

# **ECUADOR: SOUTHWESTERN ANDES & LOWLANDS**

**APRIL 3 – 13, 2009**



Pacific Pygmy-Owl

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### BRIEF TRIP REPORT

This was a first/pioneer adventure for VENT and it surely proved both exciting and challenging as could be expected. The southwestern region of Ecuador is made up of a fascinating combination of contrasting habitats, extreme altitudinal zones, and important centers of unique endemism—quite a “binocular-full” for just nine field days! Our first day’s findings seem crazy now in retrospect—Horned Screamers, Snail Kites, and Red-masked and Gray-cheeked parakeets were recorded in the steamy coastal lowlands before lunch, while we enjoyed an afternoon of Andean Condor, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Violet-bellied Metaltail, Andean Tit-Spinetail, Giant Conebill, and Tit-like Dacnis in the cold, high Andean paramo zone to above 12,000 feet. Our second day began with a lucky sighting of Pale-headed Brush-Finch, one of Ecuador’s rarest and most threatened bird species—only as many as 100 individuals remain in the wild—now under the protection of Ecuador’s Jocotoco Foundation.

As we journeyed farther to the south, we began a deeper incursion into the world’s second richest region of species endemism—the Tumbesian Endemic Center. This is a zone of seasonal deciduous forest, woodland, and scrub, which at this time appeared misleadingly green and lush in sharp contrast to its equally dry, leafless, and even barren appearance seen here from late June to December. We quickly found some local specialties, including Loja Hummingbird, Short-tailed Woodstar, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Long-tailed Mockingbird, Fasciated Wren, Tumbes Sparrow, Drab Seedeater, and, of course, Pacific Pygmy-Owl. As we climbed to the higher and wetter Utuana Reserve, we came across two (or three) trip favorites: first, the truly enjoyable Black-crested Tit-Tyrant with its disheveled punk “hair-do,” and then we spent some time mesmerized by the most spectacular Rainbow Starfrontlet show (it is truly pointless to even try to pick a hummingbird favorite, but...) though I cannot omit the Purple-throated Sunangels, all in incredible light, glowing the complete gamut of refracted prismatic colors with indescribable intensity—the oohs and aahs could not be contained!

Our travels continued downslope to the Macará region where we enjoyed a full-day visit to Jorupe Reserve and another day in the surrounding area. During a brief stop en route at Sozoranga, we observed a large roost of Chestnut-collared Swallows that covered the church and neighboring buildings. Jorupe was great; we were originally supposed to stay at the brand new lodge that was still unfortunately in its last stages of construction, but we took good advantage of the 99% completed building structure—hanging out at the wonderful veranda, with its commanding view of the forest below, and lunching there (we were even asked to check out and comment on one of the cabins that were being furnished as we birded—we all can’t wait to return and stay over). We were engulfed by a large mixed foraging flock right there—Ecuadorian Trogon, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Red-billed Scythebill, Collared Antshrike, Pacific Elaenia, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, White-tailed Jay, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Orange-crowned Euphonia, and White-edged Oriole, among the many species that greeted us. The remainder of the day brought other prizes, including Tumbes Swift, Porculla Hermit,

Blue-crowned Motmot, Gray-breasted Flycatcher, Blackish-headed Spinetail, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Speckle-breasted Wren, and Gray-and-gold Warbler.

Our following morning was spent along the main “highway” and a lovely side road just east of the reserve where we secured excellent looks at Barred Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Ecuadorian Piculet, Watkins’ Antpitta, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner (again), Tumbes Pewee, and Superciliated Wren, along with a whole host of others. That afternoon we took an excursion farther south to Zapotillo where we picked up Comb Duck, Baird’s Flycatcher, and Saffron Siskin, along with better looks at Peruvian Meadowlark. The following day was spent on the road with an important stop made at El Empalme where we found Tumbes Hummingbird, Black-and-white Tanager (after quite a bit of work!), and White-headed Brush-Finch.

Our final destination before returning to Guayaquil included three nights in cloud forest at Buenaventura Reserve’s Umbrellabird Lodge, which turned out to be a favorite for all. Spectacular hummingbird feeders certainly might have been one of the reasons, but the food and general birding conditions were surely noteworthy. We found such specialties as Gray-backed Hawk, Rose-faced Parrot, Bronze-winged Parrot, Baron’s Hermit, Emerald-bellied Woodnymph, Violet-bellied Hummingbird, Velvet-purple Coronet, Golden-headed Quetzal, Pale-mandibled Araçari, Chocó Toucan, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Scaled Fruiteater, Loja Tyrannulet, Club-winged Manakin, Thrushlike Schiffornis, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Black-and-white Seedeater, and Yellow-bellied Siskin. But the highlight here, and not after a few attempts, was our early morning sighting of two Long-wattled Umbrellabirds at their lek site. They had snuck in silently right above our heads while it was still fairly dark, only giving away their presence by one brief and soft cow-like “moo.”

We began our return to Guayaquil the following morning with two stops—at an area of shrimp farms and mangrove where we saw many wetland species, and later a detour to an area of foothills and waterfalls where we found several new species for the trip, including Roseate Spoonbill, White Ibis, Cocoi Heron, Gray-hooded Gull, Bicolored Hawk, Pale-mandibled Araçari, and Chestnut-throated Seedeater. In all this was a trip of distinctive contrasts and local endemics in a tiny country that is truly one of the world’s highest biodiversity hot spots.

## ITINERARY

Apr. 03 – Arrival Guayaquil

Apr. 04 – Drive from Guayaquil to La Union (Yunguilla Valley) with stops at Manglares-Churute, along the road to Molleturo and at El Cajas National recreation Area

Apr. 05 – Morning at Yunguilla Reserve; Long drive via Oña Valley to Catamayo

Apr. 06 – Drive from Catamayo to Macará via Utuana (Bosque de Hannah) Reserve and Sozoranga

Apr. 07 – Jorupe reserve

Apr. 08 – Morning roadside birding east of Macará; Afternoon roadside birding to Zapotillo with short visit to Peru across International Bridge

Apr. 09 – Long drive from Macará to Buenaventura Reserve (Piñas) with birding stops around El Empalme

Apr. 10 – Buenaventura Reserve (Umbrellabird Lodge)

Apr. 11 – Buenaventura Reserve—morning at upper sector; afternoon along road above Umbrellabird Lodge

Apr. 12 – Drive from Buanaventura reserve to Guayaquil with stops at Puerto Jelí and Las Cascadas de Manuel

Apr. 13 – Departure

## THE SPECIES LIST

### **Abbreviations:**

El Cajas National Recreation Area= CNRA

Yunguilla Reserve = YR

Oña Valley = OV

Ututana Reserve = UR

Jorupe Reserve = JR

Zapotillo area = ZA

El Empalme = EM

Buenaventura Reserve = BR

Puerto Jelí = PJ

Cascadas de Manuel = CM

### TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Pale-browed Tinamou (*Crypturellus transfasciatus*)—Heard only at and around JR

### GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)—At least 6 in the PJ area

### PELICANS: PELICANIDAE

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)—A few were seen by a few of us in the PJ area

### CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)—Very Common in the coastal lowlands; 3 also seen around Macará

### DARTERS: ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)—3 were seen in the PJ area

### FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE

Common along the coast and even somewhat inland

### HERONS & BITTERNs: ARDEIDAE

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*)—3 southwest of Guayaquil; 3-4 in the PJ area

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)—Common in the coastal lowlands; 1 was seen near Macará

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)—2 were seen in the PJ area

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)—At least 1 was seen at PJ; other glimpsed

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)—Abundant in the coastal lowlands: a few seen near Macará

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)—Abundant in the coastal lowlands: common near Macará

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)—Common in the coastal lowlands; 6 were seen in the PJ area

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)—2 were seen in the PJ area

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)—3 were seen in the PJ area

#### IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)—1 seen briefly southeast of Guayaquil; 3 were seen in the PJ area  
Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*)—3 were seen flying in the PJ area

#### SCREAMERS: ANHIMIDAE

**Horned Screamer** (*Anhima cornuta*)—6-8 at Manglares-Churute

#### DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS: ANATIDAE

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)—6-8 were seen at Manglares-Churute; 1 was seen in the PJ area

**Comb Duck** (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*)—3 were seen in ZA

Andean Teal (*Anas andinum*)—Aka Speckled Teal (*A. flavirostris*) when lumped. 1 was seen at CNRA

Andean Ruddy-Duck (*Oxyura ferruginea*)—Aka Andean Duck. 1 male was seen at CNRA

#### AMERICAN VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)—Very common/abundant throughout—seen daily

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—Common/very common daily

**Andean Condor** (*Vultur gryphus*)—1 male was seen soaring at CNRA

#### OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)—1 was seen by Bron along the Río Guayas on our last day

#### KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*)—1 was seen soaring close by at JR

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)—Groups of between 2-5 or so were seen on several days at JR, in the Macará area and around BR

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)—1 was seen southeast of Guayaquil near Manglares-Churute

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociailis*)—Very common/abundant in the coastal lowlands

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)—Group of 8 were seen daily at BR (including great looks!)

**Bicolored Hawk** (*Accipiter bicolor*)—1 was scoped as it perched at CM

Barred Hawk (*Leucopternis princeps*)—1 was seen soaring with vultures, etc. east of JR; another was seen soaring at BR

**Gray-backed Hawk** (*Leucopternis occidentalis*)—3 were seen in all at BR, nice views, soaring and perched at various angles

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*)—3 were seen in the JR-Macará-area (remember the “palms”)

Harris’s Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)—5 or so seen in the JR-Macará area

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*)—1 Juv. & 2 adults were seen at YR and OV; 2 were also seen south of Catamayo

Roadside Hawk (*Bureo magnirostris*)—1-2 were seen over two days at BR

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)—1 was seen soaring east of JR

#### FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)—Aka Northern Crested Caracara. Several were seen at: JR (2), ZA (5), EM (3-4) and BR (2)

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)—A few were seen: south of Cuenca, OV, and near JR

Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*)—1 was seen perched at dusk in Macará; another was seen perched at BR

#### CURASSOWS & GUANS: CRACIDAE

**Rufous-headed Chachalaca** (*Ortalis erythroptera*)—Heard only at Jorupe and at CM: a pair was seen closely at BR; a juvenile was a pet there and hung around the dining area much of the time

#### NEW WORLD QUAILS: ODONTOPHORIDAE

Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus erythrops*)—Heard only at BR on our last morning

#### RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*)—1 was seen in the PJ area

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chlorops*)—At least 4 were seen in the PJ area

#### JACANAS: JACANIDAE

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*)—Common in the coastal lowlands

#### STILTS & AVOCETS: RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)—Fairly common in the coastal lowlands

#### LAPWINGS & PLOVERS: CHARADRIIDAE

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferans*)—5 were seen on our first morning in the coastal lowlands

#### SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPCIDAE

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)—3 were seen at PJ

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)—A group of 4 were seen at PJ

#### GULLS: LARIDAE

**Gray-hooded Gull** (*Larus cirrocephalus*)—1 was seen in the PJ area

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)—3-4 were seen in the PJ area

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*)—2 were seen in the PJ area

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)—Several were seen in the PJ area

#### PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)—Seen on all but one dayñ always around villages, towns and cities

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)—2 were seen above the Catamayo Valley

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)—2 were seen at Catamayo

Ruddy Pigeon (*Columba subvinacea*)—1 was scoped southeast of Guayaquil at Manglares-Churute

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)—Fairly common in more arid areas and highlands (seen 6/9 days)

Ecuadorian Ground-Dove (*Columbina buckleyi*)—2 were seen in the coastal lowlands southeast of Guayaquil on our first morning; another at our hotel the last afternoon

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)—Singles mostly (up to 4) were seen on all but one day; on day six, this species was common along the road

White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*)—Heard only at UR

## PARROTS & MACAWS: PSITTACIDAE

**Red-masked Parakeet** (*Aratinga erythrogenys*)—Quite a few seen over six days (highest number, 15/day); best views our first morning along the lower Molleturo Road—9 perched birds scoped nicely

Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestis*)—Seen on six days; common from Catamayo southward

**Gray-cheeked Parakeet** (*Brotogerus pyrrhoptera*)—At least 2-3 were seen closely along the lower Molleturo road; 9-10 were seen over two days in the JR-Macar area

**Rose-faced Parrot** (*Pionopsitta pulchra*)—A pair was seen flying over twice at BR

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)—1 was seen in flight (and calling) at CM

Bronze-winged Parrot (*Pionus chalcopterus*)—At least 7 were seen at BR; 10 were seen on our last day (mostly at CM)

## CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

**Black-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)—1 was seen at JR; 2 more were seen not far from there along a side-road

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)—A few were seen at JR, east of Macar, and BR

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—At least 1 (only) was seen in the more humid coastal lowlands

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)—The common ani in most of the south, in more arid areas. Seen on six days

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*)—1 was seen nicely at YR; at least 1 was seen outside of Macar; others heard

## TYPICAL OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Pacific Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium peruanum*)—Aka Peruvian Pygmy-Owl by some authors. Between 1-8 seen over three days including great views; heard only on two other days

## NIGHTJARS & ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)—Heard often at BR; also 1 glanced as it flushed from the road there

## SWIFTS: APODIDAE

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocnerutila*)—Small numbers (groups of 6 or so) seen on three days near Macar and BR

**Tumbes Swift** (*Chaetura ocyptes*)—Aka Short-tailed Swift (*C. brachyura*) by some authors. Small numbers were seen around Macar/JR and towards ZA

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*)—A pair was seen at BR; nesting under eaves there

## HUMMINGBIRD: TROCHILIDAE

White-whiskered Hermit (*Phaethornis yaruqui*)—3 or so of this Choc endemic species were seen beautifully and daily at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders)

**Baron's Hermit** (*Phaethornis baroni*)—Aka Western Long-tailed Hermit (*P. longirostris*)—2-3 were seen beautifully and daily at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders)

**Porculla Hermit** (*Phaethornis porcullae*)—Aka Gray-chinned Hermit (*P. griseogularis*) by some authors. 4 were seen briefly mostly at JR

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*)—Several were seen daily at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders)

Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*)—Fairly common this trip at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders)

Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*)—Common at YR; 1 was seen briefly above the Catamayo Valley on 9 April

Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*)—A few were seen at YR and OV

Green Thorntail (*Popelairia conversii*)—Super common at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders)

**Emerald-bellied Woodnymph** (*Thalurania hypochlora*)—Aka Green-crowned Woodnymph (*T. fannyi*) by some authors. 1-6 or so of this Ecuadorian endemic were seen daily at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders)

Violet-bellied Hummingbird (*Damophila julie*)—Very common at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders); stunning really!

**Tumbes Hummingbird** (*Leucippus baeri*)—At least 1 came in to pygmy-owl imitation at EM

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*)—Fairly common at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders); also 1 was seen at YR

Amazilia Hummingbird (*Amazilia amazilia*)—Small numbers only of this Tumesian endemic species (1-3) on 5 days

**Loja Hummingbird** (*Amazilia alticola*)—1 was seen well perched in the Catamayo Valley  
Andean Emerald (*Amazilia franciae*)—Rather common at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders)

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)—3 were seen well at UR feeders

Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*)—1 was seen on two days at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders)

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*)—Quite common at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge at feeders)

**Velvet-purple Coronet** (*Boissonneaua jardini*)—1 of this breath-taking Chocó-Andean endemic species was seen at BR (at the forest feeders)

**Ecuadorian Hillstar** (*Oreotrochilus chimborazo*)—Aka Chimborazo Hillstar by some authors. 2 males were seen at CNRA

Mountain Velvetbreast (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi*)—1 female was seen a few times at UR feeders

**Rainbow Starfrontlet** (*Coeligena iris*)—A mind-blower!! Absolutely spectacular looks at many visiting UR feeders

**Giant Hummingbird** (*Patagona gigas*)—1 was seen in the OV at some spiffy flowers (possibly some sort of *Agave*)

**Purple-throated Sunangel** (*Heliangelus viola*)—4 were seen spectacularly at UR feeders

**Violet-throated Metaltail** (*Metallura baroni*)—A very range restricted Ecuadorian endemic. 1 was seen close-up from the van at CNRA

Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*)—1 was seen along the lower Molleturo Road on our first morning

**Short-tailed Woodstar** (*Myrmia micrura*)—1 female of this Tumbesian endemic was seen in the Catamayo Valley

White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)—1 male was seen at YR

#### QUETZALS & TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

**Ecuadorian Trogon** (*Trogon mesurus*)—Aka Black-tailed Trogon by some authors. 4 were seen at JR; another en route to ZA (others heard)

Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*)—1 male was seen briefly as it responded to an imitation of its voice at BR

#### KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*)—Several were seen; along coastal lowlands on first and last days, 1 in Catamayo Valley and 2 en route to ZA

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)—1 was seen along road to PJ

#### MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*)—4 were seen at JR

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*)—Heard only at BR

#### TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

**Pale-mandibled Araçari** (*Pteroglossua erythrogygius*)—Considered a race of Collared Araçari (*P. torquatus*) by some authors; otherwise endemic to Ecuador. At least 2 were seen at CM

**Chocó Toucan** (*Ramphastos brevis*)—At least 2 were seen at BR (others calling from time to time). A Chocó endemic species

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsonii*)—Aka Black-mandibled Species by some authors. Fairly common daily at BR

#### WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

**Ecuadorian Piculet** (*Picumnus sclateri*)—A pair seen high in trees near JR; a Tumbesian endemic species

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*)—3 were seen well along the lower Molleturo Road

**Scarlet-backed Woodpecker** (*Veniliornis callonotus*)—Fairly common on two days in and near JR

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis funigatus*)—1 was seen with a mixed foraging flock at BR

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*)—Quite a few seen on three days (heard also on another day); Catamayo Valley, JR and Macará-ZA area

**Crimson-mantled Woodpecker** (*Piculus rivolii*)—2 were seen at YR (thanks Dale!)

**Guayaquil Woodpecker** (*Campephilus guayaquilensis*)—1 male was seen fairly closely at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge from the dining area)

#### OVENBIRDS: FURNARIIDAE

Stout-billed Cinclodes (*Cinclodes excelsior*)—1 was seen close-by at CNRA

Bar-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes fuscus*)—At least 1 was seen at CNRA

Pacific Hornero (*Furnarius cinnamomeus*)—Considered a race of Pale-legged Hornero (*F. leucopus*) by some authors. This comical Tumbesian endemic was seen commonly on all but two days

Andean Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura andicola*)—3 or so were seen at CNRA

Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*)—1 was seen (others heard) at YR; also heard only above Catamayo Valley on 9 April

**Blackish-headed Spinetail** (*Synallaxis tithys*)—Aka Black-faced Spinetail by some authors.

1 was seen nicely in mid-story tangles at JR; threatened Tumbesian endemic  
Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*)—At least 1 was seen at BR (upper road)

**Line-cheeked Spinetail** (*Cranioleuca antisiensis*)—Singles were seen on two days; YR and Catamayo Valley

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia variagaticeps*)—4-5 were seen really well at BR

**Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner** (*Syndactyla subalaris*)—Heard only (rats!!) at JR; scolding—did not respond to tape playback

**Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner** (*Hylocryptus erythrocephalus*)—5 were seen in all at JR; best seen the following day east of JR, 1 responded well but briefly to tape

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)—Singles were seen on two days; at and near JR

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)—Singles were seen on two days at BR

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*)—2 were seen at BR

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*)—Rather common in Ecuador's SW

Red-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus trochiirostris*)—2 were seen (others heard) at

#### TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

**Collared Antshrike** (*Sakesphorus bernardi*)—Quite a few seen (8 or so) at and near JR on three days, including nice close looks

Chapman's Antshrike (*Thamnophilus zarumae*)—This Tumbesian endemic was only heard above Catamayo Valley

Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*)—5-6 were seen at BR' some nice looks

Plain Antwren (*Dysithamnus mentalis*)—Heard only at JR

Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*)—pairs were seen (well) on two days at BR

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmecisa exsul*)—At least 1 was seen at BR (others heard)

#### ANTTHRUSHES AND ANTPITTAS: FORMICARIIDAE

Scaled Antpitta (*Grallaria guatemalensis*)—Heard only at BR

Plain-backed Antpitta (*Grallaria haplonota*)—Heard only at BR

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapilla*)—Heard only at various sites in the more humid highlands

**Watkin's Antpitta** (*Grallaria watkinsia*)—Pretty nice looks (after hearing a bunch at and near JR) at 1 singing bird that hopped up on a branch to continue its song; east of JR

#### TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Blackish Tapaculo (*Scytalopus latrans*)—Aka Uncolored Tapaculo (*S. unicolor*) by some authors. 1 was seen in thick undergrowth at UR; this the race *subcinereus* of SW Ecuador

#### COTINGA: COTINGIDAE

Red-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*)—1 juvenile bird was seen at UR

Scaled Fruiteater (*Ampeliodes tschudii*)—1 female was seen well at BR

**Long-wattled Umbrellabird** (*Cephalopterus penduliger*)—2 males were seen, finally, during our third try; perched overhead at BR (also called once)

#### MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

Golden-winged Manakin (*Masius chrysopterus*)—1 female was seen in canopy at BR

White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*)—Several females were seen (males heard) on two days at BR

**Club-winged Manakin** (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*)—Some 10 males in all (on two days) were seen (also displaying) at BR; what a great show!

Thrush-like Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdinus*)—1 was seen quite well in understory at BR

#### TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseiceps*)—A pair was seen along the road to CM

Pacific Elaenia (*Myiopagis subplacens*)—At least 5 were seen at JR

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)—1 was seen along the road to CM

White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*)—2 were seen at UR

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)—Seen regularly on most days (heard a lot too)

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)—At least 1 was seen at CNRA

**Black-crested Tit-Tyrant** (*Anairetes nigrocristatus*)—This funky little bird was certainly one of the highlights of the trip; 1 came in nicely, crest flared at UR

**Tumbesian Tyrannulet** (*Phaeomyias tumbesana*)—Aka Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (*P. murina*) by some authors. 1 was seen well in the Catamayo Valley

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*)—2 were seen in the Catamayo Valley; another near EM (other heard)

**Loja Tyrannulet** (*Zimmerius flavidifrons*)—Aka Golden-faced Tyrannulet (*Z. chrysops*) by some authors. 2 were seen well at BR

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon striaticollis*)—Singles were seen on two days at BR

Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*)—1 was seen (thanks Dale) at BR

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*)—A pair of this charming/attractive flycatcher was seen well at BR

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*)—3 were seen over two days at BR

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)—Singles were seen at near Macará, on two days at BR and 2 were seen near CM

Yellow-olive Flatbill (*Tolmoyias sulphurescens*)—This species was fairly common on two days at JR and in the Macará-ZA area

Bran-colored Flycatcher (*Myiophobus fasciatus*)—At least 3 were seen in the Macará-ZA area

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*)—2 were seen with mixed foraging flocks at BR

**Gray-breasted Flycatcher** (*Lathrotriccus griseipectus*)—1 juvenile was seen very closely at

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*)—2 were seen at BR

**Tumbes Wood-Pewee** (*Contopus punensis*)—Aka Tropical Pewee (*C. cinereus*) by some authors. 1 was seen well at MS

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)—Several sightings (9 in all), always near fast flowing streams on 5 days

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)—2 were seen in the Macará-ZA area; several were seen in the coastal lowlands (PJ, etc.) on our last day

**Jelski's Chat-Tyrant** (*Ochthoeca jelskii*)—1 was seen by Dale at UR

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*)—2 were seen at CNRA

Masked Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola nengeta*)—Several were seen on our first and last days in the coastal lowlands

Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)—1 was seen at BR

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)—Several were seen in all in the coastal lowlands and 1 was seen east of Macará

**Baird's Flycatcher** (*Myiodynastes bairdii*)—At least 4 were seen at EM

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*)—1-2 were seen on four days in both humid and seasonal (certainly wasn't dry this time of year!) habitats  
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—Fairly common; seen on most days  
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)—2 were seen at YR; 1 was seen at JR  
**Sooty-crowned Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus phaeocephalus*)—4-5 seen well at JR  
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*)—2 were seen on the road to, and at CM  
Black-and-white Becard (*Pachyramphus albogriseus*)—Fairly common at JR (6 seen); 1 female was seen the following day east of Macará  
One-colored Becard (*Pachyramphus homochrous*)—Rather common at JR and in the Macará-ZA area

#### SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)—Common to fairly common on most days  
Brown-bellied Swallow (*Notiochelidon murina*)—The highland swallow, several seen at CNRA  
Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)—Small numbers seen on only 4 days  
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)—10 were seen in at BR  
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)—4-6 were seen in the coastal lowlands on our first and last days; a few late-comers on their northern passage  
**Chestnut-collared Swallow** (*Petrochelidon ruficollaris*)—A large roost in the eaves of the church and building at Sozoranga

#### DIPPERS: CINCLIDAE

White-capped Dipper (*Cinclus leucocephalus*)—2 were seen along a stream at CNRA

#### WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

Fasciated Wren (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*)—The Tumbesian endemic was fairly common and seen well on 5 days; most common at JR and in the Macará area  
Speckle-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus sclateri*)—Heard only at JR; 2 were seen closely east of there the following morning  
Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*)—1 was seen and others heard at BR  
**Superciliated Wren** (*Thryothorus superciliaris*)—1 was seen beautifully east of Macará  
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—Generally common—seen on most days  
Mountain Wren (*Troglodytes solstitialis*)—1 was seen nicely at BR  
Song Wren (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*)—Heard on two mornings at BR; unresponsive

#### MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

**Long-tailed Mockingbird** (*Mimus longicaudatus*)—Rather common throughout the SW in more arid areas usually

#### THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDAE

**Chiguanco Thrush** (*Turdus chiguanco*)—At least 1 was seen well south of Cuenca  
Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*)—A common highland species: common in the general Cuenca/CNRA region and lesser numbers were seen on three other days this trip  
**Plumbeous-backed Thrush** (*Turdus reevei*)—3-4 were seen daily in the Macará-JR area  
Ecuadorian Thrush (*Turdus maculirostris*)—Only a few were seen; SE of Guayaquil, JR (heard) and BR

## GNATCHATCHERS & ALLIES

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*)—Seen often on 5 days, everytime we imitated a pygmy-owl!

## JAYS & ALLIES: CORVIDAE

**White-tailed Jay** (*Cyanocorax mystacalis*)—A super 4 were seen at JR; then 3 more east of there the following day

## VIREOS & ALLIES: VIREONIDAE

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*)—1 was seen along the Molleturo Road on our first morning

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)—3 were seen in the Macará-JR area; 1 at CM

Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*)—3 were seen at BR

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)—Singles were seen at Manglares-Churute and YR; common around Macará-ZA and JR

## SISKINS, CROSSBILLS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

**Orange-crowned Euphonia** (*Euphonia saturata*)—Fairly common in the Macará-JR area; others seen at BR on two days

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*)—Small numbers seen east of Macará, at BR and CM mostly

Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—Common and widespread in Ecuador; 2 were seen on our first day and on two dyas at BR

**Saffron Siskin** (*Carduelis siemiradzki*)—4-5 were seen along the road to ZA; another 1 was seen near EM

Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Carduelis xanthogastra*)—1 juv. And then 2 females were seen at BR

## NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)—1 was seen along the lower Molletura Road; 3 were seen (one baby) near Macará

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)—A common boreal migrant to Andean montane areas; only 1 beautiful male was seen along the Molleturo Road on day one

**Olive-crowned Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis semiflava*)—A male and female were seen over two days at BR (also heard)

Slate-throated Whitestart (*Myioborus miniatus*)—Some authors call them “Redstarts”, though they show no red. 3-4 were seen at YR; another was seen at BR

**Gray-and-gold Warbler** (*Basileuterus fraseri*)—6 were seen at JR; at least 2 more east of there the following day

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*)—A pair was seen along the Molleturo Road in the subtropics

**Three-banded Warbler** (*Basileuterus trifasciatus*)—Singles were seen well on 2 days at BR

## BANANAQUIT: COEREBIDAE

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)—Common at BR

## TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

**Giant Conebill** (*Oreomanes fraseri*)—Spectacular close looks at 2 in classic *Polylepis* woodland at CNRA

**Black-and-white Tanager** (*Conothraupis speculigera*)—We worked hard for this one! Thanks to Nancy and Sam, we finally located 2 (heard a bunch) at EM

Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*)—Common at BR

Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*)—2 were seen at BR

Rufous-chested Tanager (*Thlypopsis ornata*)—5 were seen with mixed foraging flock at YR; 2 more were seen above Sozoranga

Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*)—Pairs were seen on two days at BR

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)—Single males (only) were seen on two days at BR

Highland Hepatic-Tanager (*Piranga lutea*)—Aka Hepatic Tanager (*P. flava*) by some Authors. 1 male was seen at JR

Lemon-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus icteronotus*)—Aka Flame-rumped Tanager (*R. flammigerus*) by some authors. Fairly common in humid lowlands

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—The most common tanager; seen daily

Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)—Pairs were seen; YR and UR

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)—Pairs were seen on two days at BR

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipreidea melanonota*)—1 was seen at BR

Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*)—Small numbers were seen in humid subtropics (5 days); some nice views!

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*)—At least 6 were seen at BR

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*)—Quite common at BR; nice looks!

Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*)—Only 1 was seen at BR

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)—Fairly common (three days) at BR

Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)—A group of 5 were seen at BR

**Tit-like Dacnis** (*Xenodacnis parina*)—Quite a few female and juv. Seen, but only 1-2 stunning males at CNRA

#### BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES: EMBERIZIDAE

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus unicolor*)—Several were seen in Paramo at CNRA

Band-tailed Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus alaudinus*)—3 were seen at Catamayo Valley

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus plebejus*)—Quite common; several at OV, 1 near ZA and common north of Macará/EM

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)—Quite a few seen throughout; males displaying too

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*)—Quite a few seen throughout; most common at BR

**Black-and-white Seedeater** (*Sporophila luuctuosa*)—3 were seen well east of Macará

Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*)—Common at BR

**Drab Seedeater** (*Sporophila simplex*)—4 were seen well in the Catamayo Valley

**Chestnut-throated Seedeater** (*Sporophila telasco*)—6 were seen along the road to PJ

Dull-colored Grassquit (*Tiaris oscurus*)—1 was seen at BR

White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*)—1 male was seen along the Molleturo Road

Black Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa humeralis*)—Apparently 1 was seen in the Cuenca-CNRA area

Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis cyanea*)—Several seen; from Cuenca- south to UR, especially close at feeders there

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*)—Common throughout, seen on all but one day

Rufous-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*)—Aka Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch. 1 was seen closely near EM

**Tricolored Brush-Finch** (*Atlapetes tricolor*)—1 was seen at BR (a Chocó endemic)

**White-headed Brush-Finch** (*Atlapetes albiceps*)—A pair of this Tumbesian endemic was finally seen at EM

**Pale-headed Brush-Finch** (*Atlapetes pallidiceps*)—This range-restricted endemic is one of the most threatened species in Ecuador; population of only 50 pair remain. 1 was seen fairly well (a few fly-bys were glimpsed) and others heard at YR

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*)—1 was seen fairly closely BR

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arrenomops conirostris*)—Singles were seen (others heard) on two days at BR

**Tumbes Sparrow** (*Aimophila stolzmanni*)—5 were seen nicely at Catamayo Valley

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)—Common highland species throughout the Andes

#### SALTATORS, CARDINALS & ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*)—The unstreaked form! 4 were seen at JR; others heard in the Macará area

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)—Several were seen at BR

**Black-cowled Saltator** (*Saltator nigriceps*)—1 very obliging singing bird was seen quite closely just west of UR, but in thick fog (bummer!)

Southern Yellow-Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*)—Aka Golden-bellied Grosbeak by some authors. Common on five days from YR to the Macará-Za area

#### CACIQUES, ORIOLES & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Peruvian Meadowlark (*Sturnella bellicosa*)—Nice looks at quite a few in Yunguilla Valley, outside of Macará-ZA, PJ

Scrub Blackbird (*Dives warszewiczi*)—Common to very common on all but one day

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)—Common in the PJ area

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)—Rather common; seen on most days

Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*)—Quite a few seen on four days from Catamayo to Macará area

**White-edged Oriole** (*Icterus graceannae*)—Great looks at several (some 15+ seen) in the JR-Macará-EM area

Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*)—A few were seen on two days at JR

#### MAMMAL LIST

##### RACCOONS & ALLIES: PROCYONIDAE

**White-nosed Coati** (*Nasua narica*)—A wonderful extended family group (8 or so) visited fruit feeders and dining area daily at BR (Umbrellabird Lodge)

##### SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE

**Guayaquil Squirrel** (*Sciurus stramineus*)—Singles of this very attractive species were seen at JR, Macará area and BR (two days)

##### CAVY-LIKE RODENTS: AGOUTIDAE

Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*)—Singles were seen on two days at BR

##### RABBITS: LEPORIDAE

Brazilian or Neotropical Rabbit/Tapiti (*Silvilagus brasiliensis*)—1 was seen at CNRA

NEW WORLD MONKEYS: CEBIDAE

Mantled Howler Monkey (*Alouatta palliata*)—Heard often at JR; also once (?) at BR

OTHER NOTEWORTHY CREATURES

IGUANAS: IGUANIDAE

Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*)—Pairs were seen twice in the coastal lowlands; SE of Guayaquil and at PJ

TRUE TOADS: BUFONIDAE

Cane Toad/Giant Neotropical Toad (*Bufo marinus*)—A few were seen at Umbrellabird Lodge (BR)

POISON DART FROGS: DENDROBATIDAE

**Anthony's Poison Frog** (*Epipedobates anthonyi*)—Considered a subspecies of Phantasmal Poison Frog (*Epipedobates tricolor*) by some authors. Several of this poison dart frog were seen along the road near Umbrellabird Lodge at BR