



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Colombia Trip Report Andean Endemics & Santa Marta II *30<sup>th</sup> October to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 (23 days)*



Purplish-mantled Tanager by Adam Riley

**Tour Leaders:** Forrest Rowland and local birding leader

**Top 10 Tour Highlights** (as voted by participants):

1. Purplish-mantled Tanager
2. Santa Marta Screech Owl
3. Beautiful Woodpecker
4. Bearded Helmetcrest
5. Yellow-headed Manakin
6. Santa Marta Parakeet
7. Black-fronted Wood Quail
8. Bogota Rail
9. Noble Snipe
10. Pale-bellied (Mattoral) Tapaculo

## Tour Intro

Colombia has only recently returned as a potential destination for worldwide birders. For over 3 decades this great birding nation suffered corruption, internal strife, and the death and displacement of hundreds of thousands of Colombian nationals. Shipping, commerce, and economic growth were mere shadows of thought in those days, much less the development and growth of tourism, conservation, or the expansion of the regional and national parks. Fortunately for us, things have now changed for the better and Colombia is once again back on the birding radar. With three mountain ranges, two coasts, and the most complex topography of any country on the continent, it ties Peru for the longest bird list of any country on the planet. With 74 endemic species (not including the recently re-discovered Bogota Sunangel) and burgeoning infrastructure that allows new access to most of these birds, it has also become a must-visit destination for any international birder. And so it was that 8 Rockjumper participants, 2 leaders and one driver found themselves beginning a journey that would net an unprecedented 794 species of birds in just 23 days, including an astounding 59 endemics!! From the Eastern Andes to the Pacific Slope, north to the dry Guajira peninsula, this tour encompassed what Colombian birds and birding is all about – a combination of almost unparalleled diversity and incredible uniqueness.

## Tour Summary

After arriving and meeting in Colombia's cosmopolitan capitol city, Santa Fe de Bogota, we spent the following 3 days visiting an assortment of habitats and elevations accessible from the city. One of the most amazing things about being based in Bogota is how much diversity can be accessed with relatively little travel time, despite the enormity of the metropolitan area. Habitats we visited included the elfin forests and paramo of PNN Chingaza, subtropical forests around Laguna Pedropalo and Laguna Tabacal, lowland dry forest of Mana Dulce in the Magdalena Valley, and the temperate wetland habitats of Huasca and Parque La Florida.



We had an amazing run of birds at these sites, which really set the pace for this epic tour. After just 3 days of birding we had already logged over 200 species. We were off to a great start! Some of the more exciting bird encounters included amazing looks at several **Bogota Rails**, scope views of **Noble Snipe**, **Brown-breasted Parakeets** perched overhead, singing **Apolinar's Wrens** in full view, both Barred and Moustached Puffbirds, photogenic White-chinned Thistletail and **Pale-bellied Tapaculos**, a family group of **Silvery-throated Spinetails**, Fasciated and the endemic **Bar-crested Antshrike**, White-bellied and Jet Antbirds

within 3 meters, **Turquoise Dacnis**, and a migrating flock of over 2000 Swainson's Hawks! This doesn't include the myriad of amazing colors provided by the hummingbirds (**Bronze-tailed Thornbill**, **Indigo-capped Hummingbird**, **Shining-green Hummingbird**, **Black Inca**, **Blue-throated Starfrontlet**, **Coppery-bellied Puffleg**, and Gorgeted Woodstar amongst them) and Mountain Tanagers (Scarlet-bellied, Black-chested, Buff-breasted) of the area. We also had a surprise or two during these first days, including Black-headed Hemispingus and **Colombian** (Speckle-breasted) **Wren**, which had never been recorded on a previous Rockjumper Tour to Colombia. The biggest surprise though was a Pale-tipped Inezia at Mana Dulce – only the second ever record for the Magdalena Valley!!!



We began our overland journey west with two days in the wet lowland areas of the lower Magdalena Valley. The small Bellavista preserve on the ridge above the hamlet of La Victoria was our first try for Antioquia Bristle Tyrant, which didn't show until the following day. We did, however, bag great views of **Beautiful Woodpecker**, very responsive **White-mantled Barbets**, **Sooty Ant Tanagers**, and a nearby soaring Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle. We had some other great species as well, but a real standout at this location was **White-bibbed Manakin**. Rare, little known, and even harder to predict, this was also the first time this species had been recorded on a Rockjumper Tour. We followed up our visit at La Victoria with a stop for **Northern Screamers**. Not only did we find these fascinating, extremely local birds, but we had great looks at a variety of other wetland species, plus Blue-and-Yellow Macaws at a nest!

We spent the following day at Canon Rio Claro and a private holding harboring Oilbirds in its cave system. Some of the day's highlights included Cinnamon Woodpecker, Checker-throated Antwren, the two most obliging **Dull-mantled (Magdalena) Antbirds** I have ever encountered (they came within 2 meters of us in the open!), a few species of trogon, White-whiskered Puffbird, **Grey-checked Nunlet**, the gorgeous Blue Cotinga, displaying Brownish Twistwings (bizarre), and 2 **Antioquia Bristle Tyrants** at last! The scenery along the canyon is beautiful, and the experience of seeing and hearing Oilbirds all around you is unforgettable!

The next destination on the itinerary was the famed Arrierito Antioqueno (Chestnut-capped Piha) preserve owned and operated by ProAves. The nearest town to the site is Anori, which is usually what we refer to the preserve as. Of course, one can't leave the site without the namesake bird – and fortunately we didn't have to. After some searching, we had an amazing **Chestnut-capped Piha** show, with one bird even posing for photos and showing its chestnut cap. Ridiculous! We then birded the road that borders the main property, as well as the compliment of trails within the preserve. There are several amazing species to be seen here and we saw nearly all, with a few bonus birds besides. Best sightings included **Colombian Chachalaca**, Golden-headed Quetzal, crushing views of an Ochre-breasted Antpitta (that didn't require playback!), White-crowned and **Stiles's Tapaculos**, Plumbeous-crowned and Rufous-browed Tyrannulets, confiding White-throated Spadebill, several Golden-winged Manakin, the unique subspecies of White-crowned Manakin there, a pair of **Sooty-headed Wrens** duetting in full view, an extremely vocal flock of 14 **Red-bellied Grackles** viewed through the scope, and our first (but not last) looks at brightly patterned **Multicolored Tanagers** and neon **Indigo Flowerpiercers**. Many mixed flocks were encountered, with the full array of Furnariids, tanagers, flycatchers and the like. It was a wonderful day!



Nothing in Antioquia is what one would consider "close" to the next thing. But our drive to Jardin allowed some time en route to seek out Black-chested Jays, Black-bellied and Bay Wrens, Dusky Antbird, and other low-elevation goodies as well. We saw nearly everything we looked for and were surprised with a few additions to the list, including Green Manakin. Before settling into our wonderful accommodations in the quaint holiday town of El Jardin, we took a 10 minute stroll from the edge of town to visit with the Andean Cock-of-the-rocks there. This amazing lek is active morning and afternoon. While we were afforded close views of "only" 8-10 males on this afternoon visit, one morning in 2009 I counted 26 attending males! These mind-blowing, iconic birds must be sought out whenever in the Andes – they are simply amazing to observe!



The main reason for a visit to Jardin (aside from enjoying the Colombian Pasofino horses parading through town nightly, plus a good dose of culture) is the drive up to ProAves' Las Ventanas preserve. This is one of the few accesses to the feeding and roosting grounds of several flocks of **Yellow-eared Parrot**. We made the drive beneath the moon and stars of a clear pre-dawn sky. By the time the sun was supposedly up, we could scarcely see 40 feet through the fog. Frustrated, we listened to the sounds of flocks numbering in the dozens as they cruised through the sightless mire overhead, when I noticed a lonesome squawk nearby. One lone rebel among the crowd (a pariah, perhaps, of the parrot community) flew low and leisurely right over our heads. Though there was little "oooh"ing or "ahhh"ing, we were all nonetheless happy that the species would not be recorded as an "H" only that night, and were glad to be having our coffee and fruit breakfast in that muddy cow field. The rest of the morning was similar in success – or lack thereof – until our fortunes changed around midday. Most of the road down was silent, save for two nice mixed flocks and some oblivious bathing tanagers. Just before making it all the way back down to the vehicles and our last-ditch effort for **Munchique Wood Wren**, we managed quick looks at the Wood Wren and the flock, the monster flock of the mountain, in quick succession. This flock is the prototypical mixed-species flock of legend: 30+ species were toiling in the underbrush, running up and down trunks, chirping and sparring in the branches, as we stood, rooted, silent, and very happy indeed! The 15 minutes spent watching this flock made the whole morning worthwhile. We took as much time as we could with the birds before we finally left the preserve on our way to Manizales, towards what promised to be a logistical headache, if not a nightmare...



The reason for this is that we had heard of flooding in Cali, with rumors trickling down of unrelenting rains and torrents in Medellin. There were washouts in Pereira, and Manizales had been without potable, running water for a week after the main hydrological infrastructure coming out of the Andes had failed and was undone by the sheer volume of water forcing its way down the mountains. It was amusing to ponder these plights up until now as we had lost but a few hours due to rain, or only gotten a little wet during a drizzle. Most of our nights were rained out, but the days were beautiful and all this commotion we had witnessed little-to-nothing of! So then, disembarking our vehicle that night in the rain, I therefore had a fitful sleep, fearing the worst and getting little rest as a consequence – only to then awake the next morning to light through the cracks and spaces of my windows. There would be sun at dawn! And the birdsong had already begun....

Rio Blanco was a clear highlight of the trip. Not only did it NOT pour rain, but it was only slightly overcast at times with just the occasional drizzle. Perfect! Aside from the confiding, self-amusing Spectacled Bear and the delicious local hospitality, the flocks here are perhaps the best to be experienced anywhere – as are the Parrots. There are few such accessible places that allow viewing of several species of high-elevation parrots. Furthermore, our stay here was my best visit to date.

Highlights of our days there, including our foray up over 4000m elevation at Parque Natural Nacional Los Nevados, included Andean Condor low overhead, lengthy views of foraging **Golden-plumed Parakeets**, watching nomadic **Rufous-fronted Parakeets** at leisure, a family group of adults and begging juvenile **Rusty-faced Parrots**, **Bearded Helmetcrest**, Purple-backed Thornbill, the rarely seen **Black-thighed Puffleg**, Bar-bellied, Powerful, and Crimson-mantled Woodpeckers, several furnariid species including the first White-browed Spinetail seen on this itinerary, **6 species of Antpittas SEEN**, **5 species of Tapaculos SEEN**, every Chat-Tyrant in the Field Guide SEEN,



Dusky Piha, **Black-collared Jay**, Golden-crowned Tanager and a noisy flock of **White-capped Tanagers** overhead. We even saw **Masked Saltator**! Not just one Masked Saltator, either; we had three of them in a single tree! And, to cap it all off, it barely rained at all!

From Rio Blanco, we then had a short transfer day to Otun-Quimbaya near the city of Pereira. We decided to investigate a recent claim that the endemic Yellow-headed Brush Finch had been discovered nearby. This would be the first and only known site for this species on the west slope of the Central Andes, as this species was presumed an entirely Magdalena Valley bird. As it turned out, we had a family group of 5 **Yellow-headed Brush Finches** at the site! Also of note was one adult female-plumaged Magnolia Warbler (1<sup>st</sup> record for C Andes) and a stunning male **Cerulean Warbler**. We also took the time to stop at a wetland area near Manizales where we were rewarded with great looks at a most confiding White-throated Crake, among others.

Our arrival to Otun-Quimbaya, and our ability to bird the site, was somewhat hindered by a huge flooding that had taken out the main road. However, vehicles were arranged on the far side of the washout and we saw little delay at all. Vehicles were also hired for the following morning to drive us up past the lodge into the forest, from where we would then walk back. Once again, we found our target species: Torrent Duck, several **Cauca Guans**, Bronze-olive Pygmy Tyrant, Variegated Bristle Tyrant, Ashy-headed Tyrannulet, Rusty-winged Barbtail, numerous **Red-ruffed Fruitcrows**, and even a covey of four elusive **Chestnut Wood Quails**!



Cerro Montezuma, and the Parque Natural Nacional Tatama, was my most anticipated destination as a leader. It was a new site for me; though similar in habitat and avifauna to other sites I have known in Colombia, it is farther, richer, and perhaps more untouched by the hand of man. I was therefore pondering what fascinating species and experiences it might hold, and though prepared for just about anything to turn up, was surprised and awed nonetheless. Allowing access from 2200m elevation on the Pacific Chocó slope, down to 1200m, this birding “site” (bad word, for it encompasses a very long stretch of road) is the best access I’ve known to this avifauna, anywhere. We spent 3 wonderful nights and 2 marvelous days enjoying amazing species, massive mixed flocks, and the delightful food and hospitality of Leopoldina’s household.

Our first day’s birding at Cerro Montezuma was intended for heading straight to the top. However, a mudslide some 2 miles short of the summit caused us to continue the rest of the way on foot. We birded the entire day, from 2200m elevation down to 1500m, and the array of species encountered was staggering. Some of the special birds we found included Tawny-bellied Hermit, Empress Brilliant, Velvet-purple Coronet, Brown Inca, Violet-tailed Sylph, Yellow-vented Woodpecker, **Star-chested Treerunners**, **Pacific Tuftedcheek**, a pair of rare **Bicoloured Antvireos**, Yellow-breasted Antwren, the recently described **Alto Pisones Tapaculo**, one Flavescent Flycatcher, family groups of Handsome Flycatchers, and great views of the seldom seen **Fulvous-breasted Flatbill**. A pair of **Munchique Wood Wrens** coming right out in the open for film and photos vied for best birds of the day. However, in the end the best bird encounters involved the forest’s frugivores. Fruit must have been plentiful in the trees at that time, because the number of fruiteaters, solitaires, pihás and tanagers was simply mind-boggling, even bordering inexplicable! We even had 5 Black Solitaires in one tree! Our day totals of some of the more spectacular frugivorous birds were 16



Green-and-Black Fruiteaters, 6 **Orange-breasted Fruiteaters**, 8 **Olivaceous Pihás**, 26...yes 26 **Black Solitaires**, 14 **Yellow-collared Chlorophonia**, 15 **Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia**, 20 **Chocó Brush Finches**, 9 endemic **Black-and-Gold Tanagers**, 20 endemic **Gold-ringed Tanagers** (a remarkable total), 14 **Black-chinned Mountain Tanagers**, 6 **Purplish-mantled Tanagers**, 6 **Glistening-green Tanagers**, every other *Tangara* sp. you'd expect or imagine in multiples, and 6 **Crested Ant Tanagers** gregariously cavorting in our second-to-last mixed flock of the day. One of the best day's birding in memory!

Clear highlight of our second day here was **Chocó Vireo** seen in full song, a lifer for our local guide! Truly amazing to hear and see this highly-localized, difficult bird, let alone have nearly eye-level views and two singing males at once. Of course, the **Scarlet-and-White Tanager** was great, too! To round out the experience, we also focused our efforts on some lower elevation forest areas along the road. Starting near 1800m elevation, then working our way down as far as 1200m, produced some overlap. It was a different day, however, with bright sunshine in the morning creating difficult birding at the higher elevations. We nonetheless managed looks at **Nariño Tapaculo**, but weren't getting much response with anything else. And then, as we were packing up to head lower down, I noticed some swifts gathering quite close. We enjoyed nice views of **Spot-**



**fronted**, Chestnut-collared, White-collared and **White-tipped Swifts** before someone shouted "Parakeets!" Sure enough, a small flock of 8 **Barred Parakeets** flew above the trees on the slope below us. As clouds gathered overhead and began to rise, shadows returned to the forest and the birds became active once more. Above 1500m, we encountered a great flock allowing wonderful views of **Rufous-rumped Antwren**, 3 species of Foliage-gleaner (not including the **Ruddy Foliage-gleaner** I called in nearby), Barred Becard, Golden-winged Manakins, and one extremely confident **Olive Finch** that came right out to forage on the road! It

was pretty much flock upon flock after that, calling in few species out of the bush. We had great looks at Barred Hawk, White-capped Parrot, **White-tailed Hillstar**, Red-headed Barbet, **Uniform Treehunters**, surprise **Rufous-winged Antwrens**(!!), a wonderful family group of **White-headed Wrens**, one **Chestnut-breasted Wren**, a surprise **Black-headed Brush Finch** (2<sup>nd</sup> record here?), **Yellow-green Bush Tanagers**, Blue-capped, Purplish-mantled, Black-and-Gold, Gold-ringed, Glistening-green (12!), Golden, Silver-throated, **Rufous-throated**, Bay-headed, Golden-naped, Beryl-spangled, Black-capped, **Scarlet-and-White**, Hepatic and Summer Tanagers, and Crested Ant Tanager. It was absolutely great! We did have one that "got away" however: Long-wattled Umbrellabird. In all the melee of our final mixed flock of the day, a male flew right through the forest near us, having been perched nearby, though we'd been too busy to notice. Argh!!! You can't get them all, though, I suppose.

During our two days' birding at this site we saw a ridiculous number of species – about 260-270. It was an incredible place and right up there with Rio Blanco in terms of enjoyment. Even though the walking was long and the jeep rides even harder...it was well worth the effort! I can't wait to return.

This marked the near-end of our main tour through the Colombian Andes. We finished up with a couple days and nights near Cali to look for some fine wetland species, including **Horned Screamer** (distant), Comb Duck, and Buff-necked Ibis. We also made a stop en route to pick up the lifer of the tour for me: **Yellow-headed Manakins** at a lek!!! Somehow good looks at this fine bird



had eluded me until now. To date, we had achieved only marginal success with two Cauca-valley specialists: **Grayish Piculet** and **Apical Flycatcher**. We remedied that with a quick stop at a fine regional park near Buga, managing great views of both, plus a bonus pair of the wide-ranging but rarely seen **Dwarf Cuckoo**! I can personally confirm that breeding of this species is, at the very least, being attempted at the site. It was a good, easy, couple days' birding to wrap up a phenomenal 17 days in the Andes!

The group and I were very sad to say goodbye to our local guide and driver. It had been a great dynamic and a lot of fun! Luckily, every other member of the tour had agreed that the Santa Marta extension was well worth the extra 5-6 days, and we all caught our flights to the Caribbean Coast. The tour was far from over...

The Santa Marta region of Colombia is one of the most recognized areas for endemism in the Western Hemisphere. This ancient volcanic range stands well apart from any Andean chain, and its highest peak juts some 5700m above sea level, a mere 29.6 miles away. Such proximity to the coast, combined with its severe altitudinal gradient, produces unique forms of life anywhere it occurs on the planet. Add several million years of additional, isolated, evolutionary time than the main Andean mountain chains have incurred, and you end up with the highest level of endemism anywhere on the planet – aside, of course, from islands. And yet, in a very real sense, the Santa Marta range is indeed an island of evolution that has fascinated biologists for decades. Despite regular visitation during this time, new forms of life are still being discovered in this “Lost World”.

Our extension to the Santa Marta range allowed for little time birding the more widespread habitats of coastal mangrove and scrub (though we did set aside some time on the first day), but focused, rather, on accessing all biomes possible along the only transect through the range: the road to El Dorado, continuing up into the National Park, and the literal end-of-the-road.



Our first afternoon we birded the mangrove at Isla Salamanca, where we quickly obtained great views of Bicolored Conebill (an odd form, disjunct from the nominate which inhabits river island of the Orinoco and Amazon Basins), Black-collared Hawk, Panama Flycatcher, and a pair of the oddly disjunct population of Golden-green Woodpeckers in the PNN Salamanca. Our main goal here, however, was the highly-localized **Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird**. The search was becoming dubious when, after several minutes vigilantly watching the only blooming plant around, up popped the hummingbird! Great views were had by all. We then quickly piled into the vehicle and drove straight to a known roosting-site of **Chestnut-winged Chachalaca**. We almost missed them, but fortunately made it just in time. We viewed several birds in the near scrub for 3-4 minutes before they climbed down out of view and finally disappeared for the night.

We spent the first night at Minca in the foothills of the mountains. The following morning we were up before dawn to make the most of our time at the site. It was worth it. Before packing it in to head further up the mountain, we saw roosting Black-and-White Owl, **Sooty-capped Hermit**, the recently rediscovered **Santa Marta Sabrewing** (!!!), **Coppery Emerald**, Keel-billed Toucan, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, newly-split **Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner**, Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, Olivaceous Flatbill, Golden-fronted Greenlet, Rufous-breasted Wrens (pair of crazy birds



flying all around us), beautiful songster Rufous-and-white Wrens, and several lovely **Golden-winged Sparrows**. On the way to our next accommodations at the cozy Lorenzo Research Station, situated at about 2200m elevation, we made a few stops to look for some special birds of the middle-elevations. These included **Yellow-billed** (Groove-billed) **Toucanet**, endemic **Blossomcrowns** (3 males displaying!), Long-tailed Antbird, **Santa Marta Tapaculo**, **Venezuelan Tyrannulet**, and numerous good birds coming in to a fruiting tree including Black-hooded and Yellow-legged Thrush, and the scarce **Black-headed Tanager**. Before turning in for the evening, we tried pushing our luck by attempting to lure the new species of Screech Owl (called Santa Marta Screech Owl *Megascops [gilesi] sp.nov.* for the time being) in for views, but alas it was an “H” only.

Our second day in the Santa Marta Mountains was our only chance for high-elevation species. We travelled up from the Research station to the end of the road, at just over 2700m, in the lower reaches of the temperate forest that dominates most of the range’s ridges. The upper 5 kilometers of road allows the only access to this habitat – and therefore these birds – in the world. We made it to the ridge top by 6.30 a.m. intending to make the most of it. We did – seeing every single target



species on the mountain that morning! With persistence, we even had great views of **Santa Marta Rufous Antpitta** (*Grallaria [rufula]spatiator*), **Brown-rumped Tapaculo**, and **Santa Marta Warbler**. If one of the target species is missed in a visit to this site, it is often one of these three. If not, it is definitely the enigmatic Santa Marta Bush Tyrant that appears to silently and lackadaisically hold territories in various seemingly random places on the mountain (at this elevation) that goes undetected and unseen. The point is, on nearly every visit one of these four species is missed – but not for us! The full list of Santa Marta endemics that can be seen at this site included 7 **Santa Marta Parakeets** in full sun, a nearby pair of **Santa Marta Toucanets**, many **Rusty-headed Spinetails**, several **Streak-capped Spinetails**, several of the Santa Marta subspecies of Montane Woodcreeper, two responsive **Santa Marta Antpittas**, 2 **Brown-**

**rumped Tapaculos** (one of which nearly walked across two of our participants), scope views of the striking **Santa Marta Bush Tyrant**, numerous gregarious **Yellow-crowned Whitestarts**, a pair of **Santa Marta Warblers** seen well, and, of course, a number of striking **Santa Marta** (Black-cheeked) **Mountain Tanagers**.

Overwhelmed by our success, we headed down to El Dorado Lodge after collecting our effects at the research station. Often, two nights are spent at the lodge, rather than one at the Research Station and the other at the lodge, despite the latter being farther from the main birding site for the high-elevation endemics. The reason for this is basically because the lodge is gorgeous, the views are spectacular, the food is great, and the hummingbirds, toucanets, fruiteaters, chlorophonias and guans that frequent the grounds are incredible. These, not to mention the legendary compost heap, are all fine reasons to spend time there, which is why every single tourist that comes up the mountain does. As a consequence, space is very limited and we were only able to squeeze in for one night – but it was well worth it. That same afternoon, after our unimaginable “clean sweep” on top of the mountain, we were further treated to **White-lored Warblers** just before the lodge, **Santa Marta Woodstars** and **White-tailed Starfrontlet** at the feeders, **Golden-breasted Fruiteaters** in the tree next to the dining hall, **Colombian** and **Santa Marta Brush Finches** coming in to the compost, and a small group of 3 **Band-tailed Guans** wandering in to roost over the lodgings!



Fantastic!!! Once again, however, the Santa Marta Screech Owl proved elusive. The reason this time was the rain, which would recommence and strengthen every time we heard a response. Maddening! But, then again, you can't get them all, right? Wrong! Perseverance had been strong in the character of the group thus far, so I wasn't surprised when I had several members agree to get up well before dawn to search out our missing owl. After locating a delightfully cooperative **Santa Marta Screech Owl** within a mere 10 minutes of searching, and not 100m from the lodge, I was therefore less surprised when the rest of the group came hustling out of their rooms, well before the appointed breakfast hour, to join the fun! We all had incredible views of this beautiful owl, at less than 7 meters distance and at eye-level to boot. Hurray!

This, our final morning's birding in the mountains, was dedicated to the **Black-fronted Wood-Quail**. By this time, we had all but given up our searches and bouts of silent listening for White-tipped Quetzal (still missing....somehow), and were intent on seeing this wood-quail. We were packed up with breakfast safely tucked away in our bellies, when a group of these wonderful birds began singing just across the road. We all hustled over, I played a bit of tape, and up they came, right to the edge of the forest! Alas, two members of the group missed seeing them after continued efforts; but rather than giving up, we decided 5 minutes at the compost heap could be worth it. It was, as two birds walked right up onto the heap and began pecking, scratching and having a generally good time of it. Awesome stuff!! One final stop to try and call out Scaled Antpitta failed, so we instead had to settle for a cooperative pair of **Grey-throated Leaf-tossers** coming right out in the open, a troop of 7 Venezuelan Red Howler Monkeys putting on a show, and, at last, one female **White-tipped Quetzal**, spotted sitting right over our jeeps at a random stop. Sometimes, you just can't beat a good run of luck.



We passed back by Minca on the way towards the arid Guajira peninsula for lunch, and had a roadstop for a nice pair of **Black-backed Antshrikes**. Most of the remaining day was then spent in transit while making for Riohacha for the night and the tour's Last Supper at a fine local seafood establishment. We would've been remiss, however, had we not attempted Rufous-vented Chachalacas at a known roost site, but alas they didn't appear. We had accrued our second "miss" of the extension (Scaled Piculet the first) and 4<sup>th</sup> "miss" of the tour as a whole (counting Tanager Finch...which was bizarrely difficult everywhere; and Beautiful Jay, which was only seen by a couple of participants). As a few members (including myself) went to find a shady spot after our lengthy drive, someone calmly asked the group as a whole, "Hey, is this some kind of funny motmot or something?" No. It was a **Grey-capped Cuckoo!!!!** A Colombia bird for me! I had only 6 or 7 previous encounters with the species in Ecuador, and none elsewhere. A great find that fully compensating for the "lost" Chachalaca. We then went to a lovely dinner with thoughts of our final morning and the lovely days past.

While most tours end in a relative fizzle, this was definitely not our style. The final morning of the tour was one of the best. Birding in the arid habitat of the Guajira is always a bizarre experience, after having spent a month perpetually wet to some degree or another. Birding is, for the most part, over by 9am on a sunny day in the Guajira. We started early, and, true to form, saw everything we were looking for! While many of these birds do sneak across the border, it takes an intrepid birder indeed to brave the Venezuelan wastelands from Caracas to Maracaibo, across the vast lake, onto



the narrow spit of habitat there to see these species. In my mind, they are endemics, given the likelihood of anyone making that trek (though it has been done!). To proceed with the list of “endemics” seen that morning at two separate stops: **Bare-eyed Pigeon**, **Green-rumped Parrotlet**, **Buffy Hummingbird**, the stunning **Chestnut Piculet** and **White-whiskered Spinetail**, **Slender-billed Inezia**, **Venezuelan Flycatcher**, extremely rare **Tocuyo Sparrow**, **Glaucous Tanager**, and



my favorite, the “Rey de la Guajira” as the locals call it – **Vermilion Cardinal**. Loads of other goodies made the list of great birds encountered that day. Ruby-Topaz Hummingbird and Brown-breasted Parakeet are up there; Crane Hawk was great to see; Russet-throated Puffbirds and Buff-breasted Wrens were numerous in the area; Black-faced Grassquit and **Trinidad Euphonia** were both seen, as were several species of orioles; and we even caught up with a pair of **Rufous-vented Chachalacas**, erasing the species from our missed list. A tour couldn’t end on a better note!

And what a fabulous tour it was! 794 species! It was crazy how many species we encountered, and by this stage we were all ready for some time at home to reflect, remember, and relax. Several of us said our good-byes over Coconut Limonadas at the Bogota baggage claim, a few of us got together for dinner in Bogota, while a smaller assemblage enjoyed another day in the capitol city to take in the culture and sights. I returned home the following day still shaking my head, wondering how we saw so many birds. I’m shaking my head as I write this...

My personal thanks go to all who participated in this epic tour. A fine, diverse bunch of birders you were, who helped each other as much as you helped yourselves. It was my great pleasure to get to know you all, and I hope we meet again in the future!

**Photo credits (in order of appearance):** Nobel Snipe by Lisa Thurston, Indigo-capped Hummingbird by Alasdair Hunter, Andean Cock-of-the-rock by Adam Riley, Bearded Helmetcrest by Tim Boucher, Gold-ringed Tanager & Black-and-White Owl by Lisa Thurston, Santa Marta Parakeet, White-tailed Starfrontlet & Santa Marta Warbler by Adam Riley.

## BIRD LIST (794 species)

**E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **Vu** = Vulnerable, **Cr** = Critically Endangered, **En** = Endangered.

### Tinamous Tinamidae

#### **Little Tinamou**

Heard

#### **Red-legged Tinamou**

Two seen running across the road above Minca

### Chachalacas, Curassows & Guans Cracidae

#### **Chestnut-winged Chachalaca (E)**

Several seen at roost site west of Santa Marta

#### **Rufous-vented Chachalaca**

Two seen at our last stop on the Guajira Peninsula

#### **Colombian Chachalaca (E, Vu)**

Seen on various days including at Anori, and near Buga



**Band-tailed Guan**

3 seen coming to roost at El Dorado, Santa Marta

**Cauca Guan (E, En)**

Numerous at Otun-Quimbaya

**Sickle-winged Guan**

A few at Otun Quimbaya and one at Las Ventanas/Jardin

**NEW WORLD QUAILS Odontophoridae**

**Crested Bobwhite**

Heard only

**Black-fronted Wood Quail (NE, Vu)**

2 coveys seen, plus 2 individuals at compost, El Dorado, Santa Marta

**Chestnut Wood Quail (E)**

A covey of 6 (4 seen) at Otun-Quimbaya

**SCREAMERS Anhimidae**

**Horned Screamer**

Distant individual seen at Laguna Sonsa

**Northern Screamer (NE)**

Several seen on the main highway between Honda and Puerto Berrio

**DUCKS & GEESE Anatidae**

**White-faced Whistling Duck**

Several seen on the main highway between Honda and Puerto Berrio

**Fulvous Whistling Duck**

Many seen in the Cauca Valley

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck**

Many seen in the Cauca Valley

**Torrent Duck**

One gorgeous male seen on a rock, roadside, near Otun-Quimbaya

**Comb Duck**

Normally rare in Colombia, a whopping 7 seen in the Cauca Valley near Buga

**Blue-winged Teal**

Many

**Cinnamon Teal**

A few seen mixed in with the preceding species at Laguna Sonsa

**Andean Teal**

Seen at Huasca and Parque Florida

**Ruddy Duck**

Seen at Huasca, Parque Florida, and Laguna Sonsa

**GREBES Podicipedidae**

**Least Grebe**

Seen in several locations

**Pied-billed Grebe**

Seen in several locations

**FLAMINGOS Phoenicopteridae**



**American Flamingo**

A group of five, in flight, over Los Flamencos, Guajira

**IBISES & SPOONBILLS Threskiornithidae**

**Bare-faced Ibis**

Seen in several location

**American White Ibis**

A few seen at Los Flamencos, Guajira

**Buff-necked Ibis**

A few seen in the Laguna Sonsa environs

**Glossy Ibis**

A few seen at Laguna Sonsa

**Roseate Spoonbill**

A few seen in various locations

**BITTERNES & HERONS Ardeidae**

**Fasciated Tiger Heron**

One cooperative adult hunting from a rock in the Rio Claro

**Boat-billed Heron**

One seen at Laguna Sonsa

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron**

Seen at Los Flamencos

**Black-crowned Night Heron**

Seen at various locations

**Green Heron**

One at PNN Isla Salamanca

**Striated Heron**

Seen at several locations

**Western Cattle Egret**

Many

**Great Blue Heron**

One seen on main road near Honda, others seen on the Guajira

**Cocoi Heron**

Many

**Great Egret**

Many

**Capped Heron**

One seen in a stream near the Oilbird Cave property

**Reddish Egret**

Several seen along the coast

**Tricoloured Heron**

Several seen along the coast

**Little Blue Heron**

A few seen along the coast

**Snowy Egret**

Many

**FRIGATEBIRDS Fregatidae**



**Magnificent Frigatebird**

Seen along the coast

**PELICANS Pelecanidae**

**Brown Pelican**

Seen along the coast

**CORMORANTS Phalacrocoracidae**

**Neotropic Cormorant**

Many

**ANHINGAS, DARTERS Anhingidae**

**Anhinga**

Several seen in the Cauca Valley

**NEW WORLD VULTURES Cathartidae**

**Turkey Vulture**

Many

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture**

Several seen on the main road north of Honda, and a few near Santa Marta

**Black Vulture**

Many

**King Vulture**

A few seen around Santa Marta, and one near Medellin

**Andean Condor**

One majestically soared low, right over our heads, and PNN Los Nevados

**OSPREYS Pandionidae**

**Western Osprey**

Seen at various locations

**KITES, HAWKS & EAGLES Accipitridae**

**Swallow-tailed Kite**

Shockingly, only one was seen on the tour, in the Santa Marta range

**Pearl Kite**

One seen north of Honda on the main highway, another seen near Riohacha

**White-tailed Kite**

A few seen in various highland wet habitats

**Snail Kite**

Incredibly numerous in the Cauca Valley and around Sonsa

**Double-toothed Kite**

Seen at Mundo Nuevo, and a pair at Bellavista preserve

**Plain-breasted Hawk**

Two seen in montane habitats

**Cooper's Hawk**

One seen at Laguna Pedropalo

**Crane Hawk**

Two seen at Los Flamencos



**Barred Hawk**

A gorgeous pair heard and seen very well at Cerro Montezuma

**Savanna Hawk**

Many

**Harris's Hawk**

One seen roadside near Santa Marta

**Black-collared Hawk**

A pair seen at PNN Isla Salamanca

**Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle**

Seen at both PNNs Chingaza and Los Nevados

**Grey Hawk**

One seen near the Oilbird Cave property

**Roadside Hawk**

Many

**Broad-winged Hawk**

Many

**White-rumped Hawk**

One seen soaring low overhead in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Short-tailed Hawk**

Seen near Manizales, and twice in the Santa Marta range

**Swainson's Hawk**

A staggering migratory kettle of 2200 near Laguna Tabacal!

**White-tailed Hawk**

A dark individual seen from our hotel in Jardin

**Variable Hawk**

One seen roadside near Santa Marta

**Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle**

One individual soaring up, from below eye-level to above, at Bellavista Preserve

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle**

Heard

**CARACARAS, FALCONS Falconidae**

**Northern Crested Caracara**

Many

**Yellow-headed Caracara**

Many

**Laughing Falcon**

A few seen in the vicinity of Rio Claro, on the highway north of Honda, and near La Victoria

**American Kestrel**

Seen at several locations

**Merlin**

Two seen at Los Flamencos, going back and forth over the mouth of the estuary and the village

**Bat Falcon**

A pair seen on the highway near Jardin, and one at 2600m(!) elevation in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Peregrine Falcon**

Seen at Laguna Sonsa, and again near PNN Isla Salamanca

**RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS Rallidae**



**White-throated Crake**

One incredibly responsive individual seen very well at less than 3m distance at a small wetland near Manizales

**Bogota Rail (E, En)**

No less than 8 individuals seen this trip, with breeding behavior and attempted copulation noted at Huasca and Parque Florida

**Sora**

Two seen at Huasca

**Blackish Rail**

Heard

**Purple Gallinule**

Several seen at various locations

**Common Moorhen**

Several seen at various locations

**Spot-flanked Gallinule (NE)**

Seen very well at Huasca and Parque Florida

**American Coot (hybridization/taxon dispute)**

Some were certainly this species, other questionable breeding-plumaged individuals were seen at Huasca, prompting a lot of discussion as to the status of Slate-colored Coot in the country, which is presumed to be only in the southern quarter of the country. We remain unsure...

**LIMPKIN Aramidae**

**Limpkin**

Several seen in the Cauca Valley and at Laguna Sonsa

**OYSTERCATCHERS Haematopidae**

**American Oystercatcher**

One seen at Los Flamencos

**STILTS, AVOCETS Recurvirostridae**

**Black-necked Stilt**

Several seen at various locations

**PLOVERS Charadriidae**

**Southern Lapwing**

Many

**Black-bellied Plover**

Two seen at Flamencos

**Semipalmated Plover**

Very numerous along the coast

**Collared Plover**

A few seen at Los Flamencos

**JACANAS Jacanidae**

**Wattled Jacana**

Several seen at various locations

**SANDPIPERS, SNIPES Scolopacidae**



**Wilson's Snipe**

One seen at Huasca

**Noble Snipe**

Two seen at Huasca including one filling the scopeview!!! Another seen less than 10m away at Parque Florida.

**Short-billed Dowitcher**

A small group seen in flight at Flamencos

**Whimbrel**

Two seen at Flamencos

**Spotted Sandpiper**

Seen at various locations

**Solitary Sandpiper**

Many

**Greater Yellowlegs**

A few seen at various places

**Willet**

Many along the coast

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

Seen at a small wetland near Manizales and on the coast

**Sanderling**

Seen near the mouth of the estuary at Los Flamencos

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Many seen on the coast

**Western Sandpiper**

Many seen on the coast

**Least Sandpiper**

Numerous on the coast

**White-rumped Sandpiper**

Two seen at Los Flamencos

**Baird's Sandpiper**

Four seen near PNN Isla Salamanca

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

Two seen at a small wetland near Manizales

**GULLS & TERNS Laridae**

**Laughing Gull**

Seen along the coast

**Least Tern**

Seen along the coast

**Large-billed Tern**

Seen at a variety of wetland habitats

**Gull-billed Tern**

Seen along the coast

**Caspian Tern**

Seen along the coast

**Common Tern**

Seen along the coast

**Cabot's (Sandwich) Tern**

Seen along the coast



**Royal Tern**

Seen along the coast

**Black Skimmer**

Seen at Los Flamencos

**PIGEONS & DOVES Columbidae**

**Common Pigeon**

Many

**Scaled Pigeon**

Seen near Rio Claro and Minca

**Bare-eyed Pigeon**

Seen on the Guajira

**Band-tailed Pigeon**

Many

**Pale-vented Pigeon**

Many

**Plumbeous Pigeon**

Two seen near Anori

**Eared Dove**

Many

**Common Ground Dove**

A few seen at various locations

**Ruddy Ground Dove**

Many

**Scaled Dove**

Seen on the Guajira

**Blue Ground Dove**

A pair seen at Mana Dulce

**White-tipped Dove**

Several seen at various locations

**Lined Quail-Dove**

Leader only seen, but several heard in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Ruddy Quail-Dove**

One seen at Bellavista Preserve

**PARROTS Psittacidae**

**Blue-and-yellow Macaw**

Pair seen attending a nest along the main highway north of Honda

**Chestnut-fronted Macaw**

Several seen in the Rio Claro area

**Yellow-eared Parrot (E, En)**

Many heard, but just one seen due to fog at Las Ventanas

**Blue-crowned Parakeet**

Heard

**Scarlet-fronted Parakeet**

Nice flock in the trees around us at Bellavista Preserve, seen again in the Santa Marta range.

**Brown-throated Parakeet**

Numerous on the Guajira peninsula, and seen in the lower Magdalena, on the main highway North of Honda



**Golden-plumed Parakeet (En)**

Many heard before a flock of 14 perched in view. We watched the group foraging, cavorting, and making a general ruckus for several minutes!

**Santa Marta Parakeet (E, En)**

A flock of 7 seen at eye-level, at 30 m, in binoculars and scope. Incredible views!!!

**Brown-breasted Parakeet (E, En)**

A flock of 21 individuals observed, at length, as they foraged in the branches directly overhead. Had some wonderful close views of this hit-and-miss species

**Barred Parakeet**

Always tough to see, we fortunately had a flock of 8, below eye-level, seen fairly well in flight

**Rufous-fronted Parakeet (E, Vu)**

This rare nomadic species really put on a show for us! We watched a flock of 9 feeding in the grass and in the low shrubbery through the scopes for nearly 10 minutes, before a dairy farmer leading his cow up the road flushed them...

**Green-rumped Parrotlet**

A few seen very well on the Guajira

**Spectacled Parrotlet**

Several seen at various locations

**Orange-chinned Parakeet**

Seen at various locations

**Saffron-headed Parrot**

A flock of 6 seen in flight over the Oilbird Cave property near Rio Claro

**Rusty-faced Parrot (NE, Vu)**

A family group of 6, including begging juveniles, seen very well right next to the main road to Rio Blanco

**Blue-headed Parrot**

Many

**Red-billed Parrot**

Seen in the Santa Marta range

**White-capped Parrot**

A pair flying over us at Cerro Montezuma

**Bronze-winged Parrot**

Seen at various locations around Manizales

**Yellow-crowned Amazon**

A few seen near La Victoria

**Orange-winged Amazon**

Only two seen, in flight near Honda

**Scaly-naped Amazon**

Heard at a few locations, seen only in the Santa Marta range

**CUCKOOS Cuculidae****Greater Ani**

Many

**Smooth-billed Ani**

Many

**Groove-billed Ani**

At a few locations, but most numerous in dry habitats and Guajira

**Striped Cuckoo**

Heard



**Dwarf Cuckoo**

A pair seen, with one individual staying out for photographs, near Buga

**Squirrel Cuckoo**

Several seen at various locations

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

One seen on the Guajira

**Grey-capped Cuckoo**

A great find! One sedentary individual sitting out 8m away.

**OWLS Strigidae**

**Tropical Screech Owl**

Heard in three locations, but due to rain or simple obstinance, non-responsive

**Santa Marta Screech Owl (E, Cr)**

A gorgeous, obliging, male came in to playback, perching eye-level, for minutes on end. We all had amazing looks at this incredibly rare and range-restricted species

**White-throated Screech Owl**

Heard every night at Rio Blanco, but never responsive

**Rufous-banded Owl**

Heard every night at Rio Blanco, and once in the Santa Marta range, but never responsive

**Black-and-White Owl**

Seen on a day roost in the Santa Marta range

**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl**

A few heard

**OILBIRD Steatornithidae**

**Oilbird**

Dozens inhabiting the Oilbird Cave near Rio Claro

**NIGHTJARS Caprimulgidae**

**Common Nighthawk**

A few seen at various locations

**Pauraque**

Heard

**Band-winged Nightjar**

One seen near Mundo Nuevo, another in the Santa Marta range

**SWIFTS Apodidae**

**Chestnut-collared Swift**

Many

**White-collared Swift**

Many

**Spot-fronted Swift**

A few seen well in Cerro Montezuma

**Band-rumped Swift**

A fairly large flock seen near Cerro Montezuma

**Grey-rumped Swift**

Many

**Short-tailed Swift**

A few seen at Rio Claro



**White-tipped Swift**

A few seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift**

Seen at Rio Claro

**HUMMINGBIRDS Trochilidae**

**Rufous-breasted Hermit**

One seen incubating a nest at Rio Claro

**Band-tailed Barbthroat**

Seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Green Hermit**

Seen in the Magdalena valley

**Long-billed Hermit**

Seen at Rio Claro

**Tawny-bellied Hermit**

Seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Pale-bellied Hermit**

A few seen at various locations

**Sooty-capped Hermit (NE)**

Seen above Minca

**Green-fronted Lancebill**

One seen at Anori and another at Cerro Montezuma

**Lazuline Sabrewing**

Briefly seen at Jardin Encantado, but seen well at El Dorado

**Santa Marta Sabrewing (E, Cr)**

Seen(!!!) above minca

**White-necked Jacobin**

Many

**Brown Violetear**

Seen at El Dorado

**Green Violetear**

Many

**Sparkling Violetear**

Many

**Black-throated Mango**

Many

**Ruby-Topaz Hummingbird**

Seen on the Guajira

**Western Emerald**

Seen at Anori

**Red-billed Emerald**

A few seen at various locations

**Coppery Emerald E**

One seen very well above Minca

**Short-tailed Emerald**

A few seen at various locations near Manizales

**Violet-crowned Woodnymph**

Many



**Green-crowned Woodnymph**

Common at Anori

**Violet-bellied Hummingbird**

Seen at Mana Dulce

**Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird (E, Cr)**

One beautiful male seen close at PNN Isla Salamanca

**Shining Green Hummingbird (NE)**

One seen at Mana Dulce

**Buffy Hummingbird (NE)**

A few seen on the Guajira

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**

Many

**Andean Emerald**

Many

**Indigo-capped Hummingbird (E)**

Common at feeders of Jardin Encantado

**Blue-chested Hummingbird**

Two seen at Mana Dulce

**Steely-vented Hummingbird**

Many

**Blossomcrown (E, En)**

Three displaying males seen in the Santa Marta range!

**White-vented Plumeleteer**

Several seen at various places

**Speckled Hummingbird**

Seen in several places

**Fawn-breasted Brilliant**

Several at Rio Blanco

**Empress Brilliant**

A few of this stunning Choco endemic seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Green-crowned Brilliant**

Numerous at Anori

**White-tailed Hillstar**

One seen feeding near the river at Cerro Montezuma

**Buff-tailed Coronet**

Common at Rio Blanco

**Velvet-purple Coronet**

Several of this striking hummer at Cerro Montezuma

**Shining Sunbeam**

Seen at PNN Chingaza

**Mountain Velvetbreast**

A few seen at various locations

**Bronzy Inca**

Seen at the Anori and at Otun-Quimbaya

**Brown Inca**

A few of this Choco specialty seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Black Inca (E, Vu)**

We had great views of this unique endemic at Laguna Pedropalo



**Collared Inca**

Seen at various locations

**White-tailed Starfrontlet (E)**

One female was seen coming to feeders at El Dorado

**Blue-throated Starfrontlet (NE)**

One pair seen incredibly well, at some flowering fuchsia, at Mundo Nuevo

**Sword-billed Hummingbird**

One seen at Rio Blanco

**Great Sapphirewing**

Seen near PNN Los Nevados

**Tourmaline Sunangel (NE)**

Many

**Amethyst-throated Sunangel**

One “Langemaure’s” subspecies seen at Mundo Nuevo

**Glowing Puffleg**

A few seen at Mundo Nuevo, PNN Chingaza, and PNN Los Nevados

**Coppery-bellied Puffleg (NE)**

A couple seen at Mundo Nuevo

**Golden-breasted Puffleg (NE)**

Great, brief, looks at PNN Los Nevados

**Black-thighed Puffleg (E)**

One surprised us at PNN Los Nevados, a great bird!

**Greenish Puffleg**

Seen at the Anori, and Cerro Montezuma

**Booted Racket-tail**

A few seen at various locations

**Black-tailed Trainbearer**

One seen near Bogota

**Green-tailed Trainbearer**

One seen at Mundo Nuevo

**Purple-backed Thornbill**

Two seen at Rio Blanco

**Bearded Helmetcrest**

We had several great encounters with 2 or 3 individuals at PNN Los Nevados, a highlight of the trip!

**Tyrian Metaltail**

A few at various locations

**Viridian Metaltail**

A few seen at PNN Los Nevados

**Rainbow-bearded Thornbill**

Heard

**Bronze-tailed Thornbill (NE)**

Stunning view of this scarce endemic, right on the road, at PNN Chingaza

**Long-tailed Sylph**

A few seen at Rio Blanco

**Violet-tailed Sylph**

A few of these gorgeous birds seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Purple-crowned Fairy**

One seen at Rio Claro



**Purple-throated Woodstar**

Several seen at Anori

**White-bellied Woodstar**

Seen at several locations

**Gorgeted Woodstar**

A few of this rare hummer seen at Jardin Encantado

**Santa Marta Woodstar (E)**

Coming to the feeders at El Dorado! A regularly-missed endemic

**TROGONS Trogonidae**

**Golden-headed Quetzal**

Males seen at Anori and Rio Blanco

**White-tipped Quetzal**

One female seen in the Santa Marta range

**White-tailed Trogon**

A few seen at Rio Claro

**Gartered Trogon**

Seen at Rio Claro

**Collared Trogon**

Seen at Anori and Otun-Quimbaya

**Masked Trogon**

Seen at a few separate locations

**KINGFISHERS Alcedinidae**

**American Pygmy Kingfisher**

Seen at PNN Isla Salamanca

**Green Kingfisher**

A few seen at different locations

**Amazon Kingfisher**

Several seen at various locations

**Ringed Kingfisher**

Many

**MOTMOTS Momotidae**

**Broad-billed Motmot**

Heard

**Andean Motmot**

A few seen near Manizales

**JACAMARS Galbulidae**

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar**

A few seen at various locations

**PUFFBIRDS Bucconidae**

**Barred Puffbird**

One seen in scope-filling views at Mana Dulce, and again seen very well at the Oilbird Cave property

**Russet-throated Puffbird (NE)**



A few of these confiding birds seen and photographed on the Guajira

**White-whiskered Puffbird**

Seen at Rio Claro and near Anori

**Moustached Puffbird (NE)**

Great views of this scarce bird at Laguna Pedropalo and at Anori

**Lanceolated Monklet**

Heard

**Grey-cheeked Nunlet**

Brief views of a very active pair of these difficult birds at the Oilbird Cave property

**NEW WORLD BARBETS & TOUCANS Ramphastidae**

**White-mantled Barbet (E, Vu)**

Nice views of this handsome bird at Bellavista Preserve and again at Rio Claro

**Red-headed Barbet**

Several seen at various places

**Santa Marta Toucanet (E)**

Several seen in the higher elevations of the Santa Marta range

**White-throated Toucanet**

A few seen at Laguna Pedropalo

**Yellow-billed Toucanet (NE)**

Two seen well and photographed in the middle elevations of the Santa Marta range

**Crimson-rumped Toucanet**

One seen well near Manizales

**Black-billed Mountain Toucan**

Seen in the distance at Rio Blanco

**Collared Aracari**

Several seen around Rio Claro

**Keel-billed Toucan**

Several of these gorgeous birds seen point blank at Minca

**Citron-throated Toucan (NE)**

Scope views of a pair seen at Rio Claro

**Chestnut-mandibled Toucan**

Heard (shocking not to see one!)

**TOUCAN BARBET Semnornithidae**

**Toucan Barbet**

Heard

**WOODPECKERS Picidae**

**Olivaceous Piculet**

A few seen at Mana Dulce, and heard other locations

**Greyish Piculet (E)**

One seen briefly en route to Jardin, a pair seen well near Buga

**Chestnut Piculet (NE)**

We had crushing views of this wonderful bird on the Guajira

**Acorn Woodpecker**

A few seen at Laguna Pedropalo

**Red-crowned Woodpecker**

Many



**Beautiful Woodpecker (E)**

One of these colorful and ornate woodpeckers put on a show for us at Bellavista preserve!

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker**

A few seen at various locations

**Yellow-vented Woodpecker**

A few seen at the higher elevations of Cerro Montezuma

**Bar-bellied Woodpecker**

One seen very well, foraging with one of the many mixed flocks at Rio Blanco

**Red-rumped Woodpecker**

Males seen at Mana Dulce and Bellavista Preserve

**Golden-green Woodpecker**

A responsive pair observed at PNN Isla Salamanca

**Crimson-mantled Woodpecker**

Several seen at Rio Blanco

**Golden-olive Woodpecker**

A few seen at various locations

**Spot-breasted Woodpecker**

Two of these gorgeous birds seen at eye level near Buga

**Cinnamon Woodpecker**

Two seen near and in the scope at Rio Claro

**Lineated Woodpecker**

Only one seen this tour near Buga

**Powerful Woodpecker**

A pair seen at Rio Blanco

**Crimson-crested Woodpecker**

Two seen interacting and foraging at Minca

### OVENBIRDS Furnariidae

**Stout-billed Cinclodes**

Several seen and photographed at PNN Los Nevados

**Pale-legged Hornero**

A few seen on the Guajira

**Andean Tit-spinetail**

A few seen well at PNN Los Nevados

**White-chinned Thistletail**

An amazingly responsive pair of birds, coming out in the open at some 5-6m distance, for photographs and incredible views

**Silvery-throated Spinetail (E)**

We coaxed out a whole family group of this endemic near PNN Chingaza

**Azara's Spinetail**

Many

**Pale-breasted Spinetail**

Seen and heard in a few locations

**Rusty-headed Spinetail (E)**

Several great views of this handsome furnariid in the Santa Marta range

**Slaty Spinetail**

A few heard and glimpsed near Manizales

**White-whiskered Spinetail (NE)**

This fantastic species showed well on several occasions on the Guajira



**White-browed Spinetail**

One responsive individual came right out for us below PNN Los Nevados

**Red-faced Spinetail**

Several seen at various locations

**Streak-capped Spinetail (E)**

A number seen well at the upper elevations in the Santa Marta range

**Ash-browed Spinetail**

A few seen in mixed flocks at Laguna Pedropalo

**Yellow-chinned Spinetail**

Seen off the main highway north of Honda, and again at PNN Isla Salamanca

**Many-striped Canastero**

A few seen at PNN Los Nevados

**Rusty-winged Barbtail**

One seen overhead at Otun-Quimbaya

**Spotted Barbtail**

Two seen well at Anori

**Star-chested Treerunner (NE)**

A good number seen near and far at Cerro Montezuma

**Pearled Treerunner**

Numerous at the higher elevation sites

**Pacific Tuftedcheek**

Two seen in separate mixed flocks at Cerro Montezuma

**Streaked Tuftedcheek**

A few seen at Rio Blanco

**Montane Foliage-gleaner**

Seen and heard at a few locations

**Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner**

A few seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Lineated Foliage-gleaner**

Only two seen this tour, both at Anori

**Western Woodhaunter**

One surprised us, with eye-level close views at Anori

**Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner**

A few seen at Anori

**Striped Treehunter**

One seen above Jardin

**Uniform Treehunter**

A few seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Flammulated Treehunter**

One seen at Rio Blanco

**Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner**

One heard at Cerro Montezuma, and one seen near Minca

**Ruddy Foliage-gleaner**

A responsive pair came right out for us at Cerro Montezuma

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

One finally popped out after trying several known territories traveling up into the Santa Marta range

**Grey-throated Leaf-tosser**

Wonderful views of this skulker along a creekbed in the Santa Marta range



**Plain Xenops**

A few seen in various places

**Streaked Xenops**

A few seen in various places

**Tyrannine Woodcreeper**

One came in to playback above Jardin

**Plain-brown Woodcreeper**

Seen in several places

**Olivaceous Woodcreeper**

A pair seen at Rio Claro

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper**

A few seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Strong-billed Woodcreeper**

Heard

**Black-banded Woodcreeper**

Heard

**Cocoa Woodcreeper**

Seen at Rio Claro and again in the Santa Marta range

**Olive-backed Woodcreeper**

One seen at Anori

**Spotted Woodcreeper**

A couple seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Straight-billed Woodcreeper**

Seen at Mana Dulce, and again in the Santa Marta area

**Montane Woodcreeper**

Many, including several of the rarer Santa Marta subspecies, proposed as a split

**Streak-headed Woodcreeper**

Several seen in a few locations

### ANTBIRDS *Thamnophilidae*

**Fasciated Antshrike**

Two seen at Laguna Tabacal

**Great Antshrike**

Heard

**Black-crested Antshrike**

Seen at PNN Isla Salamanca and again on the Guajira

**Barred Antshrike**

A pair responded at Minca for views

**Bar-crested Antshrike (NE)**

Heard in a few locations and seen very well at Mana Dulce, Bellavista Preserve, and near Anori

**Uniform Antshrike**

One male responded wonderfully at Cerro Montezuma

**Black-backed Antshrike (NE)**

A pair came out for great, close, views below Minca

**Western Slaty Antshrike**

One seen at Mana Dulce

**Plain Antvireo**

Seen at both Mana Dulce and Laguna Tabacal

**Bicoloured Antvireo (Vu)**

A pair seen at close range, foraging with a mixed flock on Cerro Montezuma

**Pacific Antwren**

Seen at Rio Claro and near the Oilbird Cave

**Slaty Antwren**

Seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Checker-throated Antwren**

An unprompted display by a male at Rio Claro afforded amazing views

**Yellow-breasted Antwren**

A pair responded to playback at Cerro Montezuma

**Rufous-winged Antwren**

A shocker near the lowest elevation at Cerro Montezuma, and perhaps a first for the site

**Dot-winged Antwren**

Heard

**Northern White-fringed Antwren**

An incredible male nearly landed on me during playback at Mana Dulce and posed for photos! Also saw several on the Guajira

**Rufous-rumped Antwren**

Seen well at Anori and again at Cerro Montezuma

**Long-tailed Antbird**

Heard at Rio Blanco and seen wonderfully in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Dusky Antbird**

A female came in to playback below Anori

**Parker's Antbird (E)**

Great views of male and females of this endemic at Anori

**Jet Antbird**

Two very responsive males seen at eye-level and above at Mana Dulce

**White-bellied Antbird**

My best encounter with this species yet! Seeing a male and female at 3m distance, full views

**Chestnut-backed Antbird**

Quite a few seen around Rio Claro

**Dull-mantled (Magdalena) Antbird (E)**

Perhaps the Antbird of the trip, a pair of this species came in to playback hopping on the rocks in front of us giving full views at 3m!!! Rio Claro

**Immaculate Antbird**

Heard

**ANTTHRUSHES Formicariidae**

**Black-faced Antthrush**

Glimpsed by a few, seen well by Leader Only, Oilbird Cave property

**ANTPITTAS Grallariidae**

**Moustached Antpitta (Vu)**

Heard

**Scaled Antpitta**

Glimpsed by a few in the Santa Marta range

**Tawny Antpitta**

The friendliest antpitta seen out in full glory at PNN Los Nevados

**Brown-banded Antpitta (E)**

A few coming in to worm feeders at Rio Blanco! Awesome



**Bicoloured Antpitta (NE, Vu)**

One coming to worms at Rio Blanco!! Double Awesome

**Santa Marta Antpitta (E)**

We played a couple individuals out, ensuring good looks for everyone in the Santa Marta Mountains.

**Yellow-breasted Antpitta**

Heard

**Chestnut-naped Antpitta**

Called in an incredibly obliging pair at Rio Blanco, both of which came to within 2m of us, practically moving amongst our ranks

**Chestnut-crowned Antpitta**

The most colorful Antpitta, perhaps, seen taking worms at Rio Blanco

**Rufous Antpitta**

Heard

**Santa Marta Rufous Antpitta (E, Vu)**

With patience, a pair seen at high elevation in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Streak-chested Antpitta**

Heard

**Ochre-breasted Antpitta**

Seen WITHOUT PLAYBACK....crazy... spotted it as it hopped up on a low limb at Anori

**Rusty-breasted [Ferruginous] Antpitta (NE)**

One individual keeping vigil at his territory at Laguna Tabacal allowed wonderful views, even in the scope!

**Slate-crowned Antpitta**

With patience, we called this handsome species in to a worm feeder at Rio Blanco

**GNATEATERS Conopophagidae****Chestnut-crowned Gnateater**

Heard

**TAPACULOS Rhinocryptidae****Ash-coloured Tapaculo**

Seen very well at Rio Blanco

**Northern White-crowned Tapaculo**

Seen well at Anori

**Santa Marta Tapaculo (E)**

Seen well at middle elevation in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Narino Tapaculo**

Seen at upper elevation Cerro Montezuma

**Stiles's Tapaculo (E)**

Glimpsed at Anori

**Brown-rumped Tapaculo (E)**

Three different individuals seen by various parties within our group allowing good looks for everyone and astounding (1m) looks for others

**Spillmann's Tapaculo**

Seen at Rio Blanco

**Alto Pisones Tapaculo (E)**

Seen in the lower-middle elevation of Cerro Montezuma

**Pale-bellied Tapaculo (E)**

Seen magnificently at PNN Chingaza in the open for photos

**Paramo Tapaculo**

Seen at very well at PNN Los Nevados

**Blackish Tapaculo**

Seen very well with scope views at Rio Blanco

**Ocellated Tapaculo**

Glimpsed by some, seen very well by others, Rio Blanco

**FAMILY UNCERTAIN Incertae Sedis**

**Wing-barred Piprites**

Heard

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS Tyrannidae**

**Sooty-headed Tyrannulet**

Surprisingly, only one encountered this tour

**Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet**

Seen at Anori, near Manizales, and at Otun-Quimbaya

**Black-capped Tyrannulet**

Seen at Mundo Nuevo and at Rio Blanco

**Ashy-headed Tyrannulet**

Seen at Anori and again at Otun-Quimbaya

**Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet**

Seen near Rio Claro

**Greenish Elaenia**

Seen definitively en route to Jardin and again in the Santa Marta area

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia**

Many

**Lesser Elaenia**

Two seen below Manizales and again, singing, near Buga

**Mountain Elaenia**

A few seen at various montane sites

**Brown-capped Tyrannulet**

Seen at Rio Claro

**Southern Beardless Tyrannulet**

Seen only at Mana Dulce but heard elsewhere

**White-tailed Tyrannulet**

Seen above Jardin

**White-banded Tyrannulet**

Seen at Mundo Nuevo and Rio Blanco

**White-throated Tyrannulet**

Seen at Mundo Nuevo, PNNs Chingaza and Los Nevados, and high in the Santa Marta range

**Agile Tit-Tyrant**

A lovely family group of four individuals chasing one another put on a nice show at Mundo Nuevo

**Torrent Tyrannulet**

Seen only in two places, despite being normally pretty common

**Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet**

A pair seen well at Mana Dulce and near Buga

**Yellow Tyrannulet**

One seen in the Santa Marta area returning from Guajira



**Subtropical Doradito**

Seen very well, without playback or prompt, at Parque Florida

**Bronze-olive Pygmy Tyrant**

One seen briefly at Anori

**Rufous-headed Pygmy Tyrant**

Great views of this adorable little flycatcher above Jardin

**Venezuelan Tyrannulet**

One seen very well in the Santa Marta range

**Choco Tyrannulet**

Seen at low elevation Cerro Montezuma

**Golden-faced Tyrannulet**

Many

**Variegated Bristle Tyrant**

One seen very well at Otun-Quimbaya

**Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant**

A few seen at various locations

**Antioquia Bristle Tyrant (E, En)**

A pair seen well, finally, after diligent search at Rio Claro

**Rufous-browed Tyrannulet**

Seen very well at Anori

**Streak-necked Flycatcher**

A few at various locations

**Olive-striped Flycatcher**

A few at various locations

**Ochre-bellied Flycatcher**

A few at various locations

**Sepia-capped Flycatcher**

Seen at Rio Claro and Minca

**Slaty-capped Flycatcher**

A few seen at various locations

**Rufous-breasted Flycatcher**

Seen well in a mixed flock above Jardin and at Otun-Quimbaya

**Northern Scrub Flycatcher**

Seen wonderfully close and oblivious to us on the Guajira

**Slender-billed Inezia (NE)**

Had equally nice looks at this species, as the previous

**Pale-tipped Inezia**

Seen on the Guajira, but a silent bird at Mana Dulce most fit this species! This would be one a handful of records outside the lower Magdalena Valley

**Flavescent Flycatcher**

Seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Handsome Flycatcher**

A few family flocks of this charming species seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Ornate Flycatcher**

Several at various locations

**Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant**

Seen at Minca

**Black-throated Tody-Tyrant**

A lovely individual posed for photos high up in the Santa Marta range



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**Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant**

One seen above us near the Oilbird Cave

**Southern Bentbill**

Heard closeby, but not located, near the Oilbird Cave

**Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant**

A few seen at different locations

**Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant**

Seen very well at Mana Dulce and again near Minca

**Rufous-crowned Tody-flycatcher**

A couple showed splendidly well for us as they lazily followed a mixed-flock

**Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher**

Seen en route to Jardin and again on the Guajira

**Common Tody-flycatcher**

Several at various locations

**Brownish Twistwing**

A great display by one male fascinated us near the Oilbird Cave

**Olivaceous Flatbill**

Seen at Minca

**Fulvous-breasted Flatbill**

This scarce little bird perched right up for us, and I came along it by accident while we sifted through a massive mixed flock at Cerro Montezuma both days

**Yellow-olive Flatbill**

Seen definitively at Mana Dulce and near Buga

**Yellow-margined Flatbill**

Seen at Rio Claro

**Ochre-lored Flatbill**

Seen near Rio Claro and again near Santa Marta

**White-throated Spadebill**

Great looks at a silently foraging individual in Anori

**Cinnamon Flycatcher**

A few in various locations, including the spectacular Santa Marta subspecies

**Black Phoebe**

Many

**Olive-sided Flycatcher (Vu)**

Seen at a few locations

**Smoke-coloured Pewee**

Seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Wood Pewee, sp.**

Many

**Eastern Wood Pewee**

One singing bird at Rio Claro was of this species

**Tropical Pewee**

Near Laguna Pedropalo and at Minca

**Acadian Flycatcher**

Seen at Laguna Pedropalo and Bellavista Preserve

**Willow Flycatcher**

Seen at Rio Claro and near Manizales

**Least Flycatcher**

Two individuals presumed to be this species seen near Manizales



**Vermilion Flycatcher**

Many

**Streak-throated Bush Tyrant**

Seen at Mundo Nuevo, above Jardin, and at PNN Los Nevados

**Santa Marta Bush Tyrant (E, En)**

Good scope views had of a distant bird upper elevation Santa Marta range

**Smoky Bush Tyrant**

A pair seen at Mundo Nuevo, and another pair at Rio Blanco

**Pied Water Tyrant**

Numerous in appropriate habitat

**White-headed Marsh Tyrant**

Seen well on the main highway north of Honda

**Crowned Chat-Tyrant**

Set up nicely for us at PNN Los Nevados

**Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant**

Seen well, after some coaxing, above Jardin

**Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant**

Seen above Jardin and seen much better at Cerro Montezuma

**Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant**

Responded to playback at Jardin

**Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant**

Seen at Mundo Nuevo, PNNs Chingaza and Los Nevados

**Long-tailed Tyrant**

2 seen on the Oilbird Cave property

**Cattle Tyrant**

Many

**Piratic Flycatcher**

Seen at Rio Claro and en route to Jardin

**Rusty-margined Flycatcher**

Many

**Social Flycatcher**

Many

**Great Kiskadee**

Many

**Golden-crowned Flycatcher**

A few seen at various locations

**Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**

One seen at Minca

**Streaked Flycatcher**

One seen at Rio Claro and a pair seen near Buga

**Boat-billed Flycatcher**

Seen in the Rio Claro area and near Santa Marta

**Tropical Kingbird**

The most regularly seen bird of the trip, recorded all but 2 days

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher**

Several seen at various locations and always amazing to see

**Eastern Kingbird**

Seen on the main highway north of Honda



**Grey Kingbird**

Seen on the Guajira

**Rufous Mourner**

Seen at Rio Claro

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher**

A few seen in various locations

**Venezuelan Flycatcher**

Seen well on the Guajira

**Panama Flycatcher**

One responded beautifully to playback at PNN Isla Salamanca

**Apical Flycatcher (E)**

We finally got incredible looks at a feisty individual near Buga

**Pale-edged Flycatcher**

A few at various locations

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

A few seen in the Rio Claro area

**Brown-crested Flycatcher**

One seen and heard at Bellavista Preserve

**Bright-rumped Attila**

Heard

**COTINGAS Cotingidae**

**Red-crested Cotinga**

Seen at PNNs Chingaza and Los Nevados

**Green-and-black Fruiteater**

Multiples seen at Rio Blanco and Cerro Montezuma

**Barred Fruiteater**

Heard

**Golden-breasted Fruiteater**

A few seen very well at El Dorado and lower in the Santa Marta range

**Orange-breasted Fruiteater**

Several (amazingly!) showed for us at Cerro Montezuma

**Andean Cock-of-the-rock**

At the lek near Jardin and a few in the forest at Cerro Montezuma

**Blue Cotinga**

One spotted at great distance and viewed through the scope on the Oilbird Property

**Chestnut-capped Piha (E, En)**

Incredible views of every inch of this scarce endemic at Anori

**Dusky Piha**

One flew in and perched right in front of us at Rio Blanco!

**Rufous Piha**

Heard

**Olivaceous Piha**

Nearly as many seen at Cerro Montezuma as this guide has seen in his life

**Red-ruffed Fruitcrow**

A good number seen at Otun-Quimbaya

**Long-wattled Umbrellabird**

One flew quickly past us near the low bridge at Cerro Montezuma



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**MANAKINS Pipridae**

**Golden-winged Manakin**

Several seen at Anori and Cerro Montezuma

**White-bibbed Manakin (NE)**

One of these enigmatic creatures seen at eye-level in Bellavista Preserve

**Club-winged Manakin**

One seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Blue-crowned (Velvety) Manakin**

One seen at the Oilbird Cave Property

**White-bearded Manakin**

A few seen in a few places

**Lance-tailed Manakin**

Heard

**Green Manakin**

A couple seen and heard lekking below Anori

**Yellow-headed Manakin (NE)**

A few males were seen lekking near Apia, and my lifer of the trip!

**White-crowned Manakin**

A couple of this widespread, but complicated, species seen at Anori

**Golden-headed Manakin**

A few seen at Bellavista and near Rio Claro

**TITYRAS, BECARDS Tityridae**

**Black-tailed Myiobius**

One at Rio Claro

**Masked Tityra**

Seen at Rio Claro

**Barred Becard**

A few seen at Rio Blanco and another Cerro Montezuma

**Cinereous Becard**

Seen on the Oilbird Cave property and near Buga

**Cinnamon Becard**

Seen at Mana Dulce and seen very well at Rio Claro

**White-winged Becard**

A few seen and heard in various places

**Black-and-white Becard**

One seen near Manizales

**VIREOS & GREENLETS Vireonidae**

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike**

A few seen in various places

**Black-billed Peppershrike**

One seen through the scope en route to Medellin, another seen very close at Rio Blanco

**Choco Vireo (NE, En)**

One of the prize birds of the trip, we had two males in song at Cerro Montezuma!!!

**Brown-capped Vireo**

A few seen at various locations

**Red-eyed Vireo**

A few seen at various locations



**Yellow-green Vireo**

A couple seen en route to Jardin and near Buga

**Rufous-naped Greenlet**

A few great looks in mixed-species flocks at Anori

**Scrub Greenlet**

Several seen in various places

**Golden-fronted Greenlet**

We had a couple great looks at this rather colorful Greenlet at Minca and on the Guajira

**CROWS & JAYS Corvidae**

**Black-chested Jay**

Seen below Anori and around Minca

**Inca Jay**

Seen well at Anori

**Black-collared Jay (NE)**

Some great views at Rio Blanco!

**Beautiful Jay**

Unfortunately seen by few in our group, heard by all

**SWALLOWS & MARTINS Hirundinidae**

**White-winged Swallow**

Several seen in a few places

**Grey-breasted Martin**

Many

**Purple Martin**

Three seen on the wire at Los Flamencos

**Brown-chested Martin**

Nine seen over the Cauca River en route to Jardin

**Blue-and-white Swallow**

Many

**Brown-bellied Swallow**

Many

**White-thighed Swallow**

A few seen at Anori

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow**

Many

**Barn Swallow**

Many

**Cliff Swallow**

A few seen at a small wetland near Manizales

**WRENS Cinclidae**

**White-headed Wren**

Good looks at small family group at Cerro Montezuma!

**Band-backed Wren**

A few seen on the Oilbird Cave Property

**Bicoloured Wren**

A few seen and heard at various places



**Rufous Wren**

Family groups seen at Mundo Nuevo (all around us!) and Rio Blanco

**Sepia-brown Wren**

Several seen in a few different places

**Sedge Wren**

Sitting out, in full song, at PNNs Chingaza and Los Nevados

**Apolinar's Wren (E, En)**

Great views of this skulky wren sitting out, singing, at Parque Florida

**Sooty-headed Wren (NE)**

A pair up, singing, at eye-level at Anori less than 9m distance!

**Black-bellied Wren**

A few encounters with this handsome wren at various, lowland, places

**Whiskered Wren**

Heard in many places, but only coaxed into the open our first day, at Laguna Pedropalo

**Rufous-breasted Wren**

Seen near and above Minca in pairs

**Speckle-breasted [Colombian] Wren**

A surprise appearance of a silent individual that crept into view for everyone at Laguna Tabacal, species status under discussion

**Rufous-and-white Wren**

A favorite song of the trip, heard often in the Santa Marta range, but only one pair played out into good, close, views for us

**Buff-breasted Wren**

Seen very well on the Guajira

**Bay Wren**

Only one pair encountered, below Anori, and seen well

**House Wren**

Many

**Mountain Wren**

Seen at Rio Blanco

**White-breasted Wood Wren**

Seen at Rio Claro

**Grey-breasted Wood Wren**

Heard in many places and seen three times well

**Munchique Wood Wren (E, Cr)**

Glimpsed briefly at Jardin but afforded us smashing views at Cerro Montezuma as a pair came out into full view for 5 full minutes at 3-4m distance!!!

**Southern Nightingale-Wren**

Heard

**Chestnut-breasted Wren**

Glimpsed at Otun-Quimbaya but seen much better at Cerro Montezuma

**GNATCATCHERS Polioptilidae****Tropical Gnatcatcher**

Several seen on the Guajira

**MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHES Mimidae****Tropical Mockingbird**

Several seen at various places



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**THRUSHES Turdidae**

**Andean Solitaire**

Heard in many places but only seen once, well, at Cerro Montezuma

**Black-billed Thrush**

Many

**Pale-breasted Thrush**

Many

**Clay-coloured Thrush**

Several in a few places

**Yellow-legged Thrush**

A few seen in the middle elevations of the Santa Marta range

**Chestnut-bellied Thrush**

One seen below Mundo Nuevo

**Glossy-black Thrush**

Seen well at Cerro Montezuma

**Great Thrush**

Many

**Black-hooded Thrush**

Two seen well at middle elevations of Santa Marta Mountains

**Black Solitaire (NE)**

Inexplicably numerous at Cerro Montezuma, with 26 seen in ONE DAY!

**Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush**

One seen below Manizales

**Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush**

Heard

**Grey-cheeked Thrush**

One seen at Otun-Quimbaya, rare for the site and elevation

**Swainson's Thrush**

Several seen in a few places

**DIPPERS Cinclidae**

**White-capped Dipper**

Three seen between Rio Blanco and Otun-Quimbaya

**FINCHES Fringillidae**

**Trinidad Euphonia**

One seen briefly and a few heard on the Guajira

**Velvet-fronted Euphonia E**

We found a pair of these tricky euphonias at Mana Dulce!

**Thick-billed Euphonia**

Many

**Golden-rumped Euphonia**

Heard

**Fulvous-vented Euphonia**

Seen at Oilbird Cave property

**Orange-bellied Euphonia**

Many



**Yellow-collared Chlorophonia**

We had a number of flocks of these pretty finches in the lower elevations of Cerro Montezuma

**Blue-naped Chlorophonia**

A few in a few places, and tons at El Dorado!

**Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia**

This most stunning member of the genus gave us unbelievable close, long looks on several occasions at Cerro Montezuma

**Andean Siskin (NE)**

A few good size flocks of these were seen near PNN Chingaza

**Yellow-bellied Siskin**

A few seen at Anori and Rio Blanco

**Lesser Goldfinch**

A few seen in several locations

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS Parulidae****Golden-winged Warbler**

Males seen at Rio Blanco and Cerro Montezuma

**Tennessee Warbler**

Numerous in the Santa Marta range

**Tropical Parula**

A few seen in various places

**Yellow Warbler**

Several seen in different places

**Blackburnian Warbler**

A near third as the most regularly seen species this tour

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

Several seen in a few places

**Townsend's Warbler**

One seen at Isla Salamanca!

**Magnolia Warbler**

One seen near Manizales, a first in the central Andes!

**Cerulean Warbler (Vu)**

One seen near Manizales and another at Otun-Quimbaya

**Black-and-white Warbler**

Many

**American Redstart**

A few seen in various places

**Prothonotary Warbler**

Several seen near the coast

**Northern Waterthrush**

A few seen in various places

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

One seen at PNN Isla Salamanca

**Mourning Warbler**

One below Anori, one near Manizales, and one at Minca

**Masked Yellowthroat**

Two seen at a small wetland near Manizales

**Wilson's Warbler**

One seen above Jardin, a second record for the region!



**Canada Warbler**

Many

**Slate-throated Whitestart**

Many

**Golden-fronted Whitestart (NE)**

Several seen at upper elevations

**Yellow-crowned Whitestart (E)**

Several seen very well at high elevation in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Citrine Warbler**

A group seen at Mundo Nuevo, and several seen above Jardin

**Choco Warbler**

Fairly numerous in mixed flocks at lower elevations at Cerro Montezuma

**Black-crested Warbler**

One at Nuevo Mundo, and a pair at PNN Los Nevados

**Santa Marta Warbler (E)**

Two seen well at high elevation in the Santa Marta Mountains

**White-lored Warbler (E)**

Several seen in the Santa Marta range

**Russet-crowned Warbler**

A few seen above Jardin and Rio Blanco

**Golden-crowned Warbler**

A few seen in the middle elevations of the Santa Marta range

**Rufous-capped Warbler**

Several seen in various locations

**Three-striped Warbler**

Many

**Buff-rumped Warbler**

Many

**OROPENDOLAS, ORIOLES & BLACKBIRDS Icteridae**

**Crested Oropendola**

Many seen in the Santa Marta range, and a few near Rio Claro

**Chestnut-headed Oropendola**

A few seen near Rio Claro

**Yellow-rumped Cacique**

Many seen at Rio Claro

**Mountain Cacique**

Seen at Mundo Nuevo and several more at Jardin

**Yellow-billed Cacique**

A few seen at Rio Blanco and Cerro Montezuma

**Yellow-tailed Oriole**

A pair seen in Santa Marta environs

**Yellow-backed Oriole**

Many

**Yellow Oriole**

Seen on the Guajira

**Orange-crowned Oriole**

Several seen in a few different places



**Baltimore Oriole**

One seen at Minca

**Red-bellied Grackle (E, En)**

An impressive flock

**Yellow-hooded Blackbird**

Many

**Shiny Cowbird**

Many

**Bronze-brown Cowbird**

A small flock seen on the Guajira

**Giant Cowbird**

Just a few seen

**Carib Grackle**

Several seen near the coast

**Great-tailed Grackle**

Many near the coast

**Red-breasted Blackbird**

Many

**Eastern Meadowlark**

Fairly numerous in high elevation pastures near Bogota

**BANANAQUIT Coerebidae**

**Bananaquit**

Many

**BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & ALLIES Emberizidae**

**Tocuyo Sparrow (NE)**

One seen by most participants on the Guajira, a very rare bird!

**Black-striped Sparrow**

Seen at Anori

**Orange-billed Sparrow**

A pair at Rio Claro

**Golden-winged Sparrow (NE)**

Several of these stunning birds seen near and above Minca

**Chestnut-capped Brush Finch**

A few at Otun-Quimbaya and Cerro Montezuma

**Black-headed Brush Finch (NE)**

One surprised us at Cerro Montezuma, part of a tiny disjunct population

**Colombian Brush Finch (E)**

A few seen at El Dorado

**Grey-browed [Stripe-headed] Brush Finch**

One at Mundo Nuevo and several at Rio Blanco

**Olive Finch**

One came right out in the open at Cerro Montezuma!

**Moustached Brush Finch**

Sat up and sang for us at Laguna Pedropalo

**White-naped Brush Finch**

A few seen in different places



**Pale-naped Brush Finch**

Several seen at Mundo Nuevo and a few near PNN Chingaza

**Yellow-headed Brush Finch (E, En)**

A new population discovered near Manizales!!!

**Slaty Brush Finch**

Several seen in a couple different locations

**Santa Marta Brush Finch (E)**

Numerous in the Santa Marta range

**Choco Brush Finch**

Numerous at Cerro Montezuma

**Rufous-naped [Yellow-breasted] Brush Finch**

One seen at PNN Los Nevados

**Common Bush Tanager**

Seen at Otun-Quimbaya

**Dusky Bush Tanager**

Numerous at Cerro Montezuma

**Yellow-throated Bush Tanager**

Several at Anori and a few at Cerro Montezuma

**Yellow-green Bush Tanager (NE)**

A few of this extremely rare bird seen at lower elevation of Cerro Montezuma!

**Ashy-throated Bush Tanager**

Seen at Otun-Quimbaya

**Rufous-collared Sparrow**

Many

**TANAGERS & ALLIES Thraupidae****Black-faced Tanager**

A few at Anori

**White-capped Tanager**

A noisy, wonderfully close group of these stunners at Rio Blanco

**Black-capped Hemispingus**

Several in a few places

**Superciliaried Hemispingus**

Several in a few places

**Oleaginous Hemispingus**

A few near Manizales

**Black-eared Hemispingus**

A few at Rio Blanco

**Black-headed Hemispingus**

Two of this scarce elfin forest species seen very well near PNN Chingaza

**Grey-hooded Bush Tanager**

A few seen in different places

**Grey-headed Tanager**

Heard

**Tawny-crested Tanager**

Heard

**White-lined Tanager**

Seen near Jardin



**Crimson-backed Tanager**

Many

**Flame-rumped Tanager E**

Several in various places

**Lemon-rumped Tanager**

A few seen in the Magdalena Valley

**Blue-grey Tanager**

Many

**Glaucous Tanager (NE)**

A few seen very well on the Guajira

**Blue-capped Tanager**

Several seen in a few different places

**Palm Tanager**

Many

**Black-and-gold Tanager (E, Vu)**

Many great views of this special bird at Cerro Montezuma

**Gold-ringed Tanager (E, En)**

Shocking numbers of these seen and photographed at Cerro Montezuma!

**Hooded Mountain Tanager**

A pair at Mundo Nuevo, and singles above Jardin and Rio Blanco

**Black-chested Mountain Tanager**

Great views of this handsome, colorful bird near PNN Chingaza

**Santa Marta Mountain Tanager (E)**

This species put on a great show for us at high elevation in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Lacrimose Mountain Tanager**

Several seen above Jardin and at Rio Blanco

**Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager**

Several seen at various high elevation locations

**Blue-winged Mountain Tanager**

A few seen at various places

**Black-chinned Mountain Tanager**

Numerous at Cerro Montezuma

**Grass-green Tanager**

Many views of this gorgeous bird above Jardin and at Rio Blanco

**Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager**

One viewed while singing at PNN Chingaza, other singles seen at Rio Blanco and the upper elevation of the Santa Marta Mountains

**Purplish-mantled Tanager (NE)**

Several seen in various places and voted favorite bird of the tour by the participants!

**Golden-crowned Tanager**

Great looks at this beauty near PNN Los Nevados

**Glistening-green Tanager**

A number of these showy birds at Cerro Montezuma

**Multicoloured Tanager (E, Vu)**

Seen well at Anori, and again at Otun-Quimbaya

**Plain-coloured Tanager**

Several seen in the Magdalena Valley

**Golden Tanager**

Many



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**Silver-throated Tanager**

Several seen at Cerro Montezuma

**Saffron-crowned Tanager**

One seen above Jardin

**Speckled Tanager**

A few seen at Anori

**Rufous-throated Tanager**

A few seen well at Cerro Montezuma

**Bay-headed Tanager**

Many

**Scrub Tanager (NE)**

Many

**Golden-naped Tanager**

One seen at higher elevation Cerro Montezuma

**Metallic-green Tanager**

Two seen en route to Anori

**Blue-necked Tanager**

Several seen in various places

**Golden-hooded Tanager**

A few seen at Rio Claro

**Beryl-spangled Tanager**

Many

**Blue-and-black Tanager**

Several seen in a few high elevation places

**Black-capped Tanager**

Many

**Black-headed Tanager**

One of these rare birds seen at middle elevation in the Santa Marta range

**Swallow Tanager**

Only one seen near Rio Claro and another at Minca

**Turquoise Dacnis (E, Vu)**

Two seen at Laguna Pedropalo

**Yellow-tufted Dacnis**

A few of these seen well at Rio Claro

**Blue Dacnis**

Surprisingly seen only at Minca

**Purple Honeycreeper**

A couple seen near Rio Claro and again at Minca

**Green Honeycreeper**

A pair seen near Manizales

**Scarlet-browed Tanager**

Great looks at a pair in Rio Claro

**Yellow-backed Tanager**

A couple seen at Rio Claro

**Guira Tanager**

A pair seen at Anori

**Scarlet-and-white Tanager**

Two incredible males seen at the lower elevations of Cerro Montezuma



**Bicoloured Conebill**

Several seen at PNN Isla Salamanca

**Rufous-browed Conebill (NE)**

A few at Mundo Nuevo and even more seen well at PNN Chingaza

**Blue-backed Conebill**

A few seen at various high elevation sites

**Capped Conebill**

Numerous at Rio Blanco

**White-sided Flowerpiercer**

Many

**Glossy Flowerpiercer**

Several at high elevation sites

**Black Flowerpiercer**

A few at high elevation sites

**Indigo Flowerpiercer (NE)**

Crushing looks of neon blue at Anori and Cerro Montezuma

**Bluish Flowerpiercer**

Numerous at Cerro Montezuma

**Masked Flowerpiercer**

Several at various places

**Tanager Finch (NE)**

Glimpsed and heard often at Cerro Montezuma

**Grey Pileated Finch**

Seen at Mana Dulce and on the Guajira

**Plumbeous Sierra Finch**

Seen at PNNs Chingaza and Los Nevados

**Saffron Finch**

Many

**Blue-black Grassquit**

Many

**Grey Seedeater**

A few seen at Mana Dulce

**Yellow-bellied Seedeater**

Many

**Ruddy-breasted Seedeater**

Seen well at a wetland near Manizales

**Lesser Seed Finch**

A few at Cerro Montezuma

**Band-tailed Seedeater**

Several seen at Huasca

**Plain-coloured Seedeater**

Several seen at Huasca

**Paramo Seedeater**

Seen at PNN Los Nevados

**Dull-coloured Grassquit**

Seen near Minca

**Yellow-faced Grassquit**

Many



**Black-faced Grassquit**

Two displaying males on the Guajira!

**Hepatic Tanager**

A couple seen at different locations

**Scarlet Tanager**

A few seen in various locations

**Summer Tanager**

Many

**Sooty Ant Tanager (E)**

Great looks of this skulker at Bellavista

**Crested Ant Tanager (E)**

Several great views of a number of these birds at Cerro Montezuma

**Rosy Thrush-tanager**

One gave gorgeous views to some participants at Laguna Tabacal!

**Plushcap**

Several seen point blank range at Rio Blanco!

**GROSBEAKS, SALTATORS & ALLIES Cardinalidae**

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

A few seen in various places

**Vermilion Cardinal (NE)**

A gorgeous males sat up, singing, right next to the bus on the Guajira!

**Greyish Saltator**

Several seen in a few places

**Buff-throated Saltator**

Many

**Black-winged Saltator**

Seen at Anori and near Manizales

**Orinocan Saltator**

Seen very well on the Guajira

**Masked Saltator**

A whopping 5 seen at Rio Blanco!!!

**Streaked Saltator**

Many

**Indigo Bunting**

One seen on the Guajira, a great record!

**MAMMALS**

**Red-tailed Squirrel**

Many

**Andean Squirrel (E)**

Seen at Rio Blanco

**Central American Dwarf Squirrel**

Seen in a few places

**Western Dwarf Squirrel (NE)**

Seen in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Venezuelan Red Howler Monkey**

A troop seen at Otun-Quimbaya, and more great views in the Santa Marta range



**White-footed [Silvery Brown] Tamarin (E)**

A small troop seen on the Oilbird Cave property

**Black Agouti**

A couple seen at Otun-Quimbaya

**Crab-eating Fox**

A pair came in to raid the kitchen at Rio Blanco!

**ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE**

**Tricolored Munia (Introduced)**

Seen near Buga

**Yellow-striped Poison Frog (E, Vu)**

Bellavista preserve

**Truando Toad**

Rio Claro

**South American Common Toad**

Found at the Oilbird Cave property

**Cane Toad**

Seen in the Oilbird Cave

**“Green Snake” Chironius sp.**

One fell out of a tree onto the road en route to Jardin

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