

AMAZON RIVER CRUISE: A BIRDING AND NATURAL HISTORY ODYSSEY, NORTHEASTERN PERU

JANUARY 13 TO 21, 2012

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TOUR REPORT
AMAZON RIVER CRUISE: A BIRDING
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January 12–22, 2012

By Steve Hilty

In a large and diverse avifauna such as that of the Iquitos area, much of one's enjoyment comes from the sum of visiting the many different habitats in which birds live, and in observing their behaviors, as well as their unusual, often novel songs, duets, and breeding activities. In a way, this is more important than numbers on a list (well, at least for me). We made a point, in fact, of visiting river islands and early successional growth habitats, *várzea* (or floodplain) forests, riverbank and creekside habitats, and *terra firme* (or high ground) forests, all with the aim of a more well-rounded experience. And, for some of you, there was the opportunity to visit an indigenous community, and for others, even a little fishing trip.

We experienced rain one night with rain and a hard downpour on two afternoons, one beginning almost at dusk. These weather conditions are typical for the Amazon. Most days were partly cloudy to cloudy with a few partial days with mostly sunny skies. Remarkably pleasant temperatures prevailed throughout. Water levels were high, in fact somewhat higher than might be expected at this time of year, and as a result we witnessed a lot of floating material (flotsam) moving down the major rivers. The high water permitted us to travel virtually unimpeded wherever we pleased, making access even to small creeks easy. This, in fact, is a great advantage and one of main reasons for visiting at this time of year. A downside to high water is that it inevitably brings more mosquitoes, and on our only upland (*terra firme*) forest walk we found where a number of the Amazon's mosquitoes live.

The great complexity and diversity of a rainforest avifauna is, perhaps, better illustrated in western Amazonia than anywhere else in the world. Our daily routine varied somewhat, but generally included early morning and mid-afternoon ship departures to explore small creeks, or work along the forested riverbanks of the Amazon, Ucayali, and Marañón. After spending a week searching for some of the avifaunal pieces in this greatest of all natural jigsaw puzzles, we hopefully came away with a better appreciation of how this diversity fits together. And, not all the pieces were in the forest. A rich and varied river island fauna, some long distance migrants (even Blue-winged Teal and Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers), and soil and water types strongly influence the natural vegetation and, in turn, the birds in them.

For decades the Iquitos area has been under intense pressure from hunting and trapping of birds and mammals for food, and it has been a supplier of caged wildlife and wildlife products for international markets. The results of this history of persecution are immediately obvious to naturalists—species that are edible, or have value for their hides, feathers, or for cage purposes, are absent or rare. More recently, selective cutting of trees for lumbering has become a problem, even in remote areas. This, combined with a dramatic increase in human population during this same period of time, suggests a future of hard decisions and discipline if Iquitos is to remain as wild as it is now, much less return to its more pristine earlier condition. Nevertheless, the Iquitos

area remains one of the top rainforest destinations anywhere in the New World with an overall diversity that may just be the highest anywhere in the world.

Our ship's crew did a great job of feeding us and looking after us, even bringing cool towels into the field, and the coolers, both ship-board and on the skiffs, were always well-stocked with cold water, as well as ponchos for a couple of rain showers that we experienced. Muddy boots were cleaned and dried after our land-based excursion, and some evenings a band appeared to play during happy hour—actually a different band each evening, but always with the same musicians. Our mornings and late afternoons were filled with plenty of new and exciting birds and a few mammal sightings. And during the course of the trip most of you managed a fair amount of shopping, some of you a fishing trip or a village visit, and everybody seemed eager to check yet one more river island or creek for possible new birds.

The week went quickly and a lot of adventure was compressed into a relatively short span of time. Contrasting our first day along the coast with the utterly different Amazon experience, one begins to appreciate the tremendous diversity of habitats and wildlife that Peru offers to those who are willing to spend the time and effort to visit them. We thank all of you for participating in this cruise and hope to see you again soon.

This list includes the birds and mammals observed on the January 2012 Amazon River Cruise on the Ríos Amazon, Ucayali, and Marañon and various tributaries of these rivers.

Itinerary:

- Jan 14 (Saturday). Late morning departure from Lima to Iquitos, this followed by a splendid lunch at an overwater restaurant, a lengthy wait onboard the ship and a dusk departure up the Amazon with a mid-night anchorage somewhere below the junction of the Río Marañon.
- Jan 15 (Sunday). Early morning along small tributary (Tapara Creek) of the Amazon below main Ucayali-Marañon junction. One of our two skiffs (mine) experienced mechanical problems (multiple ones actually) which delayed our return for a mid-morning break but not before we logged a good variety of waders, raptors and parrots providing us with a good introduction to western Amazonian birds. Most of our afternoon outing was spent in early successional vegetation (*Tessaria*, *Salix*, *Gynerium* grass) with our first look at some river island specialists and along Yarapa Creek.
- Jan 16 (Monday). Morning on Yarapa Creek, a south bank tributary of the Río Ucayali where we had our first good introduction to the diversity of parakeets and parrots of western Amazonia with White-winged Parakeets, Tui Parakeets, a fly-over of a pair of colorful Orange-cheeked Parrots, as well as flocks of Short-tailed Parrots and scattered pairs of Blue-headed, Festive and Mealy parrots. During mid-day we steamed further upriver and spent the afternoon on the (unpronounceable and very likely misspelled) Carocuahuyter Creek, a small north bank tributary of the Ucayali.
- Jan 17 (Tuesday). Continuing up the Río Ucayali yesterday evening we anchored close to Supáy Creek (not far below the city of Requena) where we enjoyed a nice morning that included up to seven species of woodpeckers, Red-and-white Spinetails, Orange-fronted Plushcrows, Peruvian Warbling-Antbird, a pair of Band-tailed Antbirds, a good list of colorful tanagers, and views of Saddle-backed Tamarins and a very cute pair of Yellow-crowned Brush-tailed Tree-Rats. In the afternoon we moved even further upriver to explore Faucett Creek (about 30 minutes above Requena); our afternoon activities also included a lengthy boat ride

along a river island where and a late evening stop to view Red-bellied Macaws at a dying Moriche Palm grove and then at dusk a stop for Hoatzins just as they were preparing to go to roost.

- Jan 18 (Wednesday). Early morning on Sapote Creek (several hours above the town of Requena). Sapote Creek is one of the more pristine sites we visit and did not disappoint with a combined total of 17 species of raptors this morning as well as, a couple sloths, some Squirrel Monkeys, and for the DA group view of Monk Saki monkeys. There also was some shopping as a group of Amerindian women and children met us on our return with plenty of native handicrafts to sell. We spent the afternoon a short distance downstream (down the Ucayali) on El Dorado Creek. Our highlight may have been a dramatic thunderstorm accompanied by lightening, which send all of us (in metal boats) scurrying back to the safety of the mother ship for the duration of the evening.
- Jan 19 (Thursday). We spent the morning along Yanallpa Creek, the smallest and narrowest creek we visited and certainly one of the productive for birding (my vote for favorite creek of the trip). Lots of antshrikes, tanagers, a male Blue-crowned Trogon, eye-level views of a male Yellow-bellied Dacnis and much more. Our afternoon outing consisted of three options—a native community visit, a fishing trip, and a birding trip. Shopping was available at the village. Having been rained out of our night excursion yesterday, we opted for another try this evening, after dinner, at the junction of Río Marañon and Ucayali. This trip proved to be one of the most productive night excursions I've experienced in the past six years. Tops were two Great Potoos, a surprising Striped Owl (and a good view of this well-marked bird), a Snail-eating Snake, several frogs, a young green iguana, a Pauraque and a Ladder-tailed Nightjar, all within just over an hour.
- Jan 20 (Friday). Early morning departure from ship for our only terra firme (upland) walk near the village of El Tucan (15 minutes above the town of Nauta on Río Marañon) which proved something of a disappointment (understatement). With humid overcast conditions, trails were steep and slippery, mosquitoes numerous, and birds few. It was an interesting introduction to interior forest birding and a stark contrast to our creekside birding. More shopping was available on our exit from the forest. We experienced hard rain much of the afternoon and evening. Final evening shipboard with pre-dinner happy hour (as in previous days), music provided by "Johnnie and the Howling Monkeys," dinner, birthday festivities, crew introductions and final salutations.
- Jan. 21. (Saturday). Early morning pre-breakfast departure from ship for a birding run to a river island (Isla Padre) near Iquitos for early-risers where Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, Purple Gallinule and a few additional species were added. Mid-morning drive through Iquitos (food market, "Metal" building, main square etc) and mid-day departure from airport for flight back to Lima where day rooms and some time to repack and prepare for international flights was welcome. Most guests departing on international flights late tonight with a few staying on to visit friends or travel elsewhere.

KEY:

Asterisk (*) = heard only

Blueface: North American breeders

Blackface: rare or infrequently seen or of interest for other reasons

SH - Steve Hilty; DA - David Ascanio

Note: the words "caño" and quebrada" are largely interchangeable and equivalent to "creek" or small stream in English]

BIRD LIST: (Taxonomy follows Clements checklist with updates)

Tinamous, TINAMIDAE

*Cinereous Tinamou, *Crypturellus cinereus*, heard by DA group on the forest walk

*Undulated Tinamou, *Crypturellus undulatus*, also heard on the forest walk

Screamers, Anhimidae

Horned Screamer, *Anhima cornuta*, heard and seen in many areas; up to a dozen seen on Sapote creek

Ducks & Geese, Anatidae

Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata*, 1-4 seen (as singles) on at least 3 days

Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*, 4 seen early one morning were northern migrants very far south (actually quite uncommon or rare this far south); a couple more were seen later than same day

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, almost daily but in small numbers

Anhinga, Anhingidae

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*, 1 singles seen on two days

Herons & Egrets, Ardeidae

Least Bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*, 1 seen on Isla Padre the last morning; this likely a migrant from southern latitudes (not North America)

Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*, scattered individuals along riverbanks on all but last day

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, 2-20+ daily along rivers; some small (5-7) very high-flying groups that appeared to be birds undergoing migratory movements (due to rising water levels?)

Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*, 1-2 seen on first two days

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, small numbers daily

Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, a few near Iquitos

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*, daily in numbers up to ca. 50 maximum

Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*, 2-5+ seen almost daily along rivers; spectacular plumage

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, 1-2 birds seen on four separate days; most were immatures

Ibises & Spoonbills, Threskiornithidae

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, singles or pairs seen in flight over creeks several times; also often heard

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, daily; large numbers around Iquitos; small nos. elsewhere

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, small numbers almost daily (perhaps the least numerous of the vultures we recorded); all of the ones we saw were residents told by narrow whitish nape band

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes burrovianus*, Iquitos; and in grassy open areas along rivers where typically soars/glides low; common with up to a dozen daily

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes melambrotus*, a few over forest (soars higher than Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and always over forested areas)

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 1-2 seen on four different days (in western hemisphere known to breed only in North America; all are non-breeder in S America but some are present year-round)

Hawk & Eagles, Accipitridae

Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, 1-2 seen on two separate days; at least one was dark adult

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, one seen over Sapote Creek

Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, surprisingly scarce; 1 seen flying over city of Iquitos at dusk the first evening

Slender-billed Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, 2-3 seen on three separate days; both perched and flying

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*, 1-6 seen almost every day; perched and showing long wings protruding and also in flight

Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*, half dozen or more daily of this “fishing” hawk; one of commonest raptors along river and creek edges

Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*, a couple seen on two different days

Slate-colored Hawk, *Leucopternis schistaceus*, 1-5 or more seen on most days

Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*, adults and immatures daily along riverbanks and creeks

Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*, daily along river edges; the “Riverside” hawk

Black Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*, single individuals seen twice by DA group

Caracaras & Falcons, Falconidae

Black Caracara, *Daptrius ater*, one group of three flying birds; also singles or pairs on two other days

Red-throated Caracara, *Ibycter americanus*, recorded only on Sapote Creek by DA group.

Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*, daily

Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*, two seen our first day out

Bat Falcon, *Falco rufigularis*, 2-3 on each of first two day

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, 2 seen along river near Requena

Rails and Gallinules, Rallidae

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*, several seen on Isla Padre near Iquitos

Common Gallinule, *Porphyrio chloropus*, apparently a few seen on last morning on Isla Padre near Iquitos.

Not seen by DA (SH not present); scarce and very local in western Amazonia (see map and text in *Birds of Peru* although it would appear from the map that there are actual records near Iquitos; these records may need further confirmation as we have not previously recorded them here on our cruises

Finfoots & Sungrebe, Heliornithidae

*Sungrebe, *Heliornis fulica*, heard frequently every day but never seen (apparently because of high water they had moved back into forest and under deeper cover; none were out along creek margins)

Plovers & Lapwings

Pied Lapwing, *Vanellus cayanus*, a couple pair recorded in the late afternoon on Yarapa Creek; because of high water and absence of sandbars most individuals appear to have migrated away to areas of higher ground

Jacanas, Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*, daily in varying numbers but mostly singles, pairs or a few scattered birds in loose groups

Sandpipers & allies, Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, scattered individuals were seen daily with up a max of about 8-10 on one or two days

Gulls & Terns, Laridae

Large-billed Tern, *Phaetusa simplex*, 30-50+ daily on Ríos Amazon and Ucayali with various groups massed on driftwood or fallen branches along rivers and creeks

Yellow-billed Tern, *Sternula superciliaris*, 20-30 daily on Ríos Amazon and Ucayali

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*, Iquitos

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*, singles or pairs seen on at least four days or more

Plumbeous Pigeon, *Columba plumbea*, several heard; 1 seen in response to playback when it flew up very high in a circle and sailed briefly with its wings held in a V

Ruddy Pigeon, *Columba subvinacea*, singles seen on at least four separate days; in one or more cases close enough to see its red eyes

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columba talpacoti*, a couple seen along the Ucayali riverbank near Requena; scarce in western Amazonia

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, this species was seen daily but only flying at edge of river islands, river banks or near opened-up areas

Gray-fronted Dove, *Leptotila rufaxilla*, mostly heard; a few were seen flying across small creeks (this is a forest species that overlaps only minimally with the previous species)

Parrots & Parakeets, Psittacidae

Maroon-tailed Parakeet, *Pyrrhura melanura*, one small flock over Sapote Creek (seen by DA group)

White-eyed Parakeet, *Aratinga leucophthalma*, for some reason we saw rather few of this widespread species; one flock of 15-20 the first day; another flock on Faucett Creek near Requena

Dusky-headed Parakeet, *Aratinga weddellii*, daily along rivers; nesting pair in stub along waterway near Paranapura (below Requena)

Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna*, 5 individuals perched in a tree and a couple other pairs in flight over Sapote Creek; also atop a stub of Moriche Palm near Requena; and a couple pair over Yanallpa Creek

Scarlet Macaw, *Ara macao*, pairs over Supay Creek and Yanallpa Creek

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severus*, mainly singles or pairs along Ucayali (surprisingly scarce)

Red-bellied Macaw, *Orthopsittaca manilata*, scattered pairs or small groups most mornings; ca. 55-75+ at large dying "morichal" along river (Moriche Palms grow in very wet soil or in water and the large number of dead and dying palms we observed may have been the result of the river cutting into the swamp and draining it); singles and pairs seen almost every day of trip

White-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus*, multiple flocks of 20 to 100 daily along all creeks; dazzling flocks are a characteristic part of avifauna in this region; name recently changed back to Canary-winged Parakeet by SACC (South American Checklist Committee); this was original name of these birds; given boldface because this species is such an integral part of the western Amazonian river edge experience

Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanoptera*, numerous flocks daily most of which were seen in flight; difficult to distinguish from next species which is largely confined to river edges and islands

Tui Parakeet, *Brotogeris sanctithomae*, pairs or small groups almost daily along river; a river edge bird

Black-headed Parrot, *Pionites melanocephalus*, two groups of 4-5 each; one of Sapote Creek and second group on Yanallpa Creek; interesting that *Bird of Peru* maps indicate this is a species of the north bank of Amazon and Marañon yet we saw two separate groups along tributaries of the Ucayali somewhat to the south of the Marañon; this same fuzziness in distributions also is mirrored with White-chinned and Bluish-fronted Jacamars (north bank/south bank replacement species) as far as we can tell

Short-tailed Parrot, *Graydidascalus brachyurus*, 10-100+ most days; only taller riverine forest and riverine *Cecropia*; noisy and screechy and as far as I know all were seen only in flight

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*, almost daily but mainly singles or pairs (surprisingly low numbers); deep mostly "below the horizontal" wing beats

Festive Parrot, *Amazona festiva*, pairs or a few pairs seen in flight almost daily; red back stripe generally not visible

Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala*, a couple seen in morning on along Supay Creek were only ones seen

Orange-winged Parrot, *Amazona amazonica*, surprisingly scarce; we recorded only a couple on this trip

Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*, a few seen most mornings and a really close pair on Yanallpa Creek; large green parrot with deep throaty voice; largest *Amazona* parrot

Hoatzin, Opisthocomidae

Hoatzin, *Opisthocomus hoazin*, great views of at a few on two occasions; surely one of Amazonia's strangest birds; molecular genetics apparently has now confirmed that it really is an ancient lineage (something long suspected but never proved) and not especially closely related to cuckoos; probably does not belong here in this taxonomic order

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Little Cuckoo, *Piaya minuta*, 2 seen the first morning and 1 seen particularly well at mouth of Yanallpa Creek by SH group

Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, singles seen on 3-4 mornings

Striped Cuckoo, *Tapera naevia*, one seen along Sapote Creek by SH party

Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*, 10-75 almost daily; particularly large group of birds (possibly a migratory group) on Sapote Creek with up to 150 or more streaming across the creek at one point

Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*, a few in settled areas and open grassy areas along river banks

Owls, Strigidae

Striped Owl, *Pseudoscops clamator*, one seen beautifully on branch of bare stub in spotlight at junction of Marañon and Ucayali; apparently widely distributed in western Amazonia but this was the first one any of us had seen here

Ferruginous Pygmy-owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*, 1 seen by DA group and a couple heard

Nightjars & Allies, Caprimulgidae

Sand-colored Nighthawk, *Chordeiles rupestris*, large roosting group near Caño Yarapa river bank by the fishing group

Common Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*, 1 seen on the night excursion near junction of Marañon and Ucayali

Ladder-tailed Nightjar, *Hydropsalis climacocerca*, male seen along Sapote Creek by SH group; female on Yanallpa Creek by both parties; another apparently flushed on night trip

Potoos, Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*, 2 seen in spotlight on night trip near confluence of Río Marañon and Ucayali

Swifts, Apodidae

Pale-rumped Swift, *Chaetura egregia*, 2 over Yanallpa Creek (apparently by both groups); distinctly pale almost whitish rump area identifies this relatively large swift

Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*, 2 or more over Moriche Palm group while we watched the palmcreepers; near Requena; almost certainly there were other *Chaetura* spp. swifts present but we were unable to identify them

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila cayennensis*, pair seen by DA group

Fork-tailed (Neotropical) Palm-Swift, *Tachornis (Reinarda) squamata*, daily over all rivers but mainly in vicinity of *Mauritia* palms (where they nest)

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

White-bearded Hermit, *Phaethornis hispidus*, 1 seen by SH boat group on Supay Creek

Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*, at least 4 or more females seen on 3 separate days; no males

Blue-chinned Sapphire, *Chlorostilbon (Chlorestes) notata*, one seen first morning in Camu-Camu patch by DA group; another by SH group seen perched close to boat along Yanallpa Creek

Blue-tailed Emerald, *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*, males seen by both groups

Olive-spotted Hummingbird, *Leucippus chlorocercus*, seen at two early successional vegetation sites on river islands; seen particularly well near San Jose de Paranapura (below Requena); remarkably dull little river island specialist

Glittering-throated Emerald, *Amazilia fimbriata*, commonest hummer in area; almost daily

Black-eared Fairy, *Heliophryx auritus*, 1 seen near forest Canopy by SH group on Yarapa Creek (Monday morning)

Long-billed Starthroat, *Heliomaster longirostris*, 1 seen along Yanallpa creek by SH group (and probably also by DA group); another seen much further up the Yanallpa by SH group; local in western Amazonia

Trogons, Trogonidae

Green-backed Trogon (a split from White-tailed Trogon), *Trogon viridis*, several seen and heard (and surely one of the more misleading names for such a beautiful bird)

Violaceous Trogon, *Trogon violaceus*, 1 seen by SH group on Caño Yarapa (Monday a.m.)

Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris*, beautiful males seen by both groups

Blue-crowned Trogon, *Trogon curucui*, male seen by both groups along Yanallpa creek

Black-tailed Trogon, *Trogon melanurus*, one seen along Supay Creek; others heard

Motmots, Momotidae

*Whooping (formerly Blue-crowned) Motmot, *Momotus (momota) subrufescens*, heard by both groups on our slippery hilly forest walk; a recent official split that may not yet show as a separate species from Blue-crowned Motmot on your lists; apparently not seen by anyone (although almost seen!)

Broad-billed Motmot, *Electron platyrhynchum*, single individuals seen by both groups on upland forest walk above Nauta (north bank of Marañon)

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*, 15-30+ daily; commonest kingfisher (at least the most conspicuous); huge riverbank colony above Nauta

Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazona*, daily; somewhat fewer than previous species

Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*, only a few and on only 2 days
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle inda*, 2-3 seen in flight low up small streams
Pygmy Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle aenea*, 1 seen; also heard in one or two places

Puffbirds, Bucconidae

Pied Puffbird, *Notharchus tectus*, 1 on Sapote creek; pair along Yanallpa Creek
Black-fronted Nunbird, *Monasa nigrifrons*, common and seen daily
Swallow-winged Puffbird, *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*, singles or pairs seen only about 3 times

Jacamars, Galbulidae

White-eared Jacamar, *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*, more numerous than usual with sightings or pairs and families almost every day
Yellow-billed Jacamar, *Galbula albirostris*, one seen by DA group on slippery forest walk
Bluish-fronted Jacamar, *Galbula cyanescens*, singles or pairs on at least 4 days; seen (on both side of Ucayali) and believed to be this species but difficult to rule out potential or actual overlap with White-chinned Jacamar (*G. tomacea*); at least we could not see any evident white feathering on chin
Purplish Jacamar, *Galbula chalcothorax*, 1 male bird seen in afternoon in mid-level to subcanopy vegetation at edge of small tributary of Carocuahuayter Creek by SH group; beautiful little jacamar very glittery anin western Amazonia and the first time we've recorded it on one of our Amazon cruises
Paradise Jacamar, *Galbula dea*, pair seen by both groups in high canopy above Yarapa Creek; low-density species in this part of western Amazonia and a good find

Barbets, Capitonidae

Scarlet-crowned Barbet, *Capito aurovirens*, common and seen daily at river edges; fine views of calling birds which point bill down and rapidly vibrate wings downward also as they call in interesting little display
*Gilded Barbet, *Capito auratus*, 1 heard on slippery forest walk by SH group; bird quite distant; curious that this usually common bird was so quiet this trip
Lemon-throated Barbet, *Eubucco richardsoni*, one seen in forest along Carocuahuayter Creek (spelling?) with a mixed species flock; mostly brief views of this spectacular bird

Toucans, Ramphastidae

Lettered Araçari, *Pteroglossus inscriptus*, singles or pairs on three separate days
Chestnut-eared Araçari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*, 3-6+ seen on at least 3-4 days; this is THE river edge Araçari
White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan, *Ramphastos cuvieri*, heard along Caño Yarapa; eventually several were seen along Sapote Creek and Yanallpa Creek

Woodpeckers, Picidae

Lafresnaye's Piculet, *Picumnus lafresnayi*, 1 male seen along Yanallpa Creek (tributary of Ucayali; much less numerous in the habitats we visited than the next species; this individual, heavily barred throughout on undersides was seen by both groups; curiously it is regarded as a species of the north side of the Marañon and Amazon but this bird was a short distance south of the presumed Marañon eco-barrier
Plain-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus castelnau*, singles several times along river edges and disturbed creekside vegetation; not rare but confined to river islands and river edges where found in younger vegetation
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cruentatus*, a few on high stubs on several mornings; seemed most numerous along Yanallpa Creek
Little Woodpecker, *Veniliornis passerinus*, river islands and river banks where seen in early successional vegetation including cane (*Gynerium*) and sapling; in western Amazonia almost exclusively a "river island" and disturbed river edge species
Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes (Chrysoptilus) punctigula*, singles or pairs on river islands and younger river bank vegetation at least the first three mornings
Scale-breasted Woodpecker, *Celeus grammicus*, 1 seen by DA group along Yanallpa Creek
Chestnut Woodpecker, *Celeus elegans*, seen along Yarapa and Supay and Yanallpa creeks
Cream-colored Woodpecker, *Celeus flavus*, singles and pairs several times with some excellent views along Yarapa and Sapote and Yanallpa creek; one of the handsomest *Celeus* woodpeckers

Ringed Woodpecker, *Celeus torquatus*, 1 individual briefly along Yarapa Creek; another one seen very well along Supay Creek by both groups; everywhere a low-density species due to its large foraging/home range

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, scattered individuals throughout trip; told by narrow facial stripe and widely separated white “suspenders”

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*, females several times and at least one male; female told from female of previous species by broad white facial stripe and “suspenders” that button (meet) in mid-back

Ovenbird and allies, Furnariidae

Pale-legged Hornero, *Furnarius leucopus*, heard daily and seen a few times in river island and creekside vegetation; generally quite vocal

Bay (Pale-billed) Hornero, *Furnarius torridus*, 1 seen by SH group as it flew past our boat twice along Yarapa Creek; also seen somewhat briefly by DA group; this species (unlike other *Furnarius* horneros seems particularly hard to see); favors dense creek-side vegetation with rank grass and is everywhere (as far as known) scarce and local but it’s apparent scarcity may be due to lack of information about the favored habitat of this species; apparently not as vocal as Pale-legged Hornero

Lesser Hornero, *Furnarius minor*, we saw only 1 individual of this species because sand bars with driftwood and low grass were completely flooded

Dark-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albigularis*, seen on at least three occasions; SH group saw one particularly well at mouth of Sapote Creek

White-bellied Spinetail, *Synallaxis propinqua*, river island species that proved difficult to see (as usual); our best views (albeit brief) were Monday afternoon in a patch of early successional vegetation in front of a small thatched building at the edge of an island (or edge of mainland?)

Parker’s Spinetail, *Cranioleuca vulpecula*, found in river island cane in a couple places; this is another species found primarily in cane on river islands and river banks; usually quite responsive to song playback

Red-and-white Spinetail, *Certhiaxis mustelina*, surprisingly common even with high water; a few seen daily; river island bird that favors grass and bushes

Orange-fronted Plushcrown, *Metopothrix aurantiaca*, we actually saw little groups of this interesting little species on most days but seen close and well only a couple times; warblerlike appearance despite genetic affinities with the furnariids; generally in younger creekside vegetation but also occasionally fairly high in more mature trees along creeks

Point-tailed Palmcreeper, *Berlepschia rikeri*, a surprise appearance when a pair responded to playback (from the deck of the Aquamarina) and perched in the open on high *Mauritia* palm fronds along the banks of the Ucayali a short distance below Yanallpa Creek; a low-density *Mauritia* palm specialist that is found nowhere else except in groves of *Mauritia* palms (but not in all colonies of these palms which are high localized themselves in areas with permanently wet soil)

Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*, at least one seen along Yarapa Creek

Woodcreepers (subfamily Dendrocolaptinae); now merged within Furnariidae

Olivaceous Woodcreeper, *Sittasomus griseicapillus*, only 1 individual seen; a widespread and fairly common species (or species group)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* one seen by some members of the SH slippery and mosquito-infested forest walk

Long-billed Woodcreeper, *Nasica longirostris*, several seen beautifully on at least 3 separate days; mainly a várzea species in Amazonia

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, *Dendrexetastes rufigula*, enigmatic woodcreeper that looks and often acts more like a foliage-gleaner than a woodcreeper; seen at several sites; perhaps best seen along Sapote Creek

Strong-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*, seen by SH group at mouth of Yanallpa creek at dawn; responded to playback and sang

Black-banded Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes picumnus*, 1 seen by DA group on Carocuahuayter Creek (spelling?); notably low density species in Amazonia

Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes certhia*, 1 seen along Yanallpa Creek by DA group

Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*, daily; common along creeks and rivers

Zimmer's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus kienerii*, this range-restricted species was seen along Sapote reek by DA group; this species apparently occurs only along small creeks where it overlaps with Straight-billed Woodcreeper and where the two are best told by voice rather than plumage which is exceedingly similar

Striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*, heard along most creeks; at least one or more seen
Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*, seen and heard more or less daily; commonest woodcreeper in Amazonia although we did not see a great many of them

Antbirds, *Thamnophilidae*

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*, heard almost daily; one male seen nicely along Yanallpa Creek

Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis*, pair at mouth of Caño Yanallpa Creek; at least the female was seen by all parties

Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, heard almost daily along river borders; both males and females seen

Castelnau's Antshrike, *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*, a difficult species to see (and we proved this once again); individuals were glimpsed or seen in flight by both parties near Requena and also heard (without much response to playback) in *Cecropia* and younger river edge/island vegetation at San Jose de Paranapura (downriver from Requena)

Amazonian Antshrike, *Thamnophilus amazonicus*, one seen along Supay Creek by DA group

Spot-winged Antshrike, *Pygiptila stelleris*, 1 female seen briefly by some of SH group and heard at one or more other sites by both parties

Pygmy Antwren, *Myrmotherula brachyura*, single males seen and/or heard (with difficulty) on at least three separate days; this tiny species typically stays quite high and is difficult to see

Amazonian (Streaked-) Antwren, *Myrmotherula multostriata*, pairs seen almost daily along virtually all the small creeks we explored

Gray Antwren, *Myrmotherula menetriesii*, females seen twice and males heard but not seen

*Blackish Antbird, *Cercomacra nigrescens*, heard in river edge vegetation near Requena (Faucett Creek) and at mouth of Yanallpa creek; playback unsuccessful

Gray Antbird, *Cercomacra cinerascens* 1 bird seen along Yarapa Creek

White-browed Antbird, *Myrmoborus leucophrys*, heard at two or more sites but not seen; dense creek side vegetation

Peruvian Warbling-Antbird, *Hypocnemis peruviana*, seen well along Supay Creek

Band-tailed Antbird, *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*, pair seen along Supay Creek by SH group pushing boat into a secluded flooded forest site

Black-and-white Antbird, *Myrmochanes hemileucus*, seen at three sites including mouth of Yanallpa Creek and near village of San Jose de Paranapura (below Requena); a river island specialist

Plumbeous Antbird, *Myrmeciza hyperythra*, seen at Yarapa Creek and Sapote Creek and heard elsewhere; told by conspicuous bluish white skin around eyes

Black-throated Antbird, *Myrmeciza atrothorax*, 1 male seen (with some difficulty) along lower end of Sapote Creek by SH group; 2 others heard in same vicinity were only records of this widespread Amazonian species

Antthrushes, *Formicariidae*

Black-faced Antthrush, *Formicarius analis*, heard (from boats) at two terra firme sites

Tyrant Flycatchers, *Tyrannidae*

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, 1 the first morning along river edge vegetation along Río Amazon

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannous elates*, 1 seen by SH group very close (from boat) on Yarapa Creek; another seen by DA group later in week

Yellow-crowned Elena, *Myiopagis flavivertex*, one seen extremely close for extended period on Yarapa creek by SH group (bird practically in boat with us); another heard later in trip by DA group

River Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga hypoleuca*, pair seen late the first morning in young willow (*Salix sp*) along banks of Río Amazon; seen by both groups together; another river island specialists

*Slender-footed Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius gracilipes*, appears to have only been heard along Yanallpa Creek

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, *Stigmatura napensis*, finally seen last morning on short boat trip out of Iquitos by DA and part of group; a charismatic river island specialist

Rusty-fronted Tody-Tyrant, *Poecilatriccus latirostris*, 1 seen by DA group the first morning among river edge early successional vegetation

Spotted Tody-Tyrant, *Todirostrum maculatum*, 1 bird first seen late the first morning in young willow (*Salix sp*) along banks of Río Amazon; seen by both groups together at that point; others seen later in week; occurs mainly on river islands in western Amazonia although also found in other habitats elsewhere

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*, 1 seen by DA group at mouth of Yanallpa Creek; a tiny bird that looks like a large bumblebee high in canopy; not rare but a good find!

Yellow-olive Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphurescens insignis*, pair seen by SH group along Sapote Creek were apparently of this dull Amazon river race which shows only weakly-indicated wing markings and duller head pattern; call was a single loud SEEK, repeated about 3 times at rate of 1/sec or less

*Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias flaviventris*, heard (SH) at the upper end of Sapote Creek (by lake edge) but not seen and unresponsive to playback; call a single loud SEEK!

Gray-crowned Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*, another member of this difficult genus that was heard along Yarapa Creek and seen albeit rather briefly as it descended a bit from high canopy after playback from Renzo; overall a poor study of this widespread but difficult-to-see Amazonian species; another was identified by DA group later in week

Drab Water Tyrant, *Ochthornis littoralis*, along river banks daily; familiar and easy to see; usually in pairs

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*, pair seen the first morning along banks of Amazon; possibly also seen later in week; surprisingly scarce this trip

Cinnamon Attila, *Attila cinnamomeus*, seen along both Supay and Sapote creek; heard along Yanallpa and other sites; striking rufous plumage becoming golden yellow on rump and belly

Dull-capped (White-eyed) Attila, *Attila bolivianus*, seen along El Dorado Creek in afternoon (SH group) as 1 flew across the creek; also seen next day on Yanallpa Creek; big fierce white eyes; now official called (again) Dull-capped Attila (at-TIL-a) by SACC but they certainly should have retained the more frequently used name of White-eyed Attila

Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*, seen in a few places with younger river edge vegetation

Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*, daily along rivers and creeks at various heights

Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus (Philohydor) lictor*, daily along creeks where always low and close to water

Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*, seen or heard at most sites

Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*, seen daily; THE common small flycatcher with a kiskadee look-alike head pattern

Gray-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*, seen along banks of Amazon the first morning by DA group; next morning at Yarapa Creek also by DA group

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*, 1 identified as this along Sapote Creek by DA boat group; a breeding migrant from N America here apparently on its “wintering” grounds here; another individual initially identified as Streaked Flycatcher by SH group near Requena was also probably this species as it shows some yellowish below with rather pale unmarked belly; head markings not seen well

Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*, its loud whistles heard almost every morning; 1 seen the first morning along Río Amazon (around a large oropendola colony in front of a small lodge) may have been the only one actually seen; pirates oropendola nests

Sulphury Flycatcher, *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*, 1 seen in flight (following playback) by DA at some Moriche palms along Yarapa Creek; a Tropical Kingbird look-alike but almost always in or near moriche palms)

Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, daily; common and conspicuous; at this time of year most are residents; austral migrants (from Argentina and Brazil) augment local populations from ca. Apr to Sept

Cotingas, Cotingidae

Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*, group seen once along Supay Creek and heard along Yanallpa Creek; distinctive whistles easily imitated

Amazonian Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus ornatus*, male seen well in flight over Yarapa Creek; a couple other sightings were briefer (and also in flight as well; none seen perched)

Plum-throated Cotinga, *Cotinga maynana*, one or two males almost every morning (little blue spots in the canopy!); spectacular bird

Purple-throated Cotinga, *Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema*, male and female seen by DA group on Supay creek; generally a low-density species (or easily overlooked) and a good find

Bare-necked Fruitcrow, *Gymnoderus foetidus*, several were seen both mornings and afternoons of along Supay and Faucett creeks, and also along Sapote and El Dorado creeks; most were females with only 1 or two males

Black-necked Red-Cotinga, *Phoenicircus nigricollis*, we heard it call repeatedly; then it called apparently also in response to SH playback on the long hilly slippery forest walk and saw the bird quickly overhead fly three times but could never get it to stop in view; a big disappointment and I hate to even put a beautiful bird like this on the list because it remained for us basically a heard bird

Manakins, Pipridae

*Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin, *Tyrannetes stolzmanni*, heard along Yarapa Creek by DA group

Blue-crowned Manakin, *Lepidothrix (Pipra) coronata*, male seen by both groups on our slippery and hilly forest walk on the north bank of the Río Marañon

Tityras & allies, Tityridae

Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*, singles or pairs almost daily

Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*, fewer than previous species but seen on at least two days

Várzea Schiffornis, *Schiffornis major*, heard almost daily; eventually both groups obtained view of perched birds (a rare event) and also saw it fly back and forth across small creeks; formerly called Greater Manakin

Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*, males or pairs a few times on river islands and in early successional vegetation or banks of Río Ucayali and Marañon

Chestnut-crowned Becard, *Pachyramphus castaneus*, pair near mouth of Yarapa Creek the second morning

White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*, males were seen well on two or more occasions

Black-capped Becard, *Pachyramphus marginatus*, 1 male seen high in forest along Yarapa Creek; later SH tape playback brought a male down out of canopy and to eye-level near the skiff along Yanallpa Creek but it remained low only briefly before zooming back up into canopy (apparently it quickly realized its mistake!) where it was lost to view; widespread in Amazonia but generally not often seen because it remains high in forest

Vireos & Greenlets, Vireonidae

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus* (or if split *Vireo chivi*), heard and seen (I think) along a time or two; this is a resident form with a simple two-note call; some austral (southern) migrants present ca. Apr to Sept

Crowns & Jays, Corvidae

Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*, both groups saw only a pair or trio along El Dorado Creek

Swallows & Martins, Hirundinidae

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, daily; an apparent roosting group of 30+ seen in small bare bush in flooded area at head of Supay creek; then a large group of 80+ seen flying down el Dorado Creek at dusk (to roost?); obviously with water levels high this species is not nesting now but there is certainly much to learn about its seasonal behavior and habits as is true of many of the commonest species here in western Amazonia; presumably a resident but who knows for sure?

Purple Martin, *Progne subis*, if identified correctly there was a single female of this species at the dock in Iquitos on the evening we arrived (studied in scopes) and it was here again a week later at dawn when we returned; our identification of this species remains subject to revision/correction however; a North American migrant

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*, we did see a few of these at one site and some other random sightings that remain identified only as *Progne* sp.; apparently resident but some local or minor geographical movements possible

White-winged Swallow, *Tachycineta albiventer*, daily; common over all rivers and in pairs or little groups of less than a dozen perched on stick just above the water

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*, only a few could be picked out among the numerous flocks of Barn Swallow and then at one site near San Jose de Paranapura (below Requena) in the evening we found a two large flocks numbering perhaps a 100 or more each with very few Barn Swallows present; a North American breeder

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, daily in varying sized flocks up to a few hundred including some flocks of ragged heavily molting juveniles of the previous year; one large group of several hundred were scattered atop a patch of rice on a flooded river sand bar at the mouth of Sapote Creek; a North America breeder

Wrens, Troglodytidae

Thrush-like Wren, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*, heard most days; pairs seen high in trees several times
Buff-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus leucotis*, heard everywhere along creek sides; a few seen with diligent playback
House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, one or two recorded near a village on the banks of the Ucayali

Gnatcatchers, Polioptilidae

Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila plumbea*, 1 seen along Yarapa Creek

Donacobius, Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius, *Donacobius atricapilla*, heard or seen most days; wonderful tail-wagging display; now in a family of its own (this species has a checkered taxonomic history that may yet undergo more revision)

Thrushes, Turdidae

Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, Iquitos; a few seen the first three days in semi-open sites along rivers and creeks
Hauxwell's Thrush, *Turdus hauxwelli*, 1 seen well as it circled our boat in response to playback and also perched in view several times along Sapote Creek; also heard along Yanallpa Creek

Tanagers, Thraupidae

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, 2 (or possibly 3) were seen on various creeks joining the Ucayali; molecular genetics place it with tanagers and not in a separate family (despite being indicated as such on checklist); decidedly uncommon in western Amazonia
Hooded Tanager, *Nemosia pileata*, pairs or little groups 3-5 were seen daily in all areas
Orange-headed Tanager, *Thlypopsis sordida*, seen along banks of Río Amazon the first morning; seen again later in trip and on last morning on brief morning trip out of Iquitos to nearby Isla Padre
Pearly-breasted Conebill, *Conirostrum margaritae*, seen twice by DA groups; *Cecropia* specialist on river islands; quite local
Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*, single bird seen near mouth of Yarapa Creek the first morning
Yellow-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufiventer*, seen a couple times along Yanallpa Creek by DA group; for some reason a rather low-density species in this area (or we are not in appropriate habitat)
Masked Crimson Tanager, *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*, stunning plumage and common enough that it was seen daily in small groups along river and creek edges
Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*, daily; common but fewer than previous species
Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, daily; fairly common close to rivers; not nearly as numerous in natural environments as in settled areas and towns
Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*, daily; generally scarce along rivers although perhaps a few seen most days
Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*, a few high canopy groups seen most days
Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*, singles or in groups up to about 5 were seen on three mornings including Supay and Sapote and Yanallpa creeks.
Green-&-gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*, seen a couple times on Ucayali tributaries; a species that is often with Paradise Tanagers but generally less conspicuous
Yellow-bellied Dacnis, *Dacnis flaviventer*, a few seen along Sapote Creek and especially Yanallpa Creek where we had eye-level views of lone or more males allowing us to see their moss-green crowns and red eyes
Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*, heard or seen almost daily in early to mid-stage successional growth along rivers; generally not too conspicuous this trip

Finches & Sparrows etc, Emberizidae

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, seen in semi-open grassy area along Yarapa Creek; a widespread species but not common in western Amazonia

Caquetá Seedeater, *Sporophila murallae*, seen along Faucett Creek late in afternoon (seen by both groups and this apparently the only record for the trip); resident or seasonally present (depends upon sufficient grass seeds)

Lesson's Seedeater, *Sporophila bouvronides*, seen on at least three mornings; one male and one female were in the top of tree (an unusual location for a seed-eating species) in front of a small lodge along Supay Creek although *Sporophila* do often disperse across the canopy of forest to new feeding sites; others were seen in marshy areas along rivers and several were with other seedeaters at mouth of Sapote Creek where they were feeding on rice planted by local inhabitants; resident or seasonally present (depends upon sufficient grass seeds)

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila castaneiventris*, river islands and river banks; common and seen daily

Chestnut-bellied (Lesser) Seed-Finch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*, only sighting appears to be one or two along the Carocuahuayter Creek (spelling?) on Tuesday afternoon (north bank of Ucayali)

Red-capped Cardinal, *Paroaria gularis*, daily along rivers, creeks and lakes

Yellow-browed Sparrow, *Ammodramus aurifrons*, a few along river edges

Blackbirds etc., Icteridae

Oriole Blackbird, *Gymnomystax mexicanus*, river islands and riverbanks throughout trip; gorgeous decorations along riverbanks!

Velvet-fronted Grackle, *Lampropsar tanagrinus*, one group along border of Yarapa Creek; possibly another group along Yanallpa Creek

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, curiously scarce this trip; we noted them only along the banks of the Río Amazon the first morning and again the last morning out of Iquitos

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, scattered birds almost daily along river edges and island; in a few places alarmingly numerous

Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*, scattered individuals daily and in some instances one or two were mixed with larger groups of Shiny Cowbirds; mainly river edges and flying along river borders; parasitize mainly the Russet-backed Oropendola (and other large oropendolas)

Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*, daily; common; many nest colonies with nests clumped together

Solitary (Black) Cacique, *Cacicus solitarius*, one seen along the Río Amazon (Yarapa Creek) the first day; another in afternoon near San Jose de Paranapura (near Requena)

Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*, daily; very common with conspicuous nest colonies noted everywhere but curiously we saw no other species of oropendola on this trip

Siskins & Goldfinches & Euphonias, Fringillidae

Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris*, several seen at various locations the first two or three days

White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*, also seen several times but mainly high in treetops where it was difficult to see this species' white under tail coverts; smaller than most other euphonias

Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*, one with a mixed species flock of antwrens and tanagers along Supay Creek was heard calling and seen by SH and a few people but then promptly disappeared

LIST OF MAMMALS, HERPS and miscellaneous critters:

Sloths. Bradypodidae

Brown-throated three-toed Sloth, *Bradypus variegatus*, at least 8 or more seen at various sites

Bulldogs Bats, Noctilionidae

Fishing (or Bulldog) Bat, *Noctilio leporinus* (and possibly other species of fishing bats), seen in evenings and on night excursion; mostly rather low over water; a large bat with distinctly rufous coloring

Sheath-tailed Bats, Emballonuridae

Long-nosed Bat, *Rhynchonycteris naso*, groups clinging in crevices of large tree buttresses and beneath tree trunks overhanging creeks; distinctly spotted or freckled with white on their backs

Marmosets & Tamarins, Callitrichidae

Pygmy Marmoset, *Cebuella pygmaea*, a little family observed at length by all parties along Supay Creek; the smallest primate in the New World; kept as pets they can be carried in ones shirt pocket; scurry rapidly up and down dense vine tangles and feed by biting small holes in the bark of certain trees causing sap to flow on which they feed; colonies may remain for years in a small area as long as their favored tree sap can be obtained

Saddleback Tamarin, *Saguinus fasciollis*, seen on several occasions including two groups along the Caño Yanallpa where we were able to observe them at length; a great “leaper” as moves from trunk to trunk and higher up runs along large branches in squirrel-like manner; very cute!

New World Monkeys, Cebidae

*Dusky Titi-Monkey, *Callicebus moloch*, a family was heard by DA group in early morning along Supay creek; noisy raucous *Wauk-a, Wauk-a, Wauk-a . . .* vocalization can be heard for nearly a km

Common Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri sciureus*, several small troops were encountered in trees along banks of creeks

Monk Saki Monkey, *Pithecia monachus*, one or more adults were seen along Sapote Creek by DA group; black with grayish white face; this species rather similar to Equatorial Saki which differs in being blackish with grayish white face (rather than with buffy brown underparts (not rusty) and less clearly defined whitish face

*Red Howler Monkey, *Alouatta seniculus*, heard along Sapote Creek but not seen

Squirrels

Northern Amazonian Red Squirrel, *Sciurus igniventris*, one seen Monday along Tapara Creek our first morning out

Spiny Rats & Tree Rats, Echimyidae

*Amazon Bamboo Rat, *Dactylomys* sp., we heard its remarkably loud gattling-gun like rattle call during our night outing; this rat lives in trees and bamboo

Yellow-crowned Brush-Tailed Tree Rat, two seen peering out from tree hole about 6-8 m up at lake edge along Sapote Creek; seemed remarkably confiding and easy to seen even during our mid-day discovery of these animals

Dolphins

Pink River Dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*, seen daily and in numbers especially at mouths of creeks and also well upstream of some moderate-sized creeks; most individuals look distinctly pink when they surface and show only a small knob-like dorsal fin

Gray River Dolphin, *Sotalia fluviatilis*, seen several times although distinctly less numerous than previous species; gray and has narrow and thin dorsal fin

Frogs:

Pygmy Hatchet-faced Tree-Frog, *Sphaenorhynchus carneus*, on our night excursion hear the junction of the Marañon and Ucayali river (all green and with slender nose)

Reticulated Poison Frog, *Dendrobates reticulatus iquitos*, we saw this form “iquitos” on our forest walk (SH group); tiny and with only mildly poisonous skin but very cute

We also saw a couple other frogs on our night excursion that remain unidentified

Other herps:

Caiman Lizard, *Dracaena* sp. (presumably *guianensis*) (Teiidae), one large orange-headed adult basking on a low branch overhanging Yanallpa Creek was seen close-up and was well photographed by both groups; a good find as these large (nearly 4 feet long) creatures are decidedly uncommon

Amazon Green Iguana, *Iguana iguana*, we saw large adult iguanas almost daily; also a smallish and young green one in flooded marsh grass on our night excursion

Snail-eating Snake, presumably *Dipsas variegata* (Colubridae) or allied species; rather tan in color with large head and large round eyes; seen in flooded marsh grass on our night excursion
Reticulated Poison Frog, *Dendrobates reticulatus*, seen on slippery forest trail walk; tiny little red frog with silvery blue and black reticulated pattern on rear parts and legs (like wearing old blue jeans); the skin of this species is only mildly poisonous
Leaf Toad, *Bufo margaritifera*, also seen on the forest walk; very flat with pointed nose and with dark dead leaf pattern on back

Invertebrates:

Blue Morpho butterflies
Owl butterfly (also known as *Caligo* Butterfly); a crepuscular species
Preying Mantis
Walking Stick
Colonial Spiders (some massive colonies along creeksides)
Cicadas (including many coming aboard ship one evening)
Mosquitoes (plenty of these on the forest trails but rather few elsewhere)

For easiest identification of frogs and herps see: Bartlett, R. D. & P. Bartlett. 2003. *Reptiles & Amphibians of the Amazon. An Ecotourist's Guide*. Univ. Florida press.

PART II. LIST OF BIRDS SEEN IN LIMA-PUCUSANA AREA: January 13, 2012

Dusks & Geese, Anatidae

White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis*, Pantanos de Villa, 8 or more
Cinnamon Teal, *Anus cyanoptera*, Pantanos de Villa; 3 –4 at Pantanos de Villa
Ruddy (Andean-Ruddy) Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis (ferruginea* if split), Pantanos de Villa (6+)

Grebes, Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*, Pantanos de Villa (4)
Great Grebe, *Podiceps major*, Pantanos de Villa (at least 8 plus some chicks)

Penguins, Spheniscidae

Humboldt Penguin, *Spheniscus humboldti*, 6+ seen swimming at sea south of Pucusana; these individuals were observed at length through the telescopes as they remained in same area for an extended period of time

Boobies, Sulidae

Peruvian Booby, *Sula variegata*, Lima coast (100s)

Pelicans, Pelecanidae

Peruvian Pelican, *Pelecanus thagus*, Lima coast (est. 100+ total)

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*, Lima coast (est. 500+)
Guanay Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*, Lima coast (only 4-5 at Pantanos de Villa)
Red-legged Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax gaimardi*, Pucusana (16-20+)

Hérons & Egrets, Ardeidae

Great Egret, *Egretta alba*, Lima coast (3-4)
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, <10
Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, Pantanos de Villa (>200 and most were dirty and stained)
Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*, Pantanos de Villa (2)
Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Pantanos de Villa (8+ including 2-3 adults and the remainder immatures)

Ibises, Threskiornithidae

Puna Ibis, *Plegadis ridgwayi*, Pantanos de Villa, 2-3+; (migrant from high els)

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, many around Pantanos de Villa

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 2 at Pantanos de Villa

Hawks and Kites

Variable Hawk, *Buteo polyosoma*, 1 seen by some today (this was formerly split as Red-backed Hawk)

Falcons & Caracaras, Falconidae

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, 1 in Pucusana

Rails & Coots, Rallidae

Plumbeous Rail, *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*, heard at Pantanos de Villa (but completely unresponsive to playback; perhaps they have already heard too much playback?)

Common Gallinule (Moorhen), *Gallinula chloropus*, Pantanos de Villa (est. 15-20)

Slate-colored Coot, *Fulica ardesiaca* (includes all Andean forms), est. 50+ ; Pantanos de Villa

Plovers and Lapwings, Charadriidae

Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*, 3+ (Pantanos de Villa marshes near beach)

Oystercatchers, Haematopodidae

Blackish Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ater*, 3-4 at Pucusana

American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*, 8+ on beach (Pantanos de Villa)

Avocets & Stilts, Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*, Pantanos de Villa (ca. 10)

Sandpipers etc, Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, 2+ at Pantanos de Villa

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*, at least 25 at Pantanos de Villa marshes

Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*, 3-4 at Pantanos de Villa marshes

Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*, 70+ on beach at Pantanos de Villa

Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*, 55-60 at Pucusana

Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*, 8 or more at Pantanos de Villa

Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla*, at least 10-15 at Pantanos de Villa

Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*, at least 1 (probably more) in Pantanos de Villa marshes; bill length noticeably long; in marshy area about 1 km inland from beach

Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*, 3-4 at Pantanos de Villa (inland on shallow lagoon); nonbreeding plumage

Gulls & Terns, Laridae

Gray-headed Gull, *Chroicocephalus* (formerly *Larus*) *cirrocephalus*, ca. 20 (Pantanos de Villa); beach and inland lagoon; none appeared to be in breeding plumage

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus* (formerly *Larus*) *pipixcan*, est. 15,000-20,000 birds massed on beaches and inland lagoons at Pantanos de Villa; nonbreeding plumage

Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull, *Larus belcheri*, est. 1000+; all beach and water areas; common

Gray Gull, *Leucophaeus* (formerly *Larus*) *modestus*, only 2 and both appeared to be juveniles; perhaps adults are breeding south of here in inland deserts at this time; this species also seems to disappear during El Niño years]

Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*, 1-2 seen along outer coast at Pucusana; not obvious to me why this species is so scarce the last few years

Inca Tern, *Larosterna inca*, 8000+ in Pucusana (where they were everywhere in huge numbers)

Elegant Tern, *Thalasseus elegans*, at least 150+ on Pantanos de Villa beaches mixed with Sandwich Terns and Franklin's Gulls and others
Sandwich Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, at least 250-500 seen resting on beaches at Pantanos de Villa where mixed with other gulls and terns; could have been many more than this number
Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*, 2 groups totaling about 10 individuals along beach at Pantanos de Villa

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

Feral (Rock) Pigeon, *Columba livia*, settled areas
Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, Many in park by Hotel Olivar
Pacific Dove, *Zenaida meloda* (formerly *asiatica*), 50+ (Lima and all along coast)
Croaking Ground-Dove, *Columbina cruziana*, a few in park by Hotel Olivar

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, roadside in Pantanos de Villa

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

Amazilia Hummingbird, *Amazilia amazilia*, 5+ in park by Hotel Olivar

Ovenbirds, Furnariidae

Surf (Peruvian Seaside) Cinclodes, *Cinclodes taczanowskii*, 1 on rocky coast at Pucusana where we obtained lengthy views
Wren-like Rushbird, *Phleocryptes melanops*, 2 seen at Pantanos de Villa; seen perched by some; only in flight by others

Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, 1 in park in Lima
Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, *Tachuris rubrigastra*, 4-5 immature birds at Pantanos de Villa and one fairly bright adult
Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, 12+; mostly dusky in Lima; mostly red outside city
Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, Lima area

Swallows, Hirundinidae

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon* (formerly *Notiochelidon*) *cyanoleuca*, perhaps a dozen seen; most were along cliffs in region of Barrio Barranco and Barrio Chorrillos immediately south of the Barrio of Miraflores (beach area in Lima)

Wrens, Troglodytidae

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, Common voice; several seen

Mockingbirds & Thrashers, Mimidae

Long-tailed Mockingbird, *Mimus longicaudatus*, at least 3 at Pantanos de Villa

Tanagers, Thraupidae

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, 3+ in Lima park in front of Hotel Olivar; dull subspecies
Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, Lima area (seen by some of group)

Sparrows etc, Emberizidae

Chestnut-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila telasco*, we had excellent views of a couple males that perched up allowing scope views at Pantanos de Villa
Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*, 1-2 in grass in park in Lima
Grassland Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis luteola*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa (seen only by a few people)
Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*, mostly Lima area

Blackbirds, Icteridae

Peruvian (Red-breasted) Meadowlark, *Sturnella bellicose*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa (perched on electric wire affording a nice scope view)
Scrub Blackbird, *Dives warszewiczi*, several noisy birds in park in front of hotel in Lima

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, 2 in tall reeds just back from beach at Pantanos de Villa; in scope but not close
Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, at few in park in front of hotel in Lima

Old World Sparrows, Passeridae

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, Lima

MAMMALS ON LIMA COAST:

South American Sea Lion, *Otaria flavescens*, 1-2 in harbor and close to dock at Pucusana where we observed it at ominously close range (these creatures are huge!) as it fed on some fish parts discarded by fisherman at wharf
Squirrel, *Sciurus sp.*, in park in Lima (unidentified species that is not native here)