Colombia Trip Report
Andean Endemics & Santa Marta II
30th October to 21st 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 Sunanagel) 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 unparralled 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 PN N 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 Anthbirds 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-cheeked 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 began….

**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 (1st 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 Crane, 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, pihas 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 Pihas, 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 (2nd 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 inhabitants 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 Blossomcrows (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-lobed 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 re-commence 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 member 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 4th “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!


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

**BITTERNS & 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

Neotropis 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 Haematopididae

American Oystercatcher
One seen at Los Flamencos

STILTS, AVOSETS 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 obstinence, 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

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Rockjumper Birding Tours
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 fucsia, 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

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**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!)

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**TOUCAN BARBET  Semnornithidae**

**Toucan Barbet**
Heard

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**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

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**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 Leafgiver
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

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**ANTTHRUSHES Formicariidae**

**Black-faced Anthrush**
Glimpsed by a few, seen well by Leader Only, Oilbird Cave property

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**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

GNATEETERS 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
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

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
**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

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**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

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**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

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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

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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

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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
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

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

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BANANAQUIT Coerebidae

Bananaquit
Many

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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
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

Truendo 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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