

AMAZON RIVER CRUISE: **A BIRDING AND NATURAL HISTORY ODYSSEY**

[LIMA BIRD LIST INCLUDED SEPARATELY AT END]

JANUARY 10 - 19, 2014

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TOUR REPORT
AMAZON RIVER CRUISE: A BIRDING AND NATURAL HISTORY ODYSSEY
January 9–19, 2014

By Steve Hilty

Our January 2014 Amazon River Cruise took us to the Río Amazon, Río Ucayali, and various tributaries of these rivers. We opted to go further up the Ucayali this year and forgo a short visit to the Río Marañon because we feel the wilder upper section of the Ucayali offers better opportunities for birding and mammal viewing than does the Marañon, which has more Amerindian settlements and a far greater number of villages, gardens, and human intervention. During our weeklong trip we experienced essentially no delays due to rain, but we did have some midday rainstorms that conveniently coincided with our lunch and early afternoon break periods. Most days were partly cloudy to cloudy and pleasant, with sunny skies and higher temperatures and humidity in the afternoon. Water levels were high this year (as is normal), but still several meters below peak levels, which were clearly indicated by watermarks on trees. High water brings floating material (flotsam) moving down the major rivers, and on a number of occasions we observed Snowy Egrets and other birds “rafting” downriver on driftwood. High water permitted easy access even to small creeks. This is an advantage for birding and an important reason for visiting at this time of year.

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 midafternoon ship departures to explore small creeks, or work along the forested riverbanks of the Amazon, Ucayali, and Marañon. 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. There is a rich and varied river island fauna. There was a sprinkling of long distance migrants (e.g. Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warbler, Barn Swallow), and there were both white water (muddy really) and black water streams. Each of these components contributes, in various ways, to the overall diversity of birds in Amazonia. 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; their unusual, often novel songs and duets; and their breeding activities. To this end we tried to visit as wide a variety of habitats and microhabitats as possible including river islands, *várzea* forest, and moriche palms among others.

For decades the Iquitos area has been under intense pressure from hunting and trapping of birds and mammals for food, and it was once an important 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. However, we have noticed that in the past few years we are beginning to see macaws and large parrots in greater numbers again. This year we surely saw more macaws, both Scarlet, and Blue-and-yellow, than on any previous trip, and this is a gratifying sign.

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 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. The coolers, both shipboard and on the skiffs, were always well-stocked with cold water. Muddy boots were cleaned and dried after the land-based excursion to the village, and on several evenings the ship's band played during happy (or was it "Harpy") hour. The week went quickly, and a lot of adventure and learning was compressed into a relatively short span of time. A couple of lectures filled brief afternoon spots, and David kept the group apprised of forthcoming activities. 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.

Itinerary:

Jan 9 (Thursday), Arrival in Lima

Jan 10 (Friday), Day along the coast from Lima to the Pantanos de Villa (marshes) and small village of Pucusana. Visits included the beach at Pantanos de Villa and Pucusana, and the banks of the Lurín River (which was dry) on our return to Lima

Jan 11 (Saturday). Late morning departure from Lima to Iquitos, where we went directly to the Restaurante Fitzcaraldo. Before and after lunch we spent a few moments birding immediately across the street at the waterfront before taking a 50 meter (yes 50 meters!) skiff ride to our ship, the "Estrella Amazonia," We embarked from Iquitos shortly thereafter, (c. 4:30 p.m.) for the short ride northward where we enter the true Amazon River and then gradually set course southward and upriver.

Jan 12 (Sunday). Early departure for small creek called Caño Huaysi (a tributary of the Río Amazon) and it provided a good introduction to birds of western Amazonia. After lunch and siesta we disembarked on another skiff trip for our first afternoon birding session on the Cocha (lake) Lucero Pata (an old oxbow of a portion of the Río Amazon)

Jan 13 (Monday). We passed the junction of the Río Marañon last night and for the first time are now on the Río Ucayali. Early morning (0610 hrs) departure for the Caño Yarapa Uno (=the upper end of the Yarapa which forms a loop and reconnects again downstream with the Río Ucayali). Our afternoon excursion was on a small creek called the Caño Huacarico which was flooded regrowth/successional and secondary forest (a non-climax) and at the end of the outing we had an approximately 30 minute speed boat skiff ride to catch up to the mother ship. Tonight (sometime around 2-3 in the morning) we passed the town of Requena, which is the only town of any size in this area.

Jan 14 (Tuesday). Morning outing on Caño Faucett (about 30 minutes above the town of Requena) plus a visit to some river island vegetation with tall cane (*Gynerium*) and willow (*Salix*) and *Tessaria*. Afternoon visit on the Caño Dorado, a substantial blackwater river, which is located well above Requena and one of our favorite "wild" rivers in this area. Saddle-backed Tamarins were one of several highlights. We returned at dusk at which point the ship steamed a short distance further upriver so we could be in position for our visit to the Río Zapote tomorrow morning.

- Jan 15 (Wednesday). Morning outing on Río Zapote, another blackwater river and a major tributary of the Ucayali and perhaps the wildest river that we visit on this cruise. The entire upper end, beyond the little Amerindian settlement a few minutes above the river mouth, is administered as a preserve by this community and they receive compensation from us (and other groups) that visit here in return for not hunting. They do fish here on the river, however. This is the furthest upriver that we reach on this cruise. Highlights were sloths and Monk Saki monkeys and a number of sightings of both Scarlet, and Blue-and-yellow Macaws. This afternoon we retraced our route back downriver a short distance and again stopped at the Caño Dorado, in preparation for a night outing which produced quite a few Great Potoos and Segundo, one of intrepid local guides captured, by hand, a (not-insignificant in size) caiman that measured at least three feet in length.
- Jan 16 (Thursday). Morning on the Caño Yanallpa, (apparently pronounced Yanashpa), one of the narrowest creeks we visited and certainly one of the more productive for birding with some good mixed species flocks. It is a “white-water” or muddy water creek. We also paid a visit to a sleepy group of Owl (Night) Monkeys roosting in a tree cavity along this creek. Our afternoon trip was on the Caño Sapuena, a narrow and quiet stream with grassy banks that ultimately opens into a larger lake-like area and ends in a vegetation choked tributary.
- Jan 17 (Friday). Morning visit to Caño Yarapa dos (the lower end of this loop river) on the extreme lower end and south bank of the Río Ucayali. This outing was notable for the huge group of Sand-colored Nighthawks roosting in a large dead tree by an Amerindian village as well as a pair of Sulphury Flycatchers and numerous small birds. Late morning part of our collective groups disembarked for a visit to an Amerindian village (Paranapura Village), while the balance of us (in one boat) visited a small creek passing by Libertad Village. Notable sightings here were a male Ladder-tailed Nightjar (repeatedly flushed), Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, and Solitary black Cacique. All of these sites this morning were along the Río Ucayali, but close to its junction with the Marañon. For our last afternoon outing we working some early successional stage vegetation (much like that on river islands) along the banks of the Río Amazon. Our best species here was a pair of Lesser Wagtail-Tyrants and this followed quite a lengthy run in the skiffs to catch up to the mother ship which had moved rapidly downriver (pushed by the strong Amazon current). Pre-dinner music (“Harpy” hour) by Johnny Elastic and his Rubber Band (or any of several other names for his band) and our final dinner and crew introductions followed the final evening meal.
- Jan. 18. (Saturday). Early morning pre-breakfast birding run to a river island zone near Iquitos where an Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Red-and-white Spinetail, Lesser Wagtail-Tyrants, River Tyrannulet (first of the trip), a female Cinereous Becard, Yellow Warbler, and assorted Red-capped Cardinals provided most of our sightings. We also observed at some length a curious *Caniroleuca* spinetail, which we were unable to identify, before returning to the ship for breakfast and disembarkation. Then followed a brief visit to a school and environmental site, a mid-morning drive through the Belen market at Iquitos, and an early afternoon departure from airport for flight back to Lima for most of group. For those continuing onto the post-trip extension to Tarapoto we retired to the luxurious Plaza Hotel for lunch and a short wait before our late afternoon flight (c. 4:00 p.m.) flight to Tarapoto. And that is another story with an entirely new collection of cloud forest birds.

KEY:

Asterisk (*) = heard only

Boldface blue: North American breeders

Boldface black: 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]

[] = enclosed in brackets if seen only by SH or DA or by Segundo or Johnnie

BIRD LIST: (Taxonomy follows Clements checklist with updates)

Tinamous, TINAMIDAE

*Undulated Tinamou, *Crypturellus undulatus*, heard a couple times on the trip

Screamers, Anhimidae

Horned Screamer, *Anhima cornuta*, heard and seen daily with numbers varying from 2 to c. a dozen

Ducks & Geese, Anatidae

Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata*, 2-10+ seen all days (most sightings were of pairs)

Guans and Chachalacas, Cracidae

Speckled Chachalaca, *Ortalis guttata*, seen twice and hear a few additional times

Storks, Ciconiidae

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana*, singles or 2's on three days

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, daily but in small numbers (mostly 1-15; but with long lines of up to 150 or more at dusk on the last evening a

Anhinga, Anhingidae

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*, singles seen on four days

Hérons & Egrets, Ardeidae

Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*, scattered individuals along riverbanks daily

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, 2-100+ daily along rivers; varying-sized (3-15+) high-flying groups flying northward every morning (except one morning when a few were moving southward) that appeared to be birds undergoing migratory movements (due to rising water levels?)

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, small numbers daily; “rafting” downriver on logs

Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, a few the day or two near Iquitos

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*, singles; in numbers up to 20-30 a day in some areas; commonest heron

Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*, mostly singles; seen almost daily along rivers; we saw 8-10 on the 16th; spectacular plumage

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, seen on at least three days

Boat-billed Heron, *Cochlearius cochlearius*, 1 seen on the night outing on Caño Dorado by part of group

Ibises & Spoonbills, Threskiornithidae

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, heard daily; one was seen briefly by one group on the 16th

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

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

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, small numbers daily; 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; fairly common; up to a dozen on some days

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes melambrotus*, remarkably few on this trip (soars higher than Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and always over forested areas); we probably only saw 3-4 birds well

King Vulture, *Sarcoramphus papa*, one was seen by DA; seen by tour members?

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 1-3 or so seen every day; 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 seen on the 14th

Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*, 1 seen on first morning by both groups; a second seen along Caño Zapote

Black Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*, at least three sightings on two days; mostly soaring quite high where they are announcing their territory rather than hunting (they hunt inside forest)

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus melanoleucus*, 1 seen by part of group on the 14th

Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*, up to 15 or more daily; this “fishing” hawk is one of commonest raptors along river and creek edges of western Amazonia

Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, seen almost daily

Slender-billed Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, 2-6+ seen on four separate days; perched and flying

Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus*, one seen on upper Caño Zapote by SH group was the only one

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*, seen every day; perched and showing long wings protruding and also in flight; most numerous along Sapote Creek

Bicolored Hawk, *Accipiter bicolor*, pair in flooded area near Caño Dorado; possibly nesting although no nest evident; spotted by Renzo and ultimately both skiff boat groups were able to see this seldom-seen species; this is the first time we have recorded it on a cruise

Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*, 1-2 seen on three days; best seen the last morning on (Friday) when a pair was hunting in a bromeliad on the lower Yarapa

Slate-colored Hawk, *Leucopternis schistaceus*, 1-6+ seen on most days; common in swampy forest

Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*, adults and a several immatures daily along riverbanks and creeks; perhaps fewer seen with high water (often seen walking on sandbars and river banks when water is low)

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

Short-tailed Hawk, *Buteo brachyurus*, 1 seen soaring on the last morning on the Yarapa

[Zone-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albonotatus*, one spotted by DA as it was flying away over the small Amerindian village of Libertad the last morning; possibly not seen by any tour participants]

Sunbittern, *Eurypygidae*

*Sunbittern, *Eurypyga helias*, one was heard on the 15th but not seen

Rails and Gallinules, *Rallidae*

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*, one seen from the Iquitos waterfront the day of arrival

Azure Gallinule, *Porphyrio flavirostris*, seen three times; especially well seen on the evening of the 14th when a bird flushed twice close by to all groups

Finfoots & Sungrebe, *Heliornithidae*

Sungrebe, *Heliornis fulica*, heard most days; we had at least 5 sightings (some better than others) of this somewhat elusive species that is normally difficult to see during high water because they can move back into forest and under deeper cover

Jacanas, *Jacanidae*

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

Sandpipers & allies, *Scolopacidae*

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, scattered individuals were seen on at least three days

Gulls & Terns, *Laridae*

Yellow-billed Tern, *Sternula superciliaris*, 20-30 daily on Río Amazon and Río Ucayali but most common on upper Ucayali; few around Iquitos

Large-billed Tern, *Phaetusa simplex*, 20-50+ daily on Río Amazon and Río Ucayali with various groups massed on driftwood or fallen branches along rivers and creeks

Pigeons & Doves, *Columbidae*

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*, Iquitos

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*, a few seen the first two days; mostly semiopen areas

Ruddy Pigeon, *Columba subvinacea*, singles heard most days; several seen during 15th and 16th

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columba talpacoti*, a few seen in disturbed areas and river edge vegetation the first two days (especially near Amerindian villages) and the last day

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, a few seen on river islands or in and around river edge vegetation (not inside forest)

Gray-fronted Dove, *Leptotila rufaxilla*, mostly heard; a few times we saw one flying across a small creek and plunging immediately back into tall forest

Hoatzin, *Opisthocomidae*

Hoatzin, *Opisthocomus hoazin*, several seen on the 15th and 16th; mainly around quiet lake edges well away from river traffic; one of the Amazon's oddest birds; one day we watched a Black-capped Donacobius work for 10 minutes or more as it attempted to break a hoatzin egg by pecking at it; the Donacobius was unsuccessful but we wonder if this behavior is unusual and if the bird is sometimes successful; none of us had ever seen this behavior before; molecular genetics has now confirmed that the hoatzin is an ancient lineage (something long suspected but never proved) and not especially closely related to cuckoos

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Little Cuckoo, *Piaya minuta*, seen on morning of 13th and 17th;

Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, we saw this species on at least four days; generally fairly common

Striped Cuckoo, *Tapera naevia*, one was seen the first morning by part of group on the Caño Yarapa; it was heard on at least two other mornings

Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*, daily in numbers (flocks) up to 20-30 birds; no unusually large flocks (as last year) but twice we could see them crossing creeks in an obvious attempt to forage beneath groups of Squirrel Monkeys (which disturb many insects and small vertebrates)

Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*, common; daily in settled areas and along open grassy areas along riverbanks and river islands

Owls, Strigidae

*Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*, 1 heard in evening on Caño Dorado

Nightjars & Allies, Caprimulgidae

Sand-colored Nighthawk, *Chordeiles rupestris*, a few seen on 14th and 15th at dusk; large group of 475-525 seen roosting in bare tree by Amerindian village on morning of the 17th

Short-tailed Nighthawk, *Lurocalis semitorquatus*, one seen by DA group on the 14th

Common Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*, seen at night along Caño Dorado

Ladder-tailed Nightjar, *Hydropsalis climacocerca*, males and/or females flushed and seen perched on the Caño Dorado and again near the Village of Libertad the last morning before we returned to Iquitos

Potoos, Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*, at least four spotted at night along the Caño Dorado; one also on day roost on first morning

Swifts, Apodidae

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, flock of about 20 seen dipping low over Caño Sapuena on the afternoon of the 16th; medium-sized dark swifts with minimal contrast on rump and upper tail surface; mostly dark below; with them were at least three Gray-rumped Swifts;

Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*, daily in small numbers; mostly small groups identified by broad wings and short tail

Gray-rumped Swift, *Chaetura cinereiventris*, at least three with the larger flock of Chimney Swifts easily told by smaller size and more slender body and wings and contrasting gray upper tail coverts which covered most of tail

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

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsutus*, one seen on the 12th on Caño Yarapa

Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*, one male seen on the 14th; 2 females on the 16th and another female on the 17th; hovering in open high over creeks or perched up prominently on bare twigs

Long-billed Starthroat, *Heliomaster longirostris*, one male seen in early morning along lower end of Caño Sapuena

Blue-chinned Sapphire, *Chlorostilbon (Chlorestes) notata*, one seen on the morning of the 16th by one boat party
Olive-spotted Hummingbird, *Leucippus chlorocercus*, three or more seen the first morning in river edge vegetation along the Caño Yarapa; best seen near the village of Libertad late morning of the last full day; remarkably dull little river island specialist and often the only hummer in this scrub habitat
Glittering-throated Emerald, *Amazilia fimbriata*, fewer seen than usual although we saw singles or twos on at least 4 days

Trogons, Trogonidae

Black-tailed Trogon, *Trogon melanurus*, heard daily and seen almost daily; a common trogon in this flooded forest (várzea) region of the lower Ucayali region
Green-backed Trogon (a split from White-tailed Trogon), *Trogon viridis*, 1-2 seen on 4 separate mornings surely one of the more misleading names for such a beautiful bird
Blue-crowned Trogon, *Trogon curucui*, a pair seen on the morning of the 13th; heard on the 15th
Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris*, one on the 13th was the only bird seen

Motmots, Momotidae

Amazonian (formerly Blue-crowned) Motmot, *Momotus momota*, two seen on the 15th along Caño Yanallpa; also heard on the 16th

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*, daily; commonest kingfisher (at least the most conspicuous)
Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazona*, daily; somewhat fewer than previous species
Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*, only a few seen
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle inda*, seen in flight flying low up or down or parallel to border of small streams on at least four days but this species is hard to see when water is high and this species remains back inside forest); not seen perched (and never really seen very well by most of tour participants)
Pygmy Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle aenea*, a few quick sightings of birds flying low over creeks and disappearing into vegetation

Puffbirds, Bucconidae

Chestnut-capped Puffbird, *Bucco macrodactylus*, one seen near mouth of Caño Yanallpa was our only one; unfortunately seen only by one boat party
Black-fronted Nunbird, *Monasa nigrifrons*, common and seen daily
Swallow-winged Puffbird, *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*, none seen the first two days but we saw quite a few on the Caño Dorado and Caño Zapote; all were in treetops mid-day or afternoons; do they perch up high in open only in mid-day or afternoons? Few were observed on early morning boat excursions

Jacamars, Galbulidae

White-eared Jacamar, *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*, most numerous jacamar; pairs and families of up to 6 individuals seen repeatedly each day
Bluish-fronted Jacamar, *Galbula cyanescens*, singles and pairs on three days; birds on both sides of Ucayali were believed to be this species but potential or actual overlap with very

similar White-chinned Jacamar (*G. tobacea*) is possible; we could not see any evident white feathering on chin

Barbets, Capitonidae

Scarlet-crowned Barbet, *Capito aurovirens*, common and seen almost daily in canopy of river edge trees

Lemon-throated Barbet, *Eubucco richardsoni*, one female on the 15th was our only record

Toucans, Ramphastidae

Lettered Araçari, *Pteroglossus inscriptus*, singles or pairs on two days

Chestnut-eared Araçari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*, almost daily although usually only one or two groups each morning; this is THE river edge Araçari

White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan, *Ramphastos cuvieri*, singles on one morning only; heard on a couple other mornings; seems rather uncommon in area

Channel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus*, much as in previous species; we saw one and heard others on two other mornings

Woodpeckers, Picidae

Lafresnaye's Piculet, *Picumnus lafresnayi*, only one seen (same bird seen by both groups) on the Caño Yanallpa

Plain-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus castelnaui*, singles or pairs seen at least four days; 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*, seen on four days; high stubs

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; seen on three mornings

Red-stained Woodpecker, *Veniliornis affinis*, a small woodpecker seen on two mornings; always fairly high up in trees

Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes (Chrysoptilus) punctigula*, singles or pairs on river islands and younger river bank vegetation on virtually every day including our final early morning outing at Iquitos; a beautiful species that afforded us several opportunities to view it to advantage

Chestnut Woodpecker, *Celeus elegans*, we saw this lovely woodpecker on four mornings including one very well on the upper Caño Zapote

Cream-colored Woodpecker, *Celeus flavus*, singles and pairs on three days; one of the handsomest *Celeus* woodpeckers; excellent view (and photos) on the small creek near Libertad the last full morning

Ringed Woodpecker, *Celeus torquatus*, 1 individual seen fairly well but very high up in a tree; seen by all parties; Caño Yanallpa; everywhere a low-density species due to its large foraging/home range; consequently often difficult to find with any regularity; also heard or seen at least one other time by part of group

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, common woodpecker seen at least four or five days; told by narrow facial stripe and widely separated white "suspenders"

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*, males or females seen on three mornings; female told from female of previous species by broad white facial stripe and "suspenders" that button (meet) in mid-back

Falcons and Caracaras, *Falconidae*

Black Caracara, *Daptrius ater*, 1-4 seen daily

Red-throated Caracara, *Ibycter americanus*, heard on upper part of Caño Zapote by one boat group but not seen

Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*, daily along rivers and larger creeks; common

Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*, singles or pairs seen on at least 4 or five days

Bat Falcon, *Falco ruficularis*, we saw singles on four days

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, one group watched a bird attempt to catch a White-winged Swallow (which seems to be a small and difficult target); a migrant here (presumably from North America based on time of year but Austral birds also move north and may “over summer” here as well?)

Parrots & Parakeets, *Psittacidae* (16 species recorded)

Rose-fronted Parakeet, *Pyrrhura roseifrons*, one group of seven (photographed by some people) seen by SH group on the Caño Yarapa (late the first morning); red frontlet quite visible; quite possibly the first time we’ve seen this species on this cruise

White-eyed Parakeet, *Aratinga leucophthalma*, seen mainly in early morning when noisy groups were seen flying overhead’ recorded on first three mornings

Dusky-headed Parakeet, *Aratinga weddellii*, daily along rivers; much more numerous than previous species

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severus*, one group of five in vicinity of Moriche palms along banks of Ucayali on the 14th was our only record

Scarlet Macaw, *Ara macao*, five birds on Caño Zapote

Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna*, at least 10 seen on Caño Zapote; pairs or 4s or 5s also on the 14th and 16th and 17th; most numerous over Zapote Creek but also apparently making a comeback elsewhere in the area

Red-bellied Macaw, *Orthopsittaca manilata*, scattered pairs or small groups every morning (except the 12th); many at a 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);

Blue-winged Parrotlet, *Forpus xanthopterygius*, a pair on the 12th (first morning) were our only ones

Dusky-billed Parrotlet, *Forpus modestus*, apparently 1 (or 2?) were seen the afternoon of the first day

White-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus*, multiple flocks of 10s and 20s and up to 100s daily along all creeks; dazzling flocks are a characteristic part of avifauna in this region; this species is an integral part of the western Amazonian river edge experience; in early morning flocks fly rather high and in dense swarms that look almost like a swarm of insects at a distance

Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanoptera*, numerous flocks daily most of which were seen in flight; quite similar to next species (see) 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; distinguished by yellow forehead and reddish bill and white eyes (but at a distance much like Cobalt-winged Parakeet)

Black-headed Parrot, *Pionites melanocephalus*, group of 4 perched for a few minutes in high tree close to river (south bank of Ucayali) on the 15th

Orange-cheeked Parrot, *Pyrilia barrabandi*, one remarkable bird responded to my playback and circled and eventually perched in the open treetop of an *Acacia* sp. tree for both groups to see very well. Beautiful bird.

Short-tailed Parrot, *Graydidascalus brachyurus*, an “angry” and noisy bird seen in pairs or mostly small groups almost every day because this bird inhabits tall riverine forest and riverine *Cecropia*; noisy and screechy but only a few seen perched

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

Festive Parrot, *Amazona festiva*, pairs or a few pairs seen in flight on at least three mornings; red back stripe generally not visible but we were able to see it a few times; mainly Dorado and Zapote Creek

Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala*, one pair on the 14th was our only record

Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*, a few seen or heard on five mornings; large green parrot with deep throaty voice; largest *Amazona* parrot

Orange-winged Parrot, *Amazona amazonica*, commonest *Amazona* parrots with a 10-50 or more seen on most mornings

Antbirds, *Thamnophilidae*

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*, pair seen the first morning on Caño Yarapa

Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis*, pair on Caño Zapote proved difficult to see; another pair at mouth of Yanallpa was more cooperative

Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, heard and/or seen on two mornings

Castelnau’s Antshrike, *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*, a difficult species to see (and we proved this once again); one boat party saw one these first afternoon but not particularly well; river edge/island bird

Amazonian Antshrike, *Thamnophilus amazonicus*, one seen on the 13th by DA group was our only one

Spot-winged Antshrike, *Pygiptila stellaris*, male and female seen by both group on Caño Yanallpa

[Pygmy Antwren, *Myrmotherula brachyura*, heard daily but apparently seen only by SH at same spot where we saw the Spot-winged Antshrike; a common bird but often hard to see]

Amazonian Streaked-Antwren, *Myrmotherula multostriata*, pairs seen a few times; male like a “Black-and-white Warbler” with a short tail and longer heavier bill

Band-tailed Antbird, *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*, pairs seen well at least a couple mornings; heard along creek edges most mornings

Blackish Antbird, *Cercomacra nigrescens*, heard on the 14th but not seen

Black-tailed Antbird, *Cercomacra melanurus*, a pair found the first morning on the Caño Yarapa was eventually seen well by both groups; brilliant red eyes; a **very local swamp forest and black-water species**; we have not been successful in locating this bird every year

Black-and-white Antbird, *Myrmochanes hemileucus*, a couple seen the first day in the morning and again in the afternoon; a species found in *Tessaria* sp. and other early succession plants on river islands and adjacent river banks

Black-throated Antbird, *Myrmeciza atrothorax*, one seen first morning by part of group; widespread bird but often frustratingly difficult to see in the grass where it lives

*White-shouldered Antbird, *Myrmeciza melanoceps*, heard on two mornings but we did not succeed in seeing it; a bird of forest interior

Plumbeous Antbird, *Myrmeciza hyperythra*, male and female seen well by all groups the first morning; heard daily

Sooty Antbird, *Myrmeciza fortis*, seen by DA group (I think) on first day at same site where Black-tailed Antbird was recorded

Dot-backed Antbird, *Hylophylax naevius*, pair seen by SH group on the 16th on Caño Yanallpa; a forest interior bird and sometime army ant follower; this is the first time we have ever recorded this species on this cruise

*Black-spotted Bare-eye, *Phlegopsis nigromaculata*, one heard on afternoon of the 16th and it initially approached but then moved away and (from the boat) we were unable to pursue this interesting bird

Ovenbird and allies, Furnariidae

Woodcreepers (subfamily Dendrocolaptinae); now merged within Furnariidae

Olivaceous Woodcreeper, *Sittasomus griseicapillus amazonus*, one seen in cane by SH group on the 13th; note subspecies because this species likely to be split into multiple species in the future

White-chinned Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla merula*, 1 individual seen by DA group on the 16th; generally a low-density army-ant follower but apparently not seen with ants; identification provisional

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, *Dendrexetastes rufigula*, enigmatic woodcreeper that looks and often acts more like a foliage-gleaner than a woodcreeper; heard on the 16th and seen well on open stub on morning of the 17th along the Yarapa

Long-billed Woodcreeper, *Nasica longirostris*, several seen beautifully on two or three days; also heard often; mainly a várzea species in Amazonia

Black-banded Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes picumnus*, one seen (and photographed) on the 15th; not common here and a species may not have recorded previously on the cruise; it is a fairly widespread bird although occurs in low density almost everywhere

Strong-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*, one seen the last evening on the 17th by part of group

Striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*, common várzea and river edge bird; we saw it two or three times and heard it regularly in low dark undergrowth of shady little creeks

Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*, notably vocal and heard every day although we saw it only once or twice; a common Amazonian species

Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*, like Striped Woodcreeper a common species found low along creeks and rivers; we saw it a few times

Zimmer's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus kienerii*, this range-restricted species was by both groups although some of us saw it quite late one evening when it was illuminated in DA's spotlight; much like Straight-billed Woodcreeper and the two are best told by voice rather than plumage (Zimmer's marginally browner)

Point-tailed Palmcreeper, *Berlepschia rikeri*, a pair in *Mauritia* palms on the 12th along Caño Yarapa; a low-density *Mauritia* palm specialist that is found nowhere else except in groves of *Mauritia* palms

Pale-legged Hornero, *Furnarius leucopus*, a few seen and heard on three days of trip

*Pale-billed (Bay) Hornero, *Furnarius torridus*, heard once or twice but never seen

Lesser Horner, *Furnarius minor*, a specialist of driftwood on sandy river islands; one seen on the 13th and a pair seen on the 17th near the village of Libertad

Orange-fronted Plushcrown, *Metopothrix aurantiaca*, cute and warblerlike in appearance despite genetic affinities with the furnariids; generally in younger creekside vegetation but also occasionally fairly high in more mature trees along creeks; seen on almost all days of trip although usually fairly high where not easy to see

Parker's Spinetail, *Cranioleuca vulpecula*, another species found primarily in dense cane on river islands and river banks; usually responsive to song playback; we saw it on three different days although it is always hard to see well; named in honor of Theodore Parker who formerly worked for VENT and died tragically in a plane crash in Ecuador in the early 1990s

Red-and-white Spinetail, *Certhiaxis mustelina*, common even with high water; various pairs seen daily; river island bird that favors grass and bushes; we found a couple nests

Dark-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albigularis*, seen three or four; mainly river islands and river banks with grass and shrubs

White-bellied Spinetail, *Synallaxis propinqua*, river island species that almost always proves difficult to see; our only views (albeit brief if you saw it at all) were on the last afternoon of the last day in young river edge vegetation

Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, seen on three days at various sites; note peaked slightly bushy crest and cocked tail but otherwise undistinguished

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannous elates*, heard daily uttering its "free beer" call; we saw it a few times but it is better remembered by its call

Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*, one heard and seen on the 16th along Caño Yanallpa

Yellow-crowned Elena, *Myiopagis flavivertex*, a couple seen along small flooded streams; a loud explosive call for such a small and insignificant-looking bird; only seen the first two days

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, *Stigmatura napensis*, pair seen the last afternoon before our return to Iquitos; a charismatic river island specialist of *Tessaria* sp. and *Salix* sp. shrubs

Spotted Tody-Tyrant, *Todirostrum maculatum*, we saw pairs (and also heard them) in river edge and creekside shrubbery on almost every morning or afternoon

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*, one was seen high in a tree on the 13th by DA and some members of his boat party; a tiny bird that looks like a large bumblebee high in canopy; not rare but difficult to spot

Yellow-olive Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphurescens insignis*, seen by SH groups on the 14th and 16th; dull Amazon river race shows only weakly-indicated wing markings and dull head pattern; call a single loud SEEK repeated about 3 times at rate of 1/sec or less

Fuscous Flycatcher, *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*, seen in dense vegetation along a small creek on the first afternoon; a rather nondescript flycatcher with longish tail and flat head that lives in wet shrubby undergrowth

Drab Water Tyrant, *Ochthornis littoralis*, along riverbank but we saw it only once or twice because the river was high; not sure where they go when the water is so high that there are no riverbanks

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*, pairs seen on two days in marshy places where males perch on low shrubs where they are conspicuous with blackish bodies and white heads

Cinnamon Attila, *Attila cinnamomeus*, common in flooded forest and swampy areas although we saw them well only a couple times

Dull-capped (White-eyed) Attila, *Attila bolivianus*, harder to see than previous species but also quite vocal; see on the 14th; heard on two other days; big fierce white eyes; now officially called (again) Dull-capped Attila (pronounce name *at-TIL-a*) by SACC but the more appropriate name should probably be White-eyed Attila

Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*, one seen by DA group

Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*, heard almost daily in young river edge vegetation; seen two or three times; a typical *Myiarchus* in appearance

Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus (Philohydor) lictor*, daily along creeks where usually low and close to water; voice (a burry “squeeze-me ba-by”) utterly unlike that of Great Kiskadee but we did not hear it often

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

Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*, seen or heard almost every day

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

Gray-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*, only seen during our school visit in Iquitos

Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*, seen twice in river edge vegetation

Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*, its loud whistles were heard almost every morning; it was seen only four mornings

Sulphury Flycatcher, *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*, pair seen in Moriche Palms near mouth of Yarapa (upper end) the last morning of last full day; 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

Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, we saw several large flocks totaling more than 200 birds along the Caño Dorado on the afternoon of the 14th; most were sallying from canopy for insects or eating fruit; remarkably we did not see any the next evening in this same area

Cotingas, Cotingidae

Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*, only seen once on the 16th

Amazonian Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus ornatus*, two were seen the first day (seen by all parties) and another also seen by all parties on the 16th; I think both were females

Plum-throated Cotinga, *Cotinga maynana*, from one to four or five males were seen on at least four morning (little blue spots in the canopy!); brownish females were seen as well although less frequently; this species is typical of *várzea* forest and river edge trees where they sit up in display (the display is mainly just sitting and showing off their dazzling color in early morning sunlight) each morning

Bare-necked Fruitcrow, *Gymnoderus foetidus*, seen on four days; no large movements and mainly single males or females crossing high overhead; seen perched a couple times

Tityras & allies, Tityridae

Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*, almost daily

Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*, pair seen on the last morning on the Caño Yarapa

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

Várzea Schiffornis, *Schiffornis major*, heard and/or seen on the first three days of trip; formerly called Greater Manakin

Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*, female seen the last morning out of Iquitos in river island shrubs

Chestnut-crowned Becard, *Pachyramphus castaneus*, one bird seen the last morning along the Caño Yarapa

White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*, male seen along the Caño Yanallpa by both parties

*Black-capped Becard, *Pachyramphus marginatus*, one heard on the 16th along the Caño Yanallpa

Pink-throated Becard, *Pachyramphus minor*, female seen with mixed species flock on the 13th; pair at nest seen by everyone on the 16th along the Caño Yanallpa

Vireos & Greenlets, Vireonidae

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus* (or if split *Vireo chivi*, a few scattered birds along river edges; this is a resident form with a simple two-note call; some austral (southern) migrants present ca. Apr to Sept

[*Gray-chested Greenlet, *Hylophilus semicinereus*, heard frequently the first morning (12th) near mouth of the Caño Huaysi by both SH and DA but neither of us saw this species nor was it seen by anyone else]

Crowns & Jays, Corvidae

Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*, heard the first morning on the Caño Huaysi; apparently never seen or heard elsewhere

Swallows & Martins, Hirundinidae

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*, a small group of these (believed this species) was seen early on the morning of the 14th by SH but they were never seen again; not sure what status of this bird is here (possibly vagrant group from mountains?) but the birds certainly looked like this species; this is the wrong season for the *patagonia* subspecies from Argentina which is often found here

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, daily; some apparent roosting groups of 15-30+ individuals; obviously with water levels high this species is not nesting but there is much to learn about its seasonal behavior and habits as is true of many of the commonest species here in western Amazonia; apparently it is resident here

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*, a few pairs at Iquitos and some large flocks (100 or more) in treetops on the 13th and the 17th; apparently some local or minor geographical movements

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

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*, a couple seen only on the 16th in evening; usually more numerous

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, daily in varying-sized flocks but mostly ragged heavily molting juveniles of the previous year; no flocks of more than 20-35 birds; a North America breeder (at least all of these birds)

Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*, one bird seen early in the morning of the 12th by SH and a few people

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*, did we see or hear it at Iquitos? not marked on my checklist

Donacobius, Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius, *Donacobius atricapilla*, heard or seen every day; wonderful tail-wagging display; now in a family of its own (this species has a checkered taxonomic history)

that may yet undergo more revision); for comments on an unusual behavior of this species see the hoatzin entry

Thrushes, Turdidae

*Hauxwell's Thrush, *Turdus hauxwelli*, heard along the Caño Yanallpa

Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, Iquitos and scattered individuals or pairs along river edges

New World Warblers, Parulidae

Yellow Warbler, *Setophaga petechia*, 1M in young successional growth shrubs and vines on river island at Iquitos our last morning before breakfast; this pretty much the southern limit of wintering birds

Tanagers, Thraupidae (many taxonomic changes in this family)

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

Hooded Tanager, *Nemosia pileata*, pairs or little groups 3-5 were seen daily in rather open trees along river banks

Orange-headed Tanager, *Thlypopsis sordida*, we saw several the first morning but none thereafter

Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*, single birds seen on the 14th and 16th

Yellow-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufiventer*, one seen on the 16th by DA group; with a mixed species flock on the Caño Yanallpa

Masked Crimson Tanager, *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*, stunning plumage and common enough that it was seen daily in small groups along river and creek edges; we enjoyed numerous breath-taking views of this species

Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*, daily but than 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*, only seen a few times on the trip

Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*, a couple seen on the 15th and 16th

Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*, singles or groups up to about 6 were seen on four days; a spectacular little tanager than almost always stays very high in trees and sometimes perches in open on top of canopy

Green-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*, one seen with mixed species flock on the 16th on Caño Yanallpa

Yellow-bellied Dacnis, *Dacnis flaviventer*, one or several seen every day but mostly males (maybe because they are more conspicuous)

Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*, a single male on the Caño Yanallpa was the only sighting

Green Honeycreeper, *Chlorophanes spiza*, one seen on the Caño Yanallpa on the 16th was the only one

Bicolored Conebill, *Conirostrum bicolor*, apparently this species seen twice by DA groups in younger river island vegetation; identified by darker underparts compared to the next species

[Pearly-breasted Conebill, *Conirostrum margaritae*, one individual of this species may have been seen the last evening along the banks of the Amazon in an area of *Cecropia* and cane; seen by DA but not well enough to be absolutely sure of identification]

Caquetá Seedeater, *Sporophila murallae*, mostly single males seen on 4 different days; resident or seasonally present (depends upon sufficient grass seeds) in grassy and marshy areas

Lesson's Seedeater, *Sporophila bouvronides*, a dozen or more males (and presumably females) seen on first morning in same area as previous species; both of these species are notably erratic and nomadic as they wander in search of seed crops

Lined Seedeater, *Sporophila lineola*, one male seen the first morning in grassy river edge area; with the Lesson's Seedeaters

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

Chestnut-bellied (Lesser) Seed-Finch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*, several seen in grassy river borders the first three days

Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*, we saw a few the first two days and again the last morning; early to mid-stage successional growth along rivers

Finches & Sparrows etc, Emberizidae

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

Blackbirds etc., Icteridae

Oriole Blackbird, *Gymnomystax mexicanus*, river islands and riverbanks throughout trip; gorgeous additions to riverbanks!

Velvet-fronted Grackle, *Lamprosar tanagrinus*, oddly we saw only a single bird and it was along a stream bank but somewhat higher than usually

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, some groups seen the first day (mainly in afternoon) but thereafter we saw none

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, scattered birds along river edges and island although we saw no large numbers

Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*, seen the first morning and the last day; river edges and flying along river border; parasitize mainly the Russet-backed Oropendola (and other large oropendolas)

Orange-backed Troupial, *Icterus croconotus*, we saw a few singles the first day; a couple others the 13th and heard on the 16th

Solitary (Black) Cacique, *Cacicus solitarius*, heard and seen a few times including most notably on the morning of the 17th just beyond the little village of Libertad when one perched fully in the open

Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*, daily; common; many nest colonies with nests clumped together (and do you know why! If not you can find out the answer in a chapter I wrote on the nesting behavior of caciques and oropendolas in *Birds of Tropical America-A watcher's Introduction to Behavior and Breeding and Diversity*)

Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*, daily; very common with conspicuous nest colonies noted everywhere

Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*, two seen flying over the upper Caño Zapote on the 16th were the only ones we saw

Siskins & Goldfinches & Euphonias, Fringillidae

Purple-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia chlorotica*, males or male and female pairs seen on four days along river edges

Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris*, the only sighting was a male along the Caño Yanallpa

Golden-bellied (White-lored) Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*, pairs seen on three days; mainly high in mistletoe clumps

White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*, only one male seen the entire trip (on the 13th); a species that stays high in treetops where it is difficult to see this species' white under tail coverts; smaller than most other euphonias

LIST OF MAMMALS, HERPS and miscellaneous critters:

Sloths, Bradypodidae

Brown-throated three-toed Sloth, *Bradypus variegatus*, seen on three days; perhaps 4-5 individuals

Marmosets & Tamarins, Callitrichidae

Pygmy Marmoset, *Cebuella pygmaea*, a group of three and later a pair seen along the Caño Yarapa the first morning; 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; the pair we observed remained for 10 minutes or more on a branch where one animal searched through the fur of another (apparently) for parasites

Saddleback Tamarin, *Saguinus fasciollis*, one charming little group seen along the Caño Dorado by both boat parties with one male remaining out in the open for ten minutes or more as it responded to some playback; also seen again on the 16th; 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*, we saw a family of four on the upper part of Caño Faucett; these animals were quite responsive to playback and called and became quite noisy and moved around before finally withdrawing out of view; at dawn families utter a loud raucous *Wauk-a Wauk-a Wauk-a . . .* vocalization that can be heard for nearly a kilometer to warn neighboring families away

Common Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri sciureus*, troops seen along banks of creeks on at least four days

Brown Capuchin, *Cebus apella*, groups seen twice

Monk Saki Monkey, *Pithecia monachus*, two were seen by both boat parties on the Caño Yanallpa; black with grayish white face marks; a pair and then a single animal; the pair fled rapidly while the single animal seen later watched us at a distance for several minutes before moving away

Night Monkey (Owl Monkey), *Aotus sp.* (rufous-necked form), four seen in tree hole about 6 m up (from boat) on Caño Yanallpa; very cute little animals with rufous faces and large dark eyes; a nocturnal species that sleeps during the day and forages at night; low hooting calls at night betray its presence

*Red Howler Monkey, *Alouatta seniculus*, also heard distantly on three days

Squirrels

Northern Amazonian Red Squirrel, *Sciurus ignitus*, seen on three days; a rather large and distinctive squirrel with mainly reddish fur; often stays rather low in forest although the one we saw on the Caño Yarapa was high in a tree

Spiny Rats & Tree Rats, Echimyidae

Yellow-crowned Brush-Tailed Tree Rat, *Isothrix bistriata*, 1 seen peering out from a tree hole; remarkably confiding and easy; seen only by half of group

Sheath-tailed Bats, Emballonuridae

Long-nosed Bat, *Rhynchonycteris naso*, groups clinging beneath sides of large tree trunks overhanging creeks; distinctly spotted or freckled with white on their backs; seen on three or four days

Bulldogs Bats, Noctillionidae

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; Caño Dorado mainly (both evenings)

Dolphins

Pink River Dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*, seen daily and in numbers especially at mouths of creeks and also well upstream in 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 less numerous than previous species; gray and has narrow and thin dorsal fin; seen near Iquitos and once on the 14th at river mouth

Reptiles and Amphibians

Spectacled Caiman, *Caiman crocodilus*, one captured by hand by Segunda in the Caño Dorado; eye reflections of many others

Black Caiman, *Melanosuchus niger*, possibly a smaller one seen on Caño Dorado

Caiman Lizard, *Dracaena sp.* (presumably *guianensis*) (Teiidae), one on Caño Faucett and another on Caño Yanallpa; uncommon; often eats snails

Amazon Green Iguana, *Iguana iguana*, we saw several large grayish adults and three or more smaller younger green ones

Amazonian Tree Boa, *Corallus sp.* (prob. *hortulanus* but now split into four species so difficult to know which one was seen); one seen on the 13th

Olive Whip Snake, *Chironias fuscus* (genus possibly now changed), Río Zapote

Side-necked Turtle, *Podocnemis sp.*, the turtles we saw on logs a few times

Racerunner sp., *Ameiva sp.*, probably this genus; a small lizard seen swimming across Caño Faucett; this pitiful little creature clearly did not want to be crossing this stream but it eventually made it safely across and immediately climbed to the safety of a small bush

Invertebrates:

Blue Morpho butterflies

Owl butterfly (also known as *Caligo* Butterfly); a crepuscular species

Pink-toed Tarantula, one rather fuzzy small one

For 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 10, 2013

Dusks & Geese, Anatidae

Cinnamon Teal, *Anus cyanoptera*, Pantanos de Villa; 25+ at Pantanos de Villa
White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis*, 15+ at Pantanos de Villa

Grebes, Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*, Pantanos de Villa (6)
Great Grebe, *Podiceps major*, Pantanos de Villa (2)

Penguins, Spheniscidae

Humboldt Penguin, *Spheniscus humboldti*, estimate of 45 individuals in the sea cave

Boobies, Sulidae

Peruvian Booby, *Sula variegata*, Lima coast (10000+)

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*, Lima coast (many)
Red-legged Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax gaimardi*, Pucusana 30-40+
Guanay Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*, Lima coast (many)

Pelicans, Pelecanidae

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

Hérons & Egrets, Ardeidae

Great Egret, *Egretta alba*, Lima coast (1-2)
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, many
Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, Pantanos de Villa (a few)
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, 1 (Pantanos de Villa)

Ibises, Threskiornithidae

Puna Ibis, *Plegadis ridgwayi*, Pantanos de Villa; seen by some of group (migrant from high Andean elevations)

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, many around Pantanos de Villa
Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, a couple at Pucusana

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa

Hawks and Kites

Harris's Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*, 2 at Pantanos de Villa)

Rails & Coots, Rallidae

Plumbeous Rail, *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*, 1 flew in to payback but did not remain long in the open (Pantanos de Villa)
Common Gallinule (Moorhen), *Gallinula chloropus*, Pantanos de Villa (est. 25+)

Slate-colored Coot, *Fulica ardesiaca* (includes all Andean forms), Pantanos de Villa (many; three forecrown shield colors; yellow and white and reddish chestnut)

Thick-knees, *Burhinidae*

Peruvian Thick-knee, *Burhinus superciliaris*, 6 seen (including adult with chick) Pantanos de Villa (always a good find as this species is now in severe decline and being forced to occupy marginal sites like golf courses and school yards and city parks)

Oystercatchers, *Haematopodidae*

American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*, 12+ on beaches (Pantanos de Villa)

Blackish Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ater*, 10-12 and one pair with a downy youngster a few weeks old; Pucusana

Plovers and Lapwings, *Charadriidae*

Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*, 1 (Pantanos de Villa marshes)

Sandpipers etc, *Scolopacidae*

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*, 8+ at Pantanos de Villa marshes

Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*, 8-10 at Pantanos de Villa marshes

Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*, 30+ at Pucusana

Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*, 40+ Pantanos de Villa

Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla*, 45+ at Pantanos de Villa

Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*, 1 (probably more) at Pantanos de Villa

Gulls & Terns, *Laridae*

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

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus* (formerly *Larus*) *pipixcan*, est. 30000+ birds massed on beaches and inland lagoons and street lights at Pantanos de Villa and Lima and Pucusana; nonbreeding plumage

Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull, *Larus belcheri*, est. 150+; all beach and water areas; common

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

Laughing Gull, *Leucophaeus atricilla*, 1 basic plumage bird at Pantanos de Villa

Inca Tern, *Larosterna inca*, 1000s in Pucusana (where they were everywhere in large numbers)

Sandwich Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, at least 200+ resting on boats at Pucusana

Elegant Tern, *Thalasseus elegans*, 75-100+ on Pantanos de Villa beaches and at Pucusana

Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*, 2 individuals at Pantanos de Villa

Pigeons & Doves, *Columbidae*

Feral (Rock) Pigeon, *Columba livia*, settled areas

West Peruvian (Pacific) Dove, *Zenaida meloda* (formerly *asiatica*), very common (Lima and all along coast)

Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, many in parks and city streets in Lima

Croaking Ground-Dove, *Columbina cruziana*, a few seen in scopes at the Río Lurín

Cuckoos, *Cuculidae*

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

Owls, *Strigidae*

Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia*, 3-4 at Pantanos de Villa

Hummingbirds, *Trochilidae*

Amazilia Hummingbird, *Amazilia amazilia*, a couple seen at the Río Lurín

Falcons & Caracaras, *Falconidae*

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, 1

Parrots & Parakeets, *Psittacidae*

Pacific Parrotlet, *Forpus coelestis*, 1 at the Río Lurín; native only to northwestern Peru but apparently introduced around Lima and southward

Ovenbirds, *Furnariidae*

Wren-like Rushbird, *Phleocryptes melanops*, 2-3 seen at Pantanos de Villa

Surf (Peruvian Seaside) Cinclodes, *Cinclodes taczanowskii*, 4 on rocky coast at Pucusana

Tyrant Flycatchers, *Tyrannidae*

Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, *Tachuris rubrigastra*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa

Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, 15+; mostly dusky in Lima; mostly red outside city

Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, one seen from bus as we were leaving Lima and the seacoast

Swallows, *Hirundinidae*

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon* (formerly *Notiochelidon*) *cyanoleuca*, several along cliffs in region of Barrio Barranco and Barrio Chorillos immediately south of the Barrio of Miraflores (beach area in Lima); also at Pantanos de Villa

Wrens, *Troglodytidae*

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, common voice; 4 or more; Pantanos de Villa (near the beach)

Mockingbirds & Thrashers, *Mimidae*

Long-tailed Mockingbird, *Mimus longicaudatus*, 8+ at Pantanos de Villa

Tanagers, *Thraupidae*

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, Lima area

Cinereous Conebill, *Conirostrum cinereum*, Río Lurín

Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*, 1 at Río Lurín

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, 4-5 at Río Lurín

Chestnut-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila telasco*, 6+ at Río Lurín

Blackbirds, *Icteridae*

Peruvian Meadowlark, *Sturnella bellicose*, 1 at Pantanos de Villa

Scrub Blackbird, *Dives warszewiczi*, 20+ of these noisy birds in Lima and at Pantanos de Villa

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, 1 male in tall reeds just back from beach at Pantanos de Villa

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, 1 bird in roadside hedge near the beach (Pantanos de Villa) was apparently a juvenile bird (very nondescript) but we think it was this species

Old World Sparrows, Passeridae

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, Lima (seen by some of the group)

MAMMALS ON LIMA COAST:

South American Sea Lion, *Otaria flavescens*, many loafing on rocks and cliff ledges during our boat trip (these creatures are huge!)