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A TRIP REPORT FOR A BIRDING TRIP TO THE COLOMBIAN ANDES

September 13th – October 3rd 2008

Barry Walker.

**With – John Lobel, Trevor Ford, Howard Jolliffe, Ron
and Sue Johns, Luis Eduardo Urueña (Co-leader)**

Driver: Cesar Trujillo

This trip was planned specifically to target some of the most endangered Colombia endemics, which are fortunately protected in fragmented forest thanks to the efforts of ProAves. Colombia has come a long way in answering its security questions and the time is ripe to visit this bird rich country with the help of the NGO ProAves. ProAves is a Colombian NGO dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats. They own a superb network of 11 reserves totaling over 10,000 hectares, protecting critical habitat for many of Colombia's threatened and endemic bird species. ProAves also invests a lot in ornithological research, in order to improve our knowledge of Colombia's avifauna and to identify new target areas for reserves and they continue to buy land to conserve extremely range-restricted birds and on this trip, we stayed at several of their accommodations at the reserves. Colombia – one of the two most diverse countries for birds on the planet along with Peru (which it narrowly outstrips due to records of migrants and vagrants on the Andreas Island in the Caribbean). North of Ecuador the Andes branches into 3 distinct mountain chains, separated by the Cauca and Magdalena valleys, each with its endemic avifauna. The Santa Marta mountains rise, it seems, straight out of the Caribbean and is a spectacular mountain range with a hatful of localized endemics. Mention of Colombia conjures images of Emeralds, Coffee, Vallenato music, Guerillas and Cocaine and indeed like many

developing countries Colombia is in flux and going down the right road to solving its previous social and security problems. We made no excuse for concentrating on endemics in the Colombian Andes, though on the route we took we did not ignore anything that popped up in front of us. This trip report is based on visits to reserves that protect the last remaining forests and habitats of some of the most endangered birds in the world. We recorded 52 Colombian endemics, many endangered, some critically, and around 570 species in total including near endemics and range restricted species.



The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta

The Agenda

September 13th – Arrival in Bogotá. Trevor and Eduardo are already installed and I arrive with Howard – we head for the Bogotá Beer Company for pizza and beer to be met later by Ron, Sue and John. Night Chico Imperial Suites Distrito Capital.

September 14th - Early morning birding trip to Parque La Florida, 2600 meters, Distrito Capital, then to the airport in plenty of time for our flight to Armenia where Cesar and our van are waiting van to drive us to Genova. A jeep ride gets us to our waiting horses and we ride up the trail with some trepidation to the El Mirador Reserve at 3300 meters. Night in bunkhouse accommodation at RNA El Mirador. Department of Quindio.

September 15th – All day birding RNA El Mirador at around 3300 meters. Some mist in the morning. Night in bunkhouse accommodation at RNA El Mirador. Department of Quindio.

September 16th - We leave RNA El Mirador at 3300meters and walk the trail down birding to Jardin at 2400 meters. Goodbye to the horses and we take jeeps to our waiting van and onto Ibague via a quick roadside lunch stop. Night Hotel Ambala.

September 17th Drive in jeeps to Clarita Botero above Ibague. Morning birding here and a quick lunch (with a girl-fight for entertainment!) and drive to Puerto Pinzon over the la Dorada bridge over the Magdalena River and onto Reserva Natural de Aves (RNA) El Paujil, Serranía de las Quinchas, East slope of the Central Cordillera. 200 meters, Department of Boyaca.

September 18th Reserva Natural de Aves (RNA) El Paujil, Serranía de las Quinchas. Department of Boyacu/Santander. 200 meters.

September 19th Reserva Natural de Aves (RNA) El Paujil, Serranía de las Quinchas. Department of Boyacu/Santander. 200 meters

September 20th. El Paujil to Reserva Natural (RNA) de Aves Reinita Cielo Azul (Cerulean Warbler Reserve), Department of Santander, 1300 meters. Lunch along the way. Department of Norte Santander.

September 21st Reserva Natural de Aves Reinita Cielo Azul (Cerulean Warbler Reserve) Department of Santander. 1300-1800 meters. West slope of the Eastern Cordillera. All of us ride to the slippery 150-year old Lengerke trail and spend the whole day here with a packed lunch. Late afternoon birding near the lodge. Department of Norte Santander.

September 22nd: Drive from San Vicente to Ocana with a stop at Quince Letras. 1350 meters. West slope of the Eastern Cordillera. Night Ocana 1200 meters Hotel Plaza Real. Department of Norte Santander.

September 23rd: Reserva Natural de Aves (RNA) Hormiguero, 1500-1700 meters. Night Ocana. Department of Norte Santander.

September 24th: 3:30am start and drive to Santa Marta with breakfast along the way and lunch on arrival at Rodadero beach. Late afternoon on Isla Salamanca at Los Cocos. Night Rodadero at the Hotel La Sierra Department of Magdalena.

September 25th: Early start for the Guajira peninsular and the Los Flamencos National Park, spending the morning birding near Pericos. Birding the lagoons with lunch on the beach. Afternoon return to Rodadero beach and our hotel. Department of Magdalena.

September 26th Rodadero to the Santa Marta Mountains. Birding above and below Minca with lunch there, 370 – 1300 meters. Then to the El Dorado Lodge 1900 meters. Department of Magdalena.

September 27th All day with a packed lunch on the San Lorenzo ridge at 2560 meters and down to 1900 and the El Dorado Lodge. Department of Magdalena.

September 28th Early morning on the San Lorenzo ridge at 2100 -1600 meters and afternoon below the lodge at 1650-1900 meters including the “African Bee trail” Department of Magdalena.

September 29th Drive to Santa Marta airport with some brief birding stops and fly to Medellin. We are reunited with Eduardo and Cesar. Drive to the Reserva Natural de Aves (RNA) Arrierito Antioqueno Reserve, (Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve) 1600 meters. West slope Central Cordillera. Department of Antioquia.

September 30th Full day at the reserve walking the Motmot and Bangsia trails up the ridge in the morning, 1500-1650 meters. Lunch at the lodges and along the quiet road in the afternoon. Night at the RNA Arrierito Antioqueno, Department of Antioquia.

October 1st Morning on the same trail at the reserve and then drive to Medellin and on to Jardin. Night in Jardin at 1600 meters. East slope of the Central Cordillera. Department of Risaralda.

October 2nd Morning at the Yellow-eared Parrot Reserve at Alto de Ventanas 2700 – 2600 meters, East slope of the Western Cordillera, and afternoon drive to Medellin for the night. Hotel Nutibarra

Oct 3rd Flight from Medellin to Bogotá and onto Quebrada La Vieja for some last birding and then a farewell seafood lunch and connecting flights home for some, overnight for others.

THE KEY

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol *

RED = IUCN RED LIST CATEGORY

IOC = International Ornithological Congress

SACC = South American Classification Committee

RNA = Reserva Natural de Aves (Pro-Aves Reserves)

E = Colombian Endemic

RR = Range Restricted

THE BIRDS

TINAMIDAE

Tawny-breasted Tinamou – *Nothocercus Julius** – very vocal at El Mirador but impossible to see.

Great Tinamou – *Timamus major**

Little Tinamou - *Crypturellus soui**:

PODICIPIDAE

Least Grebe – *Tachybaptus dominicus*: A few on ponds on our driv

Pied-billed Grebe – *Podilymbus podiceps*: 4 at Parque La Florida

PELICANIDAE

Brown Pelican – *Pelecanus occidentales*: Common along the coastline near Rodadero and Camerones.

PHALACROCORACIDEA

Neotropic Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird – *Fregata magnificens*: One seen in the Santa Marta area.

ARDEIDAE

Great Egret - *Ardea albus*: We saw small numbers at several wetland sites. Now usually placed in the genus *Ardea*.

White-necked (Cocoi) Heron – *Ardea cocoi*. About a 25 sightings throughout the trip.

Reddish Egret – *Egretta rufescens*: Common at Camerones on September 25th.

Tricolored Heron – *Egretta tricolor*: Around 20 at Camerones on September 25th.and some the previous day.

Little Blue Heron – *Egretta caerulea*: A few sightings.

Snowy Egret - *Egretta thula*

Striated Heron - *Butorides striatus*: Small numbers seen at several wetland areas.

Green Heron – *Butorides virescens*: 1 near Perico and one at Isla Salamanca.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Common and widespread
Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*: We had nice looks of 2 on Isla Salamanca on September 24th

Black-crowned Night Heron – *Nycticorax nycticorax*: 2 at parque La Florida on our first morning and a couple on Isla Salamanca.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Nyctanassa violacea*. 2 on Isla Salamanca

Rufescent Tiger-Heron – *Tigrisoma lineatum*: One near El Paujil reserve and one on a travel day.

CICONIDAE

American Wood Stork – *Mycteria americana*: Half a dozen at Perico on September 25th

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Bare-faced Ibis - *Phimosus infuscatus*: Common.

Glossy Ibis – 6 at Camerones

Roseate Spoonbill – *Platalea ajaja*: A rather pink bird! 15+ seen near Pericos and 20+ on Isla Salamanca.

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Caribbean Flamingo – *Phoenicopterus ruber*: 6 + on the lagoons at Camerones. The SACC says “The Old World subspecies *roseus* has been recognized as a separate species by some authors (e.g., Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Blake 1977), with the English name "Greater Flamingo" applied to the Old World species, and either "Caribbean Flamingo" or "American Flamingo" (e.g., Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Hilty 2003) used for the New World species.

ANHIMIDAE

RR Northern Screamer - *Chauna chavaria*: Seen well and scoped (6 birds) on the way out from the RNA Paujil. A bird most wanted to see it and it obliged. **NEAR THREATENED**

ANATIDAE

Fulvous Whistling-Duck – *Dendrocygna bicolor*: Only seen once. 20 on a pond on September 17th

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: Here and there in wetland areas.

Blue-winged Teal - *Anas discors*: Boreal migrant to Colombia

CATHARTIDAE

Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*

Black Vulture - *Coragyps atratus*

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture – *Cathartes burrovianus*: Regular sightings over open non-forested areas.

King Vulture – *Sacoramphus papa*- One at the Paujil reserve.

PANDIONIDAE

Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus*: Regular sightings of individuals throughout the tour.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Crane Hawk – *Geranospiza caerulacens*

Grey-headed Kite - *Leptodon cayanensis*: 1 at RNA Hormiguero

American Swallow-tailed Kite - *Elanoides forficatus*: One of the most elegant birds of the Neotropics. Several on the way down to Jardin on September 16th.

White-tailed Kite - *Elanus leucurus*: 2 seen

Savanna Hawk *Heterospizias meridionalis*: A few sightings.

Black-collared Hawk – *Busarellus nigricolis*: 4 at Pericos

Montane Solitary Eagle - *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius* A confusing Immature bird seen at Clarito Botero on September 17th. Note the new official name given by the IOC. **NEAR THREATENED**

Gray-lined Hawk – *Buteo nitidus*: One seen. Formerly placed in the monotypic genus *Asturina*. The SACC says - REFS> and Sibley & Monroe (1990) considered the Middle American subspecies *plagiata* to deserve recognition as a separate species (Gray Hawk) from *Asturina nitidus* (Gray-lined Hawk), but in part because no rationale was published, this treatment has not been widely accepted; see Hellmayr & Conover (1949) for rationale for treating them as conspecific.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*: Numerous and widespread in small numbers.

White-rumped Hawk *Buteo leucorrhous*: We saw 2 on the San Lorenzo ridge in the Santa Marta mountains on September 27th

Zone-tailed Hawk – *Buteo albonotatus*: One seen in the Santa Marta Mountains

Black Hawk-Eagle – *Spizaetus tyrannus*: One calling and soaring high at RNA El Paujil on September 18th and one RNA Hormiguero

Ornate Hawk-Eagle – *Spizaetus ornatus*: One at RNA Arrierito flying high and calling on October 1st

FALCONIDAE

Northern Crested Caracara - *Caracara cheriway*: Small numbers at several sites. Formerly placed in the genus *Polyborus* but this species has been switched to the genus *Caracara*. Note also that the former species known as Crested Caracara, has been split into three species with those ranging north of north-west Peru and the Amazon River (i.e. Colombia) and as far as the USA, according to the IOC, retain the name Northern Crested Caracara *C. cheriway*, the birds from Southern Peru to the tip of South America, Tierra del Fuego, are referable to the species *Caracara plancus* Southern Crested Caracara, while another form, the extinct Guadalupe Caracara *C. lutosus*, of Guadalupe Island, Mexico, has also been given its untimely species status. The SACC says “*Caracara cheriway* and *C. plancus* were formerly considered conspecific (e.g., Hellmayr & Conover 1949, Phelps & Phelps 1958a), sometimes also including *C. lutosus* of Guadalupe Island (e.g., Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Stresemann and Amadon 1979), but the ranges of *cheriway* and *plancus* are nearly parapatric with no sign of intergradation, contrary to earlier interpretations (see Banks REF); they constitute a superspecies. The three forms had previously been considered separate species by REFS, Pinto (1938), and Friedmann (1950).”

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*: Another widespread open country raptor that was seen regularly in small numbers.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans**

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*: Scattered sightings.

Merlin – *Falco columbarius*: One on the Guajira Peninsular

Bat Falcon – *Falco ruficularis*: 2 on the ride down from RNA Cerulea

CRACIDAE

E Colombian Chachalaca *Ortalis columbiana*: 3 seen on the way to RNA El Paujil and heard at other localities.

Andean Guan – *Penelope montagnii*: Several in the RNA Mirador area and good looks too. Penelope was the daughter of Icarus and wife of Ulysses King of Ithaca.

Band-tailed Guan – *Penelope argyrotis*: 3 seen in the Santa Marta Mountains

E Blue-billed Curassow – *Crax alberti**. Unfortunately only heard booming despite John's valiant effort with Luis Eduardo. **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**

PHASIANIDAE

Crested Bobwhite *Colinus cristatus*

Marbled Wood-Quail – *Odontophorus gujanensis**

E Black-fronted Wood-Quail *Odontophorus atrifrons**: Heard in the Santa Marta Mountains and at the RNA Hormiguero, Classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International, the world population is estimated at 2,500 – 9,999 individuals and is decreasing. This species qualifies as Vulnerable owing to its small range and population, both of which must be declining in response to habitat loss. The range is small and fragmented with recent records from only one area. The Colombian East Andes have been subject to four centuries of extensive degradation, with progressive deforestation of the lower montane slopes. In Boyacá and Santander, however, where forest loss was gradual until the 1960s and 1970s, some sizeable tracts remain, and habitat is beginning to regenerate owing to land abandonment. The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is threatened by agricultural expansion, logging and burning. On the west slopes, marijuana plantations expanded widely in the 1980s, and were sprayed by the government with herbicides in the early 1990s. The Sierra de Perijá is heavily deforested up to 2,000m, by cattle-ranching at lower elevations and coca cultivation higher up. It is also hunted at least in some parts of its range. **VULNERABLE**

ARAMIDIDAE

Limpkin – *Aramus guarauna*: A few.

RALLIDAE .

White-throated Crake - *Laterallus albigulari*: At the Paujil Reserve*

E Bogotá Rail - *Rallus semiplumbeus*: A handsome endemic. 3 seen very well at Parque La Florida. The world population is estimated at 1,000 – 2,499 individuals and is decreasing because its range is very small and is contracting owing to widespread habitat loss and degradation. **ENDANGERED**

Grey-necked Wood-Rail – *Aramides cajanea* Seen at RNA El Paujil. Note that IOC adopt the spelling of grey with an “e”

Purple Gallinule – *Porphyryla martinica*: 4 seen in total.

Common Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus*: A bitter battle with the powers that be in the IOC. Moorhen has nothing to do with moors (a rolling expanse of bleak wasteland) but comes from the word “mere” which means “ a sheet of standing water or pool” So it would have originally in old British English have been called a Merehen and this has been corrupted over the years. I am glad

the IOC adopts Common Moorhen. It could never be a Gallinule to me! I would even vote in favor of Common Merehen.



Bogotá Rail

Spot-flanked Gallinule – *Gallinula melanops*: 3 seen at Parque La Florida on our first days birding. The Bogotá plains hold an isolated population a long way from others of this species.

American Coot – *Fulica Americana*: Fairly common at Parque La Florida.

JACANIDAE

Wattled Jacana - *Jacana jacana*: A few on ponds.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt – *Himantopus mexicanus*: Common at Isla Salamanca and Camerones. The SACC says” *Himantopus mexicanus* was formerly (e.g., Peters 1934, Pinto 1938, Hellmayr & Conover 1948b, Phelps & Phelp 1958a, Vaurie 1965c, Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Blake 1977, Haverschmidt & Mees 1994) considered a subspecies of Old World *H. himantopus* ("Common Stilt") and was so treated by Dickinson (2003). Some authors have treated southern South American *melanurus* as a separate species (e.g., Sibley & Monroe 1990, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). The six taxa in the genus *Himantopus* form a near-globally distributed superspecies (Mayr & Short 1970, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Pierce 1996), and with from one to six species-level taxa recognized by various authors. Virtually no data are available relevant to taxon-ranking of allopatric populations. The contact between *mexicanus* and *melanurus* (White-backed Stilt) in South America, where at least some hybridization occurs, affords one of the best opportunities for such study.

CHARADRIIDAE

Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis*: Fairly widespread in small numbers.

American Golden Plover – *Pluvialis dominicus*: One at Camerones.

Black-bellied (Gray) Plover – *Pluvialis squatarola*: One at Camerones.

Semipalmated Plover – *Charadrius semipalmatus*: 20+ at Camerones.

Wilson's Plover – *Charadrius wilsonia*: 3 at Camerones.

Snowy Plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus*: One at Camerones. Named after the city in Egypt.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Hudsonian Whimbrel - *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*: Common at Camerones. Zink et al. (1995) proposed a return to earlier classifications (e.g., Ridgway 1919) that considered New World *hudsonicus* to be a separate species from Old World populations based on genetic distance. Although plumage pattern also differs substantially, vocalizations are evidently very similar, in contrast to the many allotaxa in the *Scolopacidae* treated as separate species.

Greater Yellowlegs - *Tringa melanoleuca*: 1 at Los Cocos and 4 at Camerones

Lesser Yellowlegs - *Tringa flavipes*: 1 at Camerones

Solitary Sandpiper – *Tringa solitaria*: One on the way to RNA El Paujil 2 at Los Cocos

Spotted Sandpiper – *Actitis macularia*: A few at Los Cocos and Camerones.

Willet – *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*: 8 at Camerones.

Sanderling – *Calidris alba*: 15 at Camerones.

Semipalmated Sandpiper – *Calidris pusilla*: 30-40 at Camerones.

Western Sandpiper – *Calidris mauri*: 2 at Camerones

Least Sandpiper – *Calidris minutilla*: 10 at Camerones and six at Los Cocos

Ruddy Turnstone - *Arenaria interpres*. 2 at Los Cocos and 10 at Camerones

LARIDAE

Laughing Gull – *Larus atricilla*: At Los Cocos and Camerones.

STERNIDAE

Brown Noddy – *Anous stolidus*: Around 10 near Santa Marta – the less said the better!

Caspian Tern – *Hydroprogne caspia*: 1 at Camerones.

Royal Tern - *Thalasseus maximus*: Common at Camerones and Isla Salamanca

Gull-billed Tern – *Sterna nilotica*: A big flock of 300+ on Isla Salamanca

Sandwich Tern – *Sterna sandvicensis*. Common in the Santa Marta/Guajira Peninsular area. Named after the town of Sandwich in Kent, England.

Least Tern – *Sterna antillarum* 20 resting at Camerones

Yellow-billed Tern - *Sterna superciliaris*

RYNCHOPIDAE

Black Skimmer – *Rynchops niger*: 40 at Camerones and 40 at Isla Salamanca

COLUMBIDAE.

Band-tailed Pigeon - *Patagioenas fasciata*: Fairly common and widespread with many good views of perched birds. Common. Note that recent research has shown that the genus *Columba* is paraphyletic, with New World taxa being more closely related to *Streptopelia* than to Old World *Columba* pigeons. This is consistent with differences between New World and Old World *Columba* in terms of morphology, serology and behaviour. The suggestion was made to place all New World forms in the genus *Patagioenas*, and the AOU recently adopted this change in its latest checklist supplement. One of the most widespread New World birds, ranging from Alaska to Argentina. Here the Neotropical form *albilinea*, which has been regarded by some authors as a full species.

Bare-eyed Pigeon – *Patagioenas corensis*: Common on Isla Salamanca and in the Pericos area.

Pale-vented Pigeon - *Patagioenas cayennensis*: Common at the Paujil reserve.

Plumbeous Pigeon – *Patagioenas plumbea* Commonly heard and one seen.

Ruddy Pigeon – *Patagioenas subvinacea**

Eared Dove - *Zenaida auriculata*: Common.

Common Ground-Dove - *Columbina passerina*: A few here and there.

Plain-breasted Ground Dove – *Colombina minuta*: A few near Puerto Pinzon.

Ruddy Ground-Dove - *Columbina talpacoti*: Numerous and widespread in open country.

Scaled Dove – *Colombina squamata*: A few in the Santa Marta area.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*: Pretty common at many localities.

RR Gray-chested Dove – *Leptotila cassini*: One seen flushed up from the side of the road at the RNA Paujil on September 19th. Named after US Ornithologist, collector and author John Cassin.

E Tolima Dove – *Leptotila conoveri*. Recently re-discovered- this species was surprisingly silent but 2 individuals seen above Ibague at Clarita Botero. Named after H.B. Conoveri US ornithologist and author. **ENDANGERED**

Lined Quail-Dove *Geotrygon linearis*: This shy Dove was seen briefly on the trail loop in the Santa Marta Mountains.

Ruddy Quail-Dove - *Geotrygon montana*: One on the track below El Dorado Lodge

PSITTACIDAE

Chestnut-fronted Macaw *Ara severus*: Nice looks at this small Macaw, around 30, at Serrania las Quinches on the drive in to Puerto Pinzon.

Blue-crowned Parakeet – *Aratinga acuticaudata*: A party of two seen near Perico. We saw the *koenigi* subspecies. This species has a wide but disjunct population in South America.

Scarlet-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga wagleri** Species in this genus, as well as *Leptosittaca* and those in *Pyrrhura*, often go by the name ‘conure’.

Brown-throated Parakeet – *Aratinga pertinax*: Common in the Perico’s area

Golden-plumed Parakeet – *Leptosittaca branickii*: Heard on the way up to El Mirador and 6 seen flying over on the way down. **VULNERABLE**

E Santa Marta Parakeet – *Pyrrhura viridicauda*. Always tricky – we were lucky with fantastic looks of 6 perched birds in the rain on San Lorenzo ridge. **ENDANGERED**

RR Green-rumped Parrotlet – *Forpus passerinus* – We saw a 10 of the *cyanophanes* subspecies Near Perico.

RR Spectacled Parrotlet – *Forpus conspicillatus*. Almost a Colombian endemic. 2 seen near San Vicente

Orange-chinned Parakeet - *Brotogeris jugularis*: Common and conspicuous

Blue-fronted (Red-winged) Parakeet – *Touit dilectissimus*: 6 in the morning and then great, perched views at dusk of what were probably the same 6 birds at the RNA Arrierito. The IOC has deemed the name of this species to be Blue-fronted Parakeet.

E Yellow-eared Parrot – *Ognorhynchus icterotis*: 30+ counted at Alto de Los Ventanas near Jardin on October 3rd. Nice looks at perched birds on the jeep ride down. Historically known from Ecuador it now seems to be extirpated there so is a de facto Colombian endemic. This species is Critically Endangered because the known range (especially the nesting area) is extremely small. Suitable habitat is severely fragmented throughout its historical range and continues to be lost and degraded. Conservation action by Pro Aves is addressing some of the key issues but the future of this species remains extremely uncertain. World population is estimated at 144 individuals by Birdlife so we saw almost a quarter of the world’s population in that one flock! Note however Proaves are finding other undocumented populations. **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED.**

E Fuerte’s Parrot – *Hapalopsittaca fuertesi*: The bird we went to El Mirador to see. Close flyby of 4 seen in the mist at el Mirador and others heard on other days. The IOC has dismissed “Indigo-winged Parrot” as the vulgar name. Named after the US Bird artist, explorer and collector Louis Agassiz Fuerte. **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED.**

Speckle-faced Parrot – *Pionus tumultuosus*: 4 seen at Alto las Ventanas. The SACC says “The subspecies *seniloides* was formerly (e.g., Peters 1937, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) considered a

separate species ("White-capped Parrot") from *Pionus tumultuosus*, but see O'Neill & Parker (1977), who noted that the only differences between the two are the degree of saturation of rosy pigment; this treatment was followed by Collar (1997) and Dickinson (2003), but not by Forshaw (1989), Fjeldså & Krabbe (1990), or Ridgely et al. (2001). There is no evidence of intergradation between the two. [SACC proposal to treat *seniloides* as a species did not pass](#). Recent genetic data (Ribas et al. 2007) indicate that the genetic distance between them is about the same as other taxa ranked as species in *Pionus*. English name "Speckle-faced Parrot" for composite species follows suggestion by Fjeldså & Krabbe (1990)." *Tumultuosus* comes from the Latin and means "restless or uproarious".

Blue-headed Parrot - *Pionus menstruus*: A few at Serrania Los Quinches.

Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus*: Only seen in the Santa Marta Mountains, where it's represented by the endemic race *saturatus*. A species conspicuously absent from most of the remainder of the country.

Bronze-winged Parrot – *Pionus chalcopterus*: Common at El Mirador with large noisy flocks every day there.

Red-lored Parrot - *Amazona autumnalis*: A few at los Quinches including scope views

Yellow-crowned Parrot - *Amazona ochrocephala* – 2 only at RNA El Paujil.

Orange-winged Parrot – *Anazonas amazonica* – Common at RNA Paujil, Serrania Los Quinches.

Scaly-naped Parrot – *Amazonas mercenaria* – Very common and noisy at El Mirador and two on the San Lorenzo Ridge

Mealy Parrot - *Amazona farinosa**



Yellow-eared Parrot – Pro Aves

CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo - *Piaya cayana*: 3 encounters during the tour.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*: Common at El Paujil

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*: The common Ani of the trip.

Groove-billed Ani – *Crotophaga sulcirostris*. Seen only on the Guajira Peninsular.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia**: Heard on a few occasions.

STRIGIDAE

Tropical Screech Owl – *Megascops choliba*: Heard commonly and at last for Ron and Sue in the garden of the lodge at RNA Arrierito !!

E Santa Marta Screech Owl– *Megascops gilesi** Heard ear the El Dorado Lodge every evening and morning but we could not see the damn thing. It even flew between John and myself across the road. This bird is still awaiting a formal description and will be named for Robert Giles who has helped Colombian conservation via ProAves in a big way. Its voice is very different from its congeners

Crested Owl – *Lophostrix cristata** At RNA El Paujil

Mottled Owl – *Ciccaba virgata** At RNA El Paujil

NYCTIBIDAE

Common Potoo – *Nyctibius griseus** At RNA El Paujil

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Lesser Nighthawk – *Chordeiles acutipennis*: Quite a few in the evening at RNA El Paujil

Nacunda Nighthawk – *Podager nacunda*: At least 4 at RNA El Paujil that appeared to be migrating.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*: Heard at a few places and 3 seen.

Band-winged Nightjar – *Caprimulgus longirostris*: One on September 26th in the lower part of the Santa Marta Mountains

APODIDAE

White-collared Swift - *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutilus*: Small numbers noted on September 21st

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*: Seen at RNA El Paujil

TROCHILIDAE

Stripe-throated Hermit – *Phaethornis striigularis*: 5 noted at the RNA El Paujil.

Pale-bellied Hermit - *Phaethornis anthophilus*: 3 seen at the El Paujil reserve.

Long-billed (Western Long-tailed) Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*: This is the form that occurs in Central America, *sussurans*, as opposed to the one along the coast of Ecuador and extreme north Peru *baroni* ("Baron's Hermit") The SACC says: Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) considered the subspecies *baroni* of western Ecuador and northwestern Peru to deserve recognition as a separate species from *Phaethornis longirostris* based on vocal and plumage differences. [SACC proposal to recognize *baroni* as a separate species did not pass](#). The IOC calls this species Long-Billed Hermit and says Baron's Hermit *Phaethornis baroni* is conspecific with Long-billed Hermit *P. longirostris* (SACC 2004)

White-necked Jacobin – *Florisuga mellivora* – 2 seen

Green Violetear - *Colibri thalassinus*: Seen on the San Lorenzo Ridge '*Thalassinus*' is Latin for 'sea green'.

Sparkling Violetear -*Colibri coruscans*: Relatively scarce.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothonax nigricollis*: Several here and there in the lowlands

Western Emerald – *Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus*: A female seen at the RNA Arrierito. See next species for taxonomy notes.

RR Red-billed Emerald *Chlorostilbon gibsoni*: A few were noted in the lower reaches of the Santa Marta mountains around Minca and above Ibaguè amongst other places. Species limits in the *mellisugus* group of taxa in *Chlorostilbon* are complex. At one extreme, Zimmer (1950d) and Schuchmann (1999) considered them all conspecific, including the *canivetii* group of Middle America. *Chlorostilbon gibsoni* (including *nitens*) was usually (e.g., Cory 1918, Peters 1945, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) considered a separate species ("Red-billed Emerald") from *C. mellisugus*, as was *C. canivetii*. Stiles (1996a) proposed that *C. mellisugus* should be treated as at least three separate species within South America: *melanorhynchus* (of western Colombia and Ecuador), *gibsoni* (northern and central Colombia, NW Venezuela), and *mellisugus* (rest of South America); this represents a partial return to the classification of Cory (1918) and was followed by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001). Together, these taxa would form a super-species with recently described *olivaresi*. Sibley & Monroe (1990) considered *C. mellisugus* to form a superspecies with Middle American *Chlorostilbon* species but not with *C. gibsoni*, because the two were thought to be sympatric [are they? breeding?] in the Magdalena Valley, Colombia. [SACC proposal passed to follow species limits proposed by Stiles \(1996\)](#). So the ones you see in the Amazona are Blue-tailed Emeralds.

E Coppery Emerald *Chlorostilbon russatus*: Replaces the former at higher elevations in the Santa Marta Mountains. 3 seen very well above Minca, thanks to Christian's stakeout

Violet-crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica*: Common. We saw the *colombica* nominate race in the Santa Marta Mountains and the *rostrifera* subspecies at RNA El Paujil. It was on our list as Purple-crowned Woodnymph. Also near Ocana where it is mistakenly on the reserve list as Green-crowned Woodnymph – *Thalurania fannyi*

Andean Emerald – *Agyrtria francae*. One at RNA Arrierito. Named for Francia Bourcier daughter of the French consul to Ecuador 1849-1850

Blue-chested Hummingbird – *Polerata amabilis*. 3 seen at RNA El Paujil coming to the garden feeder

Steely-vented Hummingbird – *Saucerottia saucerottei*. 8+ below and above Minca

E Indigo-capped Hummingbird - *Saucerottia cyanifrons*. 4 seen around the lodge at RNA Cerulea on two consecutive days in a flowering shrub next to the accommodations. A very localized endemic.

E Blossomcrown – *Anthocephala floriceps*. One male seen by John at lower elevations below the El Dorado Lodge at Palo Alto. **VULNERABLE**

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*: Seen in small numbers.

White-vented Plumeleteer - *Chalybura buffonii*: Common in the Santa Marta mountains at lower elevations.

Speckled Hummingbird -*Adelomyia melanogenys*: A few here and there.

Green-crowned Brilliant - *Heliodoxa jacula*: 2 at RNA Arrierito.

Violet-fronted Brilliant – *Heliodoxa leadbeteri*: A female at RNA Cerulea. Named after Benjamin Leadbeater an English natural history dealer

Mountain Velvetbreast *Lafresnaya lafresnayi*: In the Santa Marta mountains and at RNA Arrierito.

Bronzy Inca *Coeligena coeligena*: 2 at RNA Arrierito.

E Black Inca *Coeligena prunellei*: What a smashing bird! 6 of this sought after species in the Cerulean Warbler reserve. **ENDANGERED**

Collared Inca – *Coeligena torquata*: 1 at the RNA El Mirador and 4 above Jardin

E White-tailed Starfrontlet - *Coeligena phalerata*: This one gave us some trouble and we worked for it. We got good looks at a female in the understory of this Santa Marta endemic on the San Lorenzo ridge.

Buff-winged Starfrontlet – *Coeligena lutetiae*: At least 5 at RNA El Mirador

Sword-billed Hummingbird – *Ensifera ensifera*: Stunner! One seen at RNA El Mirador

Tourmeline Sunangel – *Heliangelus exortis*: 6 at Alto de Ventanas and several RNA El Mirador

Glowing Puffleg – *Eriocnemis vestita*: 1 at Alto de Ventanas was the only one.

RR Golden-breasted Puffleg – *Eriocnemis mosquera*: One in response to Pygmy Owl whistles on the way down from RNA El Mirador. A range restricted species also occurring in Ecuador. Named after Colombian dictator General Tomas Cipriano de Mosquera who ruled in the late 1800's

Greenish Puffleg – *Haplopaedia aureliae*: Fairly common at RNA Arrierito. *Haplopaedia assimilis* (Buff-thighed Puffleg of the Manu Road) was formerly (e.g., Peters 1945, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) considered a subspecies of *H. aureliae*, but Schuchmann et al. (2000) provided rationale for treating it as a separate species, representing a return to the classification of Cory (1918).

Purple-backed Thornbill – *Ramphomicron microrhynchum*: At least 4 of this high altitude Hummer at RNA El Mirador

Booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii*: We enjoyed a few encounters with this widespread but attractive species.

Tyrian Metaltail - *Metallura tyrianthina*: We saw both the reddish-tailed nominate race at Alto de Ventanas above Jardin and El Mirador and the very distinct and blue-tailed *districta*, endemic to the Santa Marta and Perijá mountains. This latter may deserve full species status as Santa Marta Tyrian Metaltail. Named after the color Tyrian purple. Various known as Royal purple, Tyrian purple, purple of the ancients, this ancient dyestuff, mentioned in texts dating about 1600 BC, was produced from the mucus of the hypobranchial gland of various species of marine molluscs, notably *Murex*. Although originating in old port of Tyre in modern day Syria (hence the name), man's first large scale chemical industry spread throughout the world. With the decline of the Roman Empire, the use of the dye also declined and large scale production ceased with the fall of Constantinople in 1453. It was replaced by other cheaper dyes like lichen purple and madder.

Mountain Avocetbill – *Opisthoprora euryptera*: Certainly at least one seen well on the way down from RNA El Mirador

Violet-tailed Sylph *Agelaiocercus coelestis* A couple at RNA Cerulea.

Long-billed Starthroat – *Helimaster longirostris*: Nice looks, always a pleasure to see.

White-bellied Woodstar – *Chaetocercus mulsant*: One seen by Trevor on his extra day in the Bogotá area

RR Rufous-shafted Woodstar – *Chaetocercus jourdanni*: One seen along the road at RNA Hormiguero above Ocana.

TROGONIDAE

Western White-tailed Trogon *Trogon chionurus*: One at the El Paujil Reserve Formerly lumped in Amazonian White-tailed Trogon *T. viridis*, Western White-tailed. The South American Checklist committee says “Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) considered the subspecies *chionurus* of the Chocó region to be a separate species from *Trogon viridis*; followed by Hilty (2003); [SACC proposal to recognize this split did not pass because of insufficient published data](#). This Trogon ranges from Panama into western Ecuador.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* . Great looks at a male at RNA Arrierito.

Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus*: A highland version of the former and it was particularly common in the Santa Marta Mountains.

Black-tailed Trogon – *Trogon melanurus*: At the El Paujil Reserve

Northern Violaceous Trogon *Trogon caligatus**: At the El Paujil reserve. The SACC says “Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) considered *caligatus* of Middle America and northwestern South America to be a separate species from *Trogon violaceus*, and this was followed by Hilty (2003); [SACC proposal to recognize this split did not pass because of insufficient published data.](#)

ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher - *Ceryle torquata*: Small numbers at various wetlands. Note that these big species are now often treated as part of a separate family, the *Cerylidae*.

Amazon Kingfisher - *Chloroceryle amzona*

Green Kingfisher - *Chloroceryle americana*

MOMOTIDAE

Highland Motmot - *Momotus aequatorialis*: Common and conspicuous at Ibague and RNA Arrierito. The SACC says - *Momotus momota* may consist of several species-level taxa (e.g., Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). The subspecies *aequatorialis*, *venezuelae*, *subrufescens*, *microstephanus*, and *argenticinctus* were all formerly (e.g., Ridgway 1914, Cory 1919) considered separate species from *M. momota*, as were two Middle American taxa. Chapman (1923) recognized four species in South America: *M. subrufescens* (including "*venezuelae*") of the Caribbean rim of northern South America, *M. bahamensis* of Trinidad, *M. aequatorialis* of the Andes, and *M. momota* (including *microstephanus*) of the rest of South America, including *argenticinctus* of western Ecuador and northwestern Peru. Peters (1945) considered them all conspecific, and this was followed by Meyer de Schauensee (1970) and AOU (1983, 1998). Fjeldså & Krabbe (1990) proposed that the Andean form *aequatorialis* was a separate species from *M. momota*, and this was followed by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) and Dickinson (2003), thus returning to the classification of Cory (1919) and Chapman (1923, 1926). However, no formal analysis has ever been published, and the published evidence in support of treating *aequatorialis* as a species-level taxon is weak. [SACC proposal passed for treating *aequatorialis* as conspecific with *M. momota*](#) (and we hope that this decision stimulates further research on the *M. momota* complex).

Blue-crowned Motmot - *Momotus momota*: See above. This one was seen at lower elevations at El Paujil and Minca.

Rufous Motmot – *Baryphthengus martii*: Commonly heard and one seen at Serrania Las Quinches

BUCCONIDAE

RR Black-breasted Puffbird – *Notharcus pectoralis*: 1 individual seen after some effort at RNA El Paujil Serrania Quinches. Great scope views in the end. Well spotted by Eduardo.

Barred Puffbird *Nystalus radiatus**: At Serrania las Quinches.

Moustached Puffbird – *Malocoptila myesticalis*: One at RNA Reinita Cielo Azul and one near Minca

CAPITONIDAE

E White-mantled Barbet *Capito hypoleucus*: Excellent looks of two at Serrania las Quinches. A so-called Nechí endemic, confined to the humid forests of the middle Magdalena Valley. The Nechí is actually a tributary of the Cauca river, its drainage being on the east side of the top end of the Central Andes. Classified as Endangered by BirdLife International, the world population is estimated at 2,500 – 9,999 individuals and is decreasing. This species has a very small and severely

fragmented range. Habitat loss is occurring rapidly in some parts of its range, and the population is likely to be declining. **ENDANGERED**

Red-headed Barbet – *Eubucco bourcierii* : 2 Seen at RNA Arrierito – a stunning species.

RAMPHASTIDAE

RR Yellow-billed Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus calorhynchus*: At Santa Marta. The SACCC says- The taxon *calorhynchus* was formerly (e.g., Cory 1919, Peters 1948, Phelps & Phelps 1958a, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) treated as a separate species ("Yellow-billed Toucanet") from *Aulacorhynchus sulcatus* (Groove-billed Toucanet), but in their area of contact in Venezuela, only individuals with intermediate bill characters are found (Schwartz 1972b); still treated as separate species by Hilty (2003) and Restall (2006)

E Andean (Grey-throated) Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus albivitta*: Seen at Ibague (*albivitta* - the White-throated Toucanet) and the *griseogularis* at RNA El Mirador (The Grey-throated Toucanet). The SACC says - Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) suggested that *Aulacorhynchus prasinus* (Emerald Toucanet) may consist of more than one species-level taxon, but see Short & Horne (2001), who pointed out that the allopatric taxa are no more distinctive than those known to intergrade. The subspecies *lautus*, *albivitta*, *cyanolaemus*, *dimidiatus*, and *atrogularis*, as well as Middle American *wagleri* and *caeruleogularis*, were formerly (e.g., Ridgway 1914, Cory 1919) each considered separate species from (and in some cases not particularly closely related to) *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*, but Peters (1948) and Haffer (1974) treated them all as conspecific. Navarro et al. (2001) say Patterns of variation support recognition of four species in Mesoamerica: *A. wagleri* in western Mexico, *A. prasinus* in eastern Mexico and northern Central America, *A. caeruleogularis* in Costa Rica and western Panama, and *A. cognatus* in eastern Panama, as well as several additional forms (*A. lautus* - Santa Marta Mountains, *A. albivitta* - Andes of Colombia and Ecuador and *A. nigrogularis* - Peru and North Bolivia) in South America. The IOC presents Grey-throated and White-throated as potential splits and if accepted the former would become a Colombian endemic.

E Santa Marta Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus lautus*: See above. Common in the Santa Marta Mountains

Keel-billed Toucan – *Ramphastos sulfuratus* In the Santa Marta Mountains with at least 3 being seen and two on the Guajira peninsula

E Citron-throated Toucan – *Ramphastos citrolaemus*: Heard commonly and two seen at Serrania de los Quinches. The SACC says - Cory (1919) and Meyer de Schauensee (1966, 1970) considered *R. culminatus* ("Yellow-ridged Toucan") and *R. citrolaemus* ("Citron-throated Toucan") as separate species from *Ramphastos vitellinus*. Haffer (1974) treated these as a subspecies of *R. vitellinus*, and this treatment, actually a partial return to the classification of Pinto (1937) and Peters (1948), has been followed by most subsequent authors e.g. Restall 2007 (but not Sibley & Monroe 1990, Hilty 2003).

Black-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*: One seen at Serrania de los Quinches and many more heard.

Black-billed Mountain-Toucan – *Andigena nigrirostris** Unfortunately only heard for sure at Alto los Ventanas.

Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan – *Andigena hypoglauca*: 2 seen well at RNA El Mirador – apparently a new record for the reserve. **NEAR THREATENED**

Collared Aracari – *Pteroglossus torquatus*: A few encounters throughout the tour.

PICIDAE

Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus*: 3 seen

RR Chestnut Piculet – *Picumnus cinnamomeus*: Well I was just complaining about this species and the words were not out of mouth before I spotted one. Unfortunately it was quick and some folks missed it.

E Beautiful Woodpecker - *Melanerpes pulcher* – 1 seen very well at the El Paujil Reserve. A Colombian endemic. The SACC says “The Colombian taxon *pulcher* was considered a separate species from Central American *Melanerpes chrysauchen* by Cory (1919), Eisenmann (1955), and Stiles & Skutch (1989); however, Peters (1948) treated them as conspecific, and that treatment has been followed by most subsequent authors (e.g., Meyer de Schauensee 1979, Short 1982, Hilty & Brown 1986, Winkler et al. 1995, AOU 1998, Winkler & Christie 2002, Dickinson 2003). Wetmore (1968) provided rationale for treating *pulcher* as a separate species, as noted by Meyer de Schauensee (1966), but this has not been followed by most subsequent authors. [SACC proposal passed to recognize *pulcher* as separate species.](#)

Red-crowned Woodpecker – *Melanerpes rubricapillus*: Common.

Yellow-vented Woodpecker – *Venilornis dignus*: Great looks at a pair above Jardin. This highland Woodpecker can be hard to find.

Red-rumped Woodpecker – *Venilornis kirkii*: One at RNA El Paujil. Named after James T. Kirk,, captain of the Starship Enterprise.

Golden-Olive Woodpecker – *Piculus rubiginosus*: A couple of sightings of individuals.

Cinnamon Woodpecker – *Celeus loricatus*. An attractive woodpecker seen at the El Paujil Reserve flying around us. Seen on two days.

Lineated Woodpecker – *Dryocopus lineatus*.

FURNARIIDAE

RR Caribbean (Pale-legged) Hornero – *Furnarius (leucopus) longirostris*: A couple seen on the Guajira peninsular. The SACC says: The sub-species *longirostris* was treated as a separate species by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) and Hilty (2003). Although vocal and behavioral differences have been reported, no real analysis has been published to support this split. Restal (2007) treats this taxon as part of Pale-legged Hornero

Azara’s Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae*: Fairly commonly heard and a few seen.

E Silvery-throated Spinetail *Synallaxis subpudica*: 2 of this endemic dull tailed Spinetail were seen very well at Parque La Florida and heard at Quebrada la Vieja.

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens*: This open country spinetail was seen well and even ‘scoped.

Rufous Spinetail – *Synallaxis unirufa**

E Rusty-headed Spinetail *Synallaxis fusciorufa*: A numerous and attractive Santa Marta endemic, the world population is not known but is thought to be decreasing. This species has a small range and population, which is fragmented and declining due to habitat destruction caused by illegal agriculture, logging and burning. Intensification of these pressures, and hence increased inferred rates of population decline have led to its up listing to Vulnerable. It may even warrant up listing to Endangered once more detailed information on rates of forest loss becomes available.
VULNERABLE

Slaty Spinetail - *Synallaxis brachyura*.

RR White-whiskered Spinetail – *Synallaxis candei*: A very pretty Spinetail indeed. Easy to see with half a dozen on September 25th on the Guajira Peninsular. Named after the French Admiral de Cande a naval explorer in the mid 19th century

Stripe-breasted Spinetail – *Synallaxis cinnamomea*. 2 seen at the Bushbird reserve

White-browed Spinetail – *Hellmayrea gularis*: One at Alto ls Ventanas. The genus is named for Eduard Hellmayr a German/US ornithologist who also has a Pipit and another Spinetail named after him.

Red-faced Spinetail – *Cranioleuca erythroptera*: One at RNA Arrierito.

E Streak-capped Spinetail *Cranioleuca hellmayri*: Another localized spinetail (endemic to the Santa Marta Mountains and specimens have just been found from the Sierra de Perijá) that showed very well indeed and was in the garden of lodge every day.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail – *Certhiopsis cinnamomea*: 4 seen and scoped near Puerto Pinzon

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens*: A couple of pairs seen.

Pearled Treerunner – *Margarornis squamiger*: Good looks at this splendid montane species at RNA El Mirador and at Alto las Ventanas.

Streaked Tuftedcheek – *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*. Another superb montane furnarid seen at Alto las Ventanas.

Montane Foliage-gleaner - *Anabacerthia striaticollis*: Common in the Santa Marta Mountains and some seen elsewhere.

Lineated Foliage-gleaner – *Syndactyla subalaris*: Common at RNA Cerulea.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner - *Phildor rufus*: 2 at the RNA Arrierito.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner – *Automolus ochrolaemus*: One at RNA El Paujil

Streak-capped Treehunter - *Thripadectes virgaticeps*: 1 seen well at RNA Arrierito.

Ruddy – Foliage-gleaner - *Automolus rubiginosus*: One seen at RNA Arrierito (not on the list for there) on our second morning there. This normally lowland species occurs to 1800 meters in Colombia, particularly on the west slope of the Colombian Andes, which is where we were. Thanks Ron – learn something every day!

E Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner – *Automolus rufipectus*. A distinct endemic form of Ruddy Foliage Gleaner found only in the Santa Marta Mountains and the paper describing this species was published by Niels Karbbe in the Bulletin of the British Ornithological Society Bull. B.O.C. 2008 128(4). In Nov 2008

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*: One seen at RNA El Mirador and one at RNA Cerulea The form found in the Central and Western Andes is *heterurus*.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*: 3 at the El Paujil Reserve

DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

Plain-brown Woodcreeper - *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*: 1 bird seen well at RNA El Paujil.

Strong-billed Woodcreeper - *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*: Seen in the Santa Marta Mountains. We saw the endemic *sanctaemartae* subspecies.

Black-banded Woodcreeper – *Dendrocolaptes picumnus*: 1 responded to playback in the Santa Marta Mountains.

Straight –billed Woodcreeper – *Xiphorhynchus picus*: At RNA El Paujil

Black-striped Woodcreeper – *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*: One along the riverside trail at RNA El Paujil

Cocoa Woodcreeper – *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*. One seen near San Vicente. The SACC says - The relationships among taxa included in *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* and *X. guttatus* (Buff-throated Woodcreeper) are complex and need much additional work. *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* was formerly (e.g., Zimmer 1934d, Phelps & Phelps 1950a, Peters 1951, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) considered conspecific with *X. guttatus*, but Willis (1983) provided evidence that it should be treated as a separate species; this treatment was followed by Ridgely & Tudor (1994) and AOU (1998); they constitute a superspecies. *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* had previously been treated as a species by Cory & Hellmayr (1925), who also treated the subspecies *polystictus* (= *sororius*) as a separate species; this was considered conspecific with *X. guttatus* by Zimmer (1934d) and Peters (1951). However, Aleixo (2002) found that treating *X. susurrans* at the species level makes *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* paraphyletic with respect to Amazonian *guttatoides* group (Lafraneye's Woodcreeper) of western and southwestern Amazonia (*guttatoides*, *dorbignyianus*, *eytoni*, and *vicinalis*) and eastern Amazonian *guttatus* group (*guttatus*, *polystictus*, and provisionally *connectens*). Marantz et al. (2003) also emphasized that the current assignment of subspecies to either *X. susurrans* or *X. guttatus* does not correspond to the boundaries in vocalizations. Furthermore, the *eytoni* subspecies group was formerly (e.g., Todd 1948, Meyer de Schauensee 1966, 1970) considered a separate species ("Dusky-billed Woodcreeper") from *X. guttatus*; here it is treated as subspecies of *guttatus* following Cory & Hellmayr (1925), Zimmer (1934d), Pinto (1937), Peters (1951), and Ridgely & Tudor (1994), but Marantz et al. (2003) noted that this group differed in vocalizations from other taxa included in *X. guttatus*. Restall (2007) gives this taxon full species rank.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper – *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*: Some below Minca seen well.

Montane Woodcreeper – *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*: Several sightings in the high cloud forest. *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* was formerly (e.g., Peters 1951, Meyer de Schauensee 1970, AOU 1983, 1998, Sibley & Monroe 1990) considered conspecific with Middle American *L. affinis* (Spot-crowned Woodcreeper), but recent treatments (e.g., Ridgely & Tudor 1994, Hilty 2003) usually follow Cory & Hellmayr (1925), Zimmer (1934c), and Phelps & Phelps (1950a) in treating them as separate species. Their vocalizations differ strongly, although a formal analysis has not been published; they constitute a superspecies.

THAMNOPHILIDAE

Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphorus canadensis* – A pair seen well in the mangroves at Los Cocos (*pulchellus*) and then, rather different looking birds (*unnamed subspecies*) in the desert along the Guajira peninsular. This taxon needs revision and several species are probably involved.

RR Black-backed Antshrike *Sakesphorus melanonotus*: Great looks at a pair in the Minca area. A very smart bird indeed with a limited distribution.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus**

RR Bar-crested Antshrike *Thamnophilus multistriatus*: Great views of a 4 above Ibague. A near-endemic, generally replacing the previous at higher elevations (though the Barred we saw was above the Bar-crested!!). Outside Colombia only known from the Venezuelan side of the Sierra de Perijá, so it's a de facto endemic

Black Antshrike – *Thamnophilus nigriceps** Localized species,

Uniform Antshrike *Thamnophilus unicolor*: Good looks and fairly common in the Cerulean Warbler Reserve. The subspecies in Colombia is *grandior*.

Western Slaty-Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*: Fairly common at the Serrania de los Quinches

E Recurve-billed Bushbird – *Clytoctantes alixii* – Wow – what can you say – put up a fight but in the end we saw a very co-operative 3 birds seen at the reserve near Ocana bought for its protection. This species has been recently rediscovered in both Venezuela and Colombia, following 40 years without any records. Its range and population are poorly known, but presumed to be very small. Habitat loss is continuing throughout its range, and has been rapid over the last five years in an area that was probably a stronghold. Consequently its range and population are inferred to be declining. Named after the French zoologist Edouard Alix **ENDANGERED**

Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis*: Heard at several sites and seen at RNA Arrierito.

Pacific Antwren – *Myrmotherula pacifica*: An unexpected pair near San Vicente. Called "Pacific Streaked-Antwren" in Ridgely & Tudor (1994) but see Isler et al. (1999) and Zimmer and Isler (2003), who noted that its sister species might be *M. cherriei* (Cherrie's Antwren)

White-flanked Antwren – *Myrmotherula axillaries*: A female at RNA EL Paujil. Willis (1984b), Ridgely & Tudor (1994), Hilty (2003), and Zimmer & Isler (2003) noted that vocal differences among several subspecies of *Myrmotherula axillaris* suggest that more than one species is involved.

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*: Seen in the Santa Marta Mountains

Northern White-fringed Antwren – *Myrmotherula intermedia*: One at RNA Paujil (*hondae*?) and several on the Guajira Peninsular (*intermedia*). Ridgely & Tudor (1994) and Zimmer & Isler (2003) suggested that *Formicivora grisea* (Southern White-fringed Antwren e.g. Bolivia.) may consist of more than one species. Hilty (2003) described major vocal differences between *intermedia* and *grisea* in Venezuela and treated them as a separate species

Long-tailed Antbird - *Drymophila caudate**

Jet Antbird *Cercomacra nigricans*: 2 near San Vicente.

E Parker's Antbird *Cercomacra parkeri*: Recently described: Graves (1997). Great looks at 3 at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve. Also 2 seen at RNA Arrierito. One of the birds named for our late friend and neo-tropical birding pioneer, Ted Parker.

Bare-crowned Antbird – *Gymnocichla nudiceps*. Fairly common striking Antbird at the El Paujil Reserve. We saw three.

Chestnut-backed Antbird - *Myrmeciza exsul* – Seen well at the El Paujil Reserve

Bicolored Antbird - *Myrmeciza leucaspis* -- One at an ant swarm at RNA El Paujil.

Immaculate Antbird – *Myrmeciza immaculate**. Above Ibaguè

FORMICARIIDAE

Black-faced Antthrush – *Formicarius analis**

Rufous-breasted Antthrush – *Formicarius rufipectus**

GRALLARIDAE

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta - *Grallaria ruficapilla**

E Santa Marta Antpitta *Grallaria bangsi*: Great looks at one on the San Lorenzo Ridge and heard daily. The world population is not known but is thought to be decreasing. This species has been up listed to Vulnerable because new information suggests that it has a small range, which is fragmented and declining owing to habitat destruction caused by illegal agriculture, logging and burning. It is currently described as common, but its population size is unknown. However, it is likely to be undergoing a rapid decline as a result of habitat loss. Named after Outram Bangs US ornithologist and author. **VULNERABLE**

White-bellied Antpitta - *Grallaria hypoleuca*: One seen well at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve. Two bird theory in practice!

Chestnut-naped Antpitta – *Grallaria nuchalis*: Great looks at RNA El Mirador and heard at Alto los Ventanas.

E Rufous Antpitta – *Grallaria rufula spatiator*: One seen on the San Lorenzo Ridge and others heard. Now keep an eye on these “Rufous” Antpittas as there are many species involved. This one

at Santa Marta will become an endemic and the paper is in progress. I know some of you have seen at least 6 of the splits with me over the years

Rufous Antpitta – *Grallaria rufula rufula*: This is the one we saw at Alto las Ventanas (unnamed subspecies for now put in nominate *rufula*) and this may well be split off as a Colombian western Andean endemic. If you look at the map you will see it's an isolated population.

Tawny Antpitta – *Grallaria quitensis**: At RNA El Mirador. Name for the city of Quito which in turn is named for the Quito indians.

E Brown-banded Antpitta – *Grallaria milleri** Heard near Jardin at the bottom of the trail from El Mirador – unfortunately despite much trawling we did not get close to one. Named after Leo Miller a US collector in the early 1900's **ENDANGERED**

Ochre-breasted Antpitta – *Grallaricula flavirostris*. The other bird involved in the “two bird theory incident” Wow – what prolonged looks at point blank range

Slate-crowned Antpitta - *Grallaricula nana*. Heard at Alto los Ventanas and heard and seen on the way down from El Mirador

CONOPHAGIDAE

Chestnut-crowned Gnateater – *Conophaga castaniceps**: Heard at the RNA Arrierito.

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

Blackish Tapaculo – *Scytalopus latrans latrans**

E Santa Marta Tapaculo *Scytalopus sanctaemartae*: One called in and what a responsive bird “Its 6 inches from my right boot!”

E Brown-rumped Tapaculo *Scytalopus latebricola*: Another Santa Marta endemic, replacing the Santa Marta Tapaculo at higher elevations, that we saw very well above San Lorenzo.

White-crowned Tapaculo – *Scytalopus atratus nigricans*. Seen well at RNA Cerulea. *Scytalopus atratus* (with *confusus* and *nigricans*) was formerly (e.g., Zimmer 1939x, Peters 1951, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) considered conspecific with *S. femoralis*; for treatment as a separate species from *S. femoralis* based on differences in voice, see Krabbe & Schulenberg (1997); it had previously been considered a separate species by Cory & Hellmayr (1924). Keep track of which subspecies you see – there are surely several species in this group based on vocal differences.

E Upper Magdalena Tapaculo – *Scytalopus rodriguez*. Seen and recorded at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve. A recently described endemic. **ENDANGERED**

E Stile's Tapaculo – *Scytalopus stilesi*: 2 seen at the RNA Arriero and seen well – one of the “hard to see group”

Spillman's Tapaculo – *Scytalopus spillmani*: One of the more tricky Tapaculos to see and the ones we tried at Alto las Ventanas were no exception but we did manage to see one.

E Mattoral Tapaculo – *Scytalopus griseicollis*. One of the ‘easy’ Tapaculos seen well at Quebrada la Vieja - -our 5th endemic Tapaculo

E *Scytalopus Sp. Nov.* – unnamed species we heard saw and recorded at the top end of the Lengerke Trail – what it is I do not know but I will pass the song around to some colleagues and see what they say.

Ocellated Tapaculo – *Acropternis orthonyx** came close but.....

COTINGIDAE

Green and Black Fruiteater – *Pipreola riefferi* - good looks at Alto Los Ventanas.

Barred Fruiteater – *Pipreola arcuata*: Cracking views of this impressive species at Alto Los Ventanas

RR Golden-breasted Fruiteater - *Pipreola aureopectus*: This gorgeous fruiteater was seen in the Santa Marta Mountains in the mist. Here the race *decora*, endemic to this mountain range.

E Chestnut-capped Piha – *Lipaugus weberi*: Incredible views of a bird in response to playback at the RNA Arrierito Antioqueno (the name of the Piha in Spanish). Only described to science in 2001. Robert Giles donated funds for the accommodations at the reserve for guests. The chestnut on the crown can be hard to see. **ENDANGERED**

Purple-throated Fruitcrow - *Querula purpurata*: A few at the El Paujil reserve.

PIPRIDAE

Golden-winged Manakin – *Masius chrysopterus*: Good looks at this funny Manakin on a couple of occasions.

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus*: Quite a few seen well in the El Paujil Reserve

Western Striped Manakin - *Machaeropterus striolatus*: One seen by Trevor at RNA El Paujil. The SACC says “Snow (2004) considered the Amazonian *striolatus* subspecies group to be a separate species from *Machaeropterus regulus* of SE Brazil”. Restall (2007) does not follow this split but Volume 9 of handbook of Birds of the World does. If you follow the split Eastern Striped Manakin *Machaeropterus regulus* is restricted to SE Brazil so all the Ecuador and Peruvian ones are Western Striped Manakin *Machaeropterus striolatus*

Golden-headed Manakin – *Pipra erythrocephala*: 2 at a fruiting bush at RNA El Paujil

TYRANNIDAE

Brown-capped Tyrannulet – *Ornithion brunneicapillus*: 2 at RNA El Paujil.

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet – *Phyllomyias greiseiceps*: This was the small flycatcher high up in the bamboo making a racket at RNA El Paujil

Black-capped Tyrannulet - *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*: One at RNA El Mirador and one on the San Lorenzo Ridge.

Ashy-headed Tyrannulet – *Phyllomyias cinereiceps*: One on September 17th at Clarita Botero.

Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Zimmerius chrysops*: Seen at various localities. Variation in Golden-faced Tyrannulet subspecies is reasonably extensive and more than one species may be involved. Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) considered the subspecies *flavidifrons* of southwestern Ecuador and

northwestern Peru to represent a separate species from *Zimmerius chrysops* based on differences in voice. **Proposal needed.** Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), Krabbe & Nielsson (2003), and Fitzpatrick (2004) also noted that the taxon *albigularis* from w. Ecuador and sw. Colombia might be a species distinct from *Zimmerius chrysops*.

(2003) and Fitzpatrick (2004), considered the South American *improbus* group of subspecies to be a separate species from *Zimmerius vilissimus* (Paltry Tyrannulet). **Proposal badly needed.** Traylor (1982) suspected that the subspecies *parvus*, from Honduras to NW Colombia, should also be considered a separate species.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet - *Camptostoma obsoletum*

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus*: fairly common at various sites.

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii*: Good looks at dawn at RNA El Paujil

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*: Common in open country

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*: In Santa Marta. The subspecies we saw was *pudica*. The species was named after Alexander von Frantzius, a nineteenth century German collector in Brazil and Costa Rica.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys*: We saw the subspecies *montensis* which is endemic to the Santa Marta Mountains. We also saw this species at El Mirador and Alto Los Ventanas.

White-tailed Tyrannulet - *Mecocerculus leucophrys*: 2 at RNA Arrierito

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet - *Phaeomyias murina*: One on the Guajira peninsular

Yellow Tyrannulet – *Capsiempis flaveola*: Heard and one seen at RNA El Paujil.

Rufous-browed Tyrannulet – *Phylloscartes superciliaris*: One in the insectivore flock at RNA Cerulea

Streak-necked Flycatcher - *Mionectes striaticollis*

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher - *Mionectes oleaginea*: Common at the El Paujil Reserve and near Minca.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*: Small numbers seen well, at Serrania de los Quinches

Rufous-headed Pygmy Tyrant - *Pseudotriccus ruficeps*: A very responsive bird at Alto las Ventanas

Northern Scrub Flycatcher – *Sublegatis arenarum*: A playback responsive bird at Los Cocos and another the next day near Pericos.

RR Slender-billed Inezia – *Inezia tenuirostris*: Common by voice and half a dozen seen near Perico on the Guajira Peninsular. Note that the tarsal morphology of *Inezia* has been interpreted to indicate that it belongs in the Cotingidae!

Ornate Flycatcher – *Myiotriccus ornatus*: 1 seen at the RNA Reinita and 6 at RNA Arrierito.

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant - *Lophotriccus pileatus*: One seen above Ibaguè.

Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant - *Atalotriccus pilaris*: This tyrannid of drier woodland, was seen nicely in the Minca area in response to playback. Here the nominate race.

Southern Bentbill - *Oncostoma olivaceum*: A weird little flycatcher, with some good, if brief, views at Serrania Quinches RNA El Paujil.

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant – *Hemitriccus maragaritaceiventer*: One on the Guajira peninsular. Comes from the Latin for pearl – *margarita*.

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher - *Todirostrum nigriceps*: 2 at RNA El Paujil.

Slate-headed Tody-tyrant – *Todirostrum Sylvia*: As always sneaky – one seen at RNA El Paujil.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*: Small numbers seen at various locations.

Olivaceous Flatbill – *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*: One in a small flock at RNA El Paujil

Yellow-olive Tolmomyias - *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*: A few. The SACC says - The AOU (1998), Hilty (2003), and Fitzpatrick (2004) suggested that *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* almost certainly consists of multiple species. The IOC calls this genus “Flatbill” which I find outrageous as we already have a genus of Flycatchers called Flatbills (*Rhynchocyclus*). Birds of Peru returns to the non-committal “Flycatcher” for this genus as does Restall 2007

Yellow-throated Spadebill – *Platyrinchus falvicularis*: One of this seldom seen cloud forest inhabitants at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve at the same spot we saw it in March 2008

Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*: Regularly encountered in the Andes (pyrrhoptera), and in the Santa Marta Mountains we saw the endemic and much brighter assimilis.

Black-billed Flycatcher – *Aphanotriccus audax* A little known bird almost endemic to Colombia, but it does get into the Darien in Panama. We saw one at RNA El Paujil on September 19th. **NEAR THREATENED.**

Alder Flycatcher – *Empidonax alnorum*: Seen at RNA Paujil.

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Contopus cooperi*: 2 seen in total. **NEAR THREATENED.**

Tropical Pewee - *Contopus cinereus*: Several throughout the tour.

Smoke-colored Pewee – *Contopus fumigatus*: One sallying as we rested on the Lengerke Trail at RNA Cerulea

Eastern/Western Wood Pewee – *Contopus virens/sordidulus*

Black Phoebe - *Sayornis nigricans*: A bird of streams and rivers that was frequently seen sitting on bridges.

Vermilion Flycatcher - *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: Small numbers seen at a number of sites.

Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca diadema*: We had great looks at this around San Lorenzo where the subspecies *jesupi* is endemic to the Santa Marta Mountains.

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant – *Ochthoeca fumicolor*: Common at RNA El Mirador

Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant – *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*: At Alto las Ventanas.

Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant – *Myiotheretes striaticollis*: 2 seen above Jardin.



Santa Marta Bush Tyrant

E Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant *Myiotheretes pernix*: Often a difficult bird to find and it took us two attempts but we finally found a bird which showed at extremely close range. The world population is estimated at 1,000 – 2,499 individuals and is decreasing. This species has a very small range and is currently known from just one location (although there are likely to be others). Its habitat is declining, and concomitant declines in range and population are inferred. **ENDANGERED**

Smoky Bush-Tyrant – *Myiotheretes fumigatu*: Great looks at RNA El Mirador

Rufous-tailed Tyrant – *Knipolegus pecilurus*: Four at Clarita Botero

Pied Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola pica*. 4 On the way out from the Paujil reserve

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala*: 14 on the way out of the Paujil reserve.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosus* This species is expanding its range, and we noted scattered individuals in open country at a number of locations.

Flammulated Attila - *Attila flammulatus** At RNA El Paujil. (Mexico south to Western Ecuador) – A potential split from Bright-rumped Attila. The SACC says - Leger and Mountjoy (2003) found major vocal differences between South American and Middle American populations of *Attila spadiceus*, strongly suggesting that at least two species are involved, but did not adequately sample populations from west of Andes in South America; these are vocally similar to the Middle American *flammulatus* group (P. Coopmans, pers. comm.).

Panama Flycatcher - *Myiarchus panamensis*: One only in the mangroves at Los Cocos.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*: As usual, the plaintive call was heard more often than the bird was seen, but see it we did!

Pale-edged Flycatcher – *Myiarchus cephalotes*: A couple seen

Brown-crested Flycatcher – *Myiarchus tyrannulus*: One at our lunch at the top of the Lengerke trail at RNA Cerulea

Great Kiskadee - *Pitangus sulphuratus*: A widespread bird of open areas, even found right in the centre of towns.

Lesser Kiskadee –*Pitangus lector* – 2 at RNA Paujil.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*: Small numbers.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*: Numerous and widespread at lower elevations.

Social Flycatcher - *Myiozetetes similis*: Recorded at several locations

Streaked Flycatcher - *Myiodynastes maculatus*: A few.

Golden-crowned Flycatcher *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*: 2 seen – most notably at the Bushbird reserve.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaius:**

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*. Common throughout

Fork-tailed Flycatcher – *Tyrannus savanna*: One on the drive out of RNA El Paujil

Gray Kingbird – *Tyrannus dominicensis*: 20+ migrating at RNA El Paujil.

Rufous Mourner – *Rhytipterna holererytra*: Great looks at one at the RNA El Paujil.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*: Three near Minca

White-winged Becard – *Pachyramphus polychopterus**

HIRUNDINIDAE

White-winged Swallow – *Tachycineta albiventer* 2 near Puerto Pinzon and one near Camerones

Brown-chested Martin – *Progne tapera*: Common near Ocana

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*: Reasonably numerous at lower elevations.

Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina*: At Bogotá.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*: Widespread in small numbers

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*: Common at lower elevations.

Bank Swallow – *Riparia riparia*: 20 at parque La Florida. Note the IOC has made the decision it is Bank Swallow and not Sand Martin and I agree it makes sense

Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica*: Two groups of migrating birds. The New World populations of *Hirundo rustica* were formerly (e.g., Ridgway 1904) treated as a separate species, *H. erythrogastra*, from Old World populations.

CORVIDAE

RR Black-chested Jay *Cyanocorax affinis*: A smart bird seen at various locations

Inca Jay *Cyanocorax yncas*: A most handsome bird. Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) and Hilty (2003) treated Middle American populations as a separate species, *C. luxosus* ("Green Jay") from South American *C. yncas* ("Inca Jay"), but no data presented; they were formerly (e.g., REFS) considered separate species.

TROGLODYTIDAE

Black-capped Donacobius – *Donacobius atricapilla*: A pair near Puerto Pinzon.

Bicolored Wren *Campylorhynchus griseus*: A large and handsome wren, and a cousin of Central America's Rufous-naped and Mexico's Giant Wrens. Good shows.

RR Sooty-headed Wren – *Thryothorus spadix*: One responsive bird at RNA Arrierito. Almost a Colombian endemic but gets into Eastern Panama. Genetic data (Mann et al. 2006) indicate that the broad genus *Thryothorus* is polyphyletic, and that true *Thryothorus* is not found in South America; Mann et al. (2006) recommended recognition of three genera for South American taxa by resurrecting two from the synonymy of *Thryothorus* (*Pheugopedius* and *Thryophilus*) and describing a new one (*Cantorchilus*). [SACC proposal pending to redistribute South American "Thryothorus" into three genera did not pass.](#)

Black-bellied Wren *Thryothorus fasciatoventris**: At the El Paujil Reserve

Whiskered Wren *Thryothorus mystacalis*: Seen above Ibague, three seen at RNA Hormiguero.

RR Rufous-breasted Wren *Thryothorus rutilus*: Good looks at several birds below Minca, here of the race *laetus*. A handsome species

RR Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryothorus rufalbus*: A bird with an unforgettable song that we saw above Minca.

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes (aedon) musculus*: Common and widespread. Many authors (e.g., Hellmayr 1934, Pinto 1944, Phelps & Phelps 1950a) formerly treated Neotropical mainland populations as a separate species *T. musculus*; see also Brumfield and Capparella (1996); this treatment was followed by Brewer (2001) and Kroodsmas & Brewer (2005). The Falklands population, *T. a. cobbi*, might also be best treated as a species (Wood 1993), as was done by Brewer (2001), Mazar Barnett & Pearman (2001), Jaramillo (2003), and Kroodsmas & Brewer (2005);

E Apolinar's Wren – *Cistothorus apolinari*: A co-operative pair scoped on top of the reeds at Parque La Florida on our first morning and another 2 later (Juveniles). This species has a very small population and range. It is thought to be declining rapidly, owing to loss and degradation of its

severely fragmented habitat. All subpopulations are suspected to be extremely small, and some have been extirpated over the last few decades. **ENDANGERED**

Sedge Wren – *Cistothorus platensis*: A responsive pair on the paramo at RNA El Paujil. The SACC says “Two distinctive major subspecies groups, Andean and south-temperate *platensis* and lowland *polyglottus*, intergrade in southeastern South America (Traylor 1988). The North American *stellaris* group may warrant species rank from *Cistothorus platensis* (e.g., see Meyer de Schauensee 1966, Ridgely & Tudor 1989).”

Sharpe’s (Sepia-brown) Wren – *Cinnicerthia olivascens*: Half a dozen of this songster seen at Alto las Ventanas. Here the SACC and IOC differ. The former calls this species Sharpe’s Wren but the IOC calls it Sepia-brown Wren which was the name of the superspecies before it was split into Fulvous, Peruvian and Sharpe’s Wren. The SACC says “*Cinnicerthia olivascens* and *C. fulva* were formerly (e.g., Paynter & Vaurie 1960, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) considered conspecific with *C. peruana*, but see Brumfield & Remsen (1996); this treatment was followed by Brewer (2001), Ridgely et al. (2001), and Kroodsma & Brewer (2005). Hellmayr (1934) had previously treated *fulva* as a separate species from *C. peruana*. The three species form a superspecies. Called “Sepia-brown Wren” in Ridgely et al. (2001). [SACC proposal to change English name did not pass.](#)

Rufous Wren – *Cinnicerthia unirufa*: 2 on our last day at Quebrada La Vieja – or were they Spinetails?

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte*: One seen on September 18th.

Grey-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*: Regularly heard at higher elevations with a number of good views. In the Santa Marta Mountains we saw the *bangsi* race at lower elevations and the *anachoreta* race higher. Two species are probably involved so keep track of this one - they look pretty much the same but the song is different. Elsewhere we saw the nominate *leucophrys*.

Southern Nightingale-Wren: *Microcerculus marginatus*: Now its official name according to the IOC. It was on our list as Scaly-breasted Wren. One seen at RNA El Paujil

MIMIDAE

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*: A common open country species.

TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloide*: Seen at RNA Arrierito

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush - *Catharus aurantiurostris*: Two seen on September 23rd at the Bushbird reserve.

Swainson’s Thrush – *Catharus ustulatus*: Two above Minca

Yellow-legged Thrush *Platycichla flaviceps*: A few in the Santa Marta Mountains

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater*: Ubiquitous at higher elevations. We saw *quindio* (endemic) in the Central and Western Andes, and *cacozelus* (a very pale subspecies that is also endemic) in the Santa Marta Mountains.

Black-hooded Thrush *Turdus olivater*: A few on the San Lorenzo ridge at middle elevations in the Santa Marta Mountains, of the endemic race *sanctaemartae*.

Chestnut-bellied Thrush – *Turdus fulviventris*: One seen at the Bushbird Reserve. Despite its large size this is a real skulker.

Pale-breasted Thrush - *Turdus leucomelas*: Relatively common.

Black-billed Thrush - *Turdus ignobilis*: Fairly common in the lowlands.

POLIOPTIDAE

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*: One near Mindo showed well.

Tropical Gnatcatcher – *Polioptila plumbea*: Common on the Guajira Peninsular.

VIREONIDAE

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis**

Black-billed Peppershrike – *Cyclarhis nigrisrostris**: Heard at Alto las Ventanas.

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo - *Vireo (chivi) olivaceus*: Some classifications (e.g., Pinto 1944) have considered the South American *chivi* group as a separate species ("Chivi Vireo") from *V. olivaceus*, or as conspecific with *V. flavoviridis* (Hamilton 1962), but see Hellmayr (1935), Zimmer (1941d), Eisenmann 1962a, Johnson & Zink (1985), and Ridgely & Tudor (1989). Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) suggested, however, that more than one species may be involved within the South American *chivi* group.

Brown-capped Vireo - *Vireo leucophrys*: A few here and there.

Yellow-green Vireo – *Vireo flavoviridis*: 3 near Minca

RR Rufous-naped Greenlet - *Hylophilus semibrunneus*: Small numbers of this distinctive, snazzy Greenlet were recorded at Calrita Botero. Almost a Colombian endemic but gets into Venezuela.

RR Golden-fronted Greenlet – *Hylophilus aurantifrons*: Very responsive to Pygmy Owl whistles above Minca. Restricted to Northern South America

Scrub Greenlet - *Hylophilus flavipes*: Fairly common here and there and very vocal

PARULIDAE

Golden-winged Warbler – *Vermivora chrysoptera*: One surprised us above Ibague. **NEAR THREATENED**

Tropical Parula – *Parula pitiayumi*: A few.

Yellow Warbler – *Dendroica petechia*: Around 10 on the Guajira peninsular

Blackburnian Warbler – *Dendroica fusca*: Regularly recorded throughout the tour.

Cerulean Warbler – *Dendroica cerulea*: One where it should be at the Cerulean warbler reserve in a mixed flock. **VULNERABLE**

Magnolia Warbler – *Dendroica magnolia*: One seen by some at Los Cocos. A winter resident in Central America, it's not common in Colombia.

American Redstart – *Setophaga ruticilla*: Regularly recorded in small numbers throughout the tour.

Black and White Warbler – *Mniotilta varia*: Cool bird! Pleasantly frequent throughout the tour.

Prothonotary Warbler – *Protonotaria citra*: Quite a show 50+ seen in the Mangroves at Los Cocos.

Northern Waterthrush – *Seiurus novboracensis*: Half a dozen in the Los Cocos area.

Canada Warbler – *Wilsonia Canadensis*: Common

Slate-throated Whitestart - *Myioborus miniatus*: A common, widespread and delightful resident of the montane forests.

E Golden-fronted Whitestart – *Myioborus ornatus*: We saw the *chrysops* race at Alto las Ventanas and the *ornatus* race at the Cerulean Warbler reserve with its strikingly white facial pattern – a very pretty bird.

E Yellow-crowned Whitestart - *Myioborus flavivertex*: We saw around 10 of these delightful birds on the San Lorenzo Ridge – it is one of the most conspicuous Santa Marta endemics. Slightly atypical for a *Myioborus* whitestart, being somewhat slow and deliberate in its movements and almost (*Basileuterus*) warbler-like in appearance.

Black-crested Warbler - *Basileuterus nigrocristatus*: Around 10 on the way down from RNA El Mirador

Citrine Warbler – *Basileuterus luteoviridis richardsoni*: We saw the different looking *richardsoni* race. This subspecies *richardsoni* of western Colombia was formerly (e.g. Hellmayr 1935) treated as a separate species – Richardson's Warbler.

RR Gray-throated Warbler - *Basileuterus cinereicollis* – Not very responsive to playback at this time of year, but we managed 2. A range restricted species shared with Venezuela. Seen well at the Bushbird reserve. **NEAR THREATENED**

E White-lored Warbler *Basileuterus conspicillatus*: This Santa Marta endemic was numerous at middle elevations allowing us several great views. It is relatively common in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, where it inhabits humid montane forest, forest borders and well-developed second growth and shade-coffee plantations at 450-2,200m, where it forages at low to mid-levels, principally in the under growth and understory. It appears tolerant of a degree of habitat degradation. All remaining forest in the Santa Marta Mountains is seriously threatened by agricultural expansion, logging and burning. Only 15% of the sierra's vegetation is unaltered, with the south-east slope extensively deforested, and the west slope, between 800 and 1,600m, largely cleared for coffee and illegal marijuana plantations. **NEAR THREATENED**

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons delatieri*: Good looks near Minca. The *delatieri* group of subspecies, from Guatemala south to northwestern South America, was formerly (e.g.,

Hellmayr 1935) treated as separate species from the *Basileuterus rufifrons* of (mainly) Mexico, but they evidently intergrade in Guatemala and Honduras (Monroe 1968, AOU 1983).

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*: Common at RNA Arrierito and at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve

E Santa Marta Warbler *Basileuterus basilicus*: 2 seen. Another Warbler endemic to the Santa Marta Mountains, which is quite tricky to see. A large, slow and aberrant species, that perhaps does not belong in *Basileuterus* – it was formerly placed in *Hemispingus*! It is likely to have undergone a rapid and continuing decline. **VULNERABLE**

Buff-rumped Warbler *Basileuterus fulvicauda*: Our delightful neighbours in the dining room at RNA El Paujil

THRAUPIDAE

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*: As usual, common and widespread.

Plain-colored Tanager – *Tangara inornata*: 3 scoped at RNA El Paujil.

Silver-throated Tanager – *Tangara icterocephala*: One at RNA Arrierito.

Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus*: A stunning montane species that we saw at a number of sites.

Saffron-crowned Tanager *Tangara xanthocephala*:

Blue-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanicollis*: Common and widespread but nonetheless striking.

Speckled Tanager – *Tangara guttata* – Several sighting of the *bogotensis* race at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve and at RNA Arrierito

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*: Two distinctive races were seen of this one: the turquoise bellied *delecticia* in the Andes, and *toddi* in the Santa Marta Mountains, which is all grass green except for the bay head. The name ‘*gyrola*’ is derived from the Latin ‘*gyros*’, or ring, and refers to the golden nuchal collar present in most races of this species.

RR Scrub Tanager - *Tangara vitriolina*: Another species which prefers second growth. One of the most numerous and widespread tanagers in Colombia’s valleys and on the adjacent slopes, but outside the country it is a localized speciality in northern Ecuador.

Metallic-green Tanager – *Tangara labradorides*: 3 or 4 at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve. Named for the shining blue and green reflections in the colour of Labrador Stone

Beryl-spangled Tanager - *Tangara nigroviridis*: Common at RNA Arrierito.

Black-capped Tanager - *Tangara heinei*: A few seen at various sites

Black-headed Tanager - *Tangara cyanoptera*: Only one seen near the El Dorado Lodge.

RR Purplish-mantled Tanager – *Iridosornis porphyrocephalus*. A near endemic creeping into NW Ecuador. At RNA Arrierito around 3 recorded. **NEAR THREATENED**

Golden-crowned Tanager – *Iridosornis rufivertex*: Quite a stunner! One seen at Alto las Ventanas.

E Multicolored Tanager – *Chlorochrysa nitidissima*: A pair in the frugivore flock on October 1st at RNA Arrierito. Quite a cracker! **VULNERABLE**

E Black and Gold Tanager – *Bangsia melanochlamys*: Wow – a most wanted species and it was seen on two consecutive days at RNA Arrierito. **VULNERABLE**

Hooded Mountain Tanager – *Buthraupis Montana*: Seen at El Mirador and Alto Las Ventanas – a large showy Tanager

E Santa Marta Mountain-Tanager - *Anisognathus melanogenys*: Another handsome Santa Marta endemic which was fairly common but great to see!

Lacrimose Mountain Tanager – *Anisognathus lacrymosus*: Around 10 at El Mirador and also at Alto las Ventanas.

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus somptuosus*: At the Cerulean Warbler Reserve.

Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager – *Dubusia taeniata*: One of this undergrowth Tanager at Alto las Ventanas

Blue-gray Tanager - *Thraupis episcopus*: Numerous and widespread. The scientific name is derived from the 'episcopal blue' plumage.

RR Glaucous Tanager - *Thraupis glaucocolpa*: Two along the road near Pericos. Limited range in Venezuela and Colombia

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*: Common and widespread.

Blue-capped Tanager *Thraupis cyanocephala*: Common at RNA Arrierito and near Minca.

Crimson-backed Tanager *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*: A widespread tanager of open and secondary habitats.

Lemon-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus ictronotus*: Common at the Cerulean Warbler reserve and RNA Arrierito. The SACC says: The taxon *icteronotus* was formerly (e.g., Hellmayr 1936, Meyer de Schauensee 1970) considered a separate species from *Ramphocelus flammigerus*, but intergradation between them in southwestern Colombia (Chapman 1917, Sibley 1958) led Storer (1970a) to consider them conspecific, and this treatment has been followed by most authors subsequently (e.g., Ridgely & Tudor 1989, Sibley & Monroe 1990), Restall (2007). However, as noted by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), the differences between these two are comparable to those between two *Ramphocelus* taxa (*passerinii* and *costaricensis*) recently treated as separate species (Hackett 1996, AOU 1998). Restall 2007 agrees with the split.

E Flame-rumped Tanager - *Ramphocelus flammigerus*: 2 seen in the Juan Valdez coffee plantations below Jardin. See the preceding species for the taxonomic status of this endemic.

Scarlet Tanager – *Piranga olivacea*: One on the way down from El Mirador.

Red-hooded Tanager – *Piranga rubricepsa*: Another spectacular Tanager. Two seen on the way down from El Mirador

E Sooty Ant-Tanager - *Habia gutturalis*: A superb Nechí endemic. We saw 3 in total very well. It has a restricted range within north-west Colombia, where it occurs in the upper Sinú valley at the north end of the West Andes, and east along the north base of the Andes to the middle Magdalena valley. Despite a report that it may benefit from forest destruction, it is now adjudged rare in (often streamside) undergrowth in tall secondary and patchy woodland at 100-1,100m. It is highly insectivorous, with pairs or small family groups following swarms of army ants or joining mixed-species flocks. Suitable habitat within its range is unprotected and relatively reduced. The middle and lower Magdalena valley has been extensively deforested since the 19th century (for agriculture), and clearance of its favored foothills has been near total since the 1950s. **NEAR THREATENED**

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*: A couple seen near San Vicente and 1 near Minca.

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*

Grey-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*: 5 at Clarita Botero. This species is often associated with ant swarms.

Gray-hooded Bush Tanager – *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*: 4 of the nominate form that do have pink bills above Jardin. Note the southern form *chrysogster* South of the Marañon river in Peru, which does not have a pink bill may be a separate species and, if so, would become a Peruvian endemic.

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*: Fairly common. A species with a lot of geographical variation.

Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager – *Chlorospingus flavigularis*: A dozen seen at RNA Arrierito.

Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager – *Chlorospingus canigularis*: Common at the Cerulean warbler Reserve.

Black-capped Hemispingus – *Hemispingus atropileus*: Small groups at RNA El Mirador and RNA Arrierito. *Hemispingus* is Greek and means half a spingus – a spingos being a Finch so referring to their small size.

Superciliaried Hemispingus – *Hemispingus superciliaris*: 2 seen in the mixed flock on the way down the trail at El Mirador

Oleaginous Hemispingus *Hemispingus frontalis*: Some at Alto las Ventanas and RNA El Mirador in bamboo. Oleaginous means oily.

Black-headed Hemispingus – *Hemispingus verticalis* – Half a dozen at El Mirador

Black-faced Tanager *Schistochlamys melanopis*: A single at RNA Arrierito.

White –capped Tanager – *Sericossypha albocristata*: Half a dozen of this noisy Jay-like Tanager on the jeep ride up to Jardin to meet our horses on September 14th

Rusty Flowerpiercer – *Diglossa sittoides*: 4 at Clarita Botero.

Glossy Flowerpiercer – *Diglossa lafresnayi*: Only one Alto las Ventanas

Black Flowerpiercer – *Diglossa humeralis*: 4 at Parque La Florida were the only ones.

White-sided Flowerpiercer - *Diglossa albilatera*: Perhaps the most common and widespread of the flowerpiercers. Here the nominate race.

Masked Flowerpiercer – *Diglossa cyanea*:

Plushcap – *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*: Good looks at this *Chusquea* bamboo specialist at Alto Las Ventanas

RR White-eared Conebill – *Conirostrum leucogenys*: 2 seen by some near San Vicente.

Blue-backed Conebill – *Conirostrum sitticolor*: Three at Alto las Ventanas.

Bicolored Conebill – *Conirostrum bicolor*: 30+ in the Mangroves at Los Cocos.

E Rufous-browed Conebill – *Conirostrum rufum*: One of the first birds of the trip at Parque La Florida and one of the best of the trip – quite a little gem and its responded to playback splendidly.

Rosy Thrush-Tanager – *Urotraupis stolzmanni**: Near Minca.

Swallow Tanager – *Tersina viridis*: At El Paujil

Golden-collared Honeycreeper – *Iridophanes pulcherirrimus* : A male seen at Alto Las Ventanas

E Turquoise Dacnis - *Dacnis hartlaubi*: 3 seen at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve, one of the very few localities from which this handsome species is known. The world population is estimated at 2,500 – 9,999 individuals and is decreasing. This species has a highly disjunct and poorly-understood range. It is very close to qualifying as endangered, because the known range is very small and presumably declining (with possibly some local extirpations) in response to continuing habitat loss. However, it has been recorded at more than five locations and exhibits some habitat tolerance. Named after Karl Hartlaub, German naturalist who wrote the Birds of Madagascar in 1877. **VULNERABLE**

Blue Dacnis - *Dacnis cayana*

Blue-naped Chlorophonia - *Chlorophonia cyanea*: A few at different localities

Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia - *Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys*. Nice looks on our afternoon walk at RNA El Mirador.

RR Trinidad Euphonia – *Euphonia trinitatis*: 2 on the Guajira Peninsular.

Orange-bellied Euphonia - *Euphonia xanthogaster*: Several throughout the tour and like most races, the birds we saw (*oreassinoma*), are actually yellow-bellied. A species conspicuously absent from the, (impoverished), Santa Marta Mountains.

Thick-billed Euphonia - *Euphonia lanirostris*.

RR Fulvous-vented Euphonia - *Euphonia fulvicrissa*: 2 seen at RNA El Paujil

FRINGILLIDAE

RR Vermillion Cardinal – *Cardinalis phoeniculus* : A Guajira endemic and a smart bird. 1 male seen.

Golden bellied Grosbeak – *Pheucticus chrysogaster*: Seen in the Santa Marta Mountains on two separate dates

Black-backed Grosbeak - *Pheucticus aureoventris*: Our last bird of the trip at Quebrada la Vieja

Buff-throated Saltator - *Saltator maximus*: Fairly common

Grayish Saltator – *Saltator coerulescens*

Black-winged Saltator - *Saltator atripennis*: 3 above Ibaguè. One of the nicer Saltators.

RR Orinocan Saltator – *Saltator orinocensis*: Several near Pericos on the Guajira Peninsular

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*: Fairly common.

E Yellow-throated Brush-Finch *Atlapetes gutturalis*: A pretty bird seen above Ibaguè. The SACC says- Paynter (1964) provided rationale for merging the *Atlapetes gutturalis* group into *A. albinucha* White-naped Brush-Finch; and this treatment was followed by Paynter (1970a), AOU (1998), and Dickinson (2003) but not by Restall (2007). The two certainly look very different but the IOC says Yellow-throated Brush Finch *Atlapetes gutturalis* intergrades and is conspecific with White-naped Brush Finch *A. albinucha*

Pale-naped Brush-Finch – *Atlapetes pallidinucha*: Around 10 seen at Quebrada la Vieja on our last day.

E Yellow-headed Brush-Finch – *Atlapetes flaviceps*. 6 seen in the early morning above Ibaguè. An extremely localized endemic in real danger. Formerly (e.g., Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Hilty & Brown 1986, Dickinson 2003) known as "Olive-headed Brush-Finch". Called "Yellow-headed Brush-Finch" in BirdLife International (2000). [SACC proposal passed to change English name to the latter because the historical name is inaccurate and misleading.](#) **ENDANGERED**

E Santa Marta Brush-Finch – *Atlapetes melanocephalus*: 20 daily of this endemic, often in the lodge garden in the Santa Marta Mountains.

RR Moustached Brush-Finch - *Atlapetes albofrenatus*: 3 of this relatively arboreal species seen at RNA Hormiguero. We saw the *albofrenatus* race.

RR Rufous-naped Brush-Finch – *Atlapetes latinuchus yariguierum*: The SACC says “Called "Northern Rufous-naped Brush-Finch" in García-Moreno and Fjeldså (1999) and "Cloud-forest

Brush-Finch" in Clements and Shany (2001). [SACC proposal to change English name did not pass](#)" Take note of the subspecies we saw at The Cerulean Warbler reserve as it's endemic to the Yarigues ridge and may deserve species status. The Rufous-naped Brush Finch formerly encompassed Bolivian and Dark-faced (S. Peru) Brush Finch as well.

Slaty Brush-Finch – *Atlapetes schistaceus*: The nominate race was seen at RNA El Mirador and then above Jardin, 10 birds.

Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch *Atlapetes brunneinucha*: At RNA Arrierito.

Stripe-headed Brush-Finch - *Atlapetes torquatus*: 1 above Jardin (lacking the black breast band) of the *assimilis* race. Several other subspecies, do have a black breast band). More than one species are likely involved.

RR Tanager Finch – *Oreothraupis aremonops*: Great looks above Jardin of about half a dozen birds. **VULNERABLE**

RR Golden-winged Sparrow – *Arremon schlegeli*: 5 seen in the Minca area. A localized and pretty bird.

Orange-billed Sparrow – *Arremon aurantirostris*: One only at RNA El Paujil.

Black-striped Sparrow -*Arremonops conirostris*: One seen well at El Paujil in response to playback

Yellow-faced Grassquit - *Tiaris olivacea*: Small numbers at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve and other localities.

Lesser Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis*: A slightly strange scientific name, this species having nothing to do with Angola – an error!

RR Thick-billed Seed-Finch - *Oryzoborus funereus* – Seen at the El Paujil Reserve. A spottily distributed species and not easy to see.

Large-billed Seed –Finch – *Oryzoborus carssirostris*: 3 near Puerto Pinzon.

Grey Seedeater - *Sporophila intermedia*:

Yellow-bellied Seedeater - *Sporophila nigricollis*: Common.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater - *Sporophila minuta*: Small numbers at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve

Blue-black Grassquit - *Volatinia jacarina*: A few here and there.

Saffron Finch - *Sicalis flaveola*: Common

Slaty Finch –*Haplospiza rustica*: 2 by the roadside on the San Lorenzo Ridge

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*: Numerous at higher elevations.

Andean Siskin – *Carduelis spinescens*: One female at Clarito Botero

Hooded Siskin - *Carduelis magellenica*: One male in the garden at El Mirador was a first for the reserve

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Carduelis xanthogastra*: 2 at Alto las Ventanas

Lesser Goldfinch - *Carduelis psaltria*: Many seen

ICTERIDAE

Russet-backed Oropendola *Zarhynchus angustifrons*: At lunch at the Cerulean warbler Reserve

Crested Oropendola - *Psarocolius decumanus*: Easy to see at middle elevations in the Santa Marta Mountains.

Mountain Cacique - *Cacicus chrysonotus*: We saw the *leucoramphus* subspecies. The SACC says -The northern (*leucoramphus*) and southern (*chrysonotus*) groups of subspecies were treated as separate species by Blake (1968b), but most classifications have treated them as a single species (e.g., Hellmayr 1937, Meyer de Schauensee 1966, 1970, Ridgely & Tudor 1989, Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990; and usually as *Cacicus leucoramphus*, an error, because *chrysonotus* has priority) because specimens near the contact zone show some signs of gene flow (Hellmayr 1937, Bond 1953). However, see Jaramillo & Burke (1999) for possible reasons for ranking them as species; This was followed by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) and Hilty (2003) but not Restall (2007)

Scarlet-rumped Cacique – *Cacicus uropygialis**.

Yellow-billed Cacique – *Amylancistrus holosericeus*: Great looks whilst we were grubbing around for an Antpitta in the Santa Marta Mountains

E Mountain Grackle – *Macroagelaius subalaris*: At RNA Reinita and with perseverance and good luck with the mist we all got to see half a dozen. **ENDANGERED**

E Red-bellied Grackle – *Hypopyrrhus pyrohpogaste*: A total of 10 seen very well at RNA Arrierito- a very striking species and very localized. **ENDANGERED**

Orange-crowned Oriole *Icterus auricapillus*: 2 at Quince Letras

Yellow Oriole - *Icterus nigrogularis*: 4 seen throughout the tour on the Guajira peninsular

Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*: An attractive bird with a beautiful song that we saw near Jardin

Yellow-hooded Blackbird – *Chrysomitris icterocephalus*: Common at parque La Florida and near Puerto Pinzon.

Giant Cowbird – *Molothrus oryzivorus*: only one of this brood parasite, on the drive to Ocana.

Shiny Cowbird – *Molothrus bonariensis*: Common

Great-tailed Grackle - *Quiscalus mexicanus*: Fair numbers in the Santa Marta, Camerones area.

Carib Grackle – *Quiscalus lugubris*: Around 8 at our breakfast stop on September 24th – a species that is spreading its range in Colombia

Red-breasted Blackbird – *Sturnella militaris*: 10 near Puerto Pinzon and others elsewhere.



Red-bellied Grackle -ProAves

MAMMALS

Neotropical Red-tailed Squirrel – *Sciurus granatensis*: A few at several localities.

E Andean Squirrel - *Sciurus pucheranii*: An endemic! This was the Squirrel above Ibague
White-fronted Capuchin – *Cebus albifrons*. A few at the Paujil Reserve seen by John.

E Brown (Variegated) Spider Monkey - *Ateles hybridus*. Seen on two days with young at the El Paujil Reserve. A very rare primate. **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**

Venezuelan Red Howler Monkey - *Alouatta seniculus**

REPTILES

Red-headed (Western) Basilisk - *Basiliscus galeritus*: This was the impressive Lizard with the crest which is restricted to Western Colombia and Ecuador.