

Kania Tepuis

January 24, 2008 to February 2, 2008

Guided by
Jay VanderGaast

The tepui region of southeastern Venezuela has become one of my favorite birding destinations over the past few years of leading tours here. The diversity of habitats- the misty forests of the Sierra de Lema, the steamy Guianan Shield lowlands, and the sweeping grasslands of the Gran Sabana - hold an extraordinary number of exciting bird species, and every single tour I've led to the region has been different. One never knows what surprises will turn up, which endemics will play nice, and which will be hard to get. And this element of surprise keeps the tour fresh and exciting for me, which is why I was thrilled to be leading this extra tour to the region.

After last year's very dry conditions, it was good to see that the Sierra de Lema was back to its usual rainy self, though we could have used a little less rain those last couple of days! Still, the conditions were mostly good for the birds, and some of the normally hard-to-get endemics came quite easily this year. Among those were Streak-backed Antshrikes which were among the first endemics we hit in the upper melastome forests. A couple of encounters with both the elusive Roraiman Barbtail and the rather quiet (compared to their "Screaming" cousins) Rose-collared Pihas were simply superb. Also, two of the most skulking endemics- Tepui Antpitta and Flutist Wren- put on simply unbeatable performances. And finally, it was great to see Rufous-breasted Sabrewing and Fiery-shouldered Parakeet back in good numbers as both were awol last year. Conversely this year there were no Peacock Coquettes about (none seen in 2 weeks) and Greater Flowerpiercer was likewise absent, though this is less of a surprise.

Apart from the endemics there were plenty of other memorable birds. Among them were stunning looks through the scope at a most cooperative Orange-breasted Falcon which allowed us to really take note of the plumage differences between this species and the much more common Bat Falcon. Fifteen parrot species were seen, with most of them scoped at one point or another, with the local Blue-cheeked and wonderful Red-fans being highlights. A pair of gorgeous Red-necked Woodpeckers brightened up a rather gray morning along the km 88 road, and a return visit one afternoon finally gave us satisfying views of the bizarre Capuchinbirds. And another cotinga, the fiery Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, performed just brilliantly, and it was tough to pull ourselves away (alrighty then).

All in all I had a lot of fun leading this trip and sharing the wonderful birdlife of the region with you. A lot of birds and a lot of laughs make for a fun tour, and this trip definitely had a lot of both. An unexpected byproduct of this tour for me is that I am now reminded of all of you whenever I see Reba McIntyre on TV, though I must admit, I'll never think of her the same way again, thank you all very much! Anyway, I enjoyed it, as I hope you all did, and I very much look forward to catching up with you all on another tour sometime soon. Jay.

List total: 302 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*

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Tinamidae

- * VARIEGATED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus variegatus*)
Heard several times in the lowlands.

Pelecanidae

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)
A few along the coast.

Phalacrocoracidae

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)
Hundreds at the Cachamay rapids.

Anhingidae

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*)
A couple at Cachamay, and 2 or 3 more at a couple of ponds we stopped at on the way back north.

Fregatidae

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*)
Plenty seen along the coast.

Ardeidae

CAPPED HERON (*Pilherodius pileatus*)
Great views of at least two, possibly three, of these lovely herons at the falls in Parque Cachamay.

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*)
One bird flying by at Cachamay, another seen flying past south of Tumeremo.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)
Fair numbers at Cachamay, and a few elsewhere.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Small numbers along the drive to/from the lodge, with a few also around Las Claritas.

Cathartidae

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)
Common along the drives, as well as near Luepa on the Gran Sabana.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)
Fairly common, though mostly replaced by the next species in the heavily forested lowland areas.

LESSER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes burrovianus*)
One bird made a low pass overhead as we birded near a pond in the dry scrub on our way back north.

GREATER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE (*Cathartes melambrotus*)
Some good views of this species over the tall forest along the km 88 road, and elsewhere.

Pandionidae

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Three or four birds at the falls at Cachamay, and one seen at a pond on our way north.

Accipitridae

GRAY-HEADED KITE (*Leptodon cayanensis*)
Smoking views of an adult, first flying overhead in good light, then perched and scoped in a nearby tree.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*)
Small numbers of these graceful raptors were seen several times along the Escalera as well as in the lowlands.

DOUBLE-TOOTHED KITE (*Harpagus bidentatus*)
One circled over a small clearing along the Guyana trail a few times, but that was surpassed by a fine adult that was perched just over our heads at the entrance to Corazon Road.

PLUMBEOUS KITE (*Ictinia plumbea*)
Small numbers at several areas, including good scope views of a perched bird from the lodge grounds.

CRANE HAWK (*Geranospiza caerulescens*)
A nice scope study of one at our roadside clearing stop on our way north. Birds here are gray, not black like the birds found in Central America.

SAVANNA HAWK (*Buteogallus meridionalis*)

Several on the drive north, with scope views of one by the ponds south of Upata.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*)

Good views of one at the checkpoint on the upper Escalera most times we passed by.

b BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*)

Small numbers in the Sierra de Lema.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*)

A single light morph bird circling over the lower Escalera in the company of a Broad-winged Hawk.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albicaudatus*)

A classy-looking hawk. We had amazing views of several light-morph birds on the Gran Sabana, both perched and in flight.

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

One was riding a thermal with a couple of vultures behind the lodge one afternoon, and was seen fairly well by those that showed up before it had risen too high.

BLACK HAWK-EAGLE (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)

Great looks at one that circled over the Bearded Bellbird song perch on the upper Escalera.

Falconidae

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*)

A few along the road on the north/south travel days, with a few also on the Gran Sabana.

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima*)

Several on the Gran Sabana, including the regular one hanging around the Soldier's Monument. Also seen on the travel days.

LAUGHING FALCON (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

Some folks saw one from the bus on the drive south, then we all were treated to the sight of one bird calling as it flew over the power line cut along Corazon Road.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

A few in open country on the drives to and from the lodge.

APLOMADO FALCON (*Falco femoralis*)

It wasn't a stellar view but we did see one flying fast and straight across the Gran Sabana, as we birded along the Rio Aponwao.

ORANGE-BREASTED FALCON (*Falco deiroleucus*)

Wow! Superb scope views of one perched in a dead tree near the start of the km 88 road, as we headed to the Capuchinbird lek one afternoon. The bird was facing us and we had ample time to study it and note the subtle differences between this bird and the very similar Bat Falcon, ie the white throat contrasting with the orange breast, the narrower dark band across the belly, the coarser, more scalloped looking barring. My best view ever of this rare species!

b PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*)

A single bird soaring over Parque Cachamay was a good find as this is a rather uncommon winter resident in Venezuela.

Cracidae

RUFIOUS-VENTED CHACHALACA (*Ortalis ruficauda*)

A flock of no fewer than 7 birds was in the scrub behind our hotel on the coast.

Odontophoridae

MARBLED WOOD-QUAIL (*Odontophorus gujanensis*)

We heard some calling near the road on the lower Escalera, so I went into the brush on the opposite side and played a little tape, and almost immediately one flew across the road, offering up surprisingly good views.

Rallidae

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinica*)

A single colorful adult at a small pond along the km 88 road.

Jacaniidae

N WATTLED JACANA (*Jacana jacana*)

A couple of adults along with a small, white-breasted chick at a pond along the km 88 road.

Charadriidae

SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*)

A pair were seen by some alongside a small pond during our drive into the lodge, but we couldn't find them again on our return north.

Scolopacidae

b SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*)

A couple at the rapids at Cachamay.

Columbidae

I ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

Regularly in Las Claritas

SCALED PIGEON (*Patagioenas speciosa*)

Some nice views of this attractive pigeon at the start of the Guyana trail

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata*)

A single perched bird near the Soldier's Monument.

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)

One was seen from the bus during the drive south to the lodge, another during the pond stop on the way back north.

***** PLUMBEOUS PIGEON (*Patagioenas plumbea*)

Heard along the km 88 road.

RUDDY PIGEON (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)

Heard several times, then finally seen in the power line cut on Corazon Road.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*)

A pair walking along the road to the pond during our drive north.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*)

A few in the dry scrub near Upata, and a couple more behind the Tumeremo gas station.

***** GRAY-FRONTED DOVE (*Leptotila rufaxilla*)

Heard only along the Guyana Trail.

Psittacidae

RED-AND-GREEN MACAW (*Ara chloropterus*)

Seen in small numbers most days on the Escalera, with our best views coming near the big rocky dome, where we scoped a trio in a not too distant tree. Also seen in the lowlands a few times.

CHESTNUT-FRONTED MACAW (*Ara severa*)

A pair of these small macaws showed up behind our coastal hotel in the late afternoon. Impossible to say whether these birds were part of a natural population of macaws or if they are escapees (or descendants of escapees), but they were wild enough to count.

WHITE-EYED PARAKEET (*Aratinga leucophthalmus*)

*Large numbers were feeding in a flowering *Erythrina* tree in Guasipati. Also seen at Tumeremo on our way back north. Not a species we usually see on this tour.*

BROWN-THROATED PARAKEET (*Aratinga pertinax*)

A single bird flying across the Gran Sabana gave us quite good looks. A couple more were seen at the pond stop on our way north.

***** PAINTED PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura picta*)

Heard several times along Corazon Road, but they always managed to avoid being seen.

E FIERY-SHOULDERED PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura egregia*)

*Our first tepui endemic of the trip, with 3 birds in some fruiting *Cecropia* trees midway up the Escalera road. Also seen our final day, with one flock of 20+ birds flying across a clearing as we watched for cock-of-the-rock near the alcabala.*

GREEN-RUMPED PARROTLET (*Forpus passerinus*)

An open country bird, this bright green parrotlet was first seen behind the Tumeremo gas station, then we got much better looks at a bunch around the pond south of Upata.

DUSKY-BILLED PARROTLET (*Forpus sclateri*)

Several noisy flocks whipped overhead along the km 88 road, but we didn't get good views until our last day when we found a single, very responsive bird along the Corazon Road. Much more of a forest bird than the preceding species, and this parrotlet is also much darker green, and of course, it has a dusky bill, as we saw so well.

ORANGE-CHINNED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris jugularis*)

The confluence of the Coroni and Orinoco rivers marks the easternmost point in this species' range, and we saw a couple of pairs right near this point, at Parque Cachamay.

GOLDEN-WINGED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris chrysopterus*)

A small flock was teed up on a distant tree along the Corazon Road. The gold was tough to see on the perched birds, but eventually they flew directly overhead so that we could easily make out the color on the upper wing.

BLACK-HEADED PARROT (*Pionites melanocephala*)

Excellent scope looks at a couple perched near the lodge one afternoon. Normally quite a common bird, but this pair were our only ones this trip.

BLUE-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus menstruus*)

The common small parrot in the lowlands, where we saw it in good numbers most days.

DUSKY PARROT (*Pionus fuscus*)

Good scope views of one teed up on a dead tree along the Km 88 road. This species tends to be solitary, unlike the more common Blue-headed Parrot.

BLUE-CHEEKED PARROT (*Amazona dufresniana*)

Fabulous scope studies of a couple of pairs early in the morning along the Km 88 road. Like the preceding species, this bird is a specialty of the Guianan Shield region.

ORANGE-WINGED PARROT (*Amazona amazonica*)

The most common of the Amazona parrots in the region, and we saw a few birds on several days, with some good scope studies of a pair near the start of the Guyana Trail.

MEALY PARROT (*Amazona farinosa*)

Scope views of a couple of birds along the km 88 road. Also noted along the Corazon Road.

RED-FAN PARROT (*Derophtus accipitrinus*)

Missing in action last year, and this year we saw just a single pair, but what views! Both were sitting up with a couple of Orange-winged Parrots, and stayed put long enough for all to admire in the scope.

Cuculidae

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*)

A few of these very squirrel-like cuckoos in the lowlands.

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

Fairly common in open areas of the lowlands.

Strigidae

* RORAIMA SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops roraimae*)

Our first attempt was almost successful: a bird called, then came in, but as soon as I located it, it took off, and we never saw or heard it again. The weather was perfect on our final night's attempt, but we didn't so much as hear a single bird. Always tough.

Apodidae

E TEPUI SWIFT (*Cypseloides nelsoni*)

A few flew over the lodge one afternoon, but had to be identified by shape and size, as the light was too poor to make out the rusty collar.

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

About 20 or more birds flew north over the lodge gardens during our final afternoon siesta. More were seen the next morning south of El Dorado.

BAND-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura spinicaudus*)

The most numerous small swift seen in the lowlands; especially numerous over the km 88 road where we had our best views.

GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

A few over the lodge grounds the first afternoon there were the only ones we positively identified.

SHORT-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura brachyura*)

Just a few birds along the km 88 road.

WHITE-TIPPED SWIFT (*Aeronautes montivagus*)

One small flock spent a little time over the rocky dome overlook as we climbed up, and another group was seen over the upper Escalera, but our views were not as good as usual.

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

A few folks saw a couple of distant birds at the National Guard check point south of Tumeremo, the only site along the way where this species is regularly seen.

Trochilidae

RUFIOUS-BREASTED HERMIT (*Glaucis hirsuta*)

A couple of birds were regular visitors to the backyard feeders at the lodge.

EASTERN LONG-TAILED HERMIT (*Phaethornis superciliosus*)

Excellent studies of perched, singing birds at their lek along the Guyana Trail. One also turned up at the feeders one afternoon.

STRAIGHT-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis bourcieri*)

Several sightings along the lower Escalera and on the Guyana Trail, but they were always fleeting. Still, quite a few folks got identifiable looks at them.

SOOTY-CAPPED HERMIT (*Phaethornis augusti*)

One was about to visit some flowers we were watching on the Gran Sabana when a second hummer chased it away, and so no one really got a great view of it.

REDDISH HERMIT (*Phaethornis ruber*)

A couple of quick flybys in the lowlands.

BLUE-FRONTED LANCEBILL (*Doryfera johannae guianensis*)

Super views of a couple on our first day up the Escalera; we even got to see the blue front on the second one!

GRAY-BREASTED SABREWING (*Campylopterus largipennis*)

One or two were daily visitors to the lodge's feeders.

E RUFIOUS-BREASTED SABREWING (*Campylopterus hyperythrus*)

Missing completely at this time last year, but this year they were quite common along the upper parts of the Escalera and we saw several birds on each visit to the right area.

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*)

A couple of males visited the lodge feeders pretty regularly.

BROWN VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri delphinae*)

The common hummer along the Escalera; pretty much every significant patch of flowers had one or several.

BLACK-THROATED MANGO (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)

First seen at Cachamay, but better looks were had at the lodge feeders, where several visited daily.

CRIMSON TOPAZ (*Topaza pella*)

Quite common and spectacular at the lodge feeders. Birds included at least one male with nice tail plumes, and a juvenile male just starting his moult into adult plumage.

BLUE-TAILED EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*)

A sparkling male was seen at a flower patch in the woody heath near the Soldier's Monument. Another was well seen at some flowers below the bridge over the Rio Aponwao.

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania furcata*)

A few birds were hanging about the lodge feeders, and we saw several also along the lower parts of the Escalera.

WHITE-CHINNED SAPPHIRE (*Hylocharis cyanus*)

Good scope views of a couple of birds on a long-used lek near the start of the Guyana Trail, but even with the scope we couldn't really make out any white in the throat. One also along the Corazon Road.

- E** TEPUI GOLDENTHROAT (*Polytmus milleri*)
Smashing views of a female, both feeding and perched, in the heathy scrub near the Soldier's Monument.
- GLITTERING-THROATED EMERALD (*Polyerata fimbriata*)
A couple of birds at some flowering Mimosa trees at the National Guard checkpoint on the Gran Sabana.
- E** COPPER-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Saucerottia cupreicauda*)
A pair that perched right in front of the group as we searched for the goldentthroat were not seen well by all, so the fabulous views we had of a bird at some flowers by the Rio Aponwao were much appreciated.
- COPPER-RUMPED HUMMINGBIRD (*Saucerottia tobaci*)
Our views of this species at our lunch stop on the way south were just okay. Copper-tailed Hummingbird was until recently considered conspecific with this more widespread hummer.
- E** VELVET-BROWED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa xanthogonys*)
Small numbers on the Escalera; most were females, but we did also notch a couple of males.
- BLACK-EARED FAIRY (*Heliothryx aurita*)
On our last day on the Escalera, one flew in close to the group, then moved off and fed for a while in the nearby canopy, allowing all those that had missed earlier ones to catch-up with this dainty little gem.
- LONG-BILLED STARTHROAT (*Helimaster longirostris*)
The most numerous of the hummer species at the lodge feeders.
- AMETHYST WOODSTAR (*Calliphlox amethystina*)
Pretty nice scope views of a male perched in a roadside shrub on the upper Escalera.

Trogonidae

WHITE-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon viridis*)
A couple of birds in some roadside Cecropia trees at km 88.

VIOLACEOUS TROGON (*Trogon violaceus*)
Scope views of a male along the lower Escalera. Some authorities consider this Amazonian form a separate species from the "Northern" Violaceous Trogon of Central America and western Colombia and Ecuador. Also seen well along Corazon Road.

MASKED TROGON (*Trogon personatus*)
We finally connected with this species on our final day on the Escalera, with smashing close-up views of a pair.

Momotidae

- *** BLUE-CROWNED MOTMOT (*Momotus momota*)
One heard calling from deep scrub at the Rio Cuyuni bridge.

Galbulidae

BROWN JACAMAR (*Brachygalba lugubris*)
Three or four birds were at their usual spot near the Soldier's Monument, where we saw them on both of our visits.

GREEN-TAILED JACAMAR (*Galbula galbula*)
A shining male seen by the lodge during one of our afternoon breaks was a nice pick up and only the second I've seen in the region. Luckily for those that were sleeping during that break, we found him in the gardens again the next afternoon.

PARADISE JACAMAR (*Galbula dea*)
A couple of good views along the km 88 road, and a pair were seen around the lodge one afternoon too. There were also three birds at a roadside stop on our way back north; I've never seen so many of these birds before!

Bucconidae

WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*)
Nice looks at a pair in some roadside Cecropias at Km 88, drying off after a late morning rain shower. Another pair was at the start of the Guyana Trail.

SWALLOW-WING (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)
A couple around the lodge one day, then several birds on prominent perches along the km 88 road.

Capitonidae

BLACK-SPOTTED BARBET (*Capito niger*)

Missed by some the first time we ran into this species on the lower Escalera, but everyone caught up with some nice scope views of a male along the Corazon Road.

Ramphastidae

GREEN ARACARI (*Pteroglossus viridis*)

Great views of at least 7 birds that passed through the lodge grounds late one afternoon.

BLACK-NECKED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus aracari*)

The commoner of the two aracaris here; we saw groups of half a dozen or more several times.

CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)

Super scope views of a calling bird across the road from the lodge one afternoon. We could even see his red mouth lining when he opened up to croak! A few more were seen during our travel day back to the north.

RED-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos tucanus*)

A brief encounter with one along the km 88 road was improved upon when we scoped a couple of birds at the start of the Guyana Trail. Also known as White-throated Toucan.

Picidae

GOLDEN-SPANGLED PICULET (*Picumnus exilis*)

Fabulous scope views of one intently hammering on a small dead branch, on the upper part of the Escalera.

YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)

At least 3 or 4 birds were pretty steady fixtures on the lodge grounds.

RED-CROWNED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*)

Good numbers of this common woodpecker at Parque Cachamay.

GOLDEN-COLLARED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis cassini*)

Excellent views of a pair of these small woodpeckers with a big mixed flock along the lower Escalera.

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Piculus rubiginosus*)

The only woodpecker that is commonly encountered in the upper parts of the Escalera, and we saw this attractive bird several times there.

LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

Good views both along the km 88 road, as well as during our drive back to the north. The latter bird was in the same tree as a Crimson-crested Woodpecker- a great opportunity to note the differences between these two similar birds.

RED-NECKED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus rubicollis*)

Henry was pretty certain these birds were nesting on his property again, and we certainly saw them there, but our best views came along the km 88 road, where a stellar pair were the highlights of a morning where we were hoping that the Capuchinbirds would be the stars.

CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

Good scope views of a female in the same tree as a Lineated. This species much wider white facial stripe was obvious to say the least. We also saw a male later the same day, prospecting in a dead tree over the pond we were scanning.

Furnariidae

PALE-BREASTED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis albescens*)

Some very good views of this species in the scrubby savanna around the Soldier's Monument. Also seen in the dry scrub south of Upata, where one joined the bird mob attracted to my pygmy-owl imitations.

* MACCONNELL'S SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis macconnelli*)

Heard once along the upper Escalera, but we just couldn't entice it out where we could see it.

E TEPUÍ SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca demissa*)

Heard every time we went up into the Sierra de Lema, but they played hard to get until almost the last minute, when a pair dropped into the bush next to us and gave us some pretty decent views.

E RORAIMAN BARBTAIL (*Roraimia adusta*)

This lovely bird has always been one of my favorite of the tepui endemics; it is also often one of the toughest to get. We had them twice this trip; all but Ann saw the first pair in the stunted melastome forest near the alcabala. Ann got hers a couple days later at another site further up the road.

PLAIN XENOPS (*Xenops minutus*)

I think there was just a single bird with the big mixed canopy flock we were following along the lower Escalera.

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

Heard a couple of times near the alcabala, but we never really got close.

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

Most folks got great looks at this bird with our big mixed flocks (canopy and understory simultaneously!) on the lower Escalera, but in the wonderful confusion of so many birds at the same time, some folks missed this bird altogether.

Dendrocolaptidae

PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)

A single bird near the start of the Guyana Trail raised hopes of an army ant swarm, as this species is a regular attendee of swarms, but sadly, it was feeding by itself and the swarm never materialized.

OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)

Some excellent looks at one in the stunted melastomes along the upper Escalera. This species is likely comprised of several similar species, so note where you've seen them, as there are armchair ticks to be had in the future.

WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)

Several encounters with this smallest of the woodcreepers in the lowlands and along the lower part of the Escalera.

BUFF-THROATED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*)

Commonly heard, but the only ones seen were in the same flock, and seen just before, the almost identical Chestnut-rumped Woodcreepers.

CHESTNUT-RUMPED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus pardalotus*)

Virtually identical to the preceding species, and best separated by the distinct vocalizations. We saw this species a couple of times on the lower Escalera, including our first pair in the same flock as the Buff-throated! Thank goodness they were both vocalizing!

LINEATED WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*)

Lowland canopy flocks were scarce this trip, but we finally found a small one along Corazon Road that had one of these birds tagging along.

CURVE-BILLED SCYTHEBILL (*Campylorhamphus procurvoides*)

Most of the understory flock we hit on the Guyana Trail got away before we got close, but we did manage to pull out this spectacular woodcreeper which gave us multiple views before rejoining the flock.

Thamnophilidae

***** GREAT ANTSHRIKE (*Taraba major*)

A couple heard calling at the start of the Guyana Trail.

BLACK-CRESTED ANTSHRIKE (*Sakesphorus canadensis*)

A striking antshrike, and we had super looks at a male in the dry scrub at our roadside lunch stop near the town of Upata. Our views of a pair at the pond south of Upata were perhaps even better- what a handsome bird!

BARRED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus doliatus*)

While we tried to spot the calling Black-crested Antshrike at our lunch stop, a female of this species popped out of the scrub first, followed shortly by the male Black-crested.

MOUSE-COLORED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus murinus*)

A pair along the km 88 road were not all that cooperative, though I think everyone got some kind of a view.

GUIANAN SLATY-ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus punctatus*)

Great looks at a male feeding low and in the open along the start of the Guyana Trail.

E STREAK-BACKED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus insignis*)

We often have trouble with this antshrike, which is generally a lot quieter than most species, but we heard a couple of pairs on our first morning up in the melastome forest, and the male of the second pair came right out into the open for all to see. As is typical, we never again heard or saw this species, though an intriguing call at dusk one day may have been this species.

PLAIN ANTVIREO (*Dysithamnus mentalis*)

Nice looks at a pair along the upper Escalera.

CINEREOUS ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnomanes caesius*)

I believe we had all just managed to get on this bird, a male, before the Capuchinbirds showed up and distracted our attention. This was during our late afternoon visit to the lek.

PYGMY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula brachyura*)

Can be a tough little bird to see, as it generally stays quite high in the canopy, but we had pretty good views of a pair that came fairly low along the km 88 road

* RUFOUS-BELLIED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula guttata*)

Our only record was of a calling but unresponsive bird at the Capuchinbird lek on our afternoon visit.

BROWN-BELLIED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula gutturalis*)

Some folks got on a male in the mixed flock frenzy along the lower Escalera, and I think most that didn't saw the one in the little antwren flock during the afternoon Capuchinbird visit.

WHITE-FLANKED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)

Pairs of these birds were with the same flocks as the preceding antwren, though I think no one saw anything but the rather dull females in both cases.

GRAY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula menetriesii*)

A calling bird during our morning visit to the Capuchinbird lek was partly cooperative, and was seen by at least part of the group

SPOT-TAILED ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus sticturus*)

A regular follower of lowland mixed canopy flocks, which we had rather poor luck with this trip. We did finally get this bird though, with a very small canopy flock along Corazon Road.

* TODD'S ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus stictocephalus*)

The best way to separate this species from the nearly identical Spot-tailed is by voice. By that reasoning, we actually got on the best field mark of this species, which we heard a couple of times but never saw.

E RORAIMAN ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus roraimae*)

The upper elevation replacement of the preceding two species, and generally much easier to find than they. Most canopy flocks along the Escalera had a pair and we saw them well pretty much on every trip up the road.

* GRAY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra cinerascens*)

Heard only along the lower Escalera.

DUSKY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)

Good response from a pair along the km 88 road, and we saw both male and female really well.

WHITE-BROWED ANTBIRD (*Myrmoborus leucophrys*)

Good views for all at a responsive male along the Guyana Trail. Another male on Corazon Road showed extremely well for the few folks that were in the right position.

* GUINAN WARBLING-ANTBIRD (*Hypocnemis cantator*)

Heard a few times along the lower Escalera, but surprisingly unresponsive. A recent paper has been published proposing the split of Warbling Antbird into six (I think) distinct species, based on range, habitat, and vocalizations, hence the "Guianan" modifier.

* WHITE-BELLIED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza longipes*)

Missing, or just quiet, at the usual sites, though we heard one at our lunch stop on our way south.

BLACK-THROATED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza atrothorax*)

An antbird of overgrown, grassy areas, and generally quite difficult to see well. We certainly saw the grass move many times before we finally managed to see this bird at the start of the Guyana Trail.

* RUFOUS-THROATED ANTBIRD (*Gymnopithys rufigula*)

At least 3 birds were heard along the Guyana Trail raising hopes of an army ant swarm, but we couldn't find a swarm and the birds moved away in response to playback, which is my usual experience with this species.

Formicariidae

* SHORT-TAILED ANTTHRUSH (*Chamaeza campanisona*)

A distant bird giving its bouncing song along the lower Escalera.

- E** TEPUI ANTPITTA (*Myrmothera simplex*)
A calling bird along the upper Escalera allowed itself to be lured into view after teasing us for a while first. After a couple of brief appearances for one or two folks, the bird finally popped out onto an exposed perch where we managed to scope him for some fabulous views!

Cotingidae

SHARPBILL (*Oxyruncus cristatus*)

Pretty good views for most of one with a mixed canopy flock along the lower Escalera.

- E** RED-BANDED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola whitelyi*)
Tough this trip, and in the end, Denis was the only one to get a good view of one. This was on our final morning as we made a concerted effort to find this species, but the male that we called in just wasn't interested in sticking around.

SCREAMING PIHA (*Lipaugus vociferans*)

Usually extraordinarily difficult to spot on the song perches, but we found one easily this time, and got pretty good scope views of it screaming, even getting to see its tongue! What a sound!

- E** ROSE-COLLARED PIHA (*Lipaugus streptophorus*)

A quiet afternoon on the Escalera was salvaged by a stunning male piha that posed perfectly for us before vanishing into the stunted melastome forest. We later saw another male near the alcabala, and a pair back at the site of our first encounter. Normally I consider the group lucky to see just one.

PURPLE-BREASTED COTINGA (*Cotinga cotinga*)

A fruiting tree we found on our way back to Puerto Ordaz seemed to be attracting a bunch of cotingas, but unfortunately it was quite backlit, so when one of these colorful birds showed up, we could just barely discern its colors.

SPANGLED COTINGA (*Cotinga cayana*)

Lovely scope views of a sparkling male teed up on a dead branch near the start of the Guyana trail.

POMPADOUR COTINGA (*Xipholena punicea*)

As with the Purple-breasted Cotinga, the male of this species turned up in the same backlit fruiting tree and again it was hard to discern colors. We had far better views of a pair of females that were sitting in some dead branches in better light on the other side of our clearing.

PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW (*Querula purpurata*)

A couple of distant groups were seen during our northward travel day, and some got views of the purple-throated male through the scope.

CAPUCHINBIRD (*Perissocephalus tricolor*)

Our morning visit netted us only fly by views, necessitating a second visit, which we decided to do one afternoon. This was a good decision as it turned out, as the birds seemed much more active than the previous day and we wound up with great views of this odd bird. Aren't those calls great?

BEARDED BELLBIRD (*Procnias averano*)

A male was calling from a traditional territory on the upper Escalera, and though it took some time, we finally managed to locate him and get some okay scope views as he called from his partially concealed perch. Follow up visits to try to improve our views were stymied as he was never around again after that.

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

A flyby male on our first day in the Sierra de Lema would have sufficed, though everyone was hoping we'd get longer, better views. And did we! As we tried to get good views of a female at a fruiting tree, a male flew in, teasing us for a while with glimpses of brilliant orange before hopping out into the open and searing our retinas. Wow! A highlight of the trip for pretty much everybody.

Pipridae

- E** OLIVE MANAKIN (*Chloropipo uniformis*)

Easy this trip, as one popped out into the open while we watched a flower patch on the upper Escalera.

- E** SCARLET-HORNED MANAKIN (*Pipra cornuta*)

Our only male was seen much lower than I usually see this species, but we saw him well, and that's what counts. Several females were seen at fruiting trees higher along the road.

- E** TEPUI MANAKIN (*Lepidothrix suavisissima*)

A stunning little bird, and we had multiple great encounters with this little gem.

WING-BARRED PIPRITES (*Piprites chloris*)

A pair with a mixed flock along the lower Escalera cooperated quite nicely, though they stayed quite high in the canopy.

Tyrannidae

SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)

One joined in the pygmy-owl mob in the dry scrub along the road on our way back to the north.

MOUSE-COLORED TYRANNULET (*Phaeomyias murina*)

The same pygmy-owl mob also attracted one of these rather confusing tyrannulets.

YELLOW-CROWNED TYRANNULET (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

Good views of a pair in the garden of the lodge one afternoon.

* FOREST ELAENIA (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)

Heard a couple of times though I don't recall ever seeing one.

PLAIN-CRESTED ELAENIA (*Elaenia cristata*)

Only one pair was found this year, near the Soldier's Monument on the Gran Sabana.

SIERRAN ELAENIA (*Elaenia pallatangae olivina*)

One at a fruiting tree along the upper Escalera was a good find, as this species does not seem all that common in the region.

MACCONNELL'S FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes macconnelli*)

Good views for those that saw it, with our big mixed flock along the lower Escalera. Looks like an Ochre-bellied Flycatcher without wing bars.

SEPIA-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*)

One with the same mixed flock that held the MacConnell's.

E BLACK-FRONTED TYRANNULET (*Phylloscartes nigrifrons*)

A lovely and distinctive little tyrannulet, which we saw very well a couple of times along the upper Escalera.

SLENDER-FOOTED TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius gracilipes*)

Seen both along the lower Escalera and the km 88 road, and finally also at our roadside stop on the way back north.

HELMETED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Lophotriccus galeatus*)

We battled this bird for quite a while before it finally relented and allowed us all a good look.

E RUDDY TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Poecilatriccus russatus*)

On our fourth try for this species we finally hit pay dirt when one popped up into some nearby melastomes and showed off beautifully.

PEARLY-VENTED TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer auyantepui*)

This race is restricted to the tepuis region, has a very different call to other forms, and may be a good species on its own. We had excellent looks at one near the Soldier's Monument.

COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

Several at Parque Cachamay as well as some at the pond on our way north.

YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias sulphureus cherriei*)

One was seen at Parque Cachamay.

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

Fairly common with mixed canopy flocks in the lowlands and along the lower Escalera, and we saw them several times.

GRAY-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*)

During siesta break one afternoon, one of these birds began to call just outside the lodge, though Denis, Sue, Donnalynn and I were the only ones around (and awake?) to see it.

YELLOW-BREASTED (OCHRE-LORED) FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias flaviventris collingwoodi*)

One or two of these birds were with a small flock at Parque Cachamay.

BRAN-COLORED FLYCATCHER (*Myiophobus fasciatus*)

One on the Gran Sabana was not seen by everyone.

- RUDDY-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*)
One was seen by some along the Guyana Trail, and another seemed to be following the small canopy flock at Corazon Road.
- * CINNAMON TYRANT (*Neopipo cinnamomea*)
Heard at the Capuchinbird lek, but it wouldn't respond.
- CLIFF FLYCATCHER (*Hirundinea ferruginea*)
Good views of a pair at the alcabala, where they came in to eat moths attracted to the lights left on there overnight.
- b OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*)
One at the alcabala on the upper Escalera was a good find. The book only mentions a single record for this region, but I have seen at least a single bird here most years.
- SMOKE-COLORED PEWEE (*Contopus fumigatus*)
*Fairly common on the upper Escalera. The race here is *duidae*, which is restricted to the tepui region.*
- WHITE-HEADED MARSH-TYRANT (*Arundinicola leucocephala*)
Nice looks at a pair of these at the pond on our way back north.
- CATTLE TYRANT (*Machetornis rixosus*)
A couple of birds at the Tumeremo gas station.
- * BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTILA (*Attila spadiceus*)
Heard several times in the lowlands, but never seen.
- DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)
A single worn-looking bird along the Guyana Trail.
- SWAINSON'S FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus swainsoni phaeonotus*)
Good response from a pair in some woodland on the Gran Sabana, and consequently we had good views, too.
- BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)
A couple of birds were at Parque Cachamay.
- GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)
Quite common at Cachamay and elsewhere in the north, but not seen around the lodge.
- RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)
Seen pretty much daily, with at least a pair being daily fixtures on the lodge grounds.
- SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*)
A couple of birds behind our coastal hotel, and others seen on our drive back to the north.
- YELLOW-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Conopias parva*)
Good scope views of a single bird along the Km 88 road.
- STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)
A pair seemed to be prospecting for nest holes in a large dead tree along the km 88 road.
- PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*)
One along the Rio Cuyuni, and another in the lodge gardens.
- VARIEGATED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonomus varius*)
A single bird was seen at the start of the Guyana Trail.
- TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)
Daily.
- FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus savana*)
A few folks saw a couple of birds flying beside the bus on our drive back north.
- BLACK-CAPPED BECARD (*Pachyramphus marginatus*)
Part of the group saw a male with the big mixed canopy flock on the lower Escalera.
- CINEREOUS BECARD (*Pachyramphus rufus*)
A male of this species was a nice surprise (and a long-awaited lifer for me) in a big mob of birds at Parque Cachamay. Sadly it didn't stick around long, and was not seen by all.

BLACK-TAILED TITYRA (*Tityra cayana*)

Seen well at the start of the Guyana Trail, and some saw a pair that visited the lodge grounds a couple of afternoons.

BLACK-CROWNED TITYRA (*Tityra inquisitor*)

A male and two females were just above the entrance to the Guyana Trail.

Hirundinidae

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*)

Small number were seen on several days, including from our hotel on the coast.

WHITE-WINGED SWALLOW (*Tachycineta albiventer*)

Seen along the Cuyuni river crossing, and the Villa Lola ponds.

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

A few were seen along the lower Escalera.

BLACK-COLLARED SWALLOW (*Atticora melanoleuca*)

Good numbers of this sleek and rather local swallow were seen in flight over the rapids at Cachamay.

TAWNY-HEADED SWALLOW (*Alopochelidon fucata*)

A couple of birds were entering and exiting a hole in the bank at the second Aponwao River crossing on the Gran Sabana.

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)

A couple of birds each at the Rio Cuyuni crossing and the Villa Lola pond.

Troglodytidae

CORAYA WREN (*Thryothorus coraya*)

Beautiful views of this attractive wren at our first stop along the lower Escalera on our first day up.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Common around the lodge.

E FLUTIST WREN (*Microcerculus ustulatus*)

A tough endemic to see well, but we found a very responsive bird along the lower Escalera and eventually coaxed him out fully into the open, where he serenaded us for a while before slipping back into the understory. Easily my best views ever of this species!

Mimidae

TROPICAL MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus gilvus*)

Fairly common on the Gran Sabana, and several were also seen on the travel days.

Turdidae

RUFIOUS-BROWN SOLITAIRE (*Cichlopsis leucogenys*)

Several were seen on each visit to the area with all the roadside fruiting melastomes on the upper Escalera. This species has an odd distribution, with disjunct populations in several areas of South America. The race found here is gularis, which I believe is restricted to the tepui region.

BLACK-HOODED THRUSH (*Turdus olivater*)

Quite a few in the fruiting tree along with the cock-of-the-rock. The birds here belong to the race roraimae, which is only found in the tepui region.

PALE-BREASTED THRUSH (*Turdus leucomelas*)

Several birds in the scrub behind our coastal hotel, where they showed off nicely.

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH (*Turdus ignobilis*)

Quite common on the upper Escalera, especially so around the alcabala, where they gorged on moths each morning.

Poliophtilidae

LONG-BILLED GNATWREN (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*)

One of the few birds seen with a small mixed canopy flock on the Guyana Trail, as few of the other birds came into view.

TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila plumbea*)

Fair numbers at Parque Cachamay.

Corvidae

CAYENNE JAY (*Cyanocorax cayanus*)

Quite common in the lowlands around the lodge; there was even a group of a dozen or more one afternoon in the gardens.

Vireonidae

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*)

A couple at Cachamay, and another along the Guyana Trail. These birds are residents, not migrants, and belong to the race vividior.

E TEPUI GREENLET (*Hylophilus sclateri*)

Small numbers in mixed flocks both in the lower and upper parts of the Escalera.

BUFF-CHEEKED GREENLET (*Hylophilus muscicapinus*)

Heard often, then finally seen in a small canopy flock along the Corazon road.

SCRUB GREENLET (*Hylophilus flavipes*)

A couple of these nondescript birds were seen at Cachamay. The form here has dark eyes; pale-eyed birds predominate further west.

TAWNY-CROWNED GREENLET (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*)

Seen by a couple of folks in the "understory flock that got away" along the Guyana Trail.

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

Quite good looks at a single bird in the flock frenzy along the lower Escalera, for most of the group, anyway.

RUFIOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKE (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)

Excellent looks at a singing bird at our lunch stop near Upata, just after the 2 antshrikes disappeared.

Fringillidae

VIOLACEOUS EUPHONIA (*Euphonia violacea*)

The common lowland euphonia in the region, regularly seen in the lodge's gardens.

WHITE-LORED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia chrysopasta*)

A single bird was scoped during our roadside stop north of the lodge, though a couple of folks on rest breaks missed it.

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)

The only regular occurring euphonia in the Sierra de Lema, where it is quite common and was seen several times.

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis psaltria*)

A pair behind the gas station at Tumeremo where they are at the easternmost point of their range.

Parulidae

TROPICAL PARULA (*Parula pitiayumi*)

Small numbers in the Sierra de Lema, where the local race is roraimae.

b YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)

A few at Cachamay, and others seen on the travel day back north, all migrants.

b BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*)

A female-plumaged bird was in a small canopy flock along Corazon Road.

b BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*)

Generally the most common migrant warbler around the lodge, and we saw several, including a regular in the gardens.

b AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*)

At least three birds were seen in the Sierra de Lema: an adult male, a first-year male that was just getting in some black feathers, and a female (guide only).

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus*)

A couple of birds in the stunted melastome forest on the upper Escalera were in the same flock as a pair of Tepui Restarters. The race here is verticalis, endemic to the tepui region.

E TEPUI REDSTART (*Myioborus castaneocapillus*)

Fairly common in the higher parts of the Sierra de Lema, and we saw several on each trip up.

- E** TWO-BANDED WARBLER (*Basileuterus bivittatus roraimae*)
Great views of a very active group along the lower Escalera. Treated here as a subspecies of Two-banded Warbler, but the extremely disjunct range alone (the main population occurs from SE Peru into Argentina) makes for a convincing argument for this forms elevation to full species status.

Coeribidae

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*)

Ubiquitous and seen in good numbers daily. The race here is roraimae.

Thraupidae

BLACK-FACED TANAGER (*Schistochlamys melanopis*)

A common bird on the Gran Sabana, and we saw good numbers there on each trip up.

MAGPIE TANAGER (*Cissopis leveriana*)

A trio of these striking tanagers were well-seen at the entrance to the Guyana Trail.

GUIRA TANAGER (*Hemithraupis guira*)

Good looks for most at a lovely little male among a mob of small birds at Cachamay.

YELLOW-BACKED TANAGER (*Hemithraupis flavicollis*)

I think Marscha and I were the only ones to see this bird, a male, along the km 88 road.

- E** OLIVE-BACKED TANAGER (*Mitrospingus oleagineus*)

Usually quite a common tepui endemic, but we saw just a couple of small groups of these birds along the upper Escalera.

FULVOUS SHRIKE-TANAGER (*Lanio fulvus*)

Smashing views of a beautiful male in the big mixed canopy flock along the lower Escalera.

FULVOUS-CRESTED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus surinamus*)

Good views of a pair with a canopy flock on the km 88 road.

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*)

A bird of open scrub; we saw a pair at our roadside stop north of the lodge as we returned to Puerto Ordaz

RED-SHOULDERED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus phoenicius*)

Small numbers daily up the Escalera. The male's red shoulder patch is extremely difficult to see, but with persistence, I know a few of you were successful.

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo*)

Common and seen daily both in the lowlands and on up to the Gran Sabana.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*)

Good numbers daily.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)

Also seen daily in good numbers.

TURQUOISE TANAGER (*Tangara mexicana*)

Two or three of these lovely tanagers were seen a couple of times in the backyard at the lodge, and a couple during the drive back to the north.

PARADISE TANAGER (*Tangara chilensis*)

A big flock of at least 15 dropped into some fruiting trees right in front of us on the upper Escalera, giving us all fantastic views.

YELLOW-BELLIED TANAGER (*Tangara xanthogastra*)

One of the more common tanagers along the Escalera; most fruiting trees had at least a pair.

SPECKLED TANAGER (*Tangara guttata*)

Only slightly outnumbered by the preceding species.

BAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara gyrola*)

A few in fruiting trees along the Escalera.

BURNISHED-BUFF TANAGER (*Tangara cayana*)

Seen a few times on the Gran Sabana.

BLACK-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanoptera whitelyi*)

Fairly common along the Escalera, where seen daily. This subspecies is restricted to the tepui region, and is a potential candidate to be split.

OPAL-RUMPED TANAGER (*Tangara velia*)

Just a couple of birds with mixed flocks in the lowlands and the lower Escalera.

BLACK-FACED DACNIS (*Dacnis lineata*)

A pair with other dacnis and honeycreepers along the km 88 road, though most just saw the female.

BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*)

A few birds were seen most days in the lowlands.

GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

Quite common, with especially good views of a pair at the flowering tree on our first stop of the first morning.

PURPLE HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)

Also seen regularly, and as with the Green Honeycreeper, a pair were studied at length in the flowering tree we watched on our first morning.

Emberizidae

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina*)

Several in the grassy road verges at the start of the Guyana Trail, where most of the males we saw had the mottled plumage of subadults.

PLUMBEOUS SEEDEATER (*Sporophila plumbea*)

An attractive bird and a lifer for me! Thanks to Sue for spotting a single male near the Soldier's Monument.

GRAY SEEDEATER (*Sporophila intermedia*)

A male joined the pygmy-owl mob near the Villa Lola pond.

RUDDY-BREASTED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila minuta*)

A lovely little pair feeding in the grass at the Soldier's Monument.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEED-FINCH (*Oryzoborus angolensis*)

Good views of singing males at the start of the Guyana Trail and at our roadside stop north of the lodge as we traveled back to Puerto Ordaz.

BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris bicolor*)

Good views of a pair perched in the chain-link fence behind our coast hotel.

SAFFRON FINCH (*Sicalis flaveola*)

A few birds behind the Tumeremo gas station.

WEDGE-TAILED GRASS-FINCH (*Emberizoides herbicola sphenurus*)

Scope studies of a pair atop a low shrub on the Gran Sabana.

E TEPUÍ BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes personatus*)

Quite common this trip, and we saw several birds on each trip up the Escalera.

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

A few up around the alcabala and on the Gran Sabana, all belonging to the local race, roraimae.

Cardinalidae

GRAYISH SALTATOR (*Saltator coerulescens*)

One at our lunch stop near Upala on our way south.

SLATE-COLORED GROSBEAK (*Saltator grossus*)

Pairs were seen twice, once with the big mixed flock along the lower Escalera, and then again on the Guyana Trail.

YELLOW-GREEN GROSBEAK (*Caryothraustes canadensis*)

Flocks were seen several times in the lowlands and along the lower parts of the Escalera.

BLUE-BLACK GROSBEAK (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*)

I think only Diann and Denis got looks at these birds along the Guyana Trail.

Icteridae

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*)

A singing bird on the Gran Sabana. The birds found here are residents, not migrants, and belong to the race praticola.

CARIB GRACKLE (*Quiscalus lugubris*)

Small numbers around Puerto Ordaz.

GIANT COWBIRD (*Scaphidura oryzivora*)

Two males and a female on the grass at the electric power substation in Las Claritas. One male was puffed up and displaying to the much smaller female, who was resolutely ignoring his posturing.

MORICHE ORIOLE (*Icterus chryscephalus*)

A pair in some roadside palms along the lower Escalera. Marscha also saw one on the lodge grounds.

YELLOW ORIOLE (*Icterus nigrogularis*)

One flew past the Tumeremo gas station, but was missed by Denis, who was unfortunately in the bathroom at the time.

YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus cela*)

Donnalyn and I saw one fly past from the bus just outside of Tumeremo.

RED-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus haemorrhous*)

A couple of birds were in one of the tall trees at the edge of the forest behind the lodge during one of our afternoon breaks.

CRESTED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

The common oropendola in the area, and seen pretty much daily, with a couple of active colonies being seen as well.

GREEN OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius viridis*)

Much rarer than the Crested, but we did see a few of these birds along the km 88 road, and during our drive back to the north.

E GOLDEN-TUFTED GRACKLE (*Macroagelaius imthurni*)

After getting a few unsatisfactory glimpses of these normally common endemics over the first three visits to the Sierra de Lema, we finally nailed some good views when we found a tame bunch of grackles feeding on insects attracted to the lights around the alcabala compound. The golden tufts were especially visible on a couple of the birds.

MAMMALS

RED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta seniculus*)

A very distant troop of 5 monkeys was scoped from the rocky dome overlook, but then we saw another group feeding very close to the Corazon road. I'm still not sure as to why that one monkey was so dark, though.

WEDGE-CAPPED CAPUCHIN (*Cebus olivaceus*)

A larger than usual mob of semi-tame monkeys at Cachamay, with probably 20-30 of them present.

GUIANAN SQUIRREL (*Sciurus aestuans*)

A couple along the lower Escalera.

RED-RUMPED AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta agouti*)

Sue and Peter saw one of these tailless rodents crossing the highway along the lower part of the Escalera.

WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

One wandering around the yard of a camp on the bank of the Cuyuni River seemed suspiciously tame.