

ECUADOR: EASTERN SLOPE OF THE ANDES

JANUARY 15–25, 2017



TORRENT DUCKS

©PAUL J. GREENFIELD

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By Paul Greenfield

Ecuador boasts incredible diversity within its tiny geography and its wildlife inhabitants, and we lived that claim during our week-long Eastern Slope of the Andes tour. The transect we traversed took us from the Amazonian lowlands into the foothills, up through the Subtropical and Temperate forest zones, and into elfin forest and the tundra-like Paramo Zone to 14,000 feet above sea-level. At every turn, at each area we visited, we were confronted with new challenges, a new environment, a different ecosystem, and a new set of species to search for and enjoy; we even had to dress differently!

We gathered our group together in the frontier town of Francisco de Orellana, better known as Coca; some of us had just ended our week-long Amazonia at Napo Wildlife Center tour, and the rest of us had just arrived on a flight from Quito. After a get-to-know-each-other lunch (complete with White-banded and Blue-and-white swallows and Gray-breasted Martins), we initiated our journey westward from the Amazonian lowlands up into the foothills, to our first destination—Wildsumaco Lodge. As the day cooled down a bit, we made one brief stop to stretch our legs and see what we could find; we came up with a Pied Plover, Violaceous Jay, Russet-backed and Crested oropendolas, and Black-fronted Nunbirds, among our first finds. Wildsumaco offers a nice mix of Amazonian lowland and foothill species and an impressive hummingbird show, which we got a taste of right from the get-go—Green Hermit, Sparkling Violetear, Wire-crested Thorntail, Booted Racket-tail (the buff-booted kind), Black-throated and Violet-fronted brilliants, Napo Sabrewing, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Many-spotted Hummingbird, and Golden-tailed Sapphire greeted us graciously...what a welcoming committee! Our two-and-a-half-day stay at this site proved to be a great initiation into the riches of this region; we embarked in much roadside birding and explored a few trails, hung out on the lodge's ample deck to constantly check out the fruiting *Cecropia* trees that stood before us, and were led to a forest "feeding station" where we got great looks at some really tough-to-see understory denizens. Interestingly, the first species we came across were Cerulean, Canada, and Blackburnian warblers, Swainson's Thrush (there were tons of them here!), Summer and Scarlet tanagers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak...was this Ecuador or what? But then the answer revealed itself: Gould's Jewelfront; Violet-headed Hummingbird; Gorgeted Woodstar; a pair of Coppery-chested Jacamars; Gilded and Red-headed barbets; Many-banded Araçari; Channel-billed Toucan; Yellow-tufted and Crimson-crested woodpeckers; Red-billed and Blue-headed parrots; Maroon-tailed and White-eyed parakeets; Military and Chestnut-fronted macaws; Lined Antshrike; Plain Antvireo; Ornate and Rufous-winged antwrens; Blackish Antbird; Plain-backed and Ochre-breasted antpittas; Spectacled Prickletail (!); Montane Foliage-gleaner; Spectacled Bristle-Tyrant; Ornate Flycatcher; Red-billed Tyrannulet; Long-tailed Tyrant; Olivaceous and Rufous-naped greenlets; White-thighed Swallow; Thrush-like Wren; Spotted Nightingale-Thrush; Gray-cheeked Thrush; Magpie, White-shouldered, White-lined, Silver-beaked, Blue-necked, Paradise,

Bay-headed, Spotted, and Swallow tanagers; Purple and Golden-collared honeycreepers; Grayish Saltator; Yellow-browed Sparrow; Yellow-rumped Cacique; and Golden-rumped, Bronze-green, and Orange-bellied euphonias over the next couple of days.

Our departure from this wonderful area took us upslope, with a couple of stops, before arriving at Cabañas San Isidro. En route we came across six or so White-tailed Hillstars, Glittering-throated Emerald, Torrent Tyrannulet, and White-capped Dipper at the Río Hollín Bridge area, Cliff Flycatcher on a (guess what?), Masked Trogon from the van along the Guacamayos Ridge, and we took a brief turn-off to check out the Vinillos sector of the Antisana National Park, where we only had time to see a Crested Quetzal; Scaly-naped Amazons; Streaked Tuftedcheek; Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet; Cinnamon Flycatcher; Grass-green, Beryl-spangled, and Saffron-crowned tanagers; and Bluish Flowerpiercer. Then, down the road at the tiny village of Cosanga, we enjoyed a family of four Torrent Ducks. San Isidro and its surroundings brought some challenges—one sunny then rainy day, for one thing—but also gave us another face of the diverse Ecuadorian Andes...we definitely had left the lowland heat behind us! Some of the key species we found in this area included Sickie-winged Guan, Southern Lapwing, the *Mystery Owl*, Chestnut-collared Swifts, Green Violetear, a juvenile male Tourmaline Sunangel, Speckled Hummingbird, Long-tailed Sylph (what a tail!), Bronzy and Collared incas, Buff-tailed and Chestnut-breasted coronets, Fawn-breasted Brilliants, female Gorgeted Woodstars, Golden-headed Quetzal, Andean Motmot (took a little while), White-throated (Emerald) Toucanet, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Crimson-mantled and Powerful woodpeckers, Barred Parakeet, White-bellied Antpitta, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Pale-edged and Yellow-browed flycatchers, Black-billed Peppershrike, unbelievably tame Inca Jays, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Blue-and-black Tanager, Slaty Brush-Finch, and a Red-breasted Meadowlark!

Our last lodging destination was the Termas de Papallacta—magnificent hot springs set in an idyllic Andean setting at over 10,000 ft. above sea level—but first, to get there, we took a detour along a narrow road and then ascended to about 8,500 ft. to Guango Lodge to check out their nectar feeders and trails. Along the Borja detour, through some worrying blazing sun, we got lucky and actually came across some activity—with a male Red-headed Barbet, a close pair of Golden-olive Woodpeckers, Lesser Elaenia, a pair of Olive-chested Flycatchers, American Redstart, and absolutely stunning views of a family of Golden-eared Tanagers, along with Blue-necked and Golden tanagers. Activity at Guango began quite slowly...it was sunny and very few birds were flying, but slowly things picked up and we eventually experienced some “good” birding; first, some of the the hummers: Tourmaline Sunangels, Collared Incas, Sword-billed Hummingbird (what a bill!), Buff-tailed and Chestnut-breasted coronets, and White-bellied Woodstar. Then we explored some trails and ran into a couple of mixed foraging flocks with at least 10 Pearled Treerunners in wonderful light, White-banded Tyrannulet, Black-capped Hemispingus, Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager, a Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Blue-and-black Tanager, Masked Flowerpiercer (at a nectar feeder), Slaty Brush-Finch, and Northern Mountain-Cacique. We also were able to call out a very friendly Chestnut-crowned Antpitta. But perhaps one of the most dramatic episodes of the entire trip

involved another Torrent Duck family of four...Leslie spotted them swimming upstream through incredibly rough white-water. At one point, one of the youngsters got separated from the rest of the family when he could not quite leap onto a huge boulder; it was evident that this little fellow was in trouble, and surprisingly his family was nowhere to be seen. After several attempts, some resting, and more attempts, the little guy managed to make the leap...he made it and was atop this boulder looking right out over an unbelievable expanse of rapid counter-current white water; to our shock he took the leap. That was the last we saw of him. About an hour or so later, right after we finished with the flock mentioned above, we walked out over an old footbridge to look over the river, now quite a ways downstream from where we were earlier, and *lo and behold, there was our family of ducks!* The little fella survived...all was well again.

Our stay at Las Termas was special, with magnificent vistas of the snow-capped Antisana Volcano; from here we visited high elfin forest and high elevation (to 14,000 ft.) Paramo Zone scrub and grassland, both on two occasions and with their respective challenges and rewards. We drove up above the “Termas” at around 6-6:30 and began to descend slowly (it was quite cold!), hoping to come across a mixed foraging flock; the plan was to return for breakfast at about 8 am. Well, nothing showed up; it was virtually birdless and it was time to head back...and then, first we spotted a perched Great Sapphirewing (the world’s second largest hummer), and out of nowhere, the flock arrived...Black-backed Bush-Tanagers, Blue-backed Conebill, a Pale-naped Brush-Finch and, wow, four Masked Mountain-Tanagers! Incredible last-minute luck! After breakfast we headed up to and above Papallacta Pass with one particular goal in mind: a great bird that “often makes you feel really ridiculous when you finally see it” is how I have characterized it over the years. Well, it was cold and windy, thin air, no bird no matter how we tried. Time passed and it was almost time to return to Las Termas for lunch when Juan, our trusty driver and trip organizer, decided to make a last effort to locate the bird. He climbed to the summit and returned after a while with a photo of the prize on his cell phone! I had been playing tape right in the area he had just come down from. We scanned the area, I played more tape... nada! So a couple of us decided to make the climb, and as we headed up, Mary yelled something and pointed...there was a pair of these *Rufous-bellied Seedsnipes* right between us, foraging slowly and oblivious of our presence—we kind of felt ridiculous! Our return to the elfin forest area seemed like a total *déjà vu*, last minute flock...this time Masked Mountain-Tanagers accompanied by, among other species, fantastic looks at about four Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers!

Our last day of birding was at Antisana National Park; we departed after returning from the mountain-tanager “event.” How could things go better than what we had already experienced? Well, not sure that they did, but they certainly didn’t get worse. As we climbed toward the park, we stopped at a local family-run restaurant to make arrangements for a later lunch, and wow...scope views of a roosting Andean Condor with chicks! Sword-billed Hummingbird perched in a *Brugmansia* shrub! Giant Hummingbirds perched at a feeder! Black-tailed Trainbearer! Great Sapphirewing! It was hard to pull ourselves away, but we had to visit the actual paramo here (and we would return for lunch), so off we went, our drive taking us alongside Carunculated

Caracaras (all over the place!), Black-faced Ibis, Andean Lapwing, two Tawny Antpittas (out on a lawn!), and we arrived at La Mica lake with scope views of Silvery Grebes and Slate-colored Coots, along with some distant Yellow-billed Pintails, Andean Teals, Andean (Ruddy) Ducks and, eventually, nice looks at Andean Gull flying right to us. We returned to an excellent lunch and incredible studies of those great Andean hummers... only more of them! Well, this was our Eastern Andean Slopes tour...this is Ecuador... really incredible.

ITINERARY:

- January 16:** Flight from Quito to Francisco de Orellana (Coca); lunch at Hotel La Misión; drive towards Wildsumaco Lodge; stop en route west of Loreto and along the WS entrance road. Some late afternoon humming-birding at the lodge deck (overnight at Wildsumaco Lodge)
- January 17:** Wildsumaco all day: morning roadside birding near the lodge and along the Coopmans/Antpitta Trail (antpitta feeders) then the Piha Trail and forest feeders; afternoon rainy, birding from the lodge deck (overnight at Wildsumaco)
- January 18:** Wildsumaco all day: morning birding along the entrance road; afternoon along the upper road to Pacto Sumaco (overnight at Wildsumaco)
- January 19:** Morning departure from Wildsumaco with birding along the WS entrance road and a stop at Hollín (Restaurante Susanita); then onward to San Isidro with some birding at Vinillos Antisana National Park entrance area; Cosanga and river (overnight at San Isidro)
- January 20:** San Isidro all day: early morning birding the grounds; late morning birding roadside—mostly sunny—the Eco-corridor—afternoon again along the road (rain); then birding the deck (overnight at San Isidro)
- January 21:** Early morning birding the grounds at San Isidro; then the remainder of the morning at Vinillos; afternoon along the eco-corridor the (overnight at San Isidro)
- January 22:** Early departure from San Isidro—morning along the Borja ‘loop’, then to Guango Lodge for lunch and birding; continuing on to Las Termas de Papallacta (overnight at Las Termas de Papallacta)
- January 23:** Early morning along Cayambe-Coca NP road above Las Termas de Papallacta (elfin forest); mid-morning to 14,000 ft at Papallacta Pass; afternoon return to Papallacta Pass, lower road (overnight at Las Termas de Papallacta)
- January 24:** Early (1.5 hour) morning above Las Termas; morning departure from Las Termas de Papallacta; drive to Antisana NP (high paramo to Laguna de Mica); lunch at ‘Tambo Condor’ Restaurant and return to Quito for our fairwell dinner (overnight at Hotel ‘ Quito)

January 25: Departure for home.

KEY:

H = heard only

Bold = special sightings

C = Coca area

L = Sideroad west of Loreto

WS = Wildsumaco Lodge and foothills region

HO = Hollín Birdge area

GR = Guacamayo Ridge

V = Vinillos

CR = Cosanga River

SI = San Isidro

BL = Borja loop

GL = Guango Lodge

TP = Las Termas de Papallacta and elfin forest (above)

PAP = the Papallacta Pass region (paramo zone)

ANT = Antisana National Park. (temperate & paramo zones)

TC = Tambo Condor Restaurant

BIRDS:

DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE

Torrent Duck (*Merganetta armata*)—Family of 4 along CR ; another fantastic encounter with a family of 4 at GL

Yellow-billed Pintail (*Anas georgica*)—4 at PAP lake; 1 female at ANT

Andean Teal (*Anas andinum*)—At least 5 at PAP lake; at least 2 (many very distantly) at ANT

Andean Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*)—At least a pair was scoped at ANT

GUANS, CHACHALACAS & CURRASSOWS: CRACIDAE

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)—2 seen by Mary; 1 seen by most of us, others **H**, at WS

Wattled Guan (*aburria aburri*)—**H** at SI on two days

Sickle-winged Guan (*Chamaepetes goudotii*)—1 scoped at V; another seen by Leslie along the SI eco-corridor

CORMORANTS & SHAGS: PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*)—2 seen on two days, at TP and PAP lake

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNES: ARDEIDAE

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)—1 was seen at L

GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE

Silvery Grebe (*Podiceps occipitalis*)—5 or so were seen (also scoped) at ANT (a few fairly close)

IBISES & SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Black-faced Ibis (*Theristicus melanopis branickii*)—3 were seen at close range (1 flew right in front of our van!) at ANT

NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

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

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—Fairly common on three days; mostly in the SI region this trip

Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*)—5 were seen (including an adult and its chick) at ANT (TC)

HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)—3 were seen at L; 7 seen at WS (upper road); 2 along GR

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*)—**H** occasionally; 2 seen in flight at WS and along road; 3 seen at SI (eco-corridor); 2 along BL

Variable Hawk (*Geranoaetus polyosoma*)—Formally called Puna Hawk (*G. poecilochrous*), recently moved from genus *Buteo*. 2 were seen soaring at PAP; another 2 at ANT

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*)—1 was seen at PAP; a second one was seen at ANT

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)—Singles were seen perched at SI (eco-corridor) on two days; an adult and a juv.; another 2 en route to GL

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Slate-colored (Andean) Coot (*Fulica ardesiaca*)—60 or so were seen at ANT

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE

Pied Plover (*Vanellus cayanis*)—1 was seen in an open lot, then flew down the river at L

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*)—8 were seen along eco-corridor at SI; 5 were seen at V; **H** (2 seen by Leslie) along BL

Andean Lapwing (*Vanellus resplendens*)—About 6 were seen well at ANT

SEEDSNIPES: THINACORIDAE

Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe (*Attagis gayi*)—2 (finally!) seen and close-up at PAP... thanks Juan!!

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)—Singles seen at L (open lot and then flew to river) and CR; 1 seen along BL river; another at PAP lake

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)—1 seen in flight at PAP lake

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS: LARIDAE

Andean Gull (*Chroicocephalus serranus*)—1 adult was seen in flight over PAP lake; another 1 flew over us at La Mica at ANT, then a flock of 28 were seen in flight at TC

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)—Concentrated at town squares and cities; seen at C and en route to ANT

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)—Surprisingly, 2 were seen in decent light, in flight above WS (Pacto Sumaco); apparently a first record for this area, and seemingly high for the species

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)—8 were seen only briefly in high flight at SI

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)—**H** at L (2 quick fly-bys seen); 1 seen (also **H** regularly) at WS

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)—**H** regularly, and 1 seen at WS

White-throated Quail-Dove (*Zentrygon frenata*)—**H** at WS and SI

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)—A few were seen in the central valley and around Quito

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)—Singles seen well (another **H**) at WS on two days and singles on two days at SI

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—Several seen in more open terrain; L-WS road; 3 seen along BL

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Band-bellied Owl (*Pulsatrix melanota*)—**H** at WS

“The Mystery Owl” – most like the Black-banded Owl (*Ciccaba huhula*)—(the taxonomic status of this population has not yet been determined). **H** and then 1 was seen well at SI

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*)—At least 50 were seen (fairly well) at SI

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)—Large concentrations seen at C, WS (two days) and SI; a single bird was seen at PAP (with the Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle)

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*)—Singles were seen repeatedly at WS feeders

Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*)—1 seen at SI a few times; ; also 1-2 were seen at SI feeders

Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*)—2 or so at WS feeders; up to seven at WS generally; 3 or so at SI; 8 or so in spectacular light at TC feeders, etc.

Tourmaline Sunangel (*Heliangelus exortis*)—1 apparent juvenile male was photographed at SI feeders; many around and at GL feeders

Wire-crested Thorntail (*Discosura popelairii*)—Very common at WS feeders; a few at H

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)—4-5 were seen daily at SI feeders; 4 or so around GL feeders

Long-tailed Sylph (*Agelaiocercus kingi*)—Up to 8 were seen at WS and at V (wonderful tail!!); 5 or so at GL (feeders and forest)

Ecuadorian Hillstar (*Oreotrochilus chimborazo*)—Aka as Chimborazo Hillstar by some authors. 1 was glimpsed at PAP

Black-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia victoria*)—1 wonderful male was seen a few times (the last in stunning light!) at TC

Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina*)—1 male was seen perched at TP; a female was seen well at TC feeders

Viridian Metaltail (*Metallura williami*)—1 was seen by Connie and PJG at TP; then 8 or so were seen along the TP road the following day

Shining Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*)—2 or so were seen at TP gardens; 1 fresh plumage male was enjoyed at TC feeders

Bronzy Inca (*Coeligena coeligena*)—Finally 1 showed up repeatedly at SI feeders

Collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*)—1 skittish male was seen a couple of times at SI feeders; 2 were seen at V; 5 around GL feeders

Buff-winged Starfrontlet (*Coeligena lutetiae*)—Kay saw 1 at GL feeder; a perched male was seen along the TP road

Sword-billed Hummingbird (*Ensifera ensifera*)—2 were seen (amazing bill!!!) around GL; another male at TC *Brugmansia* (trumpet flower) shrub

Great Sapphirewing (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*)—1 female was seen perched and then feeding (with its characteristic slow wingbeats) along the TP road; a magnificent pair was seen repeatedly at TC feeders... the world's second largest hummer!

Buff-tailed Coronet (*Boissonneaua flavescens*)—1 was seen at SI feeders; common and quite dominant at GL

Chestnut-breasted Coronet (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*)—Common at SI; also at V; 6 at GL feeders

Booted Racket-tail (*Ocreatus underwoodii*)—2-6 were seen daily (15 in all) at WS feeders; this buff-booted eastern population should be split from the white-booted form in the west

White-tailed Hillstar (*Urochroa bouguerii*)—6 or so were seen well at HO feeders

Black-throated Brilliant (*Heliodoxa schreibersii*)—1-2 were seen a few times at WS feeders

Gould's Jewelfront (*Heliodoxa aurescens*)—Singles (males and females) were seen well at WS feeders

Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*)—Up to 12 or so were seen at SI feeders; 3 were seen at GL feeders

Violet-fronted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa leadbeateri*)—4 or so were seen at WS feeders

Giant Hummingbird (*Patagona gigas*)—Fantastic 4 at TC feeders!

White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)—Only 3 (1 male / 2 females) were seen at GL feeders

Gorgeted Woodstar (*Chaetocercus heliodor*)—5 (including 2 wonderful males!) at WS and HO; another 2-3 females seen at SI feeders

Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*)—1 was seen at a *Verbena* shrub near the WS forest feeders; 1 at HO

Napo Sabrewing (*Campylopterus villaviscensio*)—1 male was seen a couple of times at WS feeders

Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)—3-5 stunning males were seen repeatedly at WS feeders; 3 at HO feeders

Many-spotted Hummingbird (*Taphrospilus hypostictus*)—At least 4 were seen repeatedly at WS feeders; 2 at HO

Golden-tailed Sapphire (*Chrysuronia oenone*)—The most common hummer at WS; also common at HO

TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*)—1 male was seen in flight, then a pair was seen, at SI (eco-corridor); also **H** at V

Crested Quetzal (*Pharomachrus antisianus*)—2 (the second seen well and scoped) at V; 1 in flight along highway en route to GL (quite vocal this trip)

Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*)—1 female was seen from the van along GR; nice pair seen at V

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Andean (Highland) Motmot (*Momotus aequatorialis*)—1 (another **H**) along SI eco-corridor

PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE

Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)—2 were seen at L

JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

Coppery-chested Jacamar (*Galbula pastazae*)—Nice pair along WR road

NEW WORLD BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

Gilded Barbet (*Capito auratus*)—**H** at L and WS; 8 were seen at WS on three days

Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*)—3 (males and a female) were seen at WS; 1 male was seen along BL. Song of east slope race differs from that of west slope birds; west slope males lack east slope male's red stain on upper belly... are these really the same species?

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*)—Aka Andean Toucanet by some authors; apparently now split, and called White-throated Toucanet (*A. albivitta*). 2, then 3 more, were seen along SI eco-corridor

Black-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena nigrirostris*)—1 was seen in quick flight at V

Many-banded Araçari (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*)—5 or so were seen at WS

Golden-collared Toucanet (*Selenidera reinwardtii*)—**H** at WS

Black-mandibled (Yellow-breasted) Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*)— **H** at WS

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)— **H**, plus nice scope views of a pair, at WS

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)—Common, noisy and animated at WS (cool display!)

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*)—**H** along WS entrance road; 2 seen well along the BL

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (*Colaptes rivoli*)—Singles were seen on two days along the SI eco-corridor

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)—**H** at WS

Powerful Woodpecker (*Campephilus pollens*)—A pair was seen (female beautifully) at V

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)—1 female was seen (others **H**) at WS

FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*)—**H** at WS

Carunculated Caracara (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*)—1 was glimpsed at PAP; 80 or so were seen all over the place at ANT

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)—2 single males were seen at ANT

NEW WORLD & AFRICAN PARROTS

Barred Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus lineola*)—3 were seen landing and then in flight (never saw them actually perched) at V

Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*)—Group of 18 scoped while foraging in a Mimosa tree at WS; also a high-flying flocks at SI and V

White-capped/Speckle-faced Parrot (*Pionus tumultuosus seniloides*)—3 or so in flight at SI, then 3 were scoped (nice looks!) at V

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)—Flock of 6 flew over us, then at least 2 were scoped in Mimosa tree at WS

Scaly-naped Amazon (*Amazona mercenaria*)—called 'Parrot' by some authors. 5 seen in flight at V; another 3 at SI

Maroon-tailed Parakeet (*Pyrrhura melanura*)—3 were seen by Mary at WS (glimpsed by the rest of us); 4 seen by Leslie at HO (also **H**)

Military Macaw (*Ara militaris*)—**H** at WS; a pair was viewed (scoped) as they landed atop a large tree at WS

Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severus*)—**H**, 16 or so were seen in flight at WS; 3 perched birds were scoped there as well

White-eyed Parakeet (*Psittacara leucophthalma*)—Up to 8 were seen in flight

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Lined Antshrike (*Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*)—At least 2 pair were seen (from the deck and along the road), others **H**, at WS

Plain Antwreos (*Dysithamnus mentalis*)—**H** several times; 2 were seen along the WS road

Ornate Antwren (*Epinecrophylla spodionota*)—1 male was seen well, but perhaps briefly, along WS road

Rufous-winged Antwren (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*)—2 were seen high in canopy (others **H**) at WS

Streak-headed Antbird (*Drymophila striaticeps*)—Now, part of a 4-way split from Long-tailed Antbird (*D. caudate*).

Blackish Antbird (*Cercomacra nigrescens*)—**H** several times, then a pair was seen followed by a single male, along WS road

White-backed Fire-eye (*Pyriglena leuconota*)—**H** (male seen only briefly) at WS

ANTPITTAS: GRALLARIIDAE

Plain-backed Antpitta (*Grallaria haplonota*)—**H** along the WS road; 1, at least, was seen at feeding 'station' at WS

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapilla*)—**H** along GR and at SI; 1 seen beautifully at GL

White-bellied Antpitta (*Grallaria hypoleuca*)—1 hungry individual was seen well at SI feeding 'station'

Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*)—**H** (a couple 'streaked' across the road) at PAP; a 'bold' pair was seen surprisingly well at the ANT park station

Ochre-breasted Antpitta (*Grallaricula flavirostris*)—A lovely pair came in to feeding 'station' at WS

TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Ash-colored Tapaculo (*Myornis senilis*)—**H** close-gy at SI

Long-tailed Tapaculo (*Scytalopus micropterus*)—**H** along upper BL

ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE

Short-tailed Antthrush (*Chamaeza campanisona*)—**H** from the deck and along road at WS

OVENBIRDS & WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)—1 was seen briefly at L

Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*)—1 was seen well along the SI eco-corridor

Olive-backed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus triangularis*)—4 were seen at SI on two days

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*)—5+ were seen at SI and V; 1 along BL

Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*)—1 was seen by Leslie at WS

Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*)—1 was seen, then called in close, at V; another was seen at SI (eco-corridor)

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes albiventris*)—mistakenly called Buff-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes fuscus*) in the field checklist. What was Bar-winged Cinclodes has now been split into several species and this (Chestnut-

winged) is the northernmost representative of the group. 1 was seen back-lit at PAP; only 2 were seen (one very closely) at ANT (where were they this trip?)

Stout-billed Cinclodes (*Cinclodes excelsior*)—2 were seen at PAP; 20 or so were seen at ANT

Spectacled Prickletail (*Siptornis striaticollis*)—1 was seen on our first morning at WS
Montane Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia striaticollis*)—5 or so were seen (1 close and really well from the deck) at WS

Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*)—4 were seen with mixed flocks along eco-corridor at SI; at least 10 were seen in the same flock (in spectacular light along the BL; 4 were seen with a mixed flock along the TP road

Andean Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura andicola*)—1 was finally seen (on a sunny afternoon) at PAP

Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*)—**H** at SI

Dark-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albigularis*)—**H** at WS

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)—1 was seen in canopy at SI

White-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*)—1 was seen closely at GL

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)—1 was seen briefly at PAP

Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus minor*)—1 was seen well at V

Lesser Elaenia (*Elaenia chiriquensis*)—1 was seen twice along the BL

Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*)—2 were seen from bridge at HO

Spectacled Bristle-Tyrant (*Phylloscartes orbitalis*)—1 was seen at WS

Red-billed Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius cinereicapilla*)—1 came in to tape along lower WS road

Golden-faced Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius chrysops*)—Quite common at WS on four days; 1 was seen along the BL

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*)—3 in all were seen (well) at WS and along the lower road

Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilotriccus ruficeps*)—**H** briefly (in *Chusquea* bamboo), 1 seen by Leslie, at SI; another was seen by most of us at V

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)—1 was seen briefly along WS road

Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*)—2 seen along GR; another at V and at least 3 or so at SI

Cliff Flycatcher (*Hirundinea ferruginea*)—At least 3 were seen along cliffs en route to HO

Olive-chested Flycatcher (*Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*)—A pair was seen well along the BL

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)—4 in all were seen along the WS road on three days

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*)—6 were seen (others **H**) at SI

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)—Quite common in the WS area; 2 were seen at L; 5 or so were seen in the WS area; 2 along the BL

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)—2 or so were seen near water at CR; 4 at SI; 2 or so along the BL

Paramo Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola alpinus*)—Aka Plain-capped Ground-Tyrant by some authors. 4 were seen at PAP; 1 was seen well at ANT

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*)—2 -3 were seen at PAP

Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*)—1 was scoped (beautifully!) along WS road; 3 more seen along lower WS road on 1/14

Large-headed Flatbill (*Ramphotrigon megacephalum*)—**H** in *Guadua* bamboo along lower WS road

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*)—Apparently 1 was seen by Bob along lower WS road

Pale-edged Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cephalotes*)—2-3 or so were seen at SI (good close looks) on three days

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)—**H** around C

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)—1 was seen at C; 3 or so at WS; 1 along the BL

Lemon-browed Flycatcher (*Conopias cinchoneti*)—1 adult and apparently a young bird were seen along the SI eco-corridor

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—Rather common in more open country throughout the lowlands and foothills

COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE

Andean Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*)—1 female was glimpsed by Mary at WS

TITYRAS & ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*)—Pair were seen on two days along WS road

White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)—1 female was seen well along lower WS road

VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABLERS & ERPORNIS: VIREONIDAE

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*)—1 was seen from the deck, 2 more along the road, at WS

Olivaceous Greenlet (*Hylophilus olivaceus*)—**H** fairly often, 3 seen, at WS

Rufous-naped Greenlet (*Hylophilus semibrunneus*)—1 or so were seen (others **H**) at WS

Black-billed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis nigrirostris*)—1 was seen closely at SI

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES: CORVIDAE

Turquoise Jay (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)—**H** only (distantly) at GL

Inca Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*)—Lumped with Green Jay by some authors; common around SI and V

Violaceous Jay (*Cyanocorax violaceus*)—3 or so were seen at C; 1 glimpsed and **H** at HO

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*)—Fairly common to common and widespread, except in the paramo zone (seen on all but two days)

Brown-bellied Swallow (*Orochelidon murina*)—The highland swallow; large group along SI eco-corridor; and at higher elevations, especially in the paramo

White-thighed Swallow (*Atticora tibialis*)—Quite common around WS

White-banded Swallow (*Atticora fasciata*)—3 were seen at C

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx sufficollis*)—1 was seen along WS road

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)—2 were seen perched at C

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

Wing-banded Wren (*Microcerculus bambla*)—**H** along WS road

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—**H** at C, WS, SI, etc.; a few seen as well

Mountain Wren (*Troglodytes solstitialis*)—3 were seen at SI; 2 at V

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)—Aka Grass Wren by some authors.

Thrush-like Wren (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)—A pair was seen (others **H**) at WS

Coraya Wren (*Pheugopedius coraya*)—**H** along WS road

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)—**H** often in subtropics; 1 was seen by Connie at SI

DIPPERS: CINCLIDAE

White-capped Dipper (*Cinclus leucocephalus*)—2 seen at HO

THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire (*Myadestes ralloides*)—**H**, at least 1 was seen briefly, along SI eco-corridor

Spotted Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus dryas*)—A pair was seen (beautiful bird!) at the feeding 'station' at WS

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)—*Incredibly numerous* at WS (many were encountered feeding on *Cecropia* fruit); 3 seen at SI

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*)—At least 1 came in to feeding 'station' at WS

Pale-eyed Thrush (*Turdus leucops*)—**H** at SI

Black-billed Thrush (*Turdus ignobilis*)—Common at WS; mostly in more open-country

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*)—The common highland thrush

Glossy-black Thrush (*Turdus serranus*)—1 was seen briefly and somewhat distantly at WS; **H** often, 1 scoped (singing in canopy) at SI

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Black-throated Green-Warbler (*Setophaga virens*)—1 male was seen by Leslie along WS road (we could not document this with a photo); this is a rare (vagrant) boreal migrant to Ecuador

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*)—1 was seen along the BL (spotted and ID'd by Kay)

Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*)—At least 2 or so were seen repeatedly on three days at WS

Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*)—5 or so were seen at WS

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*)—Up to 8 (in all plumages) were seen daily at WS; quite a few also at SI, V, BL, and GL

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Myiothlypis coronata*)—2 were seen (also **H**) at SI, at dawn

Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*)—A common east slope boreal migrant; 8 or so were seen at WS; at least 3 at SI, 2 along the BL

Slate-throated Whitestart (*Myioborus miniatus*)—Often called Redstart even though NO red appears in its plumage! Only 3 were seen high in canopy along WS road; 3 or so at SI, 1 along the BL

Spectacled Redstart (*Myioborus melanocephalus*)— Often called Redstart even though NO red appears in its plumage! A rather common higher elevation replacement of the previous species; 1 seen at V, and 1 at SI; 5 at GL; 2 along TP road

TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Magpie Tanager (*Cissopi sleverianus*)—9 were seen around WS on three days

Black-capped Hemispingus (*Hemispingus atropileus*)—2 were seen well at GL

Superciliaried Hemispingus (*Hemispingus superciliaris*)—Only 1 was seen by Lespie and PJG along the TP road (with mixed foraging flock)

Gray-hooded Bush Tanager (*Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*)—A pair was seen at GL with a mixed foraging flock

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)—1 male was seen by Bob and Connie at WS

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)—Pairs were seen along WS road on two days

Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)—Eventually deemed rather common at and around WS

Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*)—At least 3 were seen well at V (two visits there)

Masked Mountain-Tanager (*Buthraupis wetmorei*)—Spectacular! Great looks (4 in all) along the TP road... after much searching! Then a spectacular repeat the following morning!

Black-chested Mountain-Tanager (*Cnemathraupis eximia*)—1 was seen distantly along the TP road; wonderful looks the following morning along the same road (along with the previous species)!

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus igniventris*)—1 was spotted by Mary Lou at GL; 2 were seen along the TP road

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*)—At least 4 were seen well along SI eco-corridor and V (with large mixed foraging flock); 1 along the BL

Orange-eared Tanager (*Chlorochrysa calliparaea*)—Possibly this was the “bright green” bird seen by Mary at WS

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—Fairly common in the lowlands, WS and 5 were seen along the BL

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)—10 or so were seen at WS

Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*)—Up to 10 or so were seen around WS; 2 at close range along the BL

Spotted Tanager (*Tangara punctata*)—3 were seen at WS
Blue-and-black Tanager (*Tangara vassorii*)—2 or so were seen really well at GL
Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*)—Wow! Singles seen (1 feeding on delicious-looking red fruit) along the SI eco-corridor; 1 along the BL
Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)—2 were seen in *Cecropia* at WS
 Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*)—2 were seen in *Cecropia* at WS
Golden-eared Tanager (*Tangara chrysotis*)—Stunning looks at a family threesome along the BL
 Saffron-crowned Tanager (*Tangara xanthocephala*)—7-8 in all were seen along SI eco-corridor
 Golden Tanager (*Tangara schrankii*)—2 were seen well and close along the BL
 Swallow Tanager (*Tersina viridis*)—1 male was seen in canopy at WS
 Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)—1 male was seen in *Cecropia* at WS
 Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)—A pair was seen in *Cecropia* at WS
Golden-collared Honeycreeper (*Iridophanes pulcherrimus*)—1 male was seen in *Cecropia* at WS
 Cinereous Conebill (*Conirostrum cinereum*)—3 were seen at TP
 Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)—1, the 2 the following morning, seen well along the TP road
 Black Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa humeralis*)—8 were seen in flowering hedges at TP and TC feeders
 White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*)—1 male was seen at V
 Bluish Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa caerulescens*)—1 was seen with mixed foraging flock at V
 Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa cyanea*)—1 was seen at SI; another closely at GL nectar feeder
Black-backed Bush-Tanager (*Urothraupis stolzmanni*)—2-3 or so were seen well on two mornings along the TP road, with mixed foraging flocks
 Plumbeous Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus unicolor*)—3 or so were seen at PAP; common at ANT
 Chestnut-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)—Quite a few were eventually seen, mainly along the WS road
 Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch (*Sporophila angolensis*)—1 male was seen (scoped) along the WS road
 Plain-colored Seedeater (*Catamenia inornata*)—Many flushed along the road, 1 scoped, at ANT
 Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)—5 or so were seen at WS
 Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)—4 were seen along WS road on two days

BUNTINGS & NEW WORLD SPARROWS: EMBERIZIDAE

Common Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus flavopectus*)—No longer considered a tanager, thus no longer called Bush-Tanager. 2 were seen with mixed foraging flocks at V; 2-3 at SI
 Yellow-browed Sparrow (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)—4 in all were seen along the WS road (1 was scoped in beautiful light); 2 along the BL

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)—A common highland species (SI, V and upward)
Slaty Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes schistaceus*)—1 was seen with a mixed foraging flock by Leslie
Pale-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes pallidinucha*)—1 was seen by Leslie and Juan along the TP road
Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*)—Aka Rufous-naped Brush-Finch.

CARDINALS & ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)—No longer considered a tanager! Rather common at WS (mostly adult males, though a few first year males too); 2 at SI, singles at V and along the BL
Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)—At least 5 were seen at WS (females and first year males)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)—At least 1 adult male was seen, a couple of times, at WS

TROUPIALS & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Red-breasted Meadowlark (*Sturnella militaris*)—1 was spotted by Kay (great job!) at V ; apparently a new-comer there
Subtropical Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*)—Considered here a species separate from Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*C. microrhynchus*), west of the Andes. 10 or so were seen around SI; also at V; **H** along the BL (animated and noisy)
Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*)—4 were seen along WS road and at lodge
Northern Mountain Cacique (*Cacicus leucoramphus*)—Often lumped with Mountain Cacique (*C. chrysonotus*)—2 were seen at GL
Russet-backed Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)—Common overall; fair numbers were seen on all but our last two days
Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)—Common at WS and HO (also 1 at L)

FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*)—1 male was seen by Bob along lower WS road
Golden-rumped Euphonia (*Euphonia cyanocephala*)—Nice pair, seen feeding in moss, along WS road
Bronze-green Euphonia (*Euphonia mesochrysa*)—6 in all were seen, from the deck (feeding on *Cecropia* fruit) and along the road, at WS
Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—Pairs were seen from the deck and along the road at WS
Olivaceous Siskin (*Spinus olivaceus*)—1 moulting male was seen at WS (above the village of Pacto Sumaco); another was seen by Connie along the BL

MAMMALS:

MARMOSETS AND TAMARINS: CALLITRICHIDAE

Napo Tamarin (*Saguinus graellsii*)—Now split from Black-mantled Tamarin (*Saguinus*

nigricollis). 1 was seen by Kay, then 10 more by the group (nice photos!) at WS

LARGE CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICAN SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE

Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*)—2 were seen around WS; singles at SI on two days, and GL

RABBITS: LEPORIDAE

Tropical Cottontail (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*)—1 was seen at PAP; 2 at ANT

DEER: CERVIDAE

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)—A buck and doe were seen (super tame), then a second doe was seen, at PAP

OTHER MAMMALS: Llamas & Alpacas near GL and at ANT