Woodpecker** (*Campephilus pollens*)—1 male was first **H** and then seen at AP

**Guayaquil Woodpecker** (*Campephilus gayaquilensis*)—A pair was seen well from the canopy tower at RS; a Tumbesian bioregional endemic

#### FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*)—First **H** at SP; then 1 was glimpsed at MG

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*)—**H** at CR

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)—2 were seen in the highlands, northwest of Quito *en route* to YC

Peregrine Falcon (*falco peregrinus*)—1 high-flying bird was seen all too briefly at YC

#### PARROTS & MACAWS: PSITTACIDAE

**Rose-faced Parrot** (*Pyrilia pulchra*)—1 was seen at point-blank briefly as it landed a few feet from a group of us; at AM (WOW!)

Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*)—6-8 were seen at AP

**Bronze-winged Parrot** (*Pionus chalcopterus*)—Seen on four days; only 2 or so were encountered at RS; 1 was seen at MS; and 4-6 were found at SP and MG

Maroon-tailed Parakeet (*P. melanura*)—Aka **Chocó Parakeet** (*Pyrhura pacifica*) and thus considered a Chocó bioregional endemic. 8+ were seen at RS

Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severus*)—A pair was only glimpsed and **H** at RS

#### TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Uniform Antshrike (*Thamnophilus unicolor*)—1 male was seen in dense vegetation at SP,

Russet Antshrike (*THamnistes anabatinus*)—1 was seen with a mixed foraging flock at AM

Moustached Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*)—**H** at RS

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*)—**H** at RS and MS

**Zeledon's Antbird** (*Myrmeciza zeledoni*)—Now split from Immaculate Antbird (*M. immaculata*), but the Ecuadorian-to-Panama race *macrorhyncha* might best be elevated to species in its own right, separate from *zeledoni*. Aka Blue-lored Antbird by some authors. 1 seen at MS; 2 plus a baby at SP

ANTPITTAS: FORMICARIIDAE

**Giant Antpitta** (*Grallaria gigantea*)—2 —‘María’ and ‘Manuela’, well seen by all at AP

**Moustached Antpitta** (*Grallaria alleni*)—‘Susana’ showed beautifully at AP

**Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** (*Grallaria ruficapillus*)—**H** on two days; ‘Andreita’ was seen well at AP

**Yellow-breasted Antpitta** (*Grallaria flavotincta*)—The as yet unnamed was seen well at AP

Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*)—**H** at YC

**Ochre-breasted Antpitta** (*Grallaricula fñavirostris*)—‘Shakira’, with her curious body movement, was seen well at AP

TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Ocellated Tapaculo (*Acropternis orthonyx*)—**H** distantly at YC

Spillmann’s Tapaculo (*Scytolopus spillmanni*)—**H** along E on two days

ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE

Rufous-breasted Antthrush (*Formicarius rufipectus*)—**H** at SP on one day

OVENBIRDS: FURNARIIDAE

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)—2 seen at MG

**Strong-billed Woodcreeper** (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*)—A pair of this really big woodcreeper was seen at SP

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*)—Singles were seen on four days at MS, SP, and MG

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*)—1 was seen at RS

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*)—Between 1-2 were seen at SP, AM, and best and closest at B

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)—1 seen at MG

**Streaked Tuftedcheek** (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*)—2 seen, foraging in moss and probing a bromeliad, with mixed foraging flock along E on our last day;

Pale-legged Hornero (*Furnarius leucopus*)—Aka Pacific Hornero (*F. cinnamomeus*), which is a Tumbesian bioregional taxon. **H** at SU; at least 1 was seen at MO

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor rufus*)—3 or so were seen at MS and another 1 or 2 were encountered at MG

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*)—Only 1 was seen at MS

Lineated Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla subalaris*)—1 was seen briefly in subcanopy at MS

**Uniform Treehunter** (*Thripadectes ignobilis*)—1 was seen at MS; another 2, at least, were seen with a large mixed foraging flock at MG

Streak-capped Treehunter (*Thripadectes virgaticeps*)—**H**, but also glimpsed at SP

**Pearled Treerunner** (*Margarornis squamiger*)—1 was seen by Barbara at YC; 2-4 were seen on our last day along E

Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*)—Pairs and singles were seen at SP, MS, MO, and MS (mostly adults, but one juvenile)

Slaty Spinetail (*Synallaxis brachyura*)—**H** at SP, RS, and along road to AM

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)—At least 2 were seen with a mixed foraging flock along E on our last day

White-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*)—A pair was seen with a mixed

foraging flock at YC

Tufted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes parulus*)—1 was just glimpsed as it flew off at YC

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)—1 was seen and others **H** from the tower at RS

White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*)—1 was seen along the upper E on our first afternoon

**Coopman's Elaenia** (*Elainia brachyptera*)—Recently Split from Lesser Elaenia (*E. chiriquensis*). 2 were seen in MO (including the town square)

Sierran Elaenia (*Elaenia pallatangae*)—A few were seen along E on our last day

Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*)—2 were seen along a rushing river along E

Streak-necked Flycatcher (*Mionectes striaticollis*)—At least 1 was seen with a mixed foraging flock along E

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon superciliaris*)—1 was seen at MG

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseiceps*)—A pair was seen at RS

**Black-capped Tyrannulet** (*Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*)—1 was seen well with a mixed foraging flock along E on our last day

Chocó Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius albigularis*)—Formally considered a race of Golde-faced Tyrannulet (*Z. chrysops*)—Seen on three days; 2 at SP, 3 at RS/SU, and 1 MS

**Ornate Flycatcher** (*Myiotriccus ornatus*)—Several of this truly endearing little flycatcher were seen on four days; 4 at SP and singles at MS, AP and MG

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*)—**H** at MS and RS

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)—1 was seen repeatedly entering its nest at SU (very cute indeed!)

Yellow-margined Flatbill (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)—Aka Yellow-margined Flycatcher by some authors. At least 1 was seen at RS canopy tower

**Cinnamon Flycatcher** (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*)—1 was seen by Carol along E on our first day; then a lovely pair was seen close-up at B

**Orange-crested Flycatcher** (*Myiophobus phoenicomitra*)—1 was spotted by David at SP and we all got pretty good looks. A rather local and inconspicuous species overall

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)—3 or so of this boreal migrant were seen at SP and MS **H**

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)—4 seen along E on our first day; others were seen at AP (always near rushing streams)

**Masked Water-Tyrant** (*Fluvicola nengeta*)—1 was seen well at CR

Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*)—1 was seen fairly well but briefly along the upper E on our first afternoon

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)—At least 3 were seen at SP, also **H** at CR; **H** also at RS

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*)—At least 2 were seen at RS

Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)—A few were seen at SP on two days; 3 or so were encountered at MO, and MG

Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*)—Singles were seen at MG and B

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)—Singles seen at RS and MS

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)—1-2 seen in canopy from canopy tower at RS

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—A commonly encountered lower elevation species; several seen on all but our first day

## COTINGA: COTINGIDAE

Green-and-black Fruiteater (*Pipreola riefferii*)—A pair at least was seen in canopy along E  
**Orange-breasted Fruiteater** (*Pipreola jucunda*)—1 stunning male was seen well at AM  
**Scaled Fruiteater** (*Ampelioides tschudii*)—1 calling male was seen by some of our group  
at SP (right around the hummingbird feeders); 1, at least, was seen well at AM  
Red-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*)—A pair was seen well at YC  
**Andean Cock-of-the-rock** (*Rupicola peruviana*)—10 males were seen at their Lek at AP  
Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querul purpurata*)—**H** at RS

## MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

**Golden-winged Manakin** (*Masius chrysopterus*)—2 males were seen foraging in canopy  
on *Miconia* berries at SP on 13 Dec.; another was seen there on the 14th  
White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*)—**H** at RS  
**Club-winged Manakin** (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*)—4 females were seen foraging close-  
by at SP (also **H** there on other days); Several displaying males were **H**, others  
seen, at MS; also **H** at AM

## TITYRAS & ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifaciata*)—3 or so were seen well at RS  
**Barred Becard** (*Pachyramphus versicolor*)—1 male was seen at YC  
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*)—2 were seen at SP; another 1 was  
encountered at AM  
One-colored Becard (*Pachyramphus homochrous*)—Females only were seen three days; at  
SP, RS, MS; several, including 1 male were encountered at MG

## VIREOS & ALLIES: VIREONIDAE

**Black-billed Peppershrike** (*Cyclarhis nigrirostris*)—1 was seen fairly well at AM  
**Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo** (*Vireolanius leucotis*)—1 was seen from the RS canopy tower  
Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtata*)—Several encountered on three days, at RS (5+),  
MS (3-4), and MG (3-4)  
Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*)—2 were seen at AM; 2 more along E  
Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)—Fairly common to common at SP, RS/SU, MS the lower  
E

## CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES: CORVIDAE

Turquoise Jay (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)—**H** along E on our last day

## SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)—The most common and widespread  
swallow in Ecuador; seen on four days at varying elevations  
**Brown-bellied Swallow** (*Orochelidon murina*)—Common at YC  
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgisopterix ruficollis*)— Only a few were seen along  
the RS entrance road

## WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—**H** on three days; 1-3 were seen at SU, SP, MO and B  
Bay Wren (*Cantorchilus nigricapillus*)—**H** at MG and AM  
**Rufous Wren** (*Cinnycerthia unirufa*)—2 were seen by some of us at YC  
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)—**H** often on six days; singles were

seen well at SP and B

#### GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE

**Slate-throated Gnatcatcher** (*Polioptila schistaceigula*)—A great pair was seen beautifully from the RS canopy tower as they foraged in subcanopy

#### DIPPERS: CINCLIDAE

**White-capped Dipper** (*Cinclus leucocephalus*)—A close pair were seen along a rocky, rapid river along E; another 1 was encountered along river in MO

#### THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Spotted Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus dryas*)—**H** at MS and AM

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)—Between from 1-10 or so of this boreal migrant were seen on three days; at SP, RS, and MS

**Ecuadorian Thrush** (*Turdus maculirostris*)—In all, 7 or so were seen at CR, SP, MS, and AP

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*)—A common highland species, seen on our first and last days

Glossy-black Thrush (*Turdus serranus*)—At least 1 was seen, flushed from the road along E

#### NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*)—Recorded on 4 days: at least 2 at SP, 1 or so at MS, **H** at AP, and another at MG

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*)—A fairly common boreal migrant to the Andean; 1-5 or so were seen along E, at SP, AM, and at B

Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*)—Singles seen at SP, MG, and along E

Buff-rumped Warbler (*Myiothlypis fulvicauda*)—A pair was seen at MS

**Chocó Warbler** (*Myiothlypis chlorophrys*)—Lumped with Golden-bellied Warbler (*M. chrysogaster*) by some authors, though voices of these two *species* are totally different. 1 was seen well with a mixed foraging flock at MS. A Chocó bioregional endemic species.

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*)—4 or so were seen welly along E on our first and last days

Slate-throated Whitestart (*Myioborus miniatus*)—Aka “Redstarts”, though they show no red! A rather common mixed flock participant at lower elevations; seen only on five days, at SP, MS, MG, and along the lower E

Spectacled Whitestart (*Myioborus melanocephalus*)—Aka “Redstarts”, though they show no red! A normally common mixed flock participant at upper elevations; seen at YC, B and along the upper E

#### TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Superciliaried Hemispingus (*Hemispingus superciliaris*)—2 or so were seen in canopy with a mixed foraging flock at YC

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)—A Pair and single males and females were seen at CR, SU, and MS

Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*)—Aka Lemon-rumped Tanager (*R. icteronotus*) when split from Flame-rumped. Omnipresent in the western lowlands and foothills; many seen on all but our first day

**Moss-backed Tanager** (*Bangsia edwardsi*)—8 or so were seen up close at AM feeders; a Chocó bioregional endemic specialty!

**Hooded Mountain-Tanager** (*Buthraupis montana*)—3 or more were seen along E on our last day

**Grass-green Tanager** (*Chlorornis riefferii*)—A pair was encountered along E on our last day

**Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager** (*Anisognathus igniventris*)—5 or so of this stunning Andean tanager were seen at YC

**Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager** (*Anisognathus somptuosus*)—At least 6 were seen on our last day, along E and best at B feeders

**Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager** (*Anisognathus notabilis*)—3 of this very special Chocó bioregional endemic were seen along the lower E on 15 Dec

**Fawn-breasted Tanager** (*Pipraeidea bonariensis*)—Several were seen this trip; 1-2 were seen at SP on two days, MS by Carol, AP, along the lower E,

**Glistening-green Tanager** (*Chlorochrysa phoenicotis*)—Mesmerizing!! 1 male was seen repeatedly at plantain feeders at AM

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—Very common lower elevation species; seen on all but our first day

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)—Fairly common at lower elevations; seen on three days

Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)—1 was seen along E on our last day

**Golden-naped Tanager** (*Tangara ruficervix*)—A pair was seen wonderfully close at CR feeders, another pair at AM feeders

**Black-capped Tanager** (*Tanager heinei*)—Super close views of a pair at CR

**Gray-and-gold Tanager** (*Tanager palmeri*)—1 was seen (scoped) from the RS canopy tower

**Blue-necked Tanager** (*Tangara cyanicollis*)—This west Ecuadorian race is a real 'looker'; 3 or so were seen from the RS canopy tower

**Rufous-throated Tanager** (*Tangara rufigula*)—At least 6 of this Chocó bioregional endemic were seen up-close at AM feeders!

**Beryl-spangled Tanager** (*Tangara nigroviridis*)—Singles seen at SP, MS, and along E

**Metallic-green Tanager** (*Tangara labradorides*)—1 was encountered at SP

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*)—Seen at SP, common at RS, and at MS

**Flame-faced Tanager** (*Tangara parzudakii*)—8 or so were seen at AM feeders (mostly) another pair was encountered along E

Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*)—The most common subtropical tanager; several seen on all but one day, probably best at CR plantain feeders

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*)—1 was seen at SP; 2 more were seen at SU plantain feeders

**Swallow Tanager** (*Tersina viridis*)—Several seen this trip; a stunning pair was seen at 1 at MS, a female at AP, and 2 more at AM

**Yellow-tufted Dacnis** (*Dacnis egregia*)—Lumped with Black-faced Dacnis (*D. lineata*) by some authors. A pair was seen from the RS canopy tower

**Scarlet-breasted Dacnis** (*Dacnis berlepshi*)—A pair (male seen best) was seen from the RS canopy tower; a threatened Chocó bioregional endemic!!

Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)—1 male was seen (scoped) from the RS canopy tower

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)—Common, many seen from the RS canopy



tower

**Scarlet-browed Tanager** (*Heterosingus xanthopygius*)—2 females were seen from the RS canopy tower

**Blue-backed Conebill** (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)—3 or so were seen with a mixed foraging flock at YC

**Capped Conebill** (*Conirostrum albifrons*)—A pair was seen with a mixed foraging flock along E on our first day; excellent views of 3 more along E on our last morning; remember constant tail-flicking

Glossy Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa lafresnayii*)—Abundant and very confiding at YC (especially at nectar feeders)

Black Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa humeralis*)—2 were seen at YC entrance área

White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*)—1 was seen in fog at AM; a pair was seen close-up at B feeders

**Indigo Flowerpiercer** (*Diglossa indigotica*)—1 of this rare Chocó bioregional endemic was **H** and glimpsed in thick fog at AM

Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis cyanea*)—Very common at YC (especially at feeders); also fairly common at B feeders

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*)—1 female was seen at SP; 2 or so males were seen around MO

Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*)—1 male was seen well *en route* to RS

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)—1 was seen at SU; a few were seen at AM

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)—Now placed in with tanagers! 2 were seen at SP; common at RS/SU; singles seen at MS and AP

**Black-winged Saltator** (*Saltator atripennis*)—1 seen at SP; 2 seen well at RS

#### BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES: EMBERIZIDAE

Yellow-throated Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*)—bands of at least 3-6 or more were encountered on four days; at SP, CR, MS and MG; recently removed from tanagers, so 'Bush-Tanager' is no longer in use

**Dusky Chlorospingus** (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*)—2 were seen close-by at CR feeders; 1 seen along E on 15 Dec.; 2 more along E on our last morning. Recently removed from tanagers, so no longer called 'Bush-Tanager'

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*)—1 singing male was seen at AP

Chestnut-capped brush-Finch (*Arremon brunneinucha*)—1 was seen at AM

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)—Common highland species throughout the Andes; seen on five days

Tricolored Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes tricolor*)—Aka **Chocó Brush-Finch**, and thus considered a Chocó bioregional endemic. 1 or so was seen at SP; another was seen along the lower E

Yellow-breasted Brushfinch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*)—Aka (formally) Rufous-naped Brush-Finch. 1 or so seen close and well at YC

**White-winged Brushfinch** (*Atlapetes leucopterus*)—1-2 were seen at B

#### CARDINALS & ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)—4 of this boreal migrant were seen (several plumage-types); species of the genus *Piranga* are no longer considered to be tanagers!

**White-winged Tanager** (*Piranga leucoptera*)—1 female was seen well at AP; species of the genus *Piranga* are no longer considered to be tanagers!

**Ochre-breasted Tanager** (*Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*)—This large and drab species is a Chocó bioregional endemic; at least 3 were seen with mixed foraging flocks at MS, several more were seen in thick fog at AM. The genus *Chlorothraupis* is no longer considered to be in the tanager family

Golden Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*)—Aka (formally) Southern Yellow-Grosbeak. A pair was seen along E on our last day

#### TROUPIALS & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

**Scrub Blackbird** (*Dives warszewiczi*)—A few were seen (others H) on four days, mainly along the highway

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)—Only 1 was seen, in MO

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)—1 was seen in flight over MO

Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*)—Several were seen and **H** at RS

#### FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)—A common lower elevation euphonia; seen repeatedly at SP, CR, MS, RS, and MO

Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—Fairly common and widespread in Ecuador; seen on five days (close views at fruit feeders)

**Yellow-bellied Siskin** (*Spinus xanthogastrus*)—A pair was seen well at SU

## OTHER ANIMAL SPECIES OF INTEREST

#### SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE

Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*)—Singles were seen at CR and RS

#### AGOUTIS: DASPYPROCTIDAE

Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*)—1 was seen along lower E

#### ANOLES (LIZARDS): DACTYLOIDAE

**Equatorial Anole** (*Anolis aequatorialis*)—1 was encountered at SP

#### COLUBRID SNAKES: COLUBRIDAE

**Golden-bellied Snakelet** (*Erythrolamprus epinephelus*)—1 was encountered at AM

#### OTHERS:

Emperor Scorpion (*Pandinus imperator*)—1 encountered at AM

Tarantula sp. (*Avicularia* sp.)—1 baby (very small) was encountered at RS