

COLOMBIA

FEBRUARY 3-18, 2009

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TOUR REPORT
COLOMBIA: BOGOTÁ, THE MAGDALENA VALLEY,
AND THE SANTA MARTA REGION
February 3–18, 2009

By Steve Hilty

Our return to Colombia after a 23-year absence represents an almost complete reversal of fortunes for a country once mired in drug and political violence, and written off as a lost cause by pundits and scholars alike. But what a difference a decade or two can make. Now much of the country is at peace with itself and striving for the normalcy that much of its population has long yearned. Did I see changes in our more than two-decade absence? Of course. Obviously many changes are for the better, otherwise we would not have been able to safely travel to many of the places we visited. There are more people now, more traffic, more trucks, and perhaps more environmental pressures, but I did not see major changes in deforestation. In fact, I believe that, at present, there is more land in some stage of secondary regrowth than occurred in the past. This is not to say that Colombia's environment is doing well. Much of Colombia's Andes were formerly covered in a rich tapestry of forests and today very little of it remains pristine. Untouched areas are now confined to small, remote pockets, steep stream valleys, or steep hillsides. And even these sites remain at risk. Good habitat remains in several national parks, although these are poorly protected. In the past decade the conservation group ProAves has begun purchasing tiny parcels of forest that harbor remnant populations of endemics or rare species. We visited four of these sites—all with overnight lodging of varying quality and all difficult to access, requiring long, tortuous drives on roads that are in extremely poor condition. And how did we find these sites once we reached them?

The sites varied. Some trails have been recently upgraded, but were generally steep, sometimes slippery, often muddy, and certainly more difficult to use than those to which most naturalists and birders are accustomed. And the birds? We had some great days with stunningly good birding. Finding the much-vaunted endemics, however, often took considerable effort and patience, and for some it is almost as much a matter of luck as skill (i.e., the Blue-billed Curassow which we did not see). The Sooty Ant-Tanager and White-mantled Barbet both required considerable effort to locate and see successfully, but were beautiful, exquisitely so in the case of the tanager, and well worth the effort. By all accounts the greatest treasure trove of endemics occurs in the Santa Marta Mountains and here, unlike in the Andes, many are relatively easy to see, often repeatedly so.

Colombia remains, at present, a trip for those adventurous birders and naturalists who are willing to accept some rough spots along their route, read our promotional material carefully, and realize that they are buying a birding trip that is probably more logistically complex and more physically demanding than almost any other VENT trip. This is not a comfort trip, and it is not a trip in which everything is apt to flow

smoothly—although given the complexity of logistics, ranging from boats, horses, 4-wheel-drive vehicles (and yes, once even motorcycles to move our luggage), I think the Colombians did a remarkable job. Some bus trips were too long, the itinerary a little too ambitious, but we must remember that Colombia has little history of ecotourism and is far behind neighboring countries in its offering of sites, facilities, bus transport, and general ability to support ecotourism. But it is learning quickly, and so are we, and hopefully we will look back in a few years and say, “You should have seen it back in the good old days.”

Reviewing the bird list, I am immensely pleased. Even though we missed several possible endemics, the list is, nevertheless, still rich with endemics, near-endemics, several species once thought to be near extinction, one so new it has yet to be described officially, and many others that are poorly known and would be regarded as highlights on any trip, among them: Northern Screamer, Bogotá Rail, Santa Marta Screech-Owl (as yet undescribed), Black Inca, White-tailed Starfrontlet, Indigo-capped Hummingbird, White-tipped Quetzal, Chestnut Piculet, Bar-crested Antshrike, Parker’s Antbird, Silvery-throated Spinetail, Rough-legged Tyrannulet, Apolinar’s Marsh-Wren, Gray-throated Warbler, Santa Marta Warbler, Turquoise Dacnis, Yellow-headed Brush-Finch, Golden-winged Sparrow, Vermilion Cardinal, and so on. The bumps in the road may fade from memory, but the birds will burn brightly for years to come.

(*) = heard

boldface and underlined = endemic or near endemic

Bird List:

TINAMIDAE

*Highland Tinamou, *Nothocercus bonapartei*

*Little Tinamou, *Crypturellus soui*

PODICIPIDAE

Least Grebe, *Tachybaptus dominicus*

PELICANIDAE

Brown Pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis*

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*

FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens*

ARDEIDAE

Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*
Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*
Great Egret, *Ardea albus*
Reddish Egret, *Egretta rufescens*
Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*
Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*
Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*

CICONIDAE

American Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana*

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Bare-faced (Whispering Ibis), *Phimosus infuscatus*
White Ibis, *Eudocimus albus*
Scarlet Ibis, *Eudocimus ruber*
Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja*

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

American Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus ruber*

ANHIMIDAE

Northern Screamer, *Chauna chavaria*

ANATIDAE

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*
Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*
Andean Duck, *Oxyura ferruginea*

CATHARTIDAE

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*
Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*
King Vulture, *Sarcoramphus papa*

PANDIONIDAE

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*

ACCIPITRIDAE

Hook-billed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*
Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*
Pearl Kite, *Gampsonyx swainsonii*
White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus*
Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*
Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*
Plain-breasted Hawk, *Accipiter ventralis*
Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*

Savanna Hawk, *Buteogallus meridionalis*
Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*
Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*
Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*
Gray Hawk, *Buteo nitidus*
Short-tailed Hawk, *Buteo brachyurus*
Harris' Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*

FALCONIDAE

Red-throated Caracara, *Ibycter americanus*
Northern (Crested) Caracara, *Caracara cheriway*
Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*
Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*
Barred Forest-Falcon, *Micrastur ruficollis*
American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*
Aplomado Falcon, *Falco femoralis*
Merlin, *Falco columbarius*

CRACIDAE

Colombian Chachalaca, *Ortalis columbiana*
Guan sp., *Penelope* or *chamaepetes*
*Blue-billed Curassow, *Crax alberti*

PHASIANIDAE

Crested Bobwhite, *Colinus cristatus*
*Marbled Wood-Quail, *Odontophorus gujanensis*
*Black-fronted Wood-Quail, *Odontophorus atrifrons*

ARAMIDIDAE,

Limpkin, *Aramus guarauna*

RALLIDAE

*Russet-crowned Crake, *Anurolimnas viridis*
White-throated Crake, *Laterallus albigularis*
Bogotá Rail, *Rallus semiplumbeus*
*Gray-necked Wood-Rail, *Aramides cajanea*
Purple Gallinule, *Porphyryula martinica*
Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*
Spot-flanked Gallinule, *Gallinula melanops*
American Coot, *Fulica Americana*

JACANIDAE

Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*

Haematopodidae

American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*

Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*

CHARADRIIDAE

Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis*

SCOLOPACIDAE

Noble Snipe, *Gallinago nobilis*

Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*

Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*

Willet, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*

Sanderling, *Calidris alba*

LARIDAE

Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*

STERNIDAE

Gull-billed Tern, *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Royal Tern, *Thalasseus maximus*

Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia*

Sandwich Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

RYNCHOPIDAE

Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*

COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*

Bare-eyed Pigeon, *Patagioenas corensis*

Band-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas fasciata*

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*

*Plumbeous Pigeon, *Patagioenas plumbea*

*Ruddy Pigeon, *Patagioenas subvinacea*

Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*

Common Ground-Dove, *Columbina passerina*

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*

Scaled Dove, *Columbina squamata*

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*

Tolima Dove, *Leptotila conoveri*

*Lined Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon linearis*

PSITTACIDAE

*Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna*

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severa*

Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, *Aratinga wagleri*

Brown-throated Parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*

Santa Marta Parakeet, *Pyrrhura viridicata*

Spectacled Parrotlet, *Forpus conspicillatus*
Green-rumped Parrotlet, *Forpus passerinus*
Orange-chinned Parakeet, *Brotogeris jugularis*
Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*
Red-billed Parrot, *Pionus sordidus*
Red-lore Parrot, *Amazona autumnalis*
Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala*
Orange-winged Parrot, *Amazona amazonica*
Scaly-naped Parrot, *Amazona mercenaria*
*Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*

CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*
Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*
Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*
*Striped Cuckoo, *Tapera naevia*

STRIGIDAE

*Tropical Screech Owl, *Megascops choliba*
Santa Marta Screech Owl, *Megascops sp. nov. (gilesi)*
*Crested Owl, *Lophotrix cristata*
Mottled Owl, *Ciccaba virgata*
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*
Unidentified nightjar, *Caprimulgus sp. cayennensis* or *parvulus*
Band-winged Nightjar, *Caprimulgus longirostris*

APODIDAE

White-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne zonaris*
Gray-rumped Swift, *Chaetura cinereiventris*
Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*
White-tipped Swift, *Aeronautes montivagus*
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila cayennensis*

TROCHILIDAE

Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsute*
Long-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis longirostris*
Stripe-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis striigularis*
Tawny-bellied Hermit, *Phaethornis syrmatorphorus*
White-necked Jacobin, *Florisuga mellivora*
Brown Violetear, *Colibri delphinae*
Green Violetear, *Colibri thalassinus*
Sparkling Violetear, *Colibri coruscans*
Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*

Blue-tailed Emerald, *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*
Red-billed Emerald, *Chlorostilbon gibsoni*
?Coppery Emerald, *Chlorostilbon russatus*
Violet-crowned Woodnymph, *Thalurania colombica*
Shining-green Hummingbird, *Lepidopyga goudoti*
Buffy Hummingbird, *Leucippus fallax*
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia tzacatl*
Andean Emerald, *Amazilia franciae*
Steely-vented Hummingbird, *Amazilia saucerrottei*
Indigo-capped Hummingbird, *Amazilia cyanifrons*
White-vented Plumeleteer, *Chalybura buffonii*
Bronzy Inca, *Coeligena coeligena*
Black Inca, *Coeligena prunellei*
White-tailed Starfrontlet, *Coeligena phalerata*
Booted Racket-tail, *Ocreatus underwoodii*
Tyrian Metaltail, *Metallura tyrianthina*
Purple-crowned Fairy, *Heliothryx barroti*

TROGONIDAE

White-tipped Quetzal, *Pharomachrus fulgidus*
(Western) White-tailed Trogon, *Trogon (chionurus) viridis*
Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris*
Masked Trogon, *Trogon personatus*
(Northern) Violaceous Trogon, *Trogon (caligatus) violaceus*

ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*
Amazon Kingfisher, *Ceryle amazona*
Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*

MOMOTIDAE

Blue-crowned Motmot, *Momotus momota*
Rufous Motmot, *Baryphthengus martii*

GALBULIDAE

*Rufous-tailed Jacamar, *Galbula ruficauda*

BUCCONIDAE

Black-breasted Puffbird, *Notharchus pectoralis*
Barred Puffbird, *Nystalus radiatus*
Russet-throated Puffbird, *Hypnelus ruficollis*
Moustached Puffbird, *Malacoptila mystacalis*
White-fronted Nunbird, *Monasa albifrons*

CAPITONIDAE

White-mantled Barbet, *Capito hypoleucus*

RAMPHASTIDAE

Emerald (Andean; Santa Marta) Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus albivitta (lautus)*
Crimson-rumped Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*
Keel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos sulfuratus*
Channel-billed (Citron-throated) Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus (citreae)*
Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, *Ramphastos swainsoni*
Collared Aracari, *Pteroglossus torquatus*

PICIDAE

Olivaceous Piculet, *Picumnus olivaceus*
Chestnut Piculet, *Picumnus cinnamomeus*
Acorn Woodpecker, *Melanerpes formicivorus*
Red-crowned Woodpecker, *Melanerpes rubricapillus*
Red-rumped Woodpecker, *Veniliornis kirkii*
Golden-olive Woodpecker, *Piculus rubiginosus*
Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes punctigula*
Cinnamon Woodpecker, *Celeus loricatus*
Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*
Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*

FURNARIIDAE

Pale-legged Hornero (Caribbean), *Furnarius (longirostris) leucopus*
Azara's Spinetail, *Synallaxis azarae*
Silvery-throated Spinetail, *Synallaxis subpudica*
Pale-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albescens*
Rusty-headed Spinetail, *Synallaxis fusciorufa*
White-whiskered Spinetail, *Synallaxis candei*
Streak-capped Spinetail, *Cranioleuca hellmayri*
Yellow-chinned Spinetail, *Certhiopsis cinnamomea*
Spotted Barbtail, *Premnoplex brunnescens*
Montane Foliage-gleaner, *Anabacerthia striaticollis*
Streak-capped Treehunter, *Thripadectes virgaticeps*
*Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, *Automolus ochrolaemus*
Gray-throated Leaf-tosser, *Sclerurus albigularis*
Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*
Streaked Xenops, *Xenops rutilans*

DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

Plain-brown Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*
Strong-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*
Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus picus*
Montane Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*
Streak-headed Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*

THAMNOPHILIDAE

*Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*

Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis*

Black-backed Antshrike, *Sakesphorus melanonotus*

*Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*

Bar-crested Antshrike, *Thamnophilus multistriatus*

*Black Antshrike, *Thamnophilus nigriceps*

*Uniform Antshrike, *Thamnophilus unicolor*

(Northern) White-fringed Antwren, *Myrmotherula grisea*

Jet Antbird, *Cercomacra nigricans*

Parker's Antbird, *Cercomacra parkeri*

Bare-crowned Antbird, *Gymnocichla nudiceps*

*White-bellied Antbird, *Myrmeciza longipes*

*Chestnut-backed Antbird, *Myrmeciza exsul*

FORMICARIIDAE

Santa Marta Antpitta, *Grallaria bangsi

*White-bellied Antpitta, *Grallaria hypoleuca*

Rusty-breasted Antpitta, *Grallaria ferruginepectus*

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Santa Marta Tapaculo, *Scytalopus sanctaemartae

Upper Magdalena Tapaculo, *Scytalopus rodriguez*

COTINGIDAE

Golden-breasted Fruiteater, *Pipreola aureopectus decora*

Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*

PIPRIDAE

*Golden-headed Manakin, *Pipra erythrocephala*

White-bearded Manakin, *Manacus manacus*

*(Western) Striped Manakin, *Machaeropterus (striolatus) regulus*

*Thrush-like Schiffornis, *Schiffornis turdina*

TYRANNIDAE

Rough-legged Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias griseiceps*

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannulus elatus*

Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*

Yellow-bellied Elaenia, *Elaenia flavogaster*

Mountain Elaenia, *Elaenia frantzii*

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*

White-throated Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus leucophrys*

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, *Phaeomyias murina*

Yellow Tyrannulet, *Capsiempis flaveola*

Subtropical Doradito, *Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis*

Golden-faced Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius chrysops*

Sepia-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*
Streak-necked Flycatcher, *Mionectes striaticollis*
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, *Mionectes oleaginea*
Northern Scrub Flycatcher, *Sublegatus arenarum*
Slender-billed Inezia, *Inezia tenuirostris*
Ornate Flycatcher, *Myiotriccus ornatus*
Southern Bentbill, *Oncostoma olivaceum*
*Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus pileatus*
Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*
Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, *Hemitriccus granadensis lehmanni*
Slate-headed Tody-Tyrant, *Todirostrum sylvia*
Common Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum cinereum*
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum nigriceps*
[Yellow-olive Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* or *Tolmomyias sp.*
Bran-colored Flycatcher, *Myiophobus fasciatus*
Cinnamon Flycatcher, *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*
Black-billed Flycatcher, *Aphanotriccus audax*
Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*
Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans*
Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*
Pied Water-Tyrant, *Fluvicola pica*
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*
Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant, *Myiotheretes pernix*
Long-tailed Tyrant, *Colonia colonus*
Cattle Tyrant, *Machetornis rixosus*
*Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*
Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*
Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*
Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*
Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus lictor*
Golden-crowned Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*
Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*
Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*
Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*
Gray Kingbird, *Tyrannus dominicensis*
Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savanna*
Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*
?Panama Flycatcher, *Myiarchus panamensis*
Great -crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*
Brown-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tyrannulus*
*Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*
Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*
Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*
Cinnamon Becard, *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*
White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*

HIRUNDINIDAE

Brown-bellied Swallow, *Notiochelidon murina*
Blue-and-white Swallow, *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*
Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*

DONACOBIDAE (new)

Black-capped Donacobius, *Donacobius atricapilla*

TROGLODYTIDAE

Band-backed Wren, *Campylorhynchus zonatus*
Bicolored Wren, *Campylorhynchus griseus*
Black-bellied Wren, *Thryothorus fasciatoventris*
Whiskered Wren, *Thryothorus mystacalis*
Buff-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus leucotis*
House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*
Apolinar's Marsh Wren, *Cistothorus apolinari*
*White-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucosticte*
Grey-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucophrys*
*Southern Nightingale-Wren, *Microcerculus marginatus*

MIMIDAE

Tropical Mockingbird, *Mimus gilvus*

TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire, *Myadestes ralloides*
*Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, *Catharus aurantiirostris*
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, *Catharus fuscater*
Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*
Yellow-legged Thrush, *Platycichla flaviceps*
Great Thrush, *Turdus fuscater*
Chestnut-bellied Thrush, *Turdus fulviventris*
Pale-breasted Thrush, *Turdus leucomelas*
Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*

POLIOPTIDAE

Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila plumbea*

CORVIDAE

Black-chested Jay, *Cyanocorax affinis*
*Green (Inca) Jay, *Cyanocorax yncas*

VIREONIDAE

Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*
Brown-capped Vireo, *Vireo leucophrys*
Rufous-naped Greenlet, *Hylophilus semibrunneus*

Scrub Greenlet, *Hylophilus flavipes*
*Rufous-browed Peppershrike, *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

FRINGILLIDAE

Trinidad Euphonia, *Euphonia trinitatis*
Velvet-fronted Euphonia, *Euphonia concinna*
Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris*
Fulvous-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia fulvicrissa*
*Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*
Blue-naped Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia cyanea*
Andean Siskin, *Carduelis spinescens*
Yellow-bellied Siskin, *Carduelis xanthogastra*
Lesser Goldfinch, *Carduelis psaltria*

PARULIDAE

Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*
Tropical Parula, *Parula pitiayumi*
Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*
Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*
Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*
Black and White Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*
American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*
Northern Waterthrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*
Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia*
Masked Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*
Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia Canadensis*
Slate-throated Whitestart, *Myioborus miniatus*
Golden-fronted Whitestart, *Myioborus ornatus*
Yellow-crowned Whitestart, *Myioborus flavivertex*
Santa Marta Warbler, *Basileuterus basilicus*
Gray-throated Warbler, *Basileuterus cinereicollis*
White-lored Warbler, *Basileuterus conspicillatus*
Golden-crowned Warbler, *Basileuterus culicivorus*
Rufous-capped Warbler, *Basileuterus rufifrons*
Three-striped Warbler, *Basileuterus tristriatus*
Buff-rumped Warbler, *Basileuterus fulvicauda*

COEREBIDAE

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*

THRAUPIDAE

Rufous-browed Conebill, *Conirostrum rufum*
Common Bush-Tanager, *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*
Yellow-backed Tanager, *Hemithraupis flavicollis*
Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*
Scarlet-browed Tanager, *Heterospingus xanthopygius*

White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus*

White-lined Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufus*

Sooty Ant-Tanager, *Habia gutturalis*

Crimson-backed Tanager, *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*

Flame-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Tanager, *Ramphocelus icteronotus*

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*

Glaucous Tanager, *Thraupis glaucocolpa*

Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*

Blue-capped Tanager, *Thraupis cyanocephala*

Santa Marta Mountain-Tanager, *Anisognathus melanogenys*

Plain-colored Tanager, *Tangara inornata*

Golden Tanager, *Tangara arthus*

Speckled Tanager, *Tangara guttata*

Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola*

Scrub Tanager, *Tangara vitriolina*

Burnished-buff Tanager, *Tangara cayana*

Blue-necked Tanager, *Tangara cyanicollis*

Black-capped Tanager, *Tangara heinei*

Black-headed Tanager, *Tangara cyanoptera*

Turquoise Dacnis, *Dacnis hartlaubi*

Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*

Green Honeycreeper, *Chlorophanes spiza*

Purple Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*

Plush-capped Finch, *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*

EMBERIZIDAE

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*

Yellow-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila nigricollis*

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, *Sporophila minuta* 4

Yellow-faced Grassquit, *Tiaris olivacea*

Black-faced Grassquit, *Tiaris bicolor*

White-sided Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa albilatera*

Black Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa humeralis*

Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*

White-naped (Yellow-throated) Brush-Finch, *Atlapetes (gutturalis) albinucha*

Santa Marta Brush-Finch, *Atlapetes melanocephalus*

Yellow-headed Brush-Finch, *Atlapetes flaviceps*

Moustached Brush-Finch, *Atlapetes albofrenatus*

Golden-winged Sparrow, *Arremon schlegeli*

Black-striped Sparrow, *Arremonops conirostris*

Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*

CARDINALIDAE

Streaked Saltator, *Saltator striatipectus*

Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*

Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*

Black-winged Saltator, *Saltator atripennis*
Orinocan Saltator, *Saltator orenocensis*
Vermillion Cardinal, *Cardinalis phoeniceus*
Golden-bellied Grosbeak, *Pheucticus chrysogaster*
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
*Ultramarine Grosbeak, *Cyanocompsa brissonii*
Highland Hepatic-Tanager, *Piranga (flava) lutea*
Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*

ICTERIDAE

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*
Red-breasted Blackbird, *Sturnella militaris*
Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*
Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*
Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*
Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*; 5
Yellow-backed Oriole, *Icterus chrysater*
Yellow Oriole, *Icterus nigrogularis*
Orange-crowned Oriole, *Icterus auricapillus*
Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*
Yellow-billed Cacique, *Amblycercus holosericeus*
Scarlet-rumped (Subtropical) Cacique, *Cacicus uropygialis*
Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*
Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*
Carib Grackle, *Quiscalus lugubris*

Mammals:

Opossum (unidentified but probably Virginia opossum), 5
Red-tailed Squirrel, *Sciurus granadensis*, 6; 7
Forest Fox, *Cerdocyon thous*, 7 (seen only by JH)

Comments: Summarizing participant top five sightings (birds, mammals or otherwise) is always an interesting exercise and the results are often unexpected. Interestingly, the top pick was the endemic White-tailed Starfrontlet in the Santa Marta Mountains, doubtless because of the one little male who simply refused to budge from his flower patch, and held his ground, perching at eye level and almost arm's length, even when all nine of us invaded and stood squarely in the middle of "his" flowers. It was, indeed, one of those rare moments in nature when humans and birds came together in a kind of temporary bond of understanding. Second most popular pick was the pair of Chestnut Piculets in the desert. Appealing, unusual in appearance, and offering excellent viewing opportunities. My top pick (not picked by any of the participants) was surely the stunning Sooty Ant-Tanager with rose crest and throat, a rare and now highly localized endemic—but I admit they took great patience to see.