

**EASTERN VENEZUELA
January 24 - February 4, 2006**

Led by Steve Hilty and David Ascanio

We began our trip with an adult Harpy Eagle observed for nearly 30 minutes as it perched on an open branch in an emergent tree near the Río Cuyuní late the first day. That seemed to set the tone of the trip. How often does a trip begin with a Harpy Eagle sighting? In my experience, almost never, but this was an unusual trip in more than one way. We could only describe this trip in a single word—rainy. We experienced rain multiple times every day, often at night as well, and more than one or two umbrellas exceeded their useful lifespan on this trip. Rubber boots were dragged out almost daily, and plastic bags to protect electronic equipment were hoarded.

In spite of, or because of, the rain (the wettest trip ever for me), birds typically remained active throughout the day, as weather permitted, and temperatures were remarkably cool and pleasant, so we enjoyed great birding from beneath our umbrellas. A spectacular show of bird activity late one morning at a large clearing in the El Palmar/Río Grande area was typical: almost every species of macaw, parrot, and parakeet in the area was present, calling and flying, as well as a raucous group of Red-throated Caracaras with the spoils of a wasp nest raid in their beaks; an enormous Red-rumped Cacique nest; several raptors; and dozens of smaller birds sitting up to dry or forage. If the rain and the Harpy Eagle weren't unusual enough, imagine a trip with four (yes, 4!) sightings of Black-and-white Hawk-Eagles, including two close studies, one in which the eagle held the bloody remains of prey in its talons.

Eastern Venezuela is a frontier, a land of heavy industry and opportunity with rough and minimalist accommodations to match—almost everything you need (except running water, which seemed absurd with so much rain outside our windows), but nothing more. Travelers here don't visit for luxury, nor do residents, many of whom are little more than temporary citizens themselves in this region where gold fever and the lure of riches has left little time for comforts. There is a hint of “gold fever” in naturalists and birders here too, because this area is one of the most endemic-rich on the continent, and some adjacent areas have, to this day, still been relatively poorly explored ornithologically.

It is against this background that we travel so far east and south, to Venezuela's very borders with Guyana and Brazil. Here, in an avifauna distinctive from that of the Amazon, we prowl misty mountain forests for shy endemics while immense, flat-topped mountains, the “tepuis of legend,” loom in the distance, ever mysterious, evocative, and tantalizing. We can't reach them, but we can enjoy their unsurpassed beauty from a distance, knowing that along the single mountain road that leads up to a vast savanna that spreads between them, we can see most of the same species that occur even higher on these silent monoliths.

Guianan Cocks-of-the-rock blazed across the road, and their shocking orange, black, and white costume may make them the most sensational actor on this avian stage. In the background there is a supporting cast of remarkable species in this Guianan region—bellbirds with unlikely voices,

Scarlet-horned Manakins that dance like slippery mechanical toys, and Rose-collared Pihas with curious magenta collars, all amidst a symphony of song from mixed species flocks that pour into the first rain-streaked light of dawn. We strained for greenlets and shrike-vireos, and tried in vain to follow high-octane hummingbirds that danced like phantoms before our eyes, all sparkling diamonds one instant, then gone in a wink. We peered beneath our umbrellas at the Sharpbill's spots, and delighted at tanagers that looked as if they were colored by children. Then we watched the green landscape of the Grand Savanna unfold before us as if we were somehow transported, for a moment, into another time. With a hundred ribbonlike waterfalls cascading from sandstone cliffs, clouds that discretely revealed the craggy top of fabled tepuis from time to time, and vast morichales that marched across an undulating landscape below us, one could almost imagine giant bipedal reptiles plodding out of an ancient Cretaceous landscape here.

Recent decades have not been kind to the habitats of eastern Venezuela; from the highways that we travel, the signs of burning, deforestation, trash, and irresponsible change are rarely out of view. The new power lines that march southward to Brazil bring even more change, and dry forests west of El Palmar will soon be gone. Nevertheless, our path intersects only a small part of this great region, and much of it does still remain inaccessible and pristine. Views from overlooks on the Sierra de Lema confirm that much of the region is still a great wilderness. Despite inroads of damage there are few places in the western world where, in about ten short days of birding, one can see such a spectacular array of birds, large and small, as in eastern Venezuela.

If the far south is an enchanted fairyland of bellbirds, Capuchinbirds, colorful tanagers, and an assortment of exotics, many of which can trace the DNA flowing in their veins to ancient Andean ancestries who somehow arrived here via uncertain routes now closed for millennia, then our last destination, the Río Grande forestry reserve, is quite the opposite. It is, in almost every respect, a typical, humid lowland rainforest with towering trees, reddish iron-rich soil, and a rich complement of forest birds that includes some of the smallest species in the world, as well as one of the largest and most imposing. We came for the Harpy Eagle and, in addition to that beautiful adult the first day, we plodded through rain and rain-slicked trails to a Harpy nest tree where a damp but still regal immature, at least a year old, sat in the rain staring at us and, finally, in the last moments, flew with great wings that seemed impossibly large. That rainy day was special too, for the many birds we saw in the big clearing before lunch, and it was a chance to dip into the species richness of this ancient Guyanese avifauna. We listened with rapt attention as a Musician Wren performed its complex repertoire, watched as hummingbirds visited flowering vines in the canopy, and as mixed flocks swirled past, leaving us in despair of ever seeing all those fleeting shadowy forms. But we did, eventually, see most of them, and much more besides. If you want to revisit some of this great Guianan birding, we invite you to join us again in Suriname for another immersion into the fauna and flora of this compelling region.

This list contains the birds and mammals seen and heard on the January/early February 2006 Eastern Venezuela trip. The trip departed from Pto. Ordaz to Las Claritas, visited the Grand Savanna, Santa Elena de Uairén area near the Brazilian border, and the El Palmar and Rio Grande area on the Bolívar/Delta Amacuro border.

KEY OF LOCALITY NAMES:

PTO = Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park)

GS = Grand Savanna

Sierra de Lema (=same as Escalera)

SE = Santa Elena de Uairén (includes areas west and north of town)

L = Lowlands from Río Cuyuní to Las Claritas and El 88

El 88 (same as San Isidro) = small town and road west to Capuchinbird lek and upper Río Cuyuní

RG = Río Grande Forest Reserve and river. States of Bolívar and Delta Amacuro; the Harpy Eagle nest site we visited was outside the reserve and south/southeast of El Palmar (about 30 km north of Guasipati)

El Palmar = includes areas west and north and east of town

Underlined = uncommon or of special interest.

CAPITAL = Tepui endemic.

* (asterisk) = heard only; M or F = male(s) and female(s)

[] brackets = seen only by a tour participant (not by guides); also used occasionally for a bird seen by guides for which identification is uncertain

SH = S. Hilty; DA = D. Ascanio

LIST OF BIRDS:

*Great Tinamou, *Tinamus major*, RG

*Little Tinamou, *Crypturellus soui*, SE*RG*

*Variegated Tinamou, *Crypturellus variegatus*, w of Km 88*

Least Grebe, *Tachybaptus dominicus*, El Palmar

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*, Pto. Ordaz; lagoon near El Palmar; roadsides

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*, roadside lagoons; near El Palmar; Pto. Ordaz

Whistling Heron, *Syrigma sibilatrix*, El Palmar (2)

Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*, Río Cuyuní; w of El Palmar

Cocoi (White-necked) Heron, *Ardea herodias*, lagoons near El Palmar

[Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*, 1 near Guasipati; only seen by KL)]

Great Egret, *Ardea albus*, Pto. Ordaz; near El 88; El Palmar etc.

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, lagoon w of El Palmar etc.

Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, near Upata; RG (pastures)

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*, several near El Palmar

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana*, lagoons near El Palmar (8 total)

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, El Palmar area; hd ne of Santa Elena

White-faced Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna viduata*, 6-7 near El Palmar

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*, 3 near El Palmar

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, all areas

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, all areas

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes melambrotus*, L; RG; SE (over forest)

King Vulture, *Sarcoramphus papa*, L (1); Sierra de Lema (1); Las Claritas (1); El Palmar (1); dry forest w of El Palmar (1 at 6:30 a.m.)

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*, w of El Palmar; Cachamay Park (3+)

Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*, hd at Km 134; 1 imm over Cachamay Park

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, over almost all forested areas (seen on 6 days)

Pearl Kite, *Gampsonyx swainsonii*, w of SE (1); 3 in vicinity of El Palmar

White-tailed Kite, *Elanus caeruleus*, w of SE; w of El Palmar

Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus*, w of El 88

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*, GS (bird on nest); all lowland areas

Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*, RG (2 seen in flight)

White Hawk, *Leucopternis albicollis*, Sierra de Lema (1100-1200m; 2 seen)
Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*, w of El Palmar (1)
Savanna Hawk, *Buteogallus (Heterospizus) meridionalis*, most open areas
Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*, lagoons w of RG
Gray Hawk, *Asturina (Buteo) nitidus*, Las Claritas (1); RG (4-5)
Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*, all lowland areas
Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, Sierra de Lema (1 subad/adult at 1300m)
White-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albicaudatus*, GS (1 a dark phase bird; 1400m)
Harpy Eagle, *Harpia harpyja*, 1 ad perched high in tree near Río Cuyuní; fledgling 1 yr+ old in nest tree s of El Palmar
Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, *Spizastur melanoleucus*, 4 seen! 2 over Sierra de Lema; 1 perched close w of SE; 1 w/prey perched in dry forest w of El Palmar (beautiful study); record number of sightings of this usually scarce eagle
Black Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*, 1 over Las Claritas
Black Caracara, *Daptrius ater*, 1 e of El Palmar (seen only by DA)
Red-throated Caracara, *Ibycter americanus*, Río Cuyuní (5 1st evening); Río Grande (several; previously placed in genus *Daptrius*)
Northern Crested-Caracara, *Polyborus cheriway*, most open areas; (split from form S of Amazon; formerly Crested Caracara)
Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*, most non-forest areas including SE and RG
*Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*, hd at RG
American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, open areas everywhere (seen on 8+ days)
Bat Falcon, *Falco ruficularis*, Río Cuyuní; RG (2 sightings)
Little Chachalaca, *Ortalis motmot*, El Palmar (1 seen by Bill and Karen at hotel); almost no vocalization from this species during trip
Black Curassow, *Crax alector*, 4 on Sierra de Lema (seen only by Art)
Crested Bobwhite, *Colinus cristatus*, 1 group w of El Palmar; 2 groups e of El Palmar (all difficult to see)
*Ash-throated Crake, *Porzana albicollis*, 1 hd by DA in roadside lagoon
Purple Gallinule, *Porphyryla martinica*, lagoons near El Palmar and Upata
Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*, lagoons near El Palmar and Upata
Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*, lagoons throughout
Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis*, most lower elevations and SE
*Giant Snipe, *Gallinago undulata*, hd nw of SE (unfortunately not close)
Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*, lagoons near El Palmar (total 3)
Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*, Pto. Ordaz (1 1st day; another last day)
Yellow-billed Tern, *Sterna superciliaris*, 2 seen 1st day in Cachamay Park)
[Large-billed Tern, *Phaetusa simplex*, Río Caroní dam (seen only by KL)]
Scaled Pigeon, *Columba speciosa*, Río Cuyuní (perched beautifully); several near SE
Pale-vented Pigeon, *Columba cayennensis*, seen over most open areas
*Plumbeous Pigeon, *Columba plumbea*, Sierra de Lema*; El Palmar*
Ruddy Pigeon, *Columba subvinacea*, seen w of SE; hd w of El 88 and Sierra de Lema
Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, 1 seen 1st day; 3 ne of SE (scarce here); 1+ w of El Palmar
Common Ground-Dove, *Columbina passerina*, daily near El Palmar
Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*, all disturbed areas in lowlands
Scaled Dove, *Columbina squammata*, Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park)
Blue Ground-Dove, *Claravis pretiosa*, SE (3 seen); Río Cuyuní (1F in flight)
White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, Cachamay Park (1 in scope)
*Gray-fronted Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, SE*
Red-and-green Macaw, *Ara chloroptera*, L; E; SE; RG (2 prs in clearing for extended period)
Red-bellied Macaw, *Orthopsittaca (Ara) manilata*, SE (40-50)
Red-shouldered Macaw, *Diopsittaca (Ara) nobilis*, SE (up to 35 seen; one group of 20+ very close)
White-eyed Parakeet, *Aratinga leucophthalmus*, Tumeremo; El Palmar
Brown-throated Parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*, Tumeremo; SE; w of El Palmar
Painted Parakeet, *Pyrrhura picta*, RG (several close sightings)

FIERY-SHOULDERED PARAKEET, *Pyrrhura egregia*, E (in flight); SE (perched)
 Green-rumped Parrotlet, *Forpus passerinus*, Pto. Ordaz to Río Cuyuní; El Palmar
 Orange-chinned Parakeet, *Brotogeris jugularis*, Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park)
 Golden-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris chrysopterus*, RG (several groups)
TEPUI PARROTLET, *Nannopsittaca panychlora*, W of El 88 (flock hd; 2nd flock specks high in sky)
 Black-headed Parrot, *Pionites melanocephala*, L; RG (excellent scope studies)
 *Caica Parrot, *Pionopsitta caica*, Sierra de Lema (2 in scope at 1100m el); 1 in flight at RG
 Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*, almost daily at lower els
 Dusky Parrot, *Pionus fuscus*, w of El 88 (1 and several hd); RG (another in scope)
Blue-cheeked Parrot, *Amazona brasiliensis*, w of El 88 (fine scope studies of 3; several hd)
 Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala*, w and n of El Palmar
 Orange-winged Parrot, *Amazona amazonica*, lowlands around SE; RG
 Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*, lowland forests w of El 88; SE (many); RG
 Red-fan Parrot, *Deroptyus accipitrinus*, se of El Palmar (fine study of 5-6)
 Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, SE and Río Grande
 Little Cuckoo, *Piaya minuta*, SE (1 seen several times)
 Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*, Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park; 8)
 Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*, daily in lowland areas
 Striped Cuckoo, *Tapera naevia*, w of El Palmar; also hd in SE
 Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*, Las Claritas*; Pto. Ordaz (minimal vocalization)
 *Stygian Owl, *Asio stygius*, w of El Palmar (hd distantly predawn)
 *Common Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*, hd ne of Santa Elena
 Short-tailed Nighthawk, *Lurocalis semitorquatus*, 1 briefly over El Palmar (by only a couple people)
 Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*, ne of Santa Elena (hd); Río Grande (several seen on roads)
TEPUI SWIFT, *Cypseloides phelpsi*, flock (12+) over Gran Sabana; 2 near SE
 White-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne zonaris*, Gran Sabana (with prev sp); SE; L
 Band-rumped Swift, *Chaetura spinicauda*, L (daily); RG (daily)
 [Chapman's Swift, *Chaetura chapmani*, 1-2 over forest w of El 88 (identification not positive but 2 moderately distant birds were probably this sp.)
 Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*, Tumeremo; L; El Palmar/Río Grande
 White-tipped Swift, *Aeronautes montivagus*, base of Sierra de Lema (500m)
 Neotropical (Fork-tailed) Palm-Swift, *Reinarda squamata*, Tumeremo; SE; GS; El Palmar
 Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila cayennensis*, 1 over forest w of El 88
 Pale-tailed Barbthroat, *Threnetes superciliosus*, 1 seen only by DA on Sierra de Lema (900 m)
 Eastern Long-tailed Hermit, *Phaethornis superciliosus*, L (glimpsed by some); SE*
 Straight-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis bourcierii*, L (briefly hovering or in flight)
 Reddish Hermit, *Phaethornis ruber*, L (1); RG (2)
Blue-fronted Lancebill, *Doryfera johannae*, Sierra de Lema 900m (1 seen well)
RUFOUS-BREASTED SABREWING, *Campylopterus hyperythrus*, Sierra de Lema 1400m (not seen well)
 White-necked Jacobin, *Florisuga mellivora*, L (4); RG (1-2)
 Brown Violetear, *Colibri delphinae*, Sierra de Lema (abundant at red flowering spikes of *Norantea* (Marcgraviaceae)
 Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*, El Palmar (1F)
 Tufted Coquette, *Lophornis ornatus*, RG (1 seen in rain mainly by DA; others ?)
PEACOCK COQUETTE, *Lophornis pavoninus*, E (1M; 2FF; 1100 and 1400m)
 Racquet-tailed Coquette, *Discosura longicauda*, RG (1F seen briefly)
 Blue-tailed Emerald, *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*, SE (1M); El Palmar (2)
 Fork-tailed Woodnymph, *Thalurania furcata*, all humid areas up to ca. 900m
 White-chinned Sapphire, *Hylocharis cyanus*, RG (3 or more)
 White-tailed Goldenthrout, *Polytmus theresiae*, Santa Elena (ca. 12 km n; 1 briefly)
 White-chested Emerald, *Amazilia chionopectus*, RG (1 seen by bridge)
 Glittering-throated Emerald, *Amazilia fimbriata*, Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park); SE; RG
Copper-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia cupreicauda* seen twice on Sierra de Lema (once mainly by SH)

VELVET-BROWED BRILLIANT, *Heliodoxa xanthonys*, Sierra de Lema (1M briefly in canopy; unusually scarce)

Black-eared Fairy, *Heliothryx aurita*, L; SE; RG

Long-billed Starthroat, *Heliomaster longirostris*, W of SE (1)

Amethyst Woodstar, *Calliphlox amethystine*, Sierra de Lema (1F at 1450m; km 122)

Amazonian White-tailed Trogon, *Trogon viridis*, w of El 88; SE*; RG

Masked Trogon, *Trogon personatus*, Sierra de Lema (4)

*Black-throated Trogon, *Trogon rufus*, hd w of El 88

Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*, rivers and lagoons throughout

Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazona*, W of El Palmar

Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*, Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park)

*Brown Jacamar, *Brachygalba lugubris*, possibly hd ne of Santa Elena by DA

Green-tailed Jacamar, *Galbula albirostris*, RG (1); n of El Palmar (1)

Paradise Jacamar, *Galbula dea*, L (w of San Isidro); RG

Great Jacamar, *Jacamerops aureus*, RG (1 seen by most of group after much work)

Russet-throated Puffbird, *Hypnelus ruficollis*, w of El Palmar (hd and seen well)

Black Nunbird, *Monasa atra*, SE (1 in rain)

Swallow-winged Puffbird, *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*, L; SE and RG

Black-spotted Barbet, *Capito niger*, RG (2)

Green Aracari, *Pteroglossus viridis*, SE; RG

Black-necked Aracari, *Pteroglossus aracari*, RG (several)

Guianan Toucanet, *Selenidera culik*, W of El 88 (2)

Channel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus*, SE; RG

White-throated Toucan, *Ramphastos tucanus*, L; SE; RG; by some still split out as Red-billed Toucan

Golden-spangled Piculet, *Picumnus exilis*, L; Sierra de Lema (900m); SE; RG*

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cruentatus*, L; SE; RG (fine scope studies)

Red-crowned Woodpecker, *Melanerpes rubricapillus*, Pto. Ordaz to El Palmar (dry areas)

Golden-collared Woodpecker, *Veniliornis cassini*, Sierra de Lema; SE; RG*

Yellow-throated Woodpecker, *Piculus flavigula*, SE (1 in scope)

Golden-olive Woodpecker, *Piculus rubiginosus*, Sierra de Lema*; SE

Waved Woodpecker, *Celeus undatus*, Sierra de Lema (hd)

Ringed Woodpecker, *Celeus torquatus*, w of El 88 (2 seen flying overhead several times; calling)

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, SE; RG

Red-necked Woodpecker, *Campephilus rubricollis*, Sierra de Lema (900m); L; SE; RG

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*, RG (1F)

Pale-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albescens*, Gran Sabana; SE; near El Palmar*

Plain-crowned Spinetail, *Synallaxis gujanensis*, RG (1 seen by a few people)

TEPUI SPINETAIL, *Cranioleuca demissa*, E (1 seen 1450m el.)

Yellow-chinned Spinetail, *Synallaxis cinnamomea*, lagoon SW of El Palmar

RORAIMAN BARBTAIL, *Roraimia adusta*, E (beautiful study; 3 seen)

Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*, Sierra de Lema (w/ mixed spp flock; 900m)

Slender-billed Xenops, *Xenops tenuirostris*, Sierra de Lema (1 almost certainly this sp; 900m)

TEPUI (WHITE-THROATED) FOLIAGE-GLEANER, *Automolus roraimae*, Sierra de Lema (1450m; excellent studies)

*Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, *Automolus ochrolaemus*, Sierra de Lema (hd; 900m)

Olive-backed Foliage-gleaner, *Automolus infuscatus*, SE (1 seen by a few)

Black-tailed Leaf-tosser, *Lochmias nematura*, RG (1 seen by almost everyone)

Plain-brown Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*, SE (3 seen)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper, *Sittasomus griseicapillus*, Sierra de Lema (2 at 1450m)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*, almost all forested areas

Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*, SE; RG (hd)

Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus*, Sierra de Lema; w of El 88

Streak-headed Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*, SE; Pto. Ordaz

Lineated Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*, w of El 88 (high in canopy)

Fasciated Antshrike, *Cymbilaimus lineatus*, Sierra de Lema (900m); RG
 Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*, RG (1F)
 Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis*, Río Cuyuní; SE; RG
 Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, n of El Palmar
 Guianan (Northern) Slaty-Antshrike, *Thamnophilus punctatus*, ne of Santa Elena
STREAK-BACKED ANTSHRIKE, *Thamnophilus insignis*, Sierra de Lema (pair)
 Plain Antvireo, *Dysithamnus mentalis*, Sierra de Lema (900m)
 Dusky-throated Antshrike, *Thamnomanes ardesiacus*, SE
 *Pygmy Antwren, *Myrmotherula brachyura*, SE(hd); RG(hd)
 Rufous-bellied Antwren, *Myrmotherula guttata*, RG (1M seen well)
 Brown-bellied Antwren, *Myrmotherula gutturalis*, SE (seen by some); RG (hd)
 *White-flanked Antwren, *Myrmotherula axillaris*, RG (hd)
 Long-winged Antwren, *Myrmotherula longipennis*, SE (3 w/mixed spp. flock)
 Gray Antwren, *Myrmotherula menetriesii*, SE (w/mixed spp. flock)
 *Todd's Antwren, *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus*, SE (hd/taped w of Santa Elena 900m)
RORAIMAN ANTWRN, *Herpsilochmus roraimae*, Sierra de Lema
 Rufous-winged Antwren, *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*, Río Cuyuní (1M briefly)
 Northern White-fringed Antwren, *Formicivora intermedia*, w of El Palmar; previously both forms were regarded as a single species White-fringed Antwren
 Ash-winged Antwren, *Terenura spodiopila*, Sierra de Lema (900m); SE (1 at 900m)
 Gray Antbird, *Cercomacra cinerascens*, SE (1M seen)
 Dusky Antbird, *Cercomacra tyrannina*, RG
 Warbling Antbird, *Hypocnemis cantator*, Sierra de Lema; SE*; RG*
 Black-chinned Antbird, *Hypocnemoides melanopogon*, SE (1MK); RG*
 Ferruginous-backed Antbird, *Myrmeciza ferruginea*, SE (seen beautifully)
 *Black-throated Antbird, *Myrmotherula atrothorax*, W of SE (hd)
 *Spot-backed Antbird, *Hylophylax naevia*, w of El 88 (hd)
 *Scale-backed Antbird, *Hylophylax poecilinota*, w of El 88 (hd)
 *Scaled Antpitta, *Grallaria guatimalensis*, Sierra de Lema (hd; 900m)
 *TEPUI (Brown-breasted) ANTPITTA, *Grallaria simplex*, Sierra de Lema (1400 m; hd)
 Sharpbill, *Oxyruncus cristatus*, Sierra de Lema (1 at 900m)
 *Guianan Red-Cotinga, *Phoenicircus carnifex*, w of El 88 (1 hd once by DA and SH)
RED-BANDED-FRUITEATER, *Pipreola whitelyi*, Sierra de Lema (pair seen in scope!)
 Screaming Piha, *Lipaugus vociferans*, W of SE; hd at RG etc
ROSE-COLLARED PIHA, *Lipaugus streptophorus*, Sierra de Lema (1100-1400m)
 Pompadour Cotinga, *Cotinga cayana*, Sierra de Lema (M and F at 500m)
 Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*, RG
Capuchinbird, *Perissocephalus tricolor*, L (nice study at lek)
White Bellbird, *Procnias alba*, E (MM calling; also 2 MM on same song perch)
 *Bearded Bellbird, *Procnias averano*, Sierra de Lema (hd)
Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, *Rupicola rupicola*, E (only 2 at 900m; 1M at 1400m)
OLIVE MANAKIN, *Chloropipo uniformis*, Sierra de Lema (1 seen by most of group)
 White-bearded Manakin, *Manacus manacus*, w of SE
 Blue-backed Manakin, *Chiroxiphia pareola*, n of El Palmar (1F seen; others hd)
 White-crowned Manakin, *Dixiphia (Pipra) pipra*, w of El 88 (1M); SE (mostly hd)
 Blue-crowned Manakin, *Lepidothrix coronata*, w of SE (2)
 Golden-headed Manakin, *Pipra erythrocephala*, w of SE; RG*
SCARLET-HORNED MANAKIN, *Pipra cornuta*, Sierra de Lema
ORANGE-BELLIED (Tepui) MANAKIN, *Pipra suavissima*, Sierra de Lema
 *Striped Manakin, *Machaeropterus regulus*, w of SE (only hd despite much work)
 *Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin, *Tyrannetes stolzmanni*, w of SE (hd)
 Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, *Tyrannetes virescens*, RG (seen)
 Wing-barred Piprites, *Piprites chloris*, Sierra de Lema (seen at 900m); w of Santa Elena (hd)
 Thrush-like Schiffornis, *Schiffornis turdina*, L; SE*; RG (seen well)

*White-lored Tyrannulet, *Ornithion inerme*, w of SE (hd)
 Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, El Palmar area
 Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, *Phaeomyias murina*, Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park)
 Yellow Tyrannulet, *Capsiempis flaveola*, n of Río Grande (pair nicely)
 Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannulus elatus*, hd all areas; seen w of Santa Elena
 Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*, hd in most forested areas; seen at RG
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia, *Elaenia flavogaster*, Tumeremo; SE; El Palmar area
 Plain-crested Elaenia, *Elaenia cristata*, several on GS
GREAT ELAENIA, *Elaenia dayi*, GS (1 seen well)
 Sierran Elaenia, *Elaenia pallatangae*, Sierra de Lema (1 seen; 1450m)
 *Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, *Mionectes oleaginous*, w of El 88 (hd)
 McConnell's Flycatcher, *Mionectes macconnelli*, RG (highland form on Sierra de Lema)
 Sepia-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*, Sierra de Lema (900m); SE (1)
BLACK-FRONTED TYRANNULET, *Phylloscartes nigrifrons*, Sierra de Lema (pr)
 Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias griseiceps*, w of SE
 Slender-footed Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius gracilipes*, w of El 88; w of SE; RG
 Northern Scrub-Flycatcher, *Sublegatus arenarum orinocensis*, w of El Palmar
 *Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, *Euscarthmus meloryphus*, w of El Palmar (hd; taped)
 Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, *Myiornis ecaudatus*, W of SE (1 seen well)
 Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus galeatus*, Sierra de Lema (seen); hd elsewhere
 Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus pilaris*, Pto. Ordaz (one 1st day); w of El Palmar (hd)
 Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, *Poecilotriccus Sylvia*, n of El Palmar
 Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*, Gran Sabana (hd and seen)
RUDDY-TODY-FLYCATCHER, *Poecilotriccus russatum*, Sierra de Lema (beautifully)
 *Painted Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum pictum*, RG (hd)
 Common Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum cinereum*, disturbed areas everywhere
 Yellow-olive Flatbill (Flycatcher), *Tolmomyias sulphureus*, Pto. Ordaz; Sierra de Lema (900m); Río Cuyuní;
 around El Palmar
 Zimmer's Flatbill (Yellow-margined Flycatcher), *Tolmomyias assimilis*, Sierra de Lema; w of Santa Elena
 Gray-crowned Flatbill (Flycatcher), *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*, RG (1 seen)
 Ochre-lored Flatbill (Yellow-breasted Flycatcher), *Tolmomyias flaviventris*, Pto Ordaz; SE*
 *Golden-crowned Spadebill, *Platyrinchus coronatus*, RG (hd by SH)
 White-crested Spadebill, *Platyrinchus platyrhynchos*, RG (1 seen)
 Bran-colored Flycatcher, *Myiophobus fasciatus*, Gran Sabana (1)
 Cliff Flycatcher, *Hirundinea ferruginea*, Piedra de la Virgin (Sierra de Lema)
 Euler's Flycatcher, *Lathrotriccus euleri*, ne of Santa Elena (Río Uairén)
 Smoke-colored Pewee, *Contopus fumigatus*, Sierra de Lema (900m)
 Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, w of El Palmar (1); Pto. Ordaz
 Smoke-colored Pewee, *Contopus fumigatus*, Sierra de Lema
 Pied Water-Tyrant, *Fluvicola pica*, w of El Palmar; Cachamay Park
 White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*, w of El Palmar (building nest)
 Long-tailed Tyrant, *Colonia colonus*, RG
 Cattle Tyrant, *Machetornis rixosus*, Tumeremo; w of El Palmar; Pto. Ordaz
 *Cinnamon Attila, *Attila cinnamomeus*, RG (hd)
 *Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*, W of SE (hd by SH and DA); RG (hd)
 Cinereous Mourner, *Laniocera hypopyrra*, RG (near Harpy Eagle nest)
 Grayish Mourner, *Rhytipterna simplex*, w of SE
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*, w of SE*
 Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*, w of Santa Elena (2)
 Brown-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tyrannulus*, w of El Palmar
 Lesser Kiskadee, *Philohydor lictor*, Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park); RG
 Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*, most lower el. areas
 Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*, Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park); w of El 88; RG
 Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*, Pto. Ordaz to Santa Elena (all areas)

Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*, El Palmar area and Pto. Ordaz
 Yellow-throated Flycatcher, *Conopias parva*, RG
 Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*, Río Cuyuní
 Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaius*, virtually all lower el. areas (hd. or seen)
Variegated Flycatcher, *Empidonomus varius*, RG (4 seen; at least partly migratory here)
White-throated Kingbird, *Tyrannus albogularis*, 3 near Santa Elena de Uairén
 Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannulus melancholicus*, all lower el. Areas
 Gray Kingbird, *Tyrannus dominicensis*, w of El Palmar (1 in scopes)
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana*, all open areas; loose groups of 20-30 near Santa Elena
 White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*, SE (1M)
 Black-capped Becard, *Pachyramphus marginatus*, Sierra de Lema (hd); w of El 88
 Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*, Pto. Ordaz (M in Cachamay Park)
 Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*, w of SE; RG
 Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*, all open areas
 White-winged Swallow, *Tachycineta albiventer*, lowlands near water
 Blue-&-white Swallow, *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*, Sierra de Lema (a few at 1100m)
Tawny-headed Swallow, *Alopochelidon fucata*, GS (a dozen over grasslands)
Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*, town of Río Grande (1 seen Feb 2 by SH; unfortunately not by group; 1st rec in eastern Venez)

Bicolored Wren, *Campylorhynchus griseus*, N of SE (pair seen well; plus a single)
 Coraya Wren, *Thryothorus coraya*, Sierra de Lema; RG (hd)
 Buff-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus leucotis*, Santa Elena; El Palmar;
 House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, almost all areas
FLUTIST WREN, *Microcerculus marginatus*, Sierra de Lema
 Musician Wren, *Cyphorhinus arada*, RG (2-3 seen by some; difficult)
 Tropical Mockingbird, *Mimus gilvus*, all semiopen areas
Rufous-brown Solitaire, *Cichlopsis leucogenys*, Sierra de Lema (25+ in fruiting melastomes; 1400m)
 Black-hooded Thrush, *Turdus olivater*, Sierra de Lema (5 at 1300-1450m)
 Pale-breasted Thrush, *Turdus leucomelas*, settled lower el areas
 Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, Sierra de Lema (about 6; 1400m; 20+ w of Santa Elena)
 Bare-eyed Thrush, *Turdus nudigenis*, Santa Elena (Río Uairén; 1); El Palmar (1)
 White-necked Thrush, *Turdus albicollis*, Sierra de Lema (900-1450m); RG*
 Long-billed Gnatwren, *Ramphocaenus melanurus*, Sierra de Lema (900m); w of SE (hd)
 Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila plumbea*, Pto. Ordaz to El Palmar
 *Cayenne Jay, *Cyanocorax cayanus*, W of San Isidro (hd); w of Santa Elena (hd); RG (hd)
 Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, Pto. Ordaz (w/yellow crissum of resident race); SE; Río Cuyuní
TEPUI GREENLET, *Hylophilus sclateri*, Sierra de Lema (900 to 1450m))
 Buff-cheeked Greenlet, *Hylophilus muscicapinus*, Sierra de Lema (900m); SE (hd); RG(hd)
 Scrub Greenlet, *Hylophilus flavipes*, Pto. Ordaz; n of El Palmar; Río Cuyuní
 Tawny-crowned Greenlet, *Hylophilus ochraceiceps*, w of SE (w/mixed spp flock)
 Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, *Vireolanius leucotis*, Sierra de Lema (1 seen by only a few persons)
 Rufous-browed Peppershrike, *Cyclarhis gujanensis*, Gran Sabana; s of Santa Elena; hd other scrub areas
 Tropical Parula, *Parula pitiayumi*, Pto. Ordaz; w of El 88; w of El Palmar; Pto. Ordaz
 Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*, Pto Ordaz (12+); Río Cuyuní (2); El Palmar
 Blackpoll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*, w of SE (1 seen by SH)
 American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*, Pto. Ordaz to w of Santa Elena
 Slate-throated Whitestart, *Myioborus miniatus*, Sierra de Lema (900m).
TEPUI WHITESTART (Redstart), *Myioborus brunneiceps*, Sierra de Lema (4); recent split (see Ridgely and Tudor; Birds of South America, Vol. 1; 1989 for details; formerly called Brown-capped Redstart.
 Roraiman Warbler, *Basileuterus roraimae*, Sierra de Lema (900m); split from Two-banded Warbler, *B. bivittatus*
 Golden-crowned Warbler, *Basileuterus culicivorus*, w of SE (900m); n of El Palmar
 *Riverside Warbler (Neotropical River Warbler), *Basileuterus rivularis*, RG (hd)
Rose-breasted Chat, *Granatellus pelzelni*, RG (M beautifully; F by some)

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, all areas (two subspp)
 Black-faced Tanager, *Schistochlamys melanops*, Gran Sabana; w of Santa Elena
 Magpie Tanager, *Cissopis leveriana*, w of Santa Elena (900m); RG
 Guira Tanager, *Hemithraupis guira*, w of SE
 Yellow-backed Tanager, *Hemithraupis flavicollis*, w of Santa Elena
OLIVE-BACKED TANAGER, *Mitrospingus oleagineus*, Sierra de Lema
 Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, *Lanio fulvus*, Sierra de Lema (900m)
 Flame-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus cristatus*, w of Santa Elena
 Fulvous-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus surinamus*, Sierra de Lema (1000m); w of Santa Elena
 White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus*, w of Santa Elena (M and F; 900m)
 White-lined Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufus*, w of Santa Elena (M and F; 900m); Río Cuyuní; RG
 Red-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus phoeniceus*, Sierra de Lema (1000m)
 Highland Hepatic-Tanager, *Piranga lutea*, w of SE (1M); this form may eventually be split as separate sp
 White-winged Tanager, *Piranga leucoptera*, Sierra de Lema (900m)
 Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphastos carbo*, all areas
 Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, all areas
 Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*, all areas
 *Blue-backed Tanager, *Cyanicterus cyanicterus*, w of San Isidro (hd for extended period but never seen)
 Plumbeous Euphonia, *Euphonia plumbea*, w of Santa Elena (pair)
 [Purple-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia chlorotica*, Río Cuyuní bridge (probably this sp seen first day but cannot distinguish with certainty from Trinidad Euphonia is this zone of overlap)]
 Trinidad Euphonia, *Euphonia trinitatis*, n of El Palmar
 Violaceous Euphonia, *Euphonia violacea*, all lower els
 White-lored Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*, Río Grande (1M in big clearing)
 White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*, w of SE
 Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*, Sierra de Lema
 Golden-sided Euphonia, *Euphonia cayanaensis*, hd w of El 88 by SH; 1F came briefly to tape at RG
Blue-naped Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia cyanea*, Sierra de Lema (900-1450m; unusual no of sightings)
 Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*, most humid lower els w/forest disturbance
 Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*, Sierra de Lema (1400m); w of SE; RG
Green-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*, W of SE (8-10 seen)
 Yellow-bellied Tanager, *Tangara xanthogastra*, Sierra de Lema
 Spotted Tanager, *Tangara punctata*, w of SE (15+ at 900m)
 Speckled Tanager, *Tangara guttata*, Sierra de Lema (900m and higher)
 Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola*, Sierra de Lema (900m); RG
 Burnished-buff Tanager, *Tangara cayana*, Upata; GS: SE; around El Palmar
 *Masked Tanager, *Tangara nigrocincta*, w of SE (hd by DA and SH)
 Black-headed Tanager, *Tangara cyanoptera*, Sierra de Lema (1400m area; in fruiting melastomes)
 Opal-rumped Tanager, *Tangara velia*, w of El 88; w of SE (900m)
 Black-faced Dacnis, *Dacnis lineata*, w of El 88 (M by SH); w of SE (1F)
 Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*, almost all humid forested lower els.
 Green Honeycreeper, *Chlorophanes spiza*, most humid lowland areas (fewer than prev yrs)
 Purple Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*, most humid lowland forest up to 900m+
 Red-legged Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes cyaneus*, most humid forested areas up to 1450m
 Swallow-Tanager, *Tersina viridis*, w of SE (several; 900m)
 Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, bushy and grassy roadsides throughout
 Gray Seedeater, *Sporophila intermedia*, Tumeremo; El Palmar area; Pto. Ordaz
 Yellow-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila nigricollis*, town of Río Grande (M & F)
 Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, *Sporophila minuta*, GS; s of SE; w of El Palmar
 Lesser (Chestnut-bellied) Seed-Finch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*, humid lower els to 900m
 Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*, n of SE; Tumeremo; w of El Palmar; Pto. Ordaz
 Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, *Emberizoides herbicola*, w and n of Santa Elena
 Red-capped Cardinal, *Paroaria gularis*, Pto. Ordaz (1st and last day)
TEPUI BRUSH-FINCH, *Atlapetes personatus*, Sierra de Lema

Pectoral Sparrow, *Arremon taciturnus*, Sierra de Lema (hd at 900m)
 Grassland Sparrow, *Ammodramus humeralis*, n of Santa Elena (1 in scope; 900m)
 Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*, Sierra de Lema
 Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*, El Palmar area
 Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*, w of SE; RG
 Slate-colored Grosbeak, *Saltator grossus*, Sierra de Lema (900m); RG (hd)
Orinocan Saltator, *Saltator orenocensis*, Pto. Ordaz (1 beautifully)
 Yellow-green Grosbeak, *Caryothraustes canadensis*, humid forests up to 950m
 Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Agelaius icterocephalus*, flocks at lagoon w of El Palmar
 Red-breasted Blackbird, *Sturnella militaris*, e of El Palmar
 Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*, w and n of Santa Elena; El Palmar
 Carib Grackle, *Quiscalus lugubris*, Pto. Ordaz; lagoon w of El Palmar
 [Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, possibly 1 seen in Tumeremo/Guasipati area by Jim C)]
 Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*, w of SE (1); RG
 Moriche Oriole, *Icterus chrysoccephalus*, Sierra de Lema (900m); SE
 Yellow Oriole, *Icterus nigrogularis*, Pto. Ordaz; w and n of El Palmar
 Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*, lowland areas
 Red-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus uropygialis*, w of El 88 (hd); RG (two active nest colonies)
 Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*, all partly forested humid lowland areas w/disturbance
 Green Oropendola, *Psarocolius viridis*, RG (many seen well)
 Olive Oropendola, *Psarocolius yuracares* (or *Gymnostinops bifasciatus*), w of Santa Elena (1 in flight)
GOLDEN-TUFTED MOUNTAIN-GRACKLE, *Macroagelaius imthurni*, Sierra de Lema (many including one
 large flock of perhaps 25); previously called Golden-tufted Grackle

ca. 403 species of birds

Names follow Hilty (2003) *Birds of Venezuela*; names in Clements (2000) *Birds of the World* and older works are usually given in parentheses

MAMMALS:

Identifications from Omar J. Linares, 1998. *Mamíferos de Venezuela*. Soc. Conservacionista Audubon de Venez.

Red Howler Monkey, *Alouatta seniculus*, hd. in lowland forests including RG; seen near El Palmar

Weeping (Wedge-headed) Capuchin Monkey, *Cebus olivaceus*, El Palmar area

Common Opossum, *Didelphus marsupialis*. Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park); this is the same species that occurs throughout eastern and part of western North America and throughout Central America

Other fauna:

Spectacled Caiman, Pto. Ordaz (Cachamay Park)