

ECUADOR: THE NORTHWESTERN ANDEAN SLOPES

November 13-21, 2011



Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan

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Ecuador's northwestern region offers some of the very best birding to be found anywhere on Earth! In a compact week, set within a compact "area of operations"—staying at only one lodge—with excellent opportunities to see a great diversity of bird species under superb viewing conditions at relatively short distances from "home," we are able to sample a variety of habitats in four different life-zones. And that's exactly what we did! This is hummingbird heaven, for one thing, not to mention tanager treasure-trove (oops, I just did!) along with a tremendous variety of additional Neotropical lowland and Andean species. Each site we visited (some located right next to another) brought new perspective to the term "biodiversity." From an altitudinal selection of hummingbird feeding stations to fruit feeders, a canopy tower, street lights that attract some two dozen hungry bird species, a local farmer who feeds four species of antpittas, and manakin leks, getting good looks at birds has become one of the major characteristics of this tour.

We headed out from our Quito hotel somewhat leisurely on our first morning, with one major stop in mind, the high-Andean Yanacocha Reserve. This is actually slated as a travel day to work our way down to our principal destination, but our half-day spent at this site is a key component to the northwest experience. The action began almost immediately as we stepped off the bus—hummingbirds buzzing about all around us. The entire morning was like this, at each different group of feeders set up to attract these amazing creatures, as we walked along searching for mixed species foraging flocks of high Andean species. We reached the end of the first section of the trail, and this was as far we needed to go; a concentration of feeders here basically blew us away: Tyrian Metaltail, Sapphire-vented and Golden-breasted pufflegs, Shining Sunbeam, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, the incredible Sword-billed Hummingbird, and Great Sapphirewing fed and interacted in a dizzying, mesmerizing frenzy—were we having fun yet? We walked up a narrow trail to a few more feeders and there, one of the reserve's guards led us to a spot where he called in a lovely pair of Rufous Antpittas. After this rather successful "starter," topped off by Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Smoky Bush-Tyrant, Blackish Tapaculo, Rufous Wren, Superciliaried Hemispingus, Blue-backed Conebill, Black-chested and Scarlet-bellied mountain-tanagers, and Glossy and Masked flowerpiercers, among other species, we continued downslope along the "Paseo del Quinde" Ecoroute, making just a few pointed stops to pick up more and always different species.

A brief stop at Bellavista Lodge added a whole different suite of hummingbirds—Green Violetear, Speckled Hummingbird, Collared Inca, Buff-tailed Coronet, and Purple-throated Woodstar among them—along with a few other goodies, including Masked Trogon and White-throated Quail-Dove. As we continued on our way, additional stops brought welcomed prizes, like Gorgeted Sunangel, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, and Pearled Treerunner. As we finally pulled into Séptimo Paraíso—our comfortable headquarters for the week—we couldn't help but sneak a peek at the still active hummingbird feeders they keep—oh boy, Violet-tailed Sylph, Booted Racket-tail, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Purple-throated Woodstar, and Andean Emerald closed out our first day. Not a bad introduction to what was about to come!

The following morning began with an optional pre-breakfast outing (everybody took it!) to the top of the Mindo entrance road, known as the “Y” de Mindo, to see if any birds had come to feast on the moths that are often attracted to the large street lights during the night. This time around, due to clear skies and a bright moon, it was not that successful—we only found some 22 species! As we continued towards the lodge we picked up a few more, including the spectacular Toucan Barbet. I would call this second day a “warm-up”; we spent the rest of the morning birding the grounds around the lodge. After lunch we headed out to check on a few nearby sites: first to Mirador Río Blanco where we enjoyed some delicious local juices and fried *yuca* (manioc) while watching nectar and fruit feeders. We then headed over to Sachatamia Lodge to feast our eyes on their spectacularly active hummingbirds, and to top it off we drove down to and passed the town of Mindo, where we found a Lyre-tailed Nightjar on its very convenient day-roost. Some of this day’s highlights included Brown Violetear; Green Thorntail; Brown Inca; Velvet-purple Coronet; Purple-bibbed Whitetip; Empress and Green-crowned brilliants; Green-crowned Woodnymph; Broad-billed Motmot; Red-headed Barbet; Red-faced Spinetail; Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner; Ornate Flycatcher; White-capped Dipper; Guira, Golden, Silver-throated, Flame-faced, Golden-naped, Metallic-green, Blue-necked, Beryl-spangled, Black-capped, and Swallow tanagers; Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager; Black-winged Saltator; and Tricolored Brush-Finch.

A very early pre-dawn departure followed. Today was “Angel Paz Day,” including some challenging (but well worth it) up-and-down trails. Here we were treated to a true spectacle—under the direction of Sr. Angel Paz (a local farmer) himself, we enjoyed a Cock-of-the-rock lek, and incredible views of a wonderful family group of Dark-backed Wood-Quail, along with the “*pièce de resistance*”—intimate encounters with Giant, Moustached, Yellow-breasted, and Ochre-breasted antpittas, and an adult Olivaceous Piha feeding its nestling. This was followed by—after the traditional mid-morning brunch of local *Bolones de Verde* and *Empanadas de Queso* prepared by Angel’s wife—an impressive mixed species foraging flock complete with a family of Orange-breasted Fruiteaters. We then headed over to Milpe Bird Sanctuary for a relatively leisurely visit—well, maybe not so; we hit an impressive mixed foraging flock and racked up quite a list of new species! We spent the entire next day at Milpe and its adjacent Milpe Gardens where we revisited some of the species we saw the afternoon before, but then picked up a slew of new birds, among them: Barred Forest-Falcon; Maroon-tailed Parakeet; Bronze-winged Parrot; Chocó Trogon; Rufous Motmot; Chocó Toucan; Guayaquil Woodpecker; Esmeraldas Antbird; Snowy-throated Kingbird; Golden-winged, Club-winged (displaying!), and White-bearded manikins; White-thighed Swallow; Chocó Warbler; Ochre-breasted, Glistening-green, and Rufous-throated tanagers; Green and Purple honeycreepers; and Yellow-collared Chlorophonia.

The following day we visited an unprogrammed site, sort of on a whim. Mashpi is a new, and as yet unfinished, high-end eco-lodge set in a 1,000-hectare (2,471-acre), private cloud forest reserve, and we decided to give it a shot. The drive there took longer than expected and we hit a very uncharacteristic sunny day (not great for seeing these cloud forest species!), but we did well, with a few nice highlights—Moss-backed Tanager was common here! Some additional sightings included Double-toothed Kite, Collared Trogon, Orange-fronted Barbet, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Pacific Tuftedcheek, Bay Wren, Rufous-brown Solitaire, Chocó Warbler, Glistening-green Tanager, Slate-colored Grosbeak, and Scarlet-rumped Cacique. We topped this off with a final day-trip to an “old” favorite—Río Silanche Bird Sanctuary. What a birdy place! We spent much of the morning atop the 15-meter (49 ft.) high canopy tower, just picking off the odd species that flew by or overhead, and watching for mixed

species foraging flocks...and boy did we get some close-up views (there's nothing like being up at eye level with these canopy flocks)...Dot-winged Antwren, Brown-capped Tyrannulet, Yellow-margined Flatbill, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, and Gray-and-gold tanagers, among other species, were seen exceptionally well. Purple-chested Hummingbird, Purple-crowned Fairy, Checker-throated Antwren, Masked Water-Tyrant, and Yellow-tufted and Blue dacnises were also seen well down at ground level.

We headed out early on our final morning, driving along slowly as we watched for mixed foraging flocks and anything else that caught our eye, in hopes of picking up species we might have missed on our initial drive in. Just minutes after our departure, a Crested Guan popped up, followed a few minutes later—as we entered the Ecoroute we traveled along on our first afternoon—by a nice mixed foraging flock and a wonderful pair of Golden-headed Quetzals. Another mixed flock brought nice views of a Streaked Tuftedcheek, followed by a beautiful Turquoise Jay, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Grass-green Tanager, and so on. We made a last stop, before our final ascent to Quito, at the scenic gardens of Pacha Quinde, the private residence of VENT leader Tony Nunnery and his lovely wife Barbara Boltz, where we enjoyed a relaxing lunch and afternoon of hummingbirds and mixed foraging flocks—a fitting grand finale to another successful bird-rich journey!

ITINERARY

- Nov. 13 – Arrival Quito/last day of Tinalandia Pre-trip
- Nov. 14 – Early departure from Quito; to Yanacocha until midday; drive via Ecoroute to Séptimo Paraíso (3300-1500m) with stop at Bellavista (2300m) and along the Ecoroute
- Nov. 15 – Dawn at the “Y” de Mindo and along upper Mindo entrance road; Séptimo grounds; midday around the Séptimo Paraíso hummingbird feeders; afternoon to Mirador Río Blanco (1700-1000m) and Sachatamia Lodge feeders; drive to the Río Mindo bridge
- Nov. 16 – Paz Antpitta Reserve (1700); Afternoon at Milpe Bird Sanctuary
- Nov. 17 – Milpe Bird Sanctuary (1100m); Milpe Gardens trails in the afternoon
- Nov. 18 – Day-trip to Mashpi Reserve (and lodge site—900-1300m); afternoon at Séptimo Paraíso
- Nov. 19 – Day-trip to Río Silanche Bird Sanctuary (600m)
- Nov. 20– Return to Quito via Ecoroute; stop at Pacha Quinde (Tony & Barbara's place). Fairwell dinner in Quito
- Nov. 21– Departure home

THE SPECIES LIST

Abbreviations:

- Yanacocha = YC
- Séptimo Paraíso = SP
- “Y” de Mindo = Y
- Mirador Río Blanco = MRB
- Río Silanche Bird Sanctuary = RS
- Milpe Bird Sanctuary and area = MS
- Paz Antpitta Reserve = AP
- Paseo del Quinde Ecoroute = E

Mindo entrance road = ME
Bellavista = B
Pacha Quinde = PQ
Mashpi Lodge = ML
Sachatamia = ST

CURASSOWS & GUANS: CRACIDAE

Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*)—1 or 2 flushed from a fruiting tree at SP (along the entrance drive on our last morning
Wattled Guan (*Aburria aburri*)—1 was flushed at SP

NEW WORLD QUAILS: ODONTOPHORIDAE

Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus erythrops*)—Heard only at RS
Dark-backed WoodQuail (*Odontophorus melanonotus*)—A fantastic family group (8 adults + 2 chicks) were seen up close at AP. Exceptional looks!

HERONS & BITTERNs: ARDEIDAE

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)—1 bird was scoped along the Río Blanco, at MRB
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)—Small to fair numbers were seen almost daily, mostly flying to and from their night roosts

AMERICAN VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)—Very common throughout—seen daily
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—Seen in smaller numbers than previous species, on all but our first day

KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)—5 were seen at RS. Stunning!
Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*)—1 soaring bird was seen at ML
Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)—1 soaring bird was seen over RS
Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)—1-5 were seen in all; most common along E
Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)—1 soaring bird was seen at RS

FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*)—Nice long looks at 1 calling bird at MS
Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)—Heard only at MS
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)—Seen in the highlands, in more open country, generally not far from Quito; 1 on our first day and 2 on our last

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)—Seen around Quito and towns and villages
Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)—4 or so were seen from PQ
Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)—Surprisingly only heard; at RS
Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)—Mostly heard only (SP, MS and RS); good views of 2 or so at MS
Dusky Pigeon (*Patagioenas goodsoni*)—2 were seen briefly as flybys, others heard only at RS, mostly from the canopy tower
Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)—Common highland species; recorded mostly in and around Quito

Pallid Dove (*Leptotila pallida*)—Heard only at RS

White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon frenata*)—1 beauty was seen super well and close at B parking lot

PARROTS & MACAWS: PSITTACIDAE

Maroon-tailed Parakeet (*Pyrhura melanura*)—Quite a few small bands were seen—mostly in flight, but also beautifully perched—at MS, ML and RS; best seen and most common at MR

Barred Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus lineola*)—Over 25 were seen, always in high, noisy flight, at SP

Bronze-winged Parrot (*Pionus chalcopterus*)—Common at AP and MS; 1-2 were seen at RS

Mealy Amazon (*Amazona farinosa*)—Also called Mealy Parrot by some authors. 4 were seen in flight from the canopy tower at RS

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)—1 was seen at MS; 2 more were found at RS

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—4 and 3 were seen mainly along the road (on two days) near MS

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Colombian Screech-Owl (*Megascops colombianus*)—1 was heard only at SP (boy we came close!) on 11/19

NIGHTJARS & ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Lyre-tailed Nighthjar (*Uropsalis lyra*)—

POTOOS: NICTIBIDAE

Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*)—1 was scoped at AP, quite hidden among mossy branches

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutilis*)—30 were seen at RS, mostly from the canopy tower

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)—This, the largest American swift, was seen at SP, RS and along E (often in large numbers)

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)—5 or so were seen from the canopy tower at RS

HUMMINGBIRD: TROCHILIDAE

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*)—5+ were seen at SP; a few more were found at MS

White-whiskered Hermit (*Phaethornis yaruqui*)—A relatively common Chocó endemic species; 1-2 were seen on five days, mostly at feeders

Wedge-billed Hummingbird (*Augastes geoffroyi*)—3 were seen on our last day, best at PQ; this 'nectar thief' does not visit feeders

Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*)—Singles were seen at SP on two days

Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*)—Only 1 was seen at B on our first afternoon; 1 other was seen at PQ (extremely scarce this trip)

Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*)—Several were seen on our first morning; at least 2 were seen at PQ; a common garden species of Quito and the highlands

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*)—2 were seen at RS, with their characteristic fluttery flight

Gorgeted Sunangel (*Heliangelus strophianus*)—1 was seen super close at B; another 2 were found along E

Green Thorntail (*Popelairia conversii*)—Very common this trip at MRB and MS; 2 females were seen at RS

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)—A half dozen were seen along E and at B on our first day; a few were seen at SP, and 5 or so along E on our last day

Violet-tailed Sylph (*Agelaiocercus coelestis*)—This spectacular Chocó-Andean specialty, with its male's stunning tail, was common at feeders throughout the subtropical zone, and seen repeatedly on all but one day

Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*)—Common (10+ seen) at YC (mostly at feeders)

Sapphire-vented Puffleg (*Eriocnemis luciani*)—Very common (more than 15 seen) at YC

Golden-breasted Puffleg (*Eriocnemis mosquera*)—2 of this relatively scarce Andean species were seen well at YC feeders

Shining Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*)—3-4 were seen at YC feeders (a 'different-looking' hummer!)

Brown Inca (*Coeligena wilsoni*)—Several were seen at feeders (SP, ST, PQ) on four days

Collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*)—2 were seen at B; another was seen repeatedly at PQ

Buff-winged Starfrontlet (*Coeligena lutetiae*)—Very common and conspicuous at YC

Sword-billed Hummingbird (*Ensifera ensifera*)—At least 2 of this unbelievably bizarre species were seen beautifully at YC feeders

Great Sapphirewing (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*)—Large and spectacular; at least 12 (including close views) of this, the World's second largest hummingbird, at YC

Buff-tailed Coronet (*Boissonneaua flavescens*)—Very common at B; only 1 was seen at PQ

Velvet-purple Coronet (*Boissonneaua jardini*)—A breath-taking Chocó-Andean endemic; 1 was seen at SP, but quite common and spectacular at ST (only a few kms away)

Booted Racket-tail (*Ocreatus underwoodii*)—Quite common at feeders, seen on all but one Day; a wonderful little bird!

Purple-bibbed Whitetip (*Urosticte benjamini*)—Several were seen at SP, ST, and PQ

Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*)—Quite common at feeders in the subtropics; seen on all but one day.

Empress Brilliant (*Heliodoxa emperatrix*)—Singles of this spectacular, scarce Chocó-Andean endemic were seen beautifully at ST, AP and PQ

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*)—Common throughout, seen on all but our first day

Purple-throated Woodstar (*Calliflox mitchellii*)— This Chocó-Andean specialty was quite common at feeders (except at lower elevations), seen on most days

Green-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania fannyi*)—Quite common in the lowlands and foothills; recorded at MRB, SP, MS, RS

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*)—The most common lowland species of the west from lowlands to lower subtropics (in gardens and open areas)

Andean Emerald (*Amazilia franciae*)—Rather common at feeders throughout the trip, in foothills and subtropics

Purple-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia rosenbergi*)—3-4 of this Chocó endemic were seen at flowering shrubs at RS

QUETZALS & TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*)—Single males were seen at AP and ML; then we had great long views of a pair along the lower part of E on our last morning

Chocó Trogon (*Trogon comptus*)—Aka White-eyed Trogon by some authors. 2 females were seen at MS

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*)—A close male was seen well at ML

Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*)—A nice pair was seen at B

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*)—2 were seen at MS; another two were seen in flight at RS; heard only at SP on the last morning

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*)—2 were seen at SP; 2 were seen (1 closely) at MS over two visits; others heard

JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*)—Heard only at RS

BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

Orange-fronted Barbet (*Capito squamatus*)—2 were seen at ML; heard only at RS

Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*)—Singles were seen, others heard, at SP, MS, RS

Toucan Barbet (*Semnornis ramphastinus*)—This unique, gaudy and spectacular Chocó-Andean endemic was seen several times (over a dozen seen), at ME, AP and MS

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Crimson-rumped Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*)—At least 1 was seen along the 'back' trail at ML

Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena laminirostris*)—pairs were seen on our first and last days along E

Pale-mandibled Araçari (*Pteroglossua erythrogygius*)—Considered a race of Collared Araçari (*P. torquatus*) by some authors. Between 1-3 of this Ecuadorian endemic species were seen on five days

Chocó Toucan (*Ramphastos brevis*)—3 were seen (nice scope views too), inside forest at MS

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Olivaceous Piculet (*Picumnus olivaceus*)—1 was seen by Leon near the Río Mlndo

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*)—At least 1 was seen beautifully at MRB feeders; a pair was seen at RS

Red-rumped Woodpecker (*Veniliornis kirkii*)—At least 1 was seen at RS

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*)—1-2 were seen on all but our first and last days

Guayaquil Woodpecker (*Campephilus guayaquilensis*)—Single males were seen nicely at MS and RS

OVENBIRDS: FURNARIIDAE

- Pacific Hornero (*Furnarius cinnamomeus*)— Considered a race of Pale-legged Hornero (*F. leucopus*) by some authors. Singles of this comical Tumbesian endemic were seen on two days, along roads near MRB and RS
- Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*)—Heard only along E
- Slaty Spinetail (*Synallaxis brachyura*)—Heard only S
- Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*)—Quite a few were seen at SP and MS
- Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*)—Several were seen along E on our first day; another was seen at along ME
- Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*)—1 was seen well on our last day along E
- Pacific Tuftedcheek** (*Pseudocolaptes johnsoni*)—Considered a race of Buffy Tuftedcheek (*P. lawrencii*) by some authors. 1 was seen with a mixed foraging flock at ML
- Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor rufus*)—Quite a few were seen this trip; at SP, MS, etc. (often pairs)
- Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)—1 was seen with a mixed foraging flock at RS
- Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)—Singles were seen at MS and ML; 2 were found at RS
- Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*)—Singles were seen at MS and ML; heard only at RS
- Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*)—The most commonly seen woodcreeper in the area
- Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*)—3 were seen at RS

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

- Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*)—1 female was seen at RS (also heard there)
- Checker-throated Antwren (*Myrmotherula fulviventris*)—a threesom was seen well at RS
- White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)—3 females were seen in understory at RS
- Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*)—A pair was seen well from the canopy tower at RS
- Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*)—1 or so was seen along the ME; heard only at RS
- Esmeraldas Antbird (*Myrmeciza nigricauda*)—1 was heard (called in) and seen briefly at MS
- Immaculate Antbird (*Myrmeciza immaculata*)—1 was seen MS; also heard only at ML

ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE

- Rufous-breasted Antthrush (*Formicarius rufipectus*)—Heard only on two days at SP

ANTPITTAS: FORMICARIIDAE

- Giant Antpitta** (*Grallaria gigantea*)—Spectacular!, one of the trip highlights; 'point blank' views of 1 at AP (was it Panchito?)
- Moustached Antpitta** (*Grallaria alleni*)—Another highlight! Close looks at 1 at AP (Susan)
- Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*)—heard only this trip, at YC
- Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapillus*)—Heard only along E on our last day
- Yellow-breasted Antpitta** (*Grallaria flavotincta*)—1 was seen well along the road at AP
- Rufous Antpitta** (*Grallaria rufula*)—2 were seen beautifully as they came in for breakfast ' at YC

Ochre-breasted Antpitta (*Grallaricula flavirostris*)—Wonderful long views of a complacent 'Shakira' at AP

TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Nariño Tapaculo (*Scytolopus vicinior*)—Heard only on three days at ME and E

Spillmann's Tapaculo (*Scytolopus spillmanni*)—Heard only on two days; ME and E

Blackish Tapaculo (*Scytalopus latrans*)—Heard mostly, but 1 was seen in thick undergrowth at YC

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Brown-capped Tyrannulet (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*)—1 seen super well from the canopy tower at RS

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)—Singles were seen along E and MS; 3 were seen along E on our last day

White-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*)—1 was seen with mixed foraging flocks at YC

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)—5 were seen with a mixed foraging flocks at YC

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*)—Singles were seen on two days at MS; 2 more were seen at ML

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)—1 was seen at RS

Sierran Elaenia (*Elaenia pallatangae*)—At least singles were seen along ME and E

Streak-necked Flycatcher (*Mionectes striaticollis*)—Singles were seen along ME and E

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon striaticollis*)—Singles were seen at ME, ML, and E

Golden-faced Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius chrysops*)—1-4 or so were seen at SP, MS, RS, SQ and along E

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*)—This charming and attractive flycatcher was quite common this trip, at SP, MS, ML, etc., with excellent close looks too

Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*)—heard only at MS (possibly a new record for this site)

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*)—Heard only at MS, RS (Leon saw 1 at this last site)

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)—1 was seen at RS

Yellow-margined Flatbill (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)—2 were seen well from the canopy tower at RS

Flavescent Flycatcher (*Myiophobus flavicans*)—2 were seen along E on our last day

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*)—Singles were seen along the ME and at SQ

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)—1 of this boreal migrant were at MS (quite scarce this trip)

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)—Singles were seen MS and RS (others heard)

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)—2 were seen along a stream *en route* to AP

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*)—2 were seen from the parking area at YC

Masked Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola nengeta*)—1 was seen closely along the entrance road to RS

Smoky Bush-Tyrant (*Myiotheretes fumigatus*)—2 were seen at YC

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myarchus tuberculifer*)—Several were seen at MS, SP and RS (where most common)

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*)—2 were seen (scoped) at RS
Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)—Common at RS; singles were seen at MS and SP
Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*)—Excellent close looks at a pair at Y; also seen along ME, at MS and ML
Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)—3 were seen at RS
Snowy-throated Kingbird (*Tyrannus niveigularis*)—Singles were seen at MS and RS
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—basically a common lower elevation species; seen daily

COTINGA: COTINGIDAE

Orange-breasted Fruiteater (*Pipreola jucunda*)—A family group (adults plus fledglings) were seen well, with a little patience and work, at AP; also heard only at ML
Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*)—3 males (at their lek) and a female were at AP
Olivaceous Piha (*Snowornis cryptolophus*)—Fantastic adult bird was seen well, feeding its nestling, at AP

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

Golden-winged Manakin (*Masius chrysopterus*)—Several sightings this trip; 3 or so males and females were seen on two visits to MS (mostly feeding on *Miconia* fruit); 1 juvenile was seen at ML
Club-winged Manakin (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*)—Quite a few sightings this time around; several displaying males at MS on two visits (including close views)
White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*)—1 male was heard, and then seen MS; 4 males were seen at RS

TITYRAS & ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifaciata*)—1 female was seen at RS
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*)—Heard only at ST; 6 were seen at RS
Black-and-white Becard (*Pachyramphus albogriseus*)—1 female was seen at SP
One-colored Becard (*Pachyramphus homochrous*)—between 1-3 or so were seen on four days (MS, ML and RS mostly)

VIREOS & ALLIES: VIREONIDAE

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*)—Fairly common mixed flock member; seen on several days
Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)—Quite common, seen on all but our first day
Tawny-crowned Greenlet (*Hylophilus ochraceiceps*)—a riled pair were heard only (rats!) in understory at RS
Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*)—At least 4 seen at RS

JAYS & ALLIES: CORVIDAE

Turquoise Jay (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)—At least 1 was seen beautifully along E on our last morning

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)—The most common and widespread swallow in Ecuador; seen daily

Brown-bellied Swallow (*Notiochelidon murina*)—The highland swallow, 6 or so were seen at and around YC

White-thighed Swallow (*Notiochelidon tibialis*)—3 were seen MS and RS; also a few were found at ML

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

Rufous Wren (*Cinnycerthia unirufa*)—At least 2 were seen well at YC

Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*)—Heard only at MS and RS; 1 was seen closely in roadside vegetation at ML

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—Seen on several days (also heard) at SP, etc.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)—Heard often in montane areas; 1-2 were seen at SP, MS and RS

Southern Nightingale-Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*)—Aka Scaly-breasted Wren by some authors. Heard only at ML

DIPPERS: CINCLIDAE

White-capped Dipper (*Cinclus leucocephalus*)—1 was seen along the Río Mindo

GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE

Tawny-faced Gnatwren (*Microbates cinereiventris*)—Heard only in understory at RS

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*polioptila plumbea*)—1 was seen at RS

Slate-throated Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila schistaceigula*)—Spectacular views from the canopy tower! 6 beauties were seen wonderfully at RS

THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire (*Myadestes ralloides*)—1 was seen at AP; others heard there and at MS

Rufous-brown Solitaire (*Cichlopsis leucogenys*)—1 singing bird was seen very closely along the road at ML

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)—Quite a few were seen at ME, SP, AP and MS

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*)—A common highland species

Ecuadorian Thrush (*Turdus maculirostris*)—Considered a race of Spectacled Thrush (*T. nudigenis*) by some authors. Heard only at SP and MS; 1 was seen well at RS

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)—Quite a few were seen and at most sites

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)—A common boreal migrant to Andean montane areas; seen on all but our day at RS

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)—1 female was seen with a mixed foraging flock at MS

Slate-throated Whitestart (*Myioborus miniatus*)—Some authors call them "Redstarts", though they show no red. A rather common mixed flock participant at lower elevations

Spectacled Whitestart (*Myioborus melanocephalus*)—Some authors call them "Redstarts", though they show no red. A rather common mixed flock participant at upper elevations; 4 were seen well along E and at PQ on our last day

Chocó Warbler (*Basileuterus chlorophrys*)—lumped with Golden-bellied Warbler (*B. chrysogaster*) by some authors, though voices of these two species are totally

different. Several were seen (many very well) with mixed foraging flocks at MS on two days, and 5 or so at ML

Black-crested Warbler (*Basileuterus nigrocristatus*)—1 was seen on our last day along E
Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*)—1 was seen (others heard) along E on our last day

Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*)—Several were seen; Y, MS and ML, etc.

Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*)—Singles were seen at MS, ML and RS

BANANAQUIT: COEREBIDAE

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)—Quite a few were seen at several sites; MRB, MS, and RS

TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Superciliaried Hemispingus (*Hemispingus superciliaris*)—At least 2 were seen at YC

Cinereous Conebill (*Conirostrum cinereum*)—1 was seen at YC

Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)—5 or so were seen with mixed foraging flocks at YC; attractive, acrobatic species!

Capped Conebill (*Conirostrum albifrons*)—A pair was seen along the E on our last day; always with mixed foraging flocks

Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*)—2 were seen at SP; single males at MS and RS

Ochre-breasted Tanager (*Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*)—A large, drab Chocó endemic; 2 were seen at MS with a mixed foraging flock; an incredible 25+ were seen at ML

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)—Single males were seen on two days at MS; 6 were found at RS

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)—Pairs were seen at SP and MRB; 1 was seen at MS

Lemon-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus icteronotus*)—often lumped with Flame-rumped Tanager (*R. flammigerus*). By far the most common tanager at lower elevations – seen on all but our first and last days; male is beautiful!

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—Very common lower elevations species; seen on most days

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)—Fairly common lower elevation species; seen on most days though less common than previous species

Moss-backed Tanager (*Bangsia edwardsi*)—Incredibly, this special Chocó endemic species was common (I told you so . . .) at ML

Black-chested Mountain-Tanager (*Buthraupis eximia*)—At least 2 were seen (somewhat briefly, though) with mixed foraging flocks at YC; a locally uncommon species

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus igniventris*)—3 of this stunning highland tanager were seen at YC

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*)—Fairly common species in the subtropics; seen on 3 days, including wonderfully close views

Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*)—1 or so was seen well along E on our last day

Glistening-green Tanager (*Chlorochrysa phoenicotis*)—1 stunning male was seen at MS; another 3 were seen beautifully with a large mixed species foraging flock at ML

Gray-and-gold Tanager (*Tangara palmeri*)—2 were seen from the canopy tower at RS

Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*)—Many were seen this trip; can be very common with mixed flocks in the Subtropics; seen super well at various locations; Y, MRB, ML, ST, PQ and E; over 40 (!) in one day at MS

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*)—Many were seen at three locations; best at MRB feeders, and 40+ were seen at MS

Flame-faced Tanager (*Tangara parzudakii*)—3 or so were seen at Y; another 2 were seen at MS

Rufous-throated Tanager (*Tangara rufigula*)—Quite a few of this Chocó endemic were seen on two visits to MS

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*)—Pairs were seen on two visits to MS; At least 3 were found at RS

Golden-naped Tanager (*Tangara ruficervix*)—2 or so were seen well at Y; another was seen by Leon at MS

Metallic-green Tanager (*Tangara labradorides*)—1 was seen at Y

Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*)—A common but stunning lowland species; several were seen along ME, MS and RS

Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*)—This beautiful species was fairly common at Y and ME, another 1 was seen along E on our last morning

Black-capped Tanager (*Tanager heinei*)—uncharacteristically common at Y and ME; many young birds

Yellow-tufted Dacnis (*Dacnis egregia*)—Considered a race of Black-faced dacnis (*D. lineata*) by some authors. 2 beautiful males were seen from the canopy tower at RS

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)—2 were seen from the canopy tower at RS; this, the deep blue *coerebicolor* race found west of the Andes

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)—Several were seen (and well) at MS and RS

Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)—1 male was seen at MS parking area; another 3-4 females were seen from the canopy tower at RS

Swallow Tanager (*Tersina viridis*)—Quite a few of this eye-catching tanager were seen, at ME, SP, MS, etc.

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)—Crazy, but now placed in with Tanagers! 1-2 were found at MS and SP; at least 3 more were seen at RS

Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*)—Heard only at MS; singles were seen at ML and RS. Note that this species is now a saltator . . . and a tanager!

Black-winged Saltator (*Saltator atripennis*)—2 were seen at SP

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES: EMBERIZIDAE

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*)—Singles were seen separately by Leon and David; 2 were seen by the group RS

White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*)—1 juvenile was seen at SP; 3 were seen at PQ on our last afternoon

Glossy Flowerpiercer (*Diglossalafresnayii*)—Very common and unbelievably tame at hummingbird feeders at YC

Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis cyanea*)—Also common and tame at YC hummingbird feeders

Tanager Finch (*Oreothraupis arremonops*)—Frustrating! A singing pair was heard closeby along E on our last morning, but would not come in

Rufous-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*)—Aka Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch by some authors. 3 or so were seen at YC

Tricolored Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes tricolor*)—Singles were seen at Y and at ML (another Chocó endemic)

White-winged Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes leucopterus*)—1 was seen by Leon at PQ; this generally considered Tumbesian endemic has a small population in northern Ecuador that surprisingly spills over to the west slopes of Pichincha province

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

Dusky Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*)—Relatively small numbers of this Chocó-Andean endemic were seen on four days

Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*)—2-4 were seen on three days, at MS and ML

CARDINALS & ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)—Singles of this boreal migrant were seen at MS and RS

TROUPIALS & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)—A band of what probably was this species was seen from our bus along the highway west of Mindo by Wim

Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)—Singles were seen on two days; 1 in flight at Y; a perched female at MS

Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*)—A small group was seen at ML

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)—Several were seen in all; Y, ME, SP, MRB, MS and RS

Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—Common and widespread in Ecuador; several seen on all but our first day

Yellow-collared Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia flavirostris*)—Heard and only 1 was seen by a few of our group at MS

MAMMAL LIST

MONKEYS: CEBIDAE

White-fronted Capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*)—A small (?) family group was seen at RS by Paul (mentioned here because ANY primate in western Ecuador is great to see!)

PECCARIES: TAYASSUIDAE

Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*)—Heard only at RS

DEER: CERVIDAE

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)—A good sized buck was seen briefly along E on our first afternoon

SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE

Neotropical Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*)—Singles were seen at SP, MRB feeders and E