

Venezuela Tepuis

February 2, 2007 to February 11, 2007

Guided by
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For the past two years our tepuis trips have been characterized by fairly wet weather and relatively cool temperatures along the Escalera Road. So I was surprised by how very hot and dry conditions were this year. There had been no rain in the region for a couple of weeks, and where there had been deep mud and several inches of standing water on past trips, this year there was virtually none. And where clouds had obscured much of the scenery on the Gran Sabana in the past, this year's clear weather allowed us unobstructed views across the savanna, with tepui views unlike I had ever seen before!

While this lack of damp weather did have a dampening effect on the bird activity, it certainly didn't dampen our enthusiasm for birding in this wonderful corner of the country. Though quieter than usual, there were, of course, still plenty of birds to be seen, and plenty of memorable encounters with the pan-tepui endemics. Several days of working the upper reaches of the Escalera Road rewarded us with about 27 of the region's specialties, and some of the normally difficult to find species gave themselves up without much of a fight this year: a Greater Flowerpiercer living up to its name in a roadside flower bank; a very confiding pair of Roraiman Barbtails working methodically through the lower levels of stunted melastome forest, a pair of gorgeous Red-banded Furiteaters feeding quietly in a nearby fruiting tree. Of course we still had to work pretty hard for some species- the Streak-backed Antshrikes that finally obliged by giving us point-blank views; the wary Tepui Antpitta that we ultimately coaxed out of the dense forest understory; the diminutive Ruddy Tody-flycatchers that waited until the final morning before finally showing themselves- but the rewards were all the sweeter because of the hard work.

Besides the Tepui endemics, there were of course, many other avian treats. A few of the highlights: a female Guianan Toucanet and a brilliant male Purple-breasted Cotinga in the same fruiting Cecropia tree; the fabulous scope views of a perched Caica Parrot (my best ever!); the most cooperative Roraiman Screech-owls anyone could hope for; the spectacular Red-necked Woodpecker in the garden (not to mention all those hummers!); a gigantic male Black-throated Antshrike during our drive back to the north; the many multi-species feeding flocks we encountered in various spots, with Paradise, Speckled, Yellow-bellied, and Black-headed Tanagers among many others; the loud moaning of the Capuchinbirds on their lek; the squeals of Guianan Cock-of-the-rocks on theirs.

Just seeing all these amazing birds, the spectacular tepuis, and beautiful virgin forests is reward in itself. That I got to share it all with such an upbeat, enthusiastic group of fellow birders made it that much more special! Thanks for keeping me company in the tepuis this year; I'll look forward to your company on another trip sometime soon.

List total: 277 bird taxa and 5 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

tep07-JV

Tinamidae

- * GREAT TINAMOU (*Tinamus major*)
Heard along the lower Escalera.
- * LITTLE TINAMOU (*Crypturellus soui*)
Heard at the bridge over the Rio Cuyuni.

Phalacrocoracidae

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)
Good numbers at Cachamay Falls, and a single bird at the Villa Lola pond.

Anhingidae

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*)
A few at Cachamay Falls.

Ardeidae

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*)
A couple of folks saw one in a roadside pond one afternoon as we returned to the lodge.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)
The most commonly seen wader, though there weren't really that many of these seen either.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)
A few with cattle seen on the drives to and from Puerto Ordaz.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*)
Two birds seen in roadside ponds on our drive back north to Puerto Ordaz.

Threskiornithidae

GREEN IBIS (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*)
With the extremely dry weather in the region, the Rio Cuyuni was very low, and for the first time that I've seen, it had exposed mud along the edges. The three birds we saw feeding in this exposed mud on our drive down to Las Claritas were likewise a first for me on this tour.

Cathartidae

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)
Seen in good numbers most days.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)
Seen most days, though in the lowland forest regions around Las Claritas, this species is mostly replaced by the next.

GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes melambrotus*)
Small numbers in the lowlands on most days.

KING VULTURE (*Sarcoramphus papa*)
Singles were seen several times in the lowland regions, then as many as four birds over the power line cut on Corazon Road.

Pandionidae

- b OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)
A single bird at Cachamay Falls was the only one of the tour.

Accipitridae

GRAY-HEADED KITE (*Leptodon cayanensis*)
A calling bird along the Guyana Trail flew over a clearing in the forest just after we had left it, and only Bob W. got to see the bird.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*)
These elegant raptors were seen in small numbers most days.

PEARL KITE (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*)
One of these lovely little kites was seen very well, perched on a lamp post near the road when we stopped at one of the police checkpoints on our way back to Puerto Ordaz.

DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE (*Harpagus bidentatus*)
Great scope views of a perched bird along the km 88 (Capuchinbird) road.

N PLUMBEOUS KITE (*Ictinia plumbea*)

A few distant birds seen on several days early in the trip, then excellent looks over the final two days. Seen especially well on our way back north, when we found two different active nests.

CRANE HAWK (*Geranospiza caerulescens*)

Wonderful views of a bird performing a display flight over the forest at Corazon Road.

WHITE HAWK (*Leucopternis albicollis*)

A single, rather dirty looking bird perched in a dead tree along the upper Escalera.

GREAT BLACK-HAWK (*Buteogallus urubitinga*)

One bird in juvenile plumage was perched low over the water at the Villa Lola pond.

SAVANNA HAWK (*Buteogallus meridionalis*)

A couple of birds in the grassland regions during our drive back to the north. Some folks also saw one on the grassy verges of the runway at Puerto Ordaz.

GRAY HAWK (*Asturina nitida*)

Nice views of a perched bird at Las Claritas, and another soaring overhead along Corazon Road.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*)

A screaming pair in the stunted melastome forest along the upper Escalera, and a few more during the drive back to the north.

b BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*)

Edwin spotted our only one, a bird in juvenile plumage that was perched right next to the road on the lower Escalera.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*)

Two birds, one light, one dark, along the lower Escalera on our first trip up, and another soaring with a Black Hawk-eagle over the forest near the Gran Sabana.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albicaudatus*)

Just a single light-morph bird was seen over the Gran Sabana.

BLACK-AND-WHITE HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizastur melanoleucus*)

A very slow late afternoon in a normally active clearing north of Las Claritas was salvaged when Marilee spotted one of these rare and beautiful raptors soaring over the power lines in great light. Way to go Marilee!

BLACK HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)

Good views of a rather ragged moulting bird along the lower Escalera on our first day up, then another more clean-looking individual a few days later in the upper forests.

Falconidae

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*)

A few birds seen during the drives to and from Puerto Ordaz.

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima*)

A few along the drives north and south, as well as several birds on the Gran Sabana, including the usual ones hanging around the Soldier's Monument.

* LAUGHING FALCON (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

One heard at dusk as we waited for it to get dark enough to try for the screech-owl.

BAT FALCON (*Falco ruficularis*)

One bird was teed up on a tall dead tree behind the Anaconda Camp, a second was seen along the upper part of the Escalera.

Cracidae

SPIX'S GUAN (*Penelope jacquacu*)

*We flushed a pair from some fruiting trees along the upper Escalera, and had good views before they disappeared into the foliage. The form found here is the large subspecies *granti*.*

Jacaniidae

WATTLED JACANA (*Jacana jacana*)

A few in wetland areas along the drive back to Puerto Ordaz.

Charadriidae

SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*)
Two birds along the margins of Villa Lola pond.

Scolopacidae

- b** SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*)
A single bird beside a small pond south of El Dorado.

Columbidae

- I** ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)
In town.
- PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)
Joe spotted our only one puffed up against the cold on a prominent bush near the Soldier's Monument on the Gran Sabana.
- PLUMBEOUS PIGEON (*Patagioenas plumbea*)
A cozy pair huddled close together on a canopy perch along the km 88 road.
- RUDDY PIGEON (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)
Heard only one morning along the lower Escalera.
- EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*)
A couple of birds at the Puerto Ordaz airport.
- RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*)
Our only one was a male that put in a brief appearance in the lodge's garden during one of our afternoon breaks.
- N** GRAY-FRONTED DOVE (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)
Good views for John and Bob M. in the gardens during one of our afternoon breaks. We also flushed a dove, certainly this species, from a nest with 2 eggs on the rocky dome viewpoint on the lower Escalera.

Psittacidae

- RED-AND-GREEN MACAW (*Ara chloropterus*)
Almost daily along the Escalera road, with several great views. Most memorable was probably the pair that flew by the rocky dome outcrop at eye level in beautiful late afternoon light.
- BROWN-THROATED PARAKEET (*Aratinga pertinax*)
A small flock behind the Tumeremo gas station were the only ones for the trip.
- DUSKY-BILLED PARROTLET (*Forpus sclateri*)
A tight-flying flock of 20 or more flew overhead one late afternoon along the km 88 road.
- ORANGE-CHINNED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris jugularis*)
Quick views of a couple of birds at Parque Cachamay, here at the easternmost point of their range in Venezuela.
- COBALT-WINGED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*)
The small parakeets with yellow foreheads that we saw behind the Tumeremo gas station were this species. These birds were likely escaped cage birds, as in Venezuela they only naturally occur in Amazonas, a long way from Tumeremo.
- GOLDEN-WINGED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris chrysopterus*)
Quick views of a pair that flew over the garden on our first afternoon at Henry's. Olive also spotted a perched bird along the Guyana Trail, and though we got scope views, we couldn't make out the inconspicuous wing patch for which this species is named.
- BLACK-HEADED PARROT (*Pionites melanocephala*)
Excellent scope views of several birds teed up along the km 88 road. We also had a couple of quick fly-bys along the Corazon Road.
- CAICA PARROT (*Pionopsitta caica*)
Unbeatable scope studies of a single bird in the same tree with our first Black-headed Parrots at km 88. We usually only see this species in flight (if at all), and this was the first time I've gotten good looks at a perched bird.
- BLUE-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus menstruus*)
One of the more numerous of parrot species in this poor parrot year. Our best views were of a perched bird in excellent light along the lower Escalera.

ORANGE-WINGED PARROT (*Amazona amazonica*)

The most commonly seen parrot on the trip, but even this usually numerous species was relatively scarce this year. Still, we had several good views, especially in the early morning on the Gran Sabana.

Cuculidae

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*)

Only a couple of records, with one each on the lower Escalera and along the km 88 road.

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

Fair numbers in open grassy areas of the lowlands.

Strigidae

RORAIMA SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops roraimae*)

Generally a difficult, unresponsive species, and I had little hope that we'd be successful in finding this bird. But we did, and easily, having one in the spotlight within 5 minutes of trying at our very first stop along the lower Escalera. Wish it was this easy every year.

* FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium brasilianum*)

Heard one morning outside the lodge.

Caprimulgidae

BLACKISH NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus nigrescens*)

Great views of a bird flushed from a daytime roost on the rocky dome outcrop, then a couple spotlighted on the roadside the next morning.

Apodidae

E TEPUI SWIFT (*Cypseloides nelsoni*)

One of the target species at the rocky dome outcrop, and we had them there, though they were difficult to pick out from the swarms of White-collared as they all circled high overhead. On our last day we had better views of a small flock over the stunted melastome forest, and later the same day, a bunch more flying right over the lodge!

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

A huge flock of these large swifts circled over the rocky dome outcrop during our afternoon there.

BAND-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura spinicaudus*)

Seemed to be the most common small swift of the trip.

GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

A few in the lowlands and along the lower Escalera.

SHORT-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura brachyura*)

John spotted a lone bird over the km 88 road one afternoon.

WHITE-TIPPED SWIFT (*Aeronautes montivagus*)

Excellent close looks at this distinctive swift from the viewpoint on the rocky dome outcrop. We also had a couple over the lodge along with the Tepui Swifts on our last afternoon.

FORK-TAILED PALM-SWIFT (*Tachornis squamata*)

Small numbers in the vicinity of Mauritia palms south of Tumeremo.

Trochilidae

RUFIOUS-BREASTED HERMIT (*Glaucis hirsuta*)

One or two were regular visitors to the lodge feeders.

EASTERN LONG-TAILED HERMIT (*Phaethornis superciliosus*)

A single bird visited the lodge feeders a couple of times, and we also had good scope views of one on a song perch at a regular lek along the Guyana Trail.

STRAIGHT-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis bourcierii*)

Quick views a couple of times along the Escalera.

SOOTY-CAPPED HERMIT (*Phaethornis augusti*)

Great views of one at a regular stake-out flower patch on the Gran Sabana.

GRAY-BREASTED SABREWING (*Campylopterus largipennis*)

A couple were regularly seen at the lodge feeders.

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*)

Fairly common at the lodge feeders.

BROWN VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri delphinae*)

Easily the most numerous and conspicuous hummingbird in the higher parts of the Sierra de Lema, though there even seemed to be fewer than usual of these common hummers this year.

BLACK-THROATED MANGO (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)

Quite common at the lodge feeders, with a few seen elsewhere in the lowlands as well.

CRIMSON TOPAZ (*Topaza pella*)

Three or four males and a female or two were regular but spectacular fixtures at the feeders.

E PEACOCK COQUETTE (*Lophornis pavoninus*)

Our first couple of times up the Escalera we saw only females of this tepui endemic, but we finally tracked down a male that seemed to be occupying territory in the stunted melastome forest, and most of us got great scope views (with apologies to the ladies taking a rest break at the time).

BLUE-TAILED EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*)

A brilliant male at the same flower patch that attracted the Sooty-capped Hermit on the Gran Sabana.

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania furcata*)

Common at the lodge's feeders, as well as in the forests of the Sierra de Lema.

WHITE-CHINNED SAPPHIRE (*Hylocharis cyanus*)

Great scope looks at a singing male on a regular song perch on the Guyana Trail; we could even make out the indistinct white chin!

E TEPUI GOLDENTHROAT (*Polytmus milleri*)

Evasive, and only Ann got a reasonably good view of one that put in an all too brief appearance near the Soldier's Monument

WHITE-CHESTED EMERALD (*Agyrtria chionopectus*)

Great studies of a single bird that responded to pygmy-owl imitations at the Rio Cuyuni bridge. The all-black bill and bronzy wash to the rump and uppertail coverts distinguishing it from the very similar Versicolored Emerald which also occurs here.

E COPPER-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Saucerottia cupreicauda*)

A couple of birds, one along the lower Escalera, another in the higher forests near the Gran Sabana, were seen by almost everyone, but neither bird stuck around for long.

E VELVET-BROWED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa xanthogonys*)

Good looks first at a female braving the Brown Violet-ears at a flower patch near the sand quarry, then later several males, including a sparkling one feeding directly overhead near the alcabala.

BLACK-EARED FAIRY (*Heliostyris aurita*)

Oakley spotted our only one, a male, feeding in the canopy of a flowering tree on the rocky dome outcrop.

LONG-BILLED STARTRHOAT (*Helimaster longirostris*)

Probably the most numerous hummingbird at the feeders.

AMETHYST WOODSTAR (*Calliphlox amethystina*)

Great scope views of a male perched in a the dead twigs of a roadside tree on the upper Escalera on two occasions.

Trogonidae

WHITE-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon viridis*)

John spotted our first pair in a fruiting tree along the km 88 road, and we also encountered a couple of males later in the week, including one right in the garden at Henry's.

VIOLACEOUS TROGON (*Trogon violaceus*)

A calling male was enticed into flying by in the lodge garden but it landed out of sight and couldn't be located before it disappeared back across the road.

MASKED TROGON (*Trogon personatus*)

Several excellent looks along the upper Escalera, the best being of a pair in the stunted melastome forest, the female of which dropped onto the pavement at the road edge just a few feet in front of us, presumably to consume a bit of grit and gravel.

Alcedinidae

GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana*)

A lone bird at the Villa Lola pond was the only kingfisher of the trip.

Galbulidae

BROWN JACAMAR (*Brachygalba lugubris*)

Great views of up to 4 of these attractive small jacamars in the scrubby heath on the Gran Sabana.

YELLOW-BILLED JACAMAR (*Galbula albirostris*)

A male we called in along the km 88 road flew across the road in front of us, but we had to enter the forest before we managed to get decent views. The bird landed in the open briefly about 10 feet from us but flew off quickly, but we ultimately tracked it down and wound up with some good scope views.

PARADISE JACAMAR (*Galbula dea*)

A couple of these elegant birds were with a large mixed canopy flock near the Capuchinbird lek and they posed nicely for us for an extended period as we stuck with the flock trying to get good views of its other members.

GREAT JACAMAR (*Jacamerops aureus*)

A distant calling bird along the Guyana trail flew in quickly in response to my whistled imitation and gave us some great looks before darting off to continue defending his territory.

Bucconidae

WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*)

A single bird perched in some open branches across from the head of the Guyana Trail was our only one for the trip.

N SWALLOW-WING (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)

Common and seen daily, with great views right in the lodge gardens, where a pair was attending a nest burrow in a small sandy mound just behind the house.

Capitonidae

BLACK-SPOTTED BARBET (*Capito niger*)

A couple of folks were showering or snoozing when a female showed up in the garden our first afternoon at Henry's, but we caught everyone up with another pair along the km 88 road the next morning.

Ramphastidae

GREEN ARAGARI (*Pteroglossus viridis*)

Seen each day we spent in the lowlands, with especially good views our last morning as we worked our way back north.

BLACK-NECKED ARAGARI (*Pteroglossus aracari*)

Seen several times, including a group of 8 or more that passed through the garden one afternoon.

GUIANAN TOUCANET (*Selenidera culik*)

Several folks were doubting my birding ability when they reported seeing a bird in a Cecropia overhead and I looked up and declared it to be a female Guianan Toucanet. Seems they were looking at a male Purple-breasted Cotinga in the same tree! Fortunately, both birds stuck around long enough for all to enjoy scope views of both. We also had a second toucanet, this one a male, calling in the late afternoon at the rocky dome outcrop.

CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)

Few around this year, and we saw just two birds, one that flew over the garden one afternoon, and a second bird that we scoped on our way back north to Puerto Ordaz.

RED-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos tucanus*)

Joe spotted the only one we managed to get good looks at along the km 88 road late one afternoon, and we all got great scope views of this beautiful toucan, which is known as White-throated Toucan in the Venezuela field guide. Nice spotting Joe!

Picidae

GOLDEN-SPANGLED PICULET (*Picumnus exilis*)

Excellent views of a tiny male at about eye level as it traveled with a mixed flock along the km 88 road were met, if not surpassed, by our long encounter with a trio of birds, apparently a pair with a fledged youngster, that were actively feeding and interacting right in the lodge garden on our last afternoon.

YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)

A trio of these attractive woodpeckers were pretty much fixtures in the gardens, and we also encountered these lovely woodpeckers regularly elsewhere in the lowlands.

RED-CROWNED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*)

Bob W. saw the only one of the trip at Parque Cachamay.

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Piculus rubiginosus*)

The only woodpecker likely to be encountered in the forests along the upper Escalera, where we saw singles on two occasions.

WAVED WOODPECKER (*Celeus undatus*)

A rather territorial male along the km 88 road was also rather elusive, never staying in the open for very long, though everyone did eventually get good looks at him.

LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

The most commonly seen large woodpecker, with several seen, including right in the lodge gardens.

RED-NECKED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus rubricollis*)

A gorgeous female responded well and flew into a tree right next to the lodge giving us all spectacular views of this fantastic bird.

CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

A male seen in the fading late afternoon light along the Rio Cuyuni our first day was our only one until we returned north a week later and got good scope views of a female.

Furnariidae

PALE-BREASTED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis albescens*)

An excited pair showed well in the scrubby heath near the Soldier's Monument.

E TEPUI SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca demissa*)

Our first few encounters were less than satisfactory as the birds always seemed to stay in the canopy with the sun behind them, but we eventually got some good close views of a couple with a large mixed flock along the upper Escalera.

E RORAIMAN BARBTAIL (*Roraimia adusta*)

This beautiful little bird is always one of my favorite tepui endemics, but it is often one of the toughest to find. We got them easily this year, and actually had good sightings twice. The second sighting was best though, as we had point-blank views of a pair moving through the understory along with a pair of Tepui Redstarts on a newly discovered trail into the forest.

PLAIN XENOPS (*Xenops minutus*)

One or two were with several of the mixed flocks both in the lowlands and along the upper Escalera.

E WHITE-THROATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Automolus roraimae*)

Another often difficult-to-find species that we didn't have to work hard for this year. While we were watching a flower bank for hummingbirds in the stunted melastome forest, one of these birds came in and perched in a little window low in the scrub, calling a couple of times and staying long enough for all to see well, and a couple of folks to get scope views of! Not the usual foliage-gleaner encounter for sure!

BUFF-THROATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Automolus ochrolaemus*)

A pair near the cock-of-the-rock lek were very vocal but not all that eager to show themselves, though most folks finally managed a glimpse at least.

Dendrocolaptidae

OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)

A calling bird with a mixed flock along the upper Escalera had me fooled for a moment as I just can't get used to this species very different calls from the forms I'm more familiar with from Central America. Watch for this bird to be split into several different species someday, and remember where you saw them!

WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

Pairs were with a couple of our mixed flocks in the lowland forests.

***** BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

Usually common in the lowland forests, but very quiet this year, and we just heard one or two along the road north of the lodge.

CHESTNUT-RUMPED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus pardalotus*)

Excellent views of a responsive bird with a mostly uncooperative mixed flock of antwrens and antshrikes along the Guyana Trail.

LINEATED WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*)

A regular follower of canopy flocks in the lowlands, and we had good views of this species with several such flocks.

CURVE-BILLED SCYTHEBILL (*Campylorhamphus procurvoides*)

I heard one calling in a mixed flock along the km 88 road, played a little tape, and the bird came blasting in and perched on a small sapling near the road, giving us all fantastic views of its incredibly decurved bill. We were lucky as this species can be quite tough to see well.

Thamnophilidae

FASCIATED ANTSHRIKE (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*)

A poorly-seen pair with a mixed flock along the lower Escalera were the only ones seen.

BLACK-THROATED ANTSHRIKE (*Frederickena viridis*)

A bird heard along the km 88 road stayed resolutely out of sight, not an uncommon behavior with this species. Fortunately we heard another bird during a roadside stop on our way back north to Puerto Ordaz, and this bird, a male, was much more cooperative. We first saw it as it flew low across the track right in front of us, and then most of the group got even better views as it popped out of the dense tangle of fallen branches along the track.

MOUSE-COLORED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus murinus*)

Pretty good views of a calling pair on the Guyana Trail.

GUIANAN SLATY-ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus punctatus*)

We finally found this species on our way back to Puerto Ordaz, just before the Black-throated Antshrike appeared. Though responsive, it stayed mainly hidden, and only a few folks got good clear views.

E STREAK-BACKED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus insignis*)

After much trolling for this species in the stunted melastome forest, we finally hit pay dirt in the middle of the day and wound up with smashing point-blank looks at a male of one of these handsome antshrikes.

***** DUSKY-THROATED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnomanes ardesiacus*)

One calling in a mixed flock along the Guyana Trail refused to show itself.

CINEREOUS ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnomanes caesius*)

One was calling in the same flock as the preceding species, and like that one, it just wouldn't come out. A few days later however, we did get pretty good views of a male in some forest north of Las Claritas.

RUFOUS-BELLIED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula guttata*)

Excellent looks at a male of this lovely little antwren along the Guyana Trail.

BROWN-BELLIED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula gutturalis*)

A big mixed flock along the Guyana Trail held several species of antwrens, including a pair of this species which is endemic to the Guianan Sheild region. These birds were more responsive than most of the others, but were still a bit elusive, and not everyone got their bins on them in all the antwren confusion.

LONG-WINGED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula longipennis*)

A pair was present in the multi-antwren flock along the Guyana Trail, but were even more reticent than most of the other species, and they were only seen by a few folks.

GRAY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*)

A pair in the same flock as the previous two species were seen by some, while more folks got on the ones with a mixed subcanopy flock on our last morning along Corazon Road.

SPOT-TAILED ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus sticturus*)

This species and the next are almost identical in appearance, and are often in the same flocks, so voice is critical in helping distinguish between them. We saw this antwren with mixed canopy flocks both along the km 88 road and on Corazon Road.

TODD'S ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus stictocephalus*)

Heard with a couple of flocks at km 88, though only Ann saw this species with one of our first canopy flocks; the rest of us were distracted by something else when the Todd's showed itself briefly.

E RORAIMAN ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus roraimae*)

This antwren replaces the previous two species in the highland forests of the Sierra de Lema, where we had several encounters with them.

ASH-WINGED ANTWREN (*Terenura spodioptila*)

Only a few folks got on a male of this tough-to-see species with one of the mixed canopy flocks at km 88.

***** GRAY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra cinerascens*)

Heard a few times in the lowland forests.

DUSKY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)

Smashing views of a very close pair in a tangle of ferns on the roadside at km 88. The subspecies here is saturator, which has bolder white wing bars and white scalloping on the lesser coverts than other subspecies.

WHITE-BROWED ANTBIRD (*Myrmoborus leucophrys*)

A calling bird along the Guyana Trail moved in close to us, but was only seen by a couple of people.

WARBLING ANTBIRD (*Hypocnemis cantator*)

Excellent close views of a singing (but not really warbling!) bird on the lower Escalera. The subspecies here is notaea, a good thing to note as the species could be split into several closely related forms someday.

SPOT-WINGED ANTBIRD (*Percnostola leucostigma*)

Two different forms of this species occur in the region, most certainly two separate species. In the lowlands there is the pink-legged nominate form, at higher elevations, gray-legged obscura (which is part of a complex that some authors have recently split off as Roraiman Antbird). We saw one of the two forms below the cock-of-the-rock lek, at an elevation somewhat intermediate between the two forms. Since we didn't see the leg color, and the only calls we heard were the short rattle, which apparently is not significantly different between the two, it is not 100% certain which species we saw. However, based on the reading I've been doing, I believe we saw the nominate form, and not, unfortunately, Roraiman Antbird.

* WHITE-BELLIED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza longipes*)

Heard along the Corazon Road, and we glimpsed some movement in the thick secondary scrub, but the bird stayed well out of sight.

FERRUGINOUS-BACKED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza ferruginea*)

The area we were visiting is at the limit of this species' range in Venezuela, and it is generally a rare bird in the region. We had a calling male along the Guyana Trail (my first ever for the tour) but, though the bird was extremely vocal, it wasn't very cooperative, and only a few folks managed a good view of it.

* RUFOUS-THROATED ANTBIRD (*Gymnopithys rufigula*)

Heard at close quarters along the Guyana Trail, but it moved off when we got close. We really needed an ant swarm to give us a good shot at seeing this species.

Formicariidae

E TEPUI ANTPITTA (*Myrmothera simplex*)

A quiet afternoon on the upper Escalera was salvaged when we managed to call in one of these skulking birds and enticed it into view so that everyone got great looks. Often one of the tougher tepui endemics to see well, so we were fortunate to get such a clear view of this bird.

Cotingidae

SHARPBILL (*Oxyruncus cristatus*)

One with a mixed canopy flock along the lower Escalera was only seen by a few folks.

E RED-BANDED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola whitelyi*)

A calling bird at one of the regular sites just wouldn't come out where we could see it, but fortunately a couple of days later we lucked into a pair feeding quietly in a nearby fruiting tree, and we had wonderful lengthy views of both birds.

SCREAMING PIHA (*Lipaugus vociferans*)

One with a mixed flock at km 88 was the only one we saw, but we also heard this species at ear-splittingly close range at a traditional lek along the Guyana Trail.

E ROSE-COLLARED PIHA (*Lipaugus streptophorus*)

In short supply this year, but we finally found one on our second last day, in the melastome forest of the upper Escalera. The bird, a female, was seen well by all. The next morning we had another sighting of a pair, and several folks had great looks at the rose-collared male before they both flew off across the forest.

PURPLE-BREASTED COTINGA (*Cotinga cotinga*)

A brilliant male fed in a roadside Cecropia tree along with a Guianan Toucanet on the lower Escalera. A second distant male was also seen with Pompadour Cotingas in another Cecropia on Corazon Road.

SPANGLED COTINGA (*Cotinga cayana*)

A couple of quick views of males along the km 88 road.

POMPADOUR COTINGA (*Xipholena punicea*)

Frustratingly uncooperative. We spotted one in a distant fruiting tree along Corazon Road, but the bird disappeared before more than a couple of folks got it. Then Oakley spotted another one in the other direction, and the same thing happened, so only about half the group actually saw this spectacular bird.

PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW (*Querula purpurata*)

Some excellent looks at a pair in the canopy above the Guyana Trail, the male's purple throat glowing brilliantly in the sunlight.

CAPUCHINBIRD (*Perissocephalus tricolor*)

Likely due to the very hot and dry conditions, these birds were much less active on their lek than on any of my previous visits. They also seemed to have moved further into the forest than in the past, possibly due to excessive playback of their calls (according to a recent note in one of the bird journals). And so, they were tough to find this trip. Most folks got only a few views in flight, though a couple of people also got a quick look at a bird on a well-concealed display perch before it took off. Still, the experience of being below these birds as they called was unforgettable!

* WHITE BELLBIRD (*Procnias alba*)

There was limited calling from these birds this year in comparison to usual, and no birds at all in the upper parts of the Escalera where we spent most of our time, and so we only heard this species.

* BEARDED BELLBIRD (*Procnias averano*)

A single bird was calling from a concealed perch along the upper Escalera, and try as we might, we were unable to see its perch from the road. Surprisingly, this was the only we heard all week.

GUIANAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK (*Rupicola rupicola*)

Fortunately it was business as usual for one cotinga species at least, and we had some good views of this spectacular bird both near the lek along the lower Escalera, and also in a fruiting melastome tree up higher.

Pipridae

E OLIVE MANAKIN (*Chloropipo uniformis*)

Great looks at several of these rather dull manakins in the stunted melastome forest.

WHITE-THROATED MANAKIN (*Corapipo gutturalis*)

A calling female (or young male) responded well though it stayed well up in the canopy along the lower Escalera.

GOLDEN-HEADED MANAKIN (*Pipra erythrocephala*)

Several birds displaying at a lek along the Guyana Trail, and a single male in the fruiting melastomes on the upper Escalera.

E SCARLET-HORNED MANAKIN (*Pipra cornuta*)

A weird and wonderful manakin, this showy species was seen very well several times in the fruiting melastomes of the upper Escalera. However, they were less numerous than usual, perhaps because the fruiting trees seemed to be less productive than usual.

E TEPUI MANAKIN (*Lepidothrix suavisissima*)

One of the first tepui endemics we encountered, and we had many good views of this striking little manakin at various sites along the Escalera.

WING-BARRED PIPRITES (*Piprites chloris*)

A responsive bird with a mixed flock along the upper Escalera was seen quite well.

Tyrannidae

WHITE-LORED TYRANNULET (*Ornithion inerme*)

Fairly common in lowland forest along the km 88 road, where we saw a couple.

YELLOW-CROWNED TYRANNULET (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

Most commonly seen in the gardens of the lodge, where one or two were regular visitors during the afternoon breaks.

* FOREST ELAENIA (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)

Very similar to the preceding species, though somewhat larger and with a less conspicuous crown patch. It's possible we may have seen this species with some of the mixed flocks, but we never had a confirmed visual identification. But we did hear their distinctive calls on several occasions.

PLAIN-CRESTED ELAENIA (*Elaenia cristata*)

Surprisingly there was just a single one of these normally common birds in the heathy scrub near the Soldier's Monument.

GREAT ELAENIA (*Elaenia dayi*)

A pretty elusive individual was seen by most folks with a small mixed flock in the heathy scrub below the Soldier's Monument. Generally quite rare at the north end of the Gran Sabana, and this was just my second one.

OCHRE-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes oleagineus*)

Good looks at a pair with a mixed flock along the km 88 road.

SEPIA-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*)

A single bird was seen by some with a mixed flock along the upper Escalera.

E BLACK-FRONTED TYRANNULET (*Phylloscartes nigrifrons*)

Fairly common along the upper Escalera where we had multiple good views of them, most often in the company of mixed species flocks.

SLENDER-FOOTED TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)

Good scope views of one regurgitating mistletoe seeds in the lodge's garden one afternoon.

***** SHORT-TAILED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Myiornis ecaudatus*)

Heard in lowland forest north of the lodge, but we were unable to see this tiny canopy species.

HELMETED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Lophotriccus galeatus*)

Fantastic views of a pair along the km 88 road, one of which fully raised its crest in response to playback. Another bird was well-seen along the lower Escalera.

E RUDDY TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Poecilatriccus russatus*)

Fairly vocal, but this species gave us a lot of trouble at the usual sites, so we looked for a new spot on our final morning, and we finally hit pay dirt with a cooperative pair feeding in the stunted melastomes below the alcabala.

COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

A couple in the scrub at the Rio Cuyuni crossing.

YELLOW-MARGINED (ZIMMER'S) FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias assimilis examinatus*)

A pair with a mixed flock along the lower Escalera. Note that this form has a completely different song than other "Yellow-margined" flycatchers, and is a good candidate to be split sometime soon.

CLIFF FLYCATCHER (*Hirundinea ferruginea*)

A pair at the quarry along the lower Escalera used the guard rail as a convenient hunting perch.

b OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*)

A single bird at the edge of the Gran Sabana.

SMOKE-COLORED PEWEE (*Contopus fumigatus*)

*A couple of birds seen regularly at the same site on the upper Escalera. The form found here is the tepui endemic race *duidae*.*

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus sordidulus*)

A wood-pewee species seen at about km 117 of the Escalera was likely this species, based on the range maps and specimen records in Hilty.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

A lovely male at the checkpoint south of Tumeremo was perhaps a little out of its usual range.

WHITE-HEADED MARSH-TYRANT (*Arundinicola leucocephala*)

A female perched low in a shrub at the edge of the Villa Lola pond.

CATTLE TYRANT (*Machetornis rixosus*)

Good looks at a pair on the roadside at the checkpoint south of Tumeremo.

GRAYISH MOURNER (*Rhytipterna simplex*)

One with a mixed flock along the Guyana Trail, and a second bird with another mixed flock on Corazon Road.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

One seen in the power line cut north of Henry's.

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

A single bird in Parque Cachamay.

GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

Seen in small numbers during the drives between Puerto Ordaz and Las Claritas.

RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)

Recorded most days, including a resident pair in the lodge gardens.

YELLOW-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Conopias parva*)

Great scope looks at a pair in the late afternoon on the rocky dome overlook. This species was formerly considered conspecific with White-ringed Flycatcher.

STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)

One with a mixed canopy flock along the km 88 road and a pair at a roadside stop on our way back to Puerto Ordaz were the only ones seen. These birds belong to the widespread resident race tobagensis.

PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*)

A pair with at least one recently-fledged juvenile were fixtures in the lodge gardens.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

Seen pretty much daily, including a pair at the alcabala along the upper Escalera, and others on the Gran Sabana.

BLACK-TAILED TITYRA (*Tityra cayana*)

A female in the garden one afternoon was the only tityra of the trip.

Hirundinidae

BROWN-CHESTED MARTIN (*Progne tapera tapera*)

A single bird of the resident nominate subspecies was hawking insects from a power line behind the Tumeremo gas station.

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*)

Small numbers on several days around Las Claritas.

WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW (*Tachycineta albiventer*)

Good views of a few of these lovely swallows at the Rio Cuyuni crossing.

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)

Small numbers were seen regularly in the Sierra de Lema.

BLACK-COLLARED SWALLOW (*Atticora melanoleuca*)

A little tough to find this year, as we had arrived late at Parque Cachamay, but we finally located a pair going in and out of a crack in a rock among the cataracts. Though a bit distant and distorted by heat interference, the birds showed up pretty well through the scope.

TAWNY-HEADED SWALLOW (*Alopochelidon fucata*)

John and Olive saw one of these swallows flying across the Gran Sabana, but by the time the rest of us got on it, no salient features were discernable.

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)

A single bird on the Gran Sabana, and a few more at the Rio Cuyuni crossing.

Troglodytidae

* CORAYA WREN (*Thryothorus coraya*)

Heard along the Escalera road, but the birds were completely unresponsive.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Heard and seen regularly in the lodge's gardens, with a few recorded elsewhere as well.

* WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucosticta*)

Heard only near the Capuchinbird lek.

E FLUTIST WREN (*Microcerculus ustulatus*)

Their beautiful songs were heard regularly in the forests of the Sierra de Lema, and we found a fairly responsive bird at one of our picnic lunch stops, but the generally poor viewing conditions and the skulking nature of this species made it tough to spot, and only about half the group got decent views.

Mimidae

TROPICAL MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus gilvus*)

Aside from a couple of pairs on the Gran Sabana, this species was seen only in the open country to the north of El Dorado.

Turdidae

RUFIOUS-BROWN SOLITAIRE (*Cichlopsis leucogenys*)

Small numbers of this slender thrush were seen regularly in the fruiting melastomes along the upper Escalera.

YELLOW-LEGGED THRUSH (*Platycichla flavipes*)

While several of us continued our pursuit of the Ruddy Tody-flycatchers, Bob W. spotted and scoped our only one of these birds for the folks that stayed out on the road.

BLACK-HOODED THRUSH (*Turdus olivater*)

*Best seen was a cheerfully singing male along the upper Escalera shortly after the Yellow-legged Thrush disappeared. The subspecies found here, *roraimae*, has a much less extensive black hood (really just a black head) than some other forms.*

PALE-BREASTED THRUSH (*Turdus leucomelas*)

A couple of birds in Parque Cachamay and a few along one of the rivers in the Gran Sabana.

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH (*Turdus ignobilis*)

*The most commonly seen thrush in the Sierra de Lema, with a few birds on each trip into the mountains. Local birds belong to the rather dull subspecies *murinus*.*

WHITE-NECKED THRUSH (*Turdus albicollis*)

A single bird in a fruiting Cecropia tree along the lower Escalera on our first day up.

Poliptilidae

TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (*Poliptila plumbea*)

A pair joined the pygmy-owl mob at the Rio Cuyuni on our way back north.

Corvidae

CAYENNE JAY (*Cyanocorax cayanus*)

Common in the lowlands, with a couple of large parties passing through the gardens regularly, stopping off to munch on the ripe papayas near the house.

Vireonidae

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*)

*One with a mixed subcanopy flock on Corazon Road, another with the pygmy-owl mob at the Rio Cuyuni. The birds we saw were most likely of the resident subspecies *vividior*, rather than boreal migrant *olivaceus* or austral migrant *chivi*, both of which also occur in the country.*

LEMON-CHESTED GREENLET (*Hylophilus thoracicus*)

Good views of a couple with a large mixed subcanopy flock along the Corazon Road.

E TEPUI GREENLET (*Hylophilus sclateri*)

Fewer were seen than usual this year, but we did have good looks at a pair with a mixed species flock along the upper Escalera.

BUFF-CHEEKED GREENLET (*Hylophilus muscipinus*)

A couple with a mixed flock on the Guyana Trail were tough to see well as they stayed high in the canopy where they were usually backlit. Still, those whose necks didn't cramp up too badly did manage to see the distinguishing features.

SCRUB GREENLET (*Hylophilus flavipes*)

A couple were seen at Parque Cachamay, and at the Rio Cuyuni bridge. The birds we saw were all dark-eyed; elsewhere (western Venezuela, Central America) adults are distinctively pale-eyed.

SLATY-CAPPED SHRIKE-VIREO (*Vireolanus leucotis*)

One with a mixed canopy flock along the lower Escalera was seen by just a couple of folks.

Fringillidae

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis psaltria*)

As they were last year, a pair was present behind the Tumeremo gas station during both our stops there.

Parulidae

TROPICAL PARULA (*Parula pitiayumi*)

*Two subspecies were seen: the widespread form *elegans* at Parque Cachamay, and the tepui form, *roraimae*, in the Sierra de Lema.*

b YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)

A few birds at Parque Cachamay.

- b** BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*)
A single record of a female with a mixed flock along the upper Escalera.
- b** BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*)
A single bird was present most days in the lodge gardens, and a few scattered individuals were seen elsewhere.
- b** CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*)
Nice views of a male along the upper Escalera. Hilty only mentions a single record of this species for the region, but this is the second consecutive year we've found a Cerulean here. Still, this species is certainly a vagrant in the region.
- b** AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*)
Several records in the Sierra de Lema, with at least one female (or young male) and one or two adult males.
- b** NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)
A single bird with the pygmy-owl mob at the Rlo Cuyuni crossing.
- SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus*)
Small numbers along the upper Escalera, where this species is represented by the race verticalis.
- E** TEPUI REDSTART (*Myioborus castaneocapillus*)
We missed these birds our first two times up into the Sierra de Lema, but then had stellar close views of a very confiding pair (along with a nearby pair of Roraiman Barbtails) along an inner forest trail. Later the same day we also had a second pair at the Peacock Coquette hang out.
- E** TWO-BANDED WARBLER (*Basileuterus bivittatus roraimae*)
Though here considered conspecific with Two-banded Warbler, this form is almost certainly a species in its own right. We had just one encounter, a trio of birds that Olive located when she returned to the bus for her stool. Fortunately the birds were cooperative and stuck around for the rest of the group to go back and see, Good find, Olive!

Coeribidae

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*)

Very common in the Sierra de Lema, where we saw them in good numbers daily. Somewhat less numerous in the lowland forests, but we still saw this species most days.

Thraupidae

BLACK-FACED TANAGER (*Schistochlamys melanopis*)

Smaller than usual numbers in the scrubby heath on the Gran Sabana.

MAGPIE TANAGER (*Cissopis leveriana*)

A single one of these striking tanagers teed up nicely for us at the start of the Guyana Trail.

YELLOW-BACKED TANAGER (*Hemithraupis flavicollis*)

A couple of pairs with a couple of mixed species canopy flocks. We had especially good scope looks at a male along Corazon Road.

E OLIVE-BACKED TANAGER (*Mitrospingus oleagineus*)

Usually one of the more regularly-encountered endemics in the stunted melastome forest along the upper Escalera, but this species, like so many others, was scarcer than usual. Our only sighting was of a group of 5 or more, and though we saw them well, we gave them short shrift as a pair of fruiteaters distracted us shortly after we'd found the tanagers. Little did we know these would be our only ones.

FLAME-CRESTED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus cristatus*)

Pairs were seen with a couple of mixed canopy flocks along the km 88 road.

FULVOUS-CRESTED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus surinamus*)

A male, at least, was with a mixed flock along the Corazon Road; some folks may also have seen a female in the same flock...she was almost certainly present as this species usually travels in pairs.

WHITE-SHOULDERED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)

Our only ones were a couple of birds in the same flock as the preceding species.

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*)

One pair joined the pygmy-owl mobbing at the Rio Cuyuni crossing.

RED-SHOULDERED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus phoenicius*)

Quite common in the Sierra de Lema. The red shoulder patches are usually not visible, but we saw them well on one male that flew across the road in front of us.

- b** SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*)
A couple of records in the Sierra de Lema consisting of at least one male and one female.
- WHITE-WINGED TANAGER (*Piranga leucoptera*)
A male of the local race venezuelae was seen beautifully in the fruiting trees on the upper Escalera.
- N** SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo*)
Common both in the lowlands (including around the lodge) and right up into the Gran Sabana. An active nest with two eggs was in one of the small bushes right beside the kitchen.
- BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*)
Very common and seen daily.
- PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)
Almost as common as the Blue-gray Tanagers, and likewise seen daily.
- VIOLACEOUS EUPHONIA (*Euphonia violacea*)
Very few euphonias were around this year, and we had just one record of a pair of this usually common species in the lodge garden one afternoon.
- ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)
The common euphonia of the higher elevation forests along the Escalera road, though as with the previous species, there were far fewer than normal this year.
- RUFIOUS-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia rufiventris*)
A male with a mixed flock along the km 88 road was seen briefly only by Joe and myself.
- TURQUOISE TANAGER (*Tangara mexicana*)
A party of half a dozen or more passed through the garden several times, and used the tall tree just outside the lounge as a resting perch. We had some wonderful scope views of them as they sat wing-to-wing high in the canopy.
- PARADISE TANAGER (*Tangara chilensis*)
Very common in the Sierra de Lema, where we saw them in good numbers daily.
- YELLOW-BELLIED TANAGER (*Tangara xanthogastra*)
Quite common in the Sierra de Lema, with fair numbers daily in the fruiting trees there, often in the company of the very similar Speckled Tanagers.
- SPOTTED TANAGER (*Tangara punctata*)
Generally found only in the lower elevation forests, usually below the range of the similar Speckled and Yellow-bellied Tanagers. Also seems to be much less common, and we had just two sightings- a pair in a fruiting tree along the km 88 road, and another pair with a mixed canopy flock on the Guyana Trail.
- SPECKLED TANAGER (*Tangara guttata*)
Quite common in the Sierra de Lema, where we saw them daily.
- BAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara gyrola*)
Small numbers daily in the Sierra de Lema.
- BURNISHED-BUFF TANAGER (*Tangara cayana*)
Like many other species, this bird, which is usually common on the Gran Sabana, was very scarce, and we saw just a couple near the Soldier's Monument.
- BLACK-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanoptera whitelyi*)
Good views of pairs several times in the Sierra de Lema. This race is endemic to the pan-tepui region and is probably better treated as a separate species.
- OPAL-RUMPED TANAGER (*Tangara velia*)
A single bird with a mixed flock on the lower Escalera was not seen by everybody.
- BLACK-FACED DACNIS (*Dacnis lineata*)
One gorgeous male was seen with a pair of Blue Dacnises along the drive back to Puerto Ordaz.
- BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*)
Small numbers seen several times in lowland forest.
- GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)
A few records both in lowland forest and along the lower Escalera.
- PURPLE HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)
A few birds were in the vicinity of the sand quarry along the lower Escalera.

RED-LEGGED HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*)

Just a few of these normally common birds were around this year.

Emberizidae

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina*)

Small numbers in grassy fields near the Guyana Trail and elsewhere.

GRAY SEEDEATER (*Sporophila intermedia*)

Good views of a male behind the Tumeremo gas station.

E GREATER FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa major*)

Often one of the more difficult of the tepui endemics, partly because the main part of this species' range lies above 1800m, and we were only up as high as 1500m. But we had good luck this year, and got smashing views of a single bird at the only place I've ever encountered this species on the upper Escalera, but only on our first stop at the site. Several other stops later in the week failed to turn up another flowerpiercer.

E TEPUI BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes personatus*)

A fairly common endemic, and they were quite conspicuous and confiding this year, giving us good views on most of our days along the Escalera.

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

A few in open areas along the Escalera, such as near the alcabala and the Soldier's Monument.

Cardinalidae

YELLOW-GREEN GROSBEAK (*Caryothraustes canadensis*)

A big active flock of these grosbeaks were hanging around a fruiting tree along the km 88 road.

Icteridae

CARIB GRACKLE (*Quiscalus lugubris*)

Seen only around Puerto Ordaz, and at the Maiquetia airport, where there was a huge roost right next to the walkway.

GIANT COWBIRD (*Scaphidura oryzivora*)

A couple of birds feeding in the grass inside the hydroelectric substation at Las Claritas.

RED-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus haemorrhous*)

A single bird passed through the garden one afternoon, seen only by Marilee.

N CRESTED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

Very common in the region and seen most days, with a couple of active colonies in the lowlands.

GREEN OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius viridis*)

A few of these large, uncommon oropendolas were seen during a roadside stop on our way back to Puerto Ordaz.

E GOLDEN-TUFTED GRACKLE (*Macroagelaius imthurni*)

One of the more numerous and easily seen of the tepui endemics, with good-sized flocks seen on each trip up the Escalera.

MAMMALS

RED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta seniculus*)

John and I saw 3 or 4 moving through the trees on the edge of the garden during one of the afternoon breaks.

WEDGE-CAPPED CAPUCHIN (*Cebus olivaceus*)

A bunch of semi-tame ones looking for handouts at Parque Cachamay.

PALE-THROATED THREE-TOED SLOTH (*Bradypus tridactylus*)

One dozing individual in a Cecropia tree behind the Tumeremo gas station.

RED-RUMPED AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta agouti*)

Olive saw one dash across the road near the Guyana Trail.

CRAB-EATING FOX (*Cerdocyon thous*)

A couple of foxes glimpsed along the lower Escalera had to be this species, according to the Venezuela mammal book Henry had at the lodge.