

ECUADOR: THE NORTHWESTERN ANDEAN SLOPES

November 11-19, 2012



Banded Ground-Cuckoo

© Francisco Sornoza

LEADER: PAUL GREENFIELD

COMPILED BY: PAUL GREENFIELD

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

ECUADOR: THE NORTHWESTERN ANDEAN SLOPES

NOVEMBER 11-19, 2012

The Ecuadorian Northwestern Andean Slopes experience is hard to beat. This November's trip report will, sadly, have to almost ignore a number of superb experiences in order to leave room for the newest and hottest bit of news.

It's unfortunate that I won't be able to describe this trip's Angel Paz experience, with close-up looks at some fabulous regulars like Giant and Ochre-breasted antpittas, Rufous-breasted Antthrush, and a covey of Dark-backed Wood-Quails, or even its newest addition, a most congenial Ocellated Tapaculo. I will regrettably have to glide over our numerous hummingbird encounters with Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Sapphire-vented and Golden-breasted pufflegs, Booted Racket-tail, Violet-tailed Sylph, White-tailed Hillstar, Great Sapphirewing, Velvet-purple Coronet, Wedge-billed Hummingbird, Empress Brilliant, and Purple-chested Hummingbird among the 33 species we enjoyed. There is little space to go on about our point-blank views of a pair of Toucan Barbets or the Blue-fronted Parrotlet threesome we came across at Milpe; the Little Cuckoo we found above 1,700 meters along the "Paseo del Quinde" Ecoroute; the treeful of Chocó and Chestnut-mandibled toucans at Milpe; the Strong-billed Woodcreeper devouring a hefty tarantula; the enthusiastic pair of Rufous Antpittas at Yanacocha; the close-up Black-capped Tyrannulet along the upper Ecoroute; and the endearing Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher at Río Silanche. No room for tales of Orange-breasted Fruiteaters or Yellow-vented Woodpeckers; Andean Cock-of-the-rock; Olivaceous Piha; Golden-winged, Red-capped, and displaying Club-winged manakins; bathing Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers; Grass-green or Gray-and-gold tanagers; and stunning Yellow-tufted Dacnis. This time I will have to concentrate on an unscheduled encounter—a true mind-blower!

Some time prior to our Northwestern Andean Slopes Tour, I had heard about an incredible bird sighting that was being monitored by a young German woman whom I had met some years before. Juan, our trusty Juan, made contact to see if, during our tour, we would have the chance of actually seeing the bird in question; the word was, "There's a good chance," and we were told to keep in touch to see if the conditions remained stable. During our Tinalandia Pre-trip we made continuous contact and even mentioned to the group that, if they agreed, we might make a slight change in our planned itinerary, but only if we got the okay from our contact...very sleuthy indeed. As we arrived at Sachatamia, after our first day of birding at Yanacocha and the "Paseo del Quinde" Ecoroute, Juan turned to me and whispered, "It's got to be tomorrow, early...the ants are moving." Before we disembarked from the van, I informed the group of the news to see if they would be up for the adventure. I made it crystal-clear that it might not even work out...it was the chance we would have to take. They were all in. Great group!

We packed a box breakfast and lunch and were on the road by 4:30 the next morning, following text-message instructions on how to get to the site: "Remember, you have to park 200 meters before the gate, the road gets real slippery after that," were the words that I clearly recall. Well, after one wrong turn and a bit of reviewing of the message, trying to see if the instructions looked like what we were seeing along the road, in the dark, we made it. As

we broke into our breakfast and began to get ourselves together to advance on foot, an Ochre-breasted Tanager sang above us (sounding like several different species at the same time). This must be a good sign, I thought. As we advanced, we were met by a young man, Wilo, who told us that we would need to walk to a certain nearby point in the forest and then wait; reluctantly he said, “Nicole hasn’t relocated the ants.” This was a distinct code for: “hmmm, we might be in trouble.” We arrived at the “point” and everybody quickly got to chatting and story-telling...I couldn’t see or hear a bird! Out of nowhere, Nicole appeared with a pleasant but nervous smile—she confirmed what Wilo had said, seeming to be looking for an expression of approval on my face. She would return to the depths of the forest to search for the ants. I smiled and told her that we were fine just waiting for her to do her magic, and she disappeared. Some 40 minutes passed, maybe more, and Nicole returned. By then a distinct drizzle had begun and she looked even more nervous. We all (well, not all) knew that rain was not a good thing right now. The good news was that she had found the bivouac (the ants) and they had begun to move a little...at least something. Nicole suggested that we all get out of the rain and hang out at their little volunteer’s station—a pleasant, well-built wooden house where volunteers could stay. We walked in the rain to the station, and the chatting and story-telling continued, accompanied by some welcome coffee and tea. Thick fog cut our visibility; we could hear a flock of Bronze-winged Parrots right above us and eventually got looks at a few birds...we could sort of make out a field mark or two. A few other birds came in, and as we were sort of forgetting why we were there, Wilo signaled to me that the ants were on the move—our bird had been spotted.

We quickly headed back in single file, slowing only to help each other carefully step down a few embankments so that nobody would slip and fall. We were led off the main trail and through a relatively untangled understory to where we could make out Nicole facing away from us, but speaking in a sweet, soft voice. I could sort of hear her say, “Venga, venga” (“come, come”) and suddenly she looked back at us. There, just a few feet in front of her was a Banded Ground-Cuckoo. She handed it a green grasshopper (she had pulled it from a small hand-fashioned cage strapped to her belt). The ground-cuckoo ate the bait and looked around. I had been waiting 40 years to see this species...I could not believe my eyes. We quietly observed the show for some forty minutes or so. This is a species that, prior to 2005 perhaps, had never been seen by any ornithologist or birder—it had just about entered into the Hall of Ecuadorian Mythology when it began to show itself at a scattered selection of sites in Ecuador’s Chocó Endemic Bioregion. This was only day two of our tour.

ITINERARY

Nov. 11 – Arrival Quito/last day of Tinalandia Pre-trip

Nov. 12 – 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. 13 – 4:30 departure to “Un Poco del Chocó” (1070m); lunch at Puyucunapi (1400m) and afternoon around Séptimo Paraíso hummingbird feeders (1500m)

Nov. 14 – Pre-breakfast birding around Séptimo Paraíso grounds; after breakfast visit to Milpe Bird Sanctuary; short afternoon visit to Sachatamia hummingbird and fruit Feeders (1600m)

Nov. 15 – Early departure to Angel Paz (1700m); midday around Séptimo Paraíso feeders; 3:30 pm to Milpe Gardens-Milpe Bird Sanctuary (1100m)

Nov. 16 – Milpe Bird Sanctuary (1100m); Milpe Gardens trails; afternoon at Séptimo Paraíso

Nov. 17 – Day-trip to Río Silanche Bird Sanctuary (450m)
Nov. 18– Return to Quito via Ecoroute; stop at Pacha Quindi/Tony & Barbara's place
(1700m). Fairwell dinner in Quito
Nov. 19– Departure home

CHECKLIST

Abbreviations:

Yanacocha = YC
Séptimo Paraíso = SP
Río Silanche Bird Sanctuary = RS
Milpe Bird Sanctuary/Milpe Gardens = MS
Paz Antpitta Reserve = AP
Puyucunapi = PY
Paseo del Quinde Ecoroute = E
Mindo entrance road = ME
Bellavista = B
Pacha Quindi = PQ
Un Poco del Chocó = PCH
Sachatamia = ST

H = Heard only; Species names in **bold** = of special interest

TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*)—**H** often at RS

CURASSOWS & GUANS: CRACIDAE

Wattled Guan (*Aburria aburri*)—**H** at PCH, AP and SP

NEW WORLD QUAILS: ODONTOPHORIDAE

Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus erythrops*)—Family group of 5 seen briefly
Scurrying across a trail at RS

Dark-backed Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus melanonotus*)—A fantastic family group of 5—at
our feet at AP. Exceptional looks!

HERONS & BITTERNES: ARDEIDAE

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)—large (several hundred birds) flocks on all but first day

AMERICAN VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)—Very common throughout

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—Fairly common throughout

KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)—Only 1 at RS

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)—1 soaring at RS

Barred Hawk (*Leucopternis princeps*)—**H** at MS

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)—Pairs or so in most areas

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)— 1 soaring bird at RS

FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*)—**H** at SP; 1 apparent subadult was seen briefly at MS

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)—1 on electric wires along E

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*)—**H** at RS

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)—15 or so at AP; 1 along E on last day

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*)—**H** at AP; 3 (including a dark-eyed juvenile) at MS

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)—**H** regularly on five days; 2 seen at MS, another 5 at RS

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)—Common highland species; recorded mostly in and around Quito

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)—1 was seen near PCH

Pallid Dove (*Leptotila pallida*)—1 was seen briefly at PCH (high for the species?)

White-throated Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon frenata*)—1 seen well at AP

PARROTS & MACAWS: PSITTACIDAE

Maroon-tailed Parakeet (*Pyrhura melanura*) —3 were seen (perched briefly) at MS

Barred Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus lineola*)—30 were seen, always in high, noisy flight, At SP

Blue-fronted Parrotlet (*Touit dilectissimus*)—3 were seen eventually well inside forest at MS

Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*)—30 or so were seen at PQ

Bronze-winged Parrot (*Pionus chalcopterus*)—Common at PCH, AP and MS; flocks of up to 30-40 seen

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

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Little Cuckoo (*Piaya minuta*)—1 seen well along the lower E (1700m, new site and altitudinal record!) on our last morning

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)—1 at SP; also **H** at MS

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—2 along road to MS; common around RS

Banded Ground-Cuckoo (*Neomorphus radiolosus*)—**THE BIRD OF THE TRIP**;
Spectacular and a most fitting experience; 1 juvenile bird tracked along with army ants and brought in and fed katydid by Nicole at PCH

NIGHTJARS & ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)—2 en route to PCH; another en route to AP

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)—This, the largest American swift, was seen On all but first day (in fair numbers)

Band-rumped Swift (*Chaetura spinicaudus*)— 6 seen briefly at MS

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)—2 or so at MS; 5 from canopy tower at RS

HUMMINGBIRD: TROCHILIDAE

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*)—Seen well and repeatedly, mostly at feeders
SP, MS, ST, etc

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

Tawny-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis syrmatophorus*)—1-2 seen on three days at B, PY and
AP

Wedge-billed Hummingbird (*Augastes geoffroyi*)—1 glimpsed by some at ME; then seen
by all on our last day at PQ; this 'nectar thief' does not visit feeders

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

Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*)— Only 1 at B on our first afternoon; another at PQ—
scarce this trip; a common highland species (Quito, etc.)

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliathryx barroti*)—Singles seen at PCH and MS, with their
characteristic fluttery flight

Gorgeted Sunangel (*Heliangelus strophianus*)—2 seen up close at B feeders

Green Thorntail (*Popelairia conversii*)—Abundant MS

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)—Several seen at feeders and 'in the wild'
at B, E, AP and PQ

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*)—5 seen close up at YC (mostly at feeders)

Sapphire-vented Puffleg (*Eriocnemis luciani*)—Very common at YC

Golden-breasted Puffleg (*Eriocnemis mosquera*)—3 (a relatively scarce high Andean
specialty) were seen well at YC feeders

Brown Inca (*Coeligena wilsoni*)—Quite a few seen at feeders (SP, PY, AP, ST, PQ) on four
days

Collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*)—tunning! 3 seen at B; another 2 or so at PQ

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

Sword-billed Hummingbird (*Ensifera ensifera*)—4 of this 'unworldly' and spectacular
species were seen repeatedly at YC feeders

Great Sapphirewing (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*)—the World's 2nd largest hummingbird; 4
or so (including close views) at YC feeders

Buff-tailed Coronet (*Boissonneaua flavescens*)—Very common at B and PQ; others at ST
and PY

Velvet-purple Coronet (*Boissonneaua jardini*)—A breath-taking Chocó-Andean endemic; 30
or so were seen close up at ST; 1 was at SP

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

White-tailed Hillstar (*Urochroa bougeri*)—1 male seen up close at PQ

Purple-bibbed Whitetip (*Urostitte benjamini*)—Quite a few were seen at SP, MS, ST, and
PQ

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

Empress Brilliant (*Heliodoxa imperatrix*)—Singles males of this spectacular, scarce
Chocó-Andean endemic seen beautifully at PY and ST

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*)— Quite common in the lowlands and foothills;
seen at SP, ST and MS

White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)—1 juvenile at B

Purple-throated Woodstar (*Calliflox mitchellii*)— This Chocó-Andean specialty was quite common at feeders at SP, AP and PQ mostly

Green-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania fannyi*)—Quite common at SP and MS

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*)—The most common W lowland species in gardens and edge)

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

Purple-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia rosenbergi*)—3 (including a juvenile) of this Chocó endemic at flowering shrubs at RS

QUETZALS & TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

Crested Quetzal (*Pharomachrus antisianus*)—1 female seen at AP

Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*)—2 were seen on our last day along E and at PQ

White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon chionurus*)—Aka Western White-tailed Trogon by Ridgely & Greenfield. 5 were seen at RS

Chocó Trogon (*Trogon comptus*)— Aka White-eyed Trogon by some authors. 2 were seen at MS; others **H** there on two days

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*)—1 male was seen at MS

Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*)—1 close male was seen at B

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*)—1-2 plus **H** at SP, MS and RS

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*)—At least 1-2 plus **H** at SP, MS and RS (best at RS)

JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

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

BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*)—Singles were seen AT AP, MS, PQ; others **H**

TOUCAN-BARBETS: SEMNORNITHIDAE

Toucan Barbet (*Semnornis ramphastinus*)—A unique, gaudy and spectacular Chocó-Andean endemic; 2 beauties at ST; also MS and **H** at MS

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Crimson-rumped Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*)—Quite a few this trip; 1-2 seen on all but one day

Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena laminirostris*)—**H** along E (seen well by all of us on the pre-trip)

Pale-mandibled Araçari (*Pteroglossua erythropygius*)—Considered a race of Collared Araçari (*P. torquatus*) by some authors. Between 1-6 of this Ecuadorian endemic species were seen on four days

Chocó Toucan (*Ramphastos brevis*)—1-5 were seen well on four days, mostly at MS and RS

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsonii*)—**H** and 11 or so seen (nice looks, even with Chocó Toucan) at MS and RS

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*)—At least 4 were seen well at RS

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis fumigatus*)—2 were seen at MS

Yellow-vented Woodpecker (*Veniliornis dignus*)—A beautiful pair were seen up close at AP (a scarce species on the west slope)

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*)—1 was seen at SP; 2 plus **H** at RS

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (*Piculus rivolii*)—1 seen along the E

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)—1 seen at RS

Guayaquil Woodpecker (*Campephilus guayaquilensis*)—Several seen nicely at SP, MS and RS, others **H**

OVENBIRDS: FURNARIIDAE

Pacific Hornero (*Furnarius cinnamomeus*)— Considered a race of Pale-legged Hornero (*F. leucopus*) by some authors. 3-5 of this comical Tumbesian endemic were seen along the entrance road to RS

Slaty Spinetail (*Synallaxis brachyura*)—1 or so at MS

Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*)—2 were seen at SP

Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*)—At least 1 seen with mixed flock along E

Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissoneautilii*)—3 was seen well along E on our first day

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*)—several seen with mixed foraging flocks at MS, AP and MS

Western Woodhaunter (*Hyloctistes subulatus*)—2 at MS

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor rufus*)—1-3 seen at SP, AP and MS

Streak-capped Treehunter (*Thripadectes virgaticeps*)—1 was seen well along the lower E on our last morning

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)—2 were seen with a mixed foraging flock at RS

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)—1 with antswarm at PCH

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)—At least 1 seen with mixed foraging flock at RS

Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropyrhynchus*)—1 was watched along the entrance road to PCH as it devoured a tarantula!

Black-striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*)—2 or so were seen well (also from canopy tower) at RS

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*)—Singles seen at MS and RS

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*)—The most commonly seen woodcreeper in the area; seen on 4 days

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Uniform Antshrike (*Thamnophilus unicolor*)—**H** at SP

Russet Antshrike (*Thamnistes anabatinus*)—Singles seen at PCH and MS

Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*)—4 or so at MS

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)—3 females were seen in understory at RS

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*)—1 seen from the canopy tower at RS

White-backed Fire-eye (*Pyriglena leuconota*)—**H** at RS

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*)—**H** at RS

Immaculate Antbird (*Myrmeciza immaculata*)—2 seen with ant-swarm at PCH; **H** at RS

ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE

Rufous-breasted Antthrush (*Formicarius rufipectus*)—**H** at SP; 1 seen (thanks Angel!) at AP

ANTPITTAS: FORMICARIIDAE

Giant Antpitta (*Grallaria gigantea*)—Spectacular!, one of the trip highlights; ‘point blank’ views of 1 (Panchito) at AP

Moustached Antpitta (*Grallaria alleni*)—**H** at AP

Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*)—**H** at YC

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapillus*)—**H** along E on our first day

Yellow-breasted Antpitta (*Grallaria flavotincta*)—**H** along E on our last morning

Rufous Antpitta (*Grallaria rufula*)—2 seen beautifully as they came to feed on earthworms at YC

Ochre-breasted Antpitta (*Grallaricula flavirostris*)—Great looks at 2 (one of them was ‘Shakira’) at AP

TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Ocellated Tapaculo (*Acropternis orthonyx*)—fantastic looks at 1 (Tomás) at AP; another **H** along E

Nariño Tapaculo (*Scytolopus vicinior*)—**H** above SP

Spillmann’s Tapaculo (*Scytolopus spillmanni*)—**H** on two days along the E

Blackish Tapaculo (*Scytalopus latrans*)—1 seen (others **H**) in thick undergrowth at YC

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Brown-capped Tyrannulet (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*)—2 seen well from the canopy tower at RS

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)—2 up close along E, another 1 at MS

White-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*)—2 seen with mixed foraging flocks at YC

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)—2 seen with a mixed foraging Flock (in fog!) at YC

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*)—2 seen well at RS

Sierran Elaenia (*Elaenia pallatangae*)—1 calling birds seen along E on our last day

Streak-necked Flycatcher (*Mionectes striaticollis*)—1 was seen along E on our last day

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon striaticollis*)—Singles seen at MS and RS

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseiceps*)—Pairs at MS and RS (also **H**)

Black-capped Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*)—1 seen super close along the E

Golden-faced Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius chrysops*)—1-2 seen at MS and RS on three days

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*)—This charming little flycatcher was quite common this trip, on all but two days; most common at MS

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*)—Mostly **H** with 1 seen well at MS

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)—**H** at RS

Yellow-margined Flatbill (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)—1 seen well from the canopy tower at RS

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*)—1 beauty was observed at RS (adorable really!)

Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*)—2 seen along the E on our last day (another attractive flycatcher)

Tawny-breasted Flycatcher (*Myiobius villosus*)—1 seen with mixed foraging flock at MS

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*)—1 seen at MS
Flavescent Flycatcher (*Myiophobus flavicans*)—3 seen along E on our last day
Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*)—Only 1 seen along the E on our last day
Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)—This boreal migrant was **H** at RS only
Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)—1 calling bird was seen at RS
Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)—**H** at MS; 1 calling bird was seen at RS
Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*)—1 was seen well with a mixed foraging flock along a mountain stream along the E
Masked Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola nengeta*)—1 seen briefly at ST; 2 more along the entrance road to RS
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myarchus tuberculifer*)—Quite a few seen at SP, MS and RS
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*)—Singles seen at MS and RS
Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)—Common and seen on all but two days
Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*)—Only 3 were seen at MS
Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)—Pairs seen at MS and RS
Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)—
Snowy-throated Kingbird (*Tyrannus niveigularis*)—1 seen at MS
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—Common lower elevation species; seen on all but one day

COTINGA: COTINGIDAE

Orange-breasted Fruiteater (*Pipreola jucunda*)—1 seen well at AP; right from the 'compound'
Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*)—3 males seen at their lek at AP
Olivaceous Piha (*Snowornis cryptolophus*)—1 seen well and close up at AP
Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*)—2 called in fairly close at RS

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

Golden-winged Manakin (*Masius chrysopterus*)—3 (2 males and a female) seen at MS
Club-winged Manakin (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*)—1 subadult was rehearsing at MS; two days later 5 adults were (including nice views of display)
Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*)—1 male seen from canopy tower at RS

TITYRAS & ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifaciata*)—A pair seen at RS
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*)—Several seen at SP, MS and RS
Black-and-white Becard (*Pachyramphus albogriseus*)—1 male seen at SP
One-colored Becard (*Pachyramphus homochrous*)—Quite common this trip (3-12); seen at MS, and RS mostly

VIREOS & ALLIES: VIREONIDAE

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*)—A few seen on three days; best at ME
Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)—Super common this trip (apparently an influx of boreal migrants just arrived, up to dozens seen on all but one day)
Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*)—1 seen at MS; at least 5 at RS
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius leucotis*)—**H** at RS

JAYS & ALLIES: CORVIDAE

Turquoise Jay (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)—Only 1 was seen at YC; a few **H** along the E
Beautiful Jay (*Cyanolyca pulchra*)—**H** along the E on our last day

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)—The most common and widespread swallow in Ecuador; seen on all but our first day
White-thighed Swallow (*Notiochelidon tibialis*)—5-6 seen MS; eventually scoped well there
Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)—Only 1 seen from the canopy tower at RS

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

Rufous Wren (*Cinnycerthia unirufa*)—1 seen well and close up at YC
Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*)—**H** at MS and RS
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—Seen on several days (also **H**) at SP, etc.
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)—Heard often in montane areas; 1 seen our first afternoon along the E
Southern Nightingale-Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*)—Aka Scaly-breasted Wren by some authors. **H** at MS and RS (three days)

THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire (*Myadestes ralloides*)—**H** at MS
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus fuscater*)—**H** along the E
Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)—Quite a few seen at SP, AP, MS and RS
Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*)—A common highland species
Ecuadorian Thrush (*Turdus maculirostris*)—Considered a race of Spectacled Thrush (*T. nudigenis*) by some authors. Seen well at SP, also at RS (others **H**)

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)—A few were seen daily
Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)—A common boreal migrant to Andean montane areas; a few were seen on all but two days
Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)—5 seen with a mixed foraging flock at MS (must have just arrived!)
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis semiflava*)—**H** at MS (in pasture)
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; only 2 seen well along E on our first and last days
• **Chocó Warbler** (*Basileuterus chlorophrys*)—lumped with Golden-bellied Warbler (*B. chrysogaster*) by some authors, though voices of these two *species* are totally different. At least 5 seen (many very well) with mixed foraging flocks at MS
Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*)—1 was seen well (others **H**) along E on our last day
Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*)—Singles seen at SP and MS (also **H**)
Buff-rumped Warbler (*Basileuterus fulvicauda*)—**H** at MS; nice pair was seen at RS (swishing their tails as usual)

BANANAQUIT: COEREBIDAE

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)—1-3 were seen on four days; MS and RS mostly

TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Superciliaried Hemispingus (*Hemispingus superciliaris*)—3 or so were seen at YC

Rufous-chested Tanager (*Thlypopsis ornata*)—2 or so were seen with a mixed foraging flock along the E on our last day

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

Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)—8 or so were seen with mixed foraging flocks at YC; an attractive and acrobatic species!

Capped Conebill (*Conirostrum albifrons*)—4 seen along the E on our first day; 1 other there (a male) on our last; always flicking their tails

Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*)—Single males seen on two days at MS

Dusky-faced Tanager (*Mitrospingus cassinii*)—H at RS

Ochre-breasted Tanager (*Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*)—A large, drab Chocó endemic; 1 singing male at PCH; 4-5 or more daily at MS and RS

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)—1 male was seen at MS; a small group of 3 at RS

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)—2-3 were seen at MS and SP

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 day; male is stunning!

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—Very common lower elevation species; seen on All but our first day

Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)—1-2 seen on our first and last days along the E

Blue-and-yellow Tanager (*Thraupis bonariensis*)—1 was seen by Amy on our first day

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)—Fairly common lower elevation species; seen on four days

Hooded Mountain-Tanager (*Buthraupis montana*)—Pretty good looks at 1 at YC

Black-chested Mountain-Tanager (*Buthraupis eximia*)—A wonderful pair bathing in a puddle along the YC trail

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus igniventris*)—At least 1 of this stunning highland tanager at YC

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*)—Fairly common species in the subtropics; seen on 4 days, including close-up views

Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*)—3 seen quite well along E on our first day

Golden-crowned Tanager (*Iridosornis rufivertex*)—1 or so seen at YC (stunning!)

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*)—1 was seen by Amy on our first day along the E; another 2 were seen at MS

Glistening-green Tanager (*Chlorochrysa phoenicotis*)—1 stunning male was seen at MS by Kaaren and Chris

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

Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*)—Many seen this trip; small numbers seen daily on all but one day (Rio Silanche)

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*)—Surprisingly, only 1-2 were seen at MS

Flame-faced Tanager (*Tangara parzudakii*)—6 were seen at ST; 3-4 at MS 3 or so along the E

Rufous-throated Tanager (*Tangara rufigula*)—4 or so (in all) of this Chocó endemic were seen on a few visits at MS

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*)—2-5 were seen on each of a few visits to MS

Golden-naped Tanager (*Tangara ruficervix*)—2 or so were seen well at ST; another 1 was seen at PQ

Metallic-green Tanager (*Tangara labradorides*)—2 were seen along the E on our first day

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

Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*)—This beautiful tanager was fairly common along the E (first and last days), ST and AP

Black-capped Tanager (*Tanager heinei*)—1-2 seen along E (first and last days) and SP

Yellow-tufted Dacnis (*Dacnis egregia*)—Considered a race of Black-faced Dacnis (*D. lineata*) by some authors. 1 female was seen at MS (apparently a relatively new arrival to this area) and an incredible 10 (several from the canopy tower) at RS

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)—A pair was seen pretty well at RS

Swallow Tanager (*Tersina viridis*)—Several (males and females) were seen, at SP and MS

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)—Crazy, but now placed in with Tanagers! 1-2 were seen on all but our last day, at all sites

Black-winged Saltator (*Saltator atripennis*)—1-2 were seen at SP, MS and RS

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS & ALLIES: EMBERIZIDAE

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)—8 were seen along the entrance road to RS

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*)—Generally 1-2 seen on all but one day; common along the entrance road to RS

Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*)—Fairly common along the lower E, near PCH and the SP_MS area

Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*)—Has been considered a race, together with Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch (*O. angolensis*) of Amazonia and Eastern South America of Lesser Seed-Finch. 3 were seen along the entrance road to RS

White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*)—Single males were seen on our first and last days along the E

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

Black Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa humeralis*)—Several were seen *en route* to YC

Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis cyanea*)—Also common and tame at YC hummingbird feeders; 2 seen at PCH

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*)—1 seen well at MS (by the banana feeders); made Kaaren very happy!!

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*)—1 was seen briefly at MS

Rufous-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*)—Aka Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch by some authors. 5 or so were seen well at YC

Tricolored Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes tricolor*)—Only 3 or so were seen between SP and MS (another Chocó endemic)

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

Dusky Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*)—Only a few of this Chocó-Andean endemic were seen this trip; 1-4 on five different days

Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*)—1-4 were seen on four days, at MS mostly

CARDINALS & ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)—1 female plumaged bird was with a flock of other boreal migrants (apparently just arrived) in a fruiting tree at MS; normally migrates east of the Andes. This and the following species are no longer considered tanagers!

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)—Quite a few of this boreal migrant were seen along the E, at SP, MS, AP and RS

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)—1 juvenile male was seen with other boreal migrants feeding in a fruiting tree at MS

TROUPIALS & ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Scrub Blackbird (*Dives warszewiczi*)—3 or so were seen at ST

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)—A few were seen along the highway west of Mindo *en route* to MS

Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*)—At least 6 were seen at MS

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)—Several were seen in all; a common lower elevation euphonia

Golden-rumped Euphonia (*Euphonia cyanocephala*)—1 female was seen along the E on our first day

Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—Common and widespread in Ecuador; several seen on five days

Yellow-collared Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia flavirostris*)—**H** with 1 seen flying overhead, in response to playback, at MS

OTHER SPECIES OF INTEREST

MONKEYS: CEBIDAE

White-fronted Capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*)—A small group mostly **H**, 1 individual seen by a few members of our group, at PCH

SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE

Neotropical Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*)—A few were seen on two days at MS

COLUBRID SNAKES: COLUBRIDAE

Peter's Forest-Racer (*Dendrophidion nuchale*)—1 (an attractive little guy) was seen close up but briefly along a forest trail at MS