



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Colombia Highlights: Santa Marta Extension

### Trip Report

*3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013*



Santa Marta Parakeets by Adam Riley

Trip report compiled by tour Leader: Rob Williams

Rockjumper Birding Tours



### Tour Intro

This 6 day extension to our Colombia Highlights (and also our Andean Endemics) tour is designed to complement the latter and focusses on the endemics and near-endemics to be found in the Santa Marta Mountains (one of the world's most unique endemic hotspots), as well as the Guajira peninsula.

Santa Marta is a biogeographical phenomenon; an isolated massif rising from the Caribbean to its highest point at 5,775 m (18,946 feet) that is totally separated from the main Andean cordilleras. This isolation has allowed much speciation to occur and the area is now home to some 24 endemic birds, of which 23 can be found on the road from Minca to El Dorado and the San Lorenzo Ridge. Many of these endemics are rare, low density and hard to find, so birding the areas therefore requires time as one needs to visit various altitudes and sub-habitats, not to mention dedication and a dose of luck.

In addition, the Guajira peninsula allows access to a normally arid ecosystem (this time it was positively wet and very green after exceptionally heavy rains!) shared only with Venezuela. Many of the birds here are not endemic but, given Venezuela's current political situation, access there is very hard and unsafe, so these birds are effectively only available in Colombia.

### Tour Summary

Day one saw the group meet in Bogota, just in time for our flight north to the coastal city of Barranquilla. Arriving in Barranquilla we quickly arranged things and headed to the hotel for lunch and then out for a few hours birding. We were soon finding common species for the area including the spectacular Bicoloured Wren, obliging Russet-throated Puffbird and our target bird, the endemic Chestnut-winged Chachalaca.

We made an early start the next morning to Isla Salamanca National Park, arriving just as it got



Chestnut-winged Chachalaca by Adam Riley

light. We quickly found our main target bird here, the endemic Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird – in fact we had great looks at 2 or possibly 3 males. After enjoying a field breakfast we then birded the area around the visitor centre and the surrounding trails, catching up with a good variety of birds including many migrant Prothonotary Warblers, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Black-crested Antshrike and Bicoloured Conebill.

Heading on we stopped roadside for looks at 3 American Flamingos en route to the side road at Kilometre 4. Here we found a variety of wetland and open country birds including both Band-backed and Stripe-backed Wrens.

We then continued towards Santa Marta, stopping to scour a few coastal areas and adding waders, waterfowl, herons and terns en route. Arriving in Minca we stopped for lunch at the Hotel Minca where, despite the rain, we enjoyed the hummingbird feeders with ten species being seen, as well as Collared Araçari and Keel-billed Toucan in a fruiting *Cecropia* tree beside the dining room. Here we changed to the 4WD vehicles to head up the rough road to El Dorado. We birded our way up the lower elevations finding some flocks in the coffee plantations and enjoying views of several good birds, including Golden-winged Sparrow, Black-chested Jay and Yellow-backed Oriole. At dusk we found our first Santa Marta endemics in the form of White-lored Warbler, Santa Marta Brush Finch, Santa Marta (Long-tailed) Antbird and Santa Marta Tapaculo. We arrived at the lodge to find that the electricity to the whole area was out and therefore enjoyed a candle-lit dinner to celebrate a great day's birding: we had



notched up an impressive 167 species, and it was also Horace's 86th Birthday! Two Crab-eating Foxes lingered outside the lodge as we walked to our rooms...

Dawn broke the following day with spectacular views and a frenzy of activity at the hummingbird feeders; these feeders provided us with nine species over the day, including the stunning endemic White-tailed Starfrontlet, the diminutive endemic Santa Marta Woodstar, and a spectacular male Lazuline Sabrewing.

Birding around the lodge we soon enjoyed good looks at the usually hard-to-see Black-fronted Wood Quail and the endemic Sierra Nevada Brush Finch (sometimes called Colombian



White-tailed Starfrontlet by Adam Riley

Brush Finch). Heading up hill a few kilometres we enjoyed a flush of new birds and several more endemics including Rusty-headed Spinetail, Yellow-crowned Whitestart and Santa Marta Mountain Tanager.

In the afternoon we journeyed down in altitude to search for the endemic Blossomcrown. While we found one easily enough, getting good views for all required a little patience but eventually we all had great looks at this retiring, understorey hummingbird. We then worked our way back to the lodge though worsening weather meant birding was slow.

We made a very early start the next morning up to the San Lorenzo ridge in order to arrive for dawn – and it was certainly worth it. As we stood in the chill morning air we heard the birds start singing as we watched the first daylight emerging behind the spectacular peaks to our east. Before it was fully light, the first Santa Marta Parakeets flew into a tree beside us, frustrating attempts to see them well; fortunately however more came and hung around until well after dawn, allowing great views for all, including scope views and eye-level photo opportunities of this endangered and localized species. Two very tame Santa Marta Brush Finches then entertained us as they took crumbs that fell from our sandwiches, while a male Black-backed Thornbill was watched feeding high in a tree and being chased by Tyrian Metaltails (an endemic subspecies). We also heard and quickly located a very confiding endangered endemic, Santa Marta Bush Tyrant, and enjoyed close looks at this great bird in wonderful morning light. Two Santa Marta Warblers soon appeared and shared a bush with a fantastic Flammulated Treehunter. We then birded the trail through the high altitude forest, finding some flocks that held a selection of good birds including Plushcap.

We then birded our way back to the lodge for lunch before heading back down to Minca. En route we chased up a few outstanding endemics and got them all, with looks at Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner, Santa Marta Antbird and Santa Marta Tapaculo. Just before we arrived to Minca we stopped to scope a Black-and-white Owl in a day roost. We arrived just as it started to rain and enjoyed the last minutes of light at the hummingbird feeders.



Plushcap by Adam Riley



We started the following day slowly while dodging heavy rain showers in the hotel grounds. After breakfast we headed down the road, birding as we went, and were soon rewarded with better bird activity. We found a series of small flocks and quickly picked up some nice birds including Scaled Piculet, Pale-tipped Inezia, Golden-fronted Greenlet and Western Slaty Antshrike.

We lunched near PN Tayrona and then headed on into the Guajira peninsula, with a roadside stop showing the changing avifauna as we found Double-striped Thick-knees, Carib Grackles, Grey Kingbird and Grey Seedeater – all clear indications that we were moving into drier and more open habitats.

Arriving at Parque Nacional Los Flamencos we started birding the main lagoon area, which had very high water levels due to the intense rain of the previous weeks. Large numbers of gulls, terns, waders and herons were scattered across the vast lagoon: highlights included both American White and Scarlet Ibis, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Reddish Egret and over 100 Least Terns. We also found a few unusual birds in the form of Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls, Elegant Tern and Double-crested Cormorant. As dusk came a huge congregation of thousands of hirundines formed over the lagoon and beach, mostly Barn Swallows but some Bank Swallows and Purple Martins were also seen. And then, as we drove to the hotel, Common Nighthawks filled the sky, a great end to a great day.

The last morning we again started early, as it soon warms up in the Guajira peninsula. We watched dawn over a wet grassland where Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and Limpkins provided a



Santa Marta Warbler by Adam Riley

spectacular soundscape, and a single Comb Duck flew in with a group of whistling ducks. Then we headed into the challenging, normally dry, dry forest. We birded an old road which made easy walking and gradually picked up the birds we needed: Blue-crowned Parrot, White-whiskered Spinetail, Vermillion Cardinal, Slender-billed Inezia, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, Orinoco Saltator, Buffy Hummingbird, Black-faced Grassquit and Chestnut Piculet, amongst others. A brief view of a Grey-capped Cuckoo was unusual, as was a Grey Catbird. As the heat increased we tried a few

last stops and found a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl being mobbed by a variety of birds including a Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, our last new bird of the trip.

It was, sadly, then time to head for the airport and our flight to Bogota (with welcome showers and laundry facilities), after a hot morning and the rain of the last few days. We enjoyed a final dinner together in a restaurant near the hotel and celebrated Jerry's birthday while reminiscing about a great trip and many fantastic birds, but we also looked forward to the main tour still to come.

## Trip List

**Total Bird Species Recorded: 314 (Including 24 Colombia Endemics)**

### CHACHALACAS, CURRASSOWS & GUANS

**Chestnut-winged Chachalaca (E)**

Good looks at several in the later afternoon just north of Barranquilla.



**Rufous-vented Chachalaca**

One seen briefly as we travelled to the Guajira peninsula.

**Sickle-winged Guan**

3 seen by Jerry and Rob on a trail near the

**NEW WORLD QUAILS**

**Crested Bobwhite**

Several heard and Bill saw one the first afternoon.

**Black-fronted Wood Quail**

Good looks at a group visiting the compost heap at El Dorado.

**DUCKS & GEESE**

**White-faced Whistling Duck**

1 seen.

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck**

Quite good numbers seen in lowlands, probably due to recent heavy rain creating many temporary pools.

**Blue-winged Teal**

Many on all freshwater habitats and a big flock flying over the sea.

**White-cheeked Pintail**

1 seen on a coastal lagoon.

**Comb Duck**

A single with whistling-ducks on Guajira peninsula.

**FLAMINGOS**

**American Flamingo**

3 seen near PN Salamanca and 2 flew over the last morning on Guajira.

**STORKS**

**Wood Stork**

Four seen in Guajira.

**IBISES & SPOONBILLS**

**[American] White Ibis**

Several seen at PN Los Flamencos.

**Scarlet Ibis**

One seen at PN Los Flamencos.

**Glossy Ibis**

A few in the coastal lowlands.

**Bare-faced Ibis**

Five near Barranquilla.

**Roseate Spoonbill**

A few in the coastal lowlands.

**BITTERNs & HERONS**

**Black-crowned Night Heron**

10 in and around PN Salamanca.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron**

1 at PN Salamanca and 2 at PN Los Flamencos.



**Green Heron**

A few in the lowlands.

**Striated Heron**

About 10 in and around PNS.

**[Western] Cattle Egret**

Fairly common.

**Cocoi Heron**

10 at PN Salamanca.

**Great Blue Heron**

Fairly common along coast.

**Great Egret**

Common in lowlands.

**Reddish Egret**

Common along coast.

**Tricoloured Heron**

Fairly common along coast.

**Little Blue Heron**

Fairly common along coast.

**Snowy Egret**

Common along coast.

**Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**

A single at PNS.

**FRIGATEBIRDS**

**Magnificent Frigatebird**

A few seen on the coast.

**PELICANS**

**Brown Pelican**

Common on coast.

**CORMORANTS**

**Neotropic Cormorant**

Seen at various sites.

**Double-crested Cormorant**

A single at PNLF.

**NEW WORLD VULTURES**

**Turkey Vulture**

Common.

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture**

One seen in Guajira.

**Black Vulture**

Common.

**OSPREYS**

**Western Osprey**

Fairly common.



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## KITES, HAWKS & EAGLES

### **Pearl Kite**

Two en route from Minca to Guajira.

### **Snail Kite**

Several near PN Salamanca.

### **Crane Hawk**

One seen en route to Guajira.

### **Savanna Hawk**

Four seen in Guajira.

### **Roadside Hawk**

One en route to Guajira.

### **Grey[-lined] Hawk**

One near Minca.

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Fairly common in highlands.

### **Short-tailed Hawk**

One soaring near Minca.

## CARACARAS, FALCONS

### **Northern [Crested] Caracara**

Fairly common in lowlands.

### **Yellow-headed Caracara**

Fairly common in lowlands.

### **Collared Forest Falcon**

Heard above Minca.

### **American Kestrel**

Two seen.

### **Aplomado Falcon**

Two in Guajira.

### **Merlin**

One near Barranquilla, two in PN Los Plamencos.

### **Peregrine Falcon**

One female over PN Salamanca.

## RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS

### **[American] Purple Gallinule**

Common in PN Salamanca.

### **Common Gallinule (Moorhen)**

Common in PN Salamanca.

## LIMPKIN

### **Limpkin**

Fairly common in lowland wetlands.

## THICK-KNEES

### **Double-striped Thick Knee**

Two seen, nice scope views, en route to Guajira.

## OYSTERCATCHERS



**American Oystercatcher**

Two on coast

**STILTS, AVOCETS**

**Black-necked Stilt**

Many.

**PLOVERS**

**Southern Lapwing**

Common along coast.

**Grey (Black-bellied) Plover**

4 seen along the coast.

**Semipalmated Plover**

4 seen along the coast.

**JACANAS**

**Wattled Jacana**

Common in lowland wetlands.

**SANDPIPERS, SNIPES**

**Short-billed Dowitcher**

Fairly common along the coast.

**Whimbrel**

Fairly common along the coast.

**Greater Yellowlegs**

Fairly common along the coast.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

Fairly common along the coast.

**Upland Sandpiper**

Three in a roadside field en route to La Guajira.

**Solitary Sandpiper**

A few on the coast.

**Willet**

Fairly common along the coast.

**Spotted Sandpiper**

Fairly common along the coast.

**Least Sandpiper**

3 on the coast.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

Several in a roadside field en route to Guajira peninsula.

**Western Sandpiper**

Two on the coast.

**GULLS & TERNS**

**Black Skimmer**

About 50 at PN Los Flamencos.

**Ring-billed Gull**

A single at PNLF.

**Laughing Gull**

Common on the coast.





**Franklin's Gull**

A single at PNLF.

**Gull-billed Tern**

Fairly common along the coast.

**Caspian Tern**

Common along the coast.

**Royal Tern**

Common along the coast.

**Elegant Tern**

Two at PNLF

**Cabot's (Sandwich) Tern**

Common along the coast.

**Least Tern**

Common at PN Los Flamencos.

**Common Tern**

Uncommon on coast.

**PIGEONS & DOVES**

**Rock Dove**

Common in urban areas.

**Pale-vented Pigeon**

A single whilst driving to the Guajira peninsula.

**Bare-eyed Pigeon**

Common on the Guajira peninsula.

**Eared Dove**

Common in the lowlands.

**Scaled Dove**

Quite common in lowlands in more arid habitats.

**Common Ground Dove**

Common in lowlands.

**Ruddy Ground Dove**

Common in lowlands.

**White-tipped Dove**

Fairly common.

**Lined Quail-Dove**

A few glimpses on trails in the highlands.

**PARROTS**

**Military Macaw**

One heard calling but may have been a captive bird as seemingly originated from the vicinity of a farmhouse.

**Blue-crowned Parakeet**

5 at PN Los Flamencos.

**Scarlet-fronted Parakeet**

Common at Santa Marta.

**Brown-throated Parakeet**

Common in lowlands.

**Santa Marta Parakeet (E)**

Great looks at flocks totalling about 25 birds at the upper elevations in Santa Marta. Scope views of feeding birds in good light and pictures.



**Green-rumped Parrotlet**

Fairly common in the lowlands.

**Orange-chinned Parakeet**

Fairly common in the lowlands.

**Blue-headed Parrot**

Two seen on the drive to Guajira.

**Red-billed Parrot**

Heard near Minca.

**Scaly-naped Amazon**

Fairly common in Santa Marta highlands.

**CUCKOOS**

**Groove-billed Ani**

Fairly common in the lowlands.

**Smooth-billed Ani**

A few near Barranquilla.

**Squirrel Cuckoo**

A couple seen near Minca.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

One seen well near Camarones.

**Grey-capped Cuckoo**

One seen briefly near Camarones.

**OWLS**

**Spectacled Owl**

One heard near El Dorado Lodge.

**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl**

One in the grounds of the Hotel Minca and one in Guajira.

**Black-and-white Owl**

Scope views of one roosting in bamboo near the town of Minca.

**NIGHTJARS**

**Common Nighthawk**

Several on the coast.

**SWIFTS**

**White-collared Swift**

A flock of about 10 on the drive to Guajira.

**Chimney Swift**

A single below Minca.

**Black Swift**

A big flock migrating over en route to La Guajira.

**HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Rufous-breasted (Hairy) Hermit**

A single visiting the feeders at Hotel Minca.

**Pale-bellied Hermit**

A single visiting the feeders at Hotel Minca.

**Sooty-capped Hermit**

A single near Minca.



**Lazuline Sabrewing**

One regular at the feeder at El Dorado Lodge.

**Santa Marta Sabrewing (E) Cr**

A couple of singles seen at Minca.

**White-necked Jacobin**

Common at Minca Hotel feeders.

**Green Violetear**

Common in Santa Marta.

**Sparkling Violetear**

Common in Santa Marta.

**Black-throated Mango**

A single in the lowlands.

**Red-billed Emerald**

Common at Minca Hotel feeders.

**Crowned Woodnymph**

Common in Santa Marta highlands.

**Sapphire-throated Hummingbird**

A single at the last stop of the tour on the Guajira peninsula.

**Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird (E)**

At least two males seen well at the PNS headquarters.

**Shining-green Hummingbird**

A single in PNLF.

**Buffy Hummingbird**

Two birds seen at PNLF.

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**

Common at Minca Hotel feeders.

**Steely-vented Hummingbird**

Common at Minca Hotel feeders.

**Blossomcrown (E)**

Great looks at several in Santa Marta.

**White-vented Plumeleteer**

Common at Minca Hotel feeders.

**White-tailed Starfrontlet (E)**

Several of this spectacular endemic at El Dorado Lodge.

**Black-backed Thornbill (E)**

A single seen in the Santa Marta highlands.

**Tyrian Metaltail**

Common in Santa Marta highlands.

**Long-billed Starthroat**

A single near Minca.

**Santa Marta Woodstar (E)**

A single coming regularly to the feeders at El Dorado lodge.

**TROGONS**

**White-tipped Quetzal**

A single in the Santa Marta highlands.

**Gartered Trogon**

A single near Minca.

**Masked Trogon**

Four seen in the Santa Marta highlands.



## KINGFISHERS

### **Green Kingfisher**

Two in the lowlands.

### **Amazon Kingfisher**

Three in the Guajira peninsula.

### **Ringed Kingfisher**

Common in and around PNS.

## MOTMOTS

### **Whooping Motmot**

Two pairs found near Minca.

## JACAMARS

### **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**

Several seen in Guajira.

## PUFFBIRDS

### **Russet-throated Puffbird**

Common in the arid lowlands.

## TOUCANS

### **Santa Marta (Emerald) Toucanet (E)**

Heard and seen a few times near El Dorado Lodge.

### **Groove-billed Toucanet**

Two in Santa Marta.

### **Collared Aracari**

Two at Minca.

### **Keel-billed Toucan**

Four at Minca.

## WOODPECKERS

### **Scaled Piculet**

A single below Minca.

### **Chestnut Piculet**

A single seen well on Guajira peninsula.

### **Red-crowned Woodpecker**

Fairly common in lowlands.

### **Golden-green Woodpecker**

A single near Minca.

### **Golden-olive Woodpecker**

Two in Santa Marta.

### **Crimson-crested Woodpecker**

A single above Minca.

## OVENBIRDS

### **Caribbean (Pale-legged) Hornero**

A few seen on the Guajira peninsula.

### **White-whiskered Spinetail**



About 20 of this amazing-looking furnarid on the Guajira peninsula.

**Rusty-headed Spinetail (E)**

Great looks at several in the Santa Marta highlands.

**Streak-capped Spinetail**

Good looks in the Santa Marta highlands.

**Yellow-chinned Spinetail**

About 5 at PNS.

**Spotted Barbtail**

A single seen well in Santa Marta, others heard.

**Flammulated Treehunter**

Two on the San Lorenzo ridge. Gave very good looks.

**Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner (E)**

A very cooperative pair teased us for a while but then showed well.

**Montane Foliage-gleaner**

Two in Santa Marta.

**Grey-throated Leaftosser**

Heard in Santa Marta.

**Plain Xenops**

A single in Santa Marta.

**Plain-brown Woodcreeper**

A single in Santa Marta.

**Strong-billed Woodcreeper**

A single in Santa Marta.

**Cocoa Woodcreeper**

A single in Santa Marta.

**Straight-billed Woodcreeper**

Fairly common in xeric habitats in the lowlands.

**Montane Woodcreeper**

A few seen in the Santa Marta highlands.

**ANTBIRDS**

**Black-crested Antshrike**

Fairly common in the lowlands.

**Barred Antshrike**

Three near PNS.

**Western Slaty Antshrike**

Two seen well below Minca.

**[Northern] White-fringed Antwren**

Common on the Guajira peninsula.

**Santa Marta (Long-tailed) Antbird (E)**

A couple of pairs were found and finally one very cooperative individual showed well.

**ANTPITTAS**

**Santa Marta Antpitta (E)**

Heard in Santa Marta highlands.

**[Santa Marta Rufous Antpitta] (E)**

Several heard and one glimpsed in the Santa Marta highlands.

**Rusty-breasted Antpitta**

A couple heard in mature forest in Santa Marta.



## TAPACULOS

### **Santa Marta Tapaculo (E)**

Common but very hard to see in the highlands of Santa Marta. One eventually seen reasonably.

### **Brown-rumped Tapaculo (E)**

Common by voice but frustrated us trying to see it apart from one quick view.

## TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

### **Black-capped Tyrannulet**

A single in Santa Marta.

### **Forest Elaenia**

A single in Santa Marta foothills.

### **Greenish Elaenia**

A single in Santa Marta foothills.

### **Yellow-bellied Elaenia**

A single in Santa Marta foothills.

### **Lesser Elaenia**

Two in the grounds of the Hotel Minca.

### **Southern Beardless Tyrannulet**

A single in the lowlands.

### **White-throated Tyrannulet**

Fairly common at higher elevations in Santa Marta.

### **Olive-striped Flycatcher (Fr't-tyrant)**

A few in Santa Marta.

### **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (Fr't-tyrant)**

A pair near Minca.

### **Sepia-capped Flycatcher**

A single below Minca.

### **Northern Scrub Flycatcher**

Common on the Guajira peninsula.

### **Slender-billed Inezia (Tyrannulet)**

Common on the Guajira peninsula.

### **Pale-tipped Inezia**

A single below Minca.

### **Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant**

A single on the Guajira peninsula.

### **Black-throated Tody-Tyrant**

Two in the Santa Marta highlands.

### **Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant**

Two below Minca.

### **Slaty-(Slate-)headed Tody-Flycatcher**

One below Minca.

### **Common Tody-Flycatcher**

Three above Minca.

### **Olivaceous Flatbill**

Two below Minca.

### **Yellow-olive Flatbill (Flycatcher)**

One below Minca.

### **Cinnamon Flycatcher**

A couple of the endemic subspecies seen in the highlands.

### **Great Kiskadee**



Fairly common in lowlands.

**Golden-crowned Flycatcher**

Two in highlands of Santa Marta.

**Boat-billed Flycatcher**

Several seen in lowlands.

**Tropical Kingbird**

Common at mid and lower elevations.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher**

About 10 en route to Guajira.

**Eastern Kingbird**

Fairly common.

**Grey Kingbird**

Common on Guajira peninsula.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher**

Fairly common at higher elevations.

**Venezuelan Flycatcher**

Several in arid lowlands.

**Panamanian (Panama) Flycatcher**

Four at PNS.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

A single below Minca.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher**

A single on the Guajira peninsula.

**COTINGAS**

**Golden-breasted Fruiteater**

A few heard and one seen in Santa Marta.

**MANAKINS**

**White-bearded Manakin**

Several near Minca.

**TITYRAS, BECARDS**

**Cinnamon Becard**

Two near Minca.

**VIREOS & GREENLETS**

**Brown-capped Vireo**

Two at higher elevation in Santa Marta.

**Red-eyed Vireo**

Fairly common in Santa Marta foothills.

**Yellow-green Vireo**

Three near Minca.

**Golden-fronted Greenlet**

Fairly common by voice and a few seen in the Guajira peninsula.

**CROWS & JAYS**

**Black-chested Jay**

Good looks at several groups of this spectacular jay in Santa Marta lowlands.



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## SWALLOWS & MARTINS

### **Sand Martin (Bank Swallow)**

About 10 at PNS.

### **Purple Martin**

About 50 at PNS.

### **Grey-breasted Martin**

A few in the lowlands.

### **Southern Rough-winged Swallow**

Several in lowlands.

### **Barn Swallow**

A flock of at least 3,000 at PNS

## WRENS

### **Stripe-backed Wren**

Good views near PNS.

### **Band-backed Wren**

A group of 5 near PNS.

### **Bicoloured Wren**

Common in lowlands.

### **Rufous-breasted Wren**

Fairly common at lower elevations in Santa Marta.

### **Rufous-and-white Wren**

Heard in Santa Marta.

### **Buff-breasted Wren**

Fairly common in Guajira peninsula.

### **House Wren**

Common in lowlands.

### **Grey-breasted Wood Wren**

Common at highest elevations in Santa Marta.

## GNATCATCHERS

### **Long-billed Gnatwren**

Two below Minca.

### **Tropical Gnatcatcher**

Common on the Guajira peninsula.

## MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHES

### **Grey Catbird**

A single on Guajira peninsula.

### **Tropical Mockingbird**

Common on the Guajira peninsula.

## THRUSHES

### **Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush**

Heard in Santa Marta.

### **Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush**

Heard in Santa Marta.

### **Swainson's Thrush**

One near Minca,

### **Great Thrush**





A few in the Santa Marta highlands.

**Pale-breasted Thrush**

Fairly common in Santa Marta at lower elevations.

**FINCHES**

**Trinidad Euphonia**

Three on the Guajira peninsula.

**Thick-billed Euphonia**

Several in the foothills of Santa Marta.

**Blue-naped Chlorophonia**

Common at El Dorado Lodge.

**Lesser Goldfinch**

Quite a few in the lowlands.

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS**

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

A single at PNS.

**Northern Waterthrush**

Quite common at PNS and one on Guajira peninsula.

**Black-and-white Warbler**

Fairly common in Santa Marta.

**Prothonotary Warbler**

Common on coast.

**Tennessee Warbler**

Fairly common.

**Mourning Warbler**

A single in Santa Marta,

**Blackburnian Warbler**

Fairly common in Santa Marta.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

A single near Minca.

**[American] Yellow Warbler**

A few in the foothills of Santa Marta.

**Blackpoll Warbler**

Three seen near Minca.

**White-lored Warbler (E)**

Fairly common in Santa Marta highlands.

**Rufous-capped Warbler**

Great looks at this stunning warbler several times on Santa Marta.

**Santa Marta Warbler (E)**

Great looks at the highest elevations of Santa Marta.

**Slate-throated Whitestart (Redstart)**

Fairly common in Santa Marta.

**Yellow-crowned Whitestart (E)**

Fairly common in Santa Marta at higher elevations.

**OROPENDOLAS, ORIOLES & BLACKBIRDS**

**Crested Oropendola**

Fairly common in Santa Marta at lower elevations.

**Yellow-rumped Cacique**



Two near Minca.

**Yellow Oriole**

Fairly common in the lowlands.

**Orange-crowned Oriole**

A few near Minca.

**Yellow-backed Oriole**

Fairly common near PNS in more open habitats.

**Baltimore Oriole**

A single near Minca.

**Yellow-hooded Blackbird (E)**

Five in Guajira.

**Bronze(-brown) Cowbird**

A few in the Guajira peninsula.

**Carib Grackle**

Common on the coast.

**Great-tailed Grackle**

Common on the coast.

**Eastern Meadowlark**

One on the Guajira peninsula.

**BANANAQUIT**

**Bananaquit**

Fairly common in the lowlands.

**BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & ALLIES**

**Rufous-collared Sparrow**

Fairly common in lowlands and at higher elevations in Santa Marta.

**Black-striped Sparrow**

A single near Minca.

**Golden-winged Sparrow**

4 of this very dapper sparrow seen in the plantations.

**Sierra Nevada (Col.) Brush Finch (E)**

Three individuals coming to the compost at El Dorado Lodge.

**Santa Marta Brush Finch (E)**

Fairly common in Santa Marta highlands.

**TANAGERS & ALLIES**

**White-lined Tanager**

A single above Minca.

**Crimson-backed Tanager**

Fairly common near Minca.

**Blue-grey Tanager**

Fairly common.

**Glaucous Tanager**

About 10 seen on Guajira peninsula.

**Palm Tanager**

Fairly common in lowlands.

**Blue-capped Tanager**

Fairly common in Santa Marta highlands. .

**Santa Marta Mountain Tanager**



Several groups seen in Santa Marta highlands.

**Bay-headed Tanager**

Fairly common in Santa Marta highlands.

**Black-capped Tanager**

Fairly common in Santa Marta at mid elevations.

**Red-legged Honeycreeper**

Three below Minca.

**Bicoloured Conebill**

Four in the mangroves at PNS.

**Black Flowerpiercer**

Two in the highlands of Santa Marta.

**White-sided Flowerpiercer**

About 3 daily at the feeders at El Dorado lodge.

**Saffron Finch**

A few in the lowlands.

**Blue-black Grassquit**

Fairly common in the lowlands.

**Grey Seedeater**

1 en route to Guaijra.

**Lesson's Seedeater**

3 at PNLF.

**Yellow-bellied Seedeater**

Several in the plantations.

**Black-faced Grassquit**

About 10 at PNLF.

**Sooty Grassquit**

Several singing at lower elevations in Santa Marta.

**Plushcap (Plush-capped Finch)**

A single briefly by the antennas in Santa Marta.

**GROSBEAKS, SALTATORS & ALLIES**

**Summer Tanager**

A few migrants in more mature woodlands and plantations.

**Scarlet Tanager**

A single below Minca.

**Vermilion Cardinal**

A pair seen well at PNLF.

**Buff-throated Saltator**

Fairly common in wooded areas.

**Greyish Saltator**

Fairly common in the lowlands.

**Orinoco (Orinocan) Saltator**

A pair seen very well after a long search at PNLF.

**Streaked Saltator**

A single near Minca.

**Southern Yellow (Golden-bellied) Grosbeak**

A single near Minca.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

A few migrants in the plantations.



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**MAMMALS**

Red-tailed Squirrel  
Venezuelan Red Howler Monkey (heard only)  
Crab-eating Fox  
Central American Agouti

**REPTILES**

Green Iguana  
Amevia sp. lizard  
Golden-spotted Tegu  
Gecko species.

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