

ECUADOR: THE SOUTHERN ANDES

AUGUST 16 – 27, 2010

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Birding is always challenging, and in the Neotropics it can be very much so—while at the same time exhilarating. Our August Southern Andes tour in Ecuador had its distinct challenges, and its fair share of excitement. First of all, the weather was surprisingly uniformly sunny, and anyone who knows the Andes would tell you, “It’s gonna be tough.” I’d never seen it that way for so many days, and it kept me planning and scheming as to how we would make the best out of it. On the other hand, boy, did we enjoy beautiful scenery; we could practically see Peru from Cuenca, and that’s a long way off!

Our first morning was the perfect orientation. We started with a Black-capped Tyrannulet, a glowing Blue-and-black Tanager, and enjoyed a pleasant day picking up our first new species around Llaviuco Lagoon; Ecuadorian Rail, Shining Sunbeams, a close Rainbow Starfrontlet, and even our first glimpse at Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan were memorable. Our second day was spent adding bird after bird in the high temperate and paramo zones of El Cajas National Park...who said the sun’s a killer? The afternoon was birdless, but what a morning! We had exceptional looks at so many species. A stunning male Ecuadorian Hillstar bombed us, Blue-mantled Thornbill sat for us, the rare and local Tit-like Dacnis was seen at four or five separate areas, no need for binoculars for a Giant Conebill, the local endemic Violet-throated Metaltail came in close, and a Many-striped Canastero decided to sit atop a low pine tree...and they kept coming.

We then headed southward from Cuenca in blazing sun, but an obliging White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant was the highlight. Our stay at Copalinga, in the eastern foothills, with visits to the Bombuscaro entrance of Podocarpus National Park, did not disappoint one bit: a sharp male Spangled Coquette, Wire-crested Thorntail, Coppery-chested Jacamar, the recently described Foothill Elaenia, Amazonian Umbrellabird, and a “truckload” of dazzling tanagers, including Orange-eared, Guira, Golden-eared, Paradise, Green-and-gold, Yellow-bellied, Blue-necked, and Spotted among them. The “Old” Zamora Road was as productive as ever with point-blank views of Cliff Flycatcher, a spectacular male Andean Cock-of-the-rock feeding on *Miconia* berries only meters away at eye level, several Chestnut-vented Conebills, and even excellent close looks at some obscure flycatchers like Red-billed and Ecuadorian tyrannulets, and Spectacled Bristle-Tyrant. A small band of White-breasted Parakeets blessed us with their presence too.

We continued south again to Tapichalaca Reserve and one of the great highlights of this entire region—the Jocotoco Antpitta, at our feet...4 of them! It is truly impossible to describe the sensation of sharing this moment with fellow birders, knowing all too well just how rare, local, and difficult-to-see this species really is. Indescribable! Birding this area and downslope past the village of Valladolid brought more avian treasures, in a very interesting sector of the country that combines Andean slope species together with Amazonian and Marañón endemics. The weather seemed still unfavorable, but the birds kept on responding with Marañón Thrush and a group of Rufous-fronted Thornbirds working on a nest, great tanagers, and two highlights: Highland Elaenia and Chestnut-crested Cotinga—two rare and local species in Ecuador; they must favor sunshine! The following morning we birded our way out of Tapichalaca back towards Loja, and a rather healthy mixed foraging flock afforded us great looks at more Andean specialties, including a band of Citrine Warblers, Blue-backed Conebills, a very generous Black-headed Hemispingus, and colorful Golden-crowned Tanagers among the attendees.

The following day was our last full one, and I had already predicted that sun would really hurt the midday period; we headed out early to the Cajanuma sector of Podocarpus National Park, worked our way up the entrance road, and hung out a bit around the park station. The birding was characteristically good all morning; we came upon a couple of mixed foraging flocks with beautiful, singing Red-hooded Tanagers. Grass-green Tanagers also showed themselves wonderfully. Black-and-chestnut Eagle soared on by, searching for breakfast. A close foraging flock that showed up inside forest understory along one of the trails near the station brought us superb close looks at Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Pearled Treerunner, Superciliaried Hemispingus, and Russet-crowned Warbler. We decided to wait out the midday sun down in the valley at the local botanical gardens and had lunch near Vilcabamba, only to return to Cajanuma in the afternoon, which worked out well. By the time we began our final descent from the park, birds began to get active, and we came upon a Bearded Guan, quietly feeding along the road.

Our final morning, before our flight back to Quito, was spent working our way down from humid to dry habitat, to the airport in the Catamayo Valley, where we found a variety of new species, including a few we missed in other areas. Croaking Ground-Dove, Pacific Pygmy-Owl, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Long-tailed Mockingbird, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Fasciated Wren, Band-tailed Sierra-Finch, Saffron Finch, and Lesser Goldfinch were among the species we encountered.

This was a very enjoyable trip which included many close encounters with so many wonderful species from this small slice of Ecuador.

ITINERARY

Aug 16 — Arrival in Quito;

Aug 17 — Early AM flight to Cuenca/ after registering at our hotel, remainder of day spent at Laguna de Llaviuco in the lower El Cajas National Recreation Area

Aug 18 — AM in paramo zone of El Cajas National Recreation Area/ PM return to

the lower temperate zone areas

Aug 19 — Long drive from Cuenca via Oña valley and Acanama (lunch stop along road to Fierohurco) to Zamora and Copalinga Lodge

Aug 20 — Bombuscaro Trail in the lower Podocarpus National / PM at Copalinga Lodge grounds

Aug 21 — Bombuscaro Trail (AM)/ Copalinga Lodge area (PM)

Aug 22 — Copalinga & lower "Old" Zamora Road (until 10:30 AM)/drive with stops to Tapichalaca Reserve

Aug 23 — Tapichalaca (Jocotoco Trail)AM/ afternoon drive to Valladolid-Palanda

July 24 — Tapichalaca Area, then drive to Loja via Yangana, Vilcabamba, etc.

July 25 — Cajanuma area (upper Podocarpus National Park) AM and PM; midday at Jardín Botánico and El Viejo Molienda

July 26 — Early AM birding Catamayo Valley; 10:30 flight from Catamayo Airport—to Quito

July 27 —Departure from Quito

THE SPECIES LIST

TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*)—1 was flushed from the road (!) near Bombuscaro

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: ANATIDAE

Andean [Speckled] Teal (*Anas [flavirostris] andinum*)—8 were seen at Laguna de Llaviuco, including some close looks

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)—1 bird seen well at Laguna Llaviuco; possibly the first Andean record for Ecuador

Andean Ruddy-Duck (*Oxyura ferruginea*)—1 males were seen at Laguna de Llaviuco; 6 more were seen on lagunas Toreadora and Illincocha at El Cajas. Also called Andean Duck by some authors

CURASSOWS & GUANS: CRACIDAE

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)—At least 8 were seen well right around cabins at Copalinga

Bearded Guan (*Penelope barbata*)—1 bird was seen well, at close quarters, along the upper Cajanuma entrance road

AMERICAN VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)—Surprisingly scarce this trip! 20 were seen between Valladolid and Palanda; several more in the Catamayo Valley
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—Small numbers were seen on five days

KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)—At least 5 were seen nicely just above Valladolid

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)—Only 1 bird was seen along the 'Old' Zamora Road; strangely absent!

Variable Hawk (*Buteo polyosoma*)—This species combines two forms that are often split into two separate species by some authors. Red-backed Hawk (*B. polyosoma*) found in the western lowlands to the temperate zone and Puna Hawk (*B. poecilochrous*) basically of the paramo zone in Ecuador; here they are considered one species. We saw both forms: 1 juvenile bird was seen in the paramo at El Cajas (Puna form); singles were seen south of Cuenca, and near Yangana; a pair was seen above Valladolid (Red-backed form).

Black-and-chestnut Eagle (*Spizaetus isidori*)—1 soaring bird was seen at Cajanuma

FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Carunculated Caracara (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*)—1 bird was seen briefly in flight near Las Tres Chorreras, below El Cajas

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)—5 were seen (mostly males), in more open country, south of Cuenca, the Valladolid-Palanda area, and south of Loja

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Ecuadorian Rail (*Rallus aequatorialis*)—Several calling birds and 1 seen as it flew from reed-bed to reed-bed, at Laguna de Llaviucu. Some authors consider this form a subspecies of Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*)—voices very distinct

Plumbeous Rail (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*)—at least 2 were heard only (unlikely to come out in bright sun) at Vilcabamba

Andean (Slate-colored) Coot (*Fulica ardesiaca*)—2 were seen on Laguna de Llaviucu; 2 more at Laguna Toreadora in El Cajas

LAPWINGS & PLOVERS: CHARADRIIDAE

Andean Lapwing (*Vanellus resplendens*)—5 were seen just below the summit at El cajas

GULLS & TERNS: LARIDAE

Andean Gull (*Larus serranus*)—Pairs were seen from laguna Llaviuco and along the valley below El Cajas, at Las Tres Chorreras Restaurant

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)—Seen in most urban settings throughout—a true thrill always!

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*)—11 in all, seen over four days, in wooded and forested areas in the highlands; only small numbers were seen with a maximum of 5

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)—1 was heard around Bombuscaro; a pair was seen at Copalinga

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)—Seen mostly in drier regions of the southern Highlands; common especially around Cuenca and Catamayo Valley

Croaking Ground-Dove (*Columbina cruziana*)—Common in the Catamayo Valley

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)—Singles were seen (one heard) in the Zamora-Bombuscaro area; also at the Jardín Botánico

White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon frenata*)—a group of 3-4 were seen walking the Jocotoco trail at Tapichalaca

PARROTS & MACAWS: PSITTACIDAE

Golden-plumed Parakeet (*Leptosittaca branickii*)—A group of apparently flying birds was heard only at Tapichalaca. A local and threatened species

White-necked Parakeet (*Pyrrhura albipectus*)—Bands of 6 or so were seen several times around Colapinga and Bombuscaro (also heard); a group of 6 was finally seen well along the “old” Zamora Road

White-eyed Parakeet (*Aratinga leucophthalma*)—several high-flying flocks were seen at Bombuscaro and Copalinga; 1 perched bird (out of a larger flock) was seen well south of Valladolid

Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestis*)—Surprisingly, heard only at Catamayo; 2 flying birds were barely glimpsed there

CUCKOOS & ANIS: CUCULIDAE

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—Small numbers were seen generally in more humid open country, also 2 were found in the arid Catamayo Valley

TYPICAL OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Pacific [Peruvian] Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium peruanum*)—1 bird was called in at the Municipal Waste Processing site in the upper Catamayo Valley

NIGHTHAWKS & NIGHTJARS: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)—Heard nightly and pre-dawn at Copalinga

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Cypseloides natterii*)—Only one sighting of about 10 birds above Valladolid on 24 Aug.

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

- Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*)—At least a half dozen were seen daily in the Bombuscaro-Copalinga area both in the field and at nectar feeders
- Brown Violet-ear (*Colibri delphinae*)—1 bird was seen over two days at a flowering *Verbena* shrub at Copalinga
- Sparkling Violet-ear (*Colibri coruscans*)—Though a common highland species, only a few were seen in Quito
- Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*)—This species was common, daily at a flowering *Verbena* shrub at Copalinga
- Spangled Coquette** (*Lophornis stictolophus*)—Close looks at a 1 male at a flowering *Verbena* shrub at Copalinga
- Wire-crested Thorntail** (*Popelairia popelairii*)—A single crested male and 1 female were seen well at a flowering *Verbena* shrub at Copalinga (seemingly few in the area this trip)
- Blue-tailed Emerald (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*)—1 male was seen perched, along the 'Old' Zamora Road
- Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)—Quite a few this trip, all in the Zamora-Bombuscaro-Copalinga area, in the field and at nectar feeders
- Golden-tailed Sapphire (*Chrysuronia oenone*)—At least 3 beautiful males were visiting a flowering *Verbena* shrub at Copalinga, daily
- Glittering-throated Emerald (*Polyerata* [*Amazilia*] *fimbriata*)—Several were seen daily in the Zamora area; mostly at Copalinga nectar feeders. A common garden bird in the east
- Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)—2 were seen daily at Tapichalaca nectar feeders
- Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*)—2 were seen at the Tapichalaca nectar feeders
- Violet-fronted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa leadbeateri*)—The common brilliant at Copalinga feeders and the Zamora area in general; males only were seen this time
- Chestnut-breasted Coronet (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*)—Very common at Tapichalaca nectar feeders
- Shining Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*)—2 were seen nicely at Llaviucu and another at El Cajas
- Ecuadorian [Chimborazo] Hillstar** (*Oreotrochilus chimborazo*)—2 males were seen well (one, was very reactive to playback) were seen at El Cajas
- Mountain Velvetbreast (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi*)—A pair, apparently, were watched as they one-at-a-time, hawked insects in a ray of sunlight along the entrance road at Cajanuma
- Collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*)—3-4 of this very classy bird were seen repeatedly at Tapichalaca nectar feeders; another was seen along the Jocotoco Trail there.
- Buff-winged Starfrontlet (*Coeligena lutetiae*)—1 was seen hovering and then perched along the trail at Cajanuma

Rainbow Starfrontlet (*Coeligena iris*)—Quite a few seen; at least 2 were seen closely at Llaviuco; another 2 were seen below Tapichalaca, and 5 were seen at Cajanuma

Amethyst-throated Sunangel (*Heliangelus amethysticollis*)—Up to 4 or so were seen repeatedly and daily at Tapichalaca nectar feeders

Flame-throated [Little] Sunangel (*Heliangelus micraster*)—Up to 3 or so were seen repeatedly and daily at Tapichalaca nectar feeders

Purple-throated Sunangel (*Heliangelus viola*)—1 was seen perched at Cajanuma

Sapphire-vented Puffleg (*Eriocnemis luciani*)—This species was quite common at Llaviuco; seen closely

Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*)—Normally a rather common highland species; only 1 was seen somewhat briefly at Cajanuma

Violet-throated Metaltail (*Metallura baroni*)—3-4 of this very range-restricted Ecuadorian endemic species were seen well in the El Cajas area

Blue-mantled Thornnbill (*Chalcostigma stanleyi*)—We got excellent looks at 2, feeding in shrubs at Laguna Illincocha, El Cajas

Long-tailed Sylph (*Agelaiocercus kingi*)—1 male and 1 female were seen well at Tapichalaca nectar feeders; another male flew by briefly

Amethyst Woodstar (*Calliphlox amethystina*)—1 female was seen south of Valladolid

White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)—Both males and females were seen repeatedly at Tapichalaca nectar feeders

Gorgeted Woodstar (*Chaetocercus heliodor*)—1 female was seen well at Tapichalca nectar feeders

TROGONS & QUETZALS: TROGONIDAE

Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*)—a beautiful pair was seen at Llaviuco; another male was seen at Tapichalaca

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Highland Motmot (*Momotus aequatorialis*)—1 was seen well along the Bombuscaro entrance trail

JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

Coppery-chested Jacamar (*Galbula pastazae*)—A pair was seen beautifully at Copalinga, just above the cabins

NEW WORLD BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*)—Pairs were seen well with mixed foraging flocks at Bombuscaro on two days

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena hypoglauca*)—1 was seen fairly

close by, but in deep shadow, at Llaviuco; then a beauty was seen very closely and in great light in the understory at Cajanuma; a few others were seen as well

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Lafresnaye's Piculet (*Picumnus lafresnayi*)—1 was seen with a small mixed foraging flock at Copalinga, from the dining area

Bar-bellied Woodpecker (*Veniliornis nigriceps*)—1 was heard only at Tapichalaca

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*)—1 was seen at Bombuscaro

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (*Piculus rivolii*)—3 of this really stunning woodpecker were seen at Cajanuma

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)—1 was seen (also heard) at Copalinga

OVENBIRDS: FURNARIIDAE

Bar-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes fuscus*)—Quite common at El Cajas, including excellent views

Pacific Hornero (*Furnarius cinnamomeus*)—Common in more arid areas on the west slope and southern Andes; considered a race of Pale-legged Hornero (*Furnarius leucopus*) by some authors; most common around Loja and in the Catamayo Valley

Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*)—1 was seen (others heard) on only one day (!?), above Valladolid (without playback)

Dark-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albigularis*)—Heard a few times in the Zamora area; 1 was seen along the lower "old" Zamora Road

Ash-browed Spinetail (*Cranioleuca curtatus*)—Several were seen, always with a mixed foraging flocks, over three days, in the Bombuscaro-Copalinga-'Old' Zamora road area

Many-striped Canastero (*Asthene flammulata*)—1 was very well at El Cajas

Rufous-fronted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus rufifrons*)—A group of four were seen closely attending (building) a large stick nest just south of Valladolid (this species is moving northward here)

Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*)—1 was seen up close with a mixed foraging flock above Valladolid

Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*)—First, 1 was seen closeby with a mixed foraging flock at Laguna de Llaviuco; Then at least 10 were seen with a large mixed foraging flock at Cajanuma

Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*)—At least 1 was seen fairly well at Laguna de Llaviuco

Montane Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia striaticollis*)—3 were seen along the entrance trail to Bombuscaro, with mixed foraging flocks

Black-billed treehunter (*Thripadectes melanorhynchus*)—1 calling bird flushed out of thick roadside vegetation only to bury itself again nearby

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)—This species was heard only, very close, at Copalinga

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)—singles were seen with mixed foraging flocks, along Bombuscaro park trail and the 'Old' Zamora Road

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*)—3 were seen in all, 1 south of Valladolid; 2 were seen closely at Cajanuma

Brown-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus pusillus*)—Heard only at Cajanuma

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Lined Antshrike (*Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*)—a nice pair were seen nicely From the dining area, at Copalinga

Blackish Antbird (*Cercomacra nigrescens*)—A pair was seen along the 'Old' Zamora Road

Scale-backed Antbird (*Willisornis poecilinotus*)—1 male was finally seen very closely along the Bombuscaro park trail

GROUND ANTBIRDS: FORMICARIIDAE

Plain-backed Antpitta (*Grallaria haplonota*)—Heard only along the Bombuscaro Park Trail

Chestnut-naped Antpitta (*Grallaria nuchalis*)—Heard only on two days at Tapichalaca

Jocotoco Antpitta (*Grallaria ridgelyi*)—A wonderful 4 individuals came in to feed at the feeding station set up by the Jocotoco Foundation at Tapichalaca; repeated views . . . spectacular!!

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapilla*)—Heard only at Cajanuma

Rufous Antpitta (*Grallaria rufula*)—Heard only, on two days at Tapichalaca

Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*)—Heard only in paramo at El Cajas (few calling this trip)

TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Chusquea Tapaculo (*Scytalopus parkeri*)—Heard only at Tapichalaca and at Cajanuma

Blackish [Unicolored] Tapaculo (*Scytalopus [unicolor] latrans*)—1 was seen closely by Ellen along the Jocotoco trail at Tapichalaca

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

White-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*)—Quite a few were seen, always with mixed foraging flocks, in temperate forest at Laguna de Llaviuco, Tapichalaca, and Cajanuma

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)—Pairs were seen well with small mixed foraging flocks at Laguna de Llaviuco, and El Cajas

Tufted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes parulus*)—At least 2 were seen well at Laguna de Llaviuco

Foothill Elaenia (*Myiopagis olallai*)—1, of this newly described species, was seen at the Bombuscaro station areawith a mixed foraging flock

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)—1 was seen and heard south of Valladolid

White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*)—Heard only west of Loja, at La Virgen shrine spot; never showed

Highland Elaenia (*Elaenia obscura*)—At least 2 of this rare and local species were seen above Valladolid on 24 Aug.

Streak-necked Flycatcher (*Mionectes striaticollis*)—1 was seen above Valladolid with a mixed foraging flock

Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*)—1 was seen at the Bombuscaro park entrance area

Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant (*Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus*)—1 was seen with a mixed foraging flock near the Bombuscaro park station

Spectacled Bristle-Tyrant (*Pogonotriccus orbitalis*)—1 was seen nicely at the Bombuscaro park station area

Ecuadorian Tyrannulet (*Phyloscartes gualaquizae*)—1 was seen well, came in to playback and sang beautifully at close range

Black-capped Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*)—1 juvenile bird was seen well along Laguna de Llaviuco entrance road; 1 adult was seen closely above Valladolid with a mixed foraging flock

Red-billed Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius cinereicapilla*)—1 was seen closely along the 'Old' Zamora Road

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*)—only 3 in all this trip, seen over two days at Bombuscaro, along the park trail

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*)—Singles were seen well in the Oña Valley *en route* between Cuenca and Loja and in the upper Catamayo Valley at the municipal landfill area

Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher (*Poecilatriccus calopterus*)—2 were seen, with some work, at Copalinga

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)—1 was seen at Copalinga where it was nesting

Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*)—Pairs were seen above Valladolid and at Cajanuma; handsome thing

Cliff Flycatcher (*Hirundinea ferruginea*)—Excellent close looks at 1 at the bridge along the lower "Old" Zamora Road

Olive-chested Flycatcher (*Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*)—1 was seen at Copalinga; also heard there

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*)—1 was seen at Tapichalaca

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)—Pairs were regularly found near water throughout the Andes (on six days)

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)—At least a pair was seen in the arid Oña valley *en route* between Cuenca and Loja

Rufous-tailed Tyrant (*Knipolegus poecilurus*)—2 were spotted along the road above Valladolid; another was seen closely there the following day

Paramo [Plain-capped] Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola alpinus*)—2 were seen near the pass at El Cajas

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant (*Agriornis montana*)—1 was seen briefly at El Cajas

White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant (*Agriornis albicauda*)—this rather rare and local species was seen quite nicely at Acanama, between Cuenca and Loja

Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant (*Agriornis striaticollis*)—1 was seen well at Acanama, perched atop a pine tree
Smoky Bush-Tyrant (*Myiotheretes fumigatus*)—Singles were encountered at Tapichalaca, and Cajanuma
Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant (*Cnemarchus erythropygius*)—1 was seen well but a bit distantly at El Cajas
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*)—A pair of this attractive species was seen well at Laguna de Llaviuco; another was seen at Cajanuma
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*)—2 were seen in the paramo at El Cajas
Pale-edged Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cephalotes*)—Singles were seen well on two days at Bombuscaro and along the 'Old' Zamora Road
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)—Only 1 was seen near Valladolid
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—Seen on most days in small to moderate numbers at lower elevations

COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE

Chestnut-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rufaxilla*)—1 was seen all too briefly a few kilometers above Valladolid (a rare and local species)
Andean Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*)—A spectacular male (the orange race) was seen at close range feeding on *Miconia* fruit along the 'Old' Zamora Road
Amazonian Umbrellabird (*Cephalopterus ornatus*)—2 were seen, one very well—plus scoped—along the Bombuscaro park trail

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

Striped Manakin (*Machaeropterus regulus*)—males kept escaping (heard several times) with perhaps a few fleeting glimpses; 1 female was seen at Copalinga
Blue-rumped Manakin (*Lepidothryx isidorei*)—2 beautiful males were spotted by Ellen (great long looks) along the Bombuscaro park trail; then a female was seen at Copalinga the following day
Golden-headed Manakin (*Pipra erythrocephala*)—2 beautiful males were seen at Copalinga

TITYRAS & ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Black-and-white Becard (*Pachyramphus albogriseus*)—Single females were seen the Bombuscaro park station area and again along the 'Old' Zamora Road

VIREOS & ALLIES: VIREONIDAE

Olivaceous Greenlet (*Hylophilus olivaceus*)—Heard often; 1-2 were seen (even well) in the Bombuscaro/Copalinga/ "Old" Zamora Road area, over three days

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)—1 was seen well in the Oña Valley *en route* between Cuenca and Loja

JAYS: CORVIDAE

Inca Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*)—Fairly common in the foothills and subtropics on the east slope of the Andes; seen on five days in the region (Zamora region and Valladolid area); lumped with Green Jay of North America by some authors

Turquoise Jay (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)—At least 8 were seen at Laguna de Llaviuco

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)—The most common swallow in Ecuador; seen regularly on most days, except at higher altitudes where replaced by the following species

Brown-bellied Swallow (*Notiochelidon murina*)—The common high elevation swallow in Ecuador; in upper temperate and paramo

White-thighed Swallow (*Neochelidon tibialis*)—2 were seen on the grounds at Copalinga

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)—small numbers were seen at and around Copalinga and the general Zamora area; also south of Valladolid

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)—At least 4 were perched and flying at Catamayo Airport on our last morning

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

Fasciated Wren (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*)—Only 6 seen this trip; 1 at the bridge at Yangana; then 5 were seen very closely at the Catamayo airport on our last morning

Rufous Wren (*Cinnycerthia unirufa*)—A nice band of 6 were seen at Cajanuma

Plain-tailed Wren (*Thryothorus euophrys*)—Heard in *Chusquea* bamboo at Tapichalaca; then a responsive trio were seen closely at Cajanuma

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—A few were seen and heard; basically always in inhabited areas; Oña, Valladolid, etc.

Mountain Wren (*Troglodytes solstitialis*)—1 was seen nicely at Cajanuma

Grass [Sedge] Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)—A pair was seen quite well at Laguna de Llaviuco; Also heard in grassland at El Cajas. The taxonomy of Sedge/Grass Wren superspecies needs much work

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)—Heard only along the Bombuscaro park trail, the 'Old' Zamora Road, and above Valladolid

DIPPERS: CINCLIDAE

White-capped Dipper (*Cinclus leucocephalus*)—Singles were seen well at a stream along the entrance road to Laguna de Llaviuco and higher up at El Cajas

THRUSHES: TURDIDAE

- Chiguanco Thrush (*Turdus chiguanco*)—A thrush of drier Andes in southern Ecuador; 2 were seen just south of Cuenca (together with great Thrush for comparison)
- Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*)—Common throughout the Andes; found in more humid areas than previous species generally, but there is overlap, as we saw
- Marañón Thrush** (*Turdus maranonicus*)—1 was seen south of Valladolid, towards Palanda; endemic to the Marañón Valley
- Glossy-black Thrush (*Turdus serranus*)—1 was glimpsed in flight at Cajanuma
- Black-billed Thrush (*Turdus ignobilis*)—5 were seen very well around Copalinga
- White-necked Thrush** (*Turdus albicollis*)—2-3 birds were seen on two days along the Bombuscaro park trail (nice looks)

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

- Long-tailed Mockingbird (*Mimus longicaudus*)—Seen in more arid areas; in the Catamayo Valley and Yangana area south of Loja

GNATCATCHERS & ALLIES: POLIOPTILIDAE

- Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*)—2 were seen well at the Municipal dump in the upper Catamayo Valley

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

- Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)—Fairly common in the Zamora/ Copalinga/ Bombuscaro area
- Slate-throated Whitestart [Redstart] (*Myioborus miniatus*)—1-2 seen at lower elevation sites, where it replaces Spectacled Whitestart (seen on four days)
- Spectacled Whitestart [Redstart] (*Myioborus melanocephalus*)—2-4 were seen at higher elevation sites, where it replaces Slate-throated Whitestart (seen on only three days)
- Citrine Warbler (*Basileuterus luteoviridis*)—At least 6 were seen at Tapichalaca with a nice mixed foraging flock
- Black-crested Warbler (*Basileuterus nigrocristatus*)—1 was seen very well at Tapichalaca
- Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*)—Mostly heard, but sporadically this trip; 1 was seen briefly at Cajanuma
- Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*)—Heard only, Bombuscaro and along the “Old” Zamora Road

BANANAQUIT: COEREBIDAE

- Bananaquit (*Coeceba flaveola*)—Quite common in the Zamora region. Now apparently placed in its own family again

TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

- Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leveriana*)—2-3 were seen daily at Copalinga and the Zamora area in general
- Superciliaried Hemispingus (*Hemispingus superciliaris*)—4 were seen at Cajanuma, with mixed foraging flocks
- Black-headed Hemispingus** (*Hemispingus verticalis*)—1 was seen nicely in the Tapichalaca Reserve, with a mixed foraging flock, along the highway
- Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager (*Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*)—2 were seen well at Tapichalaca; another was seen at Cajanuma; with characteristic constant tail wagging
- Chestnut-vented Conebill** (*Conirostrum speciosum*)—5 were seen along the 'Old' Zamora Road
- Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)—Only singles were seen; at Tapichalaca and Cajanuma—always with mixed foraging flocks
- Giant Conebill** (*Oreomanes fraseri*)—Spectacular NBN (no binoculars needed) experience; 1 singing bird came in and sat, too close to focus!—this is a *Polylepis* specialist—at El Cajas (another was also seen closely there)
- Tit-like Dacnis** (*Xenodacnis parina*)—20 of this stunning and very localized Andean species were seen (Laguna Illincocha and in other locations) at El Cajas
- Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*)—This was common throughout the Zamora region; seen on three days there
- Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus canigularis*)—2 were seen at Bombuscaroon our first morning there
- Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*)—1 male was seen well along the "Old" Zamora Road
- White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)—A pair was seen on two days, very closely, at Copalinga (also came down to the feeders); 4 more were seen in the Valladolid area
- Highland Hepatic-Tanager (*Piranga [flava] lutea*)—A male was seen near Yangana. Known as Hepatic Tanager (*P. flava*) by some authors
- Red-hooded Tanager** (*Piranga rubriceps*)—Super and repeated looks at 3 of this rather "nomadic" species at Cajanuma
- Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)—Common in the eastern lowlands and foothills where seen daily; Zamora and Valladolid regions
- Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—Generally the most common and widespread *Thraupis* in both drier and humid habitats. Both Ecuadorian races (with and without white in wing) were seen
- Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)—1 was seen fairly well above Valladolid
- Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)—Small numbers were seen on three days mostly around Copalinga feeders
- Hooded Mountain-Tanager** (*Buthraupis montana*)—Excellent close looks at this fairly common, but fancy mountain-tanager at Tapichalaca; along the Jocotoco Trail (an adult and juvenile)
- Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus lacrymosus*)—Several were seen,

with mixed foraging flocks, at: Tapichalaca, above Valladolid, and at Cajanuma

Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*)—Pairs were seen at Tapichalaca and Cajanuma (great looks at a stunning bird!)

Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager (*Dubusia taeniata*)—Wonderful looks a 1 surprisingly obliging bird at Tapichalaca

Golden-crowned Tanager (*Iridosornis rufivertex*)—Several of this stunning temperate zone tanager were seen with mixed foraging flocks at Tapichalaca

Orange-eared Tanager (*Chlorochrysa calliparaea*)—3-4 of this beautiful species were seen with mixed foraging flocks at Bombuscaro

Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)—An eyeful!! At least 20 were seen with various mixed foraging flocks at Bombuscaro/Copalinga/'Old' Zamora Road

Green-and-gold Tanager (*Tangara schrankii*)—Wonderful looks daily at Copalinga feeders; also seen regularly with mixed tanager flocks throughout the Zamora region

Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*)—many seen, especially at fruit feeders at Copalinga; also seen regularly with mixed tanager flocks throughout the Zamora region

Golden-eared Tanager (*Tangara chrysotis*)—This lovely tanager was seen with mixed tanager flocks at Bombuscaro and is now a regular visitor at Copalinga feeders!

Yellow-bellied Tanager (*Tangara xanthogastra*)—A pair was seen near Copalinga; 6 were seen along the 'Old' Zamora Road

Spotted Tanager (*Tangara punctatus*)—Fairly common in the Zamora region; seen with most mixed tanager flocks

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*)—2-4 were seen daily in the Zamora Area

Golden-naped Tanager (*Tangara rufivertex*)—Only 1 was seen above Valladolid

Metallic-green Tanager (*Tangara labradorides*)—At least 1 was seen with a fairly large mixed tanager flock above Valladolid

Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*)—A common species of the eastern foothills—seen daily in the Zamora region and around Valladolid

Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*)—Only 2 were seen, but well, above Valladolid with a large mixed tanager flock

Blue-and-black Tanager (*Tangara vassorii*)—Wonderful close looks at 1 (one of our first birds) along the entrance road to Llaviuco; another stunner at Tapichalaca, and a pair at Cajanuma

Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*)—Fairly common throughout the Zamora region; best seen probably around Copalinga

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)—1 male was seen well at Copalinga

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)—From 2 to 6 were seen daily, on three days in the Zamora region; best, the pair that kept returning to the Copalinga feeders

BUNTING, SPARROWS, & ALLIES: EMBERIZIDAE

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus unicolor*)—Common in the paramo at El Cajas

Band-tailed Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus alaudinus*)—2 were seen closely at the Catamayo airport

Caquetá Seedeater (*Sporophila murallae*)—1 female was seen along the lower 'Old' Zamora Road

Black-and-white Seedeater (*Sporophila luctuosa*)—1 male was seen south of Valladolid; other rather undifferentiable female *Sporophila* seedeaters in the area may well have been this species as well

Plain-colored Seedeater (*Catamenia inornata*)—4 were seen at Laguna de Llaviucu in grassland

Paramo Seedeater (*Catamenia homochroa*)—At least 15 were seen with a mixed foraging flock along the Jocotoco Trail at Tapichalaca

White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*)—Single males were seen at Cajanuma and again west of Loja, at the virgin shrine

Glossy Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa lafresnayii*)—1 was seen well at Tapichalaca

Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis cyanea*)—Quite a few were seen; Llaviucu, 'Old' Zamora Road, Tapichalaca, above Valladolid, and Cajanuma

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*)—Surprisingly absent this trip; at least 8 were finally seen in Catamayo

Rufous-naped [Yellow-breasted] Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes [latinuchus] rufinucha*)—From 1-5 were seen at most humid temperate zone locations; seen on six days

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*)—This beautiful sparrow (usually a real skulker) adorned the Copalinga feeders on two days

Yellow-browed Sparrow (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)—1 was seen near Copalinga; a few more were seen south of Valladolid

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)—A common and widespread species of the Andes; not as obvious this trip; seen on 6 days

SALTATORS & GROSBEAKS: CARDINALIDAE

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)—A family of three came to the Copalinga feeders on one day (great looks)

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)—At least 1 came often to the Copalinga feeders

TROUPIALS & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Peruvian Meadowlark (*Sturnella bellicosa*)—1 male was seen well in the Oña Valley *en route* from Cuenca to Loja

Scrub Blackbird (*Dives wasszewiczi*)—Generally a common species in southwestern Ecuador in a variety of mostly more agricultural areas; several were seen, mostly south of Loja, also in the Catamayo Valley

Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesolemus*)—A pair came close in response to Pacific Pygmy-Owl imitation at

Subtropical [Scarlet-rumped] Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*)—Only 2 were seen very well at Copalinga
Russet-backed Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)—groups of 10-15 were seen in the Bombuscaro/Copalinga area; race *alfredi* with yellow bill
Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)—4 were seen at Copalinga on one day

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)—Fairly common and seen especially well at Copalinga feeders
Bronze-green Euphonia (*Euphonia mesochrysa*)—a group of 5 were seen closely as they sang their hearts out along the 'Old' Zamora Road
Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—Great looks at a couple oof pair (at least) at Copalinga feeders
Blue-naped Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia cyanea*)—A pair was seen with a large mixed foraging flock above Valladolid
Hooded Siskin (*Carduelis magellanicus*)—a group of up to 5 were seen at El Cajas
Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)—1 male was seen well at the Virgin shrine west of Loja