

SUMMER EASTERN VENEZUELA

June 19-28, 2006



Black-chested Tyrant
Taenotriccus andrei

Leader: David Ascanio

Compiled by: David Ascanio

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, inc.
2525 Wallington Drive, Suite 1003
Austin, TX 78746
www.ventbird.com

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The Sierra de Lema, the lowland rainforest of Rio Grande and the incredible avifauna of the Orinoco Delta

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The tabletop mountains of the Guayanan Shield in southern Venezuela, northern Brazil, Guyana, and Suriname are a large number of precambrian hills associated geographically with vertical walls, amazing waterfalls, and hosts of high endemism, both in flora and fauna. These mountains were given the name “tepui” based on the Pemón Amerindian language, referring to hills. The first tepui ever to be scientifically explored was Roraima, almost 165 years ago, by the Schomburgk brothers. They brought back so many interesting specimens that the perception of this area as one of the greatest places on earth remains unchanged.

Just name any of the famed ornithologists of the Neotropics and, undoubtedly, his or her name will be associated somehow with the study of the avifauna of the tepuis: Chapman, Whitely, McConnell, Quelch, Tate, Phelps, Parker, Hilty, Islers. These magical geological wonders have been inspiration for both Venezuelans and foreigners, and the number of published accounts is endless.

Although their role as an inspiration to ornithologists is clear, most birders are unaware that the most important stage of Venezuelan ornithology is associated with these tepuis. This began in 1937 when the staff of the American Museum of Natural History sailed to Caracas to explore the top of a mountain not even known to exist on a map. This mountain was Auyan-tepui, and the key persons involved were William H. Phelps from Caracas, and Frank Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History. The Auyan-tepui expedition inspired, among many other expeditions, the birth of the *Colección Ornitológica Phelps*, and furthermore, in 1967, publication of a manuscript entitled *The Origin of the Bird Fauna of the South Venezuelan Highlands*. In this work, Mayr and Phelps summarized the avifauna of several tabletop mountains and analyzed the origin of many endemic species.

Many years have passed since the inspiration of that study. At that time it was hoped that these studies would resolve many pending taxonomical problems. How wrong we were! A new era of exploration of the tepuis is giving light to pending matters. A few years ago, members of the Smithsonian Institute and other organizations reached the wall of Roraima, producing a good number of documents and describing a cryptic species, the Roraiman Antbird. Also, Steve Hilty and I have been working to clear out some pending taxonomical aspects of the avifauna of Sierra de Lema, and will be submitting soon a description of a sibling species. In the same orientation, Professor Jorge Perez of the Universidad Central de Venezuela, has already explored Guaiquinima-tepui, producing an incredible manuscript, while I have been making a series of expeditions to Roraima-tepui obtaining new information about the tepui endemic species (also named Pantepui endemics).

The above may explain why we spent so much time in Sierra de Lema. It wasn't only the fact that we had incredible views of Red-banded Fruiteater, Flutist Wren, Rose-collared Piha, Roraiman Barbtail, and Black-fronted Tyrannulet among the 24 Tepui endemic species, but it was also the enjoyment of the mystery that surrounds each of these species, from the DNA studies showing their closer counterparts in Bolivia, to recent taxonomical splits that have been suggested.

But a trip to this region of Venezuela could not focus only on Sierra de Lema. As if the tepui endemic species weren't enough, we also explored the watershed of the Cuyuni River, a major tributary of the Essequibo (another large river of South America), the extensive tropical humid forest of Rio Grande, and the recently rediscovered Orinoco Delta, where the forest, marsh, and savanna are an amazing mosaic of habitats.

In the lowlands we admired the Capuchinbird, the White-crested Spadebill, the Musician Wren, two Harpy Eagles (adult male and chick), and the Crimson Topaz. In the Orinoco, it was time for the Black-chested Tyrant, White-throated Spadebill, and a Softtail not yet described. Although numbers don't tell the whole story, they do speak to the richness. Some families were particularly numerous on this tour, including 19 species of Psittacidae (macaws, parrots, parakeets, and parrotlets), 51 species of Tyrant Flycatchers, 17 species of hummingbirds, 9 species of Cotingidae, and more than 20 species of tanagers.

On our last morning we took a boat ride into the Orinoco Delta. I was a little concerned about the weather and although I warned everyone to bring enough rain protection, the clouds turned out to be just right—overcast for most of the time and sunny sometimes, with mild rains here and there. Once we arrived at that little magic corner of the delta we birded nonstop for almost three hours. Then we moved into a marsh to end our birding tour with open country birding.

I want to thank you all for joining me on my favorite Venezuela tour. I also want to thank Carlos (our driver for the first half of the tour) for delivering an excellent job and assisting with the picnic meals. César and David were also helpful, while Javier was very kind to accompany us in Rio Grande.

As we took off from Puerto Ordaz, I looked down from the plane and there again was the majestic Orinoco, with islands still unexplored, with patches of intact forest, and probably a new bird still to be found. I hope to see you back in the Neotropics!

Locations visited: Puerto Ordaz and Cachamay, Sierra de Lema, Gran Sabana, Alto Cuyuni and Las Claritas, El Palmar, Rio Grande, Orinoco Delta.

Habitats visited during this trip: Premontane wet forest, premontane humid forest (Cloud forest), tropical humid forest (Rain forest), tropical moist forest, tropical dry forest, riverine forest (Gallery forest), sandy scrub, grassland, pastures, secondary growth, scrub woodland, river and wetlands. Endemic, near-endemic and rare species are marked in bold.

Remark: The taxonomy is a fascinating field. Every year, there are new species described, other lumped, while sometimes some species are placed in a different family, or order. In most cases it is very difficult for birders to “follow-up” these changes. This list follows the taxonomy and order of Clements. The alternative common english name given in Hilty (2003) *Birds of Venezuela* to some species is given in the comments.

THE BIRDLIST

Tepui Tinamou (E)	<i>Crypturellus ptaritepui</i>	heard in Sierra de Lema. This species have been seen by less than a dozen of people in the world!
Variegated Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus variegatus</i>	heard near Las Claritas
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	few individuals in Ole Caribe vicinity
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	several in various wetlands along the road. Very common in Cachamay
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	pair in Cachamay
Whistling Heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>	pair in El Palmar savannas
Capped Heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>	Several sights. Rio Grande, El Palmar and the Orinoco
Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>	several sights in El Palmar and the Orinoco
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	several sights. Very common
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Various sights. Many of sub-adult individuals
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Various sights in El Palmar and the Orinoco
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	common and widespread
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	few sights along the road and in the Orinoco
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>	one individual in El Palmar
Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	couple of sights in El Palmar
Horned Screamer	<i>Anhima cornuta</i>	great views in the Orinoco
White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	five individuals in El Palmar savannas
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	many sights in various habitats
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	several sights of the resident race
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	a couple of sights in El Palmar and near Tucupita
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes melambrotus</i>	various sights in Rio Grande
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	a couple of sights in Rio Grande
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	two individuals seen in the Orinoco. Probably one year old birds?

Gray-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>	good views of a single individual in the Orinoco
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	various sights. Seen very well hunting for alates and insects in the power station of Las Claritas
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	one seen in Cachamay and another by the Caracas airport
Slender-billed Kite	<i>Rostrhamus hamatus</i>	pair seen well flying in the Orinoco
Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>	seen in Sierra de Lema and in Río Grande
Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	various sights, always in low numbers
Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>	many sights in habitats associated with grasslands
Gray Hawk	<i>Asturina (Buteo) nitida</i>	various sights in forest edge
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	many records. Should be called Riverside Hawk!
White-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>	various sights of the pale morph. Usually in open country
Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	pair of sights, one near Tucupita and another in the Orinoco
Harpy Eagle	<i>Harpia harpyja</i>	astonishing views of a sub-adult being fed by the adult (presumably the male?). Got great photos and video
Red-throated Caracara	<i>Ibycter americanus</i>	heard in ecotone forest-savanna in Gran Sabana
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	few records, mostly pairs in open country
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	various sights, mainly along the roads and in grasslands
Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>	pair of sights in Tumeremo and El Palmar
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>	pair of sights. One in Tumeremo and another in the power station in Las Claritas
Orange-breasted Falcon	<i>Falco deiroleucus</i>	a possible female in Sierra de Lema
Little Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis motmot</i>	group singing at dawn in El Palmar
Spix's Guan	<i>Penelope jacquacu</i>	pair flushed in Sierra de Lema
Crested Bobwhite	<i>Colinus cristatus</i>	many family groups flushed and crossing the road in El Palmar grasslands
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	heard in Tucupita
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	pair in El Palmar
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	several in El Palmar
Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>	one individual flushed in the Orinoco
Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	very good views in Rio Grande
Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	various sights in wetlands across the road and in the Orinoco
Double-striped Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	single individual in El Palmar grassland
Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	various sights. Usually pairs
Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>	various individuals flying across the Orinoco while we were in the ferry
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	one individual in Tucupita

Rock Pigeon (I)	<i>Columba livia</i>	various sights. Although I was reluctant to consider in the birdlist, I know some of you keep track of this species!
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	various sights. Associated with drier forest and open country
Plumbeous Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>	great scope views of one individual. Mainly heard in Rio Grande
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	several sights in scrubby vegetation
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	seen in Cachamay and Tucupita
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	several sights
Scaled Dove	<i>Columbina squammata</i>	mostly in Cachamay. Not widespread south of the Orinoco
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	one flushed in Moriche stand near Tucupita
Red-and-green Macaw	<i>Ara chloroptera</i>	various pairs seen and heard
Red-bellied Macaw	<i>Orthopsittaca manilata</i>	scoped views of the species foraging in Mauritia palm nuts
White-eyed Parakeet	<i>Aratinga leucophthalmus</i>	pair in El Palmar scoped
Brown-throated Parakeet	<i>Aratinga pertinax</i>	a flock in Tumeremo
Painted Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura picta</i>	a flock in Rio Grande
Fiery-shouldered Parakeet (E)	<i>Pyrrhura egregia</i>	one flock scoped. Grear views! Sierra de Lema
Green-rumped Parrotlet	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>	various sights in open country
Golden-winged Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chrysopterus</i>	pairs in Rio Grande
Tepui Parrotlet	<i>Nannopsittaca panychlora</i>	only heard, flying really high
Lilac-tailed Parrotlet	<i>Touit batavica</i>	two flocks flying in Rio Grande
Black-headed Parrot	<i>Pionites melanocephala</i>	a family group with juvenals in the vicinity of the nest, near Las CLaritas
Caica Parrot	<i>Pionopsitta caica</i>	pairs flying in Sierra de Lema and Rio Grande
Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>	various sights. The commonest Psttaciidae of the region
Dusky Parrot	<i>Pionus fuscus</i>	a single individual in Rio Grande
Blue-cheeked Parrot	<i>Amazona dufresniana</i>	varios sights. Seen well in Sierra de Lema
Yellow-crowned Parrot	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>	pair in El Palmar
Orange-winged Parrot	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	many pairs seen flying and perched
Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	pairs mainly seen in the humid forest of Alto Cuyuni and Rio Grande
Red-fan Parrot	<i>Deropterus accipitrinus</i>	great views near Las Claritas of two adults with two juvenals
Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>	few individuals in the Orinoco
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	several sights. Notice the eyering is red south of the Orinoco
Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>	seen by some in Cachamay
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	many sights along the road between Upata to Tumeremo. Also in Río Grande
Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>	heard in Tumeremo
Band-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Nyctiprogne leucopyga</i>	few individuals in Tucupita
Blackish Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus nigrescens</i>	good views in Sierra de Lema

Tepui Swift (E)	<i>Cypseloides phelpsi</i>	very good views of three individuals foraging in Gran Sabana
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	several sights
Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>	few sights in Rio Grande
Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	few sights in Sierra de Lema
Chapman's Swift	<i>Chaetura chapmani</i>	pair flying in Alto Cuyuni area. Not a common species here!
Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>	many records, mostly in open country
Ashy-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura andrei</i>	fewer individuals than previous summer eastern Venezuela tours. This time we saw only a pair in Rio Grande
White-tipped Swift	<i>Aeronautes montivagus</i>	not a common species in Sierra de Lema. Various immatures with few adults foraging. My last record for Sierra de Lema was ten years ago!
Eastern Long-tailed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis superciliosus</i>	various sights in humid tropical forest
Straight-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis bourcierii</i>	several sights in Sierra de Lema
Streak-throated Hermit	<i>Phaethornis rupurumii</i>	a close view of one individual in the Orinoco
Reddish Hermit	<i>Phaethornis ruber</i>	amazing views of an individual taking a sun bath near Las Claritas
Gray-breasted Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus largipennis</i>	various sights, mainly in the lowlands
Rufous-breasted Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus hyperythrus</i>	great views in Sierra de Lema, mainly of individuals foraging in Bromeliads
White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>	scattered records in Alto Cuyuni and Rio Grande
Crimson Topaz	<i>Topaza pella</i>	Astonishing views of a male in Las Claritas area
Peacock Coquette (E)	<i>Lophornis pavoninus</i>	one of the first Pantepui endemic species seen, in Sierra de Lema
Blue-tailed Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon mellisugus</i>	a male in Gran Sabana
Fork-tailed Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania furcata</i>	various sights, mainly in the lowlands
White-chinned Sapphire	<i>Hylocharis cyanus</i>	a male near Las Claritas
Glittering-throated Emerald	<i>Polyerata fimbriata</i>	various sights, always near the Orinoco river
Copper-tailed Hummingbird (E)	<i>Saucerottia cupreicauda</i>	a couple of sights in Gran Sabana
Velvet-browed Brilliant (E)	<i>Heliodoxa xanthogonys</i>	a male foraging in red-spike flowers
Black-eared Fairy	<i>Heliothryx aurita</i>	a pair of sights, in Sierra de Lema and in Las Claritas area
Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>	despite being one of the commonest hummingbirds of the area, only one individual seen in Sierra de Lema
Amazonian White-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>	a pair in Las Claritas area
Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>	a female in Rio Grande
Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>	heard in Rio Grande
Masked Trogon	<i>Trogon personatus</i>	two pairs in Sierra de Lema
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	several sights in ponds along the road
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	seen well in El Palmar

Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	a male in El palmar and other sights in the Orinoco
American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>	a male in the Orinoco
Brown Jacamar	<i>Brachygalba lugubris</i>	a couple of sights, in the Cuyuni river and in Gran Sabana
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	we saw this species in the southernmost distribution in eastern Venezuela
Green-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula galbula</i>	heard various times and seen well in the Cuyuni river
Paradise Jacamar	<i>Galbula dea</i>	various sights. Always in tree tops
Great Jacamar	<i>Jacamerops aureus</i>	pair in Rio Grande, seen very well
Russet-throated Puffbird	<i>Hypnelus ruficollis</i>	a couple of sights of this race, treated by some authors as a separate species, the Double-banded Puffbird
Black Nunbird	<i>Monasa atra</i>	couple of sights in Rio Grande
Swallow-wing	<i>Chelidoptera tenebrosa</i>	various sights in forest edge along the road
Black-spotted Barbet	<i>Capito niger</i>	a pair of sights in Rio Grande
Chestnut-tipped Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus derbianus</i>	good views of a female in Sierra de Lema
Black-necked Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus aracari</i>	various sights, mainly in the lowlands
Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>	various sights in Las Claritas
Red-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i>	scattered sights, usually of pairs
Golden-spangled Piculet	<i>Picumnus exilis</i>	seen well in Sierra de Lema
White-bellied Piculet	<i>Picumnus spilogaster</i>	heard in the Orinoco
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes cruentatus</i>	several sights in the lowlands
Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>	common and widespread in open country
Golden-collared Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis cassini</i>	excellent views of a pair near Las Claritas
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	<i>Piculus flavigula</i>	a pair scoped in Rio Grande
Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>	several sights in Sierra de Lema
Chestnut Woodpecker	<i>Celeus elegans</i>	a male in the Orinoco river
Cream-colored Woodpecker	<i>Celeus flavus</i>	a male in the Orinoco river as well
Red-necked Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus rubricollis</i>	various sights in Rio Grande
Pale-breasted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis albescens</i>	heard in Sierra de Lema
UNNAMED SOFTTAIL	<i>Thripophaga nuovo</i>	good views of a single individual in the Orinoco. This species was first seen by the VENT Jungle rivers Cruise, back in 2004. The description is in preparation by the scientific staff of the Phelps Ornithological Museum.
MacConnell's Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis macconnelli</i>	glimpsed by some in Sierra de Lema
Plain-crowned Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis gujanensis</i>	heard in the Orinoco
Tepui Spinetail (E)	<i>Cranioleuca demissa</i>	Very good views of a individual moving with a canopy feeding flock
Rusty-backed Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca vulpina</i>	pair in the Orinoco
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomea</i>	pair in El Palmar
Roraiman Barbtail (E)	<i>Roraimia adusta</i>	superb views of this target species of the tour. On my opinion, one of the most astonishing pantepui endemic species!
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	many sights, always with feeding flocks

White-throated Foliage-gleaner (E)	<i>Automolus roraimae</i>	one individual seen briefly with a feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	many records in Sierra de Lema and Rio Grande
Black-banded Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocolaptes picumnus</i>	seen well in Rio Grande
Striped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus obsoletus</i>	heard in the Orinoco
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>	many records, mainly in the lowlands
Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus pardalotus</i>	few records, both in lowlands and the slopes
Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>	one seen in Cachamay
White-chinned Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocinchla merula</i>	good views with army ants in Rio Grande. Not many previous records for this region. First reported by Salcedo of La Salle museum few years ago
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>	one individual in Cachamay
Fasciated Antshrike	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>	a male with a canopy feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>	heard in Rio Grande
Black-crested Antshrike	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>	mainly in the llanos of Monagas and in the Orinoco
Streak-backed Antshrike (E)	<i>Thamnophilus insignis</i>	superb views of a pair in Sierra de Lema
Dusky-throated Antshrike	<i>Thamnomanes ardesiacus</i>	one of the feeding flock leaders. Seen by everyone
Cinereous Antshrike	<i>Thamnomanes caesius</i>	another flock leader. Seen well by everyone
Pygmy Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula brachyura</i>	a pair sighted in Rio Grande
Guianan Streaked Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula surinamensis</i>	a pair seen very well in the Orinoco
Rufous-bellied Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula guttata</i>	superb views in Rio Grande
Brown-bellied Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula gutturalis</i>	a individual with a feeding flock in Rio Grande
Gray Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula menetriesii</i>	pair with feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Spot-tailed Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus sticturus</i>	heard in Alto Cuyuni and in Rio Grande
Todd's Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus stictocephalus</i>	heard in Alto Cuyuni
Roraiman Antwren (E)	<i>Herpsilochmus roraimae</i>	heard frequently and seen very well, twice
Ash-winged Antwren	<i>Terenura spodioptila</i>	pair with canopy feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Gray Antbird	<i>Cercomacra cinerascens</i>	heard in Sierra de Lema and seen very well in Rio Grande
Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>	seen well in Rio Grande
Jet Antbird	<i>Cercomacra nigricans</i>	a male in the Orinoco
Warbling Antbird	<i>Hypocnemis cantator</i>	mainly heard. Not very active this time!
Black-chinned Antbird	<i>Hypocnemoides melanopogon</i>	pair in Rio Grande
Silvered Antbird	<i>Sclateria naevia</i>	heard in the Orinoco
White-bellied Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza longipes</i>	a male in the Orinoco
Ferruginous-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza ferruginea</i>	very good views in Rio Grande
White-plumed Antbird	<i>Pithys albifrons</i>	superb views in Rio Grande. Up to five individuals seen!
Rufous-throated Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys rufigula</i>	many individuals seen various times. Very vocal.

Spot-backed Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevia</i>	heard twice, in the Alto Cuyuni and in Rio Grande
Tepui Antpitta (E)	<i>Myrmothera simplex</i>	despite the time we spent looking for it, never showed up. Not seen this time
Cinereous Mourner	<i>Laniocera hypopyrra</i>	very good views in Rio Grande
Red-banded Fruiteater (E)	<i>Pipreola whitelyi</i>	a male enjoyed in the scoped, remaining perched for 40+ seconds!
Screaming Piha	<i>Lipaugus vociferans</i>	seen in Rio Grande
Rose-collared Piha (E)	<i>Lipaugus streptophorus</i>	another target species scoped and enjoyed by every one!
Purple-throated Fruitcrow	<i>Querula purpurata</i>	group vocalizing and seen well in Rio Grande
Red-ruffed Fruitcrow	<i>Pyroderus scutatus</i>	one individual flying across the Cuyuni river
Capuchinbird	<i>Perissocephalus tricolor</i>	activity was low in the lek, although we had incredible views of a male displaying
White Bellbird	<i>Procnias alba</i>	mainly heard. Some young males scoped
Bearded Bellbird	<i>Procnias averano</i>	great scope views of males singing atop dead branches
Guianan Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola rupicola</i>	one male in Sierra de Lema
Olive Manakin (E)	<i>Chloropipo uniformis</i>	heard various times and seen well only once
Crimson-hooded Manakin	<i>Pipra aureola</i>	various males in juvenal plumage in a lek in the Orinoco
Golden-headed Manakin	<i>Pipra erythrocephala</i>	a male in Las Claritas
Tepui Manakin	<i>Lepidothrix suavissima</i>	one sight in Sierra de Lema, various heard
Wing-barred Piprites	<i>Piprites chloris</i>	pair seen well in Rio Grande
White-lored Tyrannulet	<i>Ornithion inerme</i>	one sight in Las Claritas area
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	various sights in Cachamay
Mouse-colored Tyrannulet	<i>Phaeomyias murina</i>	a single individual in Cachamay
Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>	heard in the Rio Orinoco
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	<i>Tyrannulus elatus</i>	heard in Acoima as well
Forest Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i>	various sights in Las Claritas and Rio Grande
Plain-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia cristata</i>	various sights in Gran Sabana
Great Elaenia (E)	<i>Elaenia dayi</i>	excellent views of a pair in Gran Sabana
Sierran Elaenia	<i>Elaenia pallatangae</i>	several sights in Sierra de Lema
MacConnell's Flycatcher (E) see comments	<i>Mionectes macconnelli</i>	one individual in Gran Sabana. Currently being proposed to be considered a separate species by Hilty and Ascanio: Sierra de Lema Flycatcher <i>Mionectes roraimae</i>
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>	pair with canopy feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Black-fronted Tyrannulet (E)	<i>Phylloscartes nigrifrons</i>	several pairs with feeding flocks in Sierra de Lema
Slender-footed Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius gracilipes</i>	one individual with canopy feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Northern Scrub-Flycatcher	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i>	various sights near Tucupita. Keep track with this species. May well be represent more than three species!

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Euscarthmus meloryphus</i>	pair seen well near Tucupita
Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Myiornis ecaudatus</i>	one individual scoped in Rio Grande!
Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus galeatus</i>	a good view of a male singing in Sierra de Lema
Slate-headed Tody-Tyrant	<i>Poecilatriccus sylvia</i>	a pair seen very well in the Orinoco
Black-chested Tyrant	<i>Taeniotriccus andrei</i>	astonishing views of a single individual in the Orinoco
Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer</i>	one individual singing in Gran Sabana. May well be another taxonomical split in the near future!
Ruddy Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum russatum</i>	very good views of a pair in Sierra de Lema
Painted Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum pictum</i>	heard in Rio Grande
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	heard in the Orinoco
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>	various sights in the lowlands. Treated in Hilty (2003) as Yellow-olive Flatbill
Yellow-margined Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias assimilis</i>	three sights in Sierra de Lema. Treated in Hilty (2003) as Zimmer's Flatbill
Gray-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias poliocephalus</i>	sight near Las Claritas. Treated in Hilty (2003) as Gray-crowned Flatbill
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>	seen well in Cachamay. Treated in Hilty (2003) as Ochre-lored Flatbill
White-throated Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>	excellent views of a single individual in the Orinoco
White-crested Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus platyrhynchos</i>	astonishing views in Rio Grande
Whiskered Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius barbatus</i>	a single individual with understorey feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Cliff Flycatcher	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>	pair in Piedra de la Virgen, in Sierra de Lema
Smoke-colored Pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>	various sights in Sierra de Lema
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	a male in El Palmar
Pied Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>	various sights near wetlands
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>	a male in El Palmar wetland
Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosus</i>	a couple of sights, one in El Palmar and one near Tucupita
Bright-rumped Attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>	a individual seen by some in the Orinoco
Grayish Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>	a good view (scoped) near Las Claritas
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	various sights along the road
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>	pair near Tucupita
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	various sights in Tumeremo, Guasipati and El Palmar
Yellow-throated Flycatcher	<i>Conopias parva</i>	this canopy dweller was seen in Rio Grande
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	a sight in the Orinoco
Variegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>	pair near Las Claritas, possibly austral migrant race
Sulphury Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannopsis sulphurea</i>	pair on route to Tucupita, in Moriche palm stand
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	common and widespread
Gray Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	various sights on route to Tucupita

Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	various sights in savannas of Tumeremo and near Tucupita
Black-capped Becard	<i>Pachyramphus marginatus</i>	pair with canopy feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Black-tailed Tityra	<i>Tityra cayana</i>	pair in Rio Grande
Black-crowned Tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>	a male in El Palmar
Sharpbill	<i>Oxyruncus cristatus</i>	seen twice (even scoped) with canopy feeding flocks
Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>	large number of individuals of austral migrant race
Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	various sights, mainly in populated areas
White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>	several sights, always near water
Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	several individuals in Sierra de Lema
Tawny-headed Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx fucata</i>	about four individuals in Gran Sabana
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	pair in the Orinoco
Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>	pair seen displaying in the Orinoco
Stripe-backed Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus nuchalis</i>	family group in the Orinoco
Coraya Wren	<i>Thryothorus coraya</i>	heard several times and a family group seen in Sierra de Lema. Another good candidate for a taxonomical split between the lowland and the highland races
Buff-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus leucotis</i>	pair in the Orinoco
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	seen in Las Claritas as well as in Cachamay
White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>	pair seen in Rio Grande
Flutist Wren (E)	<i>Microcerculus ustulatus</i>	excellent views of one individual in Sierra de Lema
Musician Wren	<i>Cyphorhinus aradus</i>	great views in Rio Grande. No matter how many times you see this species, is a wonderful experience.
Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	very common in open areas
Pale-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>	various sights in Cachamay
Black-billed Thrush	<i>Turdus ignobilis</i>	various sights in Sierra de Lema. Restricted to the slopes of the tepuis in SE Venezuela
Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>	heard in Rio Grande
Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>	various pairs in Cachamay
Cayenne Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cayanus</i>	various sights in Rio Grande. Heard in the Cuyuni river
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	several individuals seen in Cachamay
Tepui Greenlet (E)	<i>Hylophilus sclateri</i>	couple of sights in Sierra de Lema
Buff-cheeked Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus muscicapinus</i>	mostly heard and seen at least once in Sierra de Lema and Rio Grande
Scrub Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus flavipes</i>	various individuals with dark iris in Cachamay while many pale-eyed individuals near Tucupita
Tawny-crowned Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</i>	a good view of a single individual with a canopy feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Golden-fronted Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus aurantiifrons</i>	seen various times in the Orinoco

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius leucotis</i>	very good views of individuals foraging with canopy feeding flock
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	seen by some in Sierra de Lema and heard in the Orinoco
Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiaiyumi</i>	various sights in dry forest in Cachamay
Slate-throated Redstart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	various sights in Sierra de Lema. All the <i>Myioborus</i> redstarts are called whitestarts in Hilty (2003)
Tepui Redstart (E)	<i>Myioborus castaneocapillus</i>	various pairs in Sierra de Lema. Called Tepui Whitestart in Hilty (2003)
Two-banded Warbler (E) (see comments)	<i>Basileuterus bivittatus</i>	family group in Sierra de Lema. Treated as an endemic species, Roraiman Warbler in Hilty (2003)
Neotropical River Warbler	<i>Basileuterus rivularis</i>	very good looks of this secretive species in Rio Grande
Rose-breasted Chat	<i>Granatellus pelzelni</i>	great views of a male in Rio Grande
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	several sights of two separate subspecies. Race <i>roraimae</i> likely to be considered a separate species in the future
Black-faced Tanager	<i>Schistochlamys melanopis</i>	various sights in Gran Sabana
Magpie Tanager	<i>Cissopis leveriana</i>	one individual in Rio Grande
Olive-backed Tanager (E)	<i>Mitrospingus oleagineus</i>	a family group in Sierra de Lema
Fulvous Shrike-Tanager	<i>Lanio fulvus</i>	several good views with feeding flocks in Sierra de Lema
Flame-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>	couple of sights in Las Claritas and Rio Grande
White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>	pair in Rio Grande, with understorey feeding flock
White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>	various sights, all north of the Cuyuni river
Red-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus phoenicius</i>	pair in Gran Sabana
White-winged Tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>	pair with feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>	several sights. This species is increasing in SE Venezuela due to the extensive deforestation
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	several sights. Common in open areas
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	several sights along the road, in palm stands and in open country
Trinidad Euphonia	<i>Euphonia trinitatis</i>	a female seen by everyone in Cachamay
Violaceous Euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>	pair in Cachamay
Orange-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>	many sights in Sierra de Lema
Turquoise Tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>	many sights in the lowlands
Paradise Tanager	<i>Tangara chilensis</i>	scoped in Sierra de Lema
Yellow-bellied Tanager	<i>Tangara xanthogastra</i>	various pairs in Sierra de Lema
Spotted Tanager	<i>Tangara punctata</i>	a pair in Las Claritas area
Speckled Tanager	<i>Tangara guttata</i>	a pair with feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	various scattered sights in Sierra de Lema
Burnished-buff Tanager	<i>Tangara cayana</i>	a pair seen in Gran Sabana
Black-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanoptera</i>	various pairs seen in Sierra de Lema. Keep track on this race. May well be a taxonomic split and become another pantepui endemic in the future

Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	seen in various occasions in the lowlands
Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>	scattered sightings in Sierra de Lema as well as in the lowlands
Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	most individuals seen in Sierra de Lema
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	common in edge habitat in the lowlands
Ring-necked Seedeater	<i>Sporophila insularis</i>	a male scoped in Tumeremo. A recent split of Gray Seedeater (<i>S. intermedia</i>) suggested by Robin Restal and recently supported by DNA study
Gray Seedeater	<i>Sporophila intermedia</i>	various sightings in the Orinoco
Lesson's Seedeater	<i>Sporophila bouvronides</i>	scattered individuals singing in various locations, usually near scrubby vegetation
Lined Seedeater	<i>Sporophila lineola</i>	scattered records in Sierra de Lema
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	<i>Sporophila minuta</i>	a male in El Palmar
Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>	a male singing in Gran Sabana. Treated as Lesser Seed-Finch in Hilty (2003)
Greater Flowerpiercer (E)	<i>Diglossa major</i>	great views of a pair in Sierra de Lema
Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	many in Cachamay and in Tucupita
Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch	<i>Emberizoides herbicola</i>	pair in Gran Sabana
Red-capped Cardinal	<i>Paroaria gularis</i>	pair in the Orinoco
Tepui Brush-Finch (E)	<i>Atlapetes personatus</i>	several good views in Sierra de Lema
Pectoral Sparrow	<i>Arremon taciturnus</i>	very good views in Rio Grande
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	various sightings in Gran Sabana
Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	a pair in Gran Sabana
Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>	pairs in Sierra de Lema and in Rio Grande
Orinocan Saltator	<i>Saltator orinocensis</i>	excellent views near Puerto Ordaz
Yellow-green Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes canadensis</i>	small family group in Sierra de Lema
Yellow-hooded Blackbird	<i>Agelaius icterocephalus</i>	several sightings in El Palmar and near Tucupita
Red-breasted Blackbird	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>	several sightings in the grasslands of El Palmar
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	pair in Gran Sabana. Also seen in El Palmar
Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	many records in Puerto Ordaz and in El Palmar
Yellow Oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>	scattered sightings in Cachamay and El Palmar
Venezuelan Troupial	<i>Icterus icterus</i>	great views in El Palmar. Venezuela's national bird!
Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>	seen in edge habitat north of El Dorado and also in Tucupita
Red-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>	a group near Las Claritas
Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>	various sightings in edge and disturbed habitats
Green Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius viridis</i>	a group in Rio Grande. This was the post-breeding season
Oriole Blackbird	<i>Gymnomystax mexicanus</i>	pair in Cachamay
Golden-tufted Grackle	<i>Macroagelaius imthurni</i>	several groups seen, from 6 to 16 individuals

OTHER WILDLIFE LIST

Weeping Capuchin Monkey	<i>Cebus olivaceus</i>	various individuals in Cachamay
Red-howler Monkeys	<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>	a family group seen in Cuyuni bridge
Pink River Dolphin	<i>Inia geoffrensis</i>	various individuals at the entrance of Tucupita
Red-rumped Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta leporina</i>	one in Sierra de Lema and another in Rio Grande
Guayanan Squirrel	<i>Sciurus aestuans</i>	Sierra de Lema
Spectacled Cayman	<i>Caiman crocodylus</i>	one medium sized individual near Las Claritas
Indigo Boa	<i>Epicrates cenchria</i>	a road killed in Sierra de Lema
South American King Snake	<i>Leimadophis typhlus?</i>	another road killed in Sierra de Lema
Ferdelance	<i>Bothrops atrox</i>	We had an amazing encounter with this species in Sierra de Lema
Parrot snake	<i>Chironius fuscus</i>	a recently road-killed near Rio Grande
Tegu Lizard	<i>Tupinambis nigropunctatus</i>	a couple of sights in Rio Grande
Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	a pair in El Palmar wetland
Blue Morpho	<i>Morpho sp.</i>	various sights in the lowlands
Heliconia butterfly	<i>Heliconia sp.</i>	various sights in the lowlands
Black Scorpion		one individual in Sierra de Lema
Goliath Tarantula? (yellow-tip legged)	<i>Theraphosa blondi</i>	one individual near the Cuyuni river