

ECUADOR:

THE NORTHWESTERN ANDEAN SLOPES

NOVEMBER 11 – 22, 2004

LEADERS:

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Ecuador: The Northwestern Andean Slopes

November 11-22, 2004

Paul Greenfield & Tony Nunnery

Itinerary

Nov. 12 – All-day Chriboga Road to Tinalandia	Sun AM/ Overcast PM
Nov. 13 – Tinalandia all day	Mixed overcast – some sun
Nov. 14 – Río Palenque day trip /overnight Tinalandia	Overcast – pleasant temp.
Nov. 15 – Chiriboga Bridge/Tinalandia AM →Arashá PM	Mostly overcast
Nov. 16 – Silanche (PVM) Road AM / Arashá trail PM	Overcast, then clear PM
Nov. 17 – Silanche (early AM) / Milpe Road & Reserve→Mindo	Overcast/clear
Nov. 18 – Mindo entrance road / Septimo Paraíso	Overcast and sun
Nov. 19 – Mindo “Y”→Ecoroute to Tony’s/Tandayapa Bird Lodge	Clear,overcast then misty
Nov. 20 – Tandayapa (LEK and trails) AM /PM → Quito / Calacalí stop	Overcast mostly
Nov. 21 – Yanacocha Reserve (until midday)	Sunny

A brief trip description

This *Ecuador: The Northwestern Andean Slopes* tour proved once again to be the perfect opportunity for seeing lots of bird species well and often, over and over again. By visiting several selected sites within a rather small circuit, we were able to familiarize ourselves with a great many species while always finding new and challenging ones that were unique to certain areas. We had some special experiences and saw many wonderful species—nearly 40 species of hummingbirds and even more tanagers (and their allies)—during this ten day trip that spanned the Chocó and North Andean Endemic Centers just west of Ecuador’s capital city, Quito. □

Spotting, only briefly, a Tiny Hawk picking off an unsuspecting House Wren as it sang from atop a low shrub in a pasture at Tinalandia left only a few members of our enthusiastic group with a somewhat memorable sighting (it really was merely a “fly-by”!) . . . but, later that same day another Tiny Hawk flew in and perched right in front of us and we even all got perfect scope views, which really seemed like over-kill, as it stretched up almost on tip-toes to get a better look at exactly who was looking at him! Trogons were a hit, and we were given great looks at pairs of Chocó Trogon at three different locations, while at Río Palenque a beautiful male Ecuadorian Trogon showed up along with two other trogon species (Collared and Northern White-tailed) in the same group of fruiting trees and even a close Laughing Falcon joined in. It’s really hard to choose just what were some of our most memorable moments, there seem to have been many. Scope views at eye-level of Yellow-tufted Dacnis seemed utterly unbeatable that second morning at Tinalandia—we must have already forgotten the Sapphire-vented Puffleg at her nest the day before—or the sunlit Broad-billed Motmot who decoyed in to a tape the following day. Scope views of various species of toucans certainly come to mind including the three endemic species: Pale-mandibled Araçari, Chocó Toucan, and the spectacular Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan. Calling in a pair of multicolored Toucan Barbets was a real crowd-pleaser, but it even got better the following day when another one of these west slope specialties sat unsuspecting for the longest time, at eye level, right in front of us—we actually collected our telescopes and walked away from it!—in hot pursuit of a pair of Rufous-winged Tyrannulets.

Dawn at the top of the Mindo entrance road (la “Y”), which demanded an encore performance the following morning, was unbelievable—where the lights placed on the various signs that “announce” ones arrival to this incredible area attracted thousands of moths through the night which in turn attracted dozens of bird species at dawn—ignoring our presence completely! Streak-capped Treehunter, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Montane Woodcreeper, Golden-crowned Flycatcher, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanagers, Masked Trogon, Tricolored Brush-Finch were just among a few of the species that came in to feed. The Golden-headed Quetzals that came in across the road added to the excitement too! A similar experience was witnessed the following morning at Tandayapa Bird lodge.

We divided into two groups on our morning at Tandayapa, where some opted on a pre-dawn hike to a fabulous Cock-of-the-Rock LEK (with an ear-shattering cacaphony of 15 spectacular displaying males!, along with sightings of Rufous-breasted Antthrush and even a glimpse at Giant Antpitta) and the rest of us decided to walk the trails at Tandayapa Bird Lodge where a displaying Golden-winged Manakin sat right above us and would not quit as we concentrated on watching the cutest singing Ochre-breasted Antpitta. . . nobody regretted their choice.

But, Ecuador wouldn't be Ecuador (and the northwest wouldn't be the northwest) if it weren't for the incredible array of its hummingbird diversity. Some very special species, among the 39 species we recorded, were seen throughout the trip—a great pair of the rare Little Woodstar being just one of a long list of super hummers, this species being seen feeding in the wild—though the feeders set up at the various places we stayed at and visited just seemed to get better and better as the trip progressed—an almost hypnotizing dithy of energy in the World's greatest hummingbird haven! At several locations we were seeing between 15 and 20 species at a sitting . . . and probably even more at Tony and Barbara's garden and at Tanadayapa Bird Lodge, but Yanacocha may well have been the highlight (I guess we were getting pretty blasé at seeing dozens and dozens of hummers by our last day), especially at the last set of feeders where we were just surrounded by the whirring wings of Buff-winged Starfrontlets, Great Sapphirewings, Sapphire-vented and Golden-breasted Pufflegs, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Tyrian Metaltails and the bizarre and incredible Sword-billed Hummingbird—with its body-length bill!!!; truly one of the natural wonders of the World.

Tanagers (including euphonias, chlorophonias, honeycreepers, dacnises and the like) are also a prominent element of the northwest Andean slopes, and we certainly had our share of them. We worked pretty hard to finally get decent scope views of the gaudy Yellow-collared Chlorophonia, even though they were calling along a pretty ample stretch of the road to Mindo and around the Milpe Bird Sanctuary . . . they're just tough to see. Most of the other species were easier and we had very nice looks at Scarlet-browed, Golden-hooded, Gray-and-gold, Blue-necked along with a few dozen more tanager species. Milpe was excellent, with great views of Rufous-throated Tanager and Moss-backed Tanager, two species found only in a narrow belt in the foothills of this region. Fine looks at the high Andean Black-chested Mountain-Tanager along with the brilliant Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager completed our visit to Yanacocha.

There were many other highlights that may have impressed each of us differently, but one that I enjoyed most was a pair of Beautiful Jays that we called in just above Tandayapa to our surprise as they called for several minutes stationary from a set of trees situated upslope from us. After resigning ourselves to somewhat acceptable scope views for all our participants, out of the blue, the two birds worked there way down towards us until situating themselves so close, that at least I had to step back to focus my binoculars on them! Surprises like this seem to be a norm on this Northwestern Andean Slopes tour and each trip seems to comprise unique opportunities for seeing both the more common species as well as the rarer and more range restricted ones.

Species list

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) Heard only at many lowland sites

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) 7 or so along Río Baba at Río Palenque
 Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) Small numbers: Tinalandia & Río Palenque , west of Arashá
 Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) 1 seen along Río Baba at Río Palenque
 Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) Several – Tinalandia, Río Palenque, Arashá area and Mindo
 Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) Seen daily in lowlands–large roosts with big flocks in most areas (spreading)
 Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*) Singles: Tinalandia, Río Baba at Río Palenque and at Mindo
Torrent Duck (*Merganetta armata*) A pair and a single male at Chiriboga Road bridge area
 Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Generally common throughout –seen on most days
 Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) Seen on all but last two days
 Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) 1 bird scoped distantly along Río Baba at Río Palenque
 Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) 1 adult seen in flight at Arashá.
 Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) Several at Tinalandia/ (1 really close!), others Arashá & Silanche
 Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) 1 soaring bird above Mindo
 Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) A pair (?) seen well soaring along Silanchi (PVM) Road
Tiny Hawk (*Accipiter superciliosus*) Quick look as 1 grabbed a House Wren / then **Great** close looks at another perched bird – both at Tinalandia
Plumbeous Hawk (*Leucopternis plumbea*) 1 flying bird at Río Palenque
 Barred Hawk (*Leucopternis princeps*) 2 good sightings of soaring birds: 1 at Milpe, another from Tony's porch
 Roadside Hawk (*Bureo magnirostris*) Singles and pairs seen at many sights – most days
 White-rumped Hawk (*Buteo leucorrhous*) Single bird soaring above Tandayapa
 Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) 1 soaring bird at Silanche
 Variable Hawk (*Bueo polyosoma*) single soaring birds seen on last two days: Calacalí & Yanacochoa
 Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*) Heard only – Silanche and above Mindo
 Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) **Nice** close (scoped) looks at 1 at Río Palenque
 American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) A few seen in highlands – Chiriboga Rd & Calacalí area
 Rufous-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis erythroptera*) Heard only (rats!) at Río Palenque
 Sickle-winged Guan (*Chamaepetes goudotii*) 1 bird seen by some of the group along trail above Tandayapa
 Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus erythrops*) Heard only at Tinalandia and Silanche
 Dark-backed Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus melanonotus*) Heard only once – Tandayapa
 White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*) Heard only at Milpe
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) Singles seen along rivers– Tinalandia and Río Palenque
 Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) Our favorite! Seen around villages and towns...
 Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) Generally common in most montane areas
 Plumbeous Pigeon (*Columba plumbea*) A few seen (little calling) mostly in the Milpe-Mindo-Tandayapa area
 Ruddy Pigeon (*Columba subvinacea*) At least 2 seen: Tinalandia & Silanche / also heard above Mindo
 Dusky Pigeon (*Columba goodsoni*) Heard only along the Silanche Road
 Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) Mostly around Quito where common – only a few seen during our trip
Ecuadorian Ground-Dove (*Colombina buckleyi*) A few seen close by at Río Palenque
 Blue Ground-Dove (*Clavaria pretiosa*) 1 pair flushed up at Río Palenque (brief look by some of us)
 White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) Singles seen briefly at Río Palenque and pretty well at Tony's
 Pallid Dove (*Leptotia palida*) Mostly heard / 2 seen: Tinalandia and Silanche-Arashá area
 White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon frenata*) Heard only(it got away!) along Tandayapa Lodge trail
 Maroon-tailed Parakeet (*Pyrhura melanura*) Fly-bys and hear mostly – best seen (scoped) at Silanche
 Barred Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus lineola*) As usual, small groups flying over astronomically high – above Mindo
Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestes*) Pair at Tinalandia (first record?), several at Río Palenque, also Silanche
 Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) Several in flight in Arashá-Silanche area /also some nice scope views
 Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*) Seen fairly regularly in subtropics / foothills - decent scope views too
 Bronze-winged Parrot (*Pionus chalcopterus*) Small groups (a few scope views) all lowland and foothill sites
 Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) Between 1-2 seen almost daily (all but two days)
 Little Cuckoo (*Piaya minuta*) at least 3 seen at Río Palenque, Arashá and Silanche areas
 Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) Small groups in open areas in lowlands and foothills
Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) Heard at Río Palenque, but a few males (female too) **displaying** at Silanche
 Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium nubicola*) Heard only, along Mindo entrance road

Andean Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium jardiinii*) Heard only close by - upper Chiriboga Road (would not come in)
 Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) One seen briefly at Septimo Paraíso
 Short-tailed Nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*) 1 at Arashá seen by a few of us
 Rufous-bellied Nighthawk (*Lurocalis rufiventris*) Heard only closeby above Tandayapa
 Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) 1 seen well when flushed by day at Tinalandia /heard only at Arashá
 White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) This spectacular swift accompanied us daily
 Chestnut-collared Swift (*Cypseloides rutilus*) Seen a few times in the Tandayapa area – best at Tony’s place
Spot-fronted Swift (*Cypseloides cherriei*) This rare swift seen twice by some of us from Tony’s porch
 Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) Small group over Silanche Road
 White-tipped Swift (*Aeronautes montivagus*) Small numbers twice from Tony’s porch
 Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayannensis*) At least 2 seen overflying Silanche Road
White-whiskered Hermit (*Phaethornis yaruqui*) Seen often in all lowland/foothill sites (close at feeders!)
Tawny-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis syrmatorphorus*) Singles seen along Chiriboga Road and Tandayapa (best at Tony’s feeders)
Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) 1 seen briefly as a close fly-by at Río Palenque (recent split)
White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) Excellent looks at El Jardín de los Colibríes & Septimo Paraíso
 Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*) Small number seen at Tony’s and Tandayapa feeders
 Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*) A common species in the Andes – Best seen from Tony’s porch
Green Thorntail (*Popelairia conversii*) males and females (scoped) of this charming “mite” : Tinalandia, Silanche...
Western Emerald (*Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus*) Several at T&B’s and Jardín de los Colibríes; males are a knock-out!
 Green-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania fannyi*) Quite a few, close views too at all lowland sites
Violet-bellied Hummingbird (*Damophila julie*) Several sightings, good looks: Río Palenque & Silanche area
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) Very common species of western lowlands – where seen almost
 Andean Emerald (*Amazilia franciae*) Common at feeders Miindo and Tandayapa area
Purple-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia rosenbergi*) Along Silanche Road – hard to see well this time
 Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*) A few in the field, mostly at feeders in Mindo-Tandayapa area
Purple-bibbed Whitetip (*Urosticte benjamini*) rare species seen well at feeders: Milpe , Mindo-Tandayapa area
Empress Brilliant (*Heliodoxa emperatrix*) **Spectacular bird!** Several at feeders – Tony’s and Tandayapa
 Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) Forest species, fairly common in lowlands – best at feeders at most sites : Tinalandia, Río Palenque, Mindo, Tandayapa
 Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*) Common at Feeders in Mindo- Tandayapa area
White-tailed Hillstar (*Urochroa bougueri*) 1 bird seen briefly from Tony’s porch
 Shining Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*) 2 seen feeding along Chiriboga road
Great Sapphirewing (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*) A **stunning** show at Yanacochoa/1 along upper Chiriboga Road
Brown Inca (*Coeligena wilsoni*) Several, mostly at feeders where seen beautifully: Mindo-Tandayapa area
 Collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*) Surprisingly few of this snappy bird, 1 seen twice at Tony’s feeders
 Buff-winged Starfrontlet (*Coeligena lutetiae*) **Great** views and really common at Yanacochoa
Sword-billed Hummingbird (*Ensifera ensifera*) **Indescribable! Great looks!** Yanacochoa feeders
 Buff-tailed Coronet (*Boissonneaua flavescens*) Common at Tony’s and Tandayapa feeders
Velvet-purple Coronet (*Boissonneaua jardiini*) 1 seen briefly above Mindo
Sapphire-vented Puffleg (*Eriocnemis luciani*) Most common puffleg at Yanacochoa, also along upper Chiriboga Road where **one was on its nest**
Golden-breasted Puffleg (*Eriocnemis mosquera*) Only 1, but seen point-blank at Yanacochoa feeders
Booted Racket-tail (*Ocreatus underwoodii*) So cool! and fairly common at feeders- Mindo and Tandayapa
Black-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia victoriae*) 1 along upper Chiriboga Rd., first AM / then an impressive male along trail above Calacalí
 Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*) several; along Chiriboga Road and a few at Yanacochoa
Rainbow-bearded Thornbill (*Chalcostigma herrani*) Close looks at a young male at Yanacochoa feeders
Violet-tailed Sylph (*Aglaiocercus coelestis*) Fairly common Chocó-Andean specialty – best from Tony’s porch
Wedge-billed Hummingbird (*Schistes geoffroyi*) 1 at the “Y” at Mindo, then another at Tandayapa

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) Several individuals seen at lowland sites—incl. good close looks

Purple-throated Woodstar (*Calliflox mitchellii*) Fairly common at feeders in Mindo-Tandayapa area

White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*) 1 female seen both days at Tandayapa Bird Lodge

Little Woodstar (*Chaetocercus bombus*) An excellent pair along Silanche Road (a rather rare species)

Crested Quetzal (*Pharomachrus antisianus*) A few heard (not responsive) above Mindo and Tandayapa

Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*) A few males seen well (scoped) above Mindo and Tandayapa

Ecuadorian Trogon (*Trogon mesurus*) Nice male at Río Palenque along with 2 other species in same area

Chocó Trogon (*Trogon comptus*) A pair at Tinalandia, another pair at Arashá, also 1 along Silanche Road

Western White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon chionurus*) 3 or so at Río Palenque (scoped, seen nicely)

Masked Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) 3 (2 males and a female) above Mindo and Tandayapa

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) 1 scoped on edge of Río Toachi / also scoped at Río Palenque

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) 1 scoped nicely at Tinalandia / another around Mindo, others heard

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) Heard Tinalandia, but 1 nicely seen (scoped) at Río Palenque

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) Heard in a few areas / a few seen at Río Palenque

Barred Puffbird (*Nystalus radiatus*) Heard only at Río Palenque (unresponsive)

White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacptila panamensis*) **Nice** looks (scoped at close range) at 1 bird at Río Palenque

Orange-fronted Barbet (*Capito squamatus*) A male (perhaps nesting activity) scoped as it fed on vine tangle; a female seen as well by some of us

Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*) Good views at several, Tinalandia, also Río Palenque & Arashá-Silanche area

Toucan Barbet (*Semnornis ramphastinus*) Finally nice looks at a pair along Mindo entrance road/ also heard

Crimson-rumped Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*) Several seen (scoped, too) - various lowland & montane sites

Pale-mandibled Araçari (*Pteroglossua erythropygius*) Many sightings of the endemic species at various sites

Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena laminirostris*) Several of this beautiful species seen: Chiriboga Road and above Mindo and Tandayapa

Chocó Toucan (*Ramphastos brevis*) Nice (scope views) of a pair along the Silanche Road

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsonii*) Heard only at Tinalandia one afternoon

Olivaceous Piculet (*Picumnus olivaceus*) Singles seen w/ mixed flocks at Tinalandia and Silanche

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (*Piculus rivolii*) Finally various individuals seen at Tony's and along ridge above Tandayapa

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*) Fairly common in lowlands and foothills – some good looks

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) Heard at Río palenque, then seen along the Silanche road

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) Common in lowlands - seen fairly often

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis funigatus*) At least 1 seen along the lower Chiriboga Road

Red-rumped Woodpecker (*Veniliornis kirkii*) 1 seen at Río Palenque

Guayaquil Woodpecker (*Campephilus gayaquilensis*) Several nice looks: Silanche and around Mindo

Powerful Woodpecker (*Campephilus pollens*) Nice looks at a female above Mindo, then a pair on Paul's property

Pacific Hornero (*Furnarius cinnamomeus*) A common, drole" Tumbesian endemic – seen most days in lowlands

Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*) Commonly heard; finally seen at Tony's (with the next species)

Slaty Spinetail (*Synallaxis brachyura*) Heard & glanced at various sites; best seen at Tony's

Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*) Actually seen a lot, a regular mixed foraging flock species

Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissoneaui*) Finally seen w/ mixed flock along trails at Tony's

Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*) Finally began to show up in Mindo-Tandayapa areas & Yanacocha – a beautiful specues

Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex guttuligera*) 1 seen well by some of us along Tandayapa Lodge trails

Lineated Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla subalaris*) At least one was seen with a mixed flock – above Mindo

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia variagaticeps*) Various sightings w/ mixed flocks: Chiriboga Road, Río Palenque above Mindo

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor rufus*) A few seen with mixed flocks: Milpe and Mindo

Streak-capped Treehunter (*Thripadectes virgaticeps*) Super close looks at Mindo "Y", then as close at Tandayapa Bird Lodge

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) A few w/ mixed flocks: Tinalandia, Río Palenque, Silanche-Arashá area, Milpe

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) Some nice looks at all lowland sites

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) Only 1 seen at Milpe (surprisingly absent)

Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropyrhynchus*) Excellent close look at Mindo “Y”

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) Singles at a few sites: R. Palenque, Arashá, Mindo

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) Common lowland woodcreeper

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*) Common montane woodcreeper

Red-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*) 1 seen a couple of times at Río Palenque

Great Antshrike (*Tabara major*) A young male (moulting) seen at Río Palenque

Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) heard at various sites ; pairs seen along Silanche Road

Pacific Antwren (*Myrmotherula pacifica*) A cute, fairly common species in lowlands of west

Checker-throated Antwren (*Myrmotherula fulviventris*) 1 showed itself along the Silanche Road

Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*) a pair with mixed flock –Septimo Paraíso

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*) Nice looks at a few along the Silanche Road

Long-tailed Antbird (*Drymophila caudata*) 1 called in for fair views along the Chiriboga Road

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*) A pair seen (calling) along the Silanche Road

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmecisa exsul*) At least 2 seen at Río Palenque then heard elsewhere in lowlands

Rufous-breasted Antthrush (*Formicarius rufipectus*) Heard -1 seen well by some of us Tandayapa

Giant Antpitta (*Grallaria gigantea*) 1 seen well by only a lucky few above Tandayapa

Undulated Antpitta (*Grallaria squamigera*) Heard only; Yanacochoa

Scaled Antpitta (*Grallaria guatemalensis*) Heard only; Tandayapa area

Moustached Antpitta (*Grallaria alleni*) 1 unresponsive bird heard at Tandayapa Bird Lodge

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapillus*) A few heard closely along Chiriboga Road

Yellow-breasted Antpitta (*Grallaria flavotincta*) Heard only; above Tandayapa

Rufous Antpitta (*Grallaria rufula*) Heard only at Yanacochoa

Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*) 1 seen the along upper Chiriboga Road

Ochre-breasted Antpitta (*grallaricula flavirostris*) Fine looks by some at a 1 singing male; Tandayapa

Blackish [Unicolored] Tapaculo (*Scytalopus[unicolor] latrans*) Heard only on first and last days

Nariño Tapaculo (*Scytalopus vicinior*) Heard mostly; 1 seen briefly by a couple of us above Tandayapa

Spillmann’s Tapaculo (*Scytalopus spillmanni*) Heard only in subtropics above Mindo and Tandayapa

Ocellated Tapaculo (*Acropternis orthonyx*) Heard only (few calling) at Yanacochoa

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseiceps*) Nice looks at this dull, very vocal species – best at Tinalandia

Black-capped Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias nigrocapilla*) Nice looks at a juvenile at Milpe

Golden-faced Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius chrysops*) Several seen and well – seen at most lower altitude sites

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) Several seen, a fairly common & widespread species

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*tyrannulus elatus*) Heard only while watching other interesting species

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) Singles seen and scoped Río Palenque and Arashá

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) Fairly common and spreading; mostly Arashá-Silanche area

Lesser Elaenia (*Elaenia chiriquensis*) Singles of this difficult to ID species at Milpe and Mindo area

White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*) Only a few seen along the Ecoroute above Mindo

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*) A few pairs with mixed flocks at Yanacochoa

White-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*) Fairly common with flocks at Yanacochoa

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*) Small numbers, but several seen well in subtropics

Rufous-winged Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus calopterus*) We worked for this; good looks at a few along Mindo entrance road

Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) At least one along river – Chiriboga Road

Streak-necked Flycatcher (*Mionectes striaticollis*) A few w/ mixed flocks; lower Chiriboga Rd. & above Mindo

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon striaticollis*) A few pairs w/ mixed flocks: Tinalandia & Arashá-Silanche

Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant (*Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus*) A few seen well w/ mixed flocks: Río palenque, Tinalandia and Silanche Road

Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*) A tiny, very species Chocó endemic – seen nicely along the Silanche Road

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) A few nice looks! Tinalandia Río Palenque, etc.

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) Seen and heard regularly at Tinalandia, Río Palenque, Silanche

Yellow-margined Flatbill (*Tolmomyias flavotectus*) Good looks at this species along the Silanche Rd

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*) This charming species best seen at Milpe and Mindo area

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*) Nice looks at an animated pair at Río Palenque

Flavescent Flycatcher (*Myiophobus flavicans*) A few seen in and above the Mindo-Tandayapa area (Ecoroute)

Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*) Finally 1 along the Ecoroute

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) Quite a few seen and calling in most lowland areas

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) The most common *Contopus* seen and calling

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*) Small numbers but always present in subtropical areas

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) Nice looks (scoped) at Arashá (Silanche too?)

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) Singles, always around water – Chiriboga Rd., Mindo, etc.

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*) One seen briefly along Calacalí trail

Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca rufipectus*) Nice pair seen (then a second) along the Chiriboga Rd.

White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant (*Agriornis andicola*) 1 seen (scoped) – rare, local & highly threatened species - along Calacalí trail

Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola maculirostris*) A few of got to seen 1 along the Calacalí trail

Masked Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola nengeta*) Common at most lowland sites now

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myarchus tuberculifer*) Several seen – best at Mindo “Y”

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) Seen daily at all lowland and foothill sites

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) Only a few seen in the Arashá-Silanche area

Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetete cayanensis*) Common in most humid lowland and foothill sites

Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) Sigles seen at Tinalandia and Arashá-Silanche

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) Several seen (and well) in the Arashá- Silanche Road area

Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) Several seen in subtropics– some good looks

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) A few seen (heard too) Arashá-Silanche area

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) Seen almost daily – at all lower altitude locations

Snowy-throated Kingbird (*Tyrannus niveigularis*) Nice looks at a few: Río Palenque and Arashá area

Barred Becard (*Pachyramphus versicolor*) Nice looks at one along Tony’s trails

Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) Common in the western lowlands and foothills

White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) 1 male seen at Silanche (also a female) w/ mixed flocks

Black-and-white Becard (*Pachyramphus albogriseus*) Several seen: Silanche, and Mindo-Tandayapas area

One-colored Becard (*Platyparis homochrous*) Common; seen on all but 2 days

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifaciata*) Several seen at most lowland and foothill sites

Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) A pair at Silanche (flew off quickly)

Barred Fruiteater (*Pipreola arcuata*) Heard only (fairly close, but...) at Yanacocha

Green-and-black Fruiteater (*Pipreola riefferii*) Heard only along Tony’s trails

Purple-throated Fuitcrow (*Querula purpurata*) Seen a few times: Tinalandia, Río Palenque. Heard Arashá-Silanche area

Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*) Mostly females twice at Chiriboga bridge/ 15 males by those who visited Lek above Tandayapa

Golden-winged Manakin (*Masius chrysopterus*) A couple of females above Mindo/ Spectacular calling male along Tandayapa trails by some of us

White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*) **Good looks** at a few males at Río Palenque and Silanche Road

Club-winged Manakin (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*) Heard only around Mindo (unresponsive)

Turquoise Jay (*Cyanolyca turcosa*) A couple of groups seen along the Chiriboga Rd./Heard above Tandayapa

Beautiful Jay (*Cyanolyca pulchra*) **Spectacular looks** – at a strangely curious pair

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) 1 seen pretty well w/ small mixed flock at Río palenque

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanus leucotis*) Heard only (a lot!) Tinalandia and Silanche - not responsive

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) Quite common at most sites on most days

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) Finally, then fairly common around Milpe-Mindo-Tandayapa

Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) Quite common w/ mixed flocks, at all lower sites

Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*) A surprising pair w/ large mixed flock at Milpe (1st record for that site!)

Andean Solitaire (*Myadestes ralloides*) Really nice looks at 1 along Tandayapa trails

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus fuscater*) Heard only Mindo-Tandayapa Road

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) Only one seen w/ mixed flock below Mindo "Y"

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*) A common highland species

Glossy-black Thrush (*Turdus serranus*) At least one seen along the Ecoroute

Ecuadorian Thrush (*Turdus maculirostris*) Common at all lowland sights, most days

Dagua Thrush (*Turdus daguae*) Heard only at Mindo (hummingbird garden)

White-capped Dipper (*Cinclus leucocephalus*) 3-4 birds in all ; along the Chiriboga Rd (two days)

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) Oddly absent – a couple flying over Tinalandia

Brown-bellied Swallow (*Notiochelidon murina*) The common highland swallow

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*) The most common and widespread swallow in Ecuador

White-thighed Swallow (*Notiochelidon tibialis*) Small numbers at Tinalandia and Silanche

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) Very common in open areas in all lowland sites

Band-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) Noisy and conspicuous – but uncommon and only Tinalandia

Rufous Wren (*Cinnycerthia unirufa*) A few seen nicely with small mixed flock at Yanacocha

Grass Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) Heard on the first morning – Chiriboga Rd.

Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) Heard mostly – seen well by most at Tinalandia

Plain-tailed Wren (*Thryothorus euophrys*) Heard only at one (!) area along the Chiriboga Rd., oddly quiet

Whiskered Wren (*Thryothorus mysticalis*) This real skulker!! Was seen well + heard at Río Palenque

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) Common and seen on all but two days (heard often)

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) Heard often in montane areas; Seen well at Tandayapa

Southern Nightingale-Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*) Heard at various lowland sites; 1 called at really close range along Arashá trail

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) 1 seen nicely but briefly in tangles at Río Palenque

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) A few of these cute little birds seen at Tinalandia & Silanche

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) Quite common finally in most lowland areas – not seen at Río Palenque!

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) A common boreal migrant to Andean montane areas

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) Probably this species seen by a few of us at Silanche (rare in west Ecuador)

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis semiflava*) A male seen above Tandayapa (day 8)

Slate-throated Whitestart (*Myioborus miniatus*) A rather common mixed flock participant - lower elevations

Spectacled Whitestart (*Myioborus melanocephalus*) A rather common mixed flock participant - upper elevations

Chocó Warbler (*Basileuterus chlorophrys*) Very nice looks at Tinalandia with small mixed flock

Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*) Several seen well mostly in Mindo area

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*) Mostly absent this trip!, but nice close looks at Mindo "Y"

Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*) Seen well at Tinalandia and Río Palenque – heard elsewhere too

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) Small numbers seen at all the lowland and lower foothill sites

Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*) Pairs and small groups of males at Arashá-Silanche area and Milpe

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) Fairly common in lowlands and lower foothills – best seen at the Tinalandia fruit feeders

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) A few seen, mostly females in the Arashá-Silanche area

Yellow-tufted Dacnis (*Dacnis egregia*) This stunning species was seen well at Tinalandia & Río Palenque

Cinereous Conebill (*Conirostrum cinereum*) Small numbers on the first and last days – in the temperate zone

Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*) Several groups w/ mixed flocks at Yanacocha

Capped Conebill (*Conirostrum albifrons*) A few pairs mainly in the Mindo-Tandayapa area

Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis cyanea*) Only a few seen this time, along Ecoroute and at Yanacocha

Glossy Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa lafresnayii*) Very common and unbelievably tame at hummingbird feeders at Yanacocha

Black Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa humeralis*) A fairly common species of the central valley

White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*) A fairly common species in the subtropical Andean slopes

Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*) Nice looks at pairs and family groups at most lowland & foothill sites

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*) Several seen in all Tinalandia, Milpe and Mindo-Tandayapa

Yellow-collared Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia flavirostris*) Small numbers seen – Chiriboga Road, best (pretty good looks) along Mindo entrance road – heard at Milpe

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*) Fairly common at all lower elevations where seen daily

Golden-rumped Euphonia (*Euphonia cyanocephala*) Nice looks at a few – especially at Tony’s

Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*) Common and widespread in Ecuador; seen on most days

Orange-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia saturata*) A less common species, seen several times in the lowlands though not at Río Palenque

Rufous-throated Tanager (*Tangara rufifigula*) Very nice looks at a small group of this species at Milpe

Gray-and-gold Tanager (*Tangara palmeri*) Several good looks in treetops at Arashá and Silanche

Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*) A regular flock species in the Subtropics - a beauty though!

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) Small numbers: lower Chiriboga Rd., Tinalandia, and Arashá-Silanche area,

Flame-faced Tanager (*Tangara parzudakii*) Several sightings with mixed flocks in all subtropical areas

Golden-naped Tanager (*Tangara rufivertex*) Small numbers this trip - mostly in Mindo-Tandayapa area

Metallic-green Tanager (*Tangara labradorides*) A small group w/ mixed flock along Tandayapa trails

Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*) Finally quite a few sightings - mostly Mindo –Tandayapa area

Blue-and-black Tanager (*Tangara vassorii*) Finally a few good looks in the Mindo -Tandayapa Road

Black-capped Tanager (*Tangara heinei*) Pairs (mostly) seen in the Mindo-Tandayapa area

Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*) A common lowland species (a knock-out!) where at all sites

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) Lots of good looks in the Arashá -Silanche area

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrol*) Several nice looks: Tinalandia, R’io Palenque and Arash’a-Silanche area

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus igniventris*) Dazzling! Seen on first & last days in the temperate zone

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*) This beautiful tanager (aren’t they!) is common in the subtropics

Hooded Mountain-Tanager (*Buthraupis montana*) Several seen at Yanacocha where usually only seasonal

Black-chested Mountain-Tanager (*Buthraupis eximia*) Several of this high altitude species seen at Yanacocha

Moss-backed Tanager (*Bangsia edwardsi*) At least 3 sightings of this Chocó endemic at Milpe

Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*) Heard only (rats!!) somehow this one got away!

Swallow Tanager (*Tersina viridis*) Several really fine looks at this spectacular species at many sites

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) Very common at lower elevations

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) Fairly common (“What’s that species?”) in lowland sites

Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*) A few pretty good looks in the Mindo-Tandayapa area

Lemon-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus icteronotus*) Surely the most common (but showy!) tanager at lower elevations – seen on all but last day

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) A fairly common boreal migrant – all plumage types seen: most days

White-winged Tanager (*Piranga leucoptera*) A pair (male seen best) of this beautiful tanager seen along Chiriboga Road

Ochre-breasted Tanager (*Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*) A dull Chocó endemic seen well at Milpe

Dusky-faced Tanager (*Mitrospingus cassinii*) Several seen at all lowland sites

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) Small family groups seen: Río Palenque & Arashá-Silanche area

Scarlet-browed Tanager (*Heterospingus xanthopygius*) Many (surprisingly) at Arashá and Silanche too

Dusky Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*) This dull Chocó-Andean endemic was pretty common in the Mindo-Tandayapa area with mixed foraging flocks

Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus flavovirens*) Several groups seen along lower Chiriboga Rd. and Milpe and Mindo areas

Superciliaried Hemispingus (*Hemispingus superciliaris*) pairs at least w/ mixed flocks at Yanacocha (a favorite for some of us!)

Plushcap (*Catamblyrhynchus diadema*) At least one w/ big mixed flock along Chiriboga Rd. – always around bamboo

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) Many seen in all lowland areas

Black-winged Saltator (*Saltator atripennis*) Quite common and well seen in all lowland and foothill sites

Southern Yellow-Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*) 1 finally showed up in the Tandayapa area

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) 2 separate birds seen at Tinalandia

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*) Surprisingly visible (at least a pair) w/ a female following us for kilometers—Río Palenque

Crimson-breasted Finch (*Rhodospingus cruentus*) A couple of males & a female seen by some at Río Palenque

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) Several in grassy areas: Tinalandia, Río Palenque and above Mindo

Dull-colored Grassquit (*Tiaris obscura*) A few seen w/ other seedeaters: Tinalandia and Silanche

Lesser Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*) Several seen in the Arashá-Silanche

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) Common in lowlands and foothills of west

Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*) Quite common; at some higher elevations than previous species (but not seen in Arashá-Silanche area on first or last 2 days)

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus plebejus*) Very few along the Calacalí trail

Northern Rufous-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*) Several w/ mixed flocks in highlands along Chiriboga Rd. and Yanacocha

Tricolored Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes tricolor*) At least 2 pair (seen really close) at Mindo “Y”

White-winged Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes leucopterus*) A pair seen in shrubbery at Tony’s

Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Buarremon brunneinucha*) At least 1 around Tandayapa Bird Lodge

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) 1 or 2 seen along Silanche Road

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) Some nice views along lower Chiriboga Rd. & Mindo-Tandayapa area

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) Common highland species throughout the Andes

Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) A small group seen at Tinalandia, heard only at Río Palenque,

Russet-backed Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*) Heard only along the Chiriboga Road

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) Small-medium sized groups seen at Río Palenque & Arashá-Silanche area

Giant Cowbird? (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) This was not on my list, but I seem to remember a few fly-bys of this above Mindo (or am I drunk?)

Scrub Blackbird (*Dives warszewiczi*) Common at Tinalandia, also in Arashá-Silanche area

Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelus*) A pair hanging around Tinalandia (recent arrival), also heard at Río Palenque

Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Carduelis xanthogastra*) Mostly females and juveniles (1 male) at Tinalandia and Silanche

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) At least 1 of this thriving species new Santo Domingo returning to Tinalandia

