

COLOMBIA: SANTA MARTA ESCAPE

Mar 17, 2012 to Mar 25, 2012
Richard Webster & Miles McMullan



We ended our days at ProAves' El Dorado lodge with a relaxing evening on the deck, enjoying this lovely sunset after checking the compost for wood-quail and brush-finches, while watching the feeders for something new among the throng of regular beauties. (Photo by guide Richard Webster)

Arriving in Barranquilla's airport provides no indication that one might be close to Colombia's highest peaks, and the first couple of days are certainly well removed from the visions of a lush Sierra that probably motivated your trip. But on departure from Barranquilla eight days later, your mind was certainly full of memories of mountain views and rich and varied birding.

The first couple of days, while not on the lush side of the spectrum, were fun birding. We even enjoyed lunch on the beach, an opportunity to take a photo to pretend you had a standard Caribbean vacation! We started birding with one of our best pieces of luck, Chestnut-winged Chachalacas on the outskirts of Barranquilla, and continued onto Isla Salamanca and the national park of the same name. A quick slice of land and water birds included Snail Kite, Limpkin, Russet-throated Puffbird, Pale-legged Hornero, and Bronzed (Bronze-brown) Cowbird, after which we moved quickly to the mangroves of Los Cocos. Here we saw our first Chestnut Piculets and were most fortunate to see several Sapphire-bellied Hummingbirds, a poorly known and Critically Endangered species.

By the afternoon we had moved far east to Riohacha and the arid lowlands that mark the beginning of the Guajira Peninsula. Birding the dry woodlands and rainwater ponds around Camarones that evening and the next morning provided views of most of the regional specialties, particularly including Vermilion Cardinal, the beautiful White-whiskered Spinetail, glowing Red-billed Emeralds, dingy Buffy Hummingbirds, Bare-eyed Pigeon, Slender-billed Tyrannulet, and Glaucous Tanager. The special bonus was a pair of Tocuyo Sparrows at close range, while the disappointment was limited looks at Orinocan Saltator. The lagoon was regrettably flamingo free, but had a variety of waterbirds, including a few Scarlet Ibis.

Moving to the foothills of the Sierra, we stayed in the small community of Minca, where the hotel's feeders were jammed

with hummingbirds. Birding around the edges of town was very productive, highlights including a surprise Collared Forest-Falcon, Scaled Piculet, Black-backed Antshrike, and the lovely Golden-winged Sparrow, among many widespread lowland species such as Keel-billed Toucan.

En route to our home for four nights, ProAves' El Dorado Lodge and Reserve, we found our first endemics in one of the first wet ravines, Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner and Santa Marta Tapaculo, followed by White-lored Warbler and Blossomcrown around a garden at middle elevation. Our first evening at El Dorado was highly memorable, with Santa Marta Antpitta on schedule for worms, two endemic brush-finches in the feeding tray, and White-tailed Starfrontlet at the feeders. Continued evening birding around the lodge grounds the next several days was to produce more of those plus several sightings of Black-fronted Wood-Quail and Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush attracted by the compost or worms, as well as roosting Band-tailed Guans. An evening foray was lucky to obtain a sighting of a perched screech-owl that is undescribed.

Clear views are not unexpected at this time of year, but we were fortunate to have two CLEAR & CALM mornings on the top of the San Lorenzo ridge. Even on good days, clear does not last for long, but we were still able to enjoy good birding most of the morning. Our first morning had two especially exciting encounters: Santa Marta Parakeet and Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant. Seeing Santa Marta Warbler was also a good experience, and we further enjoyed easier endemics such as Yellow-crowned Redstart and Black-cheeked (Santa Marta) Mountain-Tanager. Much time was also invested in some skulkers, with sightings of Rufous Antpitta, Brown-rumped Tapaculo, and anachoreta Gray-breasted Wood-Wrens, a process that was to continue two days later with better views of the tapaculo and Rusty-headed Spinetail. Other great memories from the ridge were of White-tipped Quetzal and Strong-billed Woodcreeper.

We also went downslope from the lodge on two mornings, seeing several parrots and parakeets, Santa Marta Woodstar, Groove-billed Toucanet, Masked Trogon, Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Golden-breasted Fruiteater, and several thrushes, while improving views of Santa Marta Tapaculo and White-lored Warbler. There was also a taste of the spring that is coming to our homes shortly: many birds that breed in North America were wintering in Colombia, and we enjoyed some birds in spring finery, such as Blackburnian Warbler and Scarlet Tanager.

Mammals were few, and actually more than normal, including sightings of two primates, Night Monkey and (Venezuelan) Red Howler.

Those fine dawn views of the Sierra were views out over a landscape that has been greatly altered over the centuries. BirdLife estimates that only 15% of the Sierra's original vegetation is intact. Evidence of changes in this region are reflected in the conservation status of the species we saw: 1 Critically Endangered, 2 Endangered, 5 Vulnerable, and 3 Near Threatened.

Our tour was made easy by the efforts of many EcoTurs staff and helpers, from Adela, Anna, and Flor in the kitchen at El Dorado, Lorenzo on the grounds, hard-working volunteers like Sam, and several competent and patient drivers like Montero, Jorge, and Virgilio.

The taxonomy tries to follow the recent Clements (Cornell) changes. Conservation information is drawn from the publications of BirdLife International. Apologies to the Spanish language for omitting certain punctuation marks that do not survive cross-platform computer usage.

--Richard

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at www.fieldguides.com. And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/cms12LIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Tinamidae (Tinamous)

GRAY TINAMOU (*Tinamus tao*) – Occasionally heard as a distant voice in the forest downslope from the lodge. [*]

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*) – Wintering birds were common on the marshes and lagoons of Isla Salamanca. [b]

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

CHESTNUT-WINGED CHACHALACA (*Ortalis garrula*) – Our primary (and marginal) spot having burned in the last year, we tried another idea from Virgilio, and with Miles' great spotting, saw two in woodland at the edge of Barranquilla our first morning. Whew! [E]

RUFOUS-VENTED CHACHALACA (RUFOUS-VENTED) (*Ortalis ruficauda ruficrissa*) – A few alarm clucks were heard as we apparently disturbed a couple of birds near Riohacha, but we saw nothing. [*]

BAND-TAILED GUAN (*Penelope argyrotis*) – From the El Dorado lodge this species was heard every morning and evening, and often into the night; on a couple of occasions we saw birds coming to roost in trees along the entrance road.

SICKLE-WINGED GUAN (*Chamaepetes goudotii*) – Seen several times by folks birding on the lodge grounds, and by the group in the forests of the upper ridge.

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

BLACK-FRONTED WOOD-QUAIL (*Odontophorus atrifrons*) – We were very fortunate to stay at El Dorado during a period when the quail were daily visitors to the compost pile. Great views! In addition, a family group was seen a couple of times around some of the rooms and in the antpitta feeding area. It is considered "Vulnerable."



Santa Marta Antpitta had been intermittently AWOL at the feeding sessions, but we were fortunate to be back in the groove on our first attempt at El Dorado, and it was seen again on subsequent evenings, though not on schedule. (Photo by guide Richard Webster)

Fregatidae (Frigatebirds)

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*) – A few were seen along the coast at Camarones; a symbol of a tropical coastal vacation!

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – Common on Isla Salamanca, with more at Camarones.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) – Small numbers were along the coast at Isla Salamanca and Camarones.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*) – At least ten on the lagoon at Camarones were probably getting ready to head north, and near the southern end of the wintering range. [b]

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*) – A few in freshwater marshes on Isla Salamanca.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – Abundant on Isla Salamanca, where hundreds were in tidal lagoons along the highway.

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) – Common on Isla Salamanca, with more at Camarones.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – A few at Isla Salamanca, with another at Camarones.

TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*) – A handful each at Isla Salamanca and Camarones.

REDDISH EGRET (*Egretta rufescens*) – A half dozen on each visit to Camarones; all dark morph birds this year. It is considered "Near Threatened."

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Small numbers on Isla Salamanca, and a few more in pastures en route to Riohacha.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*) – A few on Isla Salamanca, e.g., along the mangrove boardwalk.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*) – Several adults were feeding along the edge of the tidal lagoon at Camarones early in the morning.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*) – Small flocks were around the lagoon at Camarones, and on some of the rainwater pools in the nearby woodland.

SCARLET IBIS (*Eudocimus ruber*) – A few on both visits to Camarones, mostly "salmon" ibis, but at least one fully-colored bird in flight.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – About a hundred were seen on Isla Salamanca.

BARE-FACED IBIS (*Phimosus infuscatus*) – Several small groups were seen on Isla Salamanca, with good views in the telescope. a.k.a. Whispering Ibis.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Platalea ajaja*) – Fairly common at Camarones, where small groups were foraging on the tidal lagoon and in rainwater ponds.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*) – A common commensal at lower elevations.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) – Widespread in small numbers, including up to the top of the ridge. An attempt by the lodge to feed Condors a cow's head had so far netted Turkey and King Vultures.

LESSER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes burrovianus*) – A couple were seen over the marshes of Isla Salamanca.

KING VULTURE (*Sarcoramphus papa*) – One adult was seen soaring over the slopes above Minca.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – One at Isla Salamanca, two at Camarones, and one at 2,600m above the San Lorenzo ridge on 23 March (migrant? but one was there a week earlier!). [b]

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

PEARL KITE (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*) – We had nice views of one near Camarones, first in flight, then perched at length, allowing good telescope views. Regular in the area, but always a treat to find.

SNAIL KITE (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) – Common, foraging in the marshy impoundments of Isla Salamanca.

PLUMBEOUS KITE (*Ictinia plumbea*) – Tom spotted a pair perched below the 'pool table' junction above Minca.

BLACK-COLLARED HAWK (*Busarellus nigricollis*) – Nice views of an adult hunting the rainwater ponds near Camarones.

SAVANNA HAWK (*Buteogallus meridionalis*) – One was seen from the bus by some folks en route to Riohacha.

HARRIS'S HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) – Good views of two birds over the woodland near Camarones.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*) – At least four sightings of wintering (or migrant) birds at middle elevations on the slopes; probably close to departing for Tonya's backyard! [b]

GRAY HAWK (*Buteo nitidus*) – Good views of a perched bird Tom spotted above Minca, where another was heard. Gray Hawk has been split intermittently, and a recent article further recommended that; if split, we saw "Gray-lined" Hawk, which will stay *B. nitidus* (versus "Gray-backed," *B. plagiatus*, of the U.S. to Costa Rica).

BLACK HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) – One was seen by part of the group as it soared over the valley behind our hotel in Minca.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

BARRED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur ruficollis*) – Heard calling every evening at El Dorado, where Tonya saw one while birding on the grounds.

COLLARED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) – We were lucky to have one fly in and perch near us in woodland behind Minca.

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*) – Small numbers were seen in open country of the coastal plain, including at



In addition to the many Santa Marta endemics, there are a number of distinctive subspecies, such as this sanctaemartae Masked Trogon. With further study (it has a longer song than Andean subspecies), some of these may yet be elevated to species status. (Photo by guide Richard Webster)

Camarones, where a little copulation enlivened the birding scene!

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima chimachima*) – Seen in Barranquilla our first morning, and again along the highway to Riohacha.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*) – One near Camarones.

BAT FALCON (*Falco ruficularis*) – Seen by Tom near El Dorado, and then we enjoyed telescope views of a pair perched on the slopes below the pool table junction.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – One bird was seen in flight as we loaded to leave our hotel in Barranquilla.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinica*) – A few in marshes on Isla Salamanca, including an adult with a medium-sized chick.

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*) – Also seen on Isla Salamanca.

Aramidae (Limpkin)

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna*) – Good views of a few in the marshes of Isla Salamanca.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*) – Common in fields and pastures on Isla Salamanca.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – A few at Camarones. [b]

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – Common on the tidal flats at Camarones (a spurt of migrants?). [b]

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus palliatus*) – One at Camarones the first evening.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – Fairly common in the marshes of Isla Salamanca.

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

WATTLED JACANA (*Jacana jacana*) – Common in the marshes on Isla Salamanca, with close views from the boardwalk, plus a few more on rainwater ponds near Camarones. These birds are mostly black (subspecies *hypomelaena*), with a few chestnut wing coverts.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*) – Scattered small numbers in the coastal wetlands, plus one along the river at Minca. [b]

SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*) – Singles were widespread on Isla Salamanca. [b]

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – Small numbers on Isla Salamanca and the lagoon at Camarones.

WILLET (*Tringa semipalmata*) – Common on the lagoon at Camarones, with 30-40 each visit, including three eastern (nominate) birds among the many western (*inornata*) birds. [b]

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*) – Three on Isla Salamanca. [b]

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*) – Up to a couple dozen at Camarones. [b]

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*) – A few at Camarones. [b]

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*) – Hundreds on the lagoon at Camarones were probably migrating, rather than winterers; some Semipalmated may have been present, but most were certainly Western. [b]

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*) – A couple of distant birds at Camarones. [b]

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – Common enough, although small numbers for this species, at Camarones.

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Several in basic plumage were skimming the surface of the tidal flats at



One of the livelier (hence easier) endemics is the Yellow-crowned Redstart (Whitestart), a frequently-heard songster of the upper elevations on the San Lorenzo ridge. (Photo by guide Richard Webster)

Camarones; one conveniently landed close enough for good views.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) – About 500 on 19 March probably represent an influx of migrants versus the day and week before.

ROYAL TERN (*Thalasseus maximus*) – Common at Camarones, around 100 on each visit, although most, as with other terns, were on distant flats.

SANDWICH TERN (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) – Several dozen on both visits, again mostly distant.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – Feral Pigeons were in many communities. [I]

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – A couple of quick encounters with this widespread species.

SCALED PIGEON (*Patagioenas speciosa*) – One was seen, and another heard, on the slopes below the pool table junction, a diversion from our unsuccessful hunt for Rosy Thrush-Tanager and our eventually successful search for Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush.

BARE-EYED PIGEON (*Patagioenas corensis*) – This regional specialty, shared with the coastal deserts of Venezuela, was seen well, and in numbers, around Camarones.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (WHITE-NECKED) (*Patagioenas fasciata albilinea*) – Small numbers were seen daily from the lodge up to the top of the ridge.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*) – On the coastal plain, at Isla Salamanca, and around Camarones.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*) – A few the first morning on Isla Salamanca.

SCALED DOVE (*Columbina squammata*) – This attractive relative of Inca Dove was seen well in small numbers near Camarones.

BLUE GROUND-DOVE (*Claravis pretiosa*) – This seasonal/migratory species was "in" this March at Minca, with several heard, and several quick sightings of birds in the semi-deciduous woodland.

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – This shy dove is common in woodland at lower elevations, below about 1,300m; over time, quite a few were seen, a few well.

LINED QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon linearis*) – While birding around the lodge grounds and trails, Tom flushed several, as others probably did as well; there was no good group view this year, which requires luck, the right compost, or a close, responsive bird.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

SANTA MARTA PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura viridicata*) – Calm weather in the morning probably helped with our sighting of about 15 birds feeding in eucalyptus (!) trees on the ridgetop. This species is considered "Endangered," with a population under 10,000. [E]

SCARLET-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Aratinga wagleri wagleri*) – Daily, mostly heard or seen in flight, but a few encounters with perched birds, memorably the two that "jostled" for the top of a broken palm trunk.

BROWN-THROATED PARAKEET (*Aratinga pertinax*) – Fairly common in the lowlands. Several good views.

GREEN-RUMPED PARROTLET (*Forpus passerinus*) – Several sightings, including telescope views, in the arid scrub around Camarones.

ORANGE-CHINNED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris jugularis*) – Seen on four days, mostly heard/seen in flight, but also perched, eventually with telescope views in Minca of what passes for an orange chin!

BLUE-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus menstruus*) – A few around Minca, including perched birds.

RED-BILLED PARROT (*Pionus sordidus saturatus*) – The montane Pionus, occurring above Blue-headed; mostly heard/seen in flight, but also a few perched.

SCALY-NAPED PARROT (*Amazona mercenaria*) – Heard and seen regularly in flight over the upper slopes.



Always a bit of a challenge, the endemic Santa Marta Warbler occurs in small groups deep down in the large bamboo clumps of the upper San Lorenzo ridge. (Photo by guide Richard Webster)

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*) – Several encounters: in dry woodland around Camarones and on the lower slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

STRIPED CUCKOO (*Tapera naevia*) – Seen twice around Camarones, both somewhat fleeting; these and others were heard.

GREATER ANI (*Crotophaga major*) – One group of this large, glossy ani was seen in the mangroves at Los Cocos in P.N. Isla Salamanca.

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*) – A few on Isla Salamanca, with a trio on the lower slopes above Minca.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – The ani of the driest areas, seen around Camarones.

Strigidae (Owls)

SCREECH-OWL SP. NOV. (*Megascops* sp. nov.) – Heard around the lodge. On one owling excursion, several were heard, and with some effort one was seen perched briefly, but well. This undescribed species presumably relates to a specimen from a century ago (Todd & Carriker) and more recent documentation from around El Dorado; formal description has not occurred, despite the sign in front of the lodge.

FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) – Two were seen in the dry woodland near Camarones, with more heard.

MOTTLED OWL (*Ciccaba virgata*) – Heard during our owling and from the lodge; not responsive in a couple of attempts, although our focus was on the screech-owl. [*]

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

LESSER NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) – Tonya spotted several at dusk as we approached Riohacha.

BAND-WINGED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus longirostris*) – Seen by one vehicle on a pre-dawn ascent of the high ridge.

Apodidae (Swifts)

CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne rutila*) – A few were seen around Minca and near El Dorado.

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – The most frequent swift, seen daily at moderate elevations.

LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT (*Panyptila cayennensis*) – Two were seen with other swifts at Minca.

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*) – This spectacular species, part of the oldest lineage of hummingbirds, was delightfully abundant at the Hotel Minca feeders.

RUFOUS-BREASTED HERMIT (*Glaucis hirsutus*) – A regular visitor in small numbers to the Hotel Minca feeders.

PALE-BELLIED HERMIT (*Phaethornis anthophilus*) – One or two were occasional visitors to the Hotel Minca feeders; good views.

SOOTY-CAPPED HERMIT (*Phaethornis augusti*) – There are still some questions about the middle elevation hermits on the San Lorenzo ridge, but this appears to be the species we saw quickly several times at around 1,500m.

BROWN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri delphinae*) – One or two were regular visitors (and even owners) of feeders at El Dorado.

GREEN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri thalassinus*) – Common at the El Dorado feeders; not on the upper ridge, but regular at flowers at middle elevations.

BLACK-THROATED MANGO (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*) – Regular in small numbers, with up to seven at once, at the Hotel Minca feeders; good views of both females and males.

BLOSSOMCROWN (*Anthocephala floriceps*) – This difficult species was, fortunately, staked out in a garden, not that it was easy there (bullied by the violetears). So we saw it twice there, and then Tonya spotted one at the edge of another



One of the joys of our time at the El Dorado lodge was enjoying these stunning Violet-crowned Woodnymphs at the feeders--always present, always glowing. (Photo by guide Richard Webster)

garden, feeding on a flowering vine at the edge of the garden, the closest we came to a wild setting (no complaints--wild ones are rarely seen). It is considered "Vulnerable." [E]

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina districta*) – This endemic subspecies, differing from nearby populations in tail color, was regular in the Lodge gardens and feeders, and more common on the upper ridge.

WHITE-TAILED STARFRONTLET (*Coeligena phalerata*) – This striking species was in short supply (not that it is ever really common), but we had excellent looks at both sexes at the Lodge feeders (but only occasionally) and a couple of times in the wild on the upper San Lorenzo ridge. [E]

LONG-BILLED STARHROAT (*Heliomaster longirostris*) – At least two were regular visitors to the feeders at the Hotel Minca; good views.

SANTA MARTA WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus astreans*) – One of the more difficult endemics, and certainly so this year. After seeing a female briefly, at best, feeding in the canopy before being driven off by Green Violetears, it took to the last morning when we had several views of a female in a garden, and then Ben spotted a perched eclipse male that stayed long enough for telescope views. [E]

RED-BILLED EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon gibsoni nitens*) – We had excellent views of perhaps ten in the Camarones males, mostly glittering, exquisite males. The taxonomy of the "Blue-tailed Emerald" complex has varied. We saw the subspecies *nitens*, with minimal or no red at the base of the bill; it is currently allied (for reasons other than bill color!) with Red-billed Emerald (Gary Stiles, Wilson Bull. 1996).

COPPERY EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon russatus*) – This scarce bird, a regional specialty, was seen very well--a female foraging in the Tienda garden.

WHITE-VENTED PLUMELETEER (*Chalybura buffonii*) – This striking bird was common (males) at the Hotel Minca feeders, and we saw more (including a few females) on the lower slopes (the closest thing to a Santa Marta Sabrewing!).

VIOLET-CROWNED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania colombica*) – One of the most beautiful birds on the planet, and easy to enjoy at the El Dorado feeders, with smaller numbers in the wilds at middle elevations. A split of the Fork-tailed Woodnymph complex.

BUFFY HUMMINGBIRD (*Leucippus fallax*) – Having just missed this species the week before, it was a pleasant surprise to have one show up for the first Pygmy-Owl session, and then to see several more. A regional specialty of the coastal deserts.

STEELY-VENTED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia saucerrottei*) – Common at the Hotel Minca feeders, where seen beautifully, but always a little bit overshadowed by bigger and even showier species.

RUFOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia tzacatl*) – Fairly common at the Hotel Minca feeders.

SAPPHIRE-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Lepidopygia lilliae*) – We certainly had good looks at perhaps four females (or young males--some them were very aggressive!) and one adult male at flowering trees at P.N. Salamanca. This species is known from only a couple of specimens and a few sightings from this area, and is considered Critically Endangered, in part from a lack of data. Some photographs I have taken here before show some green on the lower underparts, and the status of these birds versus Sapphire-throated is not clear, but the birds we saw best fit Sapphire-bellied in appearance and distribution.

WHITE-CHINNED SAPPHIRE (*Hylocharis cyanus*) – One perched near the Hotel Minca feeders (but not actually visiting them?) departed before it could be seen by all.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

WHITE-TIPPED QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus fulgidus*) – Common by voice in the forests on the upper ridge, and seen several times, with great looks at both males and females, a couple of times at close range. Wow. A limited range in northern Colombia and Venezuela.

MASKED TROGON (*Trogon personatus sanctaemartae*) – We had great views of a male below the lodge and then of a female a couple of days later, with other sightings around the lodge during breaks. This endemic subspecies has been suggested as a potential split (Niels Krabbe); its song is longer than that of Andean populations.

Momotidae (Motmots)

WHOOPIING MOTMOT (*Momotus subrufescens*) – We saw this bird in the yard at the Hotel Minca, with further sightings at the feeding tray there. Blue-crowned Motmot was recently split into this and several other species (Gary Stiles in Orn. Colombiana).

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

RINGED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle torquata*) – Several on Isla Salamanca.

AMAZON KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle amazona*) – One on the Rio Piedra at lunch the first day, and another at

Camarones.

GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana*) – Five our first day: Isla Salamanca, Rio Piedra, and Camarones rainwater ponds.

AMERICAN PYGMY KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle aenea*) – Resident in the mangroves, but hard to find; we were fortunate to have telescope views of one at P.N. Isla Salamanca.

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

RUSSET-THROATED PUFFBIRD (*Hypnelus ruficollis*) – Kristine spotted our first on Isla Salamanca, which was followed by several more at Camarones. A regional specialty; we saw the nominate form, which is split by some from Two-banded, *H. [r.] bicinctus*.

Galbulidae (Jacamars)

RUFOUS-TAILED JACAMAR (*Galbula ruficauda*) – Nice views in the dry woodland behind Camarones and again around Minca.

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

EMERALD TOUCANET (SANTA MARTA) (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus lautus*) – Common on the upper slopes of the San Lorenzo ridge; good views several times. This endemic subspecies is split by some, although it seems to be a minor variation on a widespread (but wonderful) theme.

GROOVE-BILLED TOUCANET (YELLOW-BILLED) (*Aulacorhynchus sulcatus calorhynchus*) – We saw several pairs in the lower band of evergreen forest, well below the Lodge. We saw the "Yellow-billed" type, which has been split from Groove-billed in some lists; a recent paper on toucanet genetics (Eliza Bonaccorso et al., *Zoologica Scripta* 2011) recommended that they be treated as one species.

KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) – Fairly common, especially by voice, and one of Lucy's favorites; good views, especially around Minca.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

SCALED PICULET (*Picumnus squamulatus*) – A scarce bird in this area and somewhat local overall (although often seen in Venezuela); we usually miss it, but this year we had several encounters in and above Minca.

CHESTNUT PICULET (*Picumnus cinnamomeus*) – Another difficult bird that this year seemed easy. We had a family group in the mangroves at Los Cocos, and then saw them several more times in the dry woodland near Camarones. A lovely piculet, and a regional specialty shared with western Venezuela.

RED-CROWNED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*) – Heard regularly at lower elevations. Birds in the car park at the Hotel Minca were bringing food to a hole. [N]

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) – A couple of sightings in montane forest. *C. r. alleni*.

SPOT-BREASTED WOODPECKER (*Colaptes punctigula*) – Ben got us on a pair on Isla Salamanca, with good views, including eventually of the spots!

CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus melanoleucos*) – One at Palo Alto was briefly cooperative, then faded back into the forest.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

GRAY-THROATED LEAFTOSSER (*Sclerurus albigularis*) – Very nice views of a responsive bird that resumed tossing leaves as we watched. Widespread, but seldom seen, especially so well.

PALE-LEGGED HORNERO (CARIBBEAN) (*Furnarius leucopus longirostris*) – Seen first on Isla Salamanca, then near Camarones. This subspecies is split on some lists as Caribbean Hornero.

PALE-BREASTED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis albescens*) – Seen by Tom near Camarones.

RUSTY-HEADED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis fuscorufa*) – This endemic, a relative of Rufous, is common, but also a skulker, and it took a number of encounters before we all had had a good look. It is considered "Vulnerable," with a population under 10,000. [E]

WHITE-WHISKERED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis candei*) – A gorgeous bird, and common, which makes for a pleasant combination while birding around Camarones--repeat sightings. A regional specialty of the Caribbean coastal deserts. Formerly in the genus *Poecilurus*, but genetically part of *Synallaxis*.

STREAK-CAPPED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca hellmayri*) – The *Cranioleuca* of the Sierra Nevada, this arboreal spinetail was easier to see than Rusty-headed. Our best views were of one that perched motionless in the Tienda garden, allowing lengthy telescope views. Known also from the Sierra de Perija, including the Venezuela side, it is not an endemic, but it is always a lifer for all.

- YELLOW-CHINNED SPINETAIL** (*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*) – Responsive birds approached closely enough for views of the tiny yellow chin.
- SPOTTED BARBTAIL** (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) – Tom photographed a juvenile near a stream on the lower slopes. Widespread in the Andes, but uncommonly seen along the road here.
- MONTANE FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Anabacerthia striaticollis anxia*) – Regular with mixed flocks in the evergreen forest at middle elevations.
- SANTA MARTA FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Automolus rufipectus*) – This endemic ranges down to Minca, one of the lowest on the slope. We saw one above Minca, ending up with good looks as it resumed foraging. Originally described as a subspecies of Ruddy Foliage-gleaner, Niels Krabbe published a paper (Bull. B.O.C.) elevating it to species status on several bases, including the distinctive call that suggests it should be placed in the genus *Hylocryptus*, subject to genetic confirmation. It is considered "Near Threatened." [E]
- STREAKED XENOPS** (*Xenops rutilans*) – Several sightings with mixed flocks at middle elevations.
- PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) – One was seen in moist woodland near Minca.
- STRONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*) – Our first got away quickly, but then we had good views of a pair on the upper ridge, and were able to enjoy their foraging strategy of searching bromeliads for frogs and other prey. *X. p. sanctaemartae*.
- STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Dendroplex picus*) – Good views on Isla Salamanca, followed by a few quickly near Camarones. *D. p. picirostris*.
- STREAK-HEADED WOODCREEPER** (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) – Briefly near Camarones, then a series of better sightings on both visits to the Minca area.
- MONTANE WOODCREEPER** (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger sanctaemartae*) – Seen daily on the upper slopes, with good views from the track on the ridgetop. This endemic subspecies has been suggested as a potential split (Niels Krabbe).

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

- BLACK-CRESTED ANTSHRIKE** (*Sakesphorus canadensis*) – Our first were in the mangroves at P.N. Isla Salamanca, followed by more good looks in the dry woodlands at Camarones. *S. c. pulchellus* (*phainoleucos*).
- BARRED ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) – A pair eventually responded near Minca.
- WESTERN SLATY-ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) – A very responsive bird in a moist ravine on the lower slopes provided good views.
- BLACK-BACKED ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus melanonotus*) – This regional specialty was a struggle in woodland near Minca, where most eventually had good looks. A recent genetic study showed that this species belongs in *Thamnophilus*, not *Sakesphorus*.
- WHITE-FRINGED ANTWREN** (*Formicivora grisea*) – We saw several pairs of this attractive antwren in the dry woodland and desert scrub near Camarones. We saw *F. g. intermedia*, in which the female is white below with black streaks.
- LONG-TAILED ANT BIRD** (*Drymophila caudata*) – With patience we saw a responsive bird in the bracken. *D. c. hellmayri*. In the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, this species occurs at relatively low elevations in ferns and other second growth of disturbed slopes, and not in the more characteristic bamboo of the upper slopes typical of Andean populations.

Grallariidae (Antpittas)

- SANTA MARTA ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria bangsi*) – The Lodge antpitta had become temperamental about its feeding time, but on our first attempt we were lucky to have it arrive right on schedule. Great views of a bird that can be tough to see. On other occasions it was seen again at its worm bowl. It is considered "Vulnerable." [E]
- RUFIOUS ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria rufula spatiator*) – It took a while, but we ended up with fantastic views of at least two birds in the dense bamboo of the San Lorenzo ridge; we usually do not see it this well. Rufous Antpitta is the subject of an ongoing major study, and it is likely to be split into six or more species, this being one of them (the voice is distinctive).
- RUSTY-BREASTED ANTPITTA (RUSTY-BREASTED)** (*Grallaricula ferrugineipectus ferrugineipectus*) – Tonya spotted one that was foraging in the forest understory, and we ended up with several views of it. Two days later we had some more good views of one that was foraging around a small swarm of small army ants.

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

- SANTA MARTA TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus sanctaemartae*) – Most had good views of our first, and we kept trying a couple of days later, and had excellent views of a couple in a wet ravine, one showing a small white crown spot. Prior to The Big Split (The Big Bang for tapaculos), this was treated as part of Rufous-vented. [E]

BROWN-RUMPED TAPACULO (*Scytalopus latebricola*) – After quick views for part of the group, we tried again a couple of days later, and tried and tried and tried, and then met a wonderfully responsive bird that provided some super views. Prior to The Big Split, "Brown-rumped" also included some populations in the Andes, but the name is now restricted to the nominate population of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. [E]

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) – One above Minca on our last morning.

WHITE-THROATED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*) – Several small groups, part of small mixed flocks, were seen on the top of the ridge.

GREENISH ELAENIA (*Myiopagis viridicata*) – One in dry woodland near Minca.

YELLOW-BELLIED ELAENIA (*Elaenia flavogaster*) – Heard and seen in the Minca area.

MOUNTAIN ELAENIA (*Elaenia frantzii*) – Fairly common from middle elevations to the top of the San Lorenzo ridge.

OLIVE-STRIPED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes olivaceus*) – Daily in small numbers from middle elevations to the top. In the absence of its congener, Streak-necked Flycatcher, Olive-striped occurs to rather high elevations, e.g., 2,600m. *M. o. galbinus*.

OCHRE-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes oleagineus*) – Several sightings around Minca.

GOLDEN-FACED TYRANNULET (GOLDEN-FACED) (*Zimmerius chrysops minimus*) – One near Minca.

NORTHERN SCRUB-FLYCATCHER (*Sublegatus arenarum*) – Looking like a small, short-billed Myiarchus, this flycatcher was common in the dry woodland, scrub, and mangroves of the coastal margin.

SLENDER-BILLED TYRANNULET (*Inezia tenuirostris*) – A regional specialty, it was seen well on both of our visits to the Camarones area.

PALE-TIPPED TYRANNULET (*Inezia caudata*) – A responsive pair provided good views in denser woodland near Camarones. a.k.a. Pale-tipped Inezia. As split from Amazonian Tyrannulet.

PALE-EYED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Atalotriccus pilaris*) – Several were seen, and more heard, in moist woodland of the Minca area, including one responsive bird that approached closely.

PEARLY-VENTED TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*) – Two were seen in the low, coastal scrub before Camarones.

BLACK-THROATED TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus granadensis*) – As a group, we only heard it, but there were at least two sightings (Tonya, Tom, and perhaps others) in the Lodge area.

YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER (SANTA MARTA) (*Tolmomyias sulphureus exortivus*) – We saw this bird along a track above Minca.

YELLOW-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (OCHRE-LORED) (*Tolmomyias flaviventris aurulentus*) – A couple were seen in the denser woodland near water at Camarones.

CINNAMON FLYCATCHER (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus assimilis*) – This extra-cinnamon subspecies of Cinnamon Flycatcher was most "in our face" at the Lodge, where it was nesting under the eaves, and sallying over our heads as we got out of the vehicles. [N]

TROPICAL PEWEE (*Contopus cinereus*) – Fairly common around Minca, and conspicuous on the grounds of the hotel.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virescens*) – A couple of calling birds in a moist ravine near Minca were seen by part of the group. [b]

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*) – One in scrub by the marsh on Isla Salamanca even sang once. [b]

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*) – One along a small river above Minca.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) – Fairly common around Isla Salamanca and Camarones.

SANTA MARTA BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes pernix*) – One of the more difficult endemics, we owe our good looks (and not having to search and search) to Ben's good spotting our first morning on the San Lorenzo ridge. It is considered "Endangered" with a population under 2,500. [E]

PIED WATER-TYRANT (*Fluvicola pica*) – First at the marshes on Isla Salamanca, then around the rainwater ponds near Camarones.

YELLOW-BELLIED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca diadema*) – Our first was very responsive, approaching within a meter, but mostly staying out of sight in the dense bamboo; another on our return visit came out in the open for better views. *O. d. jesupi*.

CATTLE TYRANT (*Machetornis rixosa*) – We encountered the criminal element, filching from the breakfast buffet at our hotel in Barranquilla! No binoculars required.

BRIGHT-RUMPED ATILA (*Attila spadiceus*) [*]

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) – Several on the forested slopes.

PANAMA FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus panamensis*) – First seen in the mangroves at Los Cocos, then in woodland near Minca.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*) – Near Minca. [*]

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) – Fairly common around Camarones.

GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) – Widespread at lower elevations.

BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarynchus pitangua*) – Several encounters in the Minca area, where some were doing their duty, eating cicadas, but only making a dent in the din.

RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) – Miles pointed out a couple near Minca.

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*) – Widespread at lower elevations.

GOLDEN-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) – The best view for some was of a bird on the railing of the El Dorado Lodge, probably looking for moths attracted by the lodge lights.

STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) – Several encounters in the Minca area.

PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*) – A couple were singing near Minca.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Widespread at lower elevations.

GRAY KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) – A few were still present along the coast, and were probably close to departure for other parts of the Caribbean. (Not exactly a 'boreal' migrant, but certainly migratory in a typical north-south fashion.) [b]

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus savana*) – Tonya saw one in the Tayrona area.

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

GOLDEN-BREASTED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola aureopectus*) – Ben located the bird we had been hearing, and it stayed put for telescope views. A lovely bird that was heard periodically, but is often a challenge to spot.

RED-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*) – We saw a trio on the top of the ridge, the telescope showing the recumbent red crest.

Pipridae (Manakins)

WHITE-BEARDED MANAKIN (*Manacus manacus*) – Several females were seen around Minca.

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

MASKED TITYRA (*Tityra semifasciata*) – A couple of pairs were seen on the lower slopes.

CINEREOUS BECARD (*Pachyramphus rufus*) – Several were seen around Minca.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

BROWN-CAPPED VIREO (*Vireo leucophrys*) – The southern replacement for Warbling Vireo. The sweet song was heard regularly in the lower-elevation evergreen forest; several were seen with mixed flocks.

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*) – Found eating fruit near Minca, and one was seen on the high ridge, probably an early spring migrant. [b]

SCRUB GREENLET (*Hylophilus flavipes*) – Regularly seen in the dry scrub of the coastal desert.

GOLDEN-FRONTED GREENLET (*Hylophilus aurantiifrons*) – A couple near Minca.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

BLACK-CHESTED JAY (*Cyanocorax affinis*) – Dagmar observed how we were sharing the mandarins with them in the garden of the Hotel Minca! Other groups were seen well up the mountain, having colonized the clearings.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) – Small numbers at lower elevations.

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*) – One was seen at Rio Piedra.

WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW (*Tachycineta albiventer*) – A few were over the marshes on Isla Salamanca.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – A common migrant in the Camarones area. [b]

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

STRIPE-BACKED WREN (*Campylorhynchus nuchalis*) – Several pairs of this large wren were seen on our first walk on Isla Salamanca.

BICOLORED WREN (*Campylorhynchus griseus*) – This huge wren with an arresting voice was widespread at lower

elevations, with some of our best sightings from the grounds of the Hotel Minca.

RUFOUS-BREASTED WREN (*Pheugopedius rutilus*) – A skulker, but with patience it was seen well in roadside shrubbery above Minca. Genetic studies have resulted in the division of *Thryothorus* into four genera, three of which we saw among this and the next two species.

RUFOUS-AND-WHITE WREN (*Thryophilus rufalbus*) – A wonderful voice and skulking disposition; heard well around Minca, seen to varying degrees during a couple of encounters, one pair passing high overhead in the canopy.

BUFF-BREASTED WREN (*Cantorchilus leucotis*) – Heard regularly in woodland around Camarones, with several seen at close range.

HOUSE WREN (SOUTHERN) (*Troglodytes aedon musculus*) – Common up to at least 1,400m.

GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys anachoreta*) – This is the high elevation form that approached so closely, and sang so loudly, on the San Lorenzo ridge. Based on song and appearance, my suspicion is that this taxon will turn out to be more closely related to wood-wrens like Bar-winged and Munchique than to Gray-breasted.

GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys bangsi*) – This is the lower elevation form, heard often, and seen regularly, including in the lodge compost.

Poliptilidae (Gnatcatchers)

LONG-BILLED GNATWREN (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) – A couple responded, although sticking to dense, viney tangles overhead.

TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (TROPICAL) (*Poliptila plumbea plumbiceps*) – Common and conspicuous in the arid habitats around Camarones. Note the subspecies: Splits are likely in this widespread, variable complex.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

ORANGE-BILLED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus aurantiirostris*) – Tonya helped get us on this skulker, which was singing loudly at close range, but avoiding detection in the dense undergrowth.

SLATY-BACKED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus fuscater*) – A lovely by-product of feeding the antpittas at the El Dorado Lodge: One was a regular visitor to the worm dish, providing great views and becoming one of the favorites of Jerry.

YELLOW-LEGGED THRUSH (*Turdus flavipes*) – The complex song was heard often on the moist, lower slopes, and with time several were seen well.

PALE-BREASTED THRUSH (*Turdus leucomelas*) – The noisy alarm calls are a characteristic sound of the lower slopes; many were seen as well (the default thrush of lower elevations).

CLAY-COLORED THRUSH (*Turdus grayi*) – A few folks saw this species, near the southern end of its range, during our chachalaca search in Barranquilla.

BLACK-HOODED THRUSH (*Turdus olivater*) – Fairly common by voice in the mid-elevation forests, and with time seen well several times, but not a conspicuous bird.

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater*) – Fairly common in open areas on the top of the San Lorenzo ridge.

WHITE-NECKED THRUSH (*Turdus albicollis*) – Heard a couple of times, then seen briefly twice our last morning; a shy thrush of the forest.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

TROPICAL MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus gilvus*) – Fairly common in the arid areas around Camarones.

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) – Several were seen in the mangroves at P.N. Isla Salamanca, and several more were around rainwater ponds near Camarones. [b]

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*) – Three were seen in montane forest of the Sierra. [b]

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*) – One at Los Cocos; they are common in winter in the mangroves here, but most have already headed north. [b]

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) – Fairly common over almost the entire gradient of the San Lorenzo ridge. [b]

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – Around ten were seen over the course of our week on the slopes of the Sierra. [b]

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Setophaga fusca*) – The most common migrant warbler, with a couple dozen seen during the week (perhaps fewer than normal!). A gorgeous trash bird. [b]

YELLOW WARBLER (NORTHERN) (*Setophaga petechia aestiva*) – Fairly common in the lowlands, occurring as high as Minca. [b]

RUFOUS-CAPPED WARBLER (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) – Common in moist woodland around Minca. We saw *B. r. mesochrysus*, part of the *delatirii* group ("Chestnut-capped" Warbler, with its yellow belly).

GOLDEN-CROWNED WARBLER (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) – A couple of pairs were along the track above Minca.

SANTA MARTA WARBLER (*Basileuterus basilicus*) – This warbler with a striking face pattern was seen on both visits to the top of the ridge, although, as usual, it was a skulker, and took some time. It is considered "Vulnerable," with a population of under 2,500. [E]

WHITE-LORED WARBLER (*Myiothlypis conspicillatus*) – Fairly common and seen daily at middle elevations; some of our best views came with the small swarm of ants our last afternoon. It is considered "Near Threatened." [E]

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus*) – Common from about the lodge down in the evergreen forest.

YELLOW-CROWNED REDSTART (*Myioborus flavivertex*) – Easily seen (and often heard) in the upper montane forest, especially along the track on top of the San Lorenzo ridge. [E]

Coerebidae (Bananaquit)

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*) – A splotch of color in the arid scrub around Camarones.

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

BICOLORED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum bicolor*) – Several pairs were seen in the mangroves at Los Cocos.

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*) – A pair was seen in secondary growth on the lower slopes.

CRIMSON-BACKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*) – This stunning species was first seen during lunch along the Rio Piedra, then around the Minca area.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*) – Common at lower elevations.

GLAUCOUS TANAGER (*Thraupis glaucocolpa*) – This uncommon species was seen several times in the dry woodland near Camarones, but was not easy to find.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*) – Small numbers were around Minca.

BLUE-CAPPED TANAGER (*Thraupis cyanocephala*) – The montane representative of the genus *Thraupis*; uncommon in evergreen forest, including around the Lodge.

BLACK-CHEEKED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus melanogenys*) – The striking endemic was seen on both visits to the high ridge. Not common, but seen without great difficulty. [E]

BAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara gyrola*) – Quite common in the evergreen forests.

BLACK-CAPPED TANAGER (*Tangara heinei*) – Our best views were at close range, as a pair came regularly to the banana feeder at El Dorado.

BLACK-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanoptera*) – An uncommon tanager of the lower slopes; we had several sightings, including of a pair building a nest on 22 March at 1300m. [N]

SWALLOW TANAGER (*Tersina viridis*) – A pleasantly common and striking bird, seen on five days on the lower slopes.

STREAKED SALTATOR (*Saltator striatipectus*) – A few were around Minca and higher in disturbed areas.

GRAYISH SALTATOR (*Saltator coerulescens*) – Common around Camarones, where several were observed snipping off the pink flowers for consumption.

ORINOCAN SALTATOR (*Saltator orinocensis*) – Never common, but we had trouble this year, with just one, that stayed in the back and mostly out of view.

BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator maximus*) – Seen several times around Minca.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina*) – Several sightings in disturbed areas on the lower slopes.

GRAY SEEDEATER (*Sporophila intermedia*) – One pair was seen near Camarones by part of the group.

YELLOW-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila nigricollis*) – A pair was seen on a grassy slope near Minca.

THICK-BILLED SEED-FINCH (*Oryzoborus funereus*) – The sweet song was followed by good views above Minca. A split of Lesser Seed-Finch into this and Chestnut-bellied.

PARAMO SEEDEATER (*Catamenia homochroa oreophila*) – A scarce endemic subspecies (and not an easy species to see anywhere in the Andes) that is generally missed, but seemed to be in good supply this month. We saw several on the San Lorenzo ridge.

BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris bicolor*) – A couple near Camarones, and a small group on a cleared slope well

above Minca.

WHITE-SIDED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa albilatera*) – Regular at upper elevations, with the best views being around the garden at El Dorado Lodge.

RUSTY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa sittoides*) – A couple on the lower slopes, including a distant male (but in the telescope) in a flowering tree.

PILEATED FINCH (*Coryphospingus pileatus*) – Small numbers around Camarones; seen several times.

GOLDEN-WINGED SPARROW (*Arremon schlegeli*) – This beautiful bird, a regional specialty of the coastal mountains of Colombia and Venezuela, was seen very well near Minca.

SIERRA NEVADA BRUSH-FINCH (*Arremon basilicus*) – A regular visitor to a feeding tray and the compost at El Dorado, we had good views. Stripe-headed Brush-Finch has been split multiple ways based on a series of papers by C. D. Cadena, and this is one split, endemic to the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. It has also been called Colombian Brush-Finch, not a great choice, and perhaps this name will stick. [E]

TOCUYO SPARROW (*Arremonops tocuensis*) – A regional specialty and seldom seen, although it is supposed to be common in parts of its limited range in NE Colombia and NW Venezuela. Miles suggested trying a known spot early in the morning, and it worked well, as a pair responded, and stayed around to feed calmly at very close range. A lifer for REW.

SANTA MARTA BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes melanocephalus*) – An easily seen brush-finch, and quite common over a broad altitudinal range on the San Lorenzo. [E]

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – Small numbers daily in cleared areas, such as the lodge garden.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*) – A half dozen wintering or migrating birds on the lower slopes. [b]

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*) – A couple of lovely adult males in breeding plumage on the lower slopes; already headed north?

VERMILION CARDINAL (*Cardinalis phoeniceus*) – Uncommon around Camarones, we saw about four, with good looks at both males and females in the arid scrub. We then saw "our" Cardinal painted on the buses in Barranquilla!

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) – One of the more common boreal migrants, with small groups seen nearly daily on the slopes. [b]

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*) – A rarity this far south; two males briefly in roadside shrubbery at 1,400m on 22 March. [b]

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) – Common along the coastal margin.

CARIB GRACKLE (*Quiscalus lugubris*) – Small numbers along the coast, seen especially well at lunch our first two days (the second one involving some cause and effect). This species has recently expanded greatly from the llanos into the coastal plain and valleys of northern Colombia (and as Kristine had recently seen, south into the mountain town of Ocana).

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis*) – A few on the coastal slope and up to Minca.

BRONZED COWBIRD (BRONZE-BROWN) (*Molothrus aeneus armenti*) – One male, neck fluffed out, was on Isla Salamanca. This is the only South American population of Bronzed Cowbird.

YELLOW ORIOLE (*Icterus nigrogularis*) – Fairly common on the coastal slope.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) – A couple were seen on the coastal plain, and it was fairly common around Minca, most probably close to departure for the north. [b]

CRESTED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius decumanus*) – Common from Minca to El Dorado, where a colony in a tree off the deck provided daily entertainment.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

TRINIDAD EUPHONIA (*Euphonia trinitatis*) – Several were seen in the dry woodland behind Camarones.

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia lanirostris*) – Several sightings around Minca.

BLUE-NAPED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia cyanea*) – This widespread beauty was seen several times, best for part of the group that saw a pair come to the banana feeder at El Dorado, much to Lucy's delight.

MAMMALS

NIGHT MONKEY SP. (*Aotus* sp.) – Miles worked at getting sightings, and while they did not hang around, we did have good views from the Lodge. According to several books, we saw *A. lemurinus*, Lemurine Night-Monkey, but further splits are anticipated.

RED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta seniculus*) – Usually only heard, we were fortunate to be at the Lodge while a troop was foraging in the forest bordering the clearing, and we had several nice encounters, including telescope views from the deck of a mother with a young monkey on her back.

RED-TAILED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus granatensis*) – The one guaranteed mammal of the trip!

SOUTH AMERICAN COATI (*Nasua nasua*) – Tom saw one in Minca.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Other significant critters:

Iguana: at the edge of Barranquilla.

American Crocodile: Several were nesting at Los Cocos, and we were warned not to walk a couple of paths. Several folks did see the snout of one among the mangroves.

Basilisk: Seen on Isla Salamanca and along the small river above Minca.

Dead snake in the road: Identified as the genus *Chionurus*.

Tree mouse sp.: Tonya has one.

Butterflies: Not huge numbers, but some nice selections, on which Kristine is doubtless working with her photographs.

Totals for the tour: 300 bird taxa and 4 mammal taxa