



*Field Guides Tour Report*

**JEWELS OF ECUADOR: HUMMERS, TANAGERS & ANTPITTAS | 2013**

Jan 19, 2013 to Feb 5, 2013  
Rose Ann Rowlett & Willy Perez

*For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please [VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE](#).*

Willy and I will always remember this tour as the first Banded Ground-Cuckoo tour. Getting our whole group to see such a dynamic and alluring rarity well was a real highlight for us, not to mention watching this mythic bird ourselves! The sound of that bill-clapping and the vision of that pulsating crest are etched in my memory. Classified as Endangered by BirdLife International, this army ant follower of the humid Choco forests occurs at very low population densities in an increasingly fragmented range, with an estimated population (based on total potential habitat left) of 600-1700 mature individuals remaining. We owe a debt of gratitude to Nicole and Wilo for making our seeing it possible--and we wish them success in increasing the size of their precious reserve.



*Banded Ground-Cuckoo, with antswarm at Un Poco del Choco (by Rose Ann Rowlett)*

But there were countless additional highlights, some of which may loom equally large to most of you, for whom the riches of Andean Ecuador were all new. Looking through the long list of goodies, it's hard to pick a reasonable number of favorites; but here's a try (in more or less phylogenetic order), aided by your comments at our farewell dinner:

- watching that pair of Torrent Ducks along the rushing Sabanilla River while our first White-capped Dipper foraged on boulders at the water's edge;
- watching and photographing those rare Dark-backed Wood-Quail that were eluding Angel and Rodrigo and then appeared, silently, right below us at Refugio Paz;
- that adult male Andean Condor that circled against the slopes near Papallacta, exposing the contrasting white patches on its upper wings;
- that pair of Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe that, with a little herding, emerged from the dense paramo fog above Papallacta Pass to walk right down to us, disclosing their subtly beautiful and amazingly cryptic plumage;
- that tiny Andean Pygmy-Owl at Yanacocha, that sat cooperatively (even as it was dive-bombed by hummers), turning its head from side to side, thus exposing the false "eyes" in the back of its head;
- the big Rufous-banded Owl that we ultimately saw after hearing its evocative calling for so long or the mysterious "San Isidro Owl" that abruptly interrupted our list session our first night at San Isidro;
- that long-tailed male Lyre-tailed Nightjar at its sheltered day roost near Refugio Paz;
- among the seemingly endless list of amazing hummers, outstanding this year were such behavioral highlights as that male Black-tailed Trainbearer in dramatic courtship flight high above the Yanacocha hills and that male Violet-tailed Sylph that was bathing in the first rains at Tony & Barbara's reserve;
- for mind-boggling structure and color, we LOVED that Sword-bill sipping from the feeders at Guango and those dynamite Velvet-purple Coronets that so brightened the dark, rainy days;
- that quiet Coppery-chested Jacamar that appeared right beside the Bombuscaro trail long after we had given up fishing for it;
- those big, loud, beautifully patterned Ocellated Tapaculos that came in so close at Acacana;
- those monotypic Scaled Fruiteaters we saw so well along the Septimo entrance road, where oodles of fruit attracted the most Yellow-collared Chlorophonias I've ever seen in one place;
- those gorgeous Andean Cocks-of-the-rock, the orange male on the east slope and the red males displaying at Refugio Paz;

--our unbelievable looks at that rare Dusky Piha that sat for photos in the alders at Guango;

--that family group of Rufous Wrens that bounced around through the bamboo and then broke into song before us at Cajanuma;

--that energetic group of enigmatic White-capped Tanagers, detected by their distant calling, that then flew right in and scolded us, bobbing up and down--a red-throated male and four purple-throated females;

--those Giant Conebills foraging at El Cajas by poking under the loose bark scales of the Polylepis trees;

--all those delightful highland tanagers at Yanacocha, foremost of which were the trio of Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers that came so close;

--that bird-packed morning atop the Rio Silanche canopy tower, where we all got great looks at so many dynamite species, from Cinnamon & Guayaquil woodpeckers to Black-striped Woodcreepers, Scarlet-browed Tanagers, and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis;

--our terrific views of all those Yellow-collared Chlorophonias that were feeding on an abundance of fruits at Septimo Paraiso;

--yes, all those gorgeous Tangara tanagers that elicited oohs and ahhs, from Green-and-gold, Golden, & Golden-eared lined up at the Copalinga bananas near the beginning of our trip to Golden-hooded & Rufous-winged from the Silanche tower near the end of our trip;

--and, ultimately, our final new bird of the trip: those superb Tanager Finches singing away along the Tandayapa Ridge. What a way to end our journey together!

Read on for brief annotations on the many additional "jewels" of Ecuador. Plus, there was the beautiful montane forest scenery, a good chunk of which is protected within Ecuador's many reserves and national parks (see my cover photo from Podocarpus NP at Cajanuma). I've embedded more photos, some audio, and a bit of video in the online version of this triplist. Enjoy!

During our sampling of varied habitats, from arid intermontane valleys to some of the wettest rainforest on Earth, we stayed in some comfortable lodgings right in great habitats, ate some delicious food, and met some wonderful people. We owe thanks to our hosts, our local guides, and our terrific driver, Edgar, who not only transported us safely and dealt speedily with contingencies, but found some great birds for us as well.

Here are some promised email addresses:

- 1) Un Poco del Choco - <http://www.unpocodelchoco.com/>. To read about the ground-cuckoo, click on Ecotourism & Banded Ground-Cuckoo. At the bottom of the page are links to Nicole's blog and to her Facebook page.
- 2) Tony & Barbara's new website is <http://www.pachaquindi-naturerefuge.com/>. "Pachaquindi" means "hummingbird place" in Quechua.
- 3) The Cabanas San Isidro website is <http://cabanasanisidro.com/>.

Special thanks, too, to all of you for sharing not only a marvelous esprit d'corps, but so many great photos as well! Credits for the cover photos are given under each species.

Willy and I had a great time sharing the many jewels of Ecuador with you...but we only scratched the surface! Come again sometime...to the Jocotoco Foundation lodges of the SW or to Wildsumaco or Amazonia. There are many jewels yet to be seen!

Abrazos,

Rose Ann

---

## 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)

**LITTLE TINAMOU** (*Crypturellus soui*) [\*]

**ANDEAN TINAMOU** (*Nothoprocta pentlandii*) – A bird crossing the road in the lower Catamayo valley was seen by Iris alone (& glimpsed by RAR).

**CURVE-BILLED TINAMOU** (*Nothoprocta curvirostris curvirostris*) – Lynn spotted one of these montane specialties scurrying across the trail and disappearing into the forest undergrowth at Yanacocha. A few other folks got on it quickly.

### Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

**TORRENT DUCK** (*Merganetta armata*) – We had fine studies of a handsome pair, on the boulders and swimming, below the Sabanilla Gorge on the upper end of the old Loja-Zamora road.

**YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL** (*Anas georgica*) – We stopped at a trout pond on our way up to Papallacta Pass for this species, which was seen along with our first good Andean Gulls.

**ANDEAN TEAL** (*Anas andium*) – As split from the yellow-billed birds of southern S. America, the two formerly lumped ad called Speckled Teal; fairly common on high-elevation lakes El Cajas & Papallacta Pass.

**RUDDY DUCK (ANDEAN)** (*Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*) – Lacking the white cheek of our Ruddy Ducks and thus formerly split by some; seen

well at Laguna Llaviucu.

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

**SPECKLED CHACHALACA** (*Ortalis guttata*) – Seen at Copalinga & along the lower Loja-Zamora road.

**BEARDED GUAN** (*Penelope barbata*) – Scarce, local, and of limited distribution, this s. Ecuador specialty was seen well at Cajanuma and Acacana.

**ANDEAN GUAN** (*Penelope montagnii*) – Seen briefly at El Cajas and heard along the Guacamayos Ridge trail.

**WATTLED GUAN** (*Aburria aburri*) – Mostly heard, giving its burry calls in the pre-dawn darkness at San Isidro; one was seen briefly by some as it flew and disappeared along the road beyond San Isidro.

**SICKLE-WINGED GUAN** (*Chamaepetes goudotii*) – First seen in a fruiting cecropia at Copalinga, and then we had stunning views of a close, hungry bird at the fruit feeder at Refugio Paz.

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

**RUFIOUS-FRONTED WOOD-QUAIL** (*Odontophorus erythropus*) – Heard from along the road at the Rio Silanche while we were working on Stub-tailed Antbird. [\*]

**DARK-BACKED WOOD-QUAIL** (*Odontophorus melanonotus*) – We had wonderful views of this rarely seen wood-quail right below the feeders at Refugio Paz! It was the highlight of our visit there this trip.

**RUFIOUS-BREASTED WOOD-QUAIL** (*Odontophorus speciosus*) – This was the species chorusing in the distance at dawn at Copalinga. Most wood-quail are heard far more often than seen! [\*]

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – One bird was swimming in the Rio Nambillo, and another surprised us by flying high over the Rio Silanche tower.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

**FASCIATED TIGER-HERON** (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*) – This specialist hunter of fish along rushing rivers was scoped nicely along the Rio Bombuscaro the morning we left Copalinga.

**SNOWY EGRET** (*Egretta thula*) – Seen in the marshes along the Rio Nambillo at Mindo.

**CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*) – A few were seen in pastures along our route, but nowhere very common.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*)

**TURKEY VULTURE** (*Cathartes aura*)

**ANDEAN CONDOR** (*Vultur gryphus*) – Well, we had seen it flying in the distance (and in the gusting winds and mist!) on our way up to Papallacta.

But, thanks to Mike's keen spotting, we had a terrific view of an adult male circling against the mountains above Papallacta Lake on our return trip to Quito.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** (*Elanoides forficatus*) – After seeing scattered birds in flight, we had wonderful scope views of two perched birds along the Baeza cutoff road.

**DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE** (*Harpagus bidentatus*) – We had stunningly close views of this small raptor from the Silanche tower. We could see its two "teeth" in the scope; and then it flew and landed even closer!

**PLUMBEOUS KITE** (*Ictinia plumbea*) – This species traded perches with the last, also offering us terrific views from the Silanche tower.

**BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD-EAGLE** (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus australis*) – Mike spotted our first one above the upper Catamayo valley, and then we saw it again at Laguna Llaviucu. With its broad wings and very short tail, it's the closest New World equivalent of Africa's Bateleur.

**BARRED HAWK** (*Leucopternis princeps*) – We could hear it calling from the trail near the Banded Ground-Cuckoo, but I think only Jim and Sally saw it circling over the vehicle at Un Poco del Choco.

**GRAY-BACKED HAWK** (*Leucopternis occidentalis*) – A real surprise was seeing a pair of this specialty of humid western Ecuador circling above the ridge at our final (wood-rail) stop on our way back from Rio Silanche.

**ROADSIDE HAWK** (*Buteo magnirostris*) – The common small Buteo with the yellow eye and rufous patches in the wings.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK** (*Buteo platypterus*) – Fairly common as a winterer in the San Isidro area. [b]

**VARIABLE HAWK** (*Buteo polyosoma*) – We had good looks at this big Buteo in the paramos of Acacana, El Cajas, and Papallacta Pass.

**BLACK-AND-CHESTNUT EAGLE** (*Spizaetus isidori*) – We spotted one bird from the bus near Cuyuja on our way back to Quito from Baeza; we jumped out and had distant binocular views of its distinctive shape in flight.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

**COLLARED FOREST-FALCON** (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) – At dawn at San Isidro. [\*]

**CARUNCULATED CARACARA** (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*) – Bev spotted two birds flying over the paramo above Papallacta Pass.

**MOUNTAIN CARACARA** (*Phalcoboenus megalopterus*) – This was the one we saw at Acacana in the south--on the road up to the antennas.

**LAUGHING FALCON** (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) – Edgar spotted this one on the drive back from Rio Silanche. A snake eater, the Laughing Falcon is among the few species that can survive well among the extensive palm plantations (with lots of snakes!) in the west.

**AMERICAN KESTREL** (*Falco sparverius*) – The birds we saw in the south, in the Catamayo valley and near Ona, were of the breeding race peruvianus.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

**WHITE-THROATED CRAKE** (*Laterallus albigularis*) – Heard while we were pursuing Brown Wood-Rails. [\*]

**VIRGINIA RAIL (ECUADORIAN)** (*Rallus limicola aequatorialis*) – We had superb views of this skulking rail that sounds very different from our own Virginia Rail (and is treated as a distinct species, Ecuadorian Rail, in Ridgely & Greenfield's BIRDS OF ECUADOR) when it crossed a large open section of water in the marsh at Laguna Llaviucu.

**BROWN WOOD-RAIL** (*Aramides wolfi*) – They were fairly close, and they sounded angry, but not quite close enough to come into view. That was on our way back from Rio Silanche. [\*]

**SLATE-COLORED COOT** (*Fulica ardesiaca*) – Well seen in the marshy margins of Laguna Llaviucu.

*Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)*

**SOUTHERN LAPWING** (*Vanellus chilensis*) – Considered a lowland species in the BIRDS OF ECUADOR, this species has colonized the clearings from the Napo up to where we saw them--in the pastures at more than 7000' (2100m) on the road beyond San Isidro.

*Thinocoridae (Seedsnipes)*

**RUFOUS-BELLIED SEEDSNIPE** (*Attagis gayi*) – This ptarmigan-like inhabitant of the highest paramo peaks really knows how to pick its environment! Not only is it perfectly camouflaged, but it uses a visibility cloak of FOG and blowing rain! But that was no match for Sally's sharp eyes, at least on our second attempt to the top of the mountain above Papallacta Pass. With Willy's help in herding them toward us, we all had fabulous views of a very close pair walking and foraging among the lichens and cushion plants right beside the road. A terrific highlight to our foray to the east slope.

*Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)*

**ANDEAN GULL** (*Chroicocephalus serranus*) – Spiffy alternate-plumaged adults were seen several times in the Papallacta Pass area, where we had nice scope views of settled birds and watched them in flight as well.

*Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)*

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*) [I]

**PALE-VENTED PIGEON** (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) – Calling birds at Rio Silanche responded to playback by flying overhead without stopping where we could see them.

**BAND-TAILED PIGEON** (*Patagioenas fasciata*) – Fairly widespread in the highlands.

**PLUMBEOUS PIGEON** (*Patagioenas plumbea*) – Scope views at Copalinga disclosed the pale iris of this one.

**RUDDY PIGEON** (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) – Fairly common on both slopes; we had nice scope views (and listens!) in the Choco, on the Baeza cutoff, and at Rio Silanche, where we had direct comparisons with the next species.

**DUSKY PIGEON** (*Patagioenas goodsoni*) – Seen very well at Rio Silanche, both from the road and from the tower.

**EARED DOVE** (*Zenaida auriculata*) – Like a Mourning Dove with a blunt tail, it was common in the drier zones throughout.

**CROAKING GROUND-DOVE** (*Columbina cruziana*) – Common in the arid, intermontane valleys of the south, starting with the Catamayo airport.

**WHITE-TIPPED DOVE** (*Leptotila verreauxi*) – In the Catamayo valley and at the rice feeder at Tony & Barbara's.

**PALLID DOVE** (*Leptotila pallida*) – What a great view we had of this shy species at the banana feeders at Milpe!

*Psittacidae (Parrots)*

**GOLDEN-PLUMED PARAKEET** (*Leptosittaca branickii*) [\*]

**MAROON-TAILED PARAKEET** (*Pyrrhura melanura*) [\*]

**WHITE-NECKED PARAKEET** (*Pyrrhura albipectus*) – Heard briefly a couple of times, and I think Sally may have gotten on a hurtling flock at one point. [\*]

**PACIFIC PARROTLET** (*Forpus coelestis*) – We had great views of this cutie in the arid Catamayo valley, beginning right at the airport. The species is known as "Celestial Parrotlet" in the pet trade--for its bright blue in the wings.

**ROSE-FACED PARROT** (*Pyrrhura pulchra*) – These were but a blur racing overhead at the Silanche tower, but their voice was distinctive. [\*]

**BLUE-HEADED PARROT** (*Pionus menstruus*) – Several noisy flocks from the Silanche tower.

**RED-BILLED PARROT** (*Pionus sordidus*) – Seen well on both slopes.

**SPECKLE-FACED PARROT (WHITE-CAPPED)** (*Pionus tumultuosus seniloides*) – Heard in the rain at Cajanuma. [\*]

**BRONZE-WINGED PARROT** (*Pionus chalcopterus*) – But we had good close views of this species, from the Milpe road, and we scoped them from the Silanche tower.

**SCALY-NAPED PARROT** (*Amazona mercenaria*) – The high-elevation representative of its genus (with the shallow flaps), this big Amazon was flying high over Cajanuma and up the road from San Isidro.

*Cuculidae (Cuckoos)*

**SQUIRREL CUCKOO** (*Piaya cayana*) – Seen and heard repeatedly on both slopes.

**BANDED GROUND-CUCKOO** (*Neomorphus radiolosus*) – This VERY RARE, little-known, and handsome ground-cuckoo, restricted to the Choco, was a lifer this trip for all of us! And we all saw it well, thanks to Nicole & Wilo at Un Poco del Choco, a biological research station and reserve in NW Pichincha. Not only had they found this remarkable army ant follower initially, but they had kept up with the swarming army ants, following them through nomadic and stary phases, so that we knew exactly where to go when we arrived. Further, they had collected live grasshoppers and katydids (the ground-cuckoo's natural food, usually snatched from near the front of the antswarm) with which Nicole enticed the big cuckoo out of hiding for our good viewing! We'll hope they can add more acreage to their 15 hectares of humid forest and that the army ants and their ground-cuckoo followers will persist in the area. I've embedded some video footage I took, of the same bird two days before our trip, in the online version of the triplist. It was a major highlight of the tour, even if it was on our first day of birding in fabulous Ecuador!

**SMOOTH-BILLED ANI** (*Crotophaga ani*) – The common ani of the more humid areas on both slopes.

**GROOVE-BILLED ANI** (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) – Restricted to the more arid areas, this species was seen only in the Catamayo valley.

*Strigidae (Owls)*

**BAND-BELLIED OWL** (*Pulsatrix melanota*) – We had heard the screeching of what Catherine told us was a young bird the night before, and we'd seen an enticing fly-by on our way back from the Blackish Nightjar. But it was after dinner our second evening at Copalinga that we finally got a good response: an adult that called back closer and closer and then appeared. It hung around for good viewing by most everyone who wasn't already in the shower! (Sorry I missed getting you, Bev.)

**GREAT HORNED OWL (GREAT HORNED)** (*Bubo virginianus nigrescens*) – On our second morning at Cajanuma, after seeing the Band-winged

Nightjars, we tried playback of Great Horned Owl (which the guard had told us roosts nearby), and sure enough one flew in close and called overhead. It got a vocal response from a second bird in the distance. This species is infrequently encountered in Ecuador, where it inhabits high-elevation woodlands and *Polylepis* groves.

**ANDEAN PYGMY-OWL** (*Glaucidium jardinii*) – Another highlight was watching and photographing this tiny threat to small birds of the highland forests at Yanacocha. We have wonderful views of it facing us and then turning away, disclosing the "eyes" in the back of its head. (Cover photo by RAR)

**PERUVIAN PYGMY-OWL** (*Glaucidium peruanum*) – But this was our first pygmy-owl, seen well on our first day of birding in the south, not far from the Catamayo airport. Its distinctive "song" is a VERY rapid series of whistles, almost too rapid to imitate.

**BURROWING OWL** (*Athene cunicularia*) – Another surprise was finding a pair of these terrestrial, partially diurnal owls just above the Catamayo airport, which is 1240m (4060'). According to Ridgely & Greenfield, the highland birds are usually found locally in arid areas 1500-3000m, and the birds of the SW coastal deserts are rarely found above 50m. So an interesting new site--and Sally got a great photo of the two.

**RUFOUS-BANDED OWL** (*Ciccaba albitarsis*) – Another owl highlight was FINALLY seeing an adult of this big beauty--after tracking a very vocal pair for some time--along the road at San Isidro. Ultimately, we had lovely scope views.

**"BLACK-BANDED" OWL TYPE** (*Ciccaba* sp. nov. 1) – A.k.a. the San Isidro Owl, this one interrupted our list after dinner when Edgar spotted it sitting up the driveway and it stayed for all of us to scope it and contemplate its seemingly isolated existence right at San Isidro. Preliminary results of DNA testing on the feathers collected indicate that there is at least a 3% difference between the San Isidro owl and Black-and-white Owl (found on the W slope) and at least a 1% difference between the San Isidro bird and Black-banded (found in the lowlands of Amazonia!). A 2% difference is usually quite sufficient for most populations of sibling species to be recognized as distinct species. (Remember that humans share about 98.5% of our genes with chimpanzees.) So the San Isidro bird is more closely related to Black-banded, as we expected, but it likely represents an entirely new, montane species, yet to be found elsewhere. (Cover photo by Bev MacMaster & WP)

#### Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

**RUFOUS-BELLIED NIGHTHAWK** (*Lurocalis rufiventris*) – While waiting for the no-show Andean Potoo, at least we had good looks at this big highland nighthawk that sails just above the trees with shearwater-like flaps and glides.

**COMMON PAURAUQUE** (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) [\*]

**BAND-WINGED NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus longirostris*) – After a frustrating fly-by in the rain the first morn, this species was seen well in the spotlights on our second dawn at Cajanuma.

**BLACKISH NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus nigrescens*) – We had nice scope views of this small, dark nightjar as it hunted from the middle of the road at dusk, beyond Copalinga.

**LYRE-TAILED NIGHTJAR** (*Uropsalis lyra*) – But this dramatically beautiful nightjar male (with the longest tail of any nightjar), on its dark and protected day roost, was surely one of the highlights of the whole trip! (And to think that Willy had almost given up looking for it...)

#### Nyctibiidae (Potoos)

**COMMON POTOO** (*Nyctibius griseus*) – Another impressive night bird on a day roost was the bird we saw from the road at Un Poco del Choco. It had more white in the wings than is usual for the species, but was otherwise typical.

**ANDEAN POTOO** (*Nyctibius maculosus*) – Hrumphhh! [\*]

#### Steatornithidae (Oilbird)

**OILBIRD** (*Steatornis caripensis*) – While we walked ahead of our bus (and the stream of traffic that would follow once the downhill vehicles started), along the old Loja-Zamora road, Willy took us to a spot where we could set up a scope on a distant ravine cliff to see 2 of these communal, cave-nesting, fruit-eating night birds. Unique among birds for being nocturnal and fruit-eating, they represent a monotypic family and are even able to echolocate to find fruit and ledges in total darkness. Being fed on oily fruits, the young grow slowly and put on lots of fat, which explains their name; they were formerly collected for their oil that was burned for lamps. It was a treat to see them on the this tour.

#### Apodidae (Swifts)

**CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWIFT** (*Streptoprocne rutila*) – A few birds flying over our shrike-tyrant stop near San Lorenzo in the the south.

**WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT** (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) – These big guys are widespread, sometimes collecting in massive, noisy groups. We saw them sweeping low over both Andean slopes.

**GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT** (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) – Copalinga, Mindo, & Rio Silanche

**LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT** (*Panyptila cayennensis*) – One bird flew over the Silanche tower several times.

#### Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

**WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN** (*Florisuga mellivora*) – We had terrific views of most of the 64 species of hummers we saw on the tour, most of them visiting feeders or flowers repeatedly. This one was best seen at Septimo and Milpe.

**BAND-TAILED BARBTHROAT** (*Threnetes ruckeri*) – This one responded briefly to playback along the trail at Rio Silanche, dashing into view for some.

**WHITE-WHISKERED HERMIT** (*Phaethornis yaruqui*) – Nicely at Septimo and Milpe.

**GREEN HERMIT** (*Phaethornis guy*) – Coming to the bar feeder at Copalinga.

**TAWNY-BELLIED HERMIT** (*Phaethornis syrmatophorus*) – Bev found this one on the Macucoloma Trail, and a little playback brought it in close several times for great views.

**GREEN-FRONTED LANCEBILL** (*Doryfera ludovicae*) – Seen above the trail at Rio Bombuscaro, where it foraged and guarded its precious clump of pink-and-white flowers.

**WEDGE-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Schistes geoffroyi*) – Seen briefly by some at Tony & Barbara's, where it sipped nectar from the orange cannas and then disappeared for the rest of our visit there.

**BROWN VIOLETEAR** (*Colibri delphinae*) – Seen at Tony & Barbara's & Mindo.

**GREEN VIOLETEAR (ANDEAN)** (*Colibri thalassinus cyanotus*) – Seen nicely at Tony & Barbara's.

**SPARKLING VIOLETEAR** (*Colibri coruscans*) – First seen at Cajanuma and then beautifully at the feeders at Copalinga, where we watched the ears

extending. Also seen in Cuenca, at Papallacta and San Isidro, and in Quito (where it is the most prominent hummer).

**PURPLE-CROWNED FAIRY** (*Heliothryx barroti*) – Seen well our first day of birding, along the road at Un Poco del Choco, where it flew in and perched high in a tree for scope views.

**GORGATED SUNANGEL** (*Heliangelus strophianus*) – Seen by some along the Tandayapa Ridge, but this one got away pretty quickly.

**TOURMALINE SUNANGEL** (*Heliangelus exortis*) – Its eastern counterpart was the most common hummer at the Guango feeders, where it really lit up the dark patio.

**LITTLE SUNANGEL** (*Heliangelus micrastrer*) – A.k.a. Flame-throated Sunangel, this one was seen nicely at Cajanuma and Acacana.

**PURPLE-THROATED SUNANGEL** (*Heliangelus viola*) – We had a really beauty at Cajanuma.

**WIRE-CRESTED THORNTAIL** (*Discosura popelairii*) – We pulled out a female at Copalinga on our final morning there, but we had no sign of a male this trip.

**GREEN THORNTAIL** (*Discosura conversii*) – However, the western counterpart of the last species was seen well and in spades at Milpe.

**SPANGLED COQUETTE** (*Lophornis stictolophus*) – We had nice views of this distinctive female at the Copalinga vervain, but there were no males this year.

**ECUADORIAN PIEDTAIL** (*Phlogophilus hemileucurus*) – One bird that zipped through calling, along the trail at Bombuscaro, was seen briefly perched (by some) before it zipped away again.

**SPECKLED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Adelomyia melanogenys*) – Seen on both slopes; it's the one that is often mistaken for a hermit.

**LONG-TAILED SYLPH** (*Agelaiocercus kingi*) – Long-tailed males, from Copalinga to Guango and San Isidro, were dynamite!

**VIOLET-TAILED SYLPH** (*Agelaiocercus coelestis*) – But the long-tailed male that was bathing in the rain at Tony & Barbara's pretty well stole the show! Thanks to Bev (& Willy) for the digiscope shot of it.

**ECUADORIAN HILLSTAR** (*Oreotrochilus chimborazo*) – We saw both a stunning male, feeding on its orange-flowered Chuquiragua, and a very confiding female in the paramo at El Cajas. Almost endemic to Ecuador, it is also found just into adjacent s. Colombia.

**BLACK-TAILED TRAINBEARER** (*Lesbia victoriae*) – On our way up to Yanacocha, on that fine-weather day, we got to watch two long-tailed males doing their flight displays, as well as landing where we could see the decurvature of their relatively longish bills.

**BLUE-MANTLED THORNBILL** (*Chalcostigma stanleyi*) – These paramo hummers, which often perch to feed, were seen nicely at Cajas and Papallacta Pass.

**TYRIAN METALTAIL** (*Metallura tyrianthina*) – Common and widespread in the highlands.

**VIRIDIAN METALTAIL** (*Metallura williami*) – We saw this paramo specialty along the road at Cayambe-Coca National Park.

**VIOLET-THROATED METALTAIL** (*Metallura baroni*) – One of few truly endemic Ecuadorian birds--and considered Endangered by BirdLife International--this one is found primarily in the Cajas basin, where we saw a responsive male quite well along the road through the park. [E]

**GLOWING PUFFLEG** (*Eriocnemis vestita*) – It glows ALL OVER, but especially on the lower back and rump (bright golden!), and we saw it extremely well repeatedly at Cajanuma. There was also a very close male at Guango.

**SAPPHIRE-VENTED PUFFLEG** (*Eriocnemis luciani*) – Seen at flowers at Laguna Llaviucu.

**SHINING SUNBEAM** (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*) – First seen at El Cajas, it was later found feeding a fledgling (evidence of breeding = N) at Cayambe-Coca NP. [N]

**BRONZY INCA** (*Coeligena coeligena*) – A regular at the San Isidro feeders this trip.

**BROWN INCA** (*Coeligena wilsoni*) – Attending feeders at Tony & Barbara's, Septimo, and Refugio Paz.

**COLLARED INCA** (*Coeligena torquata*) – A widespread beauty, found on both slopes; seen at feeders and flowers throughout the highlands.

**BUFF-WINGED STARFRONTLET** (*Coeligena lutetiae*) – Guango & Yanacocha.

**RAINBOW STARFRONTLET** (*Coeligena iris*) – A real favorite in the south, especially at Cajanuma.

**MOUNTAIN VELVETBREAST** (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi*) – Seen by some at Guango; decurved bill and white in tail.

**SWORD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Ensifera ensifera*) – Wow! It was something to watch that male at Guango back up to sip from the feeder, its forehead extenuating into its bill! It was also thrilling to see the silhouette of this species fly high overhead at Yanacocha. Sword-bill is the third heaviest hummer.

**GREAT SAPPHIREWING** (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*) – The second heaviest is this species, dazzling males seen first at El Cajas, then both sexes seen at Yanacocha.

**BUFF-TAILED CORONET** (*Boissonneaua flavescens*) – This has to be one of the feistiest! With its head and throat glowing yellow-green, it charmed us at Guango, at Finca Paz, and particularly at Tony & Barbara's, where it is the commonest hummer.

**CHESTNUT-BREASTED CORONET** (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*) – East-slope counterpart of the last species, it was voted the feistiest hummer at San Isidro--though we had seen singles at Cajanuma and Copalinga first.

**VELVET-PURPLE CORONET** (*Boissonneaua jardini*) – This third coronet has to be one of the most beautiful of all hummers! We watched them at Milpe and then at Refugio Paz, where they were breathtaking. (Cover photo by Margaret Kelch)

**BOOTED RACKET-TAIL** (*Ocreatus underwoodii*) – We saw white-booted birds on the west slope, especially well at Tony & Barbara's, and buff-booted birds on the east slope (in the south),

**WHITE-TAILED HILLSTAR** (*Urochroa bougueri*) – It was the nominate race of this species that occasioned Susan's great photo of folks stretched out on Tony & Barbara's deck to see it sitting on the broom handle below. This western race has the rufous malar and is a candidate for a future split.

**PURPLE-BIBBED WHITETIP** (*Urostitte benjamini*) – Another of my favorites, this one was common at Tony & Barbara's and seen at Mindo, Milpe, and Finca Paz as well.

**FAWN-BREASTED BRILLIANT** (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*) – All the brilliants have extenuated foreheads, though not as much so as a Sword-bill! We saw this one, with the pink gorget, at montane feeders on both slopes.

**GREEN-CROWNED BRILLIANT** (*Heliodoxa jacula*) – This is the common lowland and foothill brilliant of the west; seen best at the Milpe feeders, where they are dominant.

**EMPRESS BRILLIANT** (*Heliodoxa imperatrix*) – Much scarcer, this dazzling brilliant was only seen at the Refugio Paz feeders, but it was a dazzling male that showed.

**VIOLET-FRONTED BRILLIANT** (*Heliodoxa leadbeateri*) – The common foothills brilliant of the east slope, counterpart of the Green-crowned Brilliant in the west; it was dominant at the Copalinga feeders.

**PURPLE-COLLARED WOODSTAR** (*Myrtis fannyi*) – We saw females (or eclipse males) in the arid, upper Catamayo valley.

**WHITE-BELLIED WOODSTAR** (*Chaetocercus mulsant*) – Bumblebee-like in flight, this one was seen well at Guango and at Tony & Barbara's, where they were mostly females.

**LITTLE WOODSTAR** (*Chaetocercus bombus*) – We accepted the consensus ID as a female or young male of this species that has taken up residence at the Copalinga vervain. Known primarily from W Ecuador, it's a rarity here; but it's been photographed and identified as a Little Woodstar.

**PURPLE-THROATED WOODSTAR** (*Calliphlox mitchellii*) – Males and females were seen nicely at Tony & Barbara's and Septimo.

**WESTERN EMERALD** (*Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus*) – This tiny dazzler was the one feeding at the more distant vervain off the right side of the porch at Tony & Barbara's. Another hummer that glows all over.

**VIOLET-HEADED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Klais guimeti*) – A regular at the Copalinga vervain.

**GREEN-CROWNED WOODNYMPH** (*Thalurania fannyi*) – A fabulous hummer at the feeders at Septimo and Milpe.

**FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH** (*Thalurania furcata*) – Eastern counterpart of the last species, it was stunning at the Copalinga feeders.

**AMAZILIA HUMMINGBIRD (LOJA)** (*Amazilia amazilia alticola*) – This rufous-tailed version of the original Amazilia was seen well in the arid south, beginning right at the Catamayo airport.

**ANDEAN EMERALD** (*Amazilia franciae*) – Fairly common in the west, where it was the most prominent white-breasted hummer at the feeders.

**BLUE-CHESTED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Amazilia amabilis*) – We scoped this one during (our) lunch, as it fed at the pink *Aphelandra* flowers in the gardens surrounding the Silanche parking lot. It differs from the next species in having gray, not white, undertail coverts, a less-intense, more spotted blue chest patch, and a bronzy rather than deep-blue tail. They occur together at Silanche.

**PURPLE-CHESTED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Amazilia rosenbergi*) – We first saw this one from the Silanche tower, when it was perched below, near its favorite flowers, where Lynn found it feeding later on.

**RUFOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Amazilia tzacatl*) – Common in the foothills and lowlands of the west, ranging up as high as Tony & Barbara's in small numbers.

**GOLDEN-TAILED SAPPHIRE** (*Chrysuronia oenone*) – Fairly common in the eastern foothills, from the Copalinga vervain to the flowering Ingas along the old Loja-Zamora road.

**VIOLET-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Damophila julie*) – It was a real treat to see a male of this species at the Silanche parking lot, where it was out "making an honest living."

#### Trogonidae (Trogons)

**GOLDEN-HEADED QUETZAL** (*Pharomachrus auriceps*) – We encountered it several times, but our best view by far was of the male Sally spotted from the bus on our way down from Refugio Paz de las Aves. It was in beautiful light!

**CRESTED QUETZAL** (*Pharomachrus antisianus*) – Our best view of this species was of that tailless male near the lights at San Isidro. We heard it several other times and saw more of this species than the last; it's usually the other way around. (Cover photo by Bev MacMaster & WP)

**BLUE-TAILED TROGON** (*Trogon comptus*) – A.k.a. Choco Trogon. Our first were two birds that we called in close along the road up from Un Poco del Choco. Then Lynn spotted a lovely male from the Silanche tower, and it sat for a very long time on the same perch, affording us ample telescope views.

**WHITE-TAILED TROGON** (*Trogon chionurus*) – This was the yellow-bellied trogon with the blue-gray eyering that we saw above the road at our Stub-tailed Antbird stretch near the Rio Silanche bridge.

**COLLARED TROGON** (*Trogon collaris*) – A male was seen along the trail at Milpe.

**MASKED TROGON** (*Trogon personatus*) – Seen repeatedly, from Cajanuma to the lights at San Isidro and the Tandayapa Ridge.

#### Momotidae (Motmots)

**ANDEAN MOTMOT** (*Momotus aequatorialis aequatorialis*) – As split from Blue-crowned Motmot (which was split into 5 species); formerly called Highland Motmot. We had a lovely view of one along the San Isidro road.

**RUFOUS MOTMOT** (*Baryphthengus martii*) – Seen well at Mindo and Silanche.

**BROAD-BILLED MOTMOT (BROAD-BILLED)** (*Electron platyrhynchum platyrhynchum*) – Seen well in the Choco and at Mindo-Milpe.

#### Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

**RINGED KINGFISHER** (*Megaceryle torquata*) – Harvey pointed one out flying up the Rio Bombuscaro, and another was seen near the Rio Nambillo at Mindo.

#### Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

**BARRED PUFFBIRD** (*Nystalus radiatus*) – We stopped, played the recording, and got an answer to the wolf-whistle-like vocalization. With a bit of effort, we located the responsive bird for good scope views along the road back from the Rio Silanche.

**BLACK-STREAKED PUFFBIRD** (*Malacoptila fulvogularis*) – A responsive pair near the beginning of the trail into Bombuscaro was a real treat!

**LANCEOLATED MONKLET** (*Micromonacha lanceolata*) – A pair of these tiny puffbirds responded along the same trail, shortly after the last species. Another good find that offered good scope views.

#### Galbulidae (Jacamars)

**RUFOUS-TAILED JACAMAR** (*Galbula ruficauda*) [\*]

**COPPERY-CHESTED JACAMAR** (*Galbula pastazae*) – A further highlight along the Bombuscaro trail was this beauty. The species is restricted to the eastern foothills, almost entirely within Ecuador, and it can be scarce and hard to come by. (Cover photo by RAR)

#### Capitonidae (New World Barbets)

**ORANGE-FRONTED BARBET** (*Capito squamatus*) – We had lovely views of a pair from the Silanche tower.

**RED-HEADED BARBET** (*Eubucco bourcierii*) – We saw males and females with flocks on both slopes; another much-appreciated barbet!

Semnornithidae (Toucan-Barbets)

**TOUCAN BARBET** (*Semnornis ramphastinus*) – Now representing a separate family, the Toucan-Barbets, comprised solely of this species and the Prong-billed Barbet of Costa Rica and w Panama; we had nice scope views of this Choco specialty at Septimo and at Refugio Paz, and we got to hear them duetting repeatedly.

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

**EMERALD TOUCANET (ANDEAN)** (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus albivitta*) – We had nice views at San Isidro, where we noted the yellow ridge to their upper mandibles.

**CRIMSON-RUMPED TOUCANET** (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*) – We had even better views of this handsome toucanet in the west, especially when it came to the fruit feeder at Refugio Paz.

**GRAY-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN** (*Andigena hypoglauca*) – The most colorful of the mountain-toucans, these were seen well first at Cajanuma and then along the meadow at Guango.

**PLATE-BILLED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN** (*Andigena laminirostris*) – Despite the fog enveloping the Tandayapa Ridge, we managed to call several birds in close enough to see how the "plate" sticks out from the rest of the bill--the feature for which this Choco specialty is named.

**BLACK-BILLED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN** (*Andigena nigrirostris*) – This one gave us trouble. Willy's group along the Guacamayos Ridge trail heard it, and some saw the distant shapes of two birds fly by, but it wasn't the way we'd like it. Sorry.

**COLLARED ARACARI (STRIPE-BILLED)** (*Pteroglossus torquatus erythropygus*) – A.k.a. Pale-mandibled Aracari; the race *erythropygus* (Pale-mandibled) and the race *sanguineus* (Stripe-billed) are being distinguished in Clements from the Middle American birds by subgrouping them together and referring to the subgroup as "Stripe-billed." But the birds we saw so well at Milpe, were of the Pale-mandibled race *erythropygus*. Thanks to Sally for the wonderful photo online!

**BLACK-MANDIBLED TOUCAN (CHESTNUT-MANDIBLED)** (*Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii*) – After walking under a chorus of yelping on our way to the ground-cuckoo, we finally saw these big toucans well along the road up to the Silanche tower when they perched right overhead.

**CHOCO TOUCAN** (*Ramphastos brevis*) – We all saw this similarly patterned but shorter-billed croaker on our way into Un Poco del Choco and again along the Milpe road.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

**LAFRESNAYE'S PICULET** (*Picumnus lafresnayi*) – Among the tiniest of woodpeckers, this cutie was seen well with flocks along the old Loja-Zamora road.

**OLIVACEOUS PICULET** (*Picumnus olivaceus*) – We saw the counterpart of the last species in the west.

**BLACK-CHEEKED WOODPECKER** (*Melanerpes pucherani*) – Seen nicely from the Silanche tower.

**SMOKY-BROWN WOODPECKER** (*Picoides fumigatus*) – Seen in the Choco and later on the east slope on the lower Cosanga-Tena road.

**GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER** (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) – Seen well along the old Catamayo-Loja road on the upper Catamayo valley slopes.

**CRIMSON-MANTLED WOODPECKER** (*Colaptes rivoli*) – One of the most striking woodpeckers! We saw it well repeatedly, from Cajanuma to San Isidro to Tandayapa, but the most surprising sightings were those of a bird at Copalinga on our two consecutive days there. Usually found in the Andes at 2000-3300m (6500-10,800'), this bird had shown up at 950m (3000') a few days before we arrived, according to Catherine. It was one of several high-elevation species that had shown up at the surprisingly low elevation of Copalinga this year.

**CINNAMON WOODPECKER** (*Celeus loricatus*) – The only possible *Celeus* on our route, this handsome crested woodpecker put in a great show that we viewed from the Silanche canopy tower. A real beauty!

**LINEATED WOODPECKER** (*Dryocopus lineatus*) – Also seen well from the Silanche tower, this species provided direct comparisons with the next species, with which it is often confused. Lineated was the one with the narrow white malar, and its white back stripes DO NOT meet to form a V on its back. It has a long rattle call reminiscent of our Pileated's.

**POWERFUL WOODPECKER** (*Campephilus pollens*) – We had a surprise pair of these scarce woodpeckers on the lower part of the Cayambe-Coca NP road, where we worked to get decent views for everyone. The female has an all-black crest/head.

**GUAYAQUIL WOODPECKER** (*Campephilus gayaquilensis*) – In direct comparison with the Lineated, these had white stripes on the back forming a V. The male had a spot on the otherwise red cheek, the female a very thick white malar streak. Seen well (and photographed) from the Silanche canopy tower.

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

**STOUT-BILLED CINCLODES** (*Cinclodes excelsior*) – El Cajas and Papallacta Pass. This was the bigger one with the heavy, somewhat decurved bill.

**CHESTNUT-WINGED CINCLODES** (*Cinclodes albidiventris albidiventris*) – Bar-winged Cinclodes was split three ways, this one being the northernmost of the three, occurring from Venezuela & Colombia to n Peru. We saw it well at Cajas, in direct comparison with the last species. This was the smaller-bodied, smaller billed bird.

**PALE-LEGGED HORNERO (PACIFIC)** (*Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus*) – We had good views of these bright-rufous furnariids of the more arid areas of the south and southwest. They've colonized northward now to Mindo and the open fields and pastures near the Rio Silanche.

**ANDEAN TIT-SPINETAIL** (*Leptasthenura andicola*) – Seen nicely at El Cajas and Papallacta Pass.

**AZARA'S SPINETAIL** (*Synallaxis azarae*) – Heard widely and seen at Cajas and San Isidro.

**DARK-BREASTED SPINETAIL** (*Synallaxis albigularis*) – On the grounds at Copalinga.

**RUFOUS SPINETAIL** (*Synallaxis unirufa*) – Seen in the waning light at the far end of the Macucoloma Trail and then by some in RAR's group along the Guacamayos Ridge trail.

**SLATY SPINETAIL** (*Synallaxis brachyura*) – We called a pair in near Mindo.

**WHITE-BROWED SPINETAIL** (*Hellmayrea gularis*) – Among our favorite furnariids, two of these short-tailed spinetails came in for very close views at Yanacocha.

**RED-FACED SPINETAIL** (*Cranioleuca erythroptus*) – Seen our first day at Un Poco del Choco and heard again at Septimo.

**ASH-BROWED SPINETAIL** (*Cranioleuca curtata*) – Seen well on the lower old Loja-Zamora road.

**LINE-CHEEKED SPINETAIL** (*Cranioleuca antisensis*) – Seen by walking behind our fancy hotel in Cuenca.

**MANY-STRIPED CANASTERO** (*Asthenes flammulata*) – Seen nicely at El Cajas.

**WHITE-CHINNED THISTLETAIL** (*Asthenes fuliginosa*) – We saw an adult feeding a fledgling in the dense *Polylepis* and shrubbery along the old road at Papallacta Pass. [N]

**MOUSE-COLORED THISTLETAIL** (*Asthenes griseomurina*) – This one cooperated very well (at least the second try) in the high woodland at El Cajas.

**SPOTTED BARBTAIL** (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) – Guacamayos Trail (for Willy's group) and San Isidro.

**PEARLED TREERUNNER** (*Margarornis squamiger*) – Another of our favorites, it was seen well repeatedly in the south and on the east slope.

**STREAKED TUFTEDCHEEK** (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*) – Another great furnariid! We saw them at Cajanuma, Huashapamba, and El Cajas, usually foraging among the bromeliads.

**SCALY-THROATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (SPOT-BREASTED)** (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps temporalis*) – Seen our first day in the Choco and later at Milpe.

**MONTANE FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Anabacerthia striaticollis*) – Replaces the previous species on the east slope, where we saw it on the old Loja-Zamora road and later in the lower Guacamayos.

**LINEATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Syndactyla subalaris*) – Seen in the waning light at the far end of the Macucoloma Trail at San Isidro.

**BUFF-FRONTED FOLIAGE-GLEANER** (*Philydor rufum*) – Seen along the old Loja-Zamora road.

**UNIFORM TREEHUNTER** (*Thripadectes ignobilis*) – Refugio Paz.

**FLAMMULATED TREEHUNTER** (*Thripadectes flammulatus*) – Heard and but glimpsed flying back and forth over the Guacamayos Ridge trail. [\*]

**PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) – Seen nicely with the army antswarm after we saw the ground-cuckoo at Un Poco del Choco.

**OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER** (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) – Bombuscaro.

**WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) – Un Poco del Choco & Bombuscaro; the smallest woodcreeper.

**STRONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*) – We all had good looks at these impressively big woodcreepers, first at Un Poco del Choco, and then at San Isidro.

**NORTHERN BARRED-WOODCREEPER** (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) – This species was foraging above the army ants at Un Poco del Choco.

**BLACK-STRIPED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) – Iris got us all onto this beauty when it flew into the palm adjacent to the Silanche tower.

**SPOTTED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) – We saw this large, mottled woodcreeper of the west slope at Un Poco del Choco, Septimo, Milpe, and Silanche.

**OLIVE-BACKED WOODCREEPER** (*Xiphorhynchus triangularis*) – And we saw the east-slope counterpart of the last species at San Isidro and in the Guacamayos.

**MONTANE WOODCREEPER** (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*) – The commonest woodcreeper of the highlands on both slopes. We were a bit surprised to see it down at Copalinga (950m or 3000') since it usually occurs above 1500m (5000'). But Catherine said it was regular there these days.

#### *Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)*

**CHAPMAN'S ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus zarumae*) – We had good scope views of a lovely female that sat in one spot, calling, for a VERY long time. This was on the uppermost section of old road between Catamayo and Loja.

**LINED ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*) – A finely barred male responded by sitting up singing such that we could see his tail pump with every note of his song; along the lower section of the old Loja-Zamora road.

**WESTERN SLATY-ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) [\*]

**RUSSET ANTSHRIKE** (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) – This was with the mixed flock in the canopy above the manakin section of the trail at Milpe.

**PLAIN ANTVIREO** (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) – A pair was seen along the entrance trail into Bombuscaro.

**CHECKER-THROATED ANTWREN** (*Epinecrophylla fulviventris*) – We called in a responsive but fleeting pair along the trail at Silanche.

**PACIFIC ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula pacifica*) – The black-and-white streaked male was seen while we were working on Brown Wood-Rail near the quarry on the Silanche road. Some also saw the richly colored female.

**WHITE-FLANKED ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula axillaris*) – Mostly heard, but seen by a few from the Silanche tower.

**SLATY ANTWREN** (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*) – We had nice looks at a pair of Slaty Antwrens at Un Poco del Choco.

**YELLOW-BREASTED ANTWREN** (*Herpsilochmus axillaris*) – This species vocalizes a lot and seems to be a central component to foothill flocks along the east slope of the Andes. We saw it well along the old Loja-Zamora road.

**LONG-TAILED ANTBIRD** (*Drymophila caudata*) – Seen in the bamboo near San Isidro and along the Guacamayos Ridge trail.

**BLACKISH ANTBIRD (BLACKISH)** (*Cercomacra nigrescens aequatorialis*) – We played with a responsive pair of these skulkers at the edge of the old Loja-Zamora road.

**CHESTNUT-BACKED ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza exsul*) [\*]

**ESMERALDAS ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza nigricauda*) – A pair of these opportunistic ant followers were also feeding with the ground-cuckoo antswarm and were seen by some.

**STUB-TAILED ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza berlepschi*) – It was a responsive male, but it was inside a dense roadside thicket en route to the Silanche reserve, here at the southern tip of its range. With effort most folks got a view of this Choco endemic.

**IMMACULATE ANTBIRD** (*Myrmeciza immaculata*) – One bird was feeding with the ground-cuckoo antswarm at Un Poco del Choco, and it was heard again at Silanche.

#### *Formicariidae (Antthrushes)*

**RUFOUS-BREASTED ANTTHRUSH** (*Formicarius rufpectus*) – One was seen by those in front near the ground-cuckoo antswarm, and another was seen by some at Refugio Paz, where it walked along with its tail cocked rail-like.

**BARRED ANTTHRUSH** (*Chamaeza mollissima*) – It was heard in the distance at the end of the Macucoloma Trail and then again along the Guacamayos Ridge trail (by Willy's group, some of whom saw it bound across the trail).

### Grallariidae (Antpittas)

- UNDULATED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria squamigera*) – This was the screech-owl-like trill we heard at Llaviucu and again at Yanacocha. [\*]
- GIANT ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria gigantea*) – With a similar-sounding trill, this species was heard well out the road past San Isidro and again in the dawn at Refugio Paz (where it didn't accept Angel's invitation to come for earthworms; perhaps it was too rainy and wet, making it easy for antpittas to find their own earthworms). [\*]
- MOUSTACHED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria alleni*) – Heard at Refugio Paz, again in the pre-dawn darkness. [\*]
- CHESTNUT-CROWNED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria ruficapilla*) [\*]
- CHESTNUT-NAPE ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria nuchalis*) – But we did see this one, some of us getting great binocular views when it paused on the edge of the trail at Cajanuma.
- WHITE-BELLIED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria hypoleuca*) – And this one put on quite a show, coming for earthworms at Guido's behest at San Isidro. (Cover photo by Sally Marrone and online photo by Jim Rundell)
- RUFOUS ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria rufula*) – And this little rufous beauty was seen well by all as it hopped along the trail at Cajanuma.
- TAWNY ANTPITTA** (*Grallaria quitensis*) – Named for Quito, this is perhaps the easiest antpitta to see, especially since it inhabits the high paramo. We had great views in the paramo at Lago Treadora (cover photo by Margaret Kelch) and again at Yanacocha (cover photo by Harvey Medland), where a bird came in for earthworms.
- PERUVIAN ANTPITTA** (*Grallaricula peruviana*) – Well, it answered our playback and came a bit closer, but it eventually stopped calling without showing itself--at San Isidro. One of the least known antpittas, it's considered Near Threatened by BirdLife International. It came for earthworms at San Isidro for a while, but it hadn't been coming for some time. We were lucky just to hear it. [\*]
- SLATE-CROWNED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaricula nana*) – Another tiny *Grallaricula*, this one responded by approaching several times, but the thick bamboo offered only so many visual holes and only a few folks (Susan, Sally, Jim) got really good looks at it. This was above San Isidro.
- CRESCENT-FACED ANTPITTA** (*Grallaricula lineifrons*) – A contender for fanciest of the antpittas, this cutie was seen by about half the group (with Iris getting her bins on it!) when it responded to playback in the bamboo at Acacana. A special treat for those who got to see it!

### Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

- OCELLATED TAPACULO** (*Acropternis orthonyx*) – It was a sunny day, perhaps too sunny for most species at Acacana. But remembering that Ocellated Tapaculos like the sun, we fished for them along the bamboo-lined road edge and got a response. We all ended up with good views of at least one of a pair that came in VERY close. Such a big, beautiful tapaculo gives new meaning to the whole, under-appreciated family!
- ASH-COLORED TAPACULO** (*Myornis senilis*) [\*]
- BLACKISH TAPACULO (BLACKISH)** (*Scytalopus latrans latrans*) [\*]
- BLACKISH TAPACULO (PACIFIC)** (*Scytalopus latrans subcinereus*) – Seen along the road at Cajanuma.
- LONG-TAILED TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus micropterus*) – San Isidro. [\*]
- WHITE-CROWNED TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus atratus atratus*) – Loja-Zamora road. [\*]
- NARINO TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus vicini*) – Septimo. [\*]
- SPILLMANN'S TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus spillmanni*) – Seen by some on the Guacamayos Ridge trail and by others on Tandayapa Ridge.
- CHUSQUEA TAPACULO** (*Scytalopus parkeri*) – This bamboo dweller, named for Ted Parker when it was first described in 1997, is the foremost specialty tapaculo in Ecuador, occurring only in s. Ecuador and adjacent northernmost Peru. We did all see this one along the trail at Cajanuma, where it responded well by crossing the trail a couple of times. We noted its distinctive vocalization, as we did for all the other species we heard. (Remember, they all look pretty much alike; it's their distinctive songs that separate them.)

### Melanopareiidae (Crescentchests)

- ELEGANT CRESCENTCHEST** (*Melanopareia elegans*) – Far too elegant to belong with the *Scytalopus*, the crescentchests have recently been placed in their own family. We managed views of a responsive Elegant Crescentchest along a side road in the arid Catamayo valley. This one is a real beauty!

### Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

- BROWN-CAPPED TYRANNULET** (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*) – What marvelous views we had of this attractive little flycatcher from the Silanche canopy tower!
- SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET** (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) – In the arid intermontane Catamayo valley.
- WHITE-TAILED TYRANNULET** (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*) – Seen at San Isidro, Tony & Barbara's, and along the Tandayapa Ridge.
- WHITE-BANDED TYRANNULET** (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*) – The common high-elevation tyrannulet that we saw repeatedly.
- WHITE-THROATED TYRANNULET** (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*) – Acacana, El Cajas, & Yanacocha.
- SULPHUR-BELLIED TYRANNULET** (*Mecocerculus minor*) – Several times at San Isidro.
- TUFTED TIT-TYRANT** (*Anairetes parulus*) – This long-crested cutie was seen at El Cajas.
- MOUSE-COLORED TYRANNULET (TUMBES)** (*Phaeomyias murina tumbezana*) – Contrary to what we were thinking at the time, this distinctive race of Mouse-colored Tyrannulet has not yet been split out in the Clements Checklist. Following the S. American Checklist Committee, Cornell retains it as a race, occurring in sw Ecuador and adjacent nw Tumbesian Peru. We saw it in the arid acacia woodlands of the Catamayo valley.
- YELLOW TYRANNULET** (*Capsiempis flaveola*) – Seen nicely in the bamboo near Mindo.
- GREENISH ELAENIA** (*Myiopagis viridicata*) – Viewed from the Silanche tower.
- WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA** (*Elaenia albiceps*) [\*]
- MOTTLE-BACKED ELAENIA** (*Elaenia gigas*) – This, the most distinctive of the elaenias (with its veritable "horns"), was seen very well as we were overlooking the Rio Bombuscaro on the sunny morning we left Copalinga.
- STREAK-NECKED FLYCATCHER** (*Mionectes striaticollis*) – Cajanuma & the San Isidro area.
- OLIVE-STRIPED FLYCATCHER** (*Mionectes olivaceus*) – The lower-elevation replacement of the last species, it was seen at Copalinga.
- SLATY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** (*Leptopogon supercilialis*) – Bombuscaro, Loja-Zamora road, & Guacamayos Ridge.
- RUFOUS-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** (*Leptopogon rufipectus*) – Seen nicely along the meadow at Guango.

**ECUADORIAN TYRANNULET** (*Phylloscartes gualaquizeae*) – With flocks at Bombuscaro & along the lower part of the old Loja-Zamora road.

**SOOTY-HEADED TYRANNULET** (*Phyllomyias griseiceps*) – A nicely responsive bird in the gardens at Copalinga.

**BLACK-CAPPED TYRANNULET** (*Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*) – One seen by some with a flock at Cajanuma.

**ASHY-HEADED TYRANNULET** (*Phyllomyias cinereiceps*) [\*]

**CHOCO TYRANNULET** (*Zimmerius albigularis*) – Formerly considered a race of Golden-faced Tyrannulet, the bird we saw well from the Silanche tower has now been split in the Clements Checklist, having been shown to be a sister species to Paltry Tyrannulet rather than Golden-faced, despite its golden face. Its vocalizations are quite different from those of Golden-faced.

**GOLDEN-FACED TYRANNULET** (*Zimmerius chrysops*) – We saw the east-slope version of this species first along the old Loja-Zamora road and then in the lower Guacamayos and on the Baeza cutoff.

**ORNATE FLYCATCHER** (*Myiotriccus ornatus*) – A wonderfully confiding little flycatcher, seen first in the Choco, then at Bombuscaro and Septimo-Milpe. They were the ones with the bright yellow rump and the white "headlamps."

**RUFIOUS-HEADED PYGMY-TYRANT** (*Pseudotriccus ruficeps*) – Seen well by both groups along the Guacamayos Ridge trail, where they sneaked in very close and no doubt had good looks at all of us!

**TAWNY-CROWNED PYGMY-TYRANT** (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*) – In the arid Catamayo valley.

**SCALE-CRESTED PYGMY-TYRANT** (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) [\*]

**RUFIOUS-CROWNED TODY-FLYCATCHER** (*Poecilotriccus ruficeps*) – Another real cutie, this one was first seen well from the hummingbird pavilion at San Isidro.

**COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER** (*Todirostrum cinereum*) – In the Choco and at Copalinga.

**BLACK-HEADED TODY-FLYCATCHER** (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) – We called one in for great views along the road at Un Poco del Choco.

**YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER** (*Tolmomyias sulphureus*) – Bombuscaro and the lower Loja-Zamora road.

**YELLOW-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (YELLOW-MARGINED)** (*Tolmomyias assimilis flavotectus*) – From the Silanche tower.

**RUDDY-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Terenotriccus erythrus*) – Along the trail at Bombuscaro.

**CINNAMON FLYCATCHER** (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*) – Common and widespread in the highlands.

**HANDSOME FLYCATCHER** (*Nephelomyias pulcher*) – Seen by some in RAR's group along the Guacamayos Ridge trail.

**OLIVE-CHESTED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*) [\*]

**BRAN-COLORED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiophobus fasciatus*) – Catamayo valley.

**SMOKE-COLORED PEWEE** (*Contopus fumigatus*) – Seen well on both slopes.

**WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE** (*Contopus sordidulus*) – "Our" birds wintering in Ecuador were seen at Copalinga and Silanche. [b]

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax virescens*) – Another boreal migrant that winters Middle America to Ecuador and n Peru; we heard it at Silanche. [b\*]

**BLACK PHOEBE** (*Sayornis nigricans*) – Widespread near water and seen repeatedly, including feeding fledglings. [N]

**BLACK-BILLED SHRIKE-TYRANT** (*Agriornis montanus*) – After hearing its evocative dawn song, we had nice scope views near San Lorenzo, its white iris showing nicely. Sally had a couple of additional fly-by's.

**WHITE-TAILED SHRIKE-TYRANT** (*Agriornis albicauda*) – Conveniently sharing the same cliffs near San Lorenzo, this larger shrike-tyrant with the heavier, more-hooked bill (with a yellowish base to the lower mandible) and the dark iris was seen through the scopes as it perched WAY UP on the ridgetop. Fortunately, we could hear it singing too--a VERY different song from that of the last species.

**SMOKY BUSH-TYRANT** (*Myiotheretes fumigatus*) – Yanacocha. [\*]

**MASKED WATER-TYRANT** (*Fluvicola nengeta*) – Seen along the Rio Nambillo at Mindo and along the road back from the Silanche reserve.

**YELLOW-BELLIED CHAT-TYRANT** (*Ochthoeca diadema*) – Lynn alone saw one in the undergrowth at Cajanuma, and then Willy's group along the Guacamayos Ridge trail saw this one; my group only heard it.

**SLATY-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT** (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*) – But we all had a good view of this shy tyrant, usually associated with running water through forest, along the Cajanuma entrance road.

**RUFIOUS-BREASTED CHAT-TYRANT** (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*) – Also seen along the Cajanuma entrance road.

**BROWN-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT** (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*) – El Cajas, Papallacta, & Yanacocha.

**SHORT-TAILED FIELD TYRANT** (*Muscigralla brevicauda*) – What a treat to have watched a singing male displaying! Had Susan W. not persuaded us to climb to the top of the hill, in the arid intermontane Catamayo valley, we all would have missed this and several other goodies.

**BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTILA** (*Attila spadiceus*) – Heard at the wood-rail spot. [\*]

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer nigriceps*) – Silanche tower.

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer atriceps*) – In the lower Guacamayos.

**SHORT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus ferox*) – Seen in the garden at Copalinga, where it was giving its "policeman's whistle."

**PALE-EDGED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus cephalotes*) – The common east-slope Myiarchus around the lights at San Isidro.

**BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER** (*Megarynchus pitangua*) – Septimo, Milpe, & Silanche.

**RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) – From the Silanche tower.

**SOCIAL FLYCATCHER** (*Myiozetetes similis*) – Copalinga area.

**LEMON-BROWED FLYCATCHER** (*Conopias cinchoneti*) – Seen nicely along the Bombuscaro trail, where a noisy and excitable party of them came from a long way off to right above us.

**GOLDEN-CROWNED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) – Both slopes.

**STREAKED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) – Seen briefly at Un Poco del Choco.

**PIRATIC FLYCATCHER** (*Legatus leucophaeus*) – Singing and displaying along the lower Loja-Zamora road. This is the one that "pirates" the nest of a cacique or oropendola, in which it lays its eggs and tends its own young. [N]

**SNOWY-THROATED KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus niveigularis*) – An austral migrant of a sort, this flashy kingbird normally breeds in the desert scrub and woodland of lowland sw Ecuador during the rainy season, and migrates north during the non-breeding season (Jun-Nov). I was surprised to discover

one sitting atop the dead perch tree beside the Silanche tower at this time of year. They may have extended their breeding range farther north with the clearings. In any case, we all got good looks, from the tower or the ground. [a]

**TROPICAL KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) – Seen most days at mid- to lower elevations.

#### Cotingidae (Cotingas)

**GREEN-AND-BLACK FRUITEATER** (*Pipreola riefferii*) – We chased a pair at Cajanuma that flew back and forth across the road, only occasionally landing in good view for some. Most folks improved on their views of this beauty along the Guacamayos Ridge trail.

**BARRED FRUITEATER** (*Pipreola arcuata*) – By contrast this one was easy! We all had great views of a big, beautiful male sitting above the trail at Cajanuma on our first morning there.

**BLACK-CHESTED FRUITEATER** (*Pipreola lubomirskii*) – Mostly heard, way in the treetops, from along the Macucoloma Trail at San Isidro. [\*]

**SCALED FRUITEATER** (*Ampelioides tshudii*) – This aberrant fruiteater, in a monotypic genus, was seen beautifully by all along the Septimo entrance road, where pairs were calling spontaneously.

**RED-CRESTED COTINGA** (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*) – We saw this one, with the recumbent red crest, on four different days in the highlands, starting at Huashapamba.

**ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK** (*Rupicola peruvianus sanguinolentus*) – These very red birds, of the west slope, were seen at a lek at Refugio Paz, where a couple of males did some displaying despite the rain. (Cover photo by Jim Rundell)

**ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK** (*Rupicola peruvianus aequatorialis*) – But our first encounter with the species was along the old Loja-Zamora road, where a brilliant orange east-slope-of-the-Andes male flew toward us and literally took our breath!

**PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW** (*Querula purpurata*) [\*]

**DUSKY PIHA** (*Lipaugus fuscocinereus*) – The wonderful Dusky Piha (that sat for so long in an alder at the edge of the Guango meadow) was one of our least expected encounters, as it's generally a shy, forest-interior species that is seldom seen so well. But then that was an exceptional afternoon at Guango!

#### Pipridae (Manakins)

**GOLDEN-WINGED MANAKIN** (*Masius chrysopterus*) – After a quick view of a male in the lower Guacamayos, we took the Milpe trail down to a lek in west, and some folks managed to get on a male and a female before the rain increased in intensity.

**CLUB-WINGED MANAKIN** (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*) – We were much more successful at the Milpe Club-winged Manakin lek, where several males were actively displaying despite the dark, drippy weather. Remember how the musical tone is produced when he lifts his wings? By stridulation, using a sort of "spoon-and-washboard" process unique among vertebrates and more akin to how a grasshopper or cricket produces its sound. A very readable explanation of the process and its discovery can be found in a NY Times article at: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D05E5DB1E3FF931A3575BC0A9639C8B63>

**WHITE-BEARDED MANAKIN** (*Manacus manacus*) – Seen nicely at a lek at Silanche--and even from the tower itself!

#### Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

**MASKED TITYRA** (*Tityra semifasciata*)

**GREEN-BACKED BECARD (YELLOW-CHEEKED)** (*Pachyramphus viridis xanthogenys*) – Treated as a distinct species in THE BIRDS OF ECUADOR, *xanthogenys* (occurring in the east-slope foothills of Ecuador and Peru) has been lumped with the Green-backed Becard of the S. American lowlands far east of the Andes. We saw a nice male of this scarce becard on the lower section of the old Loja-Zamora road--which you should note in case of future splitting between the two forms that have distinct plumages and habitats and quite disjunct ranges.

**BARRED BECARD** (*Pachyramphus versicolor*) – We had good looks at males, both at Cajanuma and in the Guacamayos.

**CINNAMON BECARD** (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) – Seen in the west on our first day of birding and then again in the Rio Silanche area, where we saw two birds at a big nest. [N]

**WHITE-WINGED BECARD** (*Pachyramphus polychropterus dorsalis*) – Along the entrance road to Septimo.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE BECARD** (*Pachyramphus albogriseus*) – A nice male on the old Loja-Zamora road, at the same spot as the Green-backed Becard.

**ONE-COLORED BECARD** (*Pachyramphus homochrous*) – We saw a male at Un Poco del Choco.

#### Vireonidae (Vireos)

**BROWN-CAPPED VIREO** (*Vireo leucophrys*) – Best seen at San Isidro.

**RED-EYED VIREO** (*Vireo olivaceus*) – From the tower at Silanche.

**OLIVACEOUS GREENLET** (*Hylophilus olivaceus*) – We called one back and forth in the garden at Copalinga, where it cooperated for good views. Remember the pink bill and the pale iris?

**LESSER GREENLET** (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) – We had some very cooperative birds around the Silanche tower, where they helped bring in a mixed flock.

**SLATY-CAPPED SHRIKE-VIREO** (*Vireolanius leucotis*) – Another flock leader, this one was seen well by some with a flock along the Loja-Zamora road; and then a truck came by, flushing the flock away, and we couldn't lure it back. We tried again at Silanche, where we heard a distant bird; but again no response.

**RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKE** (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) – Seen in the arid Catamayo valley.

**BLACK-BILLED PEPPERSHRIKE** (*Cyclarhis nigrirostris*) – Scoped near the lights at San Isidro.

#### Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

**TURQUOISE JAY** (*Cyanolyca turcosa*) – Seen well on several occasions, first at Huashapamba.

**GREEN JAY** (*Cyanocorax yncas*) – A.k.a. Inca Jay in S. America, where they are dazzling--and quite common on the east slope.

#### Hirundinidae (Swallows)

**BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW** (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) – Common and widespread on both slopes.

**BROWN-BELLIED SWALLOW** (*Orochelidon murina*) – Scattered throughout the higher elevations.

**WHITE-THIGHED SWALLOW** (*Atticora tibialis*) – Circling over the clearing at Bombuscaro.

**WHITE-BANDED SWALLOW** (*Atticora fasciata*) – Seen best from our mirador over the Rio Bombuscaro the morning we left Copalinga.

**SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) – Fairly common at the lower elevations, we saw them in the west.

**GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN** (*Progne chalybea*) – Only seen at the Catamayo airport.

#### Troglodytidae (Wrens)

**FASCIATED WREN** (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*) – In the arid Catamayo valley (and heard around Loja).

**GRAY-MANTLED WREN** (*Odontorchilus branickii*) – We had nice looks at this specialty of the eastern foothills along the old Loja-Zamora road.

**RUFIOUS WREN** (*Cinnycerthia unirufa*) – What a performance! A (presumed) family group came in close and sang for us in the bamboo at Cajanuma on our first morning there.

**SHARPE'S WREN** (*Cinnycerthia olivascens*) – RAR's group on the Guacamayos Ridge trail had a similar performance from a group of these browner, more barred congeners.

**PLAIN-TAILED WREN** (*Pheugopedius euophrys*) – Another great performer! We watched a pair duetting at Cajanuma on our second visit, observing the precision with which each individual contributes to the strong song, which (at any distance) sounds like a single melody. This phenomenon is now considered the most extreme example of duetting birds yet studied. I've embedded a cut of their song in the online triplist.

**BAY WREN** (*Cantorchilus nigricapillus*) [\*]

**SUPERCILIATED WREN** (*Cantorchilus superciliaris*) – Heard on the slopes of the Catamayo valley, but they wouldn't play. [\*]

**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*) – Widespread in the more open habitats everywhere. The S. American birds are generally much buffier than ours.

**MOUNTAIN WREN** (*Troglodytes solstitialis*) – Seen multiple times as it foraged in the trees, often along mossy trunks.

**SEDGE WREN (POLYGLOTTUS GROUP)** (*Cistothorus platensis aequatorialis*) – Seen well in the marsh at Laguna Llaviucu. A.k.a. "Grass Wren," this is a complex taxon that may well end up being split several ways; so note that the birds we saw were high-elevation, marsh inhabiting at El Cajas.

**WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-WREN** (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) [\*]

**GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN** (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) – Though heard widely on both slopes, it was seen only along the Guacamayos Ridge trail and at the San Isidro lights.

**SCALY-BREASTED WREN** (*Microcerculus marginatus*) – Heard from the Silanche tower. [\*]

#### Poliophtilidae (Gnatcatchers)

**TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (WHITE-BROWED)** (*Poliophtila plumbea bilineata*) – The "first responder" to pygmy-owls in the arid Catamayo valley.

#### Cinclidae (Dippers)

**WHITE-CAPPED DIPPER** (*Cinclus leucocephalus*) – Seen beautifully along the rushing Sabanilla River near the upper end of the old Loja-Zamora road, where we watched it forage among the boulders. It doesn't walk under water like ours do.

#### Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

**ANDEAN SOLITAIRE** (*Myadestes ralloides*) – San Isidro.

**SPOTTED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH** (*Catharus dryas*) – A singing bird circled around us along the ground-cuckoo trail at Un Poco del Choco.

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH** (*Catharus ustulatus*) – A common winterer in the Andean foothills on both slopes. [b]

**PALE-EYED THRUSH** (*Turdus leucops*) – We called in this songster with the high-pitched notes along the Macucoloma Trail at San Isidro.

**PLUMBEOUS-BACKED THRUSH** (*Turdus reevei*) – We saw this Tumbesian specialty well on the slopes of the arid Catamayo valley.

**ECUADORIAN THRUSH** (*Turdus maculirostris*) – Best on the grounds at Septimo, where they are common--and the most widespread thrush in the west.

**BLACK-BILLED THRUSH** (*Turdus ignobilis*) – Seen along the old Loja-Zamora road, especially near the lower end, just above Zamora.

**CHESTNUT-BELLIED THRUSH** (*Turdus fulviventris*) – Perhaps our best thrush find was this scarce and local species that reminded some of our Am. Robin. We saw it well at the Cocodrilos ranger station of Sumaco NP, where we watched fruiting melastomes in the rain.

**SLATY THRUSH (ANDEAN)** (*Turdus nigriceps nigriceps*) – This one throws in some very high-pitched notes in its varied song, and it was great to have a direct comparison of this species with the Plumbeous-backed in the same location. Occurring primarily 500-2000m along the east slope of the Andes, this is another taxon that is sometimes split from the disjunct population of lowland Brazil and elevated to full-species status. The birds we saw were actually on the upper slopes of the Catamayo valley, now during its rainy season. Though not well known in Ecuador, apparently this is the only time of year they occur in the region, presumably withdrawing when the habitat becomes too dry.

**GREAT THRUSH** (*Turdus fuscater*) – This, the largest of the New World thrushes (and at its largest in Ecuador and Colombia), was common and widespread at high elevations.

**CHIGUANCO THRUSH** (*Turdus chiguanco*) – A surprising bird at Copalinga was seen by some, and then we all saw it in Loja (at the puddles beside the bus as we waited in line for the road to open) and in Cuenca, where they are common in town.

**GLOSSY-BLACK THRUSH** (*Turdus serranus*) – Scoped nicely at San Isidro, where they provided a nice, if a bit monotonous, chorus each day.

#### Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

**LONG-TAILED MOCKINGBIRD** (*Mimus longicaudatus*) – Common in the arid Catamayo valley.

#### Parulidae (New World Warblers)

**CERULEAN WARBLER** (*Setophaga cerulea*) – We saw a nice adult male in the lower stretch of the Guacamayos road; considered Vulnerable now by BirdLife International, its population having undergone a rapid decline. We were lucky to see one on its wintering grounds. [b]

**TROPICAL PARULA** (*Setophaga pitaiyumi*) – Fairly common at lower and middle elevations on both slopes, often with flocks.

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** (*Setophaga fusca*) – The most common of the N. American migrant warblers that winter in Ecuador, it was seen on 9 days. [b]

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** (*Setophaga striata*) – We saw one basic-plumaged bird on the lower stretch of the old Loja-Zamora road. [b]

**THREE-STRIPED WARBLER** (*Basileuterus tristriatus*) – These residents were seen best at along the Tandayapa Ridge.

**THREE-BANDED WARBLER** (*Basileuterus trifasciatus*) – In the upper Catamayo valley, near the female Chapman's Antshrike.

**CITRINE WARBLER** (*Myiothlypis luteoviridis*) – Huashapamba.

**BLACK-CRESTED WARBLER** (*Myiothlypis nigrocristatus*) – Everyone eventually had good looks at this high-elevation species that was fairly common on both slopes.

**BUFF-RUMPED WARBLER** (*Myiothlypis fulvicauda*) – We had terrific views of an exceptionally cooperative bird that was foraging around the edge of the building at Copalinga.

**GOLDEN-BELLIED WARBLER (CHOCO)** (*Myiothlypis chrysogaster chlorophrys*) – This Choco specialty, seen well along the Milpe trail, sounds entirely different from its closest relative, the disjunct Golden-bellied Warbler of c and s Peru, from which it is split by some (and we think, rightfully so!). But the conservative revision of the Clements Checklist retains it as a race of *chrysogaster*, at least for now. It's one to "put in the bank."

**RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER** (*Myiothlypis coronatus*) – We had nice looks at the east-slope birds (mostly gray below) at Cajanuma, El Cajas, Guango, & San Isidro. The yellower, west-slope birds were with flocks at Tony & Barbara's and on the Tandayapa Ridge.

**CANADA WARBLER** (*Cardellina canadensis*) – A fairly common winterer on the east slope, where we saw them regularly. [b]

**SLATE-THROATED REDSTART** (*Myioborus miniatus*) – A.k.a. "Slate-throated Whitestart" (for its white tail feathers), this one was common with mixed flocks on both slopes at middle to lower elevations.

**SPECTACLED REDSTART** (*Myioborus melanocephalus*) – Replaces the last species at the higher elevations, where it too is fairly common. Both species overlap at San Isidro.

#### Coerebidae (Bananaquit)

**BANANAQUIT** (*Coereba flaveola*) – At Copalinga and in the west.

#### Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

**MAGPIE TANAGER** (*Cissopis leverianus*) – Next for the "tanagers and allies," the definition of which is in almost constant flux of late. Recent genetic studies have shown that what has been considered the Thraupidae consists of at least seven lineages mixed in with birds previously considered buntings, warblers, and grosbeaks. Eventually, we'll end up with a host of smaller families. In any case, we saw an impressive number of what have usually been called "tanagers," many of them strikingly beautiful. The monotypic Magpie "Tanager" was seen well near Copalinga and along the old Loja-Zamora road.

**WHITE-CAPPED TANAGER** (*Sericossypha albocristata*) – One of the tour highlights was seeing a noisy, roving flock of 5 birds (a male and 4 female-plumaged birds) at very close range at Guango! Known to be wide-ranging and then local, they were a surprise to us at Guango, where we've never seen them before. Still enigmatic phylogenetically.

**BLACK-CAPPED HEMISPINGUS** (*Hemispingus atropileus*) – Seen with the big flock at Guango, especially in the bamboo across the road.

**SUPERCILIARIED HEMISPINGUS** (*Hemispingus superciliaris*) – Cajanuma, Acacana, Cajas, & Yanacocha.

**BLACK-EARED HEMISPINGUS** (*Hemispingus melanotis*) – Seen well at Guango and San Isidro, where birds foraged below the lights in the early morn.

**BLACK-HEADED HEMISPINGUS** (*Hemispingus verticalis*) – Atop the trees at Huashapamba and Acacana, this was one of the tail pumpers.

**GRAY-HOODED BUSH TANAGER** (*Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*) – Another tail pumper, this one was seen first at Cajanuma and then really well at Guango, with the same big flock.

**RUFOUS-CHESTED TANAGER** (*Thlypopsis ornata*) – Prothonotary Warbler-like in size and shape, this small tanager was seen near the lake edge at Llaviucu.

**CHESTNUT-VENTED CONEBILL** (*Conirostrum speciosum*) – Considered "rare and very local" along the e base of the Andes in THE BIRDS OF ECUADOR, this little conebill has become a regular along the Inga-rich, lower slopes of the old Loja-Zamora road. We saw three birds.

**BLUE-BACKED CONEBILL** (*Conirostrum sitticolor*) – With flocks at Cajanuma, Acacana, & Yanacocha.

**CAPPED CONEBILL** (*Conirostrum albifrons atrocyaneum*) – Another tail pumper, a male was seen at Guango and others at San Isidro.

**GIANT CONEBILL** (*Oreomanes fraseri*) – The fairest conebill of them all, the scarce Giant, was seen well in the Polylepis at Laguna Toreadora, where we watched a pair (that appeared with a small flock) quietly foraging under the papery bark of the branches. Yip! Yip!

**TIT-LIKE DACNIS** (*Xenodacnis parina*) – Fairly common in the Gynoxys-Polylepis woodland at high elevation in Cajas, right at the northern outpost of its range. We saw adult males, molting young males, and females in numbers. (Cover photo by Jim Rundell)

**PLUSHCAP** (*Catamblyrhynchus diadema*) – With a flock in the bamboo along the road past San Isidro, where some folks got good views.

**BLACK-BACKED BUSH TANAGER** (*Urothraupis stolzmanni*) – This phylogenetically enigmatic species was seen with a flock at treeline in Cayambe-Coca NP.

**DUSKY-FACED TANAGER** (*Mitrospingus cassinii*) – The understory dweller with the dusky-and-mustard body and the white eye; we heard a flock along the road near the Rio Silanche and called one responsive bird in for very nice views. Very recent research has shown this species to be in a separate family, the Mitrospingidae, with Red-billed Pied-Tanager of Amazonia and Olive-green Tanager of se Brazil!

**SCARLET-BROWED TANAGER** (*Heterospingus xanthopygius*) – This Choco specialty was seen wonderfully well from the Silanche canopy tower, where we saw both male and female repeatedly.

**FLAME-CRESTED TANAGER** (*Tachyphonus cristatus*) – Male and female were with a big tanager flock along the Bombuscaro trail.

**WHITE-SHOULDERED TANAGER** (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) – We had great studies of males and the very different-looking females at close range from the Silanche tower.

**TAWNY-CRESTED TANAGER** (*Tachyphonus delatrii*) – Black with the orange crest, this species accompanied the Dusky-faced Tanagers in the understory along the Silanche entrance road.

**WHITE-LINED TANAGER** (*Tachyphonus rufus*) – Seen in small numbers at the lower elevations on both slopes.

**SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER** (*Ramphocelus carbo*) – Common in the eastern foothills, e.g., around Copalinga, Zamora, and the lower Guacamayos.

**FLAME-RUMPED TANAGER** (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) – The "Silver-beak of the west," here with the bright yellow rump.

**BLUE-GRAY TANAGER** (*Thraupis episcopus*) – Remember how the birds east of the Andes had white shoulders and white in the wings? We saw

Blue-grays on both slopes, including on a nest along the old Loja-Zamora road. [N]

**PALM TANAGER** (*Thraupis palmarum*) – Common in the humid foothills and lowlands on both slopes.

**BLUE-CAPPED TANAGER** (*Thraupis cyanocephala*) – Seen only at Cajanuma on this trip.

**VERMILION TANAGER** (*Calochaetes coccineus*) – We had stopped to search for Vermilion Tanager in a place we've sometimes seen it, along the old Loja-Zamora road. Bev and Susan M. both saw a bird that fit the description perched briefly way downslope and then flying away--before the rest of us could get on it. No response to playback.

**HOODED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER** (*Buthraupis montana*) – This big, noisy mountain-tanager travels in energetic flocks in the upper-elevation forests on both slopes. We saw them repeatedly, from Cajanuma and Huashapamba to Guango, the Guacamayos Ridge, and Yanacocha.

**BLACK-CHESTED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER** (*Buthraupis eximia*) – We had first seen this scarce, high-elevation mountain-tanager in Cayambe-Coca NP, but our experience with a group of them at Yanacocha was truly outstanding! This species is easily missable on our route. (Cover photo by Jim Rundell)

**MASKED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER** (*Buthraupis wetmorei*) – We all had good scope views of this rare beauty, with a tanager flock at treeline in Cayambe-Coca NP.

**LACRIMOSE MOUNTAIN-TANAGER** (*Anisognathus lacrymosus*) – The smaller mountain-tanager with the yellow "teardrop" on its cheek; we saw it both mornings at Cajanuma.

**SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER** (*Anisognathus igniventris*) – Another colorful favorite, it was seen well only at Yanacocha.

**BLUE-WINGED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER** (*Anisognathus somptuosus*) – The common mountain-tanager at middle elevations; we saw the olive-backed form in the east (at San Isidro) and the black-backed form in the west (at Finca Paz).

**GRASS-GREEN TANAGER** (*Chlorornis riefferii*) – These heavy-bodied tanagers, with the red bill and legs, were engaged in display flights above the canopy at Cajanuma and over the Guacamayos Ridge during our visit. It took a while before everyone got a good look, but most caught up with it well on the Tandayapa Ridge.

**BUFF-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER** (*Dubusia taeniata*) – Singing birds were with flocks at Cajanuma, Acacana, and Cayambe-Coca NP, but nowhere did this species cooperate well on this trip; it was only seen satisfactorily by a few.

**YELLOW-THROATED TANAGER** (*Iridosornis analis*) – On the other hand, we ALL had fabulous views of this understory beauty, when Bev spotted it at the roadside in Sumaco NP.

**GOLDEN-CROWNED TANAGER** (*Iridosornis rufivertex*) – Sally alone had seen this one at Cayambe-Coca, but we all had good looks at Yanacocha. What a lovely genus!

**FAWN-BREASTED TANAGER** (*Pipraeidea melanonota*) – Seen briefly at San Isidro.

**ORANGE-EARED TANAGER** (*Chlorochrysa calliparaea*) – A small, bright green beauty that was seen with flocks at Bombuscaro, along the Loja-Zamora road, and in the lower Guacamayos.

**GRAY-AND-GOLD TANAGER** (*Tangara palmeri*) – We had nice scope views of this scarce tanager from the Silanche canopy tower.

**PARADISE TANAGER** (*Tangara chilensis*) – Together, the Tangaras have to be the most colorful of the "tanagers," and Paradise may head the list for most improbable pattern! With its chartreuse head, purple throat, blue breast, and red rump, it practically glows. We enjoyed them at Bombuscaro, Copalinga, and on the lower Loja-Zamora road.

**GREEN-AND-GOLD TANAGER** (*Tangara schrankii*) – What a treat to see this species, Golden, Golden-eared, and Saffron-crowned all at the close banana feeders at Copalinga! It was the best tanager show we've seen there.

**GOLDEN TANAGER** (*Tangara arthus*) – Another favorite, this one was seen well on both slopes.

**SILVER-THROATED TANAGER** (*Tangara icterocephala*) – Fairly common in the west, this one was first seen on the grounds at Septimo, but we had much better views of it at the Milpe bananas.

**SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER** (*Tangara xanthocephala*)

**GOLDEN-EARED TANAGER** (*Tangara chrysotis*) – And adult at the bananas at Copalinga was feeding a (duller) fledgling. [N]

**FLAME-FACED TANAGER** (*Tangara parzudakii parzudakii*) – The eastern version was seen around San Isidro.

**FLAME-FACED TANAGER** (*Tangara parzudakii lunigera*) – The western version was at Tony & Barbara's, Milpe, and Refugio Paz.

**YELLOW-BELLIED TANAGER** (*Tangara xanthogastra*) – One of the scarcer Tangaras, this one was best seen on the lower Loja-Zamora road.

**SPOTTED TANAGER** (*Tangara punctata*) – Bombuscaro & Loja-Zamora road.

**RUFIOUS-THROATED TANAGER** (*Tangara rufigula*) – This Choco specialty was seen on our first day of birding--along the road at Un Poco del Choco, where we called one in fairly close.

**BAY-HEADED TANAGER** (*Tangara gyrola*) – Copalinga, Loja-Zamora road, & from the Silanche tower.

**RUFIOUS-WINGED TANAGER** (*Tangara lavinia*) – Another scarce beauty, it was seen very well from the Silanche tower.

**SCRUB TANAGER** (*Tangara vitriolina*) – It didn't take long to find this (relatively dull) Tangara in the rural gardens of the Tumbaco neighborhood, where we stopped en route to Papallacta.

**GOLDEN-NAPED TANAGER** (*Tangara ruficervix*) – In the Guacamayos, at Tony & Barbara's (by some), at Milpe, and at Finca Paz.

**BLUE-BROWED TANAGER** (*Tangara cyanotis*) – We had a terrific response from a pair of these scarce and local specialties of the "subtropical zone" of the east slope, mostly occurring 1400-1900m (4600-6200'). Ours were at 1600m (5200') along the old Loja-Zamora road.

**BLUE-NECKED TANAGER** (*Tangara cyanicollis*) – The poorly named tanager, since its whole head is blue, not just its neck! It was common on both slopes.

**GOLDEN-HOODED TANAGER** (*Tangara larvata*) – We had great scope views of this one from the Silanche canopy tower.

**MASKED TANAGER** (*Tangara nigrocincta*) – The eastern counterpart of the last species, it was seen well at Copalinga.

**BERYL-SPANGLED TANAGER** (*Tangara nigroviridis*) – San Isidro, Guacamayos, and Refugio Paz.

**BLUE-AND-BLACK TANAGER** (*Tangara vassorii*) – The Tangara that occurs to the highest elevation, this one was seen at Cajanuma, Huashapamba, Cajas, San Isidro, and Finca Paz.

**BLACK-CAPPED TANAGER** (*Tangara heinei*) – We had lovely light on our first male, at San Isidro; it was also seen in Sumaco NP, especially in the fruiting melastomes at the Cocodrilos ranger station.

**BLACK-FACED DACNIS (BLACK-FACED)** (*Dacnis lineata aequatorialis*) – This striking west-slope form, sometimes elevated to full-species status and called Yellow-tufted Dacnis, was seen well several times from the Silanche canopy tower.

**SCARLET-THIGED DACNIS** (*Dacnis venusta*) – One of the highlights of our non-stop birding morning in the Silanche canopy tower was seeing this scarce Choco endemic really well.

**BLUE DACNIS** (*Dacnis cayana*) – Also seen from the Silanche tower.

**GREEN HONEYCREEPER** (*Chlorophanes spiza*) – Copalinga & Silanche.

**PURPLE HONEYCREEPER** (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*) – Silanche tower.

**GOLDEN-COLLARED HONEYCREEPER** (*Iridophanes pulcherrimus*) – An immature male was seen by some in the lower Guacamayos along the road.

**SWALLOW TANAGER** (*Tersina viridis*) – Seen especially well near Copalinga and on the lower Loja-Zamora road.

**GRAYISH SALTATOR** (*Saltator coerulescens*) – Nicely at Copalinga.

**BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR** (*Saltator maximus*) – Fairly common on both lower slopes.

**BLACK-WINGED SALTATOR** (*Saltator atripennis*) – This west-slope specialty was seen well at Septimo and Milpe.

#### Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

**PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH** (*Phrygilus unicolor*) – El Cajas & Papallacta Pass.

**ASH-BREASTED SIERRA-FINCH** (*Phrygilus plebejus*) – A male on the ground at the Catamayo airport was our only encounter with this generally widespread species of arid environments.

**BAND-TAILED SIERRA-FINCH** (*Phrygilus alaudinus*) – This handsome sierra-finch, with the sharp, bright-yellow bill, was seen well where we walked around near the Catamayo airport.

**BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT** (*Volatinia jacarina*) – In the same area were displaying Blue-black Grassquits.

**VARIABLE SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila corvina ophthalmica*) – The black-and-white seedeaters we saw at the Rio Nambillo (Mindó) and in the pastures near Silanche.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila luctuosa*) – This was the less common seedeater we saw in the tall grass along the "Baeza cutoff" road.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila nigricollis*) – Seen at the Rio Nambillo bridge at Mindó.

**CHESTNUT-THROATED SEEDEATER** (*Sporophila telasco*) – We scoped this one (so as to see its small chestnut throat patch!) in the Catamayo valley.

**THICK-BILLED SEED-FINCH** (*Oryzoborus funereus*) – We watched a male singing away where we stopped for Barred Puffbird in the disturbed pastures and woodland edge along the Silanche entrance road.

**PLAIN-COLORED SEEDEATER** (*Catamenia inornata*) – First seen briefly at El Cajas, it was ultimately seen well in the high-elevation fields on our approach to Yanacocha, where it delivered its haunting, discordant whistle.

**DULL-COLORED GRASSQUIT** (*Tiaris obscurus*) – Not exactly a stunner, but we saw it well in the arid Catamayo valley, a fitting habitat for this species.

**SLATY FINCH** (*Haplospiza rustica*) – A pair were seen first along the entrance road into Cajanuma and then another as we entered Huashapamba. They didn't show off, and I know some folks missed them.

**GLOSSY FLOWERPIERCER** (*Diglossa lafresnayii*) – This was the one with the whitish-blue shoulder patch; we saw it often in the highlands.

**BLACK FLOWERPIERCER** (*Diglossa humeralis*) – Llaviucu, Papallacta Pass, and Yanacocha.

**WHITE-SIDED FLOWERPIERCER** (*Diglossa albilatera*) – Best seen in the flowers at Tony & Barbara's, where we watched both sexes flick their wings, exposing their white flank patches as they went about their work of piercing corolla tubes to filch the nectar.

**BLUISH FLOWERPIERCER** (*Diglossa caerulea*) – Fairly common at San Isidro and on the Guacamayos Ridge.

**MASKED FLOWERPIERCER** (*Diglossa cyanea*) – Another common flowerpiercer that was widespread on our route--and very fond of hummingbird syrup!

**SAFFRON FINCH** (*Sicalis flaveola*) – They're real (not introduced!) where we saw them in the arid intermontane valleys of Catamayo and Loja; a bright addition to the landscape.

**RED-CRESTED FINCH** (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*) – A.k.a. Red Pileated-Finch. A male of this species was seen well by all as it came to the same trees several times--along the lower Loja-Zamora road. At the time THE BIRDS OF ECUADOR was written, this species was known only from the Zumba region of the Marañon Valley. We were quite surprised to see it, but it may have colonized to the north. It was new for Willy and me for our Ecuador lists.

**TANAGER FINCH** (*Oreothraupis arremonops*) – After much fishing, it became clear to me that what was needed really was a women's rest stop, during which Willy could locate a fabulous pair of this much-wanted, enigmatic bird. And it worked! Once found they were quite cooperative, singing away from the understory and showing quite well. The latest genetic research involving this species shows it to be most closely related to the bush-tanagers, in a general grouping with Arremon brush-finches (including the following species). This was only the second time I've seen the species in Ecuador; a real highlight for our final day of birding on the tour.

**OLIVE FINCH** (*Arremon castaneiceps*) – Along the rushing stream on the lower Loja-Zamora road. [\*]

**CHESTNUT-CAPPED BRUSH-FINCH** (*Arremon brunneinucha*) – Seen well by most at Tony & Barbara's when it approached the rice feeder. (Sorry, Margaret!)

**ORANGE-BILLED SPARROW** (*Arremon aurantirostris occidentalis*) – The western subspecies, which sounds quite different from the eastern one, was seen beautifully at the Milpe banana feeders.

**ORANGE-BILLED SPARROW** (*Arremon aurantirostris spectabilis*) – The eastern version, which could be split one of these days, liked the bananas at Copalinga, where it too gave us fabulous views.

**GRAY-BROWED BRUSH-FINCH** (*Arremon assimilis assimilis*) – As split from Stripe-headed Brush-Finch, this one occurs in the Andes from Venezuela and Colombia through Ecuador and Peru. We heard it at Cajanuma, but saw it well at Llaviucu, where its puffy white throat stood out in the dark understory.

**BLACK-STRIPED SPARROW** (*Arremonops conirostris*) – On the grounds at Septimo.

**PALE-NAPED BRUSH-FINCH** (*Atlapetes pallidinuca*) – Seen well with the big flock at Guango. Remember its crown patch ending in a white stripe?

**TRICOLORED BRUSH-FINCH** (*Atlapetes tricolor*) – The yellow-breasted birds of the foothills that we saw at Tony & Barbara's, Septimo, and Milpe.

**YELLOW-BREASTED BRUSH-FINCH** (*Atlapetes latinuchus latinuchus*) – These were the handsome yellow-breasted birds of the highlands; seen well repeatedly, but first at Cajanuma.

**WHITE-WINGED BRUSH-FINCH** (*Atlapetes leucopterus*) – Everyone saw this handsome brush-finch, with the white spot in the wing, at Tony & Barbara's rice.

**BAY-CROWNED BRUSH-FINCH** (*Atlapetes seebohmi*) – Maybe the prettiest of them all, this one was seen along the old Catamayo-Loja road near where we had lunch.

**TUMBES SPARROW** (*Rhynchospiza stolzmanni*) – Seen nicely several times in the Catamayo valley, this species was named for Tumbes, Peru, in the coastal desert that gave Tumbesian specialties their name. Formerly placed in the genus *Aimophila*, it's reminiscent of our Botteri's Sparrow.

**YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW** (*Ammodramus aurifrons*) – This lowlander, giving its buzzy, Grasshopper Sparrow-like song, was seen in the yard at Copalinga and along the Loja-Zamora road, where it has colonized well up into the highlands with increased deforestation.

**RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – Seen on almost every day of the tour.

**COMMON BUSH-TANAGER** (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) – This pale-eyed bush-tanager was common with the flocks and around the lights at San Isidro.

**DUSKY BUSH-TANAGER** (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*) – Common with the flocks on the Tandayapa Ridge in the west, this Choco specialty was one of our last new birds for the trip.

**SHORT-BILLED BUSH-TANAGER** (*Chlorospingus parvirostris*) – We had terrific views of this one, with the white eye and mustard whiskers, along the upper section of the old Loja-Zamora road, as we walked ahead of Edgar and our bus.

**YELLOW-THROATED BUSH-TANAGER (YELLOW-THROATED)** (*Chlorospingus flavigularis marginatus*) – We saw the western version at Un Poco del Choco and at Milpe.

**YELLOW-THROATED BUSH-TANAGER (YELLOW-THROATED)** (*Chlorospingus flavigularis flavigularis*) – The eastern version was at Bombuscaro, along the old Loja-Zamora road, and in the lower Guacamayos.

**ASHY-THROATED BUSH-TANAGER** (*Chlorospingus canigularis*) – Seen well with a flock along the old Loja-Zamora road.

#### Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

**SUMMER TANAGER** (*Piranga rubra*) – The whole genus *Piranga* has now been placed in the Cardinalidae, with the grosbeaks and allies. [So we no longer have any "true" tanagers in the U.S.] But we saw "our" Summer Tanagers wintering on both slopes in Ecuador, and some young males were already molting into their red breeding plumage. [b]

**WHITE-WINGED TANAGER** (*Piranga leucoptera*) – A stunning male along the old Loja-Zamora road.

**OCHRE-BREASTED TANAGER** (*Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*) – This genus is also not a "true tanager" but a Cardinalid. Some of us saw these heavy-billed birds with the big flock overhead along the trail at Milpe.

**GOLDEN-BELLIED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*) – A.k.a. Southern Yellow-Grosbeak, this big beauty adds a bright touch to its usually arid landscape. We saw scattered individuals from Catamayo to Tumbaco to Quito.

#### Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

**PERUVIAN MEADOWLARK** (*Sturnella bellicosa*) – Seen beautifully in the Catamayo valley, very close to the airport.

**SCRUB BLACKBIRD** (*Dives warszewiczi*) – Catamayo valley.

**SHINY COWBIRD** (*Molothrus bonariensis*) – Catamayo valley.

**YELLOW-TAILED ORIOLE** (*Icterus mesomelas*) – A nice addition at the Brown Wood-Rail site.

**MOUNTAIN CACIQUE (GOLDEN-SHOULDERED)** (*Cacicus chrysonotus leucoramphus*) – Cajanuma, Huashapamba, Guango, & San Isidro.

**SCARLET-RUMPED CACIQUE (PACIFIC)** (*Cacicus uropygialis pacificus*) – This race of the western lowlands was seen well at Silanche.

**SCARLET-RUMPED CACIQUE (SUBTROPICAL)** (*Cacicus uropygialis uropygialis*) – This montane race, sometimes considered a distinct species, was common on the east slope.

**RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA** (*Psarocolius angustifrons*) – Common in the east, where it reaches higher elevations than the following species; it was nest-building at San Isidro. [N]

**CRESTED OROPENDOLA** (*Psarocolius decumanus*) – Copalinga and Loja-Zamora road.

#### Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

**THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia lanirostris*) – Seen well at Copalinga bananas, along the Loja-Zamora road, and at the Milpe bananas.

**GOLDEN-RUMPED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia cyanocephala*) – Fanciest of the euphonias, males of this beauty were seen along the road beyond San Isidro and in the mistletoe along the Baeza cutoff road.

**FULVOUS-VENTED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia fulvicrissa*) – We had great studies of a male from the Silanche canopy tower; it was perhaps the first time we've seen this species on this tour.

**BRONZE-GREEN EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia mesochrysa*) – Loja-Zamora road & the lower Guacamayos.

**ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA** (*Euphonia xanthogaster*) – Common and widespread, and seen well repeatedly, especially at the banana feeders on both slopes.

**CHESTNUT-BREASTED CHLOROPHONIA** (*Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys*) – A male of this striking chlorophonia, with a flock along the road at Cajanuma, was enjoyed by all; it's a species easily missed on our tour.

**YELLOW-COLLARED CHLOROPHONIA** (*Chlorophonia flavirostris*) – But the chlorophonia highlight of the trip was seeing some many of these fruit-eaters so well! I've never seen so many--and so well! There were more fruits than usual in the western foothills, it would seem.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SISKIN** (*Spinus xanthogastrus*) – We saw a female from the Silanche tower and a male from our dining table, at brunch at

Refugio Paz.

**HOODED SISKIN** (*Spinus magellanicus*) – Catamayo valley & Cuenca; one was carrying nesting material. [N]

**OLIVACEOUS SISKIN** (*Spinus olivaceus*) – The eastern counterpart of the last species, this one was seen only along the Baeza cutoff.

---

## **MAMMALS**

**BRAZILIAN RABBIT** (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*) – Seen several times in the paramo at Papallacta Pass.

**RED-TAILED SQUIRREL** (*Sciurus granatensis*) – Supposedly the squirrels on both slopes of the Andes belong to this same taxon. We saw them at San Isidro, Milpe, and Silanche.

**BLACK AGOUTI** (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*) – Seen by Mike and Sally near the hummingbird pavilion at San Isidro, where it comes for corn.

**WHITE-TAILED DEER** (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – Sharp-eyed Mike picked out a male in velvet in the paramo above Papallacta Pass, where we looked, unsuccessfully, for Spectacled Bear.

---

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

In addition to the birds and mammals listed above, we saw what were probably various species of bats (from Copalinga to San Isidro) and a number of other critters. Perhaps the most outstanding was that of the big South American Bullfrog, *Leptodactylus pentadactylus*, along the trail at the Silanche Reserve.

---

**Totals for the tour: 534 bird taxa and 4 mammal taxa**