



No matter how many amazing birds we see in Southern Ecuador, Jocotoco Antpitta is the unquestionable star (János Oláh)!

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LEADER: JÁNOS OLÁH

Ecuador is a country where birders must return! We have an amazingly comprehensive tour in the north – Ultimate Ecuador - covering most available habitats and usually recording over 800 species. However our Southern Ecuador tours offers even more! Often not recognized by birders what an absolutely amazing selection of special birds can be seen in this part of the country. Our tour was designed to cover all gettable specialties in the region and as a result it superbly complement the tour in the north. In addition to the many key birds this part of the country now offers a wide range of lodges catering for birders. Most of these lodges are owned and run by the fantastic Jocotoco Foundation which was created after the discovery of a large and unique antpitta in 1997: the Jocotoco Antpitta. If you have not visited Southern Ecuador yet, all I can suggest is to do it as soon as you can! Our last year's tour smashed previous records with 627 species but

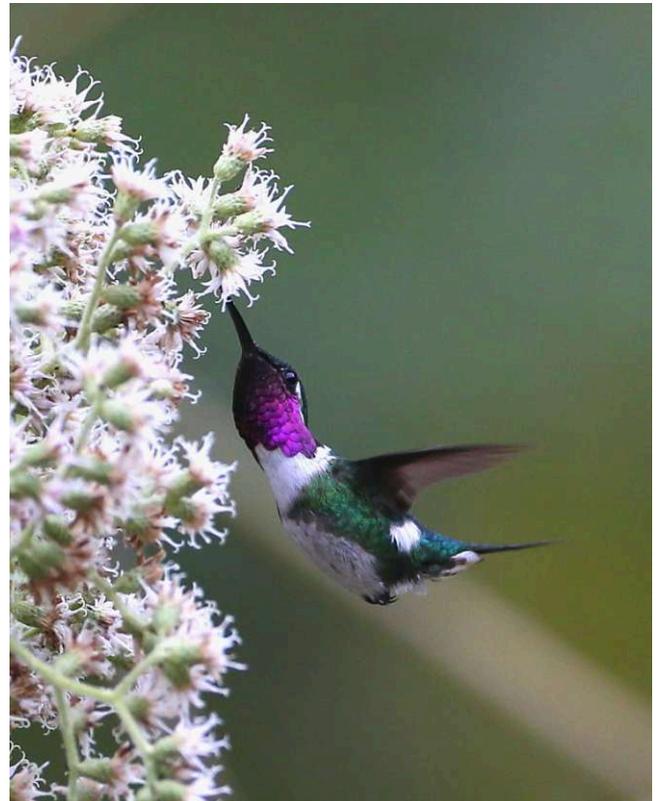
on our recent tour we had a wide range of special birds amongst a total of 665 species – a new record again! Out of this amazing total, 626 bird species were seen and 39 birds were heard only. This year highlights included goodies like Grey, Pale-browed and Andean Tinamous, Wattled Guan, Grey-backed Hawk, Rufous-necked Wood Rail, Ochre-bellied Dove, White-throated Quail-Dove, Grey-capped Cuckoo, White-throated and West Peruvian Screech Owls, Band-bellied, Black-and-white and Rufous-banded Owls, Anthony's Nightjar, White-tipped Sicklebills, Tumbes Hummingbird, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Rainbow Starfrontlet, Violet-throated and Neblina Metaltails, Flame-throated Sunangel, Little, Short-tailed and Esmeraldas Woodstars, Ecuadorian Trogon, Coppery-chested Jacamars, Lanceolated Monklet, Grey-breasted and Black-billed Mountain Toucans, Ecuadorian Piculet, White-throated Woodpecker, Golden-plumed, El Oro and Grey-cheeked Parakeets, Blackish-headed Spinetail, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Collared and Chapman's Antshrikes, Grey-headed Antbird, Jocotoco, Watkins's and Crescent-faced Antpittas, Ocellated Tapaculo, Foothill Elaenia, Black-crested Tit-Tyrant, Grey-and-white and Red-billed Tyrannulets, White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant, Black-and-white and Golden-winged Tody-Flycatchers, Olive-chested and Grey-breasted Flycatchers, White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant, Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, Baird's Flycatcher, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Amazonian and Long-wattled Umbrellabirds, Western Striped and Blue-rumped Manakins, Pacific Royal Flycatcher, White-tailed Jay, Chestnut-collared Swallow, Plumbeous-backed and Maranon Thrushes, Saffron Siskin, Olive Finch, White-headed and Pale-headed Brush Finches, Orange-throated, Black-and-white and Blue-browed Tanagers, Tit-like Dacnis, Giant Conebill, Sulphur-throated Finch, Large-billed and Black-billed Seed Finches.

No doubt Ecuador is one of the top birding destinations in South America and the southern part of the country has more globally threatened species than any other part of the country. Our itinerary is continuously changing as the growing birding circuit has seen a lot of changes in the last 10 years here. It was not long ago when the new site for Orange-throated Tanager was found and this unique species had to be incorporated to the tour immediately – and as usual Birdquest was amongst the first companies to do so! The famous antpitta feeding - which was started by the legendary Angel Paz in the north - is also a feature here and the once mythical Jocotoco Antpitta is now readily available in the Tapichalaca Reserve which was created immediately after the discovery of the species. In the fantastic lodges throughout one can stay right in the superb habitat in a comfortable way and surrounded by all the special birds. The habitat diversity is equally amazing in the south and we have visited deciduous Tumbesian forest and woodlands, southern Chocó wet forest, paramo, Andean cloud forest, Amazonian foothill forest, semi-desert scrub, and coastal lagoons, marshes and beaches. Our visit is timed to coincide with the start of the Tumbesian rains and the start of the breeding season but this year January was unseasonably wet so we did get some unexpected rain at certain places. It started off as an El Nino year but experts say it is due next year.

Hummingbirds were a main feature of the tour and although the Ultimate tour records the highest number on any Birdquest tours, the quality in terms of range restricted birds is higher in the south. The many different habitats and the good selection of feeders resulted an incredible total of 64 species of hummingbirds! Two endemic hummingbirds can be only seen here, the Violet-throated Metaltail and the Esmeraldas Woodstar. The latter is the prime target of our short extension. Those who had the time to do this addition were not disappointed as we had magical encounters with this tiny bird. Other 'family' totals to highlight this year's tour were 4 species of seen tinamous; 14 species of pigeons including the rare Ochre-bellied Dove; 14 species of nightbirds which included eight species of owls; 15 species of woodpeckers; 7 species of antpittas; 13 species of thrushes and 54 species of tanagers which included many sought-after birds like the Orange-throated Tanager.



A visit to the deciduous Tumbesian forest is a highlight of the tour (János Oláh).



Two endemic hummingbirds: Violet-throated Metaltail (left) in Cajas NP and Esmeraldas Woodstar (right) at Ayampe (János Oláh).

The tour started in downtown Guayaquil but early next morning we drove to the nearby Manglares Churrute wetland. We soon found the localised Horned Screamers and good variety of wetland birds like Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling Ducks, Comb and Muscovy Ducks and several Snail Kites and Savanna Hawks. A singing Striped Cuckoo and a beautiful flock of Chestnut-throated Seedeaters were also seen. The nearby deciduous woodland gave us Pacific Pygmy Owl, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Pacific Parrotlet and a singing male Jet Antbird. After this brief birding stop we continued towards the lower Molleturo road where we found the highly localised Large-billed Seed Finch and had direct comparison with several Thick-billed Seed Finch. The main stop for the morning was in the forest patch at Campamento Quizas Hoy, a stakeout for the localized Pacific Royal Flycatcher. After some work we finally found one of these superb flycatchers and everybody got good looks! We saw a wide range of exciting birds in this little forest patch which included Long-billed Hermit, Purple-crowned Fairy, White-tailed Trogon, Grey-cheeked Parakeet, Black-crowned Antshrike, Dot-winged Antwren, Dusky Antbird, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Brownsih Twistwing, White-bearded Manakin, Crimson-breasted Finch and Blue-black Grosebeak. Unfortunately one of the main bridge on our route collapsed a few days before our tour started – due to the sudden and heavy raining – so most of our afternoon was spent driving as we had to go around via Cuenca to reach Pinas. It was very late afternoon when we finally arrived to our first base, the well-known Umbrellabird Lodge of the Fundacion Jocotoco in the Buenaventura Reserve which protects the largest foothill cloud forest remaining on the west slope in southwestern Ecuador. A Pallid Dove was seen and as a very welcome surprise we also had a pair of magnificent Black-and-white Owls right above our dining table – not a bad introduction indeed!

Our second full day was spent entirely at the Buenaventura Reserve. At dawn we drove to the head of the umbrellabird trail. The weather was dull and rainy but our timing was ideal and we soon heard the calls of the umbrellabirds. After a little search we found them and got good looks of two male Long-wattled Umbrellabirds displaying, both birds living up to their name with two-foot long wattles which spectacularly opened and closed as they “boomed” in a bittern-like manner. This is a fantastic bird and it really has to be seen to be believed – somehow reminiscent of a bird-of-paradise. After this great experience we were back to the lodge patio which was extremely birdy despite the rainy conditions. Several Rufous-headed Chachalacas were showing well as well as Ochre-bellied Flycatcher and a wide range of hummers on the feeders. There were hundreds of individuals of White-necked Jacobins, Brown Violetears, Green Throntails, Green-crowned Brilliants, Andean Emeralds and Violet-bellied Hummingbirds.

A drive on to the uppermost part of the reserve was succesfull despite the rainy conditions as we got to see the rare El Oro Parakeet as they were moving around the nesting boxes. Unfortunately our search for the ultra-elusive El Oro Tapaculo did not get any results as we had no response at any of the known sites. This was not a big surprise after communicating with local researchers of the species last night as they don't know any easily accessible tapaculos at the moment. While checking some tapaculo habitat we did manage to see White-tipped Sicklebill, Western Wedge-billed Hummingbird, Great Antshrike, Zeledon's Antbird, Spotted Nightingale Thrush, Rufous Motmot and Scarlet-rumped Cacique. The best bird of all however was a really unexpected Grey-capped Cuckoo on our way back to the lodge. The rest of the afternoon was spent walking the track above the lodge and down to the umbrellabird trail again. We had a nice assortment of tanagers which included Common, Yellow-throated and Ashy-throated Bush Tanagers, Rufous-throated and Fawn-breasted Tanager, Yellow-tufted Dacnis as well as such goodies as Esmeraldas Antbird, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, Golden-winged Manakin and Northern Schiffornis. In the evening we managed to see the resident Black-and-white Owls again.

Early next morning we secured good views of White-whiskered and Barred Puffbirds and saw more Rufous-headed Chachalacas. We had a lengthy drive ahead of us so we packed up and started to walk the track back towards the main road. We have found a Paraque on nest, a lekking Stripe-throated Hermit, Yellow-throated Toucans, Gartered Trogon, our first Ecuadorian Piculet, Red-masked Parakeets, Bay Wren, Ecuadorian Thrush and Black-striped Sparrow. After a few hours drive we stopped for a picnic lunch near El Empalme in dry Tumbesian scrub, where almost immediately a Tumbes Hummingbird responded to pygmy owl playback allowing great looks! A short walk here soon produced Harris's Hawk, Croaking Ground Doves, Fasciated Wrens, White-headed Brush Finch, Tumbes Sparrow and Ash-breasted Sierra Finch but especially enjoyed by many was a stunning pair of Elegant Crescentchests. Later at Macará we checked a

fantastic colony of Chestnut-collared Swallows and on the Peruvian border we strolled out onto the International Bridge where we saw large flock of 15 Comb Ducks, Savanna and Short-tailed Hawks.



Rufous-headed Chachalaca (left) and Long-wattled Umbrellabird (right) in the Buenaventura Reserve (János Oláh).

In the late afternoon we arrived at Urraca Lodge in the Jorupe Reserve of the Fundacion Jocotoco, just outside Macará. Driving into the lodge it was evident that the rainy season started as the track was just driveable. We could not stop admiring the fantastic deciduous Tumbesian forest with its imposing green-trunked *Ceiba* trees. Everybody occupied the cabins around the main building, and in the garden we saw our first male Collared Antshrike, a pair of Ecuadorian Trogons, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Grey-and-gold Warbler, White-tailed Jays, Black-capped Sparrow and best of all a superb male Black-and-white Tanager. This latter bird was the first of the season – according to our local guide in the lodge – and the only one we saw on the tour! After dinner we were out owling for some time but nothing was calling. This was probably due to the rather cold and rainy weather.

Next day we started the birding session right around the lodge. After breakfast we positioned ourselves by the corn feeding station as recently the rare and shy Ochre-bellied Dove was reported to visit the station on some mornings. Whooping Motmot showed up, Yellow-tailed and White-edged Orioles were feeding arounds us and then several White-tipped Doves and Red-masked Parakeets were starting to come. Suddenly there it was an Ochre-bellied Dove flew in and then quickly out, allowing only brief glimpses. It was rather promising however and indeed after another ten minutes it came back and this time we got superb looks of this rarely seen bird. In fact this was a new seen bird for the Birdquest life list! Another much appreciated bird came into the corn feeding station while we were waiting was the the bush-loving Pale-browed Tinamou. A total of three birds came into view and we could watch them for several minutes. Recently with several feeders this Southern Ecuador tour became a 'good tinamou tour' with 3-4 species readily available!



Barred Puffbird (top) at Buenaventura, Tumbes Hummingbird (left) and Chestnut-collared Swallows (right) near Macara (János Oláh).

Our late morning was spent around various parts of the Jorupe reserve which produced other excellent new birds like the skulking Blackish-headed Spinetail and the striking Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, more Ecuadorian Piculets and Collared Antshrikes, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Red-billed Scythebill, Pacific Eleania, Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant, Speckle-breasted Wren, Dull-coloured Grassquit and after considerable persistence with several individuals a singing Watkin's Antpitta too. The climb into the mountains around Sozoranga for the afternoon produced a striking change in avifauna. We successfully tracked down Loja Tyrannulet, Chapman's Antshrike, Bay-crowned and White-winged Brush Finches, Three-banded Warbler, Highland Hepatic Tanager and Black-cowled Saltators, in addition to other more widespread species.



Pale-browed Tinamou at the Urraca Lodge in the Jorupe Reserve (János Oláh).

In the evening we tried more owling but West Peruvian Screech Owl and Spectacled Owls were heard only. We did not give up however and we were out again well before dawn and this time we managed to see the screech owl! After this success we continued towards Sozoranga again and then further to another Fundacion Jocotoco reserve above the town at Utuana. When we got to the reserve the birding along the track produced Plain-breasted Hawk, Red-crested Cotinga, more Black-cowled Saltators, several Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, and after much persistence we also managed to secure great looks of the shy and skulking Grey-headed Antbird. At the superb hummingbird feeders we had beautiful hummers such as Purple-throated Sunangel and Rainbow Starfrontlet while a Black-crested Tit-Tyrant also gave wonderful views.

From the wet, lush forests of Utuana we drove and descended into the dry Catamayo valley and then onto the even wetter east slope to the famous Tapichalaca which is yet another Fundacion Jocotoco Reserve – in fact the first and probably most important as it is protecting the Jocotoco Antpitta! Following the 1997 discovery of this amazing antpitta here in this remote area of the eastern slope of the Andes, the Jocotoco Foundation was quickly created, and its first reserve was rapidly purchased in order to safeguard the future of this rare bird. Our drive was pretty amazing in terms of Andean scenery but we also had an Andean Tinamou crossing the road and several Long-tailed Mockingbirds and Chiguanco Thrushes. We arrived to Casa Simpson – the lodge at Tapichalaca – in the late afternoon and we immediately hit the trail which led us to a lookout area where we were hoping to find Andean Potoo at dusk. We had nice looks of Chusquea Tapaculo and Rufous-naped Brush Finch. Unfortunately the hoped for potoo was nowhere to be seen or heard but some of us managed to see a White-throated Screech Owl and a Rufous-bellied Nighthawk briefly.



Rainbow Starfrontlet (top) at Utuana and Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner (left) and West Peruvian Screech Owl in the Jorupe Reserve (János Oláh).

Although we have had rather rainy days at the beginning of the tour our full day at Tapichalaca was dry! This place is rather infamous for its bad weather, with rain on about 330 days per year, one of the reasons it was so long before the area was fully explored ornithologically and the Jocotoco Antpitta remained unknown to science for so long. We started with a walk along the main side track where we got to see lovely breeding Golden-plumed Parakeets as well as Black-throated Tody-Tyrant and Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager. However we were soon supposed to meet one of the park rangers at a feeding station for Jocotoco Antpitta, so we took a narrow trail. The short walk to the feeding station produced a fine White-throated Quail-Dove. We arrived to the feeding area silently, full with excitement and high expectations. And we were not disappointed as not much later we had brilliant looks of this bird – the most spectacular of all antpittas! What a view and what a relief! We enjoyed watching two adult birds, though a fully grown chick was glimpsed as well. No matter what we see on this southern tour almost exclusively this is the single most important bird to see for everybody. And not a surprise that this astonishing bird was voted the ‘Bird of the trip’ yet again.



Jocotoco Antpitta (top), Band-winged Nightjar (left, Barry Wright) and White-throated Quail-Dove (right) at Tapichalaca (János Oláh).

Along the trail after the antpitta feeding time we had other memorable birds starting with a Chestnut-naped Antpitta - who turned up just a bit late for the free worms however a great bonus to us - mating Golden-plumed Parakeets, Rufous and Plain-tailed Wrens, flocks of Lacrimose and Hooded Mountain-Tanagers, Northern Mountain Cacique and Plushcap only few metres away. Unfortunately the calling White-faced Nunbird gone silent without being seen but a mixed party held Grey-hooded Bush Tanager, Black-headed Hemispingus and Blue-backed Conebill. Back at Casa Simpson we enjoyed an incredible show of hummingbirds at the feeders where Collared Inca, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Flame-throated and Amethyst-throated Sunangels, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, and Long-tailed Sylph were all regular visitors. This was followed by a great lunch before we drove south and down to Valladolid, where we found Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Marañon Thrush, here at the northernmost extent of its range, along with Golden-collared Honeycreeper, Orange-eared, Silver-backed and Blue-browed Tanagers. In the last hour of the day we were back to Tapichalaca adding Powerful Woodpecker, Bearded Guan, Yellow-bellied and Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrants to our list and finishing this amazing day with great views of White-throated Screech Owl and Band-winged Nightjar at dusk.

Leaving Tapichalaca before dawn (but after a final superb breakfast!) we drove to Cerro Toledo. Not surprisingly on the top of the east slope we were back to very rainy conditions. It was truly cold and miserable above 3000m elevation with mist, rain and howling wind! Our spirit was steadily deteriorating but we did hold out until we found our prime target, the highly localized Neblina Metaltail. Funny enough it has a very adequate name as it is almost always misty (mist = neblina) in its environment. First a female Rainbow-bearded Thornbill showed up in a little sheltered cove and it was attacked by the Neblina Metaltail who responded strongly to playback and gave most good perched views. We were very happy with our success and were ready to drop elevation to find better weather. Here we were drying out our soaked clothing and

also found Glowing Puffleg, several Bearded Guans, Golden-crowned Tanager and best of all a fine Andean Pygmy Owl.



Neblina Metaltail (top), the happy and wet group (left, Barry Wright) and Andean Pygmy Owl (right) at Cerro Toledo (János Oláh).

After our wet experience we had a fine picnic lunch with some excellent icecream in the little village of Yangana. Later we drove towards Vilcabamba and around town we spent some time in a marsh as well as some dry habitat where we saw our first Black-chested Buzzard-Eagles, Plumbous Rail, Andean Tinamou, Loja Hummingbird, Purple-collared Woodstar and Saffron Siskins. The afternoon was spent in the Cajanuma sector of Podocarpus National Park. Here we had windy but wonderful sunny conditions with no birds. We only added Pale-footed Swallow and Streak-throated Bush Tyrant to our list however we enjoyed great looks of Rainbow Starfrontlet, Flame-throated Sunangel, Collared Inca, Glowing Puffleg and Tyrian Metaltail all seen very well in a natural setting. It was dusk by the time we rolled into the Hotel Libertador in Loja.

Next morning we climbed across the Continental Divide again and dropped down towards Zamora. Birding various stops along the old Loja-Zamora road produced some iconic South American species for those new to the continent: Torrent Duck, White-capped Dipper, and Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. The supporting cast was not to be ignored, with great views of Amethyst Woodstar, Yellow-whiskered Bush Tanager, Ashy-headed and Rufous-winged Tyrannulets and a wave of riotously coloured new tanagers: Golden, Saffron-crowned, Orange-eared, Golden-eared, and Spotted. We had our packed-lunch near Zumbi which yielded White-banded Swallows and Mottle-backed Elaenias. Another roadside stop produced excellent looks of Spot-breasted Woodpecker and the highly-localised Black-billed Seed Finch while second-growth birds en route included Long-tailed Tyrant, Black-capped Donacobius and Epaulet Oriole. As we were heading east the massive Cordillera del Condor soon came into view, with its still largely unexplored upper peaks and ridges an impressive sight. Finally arriving at Yankuam Lodge a little ahead of schedule, we took a short boat ride upstream. The water level was really high but we still could just manage to visit the spectacular gorge carved by the Nangaritza River. The following day the water got so high that any boat journey was impossible. We admired the spectacular gorge scenery, but of course managed to pick up a few new birds as well like Amazon Kingfisher, White-eyed Parakeet and Blue-headed Parrot. After a nice dinner in the lodge we were out birding again and we were rewarded by good looks of a Band-bellied Owl. It was indeed a great way to finish a travelling day!



Band-bellied Owl near Yankuam Lodge (János Oláh).

The next morning we crossed the Nangaritza River on the bridge completed in 2011 to seek one of the continent's most sought after birds, the monotypic Orange-throated Tanager or *Wetmorethraupis*, at what is now the birding world's best site for this species. Discovered in 1963 by legendary neotropical ornithologist John P. O'Neill (at the ripe old age of 21!), at a time when ornithologists considered the possibility of a new genus coming from South America unlikely, its range lies within the headwaters' region of the upper Amazonian foothills of northern Peru and southern Ecuador, an area almost completely within indigenous territory on both sides of the border. It was not a great challenge to find these fantastic birds as they seem to

be common in this newly established Maycu Reserve. We had repeated excellent looks of this mega bird and we estimated about 20 were seen by the end of the day!



Orange-throated Tanager – Maycu Reserve – is another one of the star birds on the Southern Ecuador tour (János Oláh).

We have seen a wide range of new Amazonian birds throughout the day in this reserve. In fact it was a great mix of lower foothill and lowland birds and one could never guess what would turn up next! The highlights of the day in this fantastic reserve were Grey-chinned Hermit, Grey-breasted Sabrewing, Green-backed Trogon, Gilded, Lemon-throated and Red-headed Barbets, Ivory-billed and Many-banded Aracaris, Lafresnaye's Piculet, Red-stained and White-throated Woodpeckers, Rufous-tailed, Buff-fronted, Bamboo and Ruddy Foliage-gleaners, Speckled Spinetail, White-shouldered Antshrike, Red-billed Tyrannulet, Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher, White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant (just recently found in Ecuador), Wing-barred Piprites, Spangled Cotinga, Yellow-cheeked and Chestnut-crowned Becards, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Coraya Wren, Flame-crested Tanager and Fulvous Shrike-Tanagers, Opal-crowned, Paradise, Masked and Yellow-bellied Tanagers, Purple, Green and Golden-collared Honeycreepers, Yellow-shouldered Grosebeak and Casqued Oropendola.

According to our new itinerary we also had a full morning next day before we had to leave this amazingly birdy area behind. So with the benefit of another whole morning, we again hit the Maycu Reserve. Although we were covering the same ground as much of yesterday, it was remarkable how many great new species were found: Double-toothed Kite, White-necked Puffbird, Scaly-breasted Woodpecker, Pygmy Antwren, Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher, Fiery-throated Furiteater, White-browed Purpletuft and Olivaceous Siskin. On our way back towards our next port of call we had a few more roadside stops which produced Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Black Caracara, Red Pileated Finch and Black-and-white Seed eater. We arrived at Copalinga Lodge near Zamora just in time for some evening birding. Almost ignoring the hummers at the *verbena* right where we parked, we scampered up to the recently developed tinamou feeding station. After a lengthy wait however we gave up as no tinamous were visiting this evening so we studied the 'last attack' of the hummers on the feeders where we saw Green Hermit, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Glittering-throated Emerald, Black-throated and Violet-fronted Brilliants, Chestnut-breasted Coronet and Booted Racket-tail.



White-throated Woodpecker (left) in the Maycu Reserve and Red Pileated Finch on our way to Copalinga (János Oláh).

The following day we started with a quick check around the lodge, where this time we paid attention to the Wire-crested Thorntails and Little Woodstar at the *verbena* shrubs, before visiting the foothill forest at the Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus National Park just up the road. This excellent location started well as the first bird we saw was a Lanceolated Monklet! We had excellent looks for several minutes before our attention was turned towards the steady flow of great birds like a perched Ecuadorian Piedtail, Yellow-breasted Antwrens and several Andean Cock-of-the-Rocks. In the headquarter area we managed to track down both Blue-rumped and Western Striped Manakins on fruiting trees while the nearby clearing held Chestnut-bellied and White-necked Thrush. Activity was getting lower but we coaxed a fine Olive Finch into view and a female Amazonian Umbrellabird completed the set of these large cotingas for the tour. An excellent lunch back at Copalinga was followed by a short visit to the Jenairo road where we had a fine mixed species flock with Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, Montane Foliage-gleaner, Streaked Xenops, Olivaceous Woodcreeper and Golden-collared Honeycreeper. Other goodies included two more Lanceolated Monklets and Blue-rumped Manakin. In the late afternoon we were back to Copalinga and 'operation tinamou' started again, this time with a change of strategy. After about 30 minutes a Grey Tinamou showed up and we were rewarded with stunning views of the hardest to see species in a very difficult family. We also had a Little Tinamou as a bonus – a distinctive bright chestnut taxon here - plus several Grey-fronted Doves. We were then back down to the bus and continued along the access road, where within minutes we had found a Blackish Nightjar which gave brief but good views before it really started raining again! What an evening!

Next morning we drove to a new site off the old Loja-Zamora Road in search of White-breasted Parakeets. Early morning activity was great and we lured Lined Antshrike, Blackish Antbird and Chestnut-tipped Toucanet into view while a family party of White-winged Tanagers were showing very well. A fine fruiting tree produced unexpected Black-billed Mountain Toucan and Wattled Guan plus several Andean Cock-of-the-Rocks. There were no sign of the parakeets so we returned to the Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus National Park for a last trial of this species. Although parakeets were nowhere to be seen or heard we got good looks of three specialties of the park, the Foothill Elaenia which was described by Birdquest leader late Paul Coopmans, a fine Coppery-chested Jacamar which is described by birdlife as vulnerable and a localized Foothill Antwren. Unfortunately our time has ended in this remarkable area and we were back to Coplaniga for a final lunch and packing. Copalinga was rated by most as the best lodge of the trip, with superb food, an exceptional host in Catherine, great facilities and setting, and of course mega birds. Returning there for lunch, we had Speckled Chachalacas, Little Woodstars and a wide range of colourful tanagers like Golden-eared, Green-and-gold and Golden. After a late lunch we departed Copalinga and birded our way back to Loja along the Old Loja-Zamora road where we managed to get a few more additions

to our growing list such as Fasciated Tiger Heron, roosting Oilbirds, Green-fronted Lancebill, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Fulvous-breasted Flatbill, Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet and Olivaceous Greenlet.



Grey Tinamou (top left, Ed Wilson), Ecuadorian Piedtail (top right, Barry Wright), Lanceolated Monklet (left, János Oláh) and Copper-chested Jacamar (right, Barry Wright) in the Bambuscaro Sector of Podocarpus National Park.

We went higher still the following day, at the community forest reserve of Acacana near Saraguro, just off the main road from Loja to Cuenca. On our travel we secured good looks of the localized White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant and several Grey-breasted Mountain Toucans. By the time we get to the required elevation it was windy and misty again. At around 3500m we started to fish for the enigmatic Crescent-faced Antpitta and finally after considerable time one started to sing down the slope. After some cautious positioning in the extremely dense bamboo we started to play the song of this little fellow and it did not take long for him to come and check us out! It was not staying for long but most of us managed to get pretty good looks of this near mythical bird! We also played the call of the Rufous Antpitta at the very same spot and sure enough we got excellent views of this one too! After this great success we birded our way down to lower elevation on the sheltered western side of the mountain with gradually improving weather. Here we managed to find more Bearded Guans, a female Mountain Velvetbreast, Black-tailed Trainbearer, Masked Trogon, a skulking White-browed Spinetail, a calling Ocellated Tapaculo, several Ash-colored Tapaculo, White-crested Elaenia, White-throated and White-banded Tyrannulets, Crowned and Brown-backed Chat-Tyrants, Northern Mountain Cacique, Black-headed Hemispingus, Lacrimose and Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tangers and Blue-backed Conebill.



The critically endangered Pale-headed Brush Finch at Yunguilla Reserve (János Oláh).

Close to dusk we arrived at the Hosteria Jardin Del Valle, La Union, near the Yunguilla reserve. This was the penultimate of the Jocotoco Foundation's vitally important reserves that we would visit on the main tour, and home to a critically endangered endemic, the relatively recently rediscovered Pale-headed Brush Finch. The Jocotoco Foundation has safeguarded the only known population, and birding the reserve the next morning proved productive. Nowadays a fruit feeding station has been established for the brush finches and this year we were very lucky to see at least two different individuals coming in to feast on oranges and bread crumbs. This saved us a lot of effort of finding these often shy and elusive birds in the scrubby hillside! Also a few Grey-browed Brush Finch was visiting the feeders. We also had Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Amazilia Hummingbird, Long-billed Starthroat, Purple-collared Woodstar, Line-cheeked Spinetail, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, Chiguanco Thrush, Black-lored Yellowthroat and a group of six Saffron Siskins! Following lunch back in La Union and a brief stop in Cuenca, shortly after arriving at the luxurious Hosteria Dos Chorreras on the edge of the Parque Nacional Cajas we were watching the endemic and threatened Violet-throated Metaltail in an area of low *Polylepis*-dominated montane scrub. Carunculated Caracaras, Mouse-colored Thistletail, Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager and Superciliated HEMPISPINGUS rounded out an excellent evening walk.

Pre-dawn on the last morning of the main tour we drove to the Llaviucu sector at the lower reaches of El Cajas National Park. We arrived in time get great views of a Rufous-banded Owl. Blue-winged Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, Andean Teal, Andean (Ruddy) Duck and Andean Coot quietly floated on the tranquil waters of the Llaviucu Lake, but Ecuadorian Rail remained heard only as the water level was too high and unsuitable for viewing rails. A fine Sword-billed Hummingbird, Sedge Wrens and two Blackish Tapaculos were also seen by the lake. We returned to the hosteria for a very welcome breakfast where Tawny-rumped Tyrannulets and Rufous-naped Brush Finches were seen from the breakfast table. After this substantial meal we reluctantly left this sumptuous accommodation for some *Gynoxis-Polylepis* woodland high up in the national park. The upper section around the pass almost at 4000 meters was a great location to find special hummers like the Ecuadorian Hillstar and Blue-mantled Thornbill. The lovely Tit-like Dacnis was plentiful and we also had Stout-billed and Chestnut-winged Cinclodes, Mouse-colored Thistletail, Many-striped Canastero,

many Plumbeous Sierra Finches and very close Tawny Antpittas! As we started to head downslope, persistence paid off as a Giant Conebill finally materialised at one last mountain stop. We had finally come full circle, and back where we had started on our first day on the lower Molleturo road, a late lunch stop at a petrol station was followed by a short visit to La Flora. The tide was moving in very quickly so our chances of any wood rails were slim but we saw Mangrove Warbler, Pacific Parrotlets and Fasciated Wrens. Back in Guayaquil we have visited another mangrove area where with great luck we managed to find a Rufous-necked Wood Rail which was a fitting final bird of the main tour! Back at the Hotel Galeria Man Ging, we enjoyed a partial farewell dinner where some left the tour, while the rest of us continued on the three-night post-tour extension to the coast!



Giant Conebill in Polylepis woodland in the Cajas National Park (János Oláh).

Our first stop next morning was at the fading Cerro Blanco Reserve. Once this was the prime area close to Guayaquil to see a wide range of special birds but nowadays even the best trail was closed or we should say destroyed as now the entire valley is being used by the mining company who owns the reserve. It was a shock and most probably this was our last visit to this well-known site. A Hook-billed Kite, Ecuadorian Piculets and Scarlet-backed Woodpecker was seen on our short visit here. Just an hour away from Cerro Blanco we were in bone-dry, sea-level, semi-desert scrub on the Santa Elena peninsula. With the trusty pygmy owl tape we were soon surrounded by Short-tailed Woodstar, Short-tailed Field Tyrant, Grey-and-white and Tumbesian Tyrannulets, and Collared Warbling Finch. A little further on near Atahualpa, a pair of Burrowing Owl was a very popular find, and in the same area we had Necklaced Spinetail, Superciliated Wren and Parrot-billed Seedeaters. Later we drove to Salinas seeing many Grey Gulls on the coast while the Chocolatera area of rocky coastline gave us Wandering Tattler and good opportunities to study Magnificent Frigatebirds and Blue-footed Boobies at close range. As we turned north up the coast we stopped for an excellent ceviche lunch, with our tables literally on the beach, giving us great confidence that the seafood was as fresh as possible! From our lunch table we could see Royal and Elegant Terns and an educational side-by-side comparisons of Peruvian and Brown Pelicans. The San Pablo salt pans (*Salinas*) a little further north again from our lunch spot added an impressive array of migrant shorebirds, with large numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes, Semipalmated, Western and Least Sandpipers, plus ones or twos of Willet, Ruddy

Turnstones, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. The large flock of Chilean Flamingoes were pretty but our best find was the rare vagrant Great Grebe. We arrived to the comfortable El Campito Art Lodge at Ayampe at dusk.

The following morning (and for the entire extension) the primary target was the extremely localised and threatened Esmeraldas Woodstar. Upon arriving in the area the first bird we came across was a fine Grey-breasted Flycatcher which somehow eluded us on the main tour. We staked out some suitable-looking flowers nearby and sure enough within a few minutes we were looking at a fine male Esmeraldas Woodstar. We enjoyed several great perched and flight views of this stunning and highly localized hummer. Such great views of this gorgeous hummer resulted in unanimous agreement as to the value of the extension. It was much easier than we expected and the rest of the morning we were looking for other western lowland birds. We saw Rufous-headed Chachalacas, several King Vultures, excellent perched Hook-billed Kite, Plumbeous Kite, at least three Grey-backed Hawks, Violet-bellied Hummingbird, Black-throated Mango, Little Woodstar, Sulphur-rumped Myobius and best of all, and another catch-up a singing male Slaty Becard. The afternoon was spent near Puerto Lopez and in Machalilla National Park in search of some remaining targets of this area. Here we had great looks of West Peruvian Dove, Elegant Crescentchest, Snowy-throated Kingbird, Baird's Flycatcher and more Parrot-billed Seedeaters. As dusk was approaching we tracked down the tiny Anthony's Nightjar.



Male Esmeraldas Woodstar at Ayampe – one of the few endemics to Ecuador (János Oláh).

On our final morning we were back to the Ayampe Reserve where we had more views of Esmeraldas Woodstar and Slaty Becard however the only new birds were a responsive pair of White-backed Fire-eyes and some Choco Toucans. We then headed back towards Guayaquil stopping again at various salt pans picking up Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Western Osprey, Wilson's and Snowy Plovers, Stilt Sandpiper and Common Tern. Our final birding stop in the arid Santa Elena Peninsula produced the much hoped for Band-tailed Sierra Finch and even the nomadic Sulphur-throated Finch! Back at our "base" at the Hotel Galeria Man Ging in downtown Guayaquil we had a very happy farewell dinner recalling the best moments of this action packed birding tour with an amazing number of very special birds!



The rare Ochre-bellied Dove was a new bird for the Birdquest list (János Oláh)!

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

CR = Critically Endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened

Grey Tinamou *Tinamus tao* ◊ We had excellent looks at Copalinga Lodge on the feeder! **VU**

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* (H) It was heard near Yankuam. **NT**

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* We had excellent looks at Copalinga Lodge on the feeder.

Pale-browed Tinamou *Crypturellus transfasciatus* ◊ Several excellent looks at Urraca Lodge near Jorupe. **NT**

Andean Tinamou *Nothoprocta pentlandii* ◊ We had two sightings in grassy interandean habitat.

Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta* Just four were seen at Manglares Churrute.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* A few were seen at Manglares Churrute and la Flora.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* About 30 were seen at Manglares Churrute.

Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata* We had superb looks along the old Loja-Zamora road and Bambuscaro.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis sylvicola* A few at Manglares Churrute and many more at Macara near the Peruvian border.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* Just one was seen at Manglares Churrute.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* Only six were seen in the Cajas National Park.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* 3 were seen at Cajas NP and many more along the coast on the extension.

Andean Teal *Anas andium* About 20 were seen in the Cajas National Park.

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica* A single was seen in the Cajas National Park – it was a surprise. See note.

Andean Duck *Oxyura ferruginea* About 15 were seen in the Cajas National Park.

Rufous-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis erythroptera* ◊ Excellent looks at the Umbrella Bird Lodge and near Ayampe. **VU**

Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata* Regular sightings on the east slope at Yankuam and Copalinga.

Bearded Guan *Penelope barbata* ◊ Repeated sightings in the Tapichalaca, Cerro Toledo and Saraguro areas.

Wattled Guan *Aburria aburri* ◊ We had a nice unexpected sighting along the old Loja-Zamora road. **NT**

Sickle-winged Guan *Chamaepetes goudotii* ◊ Regular sightings on the tour.

Rufous-fronted Wood Quail *Odontophorus erythrops* ◊ **(H)** It was heard in the Buenaventura area.

Great Grebe *Podiceps major* This vagrant was a write-in for our list on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* Hundreds were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast. **NT**



Great Grebe (left) and Chilean Flamingos (right) along the coast at the Santa Elena peninsula (János Oláh).

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* We had a few sightings along the coast.

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* One was seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* One was seen at Manglares Churrute and one at Cajas NP.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* A few were seen in the tidal creeks along the coast.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Just two were seen at Manglares Churrute.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* The most commonly seen egret on the tour. See note.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoa* It was seen at Manglares Churrute and along the coast.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Regularly encountered in wetland habitat.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Just one was seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Regularly encountered in wetland habitat.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* It was very common along the coast.

Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus* A few were seen amongst the previous species along the coast.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* It was very common along the coast.

Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* Just a few were seen along the coast.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* A few sightings on the tour.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Commonly seen throughout the tour.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus* A few were seen in the Yankuam area.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Commonly seen throughout the tour.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* One was seen at Jorupe and four near Ayampe on the extension.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* A singleton was seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast..

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* One was seen at La Flora near Guayaquil.

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* One was seen at Buenaventura from the lodge porch.

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* We had many excellent sightings on the extension.



Brown Pelican (left) and Peruvian Pelican (right) along the coast (János Oláh).

- Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* We had many sightings this year throughout the tour.
- Double-toothed Kite** *Harpagus bidentatus* One was seen in the Maycu Reserve.
- Plain-breasted Hawk** *Accipiter ventralis* One was seen at Utuana and one along the old Loja-Zamora Road.
- Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* A few were seen at Buenaventura and two on the extension.
- Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* One was seen in the Maycu Reserve.
- Savanna Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis* It was common in the vicinity of Guayaquil.
- Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* Commonly seen throughout the tour.
- Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* It was seen in the Jorupe area and on the Santa Elena Peninsula.
- Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma* It was seen in the higher areas like Saraguro area and Cajas NP. See note.
- Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* Two near Vilcabamba and one at Yunguilla.
- Grey-backed Hawk** *Pseudastur occidentalis* ♦ Finally we had great looks on the extension. **EN**
- Grey-lined Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* A singleton was seen at Buenaventura.



Grey-lined Hawk (left) at Buenaventura and Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (right) at Yunguilla (János Oláh).

- Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* This migrant was regularly seen throughout the tour.
- Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* One at Buenaventura and one at Macara.
- Rufous-sided Crake** *Laterallus melanophaius* (H) One was heard in the Maycu Reserve on the east.
- Ecuadorian Rail** *Rallus aequatorialis* ♦ (H) One was heard at Cajas NP.
- Rufous-necked Wood Rail** *Aramides axillaris* ♦ One was seen in the Guayaquil area.
- Grey-necked Wood Rail** *Aramides cajaneus* (H) It was heard only in the Maycu Reserve.
- Blackish Rail** *Pardirallus nigricans* (H) One was heard on our way to Copalinga.
- Plumbeous Rail** *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* One was seen in the Vilcabamba area.

Andean Coot *Fulica ardesiaca* About 15 were seen in the Cajas NP.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* We had a few in the Manglares Churrute area.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* Commonly seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* First seen at Manglares Churrute and later common along the coast.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* A few were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* A few were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* A single bird was spotted on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus* Six were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast. **NT**

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* Four were seen at Manglares Churrute.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Six were seen along the coast.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Several sightings along the Napo River and a few more near Quito airport.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* A few were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* A few were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana* One was seen on the rocky shores near Salinas.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* Three were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* The most commonly seen shorebird throughout the tour.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* A few were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* A few were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* It was common on the salt pans. **NT**

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* A few were identified with the previous species on the salt pans.



Grey-lined Hawk (left) at Buenaventura and Black-chested Buzzard Eagle (right) at Yunguilla (János Oláh).

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* It was fairly common on the salt pans along the coast.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* About 30 were seen on the salt pans along the coast.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* Hundreds were seen on the salt pans along the coast.

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus* Single figures were seen at Cajas NP.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* First seen at Manglares Churrute and hundreds along the coast.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* A few were seen on the salt pans along the coast.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* A single bird was identified on the salt pans.

Grey Gull *Leucophaeus modestus* Amazingly numerous this year with 140 counted near Salinas.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* A few were seen along the coast.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* It was common on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* Two were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula along the coast.

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus* Several were seen on the extension along the coast.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Just one was spotted along the coast.

Rock Pigeon (feral) *Columba livia* A few were seen throughout the tour.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* Commonly seen throughout the tour.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* We saw it first at Campamento Quizas Hoy and also on the extension.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* A few were seen on the east around Yankuam and Copalinga.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* Seen around Sozorange, Utuana and Vilcabamba.

West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda* A few on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

Ecuadorian Ground-Dove *Columbina buckleyi* ♦ A few seen on the western lowlands.

Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana* First seen on our way to Jorupe and several more sightings later.

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa* We had excellent looks at Jorupe.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* Several sightings of this common but shy bird in the west.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* One was seen at Maxccu Reserve and several at Copalinga.

Pallid Dove *Leptotila pallida* ♦ We had a few sightings at Buenaventura.

Ochre-bellied Dove *Leptotila ochraceiventris* ♦ Excellent looks of this rare and shy bird at Urraca Lodge. **VU**

White-throated Quail-Dove *Geotrygon frenata* ♦ It was seen along the trails of Tapichalaca.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* A common bird of open habitat and regularly seen.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Regularly encountered on the tour.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera neavia* Excellent looks at a singing bird at Manglares Churrute.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Commonly seen and heard throughout the tour.

Grey-capped Cuckoo *Coccyzus lansbergi* ♦ It was a pleasant surprise to find one at Buenaventura!

West Peruvian Screech Owl ♦ *Megascops roboratus* One was tracked down at Jorupe.

White-throated Screech Owl *Megascops albugularis* We got this often tricky bird at Tapichalaca.



Rufous-banded Owl (left, Barry Wright) at Cajas NP and Black-and-white Owl (right) at Buenaventura (János Oláh).

Rufous-banded Owl *Strix albitarsis* Great looks of one at Cajas NP.

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata* Superb looks of a pair at the Umbrella Bird Lodge at Buenaventura.

Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* (H) It was heard at Yunguilla but we could not find it.

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* (H) Distantly heard at Jorupe and Ayampe.

Band-bellied Owl *Pulsatrix melanota* Great looks of this handsome bird near Yankuam Lodge.

Andean Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium jadinii* One was seen at Cerro Toledo.

Pacific Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium peruanum* ◇ Two were seen at Manglares Churrute.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* Two were seen on the arid Santa Elena Peninsula.

Stygian Owl *Asio stygius* (H) One was heard at Maycu Reserve.

Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* We had three in a little cave along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Rufous-bellied Nighthawk *Lurocalis rufiventris* ◇ (LO) One was seen at Tapichalaca.

Blackish Nightjar *Nyctipolus nigrescens* We had good views in the rain near Copalinga.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* One was seen at Buenaventura and one near Copalinga.

Anthony's Nightjar *Nyctidromus anthonyi* ◇ Two were seen on the extension.

Band-winged Nightjar *Systellura longirostris* Superb looks of one at Tapichalaca.

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutila* Several sightings on the tour.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* Several sightings on the tour.

Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* Several sightings on the tour.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura* We saw them around Jorupe and Maycu. Two races. See note.

White-tipped Swift *Aeronautes montivagus* Three were identified in a swift flock at Yankuam.

White-tipped Sicklebill *Eutoxeres aquila* One was seen by some at Buenaventura.

White-whiskered Hermit *Phaethornis yaruqui* ◇ Four were seen at Buenaventura in the west.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* Commonly seen on the feeders and also in the forest on the east.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris* ◇ It was seen at Campamento Quizas Hoy and Ayampe. See note.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis* One was seen at Buenaventura.

Grey-chinned Hermit *Phaethornis griseogularis* One was seen at Maycu Reserve and one at Copalinga.

Green-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera ludovicae* Two sightings on the east slope.

Grey-breasted Sabrewing *Campylopterus largipennis* One was seen in the Maycu Reserve.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* It was common on the feeders at Buenaventura.

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* It was common on the feeders at Buenaventura.

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans* Just a few were seen on the east.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis* (NL) One was seen at Ayampe.

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti* We had several sightings in the Copalinga area.

Wire-crested Thorntail *Discosura popelairii* A few on the verbena bushes at Copalinga. NT

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii* ◇ It was common on the feeders at Buenaventura.

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica* ◇ A few females were seen at Buenaventura.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata* It was fairly common along the east slope.

Violet-bellied Hummingbird *Damophila julie* It was common at Buenaventura and one was seen at Ayampe.

Golden-tailed Sapphire *Chrysuronia oenone* A few sightings at Yankuam.

Tumbes Hummingbird *Leucippus baeri* ◇ We had great looks on our way to Macara.

Many-spotted Hummingbird *Taphrospilus hypostictus* ◇ Two were seen on the feeders at Copalinga.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* Just a few were seen on the west at Buenaventura and Ayampe.

Amazilia Hummingbird *Amazilia amazilia* It was fairly common in the dry interandean valleys of the south.

Andean Emerald *Amazilia franciae* ◇ It was only seen at Buenaventura.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata* Several sightings around Yankuam and Copalinga.

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys* It was most common at Utuana.

Ecuadorian Piedtail *Phlogophilus hemileucurus* ◇ We got excellent looks at this difficult bird in Podocarpus NP. VU

Black-throated Brilliant *Heliodoxa schreibersii* ◇ A few were seen at Copalinga.

Fawn-breasted Brilliant *Heliodoxa rubinoides* It was seen on the feeders of Tapichalaca.

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula* Just a few were seen on the west at Buenaventura.

Violet-fronted Brilliant *Heliodoxa leadbeateri* It was common at Copalinga.

Chestnut-breasted Coronet *Boissonneaua matthewsii* ◇ This smart bird was seen at Tapichalaca and Copalinga.



Violet-bellied Hummingbird (left), Wire-crested Thorntail (center) and Green Thorntail (right) were amongst the 64 hummingbirds of the tour (János Oláh).

- Ecuadorian Hillstar** *Oreotrochilus chimborazo* ◇ A male was seen at Cajas NP.
- Mountain Velvetbreast** *Lafresnaya lafresnayi* A female was seen in the Saraguro area.
- Bronzy Inca** *Coeligena coeligena* Several were seen along the old Loja-Zamora road.
- Collared Inca** *Coeligena torquata* This handsome bird was common at Tapichalaca.
- Buff-winged Starfrontlet** *Coeligena lutetiae* A female was seen at Cerro Toledo.
- Rainbow Starfrontlet** *Coeligena iris* ◇ This fantastic hummer was most common at Utuana.
- Sword-billed Hummingbird** *Ensifera ensifera* A single bird was seen at Cajas NP.
- Great Sapphirewing** *Pterophanes cyanopterus* Just a single female was seen at Cajas NP.
- Amethyst-throated Sunangel** *Heliangelus amethysticollis* ◇ It was common at Tapichalaca.
- Flame-throated Sunangel** *Heliangelus micraster* ◇ A few were seen at Tapichalaca and Cajanuma.
- Purple-throated Sunangel** *Heliangelus viola* ◇ A few were seen on the feeders at Utuana.
- Glowing Puffleg** *Eriocnemis vestita* ◇ Two were seen at Cerro Toledo and several at .
- Sapphire-vented Puffleg** *Eriocnemis luciani* Singletons were seen at Saraguro and Cajas NP.
- Booted Racket-tail** *Ocreatus underwoodii* A few were seen at Copalinga.
- Black-tailed Trainbearer** *Lesbia victoriae* A single bird was seen in the Saraguro area.
- Green-tailed Trainbearer** *Lesbia nuna* (H) One was heard at Utuana but no sightings.
- Tyrian Metaltail** *Metallura tyrianthina* It was seen at Cerro Toledo, Cajanuma, Saraguro and Cajas NP.
- Violet-throated Metaltail** *Metallura baroni* ◇ Four of these endemic hummingbird were seen in the Cajas NP. **EN**
- Neblina Metaltail** *Metallura odomae* ◇ One was seen of this highly localised bird in the rainy Cerro Toledo.
- Blue-mantled Thornbill** *Chalcostigma stanleyi* ◇ One was seen in the higher parts of the Cajas NP.
- Rainbow-bearded Thornbill** *Chalcostigma herrani* ◇ A female was seen at Cerro Toledo.
- Long-tailed Sylph** *Agelaiocercus kingie* A few were seen at Tapichalaca.
- Violet-tailed Sylph** *Agelaiocercus coelestis* ◇ Several were seen on the feeders at Buenaventura.
- Wedge-billed Hummingbird** *Schistes geoffroyi* Three sightings in the forest of Buenaventura. See note.
- Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliiothryx barroti* One was seen at Campamento Quizas Hoy.
- Black-eared Fairy** *Heliiothryx auritus* One was visiting feeders at Copalinga – never seen one at feeders before.
- Long-billed Starthroat** *Heliomaster longirostris* Several sightings throughout the tour.

Amethyst Woodstar *Calliphlox amethystina* One was seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Purple-collared Woodstar *Myrmia fanny* ◇ One was seen at Vilcabamba and others in the Yunguilla area.

Short-tailed Woodstar *Myrmia micrura* ◇ Two were seen on the dry Santa Elena Peninsula on the extension.

Little Woodstar *Chaetocercus bombus* ◇ Several were seen at Copalinga and one at Ayampe. **VU**

Esmeraldas Woodstar *Chaetocercus berlepschi* ◇ We had absolutely amazing looks of this endemic at Ayampe. **EN**



Black-eared Fairy (top), Purple-collared Woodstar (left) and Little Woodstar (right) were amongst the 64 hummingbirds of the tour (János Oláh).

Golden-headed Quetzal *Pharomachrus auriceps* (H) It was heard at Buenaventura and Utuana.

Ecuadorian Trogon *Trogon mesurus* ◇ Several were seen in the Tumbesian forest at Jorupe.

White-tailed Trogon *Trogon chionurus* One was seen at Campamento Quizas Hoy and one at Ayampe. See note.

Green-backed Trogon *Trogon* We had several in the Maycu Reserve near Yankuam. See note.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus* Two were seen at Buenaventura. See note.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* One was seen at Buenaventura and one at Maycu Reserve.

Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus* A single bird was seen in the Saraguro area.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* We saw several at Manglares Churrute and one along the coast.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* Two sightings on the Nangaritza River on the east.

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Three sightings on the tour.

Whooping Motmot *Momotus subrufescens* It was most common in the Tumbesian forest. See note.

Andean Motmot *Momotus aequatorialis* We saw one in the Bambuscaro sector of the Podocarpus NP. See note.

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii* One was seen at Buenaventura.

Coppery-chested Jacamar *Galbula pastazae* ◇ One was seen in the Bambuscaro sector of the Podocarpus NP. **VU**

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* Two were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Barred Puffbird *Nystalus radiates* ◇ Three birds were seen in the Buenaventura Reserve on the west.

Black-streaked Puffbird *Malacoptila fulvogularis* ◇ (H) One was heard in the Maycu Reserve.

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis* We only had one in the Buenaventura Reserve.

Lanceolated Monklet *Micromonacha lanceolata* ◇ We had three sightings on the east slope!

White-faced Nunbird *Hapaloptila castanea* ◊ (H) One was heard along the trails of Tapichalaca.

Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus* The common barbet of Amazonia and we had a few at Maycu Reserve.

Lemon-throated Barbet *Eubucco richardsoni* ◊ Two were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii* Several sightings on the east slope.

Chestnut-tipped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus derbianus* Six were seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Ivory-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus azara* Singletons were seen in the Maycu Reserve near Yankuam.

Many-banded Aracari *Pteroglossus pluricinctus* One was seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Pale-mandibled Aracari *Pteroglossus erythropygius* ◊ Three were seen in Buenaventura. See note.

Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan *Andigena hypoglauca* We saw as many as eight in the Saraguro area. **NT**

Black-billed Mountain Toucan *Andigena nigrirostris* An unexpected sighting along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* It was heard at Wild Sumaco and was seen on the extension.

Choco Toucan *Ramphastos brevis* ◊ One was seen on the extension at Ayampe.

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus* ◊ Several were seen at Buenaventura. See note. **NT**

Lafresnaye's Piculet *Picumnus lafresnayi* Several sightings at Maycu Reserve and in the Podocarpus NP.

Ecuadorian Piculet *Picumnus sclateri* ◊ We had excellent looks at Buenaventura, Jorupe and Cerro Blanco.



Ecuadorian Piculet in the Tumbesian forest at Jorupe (János Oláh).

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* It was seen a few times in the Yankuam area.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani* One was seen on the extension near Ayampe.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Picoides fumigates* (LO) One was seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Scarlet-backed Woodpecker *Veniliornis callonotus* The first two were seen at Jorupe and several more at Ayampe.

Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus* One was seen in the Yankuam area in open habitat.

Red-rumped Woodpecker *Veniliornis kirkii* We had two at Buenaventura.

Red-stained Woodpecker *Veniliornis affinis* Two sightings in mixed bird flocks at Maycu Reserve.

White-throated Woodpecker *Piculus leucolaemus* A female gave good looks at Maycu Reserve.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* Singletons were seen at a few locations.

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker *Colaptes rivolii* Good views at Cerro Toledo and the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula* Three were seen on our way to Yankuam.

Scaly-breasted Woodpecker *Celeus grammicus* A pair was seen very well in the Maycu Reserve.

Powerful Woodpecker *Campephilus pollens* One was seen below Tapichalaca.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* Regularly seen in the east.

Guayaquil Woodpecker *Campephilus gayaquilensis* ◊ A pair was seen near Manglares Churrute. **NT**

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* Two were seen on the way out of Yankuam.

Carunculated Caracara *Phalcoboenus carunculatus* ◊ Two were seen on the higher parts of Cajas NP.

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Seen around Manglares Churrute and Macara.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* A few sightings on the west.

Buckley's Forest Falcon *Micrastur buckleyi* ◊ (H) One was heard distantly in the Maycu Reserve.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* Scattered sightings at higher elevations all along the tour.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* Two were seen in the Maycu Reserve – we were hoping for the bigger cousin!

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Two were seen near Manglares Churrute on our first morning.

Red-masked Parakeet *Psittacara lerythrogenys* ◊ We had excellent looks at Jorupe and Ayampe.



Red-masked Parakeets in the Urraca Lodge at Jorupe (János Oláh).

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus* A few were seen along the Nangaritza River from boat.

Golden-plumed Parakeet *Leptosittaca branickii* Excellent looks of this montane species in Tapichalaca. **VU**

El Oro Parakeet *Pyrrhura orcesi* ◊ Two were seen at a breeding location in the Buenaventura Reserve. **EN**

White-breasted Parakeet *Pyrrhura albipectus* ◊ (H) A fast-flying flock was heard at Copalinga but no joy. **VU**

Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis* First seen at Manglares Churrute but very common in the Ayampe area.

Grey-cheeked Parakeet *Brotogeris pyrrhoptera* ◊ We had two on our first morning at Campamento Quizas Hoy. **EN**

Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanoptera* Several sightings in the Maycu Reserve.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* Commonly seen in the Yankuam area.

Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus* We got good looks at Tapichalaca first.

Bronze-winged Parrot *Pionus chalcopterus* Common in the western lowlands, seen at Buenaventura and Ayampe.

Scaly-naped Amazon *Amazona mercenarius* We saw this high elevation bird at Tapichalaca and Saraguro.

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albidiventris* We had good looks at Cajas NP. See note.

Stout-billed Cinclodes *Cinclodes excelsior* ◊ We had good looks on the higher parts of Cajas NP.

Pacific Hornero *Furnarius cinnamomeus* ◊ Commonly seen throughout the tour.

Mouse-colored Thistletail *Asthenes griseomurina* ◊ We had two sightings in the Cajas NP.

Many-striped Canastero *Asthenes flammulata* ◊ One was seen in the Cajas NP.

Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae* Regularly heard, seen at Buenaventura and Yunguilla.

Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis* This grass-loving bird was seen at Yankuam.

Blackish-headed Spinetail *Synallaxis tithys* ◊ One was seen at Jorupe. **EN**

Necklaced Spinetail *Synallaxis stictothorax* ◊ Several were seen on the extension in dry scurb habitat.

White-browed Spinetail *Hellmayrea gularis* One was seen in the Saraguro area.

Ash-browed Spinetail *Cranioleuca curtata* A few sightings on the east slope. **VU**

Line-cheeked Spinetail *Cranioleuca antisiensis* Several sightings on the tour.

Speckled Spinetail *Cranioleuca gutturata* One was seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons* Two were seen in roadside habitat below Tapichalaca.

Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger* This handsome bird was seen in high elevation mixed flocks.

Pacific Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes johnsoni* ◊ (LO) One was seen briefly at Buenaventura.

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia variegaticeps* ◊ Two were seen in Buenaventura. See note.

Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis* Regularly seen in mixed flocks on the east slope in Podocarpus.

Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla ruficollis* ◊ (LO) A skulking bird at Jorupe. **VU**

Western Woodhaunter *Hylocistetes virgatus* Two were seen at Buenaventura. See note.

Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner *Philydor ruficaudatum* Several were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufum* Two were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Bamboo Foliage-gleaner *Anabazenops dorsalis* One was finally seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Ruddy Foliage-gleaner *Automolus rubiginosus* Two were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner *Hylocryptus erythrocephalus* ◊ A total of six were seen at Jorupe. **VU**

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* It was seen on both sides of the Andes.

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans* One was seen at Maycu Reserve and others on the east slope.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocicla fuliginosa* We had a few in the Buenaventura area.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Several sightings of both eastern and western races.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Regularly seen throughout the tour.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius* A few were seen in the Buenaventura Reserve.

Olive-backed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus triangularis* One was seen in the Bambuscaro sector of Podocarpus.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* The most common woodcreeper of the western lowlands.

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* Just a few sightings at higher elevation.

Red-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris* We had nice looks of this one at Jorupe.

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* (H) One was heard distantly at Maycu Reserve.

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* A male was seen at Buenaventura.

Collared Antshrike *Thamnophilus bernardi* ◊ Several were seen at Jorupe and also one on the extension.

Chapman's Antshrike *Thamnophilus zarumae* ◊ A pair was seen near Utuana.

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* A male was seen at Campamento Quizas Hoy. See note.

Lined Antshrike *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus* Three were seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road. **VU**

White-shouldered Antshrike *Thamnophilus aethiops* Three were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Mouse-colored Antshrike *Thamnophilus murinus* A single bird was seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis* A pair at Jorupe and singletons at Maycu Reserve and Ayampe.

Foothill Antwren *Epinecrophylla spodionota* ◊ Three were seen in the Bambuscaro sector of Podocarpus.

Pygmy Antwren *Myrmotherula brachyuran* Just one was seen in the Maycu Reserve.

White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris* A pair was seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Yellow-breasted Antwren *Herpsilochmus axillaris* Two were seen well in the Bambuscaro sector of Podocarpus. **VU**

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhoptias quixensis* A pair was seen well at Campamento Quizas Hoy.

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina* A pair was seen at Campamento Quizas Hoy.

Blackish Antbird *Cercomacra nigrescens* One was finally coaxed into view along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Black Antbird *Cercomacra serva* (H) Several heard at Maycu but no sightings.

Jet Antbird *Cercomacra nigricans* A male was seen at La Flora near Manglares Churrute.

White-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena leuconota* ◊ A pair of the *pacifica* race was seen at Ayampe on the extension.

White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* (H) It was heard in the Yankuam area.

Black-faced Antbird *Myrmoborus myotherinus* (H) We heard one in the Maycu Reserve.

Peruvian Warbling Antbird *Hypocnemis peruviana* ◊ Two were seen in the Maycu Reserve. See note.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul* (H) We only heard it in the western lowlands.

Esmeraldas Antbird *Myrmeciza nigricauda* ◊ A skulking male was seen well in the Buenaventura Reserve.

Zeledon's Antbird *Myrmeciza zeledoni* ◊ Two were seen in the Buenaventura Reserve. See note.

Grey-headed Antbird *Myrmeciza griseiceps* ◊ We had to work hard for a pair at Utuana. **VU**



Esmeraldas Antbird (left) at Buenaventura and Grey-headed Antbird (right) at Utuana (János Oláh).

- Undulated Antpitta** *Grallaria squamigera* ◊ (H) One was heard distantly downslope at Utuana.
- Plain-backed Antpitta** *Grallaria haplonota* (H) One was heard in the Bambuscaro sector of Podocarpus NP.
- Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** *Grallaria ruficapilla* Two were seen at Yunguilla.
- Watkins's Antpitta** *Grallaria watkinsi* ◊ One was seen in thick scrub in Jorupe. **NT**
- Jocotoco Antpitta** *Grallaria ridgelyi* ◊ The unquestionable star of Southern Ecuador was seen well at Tapichalaca! **EN**
- Chestnut-naped Antpitta** *Grallaria nuchalis* ◊ Excellent looks of one at Tapichalaca.
- Rufous Antpitta** *Grallaria rufula* One was seen in the Saraguro area.
- Tawny Antpitta** *Grallaria quitensis* ◊ Three were seen in the higher parts of Cajas NP.
- Thrush-like Antpitta** *Myrmothera campanisona* ◊ (H) It was heard in the Maycu Reserve.
- Slaty-crowned Antpitta** *Grallaricula nana* (H) It was heard along the bamboo trails of Tapichalaca.
- Crescent-faced Antpitta** *Grallaricula lineifrons* ◊ One was seen in the Saraguro area. What a stunner! **NT**
- Ocellated Tapaculo** *Acropternis orthonyx* Some of us had seen one in the Saraguro area.
- Ash-colored tapaculo** *Myornis senilis* Two were seen in the Saraguro area.
- Northern White-crowned Tapaculo** *Scytalopus atratus* ◊ (H) Heard along the old Loja-Zamora Road. See note.
- Long-tailed Tapaculo** *Scytalopus micropterus* ◊ (H) We heard one below Tapichalaca but no joy. See note.
- Chusquea Tapaculo** *Scytalopus parkeri* ◊ Great looks of this one on our first afternoon at Tapichalaca.
- Paramo Tapaculo** *Scytalopus opacus* ◊ (H) One was heard in the Saraguro area. See note.
- Blackish Tapaculo** *Scytalopus latrans* ◊ Two were seen in the Cajas NP.
- Elegant Crescentchest** *Melanopareia elegans* ◊ We had two of this stunner towards Macara and one at Ayampe.
- Sooty-headed Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias griseiceps* Just two were seen at Campamento Quizas Hoy.
- Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias plumbeiceps* (LO) One was seen in the Podocarpus NP.
- Ashy-headed Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias cinereiceps* ◊ One was seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.
- Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias uropygialis* Three were seen in the Cajas NP.
- Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet** *Tyrannulus elatus* Two were seen on our way to Yankuam and two on the extension.
- Foothill Elaenia** *Myiopagis olallai* ◊ Great looks in Podocarpus NP. Described by Paul Coopmans. **VU**
- Pacific Elaenia** *Myiopagis subplacens* ◊ We had the best look sat Jorupe.
- Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* Several sightings throughout the tour.
- White-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia albiceps* This highland bird was seen in at several locations.
- Mottled-backed Elaenia** *Elaenia gigas* We had good views on our 'bridge stop' on our way to Yankuam.
- Highland Elaenia** *Elaenia obscura* One was seen at Utuana.
- Southern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum* Several sightings in dry habitat.
- White-throated Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus leucophrys* Commonly seen in the mixed bird parties at Cajas NP.
- White-tailed Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus poecilocercus* (H) One was heard at Utuana.
- Rufous-winged Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus calopterus* ◊ Great views along the old Loja-Zamora Road.
- White-banded Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus stictopterus* Regularly seen in the Cajas NP.
- Black-crested Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes nigrocristatus* ◊ Superb looks at Utuana. What a stunner!



The amazing Black-crested Tit-Tyrant at Utuana (János Oláh).

- Torrent Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga cinerea* Three were seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.
- Tumbesian Tyrannulet** *Phaeomyias tumbezana* ◇ Two were seen in dry habitat near Vilcabamba.
- Yellow Tyrannulet** *Capsiempis flaveola* One was seen in bamboo at Campamento Quizas Hoy.
- Rufous-headed Pygmy Tyrant** *Pseudotriccus ruficeps* (H) One was heard along the trails of Tapichalaca.
- Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant** *Euscarthmus meloryphus* Commonly seen at Jorupe and on the extension.
- Grey-and-white Tyrannulet** *Pseudelaenia leucospodia* ◇ Three were seen in dry habitat in the Santa Elena area.
- Red-billed Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius cinereicapilla* ◇ One was seen in the Maycu Reserve. **VU**
- Golden-faced Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius chrysops* ◇ We saw several on the east.
- Choco Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius albigularis* ◇ We saw one on the extension.
- Loja Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius flavidifrons* ◇ One was seen well near Utuana.
- Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant** *Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus* Two were seen in a mixed bird party on the east slope.
- Ecuadorian Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes gualaquizae* ◇ Repeated good looks at this tiny bird on the east. **NT**
- Streak-necked Flycatcher** *Mionectes striaticollis* Just a few were seen on the east.
- Olive-striped Flycatcher** *Mionectes olivaceus* Several were seen – the first at Buenaventura.
- Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleaginous* A single bird was seen at Buenaventura.
- Slaty-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon superciliaris* Regularly seen in mixed flocks in foothill habitat.
- Olive-chested Flycatcher** *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus* ◇ We had good views below Tapichalaca.
- Bran-colored Flycatcher** *Myiophobus fasciatus* Several sightings throughout.
- Ornate Flycatcher** *Myiotriccus ornatus* We had many sightings of this delightful bird all along the tour.
- Black-throated Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus granadensis* ◇ Great views of this unobtrusive bird at Tapichalaca.
- White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant** *Myiornis albiventris* ◇ Excellent looks at Maycu – just recently found in Ecuador.
- Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant** *Lophotriccus pileatus* We had several sightings on the tour.
- Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilotriccus capitalis* ◇ A pair of this little critter was seen at Maycu.
- Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilotriccus calopterus* ◇ One was seen in the Maycu Reserve.
- Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* We had several sightings on the tour.
- Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum nigriceps* One was seen at Campamento Quizas Hoy on the west.
- Brownish Twistwing** *Cnipodectes subbrunneus* Great looks of this understory bird at Campamento Quizas Hoy.



Ecuadorian Tyrannulet (top) at Copalinga, Red-billed Tyrannulet (left) at Maycu and Loja Tyrannulet (right) at Utuana (János Oláh).

Fulvous-breasted Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus* ◇ One was seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* Several sightings on the tour.

Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus* We had many great encounters with this little poser.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea* Two were seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Grey-breasted Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus griseipectus* ◇ Finally one was seen at Ayampe on the extension. **VU**

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* We had several sightings on the tour.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* This boreal migrant was seen at Buenaventura and Maycu.

Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* This boreal migrant was seen at Buenaventura and Copalinga.

Tumbes Pewee *Contopus punensis* ◇ One was seen at Jorupe and several at Ayampe.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* One on the main tour and several on the extension.

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus* One was seen at Cajas NP.

White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis albicauda* ◇ We had great views on our way to Saraguro. **VU**

Streak-throated Bush Tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis* Two were seen at Cajanuma.

Masked Water Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta* A few in the Manglares Churrute area.

Crowned Chat-Tyrant *Silvicultrix frontalis* ◊ Two were seen in the Saraguro area.
Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant *Silvicultrix diadema* ◊ A pair was seen at Tapichalaca.
Jelski's Chat-Tyrant *Silvicultrix jelskii* ◊ About four were seen at Utuana.
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis* One was seen at Tapichalaca.
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fuscicolor* A few were seen in the Saraguro area.
Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* A few were seen in the Yankuam area.
Short-tailed Field Tyrant *Muscigralla brevicauda* One was seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula on the extension.
Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* This canopy flycatcher was seen several times on the east.
Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis* Several were seen throughout the tour.
Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Commonly seen throughout the tour.
Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis* We had a few in the Maycu Reserve.
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Just two were noted at Yankuam.
Golden-crowned Flycatcher *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus* (H) Heard along the old Loja-Zamora Road.
Baird's Flycatcher *Myiodynastes bairdii* ◊ Finally excellent looks on the extension!
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris* One was seen in the Bambuscaro sector of Podocarpus.
Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Several sightings.
Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* Several encounters on the tour.
Snowy-throated Kingbird *Tyrannus niveigularis* We saw one at Mashpi and another at Rio Silanche.
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* Commonly seen throughout the tour.
Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* The most commonly encountered member of the genus.
Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox* One was seen in the Yankuam area.
Large-headed Flatbill *Ramphotrigon megacephalum* (H) It was heard at Buenaventura.
Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* We had two in the maycu Reserve.
Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus* One was seen at Utuana.



Red-crested Cotinga at Utuana (János Oláh).

Green-and-black Fruiteater *Pipreola riefferii* A male was seen in the Bambuscaro area – very low for this species!
Barred Fruiteater *Pipreola arcuata* (H) One was heard at Tapichalaca.
Fiery-throated Fruiteater *Pipreola chlorolepidota* ◊ A fantastic pair was seen in the Maycu Reserve. NT
Andean Cock-of-the-Rock *Rupicola peruvianus* Several sightings on the east slope – orange coloured birds.
Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana* Three were seen in the Maycu Reserve.
Grey-tailed Piha *Snowornis subalaris* ◊ (H) It remained heard only in the Maycu Reserve. NT
Amazonian Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus ornatus* A female was seen well seen in the Bambuscaro area.

Long-wattled Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus penduliger* We had superb looks of a nice male at Buenaventura. **VU**

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin *Tyrannetes stolzmanni* (H) It was heard in the Maycu Reserve.

Golden-winged Manakin *Masius chrysopterus* One was seen in the Buenaventura Reserve.

Western Striped Manakin *Machaeropterus striolatus* We got good looks of two in the Bambuscaro area.

Blue-rumped Manakin *Lepidothrix isidorei* ◊ Excellent looks of this stunner in the Bambuscaro area. **NT**

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* We got several good looks on the west.

Pacific Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus occidentalis* ◊ We had great looks at Campamento Quizas Hoy. **VU**

Sulphur-rumped Myiobius *Myiobius sulphureipygius* Two were seen at La Selva on the extension.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* (LO) One was seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis* One was seen in the Buenaventura Reserve.

White-browed Purpleuft *Iodopleura isabellae* Two were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Yellow-cheeked Becard *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* ◊ Two encounters in the Maycu Reserve.

Slaty Becard *Pachyramphus spodiurus* ◊ We had great looks at Ayampe on the extension. **EN**

Chestnut-crowned Becard *Pachyramphus castaneus* Two were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* One was seen at Buenaventura on the west.

Black-and-white Becard *Pachyramphus albogriseus* It was seen at Buenaventura and Ayampe.

One-colored Becard *Pachyramphus homochrous* It was fairly common at Jorupe.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* We had nice encounters at Jorupe and Yunguilla.

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* Two sightings in mixed bird parties in the Maycu Reserve.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* It was seen at Buenaventura and Jorupe.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* Several sightings throughout the tour – especially on the west.

Olivaceous Greenlet *Hylophilus olivaceus* ◊ Three were seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road. **NT**

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* It was commonly at Buenaventura.

Turquoise Jay *Cyanolyca turcosa* ◊ It was seen at Tapichalaca, Saraguro and Yunguilla.

Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus* It was a common around Yankuam.

White-tailed Jay *Cyanocorax mystacalis* ◊ It was common around the Uracca Lodge at Jorupe.

Inca Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* Regular encounters in the Copalinga area.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Commonly seen throughout the tour.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* It was commonly seen throughout the tour.

Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina* This highland bird seen at Cajanuma.

Pale-footed Swallow *Notiochelidon flavipes* ◊ A flock of 20 were seen at Cajanuma!

White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata* We had several on our way to Yankuam.

White-thighed Swallow *Neochelidon tibialis* ◊ The eastern race was seen in the Yankuam area.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* It was commonly seen throughout the tour.



Chestnut-collared Swallow (left) at Macara and Pale-footed Swallow (right) at Cajanuma (János Oláh).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Just two were seen on the tour.

Chestnut-collared Swallow *Petrochelidon rufocollaris* ◊ We saw a nice colony in Macara.

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla* We enjoyed great looks at this bird around Yankuam. See note.

Fasciated Wren *Campylorhynchus fasciatus* ◊ It was common around Jorupe.

Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus* (H) Heard a few times on the east.

Grey-mantled Wren *Odontorchilus branickii* ◊ One was seen in the Babuscaro area in a mixed bird party.

Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa* Six were seen at Tapichalaca.

Sepia-brown Wren *Cinnycerthia olivascens* One was seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis* It was seen in the Cajas NP.

Plain-tailed Wren *Pheugopedius euophrys* ◊ Two were seen at Tapichalaca in the usual bamboo understory.

Whiskered Wren *Pheugopedius mystacalis* Just one was seen at Buenaventura.

Coraya Wren *Pheugopedius coraya* Two were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Speckle-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius sclateri* ◊ Two were seen at Jorupe and many more on the extension.

Superciliated Wren *Cantorchilus superciliaris* ◊ One was seen at Jorupe and others on the extension.

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus* We had a few in the Buenaventura Reserve.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* Frequently seen around human habitation.

Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis* (H) It was heard in Cajanuma.

White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte* It was seen in the Bambuscaro sector of Podocarpus.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* A few encounters at Buenaventura.

Southern Nightingale-Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* (H) Regularly heard in the Maycu Reserve. See note.

Wing-banded Wren *Microcerculus bambla* ◊ (H) We heard it in the lower section of Maycu Reserve.

Musician Wren *Cyphorhinus arada* (H) It was heard only in the Maycu Reserve.

Tawny-faced Gnatwren *Microbates cinereiventris* We got nice looks at Buenaventura.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila plumbea* It was commonly seen in the western lowlands.



Swainson's Thrush (top left, János Oláh), White-necked Thrush (bottom right) and Chestnut-bellied Thrush (top right) in the Podocarpus NP (Ed Wilson). Plumbeous-backed Thrush (bottom left) in the Tumbesian forest of Jorupe (János Oláh).

Long-tailed Mockingbird *Mimus longicaudatus* It was especially common in the Jorupe area.

Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloides* (LO) Two were seen at Buenaventura.

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater* One was seen at Utuana and another one at Yunguilla.

Spotted Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus dryas* One was seen by some at Buenaventura.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* This boreal migrant was commonly seen.

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater* Common bird of the higher elevations.

Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco* A few sightings on travelling days usually.

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* A single bird at Tapichalaca.

Plumbeous-backed Thrush *Turdus reevei* ◊ Inhabitant of Tumbesian forest, we had several at Jorupe.

Marañon Thrush *Turdus maranonicus* ◊ One was seen well below Tapichalaca.

Chestnut-bellied Thrush *Turdus fulviventris* We had excellent looks of this one in the Bambuscaro area.

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis* It was common in the Yankuam area.

Ecuadorian Thrush *Turdus maculirostris* ◊ Commonly seen on the west at lower elevations.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis* Several were seen on the east slope.

White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus* Three sightings on the tour in usual habitat.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Seen in Guayaquil and on the extension.

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthogastra* Two were seen at Buenaventura.

Olivaceous Siskin *Spinus olivacea* We had great views at the Maycu Reserve.

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanica* Several were seen in the Cajas NP.

Saffron Siskin *Spinus siemiradzkii* ◊ It was seen at Vilcabamba, Yunguilla and Ayampe. **VU**



Saffron Siskin female (left, Barry Wright) and male (right, Ed Wilson). This nomadic bird often tricky to find!

Orange-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia saturata* ◊ Four were seen at La Flora on our first day.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris* It was regularly seen throughout the tour.

Bronze-green Euphonia *Euphonia mesochrysa* We had two encounters on the east slope.

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster* It was commonly seen in a wide range of habitats.

Black-lored Yellowthroat *Geothlypis auricularis* We had good views at Yunguilla and Ayampe.

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava* We had two sightings at Buenaventura.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi* One of the most frequently seen warbler on the tour.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* A few were seen on the east slope.

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* Two were seen at La Flora.

Citrine Warbler *Myiothlypis luteoviridis* One was seen at Tapichalaca.

Black-crested Warbler *Myiothlypis nigrocristata* We had many good looks at this fine warbler.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* This delightful bird was seen at Buenaventura, usually near water.

Grey-and-gold Warbler *Myiothlypis fraseri* ◊ Particularly numerous at Jorupe.

Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiothlypis coronate* This lovely songster was seen at Tapichalaca and Cajas NP.

Three-banded Warbler *Basileuterus trifasciatus* ◇ Just a few were seen at Sozoranga and Utuana.

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus* We had a few sightings only.

Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* Just a few seen on the east slope.

Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* It was regularly seen in the Andean forests.

Spectacled Whitestart *Myioborus melanocephalus* We had several encounters at higher elevations.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* It was common around Yankuam.

Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons* The most commonly seen oropendola on the tour.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* We had many encounters with this noisy bird.

Subtropical Cacique *Cacicus uropygialis* Just five were seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus microrhynchus* Three were seen at Buenaventura.

Northern Mountain Cacique *Cacicus leucoramphus* Four at Tapichalaca and two at Saraguro.

Casqued Oropendola *Cacicus oseryi* One was seen in the Maycu Reserve.

White-edged Oriole *Icterus graceannae* ◇ Several were seen at Jorupe and on the extension.

Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas* We had nice looks at Jorupe and Yunguilla.

Epaulet Oriole *Icterus cayanensis* Just two were seen near Yankuam.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* A few were encountered in the Maycu Reserve.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Commonly seen in open habitat.

Scrub Blackbird *Dives waczewiczi* Numerous on the western lowlands.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* Four were seen at Manglares Churrute.

Peruvian Meadowlark *Sturnella bellicosa* Several sightings on the western lowland.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* Regularly recorded on the tour.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* Commonly seen at higher elevations.

Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons* Seen on the way to Yankuam.

Tumbes Sparrow *Rhynchospiza stolzmanni* ◇ Two were seen on our way to Macara.

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremon conirostris* Just one was seen at Buenaventura.

Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris* We had good looks at Copalinga and Ayampe.

Black-capped Sparrow *Arremon abeillei* ◇ It was numerous in the Jorupe area.

Grey-browed Brush Finch *Arremon assimilis* We got nice looks at Yunguilla.

Olive Finch *Arremon castaneiceps* ◇ Amazing views in the Bambuscaro area. **NT**

Rufous-naped Brush Finch *Atlapetes latinuchus* We had good looks at Tapichalaca and Cajas NP.

White-winged Brush Finch *Atlapetes leucopterus* We had good looks at Utuana.

White-headed Brush Finch *Atlapetes albiceps* ◇ We had a few on our way to Macara.

Pale-headed Brush Finch *Atlapetes pallidiceps* ◇ We saw 2 of these rare endemics at Yunguilla on the feeders! **EN**

Bay-crowned Brush Finch *Atlapetes seebohmi* ◇ Three were seen at Sozoranga.

Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus* Just a few were noted at Buenaventura. See note.

Yellow-whiskered Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus parvirostris* ◇ Five were seen along the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Yellow-throated Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavigularis* We saw it on the west and on the east too.

Ashy-throated Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus canigularis* This species was also seen on both side of the Andes.

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus* It was seen in disturbed habitat in the Yankuam area and around Copalinga.

Black-and-white Tanager *Conothraupis speculigera* ◇ A male was at Uracca Lodge – the first of the season! **NT**

Superciliaried Hemispingus *Hemispingus superciliaris* Four were seen at Yanacochoa.

Black-headed Hemispingus *Hemispingus verticalis* ◇ We had good looks at Tapichalaca and Saraguro.

Grey-hooded Bush Tanager *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris* We saw it at Tapichalaca and Cajanuma.

Rufous-chested Tanager *Thlypopsis ornate* About six were seen in the Yunguilla Reserve.

Flame-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus cristatus* We had nice looks in the Maycu Reserve.

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus* We saw them on our first day and at Buenaventura.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* Several sightings on the tour.

Red Pileated-Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus* A male was seen on our way back from Yankuam.

Fulvous Shrike-Tanager *Lanio fulvus* A pair was seen in mixed species flock at Maycu.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* Commonly seen on the eastern lowlands.



Magpie Tanager was seen on the feeders at Copalinga (János Oláh).

- Lemon-rumped Tanager** *Ramphocelus icteronotus* Commonly seen on the western lowlands.
- Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* It was common throughout the tour – white-shouldered ones on the east.
- Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* It was commonly seen throughout the tour.
- Blue-capped Tanager** *Thraupis cyanocephala* It was common in Utuana and Cajanuma.
- Orange-throated Tanager** *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron* ♦ About 20 were seen in the Maycu Reserve! **VU**
- Hooded Mountain Tanager** *Buthraupis montana* We had a few at Tapichalaca and Cajanuma.
- Lacrimose Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus lacrymosus* Seen at Tapichalaca, Cerro Toledo and Cajanuma.
- Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus igniventris* We saw it at Tapichalaca and Saraguro.
- Blue-winged Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus somptuosus* Just two were seen below Tapichalaca.
- Grass-green Tanager** *Chlorornis riefferii* We had a few at Tapichalaca and Cerro Toledo.
- Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager** *Dubusia taeniata* We saw it in Tapichalaca and Cajanuma.
- Golden-crowned Tanager** *Iridosornis rufivertex* (LO) One was seen at Cerro Toledo.
- Fawn-breasted Tanager** *Pipraeidea melanonota* (LO) One was seen at Buenaventura.
- Orange-eared Tanager** *Chlorochrysa calliparaea* A few encounters on the east slope.
- Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara mexicana* We saw it in the Maycu Reserve.
- Paradise Tanager** *Tangara chilensis* Common around Yankuam and Copalinga.
- Green-and-gold Tanager** *Tangara schrankii* Seen at Maycu but best views we had on the feeders at Copalinga.
- Golden Tanager** *Tangara arthus* One of the most commonly seen tangaras on the tour.
- Silver-throated Tanager** *Tangara icterocephala* It was only seen at Buenaventura.
- Saffron-crowned Tanager** *Tangara xanthocephala* It was seen on the east slope and Maycu.
- Golden-eared Tanager** *Tangara chrysotis* Regular sightings on the east slope.
- Flame-faced Tanager** *Tangara parzudakii* We only have seen one along the old Loja-Zamora Road.
- Yellow-bellied Tanager** *Tangara xanthogastra* It was most numerous in the Maycu Reserve.
- Spotted Tanager** *Tangara punctata* We had several sightings on the east slope.
- Rufous-throated Tanager** *Tangara rufigula* ♦ We had four birds at Buenaventura.
- Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola* One of the most commonly seen tangara on the tour.



Green-and-gold Tanager (left) and Golden-eared tanager (right) on the feeders at Copalinga (János Oláh).

- Golden-naped Tanager** *Tangara ruficervix* One was seen below Tapichalaca.
- Blue-browed Tanager** *Tangara cyanotis* ◇ This rare tangara was seen below Tapichalaca.
- Blue-necked Tanager** *Tangara cyanicollis* One of the most commonly seen tangara on the tour.
- Masked Tanager** *Tangara nigrocincta* Three were seen in the Maycu Reserve.
- Beryl-spangled Tanager** *Tangara nigroviridis* We had several sightings on the east slope.
- Blue-and-black Tanager** *Tangara vassorii* We had a few at Tapichalaca, Cerro Toledo and Cajanuma.
- Silver-backed Tanager** *Tangara viridicollis* ◇ Two females were seen at Utuana and five below Tapichalaca.
- Opal-crowned Tanager** *Tangara callophrys* We had three in the Maycu Reserve.
- Swallow Tanager** *Tersina viridis* We obtained good looks in the Yankuam area.
- Black-faced Dacnis** *Dacnis lineata* It was fairly common in the Yankuam and Copalinga areas.
- Yellow-tufted Dacnis** *Dacnis egregia* ◇ A single male was seen at Buenaventura.
- Yellow-bellied Dacnis** *Dacnis flaviventer* A single male was seen in the Maycu Reserve.
- Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus* We only saw them in the Yankuam area.
- Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* It was regularly encountered throughout the tour.
- Golden-collared Honeycreeper** *Iridophanes pulcherrimus* ◇ We had four encounters on the east.
- Guira Tanager** *Hemithraupis guira* We had a few sightings on the west as well as on the east.
- Tit-like Dacnis** *Xenodacnis parina* ◇ Many good views in the Cajas NP.
- Blue-backed Conebill** *Conirostrum sitticolor* Singletons were seen at Tapichalaca and Saraguro.
- Giant Conebill** *Oreomanes fraseri* Three were seen in Polylepis woodland in the Cajas NP. **NT**
- Rusty Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa sittoides* A male was seen on the old Loja-Zamora Road – very low!
- Glossy Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa lafresnayii* Singletons were seen at Cerro Toledo and Saraguro.
- White-sided Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa albilatera* A single bird was seen at Utuana.
- Masked Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa cyanea* Definitely the most commonly seen flowerpiercer on this tour.
- Crimson-breasted Finch** *Rhodospingus cruentus* ◇ The first sighting was at Campamento Quizas Hoy.
- Plumbeous Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus unicolor* It was common in the higher parts of Cajas NP.
- Ash-breasted Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus plebejus* We saw a nice flock at El Empalme.
- Band-tailed Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus alaudinus* We saw six birds on the dry Santa Elena Peninsula.
- Collared Warbling Finch** *Poospiza hispaniolensis* ◇ Two were seen on the dry Santa Elena Peninsula.
- Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* Commonly seen throughout the tour.

Sulphur-throated Finch *Sicalis taczanowskii* ◊ A flock of seven were seen on the dry Santa Elena Peninsula.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Just a few were seen on our travels.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina* We had several on the west.

Black-and-white Seedeater *Sporophila luctuosa* (NL) One was seen on the way to Copalinga.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* We had a few at Buenaventura and Ayampe.

Parrot-billed Seedeater *Sporophila peruviana* Several were seen on the dry Santa Elena Peninsula.

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris* It was common in the Yankuam area.

Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco* We had good looks in the Manglares Churrute area.

Thick-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus funereus* Several were seen in the west. See note.

Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis* Two were seen on the way to Yankuam. See note.

Large-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus crassirostris* ◊ Two were seen close to Manglares Churrute.

Black-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus atrirostris* ◊ Six were seen on the way to Yankuam.

Dull-colored Grassquit *Tiaris obscurus* It was seen at Jorupe and Vilcabamba.

Plushcap *Catamblyrhynchus diadema* One was seen at Tapichalaca in a mixed species flock.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* A few were seen on the eastern lowlands and lower foothills.

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera* Four were seen on the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Highland Hepatic Tanager *Piranga lutea* We had several sightings on the tour.

Golden Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysogaster* Commonly seen throughout the tour. See note.

Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak *Parkerthraustes humeralis* Four were seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Slate-coloured Grosebeak *Saltator grossus* One was seen in the Maycu Reserve.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* Regularly seen throughout the tour.

Black-winged Saltator *Saltator atripennis* ◊ We had nice looks at Buenaventura.

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* Two were seen on our way to Yankuam.

Black-cowled Saltator *Saltator nigriceps* ◊ Excellent views at Sozoranga and Utuana.

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus* The non-streaked western race was seen at several locations.

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* This unobtrusive bird was seen well at Campamento Quizas Hoy.

MAMMALS

Brown Four-eyed Opossum *Metachirus nudicaudatus* One was seen at Copalinga on two consecutive days.

Forest Rabbit *Sylvilagus brasiliensis* We saw it at Copalinga, Bambusvaro and Cajas NP.

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis* One was seen Tapichalaca.

Guayaquil Squirrel *Sciurus stramineus* It was frequently seen on the tour.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* We got excellent looks in the Umbrella Bird Lodge at Buenaventura.

Eastern Lowland Olingo *Bassaricyon alleni* One was seen at Copalinga on two consecutive days.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata* One was seen at Buenaventura.

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata* (H) Regularly heard at Buenaventura.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird List (v4.4). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/ioc-lists/master-list/>

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*

South American mainland birds are sometimes split off as a separate species *A. spinicauda*, keeping the same English name. The residual *A. georgica*, endemic to South Georgia, is then re-named South Georgia Pintail.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

It has been renamed following the splitting off of the eastern (Asian) form *B. coromandus* under the name Eastern Cattle Egret.

Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma*

The form concerned is often split off as a separate species: Puna Hawk *B. poecilochrous*. The residual *B. polyosoma* is then renamed Red-backed Hawk.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*

The form we encounter - Tumbes Swift *C. ocyptes* - is sometimes split from Short-tailed Swift *C. brachyura*.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*

This is the paler, greyer, and slightly smaller southern *baroni* race in western Ecuador which is sometimes split as Baron's Hermit. Also the new HBW illustrated checklist splits this race as Ecuadorian Hermit *P. baroni*.

Wedge-billed Hummingbird *Schistes geoffroyi*

The new HBW illustrated checklist splits this race as Western Wedge-billed Hummingbird *S. albogularis*.

White-tailed Trogon *Trogon chionurus*

Western White-tailed Trogon *T. chionurus* is not sister species of Amazonian White-tailed Trogon *T. viridis* and the English name has been changed to simpler White-tailed Trogon.

Green-backed Trogon *Trogon viridis*

Amazonian White-tailed Trogon *T. viridis* is not sister species of *T. chionurus* and the tentative English name is Green-backed Trogon at the moment (SACC).

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*

It is a split from *T. violaceus* which was a historical name for the Violaceous Trogons 'group'.

Whooping Motmot *Momotus subrufescens*

This form was formerly lumped in Blue-crowned Motmot *M. momota*. Whooping Motmot *M. subrufescens* is one of five species in the *Momotus momota* complex.

Andean Motmot *Momotus aequatorialis*

This form was formerly lumped in Blue-crowned Motmot *M. momota*. Andean Motmot *M. aequatorialis* is one of five species in the *Momotus momota* complex. It also includes ssp *aequatorialis* & *chlorolaemus*. The English name was changed from Highland Motmot to Andean Motmot.

Pale-mandibled Aracari *Pteroglossus erythropygius*

This form is split from Collared Aracari *P. torquatus*.

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*

Change of English name from Black-mandibled to Yellow-throated Toucan. The *R. swainsonii* is an uncertain split from *R. ambiguus*. Also includes Chestnut-mandibled Toucan *R. swainsonii* which was sometimes split as a separate species.

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albidiventris*

This form is split from Buff-winged Cinclodes *C. fuscus*.

Scaly-throated (or Scaly-breasted or Spectacled) Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia variegaticeps*

The race concerned, *temporalis*, has sometimes been regarded as a subspecies of Montane Foliage-gleaner *A. striaticollis*. Alternatively, it may represent a distinct species: Spot-breasted Foliage-gleaner.

Western Woodhaunter *Hyloctistes virgatus*

This form is split from Eastern Woodhaunter *H. subulatus*, with the name Striped Woodhaunter (or Striped Foliage-gleaner) being used for the enlarged species.

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*

The English name was changed from Western Slaty Antshrike to Black-crowned Antshrike.

Peruvian Warbling-Antbird *Hypocnemis peruviana*

This and five other newly described species were formerly lumped in Guianan Warbling Antbird *H. cantator* with the name Warbling Antbird being used for the enlarged species.

Zeledon's Antbird *Myrmeciza zeledoni*

Zeledon's Antbird is split from Immaculate Antbird *M. immaculate*.

Northern White-crowned Tapaculo *Scytalopus atratus*

This form was sometimes lumped in Southern White-crowned Tapaculo *S. bolivianus*, with the name White-crowned Tapaculo being used for the enlarged species. The latter in turn was formerly lumped in the Rufous-vented Tapaculo *S. femoralis* complex. However, both *S. atratus* and *S. micropterus* (see below) occur on Ecuador's east slope and are ecologically separated.

Long-tailed Tapaculo (or Equatorial Rufous-vented) *Scytalopus micropterus*

This form was lumped in Peruvian Rufous-vented Tapaculo *S. femoralis*, with the name Rufous-vented Tapaculo being used for the enlarged species.

Paramo Tapaculo *Scytalopus opacus*

This form is split from *S. canus* based on vocal and pronounced genetic differences. The *S. canus* was renamed as Paramillo Tapaculo after the split.

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapillus*

Donacobius is related to the Old World warblers, not wrens (*Troglodytidae*). Currently treated as a monotypic family Donacobiidae pending resolution of relationships to *Megaluridae* vs *Bernieridae*.

Southern Nightingale-Wren *Microcerculus marginatus*

Northern Nightingale-Wren (sometimes just called Nightingale Wren) *M. philomela* (which does not occur in Ecuador) was formerly lumped in this form, with the name Nightingale Wren being used for the enlarged species. The taxonomy of *Microcerculus* wrens is probably even more complex and *M. marginatus* itself may consist of two or more biological species.

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*

A recent genetic study suggests that *C. ophthalmicus* comprises multiple species, at least five in Mexico and Middle America; Species in southern Central America and South America become (provisionally) *C. flavopectus* (Lafresnaye, 1840) with type locality restriction of *C. ophthalmicus* to Mexico. When treated as a single species, *C. flavopectus* (Lafresnaye, 1840) has priority over *C. ophthalmicus* (Du Bus de Gisignies, 1847).

Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus funereus*

This form is specifically distinct from Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch *O. angolensis*.

Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis*

The English name of *O. angolensis* was changed from Lesser Seed Finch to Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch with split of *O. funereus*.

Golden Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysogaster*

The English name was changed from Southern Yellow Grosbeak to Golden Grosbeak.

APPENDIX: overall results of the 'Bird of the tour' contest

Species	Points	Nominations
1st Jocotoco Antpitta	62	7
2nd Orange-throated Tanager	22	4
3rd Crescent-faced Antipitta	22	3
4th Fiery-throated Fruiteater	20	2
4th Band-bellied Owl	18	4

APPENDIX: overall results of the 'Bird of the extension' contest

Species	Points	Nominations
1st Esmeraldas Woodstar	42	7
2nd Great Grebe	12	4
3rd Hook-billed Kite	8	2