

**ECUADOR:  
THE SOUTHERN  
ANDES**

**AUGUST 12-23, 2006**

**LEADER: PAUL GREENFIELD**

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The diversity of real-life experiences encountered on trips like this year's Southern Andes tour never ceases to amaze and thrill me; they create an often charged environment, and I think our enthusiastic group learned a true lesson in the values of patience and tenacity.

We allotted two full mornings to a dedicated search for this region's prize species and surely one of the tour's prime targets. As we set off just at the crack of dawn, fully equipped, complete even with our secret weapon—Franco, the local reserve guard who is familiar with this species' territories and possesses the uncanny ability to imitate its call with perfect precision and feeling—expectations were high. As we advanced along a narrow mountain trail, the light crunching of leaves made it easy to note that it had not rained in a few days, in this normally very rainy area. The evident bright sky, even as the light conditions would not yet allow our vision to make out true colors, began haunting both Franco and me; we could sense that conditions were less than favorable. But we had come on a sacred mission and dedicated the entire morning to calling and listening, and walking and waiting.

The first response brought an electric-shock reaction to us all—could it be that we were going to see it so quickly? An Undulated Antpitta came out along a side trail and we all watched, charged with emotion; if this understory skulker was so obliging, certainly our chances of seeing our target were more than good. One bird responded at fairly close quarters and Franco gave it his all (so much so that he had to take sips of water to keep his voice in tune), but light conditions and a veritable wall of thick *Chusquea* bamboo separated us from seeing anything in spite of all efforts. Another very similar situation presented itself, and it became clear that aside from some other wonderful species we did see, it just wasn't going to happen for us that day.

After a wonderfully successful afternoon birding the road downslope and south of Tapichalaca, we settled in for the night thinking about what tomorrow would bring. It rained hard all night, and at dawn we headed back up our trail—Franco and I had our hopes up as the welcomed moisture and cloud cover felt right and seemed more conducive to finding our prize. Birds were more active as we walked along a now muddy trail, and we saw many species we missed a morning ago. But try as we did—not even a peep! We walked, listened, and waited; Franco called, a very distant bird responded, time passed. We began our slow return, giving it another “shot” from time to time. “The weather conditions were just too good,” I thought, and just as our collective minds seemed to begin focusing on our return, “Hoco-co ho—ho—ho,” loud, and right behind us! We quickly moved down a narrow side trail as Franco walked on trying to entice the bird closer with his response. In an instant a majestic Jocotoco Antpitta came into view, hopped across the tangled vegetation right in front of us, and was gone. We got it—finally!

No...not quite. One of our party was sandwiched between a mossy-trunked tree and two trip mates and missed the whole thing! We tried again, but that's the way it works sometimes—“you can't always see everything,” we rationalized as we walked on. Just then the Jocotoco called again, somewhere ahead of us. We rushed down another side trail and Franco gave out a final imitation. Unbelievable! Another Jocotoco came in, right in front of us, and proceeded to preen and shake its feathers all about—our smiles could not be hidden as we marched out triumphantly.

That was only our third morning, and many exciting experiences still lay ahead of us. One other unforgettable experience took place in the Acanama area north of Loja where we snuck up on a treeful of feeding Golden-plumed Parakeets—how absolutely beautiful are they! As we slowly worked our way closer to them, our stalking silence was broken only by the distinct popcorn popping sound of at least 35 birds as they foraged on fruits and seeds. So many experiences—so many memories.

## ITINERARY

- August 13 – Arrival in Quito; part of group continuing on from Napo Wildlife Center  
August 14 – Early morning flight from Quito to Catamayo (La Toma); birding in Catamayo Valley—drive to Tapichalaca with several stops; lunch at Vilcabamba  
August 15 – Tapichalaca; early AM visit to blind, then all morning along Sendero Jocotoco. PM drive along the Valladolid-Palanda Road  
August 16 – Tapichalaca; earlier AM walk along Sendero Jocotoco/early afternoon departure to Zamora  
August 17 – Zamora at Copalinga; Orange Trail, roadside and Copalinga grounds. PM to Bombuscaro entrance of Podocarpus National Park  
August 18 – Drive to Loja; AM along “old” Zamora Rd”; Zamora-Loja Highway. PM to Cajanuma entrance of Podocarpus National Park  
August 19 – Cajanuma Area until 1:40PM—rest of day free  
August 20 – Drive from Loja to Cuenca; AM in the Acanama area / PM flat tire  
August 21 – Late start; El Cajas National Recreation Area (very cold!)  
August 22 – AM Laguna de Llaviuco. Afternoon flight to Quito  
August 23 – Group Departs

## THE SPECIES LIST

### HERONS & BITTERNs: ARDEIDAE

- Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)—1 crazy bird perched in trees near Tapichalaca; way off course it would seem  
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)—1 bird spotted by Juan at edge of laguna de Llaviuco

### DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: ANATIDAE

- Andean Teal (*Anas andinum*)—9 seen well in the El Cajas/Llaviuco area  
Andean Ruddy-Duck (*Oxyura ferruginea*)—Nice views of at least 6 in El Cajas/Llaviuco area

### AMERICAN VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)—Small to fair numbers (especially around Catamayo) the first four days only  
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)—Small numbers (singles and up to 4) seen as in previous species, but also in the Zamora area on days 5 and 6

### KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS: ACCIPITRIDAE

- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)—Singles near Valladolid and twice near Zamora  
Plain-breasted Hawk (*Accipiter ventralis*)—1 seen gliding and flapping in circles (display) briefly at Llaviuco

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)—Singles near and above Zamora on days 5 and 6  
**White-throated Hawk** (*Buteo albigula*)—1 soaring bird seen fairly well along the Zamora –Loja Highway (status remains unclear; this could be an austral migrant)

Variable Hawk (*Buteo polyisoma*)—This species combines two forms that are often split into two separate species by some authors: Red-backed Hawk (*B. polyosoma*) in Ecuador of the lowland tropics to the temperate zone and Puna Hawk (*B. poecilochrous*) basically of the paramo zone; here they are considered one species. We saw both forms: 1 *en route* to Tapichalaca, another near Loja on Aug. 18 (Red-backed form) and singles soaring and “kiting” over the El Cajas area on our last two days (Puna form)

**Black-and-chestnut Eagle** (*Oroaetus isidori*)—1 seen soaring over montane forest *en route* to Tapichalaca on Aug. 13

#### FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Carunculated Caracara (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*)—2 flying birds seen in El Cajas; one quite well as it glided down across the valley in plain view

#### CURASSOWS & GUANS: CRACIDAE

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)—4 seen around Copalinga

**Bearded Guan** (*Penelope barbata*)—Heard at Tapichalaca; Great looks at both 3 at Cajanuma on Aug. 19 and at least 3 more in the Acanama area on Aug 20; heard again at Llaviuco. A threatened and restricted range species

#### NEW WORLD QUAILS: ODONTOPHORIDAE

Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus speciosus*)—Heard only (at close range) at Copalinga

#### RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Ecuadorian Rail (*Rallus aequatorialis*)—Heard a few time and 1 bird flew up quickly to be seen by some of us. Some authors still consider this form a sunspecies of Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*)

Slate-colored Coot (*Fulica ardesiaca*)—Several on Laguna de Llaviuco

#### GULLS & TERNS: LARIDAE

Andean Gull (*Larus serranus*)—At least 1 seen twice flying along the valley at El Cajas

#### PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDA

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

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*)—Regular in wooded and forested areas in the highlands

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Columba plumbea*)—Heard and at least 3 seen (scoped too) in the Zamora area

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)—Small numbers mostly this time in drier regions of the highlands

Croaking Ground-Dove (*Columbina cruziana*)—10 with nice scope views in the Catamayo valley; also around Cuenca

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)—Singles seen at Bombuscar and Llaviuco

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*)—Pair flushed along orange trail at Copalinga; female seen best perched up on low branch

#### PARROTS & MACAWS: PSITTACIDAE

**Military Macaw** (*Ara militaris*)—3 seen distantly (also scoped) high on hills above Copalinga on two

days (thanks to Catherine); a rather rare species nowadays

White-eyed Parakeet (*Aratinga leucophthalmus*)—Basically flocks of varying sizes seen in the Zamora area; over 40 seen around Copalinga

**Golden-plumed Parakeet** (*Leptosittaca branickii*)—Definitely one of the highlights of this trip; at least 50 seen, including a band of 35 at amazingly close range as they fed on seeds of a low tree right along the road. Hope at least some of the hundreds of photos that were taken came out!

**White-breasted Parakeet** (*Pyrhura albipectus*)—Also called White-necked by some authors. Nice looks at two groups (11 in all seen—a few scoped well) of this beautiful Ecuadorian endemic at Bombuscaro

Barred Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus lineola*)—Heard only flying high at Tapichalaca

Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestis*)—This cute little parrotlet was seen (6) mostly in pairs at Catamayo and heard in the Vilcabamba area on Aug. 15

**Red-faced Parrot** (*Hapalopsittaca pyrrops*)—This rare and endangered species was seen briefly as a group of 6 flew by us at Acanama

Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*)—The most common mid-sized parrot of the subtropics; between 5-25 seen on three days mainly above Zamora

Scaly-naped Amazon (*Amazona mercenaria*)—8 seen in flight at Tapichalaca; other also heard there

#### CUCKOOS & ANIS: CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)—Singles and up to three seen almost daily, except in the Cuenca/El Cajas area

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)—Fairly common throughout in generally open country in more humid areas

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)—At least 3 seen (arid open areas) in Catamayo on first morning

#### TYPICAL OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Rufous-banded Owl (*Ciccaba albitarsus*)—Heard only at dawn at the Tapichalaca entrance

Band-bellied Owl (*Pulsatrix melanota*)—Heard only at Copalinga on Aug. 17

Short-eared Owl (*Aasio flammeus*)—1 spotted by George's sharp eyes only from the van en route to Cuenca on Aug. 20

#### NIGHTHAWKS & NIGHTJARS: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)—Heard nightly at Copalinga

Blackish Nightjar (*Caprimulgus nigrescens*)—1 seen, the smallish, dark nightjar flushed along the path to park headquarters at Bombuscaro on Aug. 17

#### SWIFTS: APODIDAE

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)—This western hemisphere's largest swift was seen twice, best about 25-30 at El Cajas

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Cypseloides rutila*)—Seen twice; group of 10 above Zamora and again in the Zamora area a few days later

#### HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

Pale-tailed Barbthroat (*Threnetes niger*)—1 seen quite well perched among *Heliconia* along the "old" Loja-Zamora road on Aug. 18

Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*)—2 seen at Bombuscaro

**White-tipped Sicklebill** (*Eutoxeres aquila*)—1 spectacular perched bird spotted by George and

watched for quite a while by us all along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.

Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*)—Only 1 seen along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd on Aug. 17

**Wire-crested Thorntail** (*Popelairia popelairii*)—Wonderful crested males seen well at Copalinga

Golden-tailed Sapphire (*Chrysuronia oenone*)—1 perched male scoped along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.

Amazilia Hummingbird (*Amazilia amazilia*)—1 seen on first morning in the Catamayo valley

Glittering-throated Emerald (*Polyerata* [*Amazilia*] *fimbriata*)—A few seen around Copalinga; a fairly common garden bird in the east

**Ecuadorian Piedtail** (*Phlogophilus hemileucurus*)—A single bird was seen in the understory picking insects off the bark of the trunk of a large forest tree along the Bombuscaro trail

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)—2 seen up close and personal daily at feeders at Tapichalaca

Violet-fronted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa leadbeateri*)—By far the dominant hummer at Copalinga; at least 3 individuals seen daily and at close range there

**Black-throated Brilliant** (*Heliodoxa schreibersii*)—A pair of this seldom seen understory species came in sporadically to feeders at Copalinga

Shining Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*)—Spectacular close looks at 1 at yellow flowering shrubs at El Cajas; Then quite common at its favored pink flowering shrubs at Llaviuco

**Ecuadorian Hillstar** (*Oreotrochilus chimborazo*)—Called Chimborazo Hillstar by some authors; 2 males seen at El Cajas feeding and defending their favorite flowering shrub—*Chuquiragua insignis*

Mountain Velvetbreast (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi*)—At least 2 seen at Cajanuma and 1 also at Llaviuco

Collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*)—This stunning species was common at the Tapichalaca feeders and also in the area; also 1 at Cajanuma

**Rainbow Starfrontlet** (*Coeligena iris*)—Brief looks at (at least) 1 bird at Cajanuma; Later, at Llaviuco we got beautiful, long looks at a female under the covered walkway as it brought in nesting material to complete a rather well constructed nest; she perched and then transferred the material from her bill to her feet

Chestnut-breasted Coronet (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*)—Very common at the Tapichalaca feeders

Amethyst-throated Sunangel (*Heliangelus amethysticollis*)—Common at Tapichalaca feeders; at least 3 individuals (probably many more) seen daily

**Flame-throated Sunangel** (*Heliangelus micraster*)—Common at Tapichalaca feeders; at least 5 seen daily; also 1 seen at Cajanuma. Also known as Little Sunangel by some authors

Purple-throated Sunangel (*Heliangelus viola*)—At least 1 seen en route to Cajas National Park

**Glowing Puffleg** (*Eriocnemis vestitus*)—A few (3 in all) seen in the Tapichalaca area, best looks along the Sendero Jocotoco

Black-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia victoriae*)—1 female seen briefly but at fairly close range at yellow flowering shrubs at El Cajas; another, a male seen at Llaviuco

Green-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia nuna*)—1 female seen repeatedly at yellow flowering shrubs at El Cajas

Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*)—A few seen; singles at Tapichalaca, Cajanuma and Llaviuco; 2 in the Acanama area

**Violet-throated Metaltail** (*Metallura baroni*)—2 seen repeatedly at yellow flowering shrubs at El Cajas; an endemic species with an extremely reduced range

**Rufous-capped Thornbill** (*Chalcostigma ruficeps*)—Single male seen well but which came to feeders regularly at Tapichalaca

**Blue-mantled Thornbill** (*Chalcostigma stanleyi*)—At least 6 seen; especially well and repeatedly

at yellow flowering shrubs at El Cajas  
Rainbow-bearded Thornbill (*Chalcostigma Herrani*)—1 individual seen briefly twice along Atacama road near antennas as it came out to catch insects  
Long-tailed Sylph (*Agelaiocercus kingi*)—At least 2 males and an occasional female were seen well daily at Tapichalaca feeders  
Black-eared Fairy (*Heliothryx aurita*)—1 seen around Copalinga  
White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)—Common and very active at Tapichalaca feeders, several males and females (at least 5 daily)  
Amethyst Woodstar (*Calliphlox amethystina*)—1 male sat way up on the top of a distant tree, scoped views were more than sufficient to identify

#### TROGONS & QUETZALS: TROGONIDAE

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*)—A pair seen along the Bombuscaro entrance trail  
Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*)—Singles at Tapichalaca and Cajanuma with another excellent pair seen at very close range at Cajanuma on Aug. 18

#### MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

**Highland Motmot** (*Momotus aequatorialis*)—Super looks at probably two separate birds along the Bombuscaro entrance trail

#### JACAMARS: GALBULIDAE

**Coppery-chested Jacamar** (*Galbula pastazae*)—Fine looks at first a female and then a male along the orange trail at Copalinga

#### NEW WORLD BARBETS: CAPITONIDAE

Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*)—A pair seen well along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd. with a mixed foraging flock

#### TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

**Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan** (*Andigena hypoglauca*)—2 seen rather well at Tapichalaca on the first day of the trip; another excellent pair came right over us along the Llaviuco trail; others heard at Cajanuma

#### WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Lafresnaye’s Piculet (*Picumnus lafresnayi*)—1 seen picking at narrow twigs along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd. with mixed foraging flock  
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (*Piculus rivolii*)—Several of this beautiful species were seen well and heard in temperate forest throughout; best at Cajanuma on Aug. 19  
Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*)—singles seen twice in the Zamora area  
Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)—1 seen at Bombuscar; also heard along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.  
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)—regular around Copalinga; excellent views of 8 in the same tree  
Little Woodpecker (*Veniliornis passerinus*)—1 seen at Copalinga upon our arrival there

#### OVENBIRDS: FURNARIIDAE

Bar-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes fuscus*)—The common cinclodes in the El Cajas area; with “point-blank” looks included  
Stout-billed Cinclodes (*Cinclodes excelsior*)—Only 2-3 at El Cajas including some good close looks

- Pacific Hornero (*Furnarius cinnamomeus*)—Common in more arid areas on the west slope; still considered a race of Pale-legged Hornero (*Furnarius leucopus*) by some authors
- Rufous Spinetail (*Synallaxis unirufa*)—1 seen in thick *Chusquea* bamboo along Sendero Jocotoco at Tapichalaca; another heard only at Acanama area
- Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*)—A rather common voice in the Andes; 1 seen at Tapichalaca
- Dark-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albigularis*)—Heard a few times in the Zamora area
- Dusky Spinetail (*Synallaxis moesta*)—1 of what seems to be this species seen well by Marie along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.
- White-browed Spinetail (*Hellmayrea gularis*)—2 seen at Cajanuma (apparently this species); at least 1 seen well at Cajanuma
- Ash-browed Spinetail (*Cranioleuca curtatus*)—several seen; daily with mixed foraging flocks in the Zamora area
- Mouse-colored Thistletail** (*Schizoeaca griseomurina*)—Close looks at a very confiding bird along the road at Tapichalaca
- Many-striped Canastero** (*Asthenes flammulata*)—Very close looks at a bird that called in at yellow flowering shrubs, El Cajas
- Ecuatorial Graytail** (*Xenerpestis singularis*)—Nice looks at 1 bird at fairly close range with a mixed foraging flock along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.
- Spectacled Prickletail** (*Siptornis striaticollis*)—1 seen at fairly close range but briefly with a mixed foraging flock along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.
- Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*)—1 seen fairly well along Bombuscaro trail
- Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*)—At least 8 seen with mixed flocks at Cajanuma
- Montane Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia striaticollis*)—1 seen with mixed foraging flock along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.
- Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*)—2 beauties in the Acanama area; another at Llaviuco; always investigating bromeliads
- Black-billed Treehunter (*Thripadectes melanorhynchus*)—1 seen along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.
- Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*)—1 seen with mixed flock at Bombuscaro

#### WOODCREEPERS: DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

- Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*)—2 seen along Bombuscaro trail
- Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*)—Very common in the Copalinga-Bombuscaro area; also heard elsewhere in the Zamora region
- Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*)—2 seen nicely along Sendero Jocotoco at Tapichalaca

#### TYPICAL ANTbirds: THAMNOPHILIDAE

- Lined Antshrike (*Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*)—At least a pair seen repeatedly and well at Copalinga, also heard elsewhere in the Zamora region
- Uniform Antshrike (*Thamnophilus unicolor*)—1 male seen in understory along Bombuscaro trail
- Yellow-breasted Antwren (*Herpsilochmus axillaris*)—1 seen by some of us with mixed foraging flock along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.
- Blackish Antbird** (*Cercomacra nigrescens*)—Eventually close looks at a singing male along the Bombuscaro entrance trail
- Black Antbird (*Cercomacra serva*)—Heard only along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.
- White-browed Antbird (*Myrmoborus leucophrys*)—1 bird called in and seen mostly under thick vegetation; best seen by Marie

#### GROUND ANTBIRDS: FORMICARIIDAE

Short-tailed Antthrush (*Chamaeza campanisona*)—Heard on two days; at Copalinga on the orange trail and along the Bombuscaro trail

**Undulated Antpitta** (*Grallaria squamigera*)—At least 1 (perhaps actually 2 separate individuals) seen first along the main Sendero Jocotoco, at Tapichalaca; and then again on a side trail fairly near the same spot

Chestnut-naped Antpitta (*Grallaria nuchalis*)—Heard only at all temperate forest sites; the common antpitta voice this trip

**Jocotoco Antpitta** (*Grallaria ridgelyi*)—Could this have been the **Bird of the trip!**? This spectacular species certainly gave us a run for our money, but we finally all got great, unforgettable views, as well as learning a lesson in patience and tenacity! Seen along the Sendero Jocotoco at Tapichalaca. Again, thanks to Franco, whose vocal chords may never be the same!

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapilla*)—Heard only at Llaviuco; close by, but would not show and time was short

**Rufous Antpitta** (*Grallaria rufula*)—Heard often in temperate forest sites; 1 seen super well at Cajanuma, where it came out on the trail and performed a great show

**Tawny Antpitta** (*Grallaria quitensis*)—Though this species is seen far more often than any other antpitta; this individual at El Cajas showed himself spectacularly for a few of us

**Slate-crowned Antpitta** (*Grallaricula nana*)—A fine pair seen well along Sendero Jocotoco at Tapichalaca

Crescent-faced Antpitta (*Grallaricula lineifrons*)—Heard only; seemed like possibly a pair came just so close, but remained impossible to see at Acanama

#### TAPACULOS: RHINOCRYPTIDAE

**Elegant Crescentchest** (*Melanopareia elegans*)—1 seen nicely on first morning in the Catamayo Valley; it snuck silently up on us and then circled us a few times

Ash-colored Tapaculo (*Myiornis senilis*)—1 came out and showed itself briefly as a fairly large foraging flock came about at Cajanuma

Blackish Tapaculo (*Scytalopus latrans*)—Heard at all forested temperate zone sites; 1 actually seen at Cajanuma. Still considered part of Unicolored Tapaculo (*S. unicolor*) by some authors

Chusquea Tapaculo (*Scytalopus parkeri*)—Heard only on all days at Tapichalaca

#### TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Black-capped Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*)—Long looks at 1 foraging bird, tagging along with a mixed foraging flock at Cajanuma

Golden-faced Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius chrysops*)—Singles seen and heard in the Copalinga area

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)—1 seen between Valladolid and Palanda

White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*)—2 seen in the Acanama area

Sierran Elaenia (*Elaenia pallatangae*)—Singles at Cajanuma and in the Acanama area

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)—1 seen in *Polylepis* woodland at El Cajas

White-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*)—Seen on most days in the temperate zone in woodland and forest; most common (6+) at Cajanuma

Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*)—A few seen over two days in the Tapichalaca area; always tied to water, often on rocky torrents

Tufted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes parulus*)—1 seen en route to El Cajas by Bron; 1 seen well by all at Llaviuco

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*)—Heard at close range, but high winds

kept it out of sight, in the catamayo area

Streak-necked Flycatcher (*Mionectes striaticollis*)—1 seen in the Vallodolid area; 2 along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd. on Aug. 17

Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant (*Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus*)—Singles seen on two days along the Bombuscaro trail

**Spectacled Bristle-Tyrant** (*Pogonotriccus orbitalis*)—2 along the Bombuscaro trail; 1 along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.; good looks at this tough species

**Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher** (*Poecilotriccus calopterus*)—Great looks at 3 from the veranda at Copalinga

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)—Several (6 in all) in the Zamora area

Yellow-olive Flatbill (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*)—1 seen along the road near Copalinga

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*)—Some 5 (in all) of this attractive species were seen in the Zamora area over three separate days

Olive-chested Flycatcher (*Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*)—At least 2 were seen on two days in the Zamora area; a rather plain eastern foothill specialty

Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*)—3 seen between Valladolid and Palanda

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*)—Surprisingly, heard only in the Acanama area

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)—Small numbers regular near water in the Andes

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*)—A few seen at higher altitudes and in the paramo in the Acanama area and at El Cajas

Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*)—Pairs seen in temperate forest at Cajanuma and Llaviuco

Crowned Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca frontalis*)—1 seen briefly along the Acanama road

Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca diadema*)—Singles seen on two days at Tapichalaca

Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant (*Myiotheretes striaticollis*)—1 seen at Cajanuma on Aug. 19

**Cliff Flycatcher** (*Hirundinea ferruginea*)—Excellent close looks at one, and then a pair, at the bridge on two visits to the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant (*Agriornis montana*)—2 seen at El Cajas

Paramo Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola alpina*)—1 seen well in paramo of El Cajas

Short-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus ferox*)—1-2 seen daily in the Zamora-Copalinga area

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)—A few seen daily in the Zamora area

**Lemon-browed Flycatcher** (*Myiozetetes cinchoneti*)—At least 4 seen foraging actively along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—Several seen daily at lower elevations

**Yellow-cheeked Becard** (*Pachyramphus xanthogenys*)—Fine looks at a male at its nest at Copalinga

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*)—1 Pair seen along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd

#### COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE

Red-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rubrocristata*)—Singles seen at Cajanuma and in the Acanama area

Barred Fruiteater (*Pipreola arcuata*)—1 male seen at close range along Sendero Jocotoco at Tapichalaca

Green-and-black Fruiteater (*Pipreola riefferii*)—1 female seen at Tapichalaca

Andean Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruviana*)—1 female seen along the orange trail at Copalinga; another seen briefly but at very close range along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.

#### MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

Blue-rumped Manakin (*Lepidothryx isidorei*)—3 females seen along the Bombuscaro entrance trail

Striped Manakin (*Machaeropterus regulus*)—Heard only at Bombuscaro

#### JAYS: CORVIDAE

- Turquoise Jay (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)—Heard at all temperate forest sites; 3 seen well at Cajanuma and then another seen at Llaviuco
- Inca Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*)—Common (crazy sounding!) in the subtropics on the east slope, especially along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.

#### VIREOS & ALLIES: VIREONIDAE

- Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)—2 seen along the road post Valladolid on Aug. 14; these belonged to the southeastern race *Contrerasi* (SE)
- Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)—Singles seen, first by George in the Copalinga/Bombuscaro area; then 1 by all along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd
- Olivaceous Greenlet (*Hylophilus olivaceus*)—Quite common in the Zamora area with a minimum of 3 seen there daily

#### THRUSHES: TURDIDAE

- Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*)—Common throughout the Andes; seen on all but two days
- Chiguanco Thrush (*Turdus chiguanco*)—Several in all in the Cuenca region; mostly (5) at Llaviuco
- Glossy-black Thrush (*Turdus serranus*)—Heard only once at Tapichalaca
- Plumbeous-backed Thrush (*Turdus reevei*)—1 seen well from the Malacatos gas station
- Black-billed Thrush (*Turdus ignobilis*)—Several (1-4) seen daily in the Zamora area (a common open country species of the “Oriente”)

#### MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

- Long-tailed Mockingbird (*Mimus longicaudus*)—Common in the Catamayo Valley; 1 also seen south of Loja on Aug. 15

#### DIPPERS: CINCLIDAE

- White-capped Dipper (*Cinclus leucocephalus*)—1 seen feeding along a steep waterfall en route to Zamora (“at its usual spot” said Storm)

#### SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

- Brown-bellied Swallow (*Notiochelidon murina*)—Common high altitude species
- Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)—Most common swallow in Ecuador; seen on all but one day
- Pale-footed Swallow** (*Notiochelidon flavipes*)—3 seen along Quebrada Honda Trail at Tapichalaca; a localized temperate forest species
- White-banded Swallow (*Atticora fasciata*)—This attractive Amazonian species was pretty common around Zamora, especially near water
- Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)—small numbers seen at lower altitudes

#### WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

- Fasciated Wren (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*)—Common, large and noisy wren of the southwest; 6 seen in the Catamayo Valley mostly
- Rufous Wren (*Cinnycerthia unirufa*)—At least 2 were seen at Tapichalaca; 4 more with a mixed foraging flock at Cajanuma
- Plain-tailed Wren (*Thryothorus euophrys*)—Heard always in *Chusquea* bamboo; 1 seen nicely at Cajanuma
- House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)—A few seen; basically always in inhabited areas

Mountain Wren (*Troglodytes solstitialis*)—A pair seen at Tapichalaca; another single bird at  
Cajanuma

Grass Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)—2 seen well at Llaviuco. Also known as Sedge Wren by some  
authors; this taxonomy of this superspecies grouping needs  
much work

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)—Heard only at Tapichalaca

#### NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)—1 seen in the Valladolid area; several more seen, daily in the  
Zamora region

Slate-throated Whitestart (*Myioborus miniatus*)—Common at lower elevations, mainly in the Zamora  
region on this trip; also at Llaviuco

Spectacled Whitestart (*Myioborus melanocephalus*)—Common at all higher elevation sites on this  
trip

Black-crested Warbler (*Basileuterus nigrocristatus*)—Heard often in temperate zone; 1 seen at  
Tapichalaca; 3 seen beautifully close at Cajanuma

Citrine Warbler (*Basileuterus luteoviridis*)—2 seen well with mixed foraging flock at Cajanuma;  
heard only at Llaviuco

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*)—2 seen and others heard at Tapichalaca; great  
looks at 6 or so at Cajanuma

#### TANAGERS & ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)—Several seen (a daily occurrence) in the Zamora region. Often  
placed in its own family—Coerebidae

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)—pairs on two days at Copalinga/Zamora area

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

Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*)—Single males seen on three consecutive days in the  
Copalinga/Zamora area

**Tit-like Dacnis** (*Xenodacnis parina*)—Fine looks of at least 6 of this beautiful and very localized  
Andean species at El Cajas

**Chestnut-vented Conebill** (*Conirostrum speciosum*)—Nice pair seen (thanks to George's sharp  
eyes) seen at the tail end of a mixed foraging flock along the  
"old" Loja-Zamora Rd

Cinereous Conebill (*Conirostrum cinereum*)—2 seen at Llaviuco with a small mixed flock

Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)—1 seen at Cajanuma and 5 (nice looks) in the  
Acanama area

**Giant Conebill** (*Oreomanes fraseri*)—We worked hard for this! 1 singing bird (finally!) was finally  
spotted by George in *Polylepis* woods at El Cajas

Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis cyanea*)—From 1-3 seen at various montane sites; an attractive  
and fairly common "regular"

Black Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa humeralis*)—Fairly common at lower elevations at El Cajas and at  
Llaviuco

Glossy Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa lafresnayii*)—2-3 seen in the Acanama area

White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*)—Single males seen daily in the Zamora area; 2 seen  
at Cajanuma and another seen at Llaviuco

Rufous-chested Tanager (*Thlypopsis ornata*)—1 seen well at Bombuscaro on our first afternoon  
there

**Buff-bellied Tanager** (*Thlypopsis inornata*)—1 of this Marañón Endemic species was seen en  
route to Palanda, just south of Valladolid (could this species

be expanding its range?)

- Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*)—1 seen around Copalinga on Aug. 16
- Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*)—2 seen along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.
- Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)—Several seen in the Zamora area
- Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)—The most common euphonia in Ecuador; seen regularly and even exceptionally well in the Zamora region
- Orange-eared Tanager (*Chlorochrysa calliparaea*)—At least 3 seen with mixed flock at the Bombuscaro headquarters; a beautiful bird!
- Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*)—From 2-4 were seen daily in the Zamora region
- Golden-eared Tanager (*Tangara chrysotis*)—Another killer tanager! 7 in all seen in the Zamora region
- Green-and-gold Tanager (*Tangara schrankii*)—**Exceptional** looks daily in the Zamora Region; seen especially well at the feeders at Copalinga
- Yellow-bellied Tanager (*Tangara xanthogaster*)—5 seen along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd. with mixed foraging flocks
- Spotted Tanager (*Tangara punctatus*)—A few seen with mixed foraging flocks in the Zamora area
- Silver-backed Tanager** (*Tangara viridicollis*)—A group of 5 seen just north of Valladolid with mixed foraging flock
- Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*)—Pretty common in foothills – Valladolid and Zamora
- Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)—Pairs seen near Valladolid and daily in the Zamora region; spectacular is the word for this species!
- Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*)—A few seen along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd. on two days
- Golden-crowned Tanager (*Iridosornis rufivertex*)—2 of this beautiful mountain species seen well at Tapichalaca
- Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus igniventris*)—First heard only at Tapichalaca; then at least 3 seen in the Acanama area
- Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus lacrymosus*)—The most common mountain-tanager of the east slope; 1-2 seen daily at Tapichalaca and at least 4 seen at both Cajanuma and Acanama area
- Hooded Mountain-Tanager (*Buthraupis montana*)—At least 3 seen at Tapichalaca
- Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager (*Dubusia taeniata*)—1 bird seen (a skulker) at Tapichalaca
- Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*)—3 seen at Tapichalaca on last morning
- Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)—Small numbers seen daily—Valladolid and Zamora region; these of the eastern *T.e. coelestis* race with white in wing
- Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)—Fairly common in the lowlands; seen daily in the Valladolid and Zamora region
- Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)—Only 1 seen at Cajanuma on Aug. 18
- Silver-beaked Tanager (*Ramphocelus carbo*)—Common in the eastern lowlands; daily in the Valladolid and Zamora region
- White-winged Tanager (*Piranga leucoptera*)—2 males seen along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.
- White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)—Pairs seen on two separate days in the Zamora area
- Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*)—Fairly common on two days at Bombuscaro with mixed foraging flocks
- Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus canigularis*)—1 seen at Bombuscaro
- Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager (*Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*)—Pairs seen well both at Cajanuma and Acanama; constant tail wagging
- Superciliaried Hemispingus (*Hemispingus superciliaris*)—4 seen with small mixed foraging flock at Llaviuco

**Black-headed Hemispingus** (*Hemispingus verticalis*)—2 seen nicely at Cajanuma; another 6 seen well in the Acanama area

Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leveriana*)—Relatively common in the Zamora region; an “eye-full”!

Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*)—3 of this striking species seen at Tapichalaca

White-capped Tanager (*Sericossypha albocristata*)—Heard only; a band was heard at close range but strangely disappeared along the Quebrada Honda Trail at Tapichalaca

#### SALTATORS & GROSBEAKS: CARDINALIDAE

Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*)—2 seen south of Valladolid; race *peruvianus*

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)—Several seen daily in the Zamora region

Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*)—A few seen daily in the Zamora region; less common than the previous species

#### BUNTING, SPARROWS, ETC.: EMBERIZIDAE

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)—2 seen in the outskirts of Zamora

Lesser Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*)—1 female seen along the “old” Loja-Zamora Rd.

Lesser Seed-Finch is split by some authors, whereby the eastern race we saw is called Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch

Caquetá Seedeater (*Sporophila murallae*)—small numbers seen near Valladolid and in the Zamora region

Black-and-white Seedeater (*Sporophila luctuosa*)—2 seen along the “old” Loja- Zamora Rd; this is an intertropical, altitudinal migrant in Ecuador

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)—Small numbers (1-4) daily in the Zamora region

Plain-colored Seedeater (*Catamenia inornata*)—8 seen around Llaviuco lake

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

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*)—5 seen in the Catamayo-Loja region on our first morning

Pale-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes pallidinucha*)—A pair was seen at Cajanuma

Rufous-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*)—Several seen in the temperate zone; Cajanuma, Acanama and Llaviuco (where 4 were seen). Called Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch by some authors

**Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch** (*Buarremon brunneinucha*)—Excellent pair seen at feeders at Tapichalaca

Yellow-browed Sparrow (*Ammodramus aurifrons*)—fairly common in open areas, roadsides in Valladolid and Zamora

**Tumbes Sparrow**(*Aimophila stolzmanni*)—4-5 of this Tumbesian Endemic specialty seen in the Catamayo valley

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)—A common and widespread species of the Andes

#### CACIQUES & OROPENDOLAS, ETC.: ICTERIDAE

Subtropical Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*)—8 seen around Copalinga, others heard in the Zamora region; still considered conspecific with Scarlet-rumped Cacique by some authors

Russet-backed Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*)—About 10 seen in the Valladolid-Palanda area and common in the Zamora region; race *alfredi* with yellow bill

Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*)—At least a pair was seen at Copalinga

Scrub Blackbird (*Dives wasszewiczi*)—Common species in the south in a variety of mostly more agricultural areas

SISKINS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Hooded Siskin (*Carduelis magellanicus*)—1 male was seen at El Cajas

ANIMALS OF INTEREST

SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE

Amazon Dwarf Squirrel (*Microsciurus flaviventer*)—1 seen i forest along the Bombuscaro entrance trail

RABBITS & HARES: LEPORIDAE

Brazilian /Neotropical Rabbit /Tapiti (*Silvilagus brasiliensis*)—Several at El Cajas; hard to believe that this is the same species that's all over South America

FAMILY??

Andean Mouse sp. (Species and genus unknown to me)—1 chunky, rather round-eared species at Tapichalaca feeder