A TRIP REPORT FOR A BIRDING TRIP TO THE SANTA MARTA MOUNTAINS AND THE GUAJIRA PENINSULAR

March 27th – April 2nd 2015

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The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is an isolated mountain range topped by permanent snowfields that are within sight of the sea; it is also one of the most endemic-rich areas in the world, many of them with "Santa Marta" in the name. The principal base was a comfortable lodge on the ProAves reserve at 2650 meters on an outlying ridge of the mountains where saw a large share of those endemics, as well as many other stunning birds. In addition to birding in wet forest, we'll spent some time in coastal marshes, mangroves, deciduous forest, and cactus desert of the Guajira Peninsular with many range restricted species. The scope of this trip was to target some of the most endangered Colombia endemics and range restricted species which are fortunately protected in fragmented forest patches thanks to the efforts of ProAves and the Colombian National Parks. Mention of Colombia conjures images of Emeralss, Coffee, Vallenato music, Guerillas and Cocaine. We made no excuse for concentrating on endemics in this isolated range though on the route we took we did not ignore anything that popped up in front of us. We experienced the warmth of the Colombia people, varied landscapes, and traditional local food. 

We managed to see 25 Santa Marta Endemics and 8-10 other range restricted species

The Agenda
March 27th: Leaving Ocana and our travelling companions who were not doing this portion of the trip we drove the new “Ruta del Sol” to the fashionable Rodadero Beach in Santa Marta and arrived in time for a sea food lunch by the lapping topaz blue Caribbean sea. A late afternoon excursion to Vale to see the endemic Chestnut-winged Chachalaca was successful. Night at our beachside hotel. Department of Magdalena.
March 28th: Morning birding near Barranquilla and at the Isla Salamanca reserve at Los Cocos. Lunch on the way to Riohacha and a late afternoon stop near Pericos and Cari-Cari. Night Riohacha. Department of Magdalena.

March 29th To Los Flamencos National Park, spending the morning birding the lagoons at Camarones and the desert scrub. Lunch at the pleasant hotel in Minca, with several species of hummingbirds visiting the feeders. Drive to El Dorado lodge 1950 meters. Department of Magdalena.

March 30th – 31st: Two full days birding the Santa Marta Mountains, including the San Lorenzo Ridge at 2600 meters, “La Y”, Giles trail and Palo Alto. 1600-2000 meters, Department of Magdalena.

April 1st: In the morning we birded the San Lorenzo Biological Station 2250 meters via the El Dorado Lodge at 1950 meters then birding the way down to Minca via Cerro Kennedy, Cincinati and “La Ye” at 1500 meters. Night in Minca. Department of Magdalena.

April 2nd: Last morning birding around Minca at 650 meters, and then drive to Santa Marta airport, and fly to Bogota and International connections.

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

SCREAMERS
Northern Screamer - Chauna chavaria: 2 seen near Barranquilla.

DUCKS AND GEESE
Black-bellied Whistling-duck - Dendrocygna autumnalis: 4 seen near Barranquilla.

White-cheeked Pintail – Anas bahamensis: 1 found near Barranquilla

Blue-winged Teal - Anas discors: Boreal migrant to Colombia seen near Barranquilla.

Northern Shoveler – Anas clypeata - 2 near Barranquilla – not common in Colombia.
GUANS


Band-tailed Guan – *Penelope argyrotis*; Heard daily and 3 seen at Santa Marta

**RR** Chestnut-winged Chachalaca – *Ortalis garrula*: 15+ seen near Santa Marta

Rufous-vented Chachalaca – *Ortalis ruficauda*: 2 at Los Flamencos NP

NEW WORLD QUIAL

Crested Bobwhite - *Colinus cristatus*: two large groups of 10+ seen

**RR** Black-fronted Wood-quail - *Odontophorus atrifrons*: Heard daily and two seen at the El Dorado compost heap! **VULNERABLE**
STORKS
Wood Stork — *Mycteria americana*

FLAMINGOES
American Flamingo — *Phoenicopterus ruber*: 4 at the well-named Los Flamencos reserve!!

FRIGATEBIRDS
Magnificent Frigatebird — *Fregata magnificens*: a few on Caribbean coasts.

CORMORANTS
Neotropic Cormorant — *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*: seen here and there

PELICANS
Brown Pelican — *Pelecanus occidentalis*: Common

HERONS & EGRETS
Striated Heron - *Butorides striatus*: One only on Isla Salamanca

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Common and widespread

Great Blue Heron — *Ardea herodias*: 1 seen near Barranquilla and one the following day.

Cocoi Heron - *Ardea cocoi*: 5+ near Barranquilla

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

Tricolored Heron — *Egretta tricolor*: 25+ near Barranquilla

Reddish Egret — *Egretta rufescens*: At Los Flamencos NP

Snowy Egret - *Egretta thula*: common

Little Blue Heron — *Egretta caerulea*: regular sightings, especially along the Caribbean coast

IBIS
Bare-faced Ibis - *Phimosus infuscatus*: Common on the drive from Ocana.

White Ibis — *Eudocimus albus*: 8+ at Salamanca and Los Flamencos NP, including several hybrids with the following “species”.

Scarlet Ibis – *Eudocimus ruber*: Just 1 “pure” one. *Eudocimus albus* and *E. ruber* have similar displays, interbreed to a limited degree, and are interfertile, but nonetheless mate assortatively in Venezuela, with the overwhelming majority of breeding birds phenotypically "pure" rather than
intermediate (Ramos & Busto 1983, 1985, 1987); they constitute a superspecies (Mayr & Short 1970, Steinbacher 1979, Sibley & Monroe 1990). They were considered conspecific by Hancock et al. (1992) because of the frequent interbreeding

Glossy Ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus*: 2 seen near Barranquilla

Buff –necked Ibis – *Therisiticticus caudatus*

Roseate Spoonbill – *Platalea ajaja*: 1 at Los Flamencos NP

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*: Jaramillo (2003) suggested that the resident tropical subspecies *ruficollis* and the southern subspecies group (*jota* and "*falklandica"*) might merit recognition as separate species from the northern *Cathartes aura* group.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture – *Cathartes burrovianus*: a few seen in the lowlands on the drive from Ocana and at Barranquilla.

Black Vulture - *Coragyps atratus*

OSPREYS

Osprey - *Pandion haliaetus*: One at Los Flemencos. Pandion was a god in Greek mythology who had two tragic daughters Philomela and Procne who were transformed into a Nightingale and a Swallow

KITES, HAWKS & EAGLES

Black-collared Hawk – *Busarellus nigricollis*: Seen on two consecutive days on the Caribbean coasts

Snail Kite – *Rostrhamus sociabilis*: 10+ seen near Barranquilla

Plumbeous Kite – *Ictinia plumbea*: a few in the Santa Marta Mountains

Crane Hawk – *Geranospiza caerulascens*: 1 seen in the Sierra Nevada mountains

Common Black-hawk – *Buteogallus anthracinus*: 3 seen near Barranquilla

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

Harris’s Hawk – *Parabuteo unicinctus*: 2 seen near Riohacha.

LIMPKIN

Limpkin – *Aramus guarauna*: near Barranquilla

RAILS, CRAKES AND COOTS
Common Gallinule – *Gallinula galeata*: 50+ near Barranquilla. The new world populations are now considered a separate species from the Old World populations Common Moorhen - *Gallinula chloropus*

Purple Gallinule – *Gallinula melanops*: seen on Isla Salamanca

**PLOVERS**
Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis*: Fairly widespread in small numbers on the coast.

**OYSTERCATCHERS**
American Oystercatcher – *Haematopus palliatus*
2 at Los Flamencos

**STILTS**
Black-necked Stilt – *Himantopus mexicanus*: a few near Barranquilla

**THICK-KNEES**
Double-striped Thick-knee – *Burhinus bistriatus*: great looks and photos of one on the drive from Ocana

![Double-striped Thick-Knee](image)
SANDPIPERS AND SNIPES

Hudsonian Whimbrel – *Numenis phaeopus*: 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.

Spotted Sandpiper – *Actitis macularia*: several sightings of that boreal migrant

Greater Yellowlegs – *Tringa melanoleuca*: at Los Flamencos reserve

Solitary Sandpiper – *Tringa solitaria*: several sightings of that boreal migrant

Willet – *Tringa semipalmata*: 6 at Los Flamencos

Semi-palmated Sandpiper – *Calidris pusilla*: several sightings of that boreal migrant

Least Sandpiper – *Calidris minutilla*: a few near Los Flamencos

JACANAS

Wattled Jacana - *Jacana jacana*: common on ponds; the very black *hypomelaena* subspecies here.

GULLS & TERNs

Sandwich Tern – *Thalasseus sandvicensis*: at Los Flamencos NP. *Thalasseus eurygnathus* ("Cayenne Tern") is here considered conspecific with *sandvicensis* following most recent treatments (e.g., Blake 1977); it is often considered a separate species (e.g., Ridgway 1919, Peters 1934, Hellmayr & Conover 1948b, Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Ridgely et al 2001). [elaborate on complexity of situation] <interbreeding REFS = Junge & Voous 1955, Voous 1983, Buckley & Buckley 1984, Norton 1984>. Field observations from the Virgin Islands are consistent with non-assortative mating (Hayes 2004), and the two are extremely similar genetically (Efe et al. 2009). Populations of *eurygnathus* breeding in southern South America may deserve separate taxonomic treatment from Caribbean populations (Voous 1968, Escalante 1973). Efe et al. (2009) found some evidence that New World populations (*T. s. acuflavidus* and *T. s. eurygnathus*) might be more closely related to *T. elegans* than to Old World (nominate) *T. s. sandvicensis*, but this was based on small sample sizes and limited geographic sampling, and was treated as inadequate evidence by Chesser et al. (2013).

Royal Tern – *Thalasseus maximus*: at Los Flamencos NP and on Caribbean coast

PIGEONS & DOVES

Scaled Pigeon – *Patagioenas speciosa*: Fairly common in the lower Santa Marta Mountains

Bare-eyed Pigeon – *Patagioenas corensis*: common at Los Flamencos NP.

Band-tailed Pigeon - *Patagioenas fasciata*: Fairly common and widespread with many good views of perched birds. 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.

**Eared Dove** - *Zenaida auriculata*: Common.

**White-tipped Dove**: *Leptotila verreauxi*: Seen daily. Named for Jukes-Pierre Verreaux French natural History dealer and collector

**Lined Quail-Dove** - *Geotrygon linearis*: Several of this shy Dove were seen by all in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

**Common Ground-dove** – *Columbina passerina*: 2 seen

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

**Scaled Dove** – *Columbina squammata*: Common in the driest area

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

**CUCKOOS**

**RR Dwarf Cuckoo** – *Coccyzus pumilus*: Good looks on the drive from Ocana

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

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** – *Coccyzus americanus*: 1 seen on the drive from Ocana

**Groove-billed Ani** – *Crotaphaga sulcirostris*. Seen in the driest areas

**Striped Cuckoo** – *Tapera naevia* *

**OWLS**

**E Santa Marta Screech-owl** – *Megascops sp. nov.*: At El Dorado lodge after some effort!! **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**

**Mottled Owl** - *Ciccaba virgata*: 1 in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** – *Glaucidium brasiliannus* *

**NIGHTJARS**

**Band-winged Nightjar** - *Systurellura longirostris*: 4 near El Dorado Lodge
Santa Marta Screech-Owl
**SWIFTS**
Chestnut-collared Swift - *Streptoprocne rutila*: 10+

White-collared Swift - *Streptoprocne zonaris*: Several sightings of groups 20+

**HUMMINGBIRDS**
White-necked Jacobin - *Florisuga mellivora*: several sightings and most abundant at the Minca hotel feeders

Rufous-breasted Hermit - *Glaucis aeneus*: Two seen at Minca

Pale-bellied Hermit - *Phaethornis anthophilus*: Best views at the Minca Hotel feeders

Brown Violetear - *Colibri delphinae*: Daily in the Santa Marta Mountains

Green Violetear - *Colibri thalassinus*: Dominating the feeders and flowering bushes in the Sierra Nevada.

**E Santa Marta Blossomcrown – Anthocephala berlepschi**: 1 seen on two days in the Sierra Nevada – now a Santa Marta endemic. **VULNERABLE**

**RR Santa Marta Tyrian Metaltail – Metallura tyrianthina districta**: Common in the Sierra Nevada Named after the color Tyrian purple. Variously 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.

**E White-tailed Starfrontlet – Coeligena phalerata**: A pair seen daily at El Dorado.

Mountain Velvetbreast – *Lafresnaya lafresnayi*: 2 seen on the San Lorenzo ridge in the Sierra Nevada

**E Santa Marta Woodstar – Chaetocercus astreans**: One female of this hard to see endemic seen.

**RR Red-billed Emerald Chlorostilbon gibsoni**: A few were noted, in the Santa Marta area and Minca. 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. mellsugus* 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 Amazon are Blue-tailed Emeralds.

**RR Coppery Emerald – *Chlorostilbon russatus***: Good view at Minca

**Lazuline Sabrewing – *Campylopterus falcatus***: One at El Dorado. Lazuline – a light shade of blue.

**Crowned Woodnymph - *Thalurania colombica***: Common in the Sierra Nevada *Thalurania colombica* and *T. fannyi* (Green-crowned Woodnymph) were formerly (e.g., Peters 1945, Zimmer 1950d, Phelps & Phelps 1958a, Meyer de Schauensee 1966, 1970) considered conspecific with *T. furcata*, but Escalante-Pliego & Peterson (1992) showed that the three taxa are essentially parapatric with no signs of gene flow; they constitute a superspecies (Sibley & Monroe 1990). They had been treated as separate species from *T. furcata* by Cory (1918) and AOU (1983, 1998). Donegan (2012a), however, found new evidence for gene flow between these populations. SACC proposal passed to treat *fanny* and *colombica* as conspecific.

**RR Buffy Hummingbird - *Leucippus fallax***: One seen near Camerones

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird - *Amazilia tzacatl***: Commonly seen in small numbers

**Steely-vente Hummingbird – *Saucerottia saucerottei***. Common at feeders at the Minca Hotel.

**RR Sapphire-throated Hummingbird – *Lepiodpyga coeruleogularis***: One at least at a flowering tree on Isla Salamanca – hard to see localized bird

**Shining Green Hummingbird - *Lepiodpyga goudoti***

**TROGONS**

**RR White-tipped Quetzal – *Pharomachrus fulgidus***: Nice views in the Sierra Nevada

**Masked Trogon - *Trogon personatus***

**KINGFISHERS**

**Ringed Kingfisher - *Megaceryle torquata***: 2 on Isla Salamanca. Note that these big species are now treated as a distinct genus, the *Megaceryle*.

**Amazon Kingfisher - *Chloroceryle amazone***: 1 near Barranquilla

**Green Kingfisher – *Chloroceryle americana***: 2 seen at Los Flamencos

**MOTMOTS**

**Whooping Motmot - *Momotus subrufescens***: 4 were seen at lower elevations around Minca.
JACAMARS
Rufous-tailed Jacamar – *Galbula ruficauda*: Excellent views on the Guajira and heard near Minca

PUFFBIRDS
Russet-throated Puffbird – *Hypnelus ruficolis*: Some excellent views of several in the driest areas.

Moustached Puffbird – *Malacoptila mystacalis*: A pair in the Santa Marta Mountains

TOUCANS
Keel-billed Toucan – *Ramphastos sulfuratus*: Excellent views above Minca

E Santa Marta (Emerald) Toucanet – *Aulacorhynchus lautus*: Seen daily in the Sierra Nevada. See following species. 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 splits, citing, Puebla-Olivares et al. 2008 and if accepted the former would become a Colombian endemic. IOU splits, SACC does not.

Groove-billed Toucanet – *Aulacorhynchus sulcatus*: Good views in the Sierra Nevada.

WOODEPCKERS
Scaled Piculet – *Picumnus squamulatus*: One near Minca

RR Chestnut Piculet – *Picumnus cinnamomeus*: Stunning views at Los Flamencos NP.


Smoky-brown Woodpecker – *Picoides fumigatus*


Golden-olive Woodpecker – *Piculus rubiginosus*: A couple of sightings of individuals in the Santa Marta Mountains

Spot-breasted Woodpecker – *Colaptes punctigula*: Excellent views near Barranquilla
Lineated Woodpecker – *Dryocopus lineatus*: Just one in the mountains

Crimson-crested Woodpecker - *Campephilus melanoleucus*: 3 at lower elevations of the SM Mountains.

**FALCONS**

Laughing Falcon - *Herpetotheres cachinnans*: One only on the Guajira Peninsular

Crested Caracara - *Caracara cheriway*: 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 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 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.

American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*: Seen on the drive from Ocana.

Aplomado Falcon – *Falco femoralis*: One seen on the Guajira

**PARROTS**

Orange-chinned Parakeet - *Brotogeris jugularis*: Common lower

Red-billed Parrot – *Pionus sordidus*: 20+ in the Sierra Nevada.

Scaly-naped Amazon– *Amazonas mercenaria*: 2 in the Sierra Nevada.

Green-rumped Parrotlet – *Forpus passerines*: 10+ near Cari Cari and10+ at Los Flamencos NP.

E Santa Marta Parakeet – *Pyrrhura viridicata*: 4 seen on the San Lorenzo ridge ENDANGERED

Brown-throated Parakeet – *Eupsittula pertinax*: Common along the coast

Scarlet-fronted Parakeet – *Psittacara wagleri*: Common in the Santa Marta Mountains. Named for Johann Georg Wagler, German herpetologist 1800-1832
ANTBIRDS

Black-crested Antshrike – *Sakesphorus canadensis*: Common in the driest areas at lower elevations. Not found in Canada!

**RR Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus*: Great views of a 2.

**RR Black-backed Antshrike** – *Thamnophilus melanotus*: Excellent views at Minca our last morning!!


**E Santa Marta Antbird** – *Drymophila hellmayri*: 2 seen well seen above Minca. Isler et al. (2012) proposed that the broadly defined *Drymophila caudata* consists of four species: (1) *klagesi*, with *aristeguietana*; (2) *hellmayri*; (3) nominate *caudata*; and (4) *striaticeps*, with *occidentalis*, *peruviana*, and *boliviana*. SACC proposal passed to recognize four species.
Distribution of the ex-Long-tailed Antbird-Drymophila caudata complex.
Symbols represent records of occurrence of the four species we define:
circles = D. Klagesi (Klage’s Antbird) crosses = D. Hellmayri (Santa Marta Antbird), squares = D.caudata (East Andean Antbird), triangles = D. striaticeps (Streak-headed Antbird),

Santa Marta Antpitta
ANTPITTAS

**E Santa Marta Antpitta – *Grallaria bangsi***: Seen in the Sierra Nevada on 3 days. **VULNERABLE**

**E Santa Marta Rufous Antpitta – *Grallaria rufula spatiatior***: Excellent views in the Sierra Nevada. Keep track of where you see your Rufous Antpitta’s – they will be split.

Rusty-breasted Antpitta – *Grallaricula ferruginepectus*: 1 seen others heard.

TAPACULOS

**E Santa Marta Tapaculo – *Scytalopus sanctaemartae***: One seen in the lower forest of the Sierra Nevada!!

**E Brown-rumped Tapaculo – *Scytalopus latebricola***: One seen on the San Lorenzo Ridge in the Sierra Nevada.

OVENBIRDS & WOODECREEPERS

Gray-throated Leaftosser – *Sclerurus albigularis*: One seen in the Mountains

Strong-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*: At least 5 seen

Straight –billed Woodcreeper – *Dendroplex picus*: Common at lower elevations

Cocoa Woodcreeper – *Xiphorynchus susurrans*+: The SACC says -The relationships among taxa included in *Xiphorynchus susurrans* and *X. guttatus* (Buff-throated Woodcreeper) are complex and need much additional work. *Xiphorynchus 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. *Xiphorynchus 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 *Xiphorynchus guttatus* paraphyletic with respect to Amazonian *guttatoides* group (Lafraneye’s Woodcreeper) of western and southwestern Amazonia (*guttatoides, dorbignyanus, 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 as does the IOC.

**Montane Woodcreeper – *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger***: Seen on 3 consecutive days.
Streaked Xenops - *Xenops rutilans*: One near Minca

Caribbean (Pale-legged) Hornero – *Furnarius leucopus*: Good views on the Guajira peninsula

Montane Foliage-gleaner - *Anabacerthia striaticollis*: Well seen in the Sierra Nevada.

E Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner – *Automolus rufipectus*: Excellent views above Minca

Flammulated Treehunter – *Thripadectes flammulatus*: 2 seen on the San Lorenzo Ridge

E Santa Marta Spotted Barbtail – *Premnornis brunnescens colopratus*: 1 seen. There is a paper on Spotted Barbtails that shows that the Santa Marta population split off over 3 million years ago, with suggestions that with more research it should be split.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail - *Certhiaxis cinnamomea*: Common in ponds near Barranquilla

**E rusty-headed Spinetail** – *Synallaxis fuscorufa*: Common in the Sierra Nevada, but not that easy to see... **VULNERABLE**

**RR White-whiskered Spinetail** – *Synallaxis candei*: Common near Pericos and at Los Flamencos NP – a striking Spinetail
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet - *Phyllomyias griseiceps*: One near Minca

Black-capped Tyrannulet - *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*: Excellent views in the Sierra Nevada of one

Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet – *Phyllomyias plumbeiceps*: 2+ seen well at Otun Quimbaya

Forest Elaenia – *Myiopagis gaimardii* – One near Minca

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

Lesser Elaenia – *Elaenia chiriensis*:

Mountain Elaenia - *Elaenia frantzii*: A few in the Sierra Nevada. The species was named after Alexander von Frantzius, a nineteenth century German collector in Brazil and Costa Rica.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet - *Camptostoma obsoletum*: Seen near Minca

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys*: We saw this species in the Sierra Nevada

Olive-striped Flycatcher – *Mionectes olivaceus*: A few sightings in the Sierra Nevada
Northern Scrub-flycatcher – *Sublegatus arenarum*: Relatively common in the dry shrubs of the Guajira peninsula.

**RR Slender-billed Inezia** – *Inezia tenuirostris*: Common at Los Flamencos.

**Pale-tipped Inezia** – *Inezia caudate*: One at Los Flamencos

**Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant** – *Atalotriccus pilaris*: Excellent views around Minca.

**Black-throated Tody-tyrant** – *Hemitriccus granadensis*: 2 in the Sierra Nevada

**Yellow-breasted Flycatcher** – *Tolmomyias flvaiventris*: Seen on the Guajira the *aurulentus* race

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

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** – *Contopus cooperi*: One this boreal migrant in the Santa Marta Mountains

**Eastern Wood-peewee** – *Contopus virens*: Regular sightings during the trip

**Tropical Pewee** – *Contopus cinereus*: A few seen above Minca

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

**E Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant** – *Myiotheretes pernix*: Excellent views of 1 bird in the Sierra Nevada!!

ENDANGERED
Pied Water-Tyrant - *Fluvicola pica*: Several seen near Barranquilla and at Los Flamencos NP.

White-headed Marsh-tyrant - *Arundinicola leucocephala*: Seen near Barranquilla and Isla Salamanca.

Yellow-bellied Chat-tyrant – *Ochtoeca diadema*: One seen in the Sierra Nevada.

Cattle Tyrant - *Machetornis rixosa*: A few sightings on the Guajira Peninsular.

Piratic Flycatcher - *Legatus leucophaius*: One only.

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

Social Flycatcher - *Myiozetetes similis*: Only seen once during the trip near Minca.

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

Golden-crowned Flycatcher – *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*: A few seen during the trip in the Sierra Nevada.

Streaked Flycatcher - *Myiodynastes maculatus*: 3 seen.


Fork-tailed Flycatcher – *Tyrannus savanna*: One on the drive from Ocana in open country.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*: 2 of this boreal migrant seen at lower elevations.

Gray Kingbird – *Tyrannus dominicensis*: 1 seen on Day 3.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher - *Myiarchus tuberculifer*.

Panama Flycatcher - *Myiarchus panamensis*: Common in the dry habitat around Santa Marta.

Brown-crested Flycatcher - *Myiarchus tyrannulus*.

Bright-rumped (Flammulated) Attila - *Attila (flamulatus) spadiceus*.

**Cotingas**

Golden-breasted Fruiteater – *Pipreola aureopeactus*: 2 pairs on different days in the Sierra Nevada.
**MANAKINS**

Lance-tailed Mankin – *Chiroxipha lanceolata*: One near Minca

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus*: a few seen near Minca

**TITYRAS**

In this classification, the genera *Tityra* through *Phibalura* were formerly placed tentatively in the Cotingidae, following Prum et al. (2000).

Masked Tityra – *Tityra semifasciata*: seen in the Sierra Nevada

Cinnamon Becard - *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*: One near Minca

**VIREOS & GREENLETS**

Brown-capped Vireo – *Vireo leucophrys*: Seen daily in the mountains

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.

Golden-fronted Greenlet – *Pachysylvia aurantiifrons*; 2 seen near Minca. Note change of genus

**JAYS**

Black-chested Jay - *Cyanocorax affinis*: Common

**SWALLOWS & MARTINS**

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

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

Gray-breasted Martin - *Progne chalybea*: A few

Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica*: Common sightings in the lowlands heading North

**WRENS**

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*: 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 Kroodsma & Brewer (2005). The Falklands population, *T. a. cobbi*, is treated as a species (Wood 1993) and is done so by the IOU, as was done by Brewer (2001), Mazar Barnett & Pearman (2001), Jaramillo (2003), and Kroodsma & Brewer (2005);
Band-backed Wren – *Campylorhynchus zonatus*: 3 seen notably near Barranquilla

Stripe-backed Wren – *Campylorhynchus nuchalis*: 10+ near Barranquilla

Bicolored Wren - *Campylorhynchus griseus*: Repeated excellent views

Rufous-breasted Wren – *Pheugopedius rutilus*: Nice views above Minca!

Rufous-and-white Wren – *Thryophilus rufalbus*: Only one seen near Minca!!

Buff-breasted Wren – *Cantorchilus leucotis*: Common in the Santa Marta mountains

Santa Marta Wood-Wren *Henicorhina anachoreta*: Regularly heard at higher elevations in the Sierra Nevada with a number of good views. A paper is in press splitting the *anachoreta* (upper elevation) Gray-breasted Wood-Wren from the following species (after the paper that provided the genetic and vocal analysis)

Bang's Wood Wren – *Henicorhina bangsi*: This is a different vocal type at lower elevations in the Sierra Nevada. This and the former are treated as separate species in the Birds of Colombia book by McMullen and Donegan but SACC waits paper publication and treats then as subspecies of Gray-breasted Wood-Wren.

**GNATCATCHERS**

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*: Excellent views near Minca.

Tropical Gnatcatcher – *Polioptila plumbea*: Common on the Guajira peninsula. Todd & Carriker many years ago split *plumbiceps* of the Guajira from *bilineata* so keep track of this.

**THRUSHES**

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush – *Catharus arantiicrostris*: 2 seen

Slaty-backed Nightingale –Thrush – *Catharus fuscater*: Seen on two consecutive days.

Yellow-legged Thrush - *Turdus flavipes*: Good views in the Sierra Nevada

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater cacoelus*: Ubiquitous at higher elevations. We saw the *cacoelus* race (a very pale subspecies that is also endemic) in the Santa Marta Mountains.

Black-hooded Thrush – *Turdus olivater*: Nice views in the Sierra Nevada

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

White-necked Thrush - *Turdus albicollis*: 1 in the Sierra Nevada

**MOCKINGBIRDS**

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

White-lined Tanager – *Tachyphonus rufus*: Two seen above Minca

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

E Black-cheeked Mountain-Tanager – *Anisognathus melanogenys*: 6+ on the San Lorenzo ridge in the Sierra Nevada on two separate days. **VULNERABLE**

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

Glaucous Tanager *Thraupis glaucocolpa*: 2 on the Guajira Peninsular

Blue-capped Tanager *Thraupis cyanocephala*: 4 seen in total

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

Black-headed Tanager - *Tangara cyanoptera*: 3 seen in the Sierra Nevada on two separate days
Santa Marta Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*: We saw the odd *toddii* subspecies in the Sierra Nevada. 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.

Swallow Tanager – *Tersina viridis*: Several good looks in the Sierra Nevada.

Bicolored Conebill – *Coniristrin bicolor* – 4 in the Salamanca mangroves at Los Cocos.

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

Rusty Flowerpiercer – *Diglossa sittoides*: Good views in the Sierra Nevada.

Plushcap – *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*: 1 seen mixed species flock in the Sierra Nevada by Michelle.

Blue-black Grassquit - *Volatinia jacarina*: Common.

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

Paramo (Santa Marta) Seedeater – *Catamenia (oreophila) homochroa*.

Pileated Finch - *Corrphospingus pileatus*: A few along the coast.

Bananaquit – *Coereba flaveola*: Uncommon.

Dull-colored Grassquit – *Tiaris obscurus*: 20+ above Minca.


**INCERTAE SEDIS**

Rosy Thrush-Tanager – *Rhodinocichla rosea*.

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

Grayish Saltator – *Saltator coerulescens*: Common.

Orinocan Saltator – *Saltator orenocensis*: Nice views at Los Flamencos and Cari Cari.

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*: Fairly common.

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS & ALLIES**

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

RR Tocuyo Sparrow – *Arremonops tocyensis*: 1 seen near Cari Cari.
Golden-winged Sparrow – *Arremon schlegeli*: excellent views of that beautiful sparrow above Minca

**Sierra Nevada Brush-Finch** – *Arremon basilicus*: seen in the El Dorado lodge garden

**Santa Marta Brush-Finch** – *Atlapetes melanocephalus*: very common in the Sierra Nevada

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**CARDINAL GROSBEAKS**

**Summer Tanager** – *Piranga rubra*: One seen

**Scarlet Tanager** – *Piranga olivacea*: One seen

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Pheuctitus ludovicianus**: Pleasantly common.

**Vermillion Cardinal** – *Cardinalis phoeniculus*: excellent views at Los Flamencos NP

**Blue-black Grosbeak** – *Cyanocompsa cyanoides*
NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Black and White Warbler – *Mniotilta varia*: 2 seen

Prothonotary Warbler – *Protonotaria citrea*: 2 in the Mangroves at Los Cocos were late stayers. Pronotory – a Byzantine sect notary that wore golden-yellow robes

Tennessee Warbler – *Leiothlypis peregrine*: A total of 3 seen in the Sierra Nevada

American Redstart – *Setophaga ruticilla*: Around 3 seen

Blackburnian Warbler – *Setophaga fusca*: Regularly recorded– a very pretty bird.

*American Yellow Warbler – Setophaga aestival*: This North American Migrant was seen at a few occasions. The SACC says: Many authors suspect that the breeding populations of *Dendroica petechia* in South America may represent one or more separate species from North American wintering populations, but species limits in the 'Yellow Warbler' complex are controversial (Klein and Brown 1994). Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) used a two-species classification, with North American wintering populations as one species, *D. aestival* ("Yellow Warbler") and tropical resident populations as another, *D. petechia* ("Mangrove Warbler"). A three-species classification, as used by Hilty (2003), would separate the tropical populations into two species: mainly Pacific coastal populations, *D. erithachorides* ("Mangrove Warbler"), and Caribbean *D. petechia* ("Golden Warbler"). Olson (1980) noted that the South American populations on the Pacific coast show a gradation of characters between the *erithachorides* and *petechia* groups. SACC proposal to split *petechia* into two or more species did not pass due to insufficient published data. The IOC differs however and splits the birds into North American Yellow Warbler and Mangrove Warbler.

**E Santa Marta Warbler – Myiothypis basilicus**: 2 seen on the San Lorenzo ridge in the Sierra Nevada VULNERABLE

**E White-­‐lored Warbler – Myiolympis conspicillatus**: Seen daily in the Sierra Nevada

**Rufous-­‐capped Warbler - Basileuterus rufifrons delatteri**: Recorded several times, but best views above Minca!! The delatrii 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).

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

**E Yellow-­‐crowned Whitestart – Myioborus flavivertex**: good views on the San Lorenzo ridge in the Sierra Nevada
OROPENDOLAS, ORIOLES & BLACKBIRDS

Crested Oropendola - *Psarocolius decumanus*: Common

Yellow-backed Oriole – *Icterus chrysater*: Seen on two days in the mountains

Yellow Oriole – *Icterus nigrogularis*: A few seen in the Guajira peninsula


Giant Cowbird – *Molothrus oryzivorus*: A few of this brood parasite

Shiny Cowbird – *Molothrus bonariensis*: Common

Great-tailed Grackle – *Quiscalus mexicanus*: Fairly common in the Guajira peninsula.

Carib Grackle - *Quiscalus lugubris*: A few seen during our drives and on the Guajira peninsula. A spreading species in Colombia!!
FINCHES & EUPHONIAS
Andean Siskin – *Sporaga spinescens*: 2 seen

Trinidad Euphonia – *Euphonia trinitatis*: a few in the Guajira peninsula

Thick-billed Euphonia - *Euphonia laniirostris*. Common

Blue-naped Chlorophonia - *Chlorophonia cyanea*: fantastic views in the Sierra Nevada

OLD WORLD SPARROWS
House Sparrow – *Passer domesticus*: only seen at Riohacha...not a easy one in Colombia!!

MAMMALS
Colombian Red Howler - *Alouatta seniculus* *

Red-tailed Squirrel – *Sciurus granatensis*: seen almost daily

Crab-eating Fox – *Cerdocyon thous*: 1 seen

Ocelot – *Leopardus pardalis*: Not often you see one of these but we did !

REPTILES
Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*: a few

*Anolis sp.*

Birding near Barranquilla with friends
The El Dorado Lodge in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta