



One of our top birds - the stunning Roraiman Barbtail (Pete Morris)

EASTERN VENEZUELA

16 – 30 MARCH / 6 APRIL 2013

LEADER: PETE MORRIS

Our 2013 tour to Eastern Venezuela was truly a tour of two halves. The main tour, targeting the endemics in the Eastern half of the country was a resounding success. Here we focused on the remote mountains of Sucre and Monagas, the fabulous forests of the Rio Grande region in the Sierra de Imataca and the famous Escalera. We were blessed with pretty good birding conditions throughout, with not too much rain and despite numerous bus changes, petrol shortages and the like, we got around safely and comfortably. Indeed from a birding perspective it was a brilliant trip with a splendid selection of tour highlights. Harpy Eagle was high on most people's wants lists, and we were not disappointed as we saw first a fledged juvenile followed by an amazing adult. The rest of the highlights are almost too many to summarize, but perhaps special mention should go to a superb selection of cotinga-like birds including the excellent Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, the amazing Capuchinbird, colourful

Red-banded and Handsome Fruiteaters, Rose-collared Pihás, and brilliant White and Bearded Bellbird. We also saw a stunning selection of colourful manakins including the amazing Crimson-hooded Manakin, the outrageous Scarlet-horned Manakin, and the localized Orange-bellied and White-throated Manakins. We enjoyed globally endangered endemics such as Scissor-tailed Hummingbird, White-throated Barbtail and Grey-headed Warbler, scarce Tepui endemics such as the stunning Peacock Coquette, Roraiman Barbtail, Tepui Foliage-gleaner, Tepui Antpitta, Flutist Wren and Greater Flowerpiercer, and we found other rarities in Bolívar such as Blue-cheeked Amazons, brilliant Guianan Toucanets, the scarce Black-throated Antshrike, and the tiny Tiny Tyrant-Manakin! Other much enjoyed species included Slender-billed, Hook-billed and Grey-headed Kites, a delightful Russet-crowned Crake, an impressive Giant Snipe, Hoatzins, the Oilbird spectacle, some fantastic displaying Little Hermits (like toy helicopters!), Tufted and Racket-tailed Coquettes, the superb Crimson Topaz, a stunning Rose-breasted Chat, Musician Wren, the adorable little Sucre Antpitta and a brilliant selection of antbirds which included the amazing White-plumed and Ferruginous-backed Antbirds, the rare Plain-winged Antwren and many, many more! We also had some bonus time in the Caracas area where found a number of other goodies including endemic Black-throated Spinetails and Caracas Tapaculos. So that was the story of our success. Next is the tale of woe, as on the extension we attempted to visit Junglaven in remote Amazonas state. Here, despite best efforts, we were thwarted by a Military General who refused, for no apparent reason, to sign some papers, and as a result, we were not allowed to visit. This in a way, sums up the problems in this potentially brilliant birding country, and now, post Chavez, and into Maduro's reign, we can only hope for improvements in the future. The upshot for us was a couple of extremely frustrating days in Puerto Ayacucho before we threw the towel in, jumped on our personal charter flights, and flew back to Caracas. We weren't going to let an obstinate General completely ruin our plans, and instead enjoyed some quality time in Henri Pittier National Park. Here we added a number of unexpected quality birds including the brilliant Scallop-breasted Antpitta and Helmeted Curassow, both of which gave incredible views. These were backed up with a number of other northern cordillera specialities including gorgeous White-tipped Quetzals, Black-backed Antshrike, the bantam-like Schwartz's Antthrush, Venezuelan Bristle-Tyrant, Venezuelan Tyrannulet, Venezuelan Flycatcher and Fulvous-headed and Rufous-cheeked Tanagers as well as some impressive Fasciated Tiger-Herons. Not what we were expecting, but some cracking birds all the same!



The amazing Helmeted Curassow gave unbelievable views in Henri Pittier NP (Pete Morris)



Two of the Araya birds - Vermilion Cardinal and Two-banded Puffbird (Pete Morris)

At the beginning of the tour, we assembled at our Macuto hotel close to Caracas Airport. The atmosphere was a little strange as the country was in a state of shock following the announcement of the death of their long-term leader Hugo Chavez. After a comfortable nights sleep we were back at the airport, ready to roll! After only a short delay we found ourselves in Barcelona, in the northeast of the country, where we met our first bus and driver and transferred to the small town of Cariaco at the base of the Araya Peninsula. That afternoon, we began our exploration of the arid Araya Peninsula. Wetlands produced a number of good waterbirds including Least Grebes, White-cheeked Pintails, the scarce Caribbean Coot, American Flamingos and vivid Scarlet Ibises, the mangroves were home to the interesting Bicoloured Conebill and in the desert we found numerous Bare-eyed Pigeons, Buffy Hummingbirds, Northern Scrub Flycatchers, subtle Glaucous Tanagers, Black-faced Grassquit and a number of other goodies. We also found a selection of widespread migrant North American waders, as well as large numbers of Brown Pelicans and Magnificent Frigatebirds, Tricoloured Herons, American Flamingo, our only Black-collared Hawk and Snail Kite of the tour, Harris's Hawk and Merlin.

An early start the following morning saw us back out on the Araya Peninsula spotlighting a White-tailed Nighthawk. After a picnic breakfast, we further explored the cactus-studded desert. Birding was slow, though gradually we added goodies such as obliging Crested Bobwhites, a Crane Hawk, smart Two-banded Puffbirds, noisy Bicoloured Wrens and a fine Vermilion Cardinal, though sadly the Yellow-shouldered Amazons failed to materialize. Farming had increased in this remote area and the numbers of people with it. Caged Yellow-shouldered Amazons were seen, and I can't help but wonder if this could be one of the reasons we missed them? An American Coot was a surprise find, and a few stops in nearby dry woodland yielded Rufous-tailed Jacamar, comical Black-crested and Barred Antshrikes, Northern White-fringed Antwren, Ochre-ored Flatbill, Scrub Greenlet, Trinidad Euphonia and Grey Pileated Finch, all coming to investigate the hoax pygmy-owl!

After lunch, complete with new luxury bus, we continued on our quest and headed east towards the more verdant Paria Peninsula, taking a short detour down the Tunapuy to Guaraunos road on the way. This proved to be very birdy, even in the middle of the afternoon and provided us with plenty of interesting species including a fine Hook-billed Kite, Blue-chinned Sapphire, our first Green-backed (or Amazonian White-tailed) Trogon in a fruiting tree with Spectacled and Cocoa Thrushes, a hulking White-necked Puffbird on a nest, a strangely brown Crimson-crested Woodpecker, a smart Cream-coloured Woodpecker, Black-necked Aracaris, Lesser Kiskadee and a brief encounter with the uncommon Velvet-fronted Grackle. With a fair way to go, we dragged ourselves away and made our way to the interesting town of Irapa, our base for the next couple of nights.

The forested summit of Cerro Humo, Smoke Mountain, was our destination for the next day and we made our way there up the rough track on the back of a truck! We arrived a little after dawn and after a field breakfast we began the walk and slowly birded our way up towards the summit and back. Although the trail was quite steep, we took it very slowly, finding plenty of goodies as we climbed slowly up and back down. At the foot of the mountain we had close encounters with Stripe-breasted Spinetail and a little further up we enjoyed fan-



The stars of the Paria Peninsula: Scissor-tailed Hummingbird, Paria Whitestart and White-throated Barbtail (Pete Morris)

tastic views of the rail-like Black-faced Antthrush and the robin-like Sucre Antpitta. However, it was three very special Paria endemics that were our main focus and these did not disappoint! The bird of the morning was undoubtedly the superb Scissor-tailed Hummingbird, several fine males of which showed fantastically well (as well as a female for some). Almost as impressive was the delightful Paria Whitestart which also gave us some stunning views. Another endemic, the rare White-throated Barbtail also showed brilliantly, after some initial frustration, as they crept almost around our feet! We managed to rack-up a number of other excellent species which included a couple of sneaky Plain-backed Antpittas, Cocoa and Plain-brown Woodcreepers, the endemic Groove-billed Toucanet, a striking pair of White-tipped Quetzals attending a nest, colourful Venezuelan Parakeets and numerous other species such as Golden-fronted Greenlet, Olive-striped Flycatcher, Sooty-headed Tyrannulet and Slaty Antwren. Later, we wandered back along the road, noting a number of goodies which included entertaining Sooty-capped Hermits, beefy Great Antshrikes, Coopman's Tyrannulet (a recent split from Golden-faced Tyrannulet and named after our former friend and colleague Paul), musical Rufous-and-white and Rufous-breasted Wrens, Thick-billed Euphonias and Bay-headed and Speckled Tanagers.

We were not too disappointed to leave the town of Irapa behind, now on our third bus, and headed out early for another visit to the Tunapuy to Guaraunos road. Once again this area proved to be excellent, and by exploring a variety of areas, including some flooded forest, we found plenty to keep us occupied. The morning was especially notable for raptors as Slender-billed and Grey-headed Kites sat up calling, Double-toothed Kites soared overhead and were joined by a calling Black Hawk Eagle and Common Black Hawk! Large numbers of noisy Orange-winged Amazons were conspicuous and wet areas held a few Limpkins. Greater Anis moved through these wetter areas where Little Cuckoos posed, and noisy prehistoric-looking Hoatzins were much appreciated. Here we also found a cracking pair of Silvered Antbirds, and other quality birds included our first Black-dotted Piculets and some stunning Crimson-hooded Manakins. Birds just kept coming and other new birds included Striped Cuckoo, a showy Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant (complete with Helmet), Variegated Flycatcher, a vocal Cinnamon Attila, a fine pair of Black-capped Donacobius, noisy Stripe-backed Wrens and colourful Orange-crowned Orioles. Oh, and we enticed the Velvet-fronted Grackles back for a much more satisfying



Slender-billed Kite and Hoatzin were both appreciated along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road (Pete Morris)

look! Indeed birds were still coming thick and fast when the time came to drag ourselves away! Our destination was Caripe, though we made a few stops as we went, finding Lance-tailed Manakins, a Long-billed Gnatwren and a very obliging Sooty-capped Hermit.

On arrival we went straight to the famous Oilbird cave, which was first described by Alexander Von Humboldt, and made our way more or less straight into the cave to see the Oilbirds. It really was an amazing spectacle as we obtained great views of these weird nocturnal frugivores, with many of them snarling and clicking from their ledges. Leaving the cave, we birded along the road, though not before we'd had some rather strange interactions with some locals who accused us of being researchers! During the rest of the afternoon we noted many Inca Jays and Scarlet-fronted Parakeets. Black-banded Woodcreepers provided some great views, displaying their lack of distinct bands, and the pygmy-owl recording brought in a good variety of mobbing species which



The Oilbird experience was as amazing as ever! (Pete Morris)

included Speckled and Black-headed Tanagers, gorgeous White-winged Tanagers, colourful Blue-naped Chlorophonias and Pale-breasted Thrushes and we even found an unexpected male Canada Warbler!

Early next morning, we were walking through the extensive coffee plantations that cover the lower slopes of Cerro Negro, one of the highest mountains of north-eastern Venezuela. It was a tougher walk than anticipated, due to the wet, muddy and slippery conditions, and lack of distinct trail, but we took it slowly and managed well! The walk up was punctuated with a few stops for goodies which included an endemic in the form of the localized Ochre-breasted Brush-Finch. Upon reaching the forest, we saw several obliging White-tailed Sabrewings, but it took a while before we found our main quarry, the rare and endemic Grey-headed Warbler, but eventually we were treated to some great views of this little-known species. An endemic Guttulate Foliage-gleaner also showed well and in the difficult terrain, we were delighted to see some stunning Handsome Fruiteaters and Grey-throated Leaf-tossers, as well as more White-throated Barbtails (a different isolated subspecies here). As we slid back down the hill we found endemic Green-tailed Emeralds, some cracking Rufous-shafted Woodstars, Long-billed Starthroat, Copper-rumped Hummingbirds, and, especially for one nameless participant, more Stripe-breasted Spinetails! As we recovered and ate lunch, we watched our first Red-billed Parrots in the scope! We also saw our first Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. The rather tedious drive to Maturin was punctuated with a stop at a reservoir where we added a few new species including Short-tailed Hawk, Plain Thornbird, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant and a couple of Yellow-hooded Blackbirds.

We then spent a productive morning wandering through patches of varzea forests at Caño Colorado. We had already seen the two major targets here, but were pleased to see more Black-dotted Piculets, and, more stunning Crimson-hooded Manakins at their lek! Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant, Jet Antbirds and Guianan Slaty Antshrikes showed well, fantastic Little Hermits buzzed around us and we managed to find the rare Yellow-crowned Elaenia and more Velvet-fronted Grackles. Other new species included smart Capped Herons, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Rufous-vented Chachalacas, huge Blue-and-yellow Macaws, showy White-eyed and Golden-winged Parakeets, the localized White-chested Emerald our first Swallow-winged Puffbirds, Forest Elaenia, vocal Yellow Tyrannulets, a cute Slate-headed Tody-Tyrant and Buff-breasted Wrens. After a good morning, we drove south to the Orinoco, passing through the extensive llanos of Monagas as we went. It was a pretty long and hot journey. At our picnic stop we found Savanna and White-tailed Hawks, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and unexpected Collared Plovers, but after that it was really heads down! We crossed the mighty Orinoco on the relatively new bridge but then spent a tedious hour or two getting through Puerto Ordaz and Ciudad Guyana. Eventually we emerged the other side and arrived at our friendly hotel after dark.



There are few more stunning birds than the incredible Crimson-hooded Manakin (Pete Morris)



This seven month old Harpy Eagle was looking a little hungry and bedraggled (Pete Morris)

El Palmar was our base for the next couple of nights and excitement in the group was mounting as Harpy Eagle day was now upon us. The following morning, after a decent breakfast, we set off with our local guide in search of this huge raptor. We made our way through largely logged forest to a small community at the edge of a forest patch. Having greeted the owners and enjoyed a few good birds in the clearing which included Greater Yellow-headed Vulture and some Green Oropendolas, we made our way to a large Ceiba tree where a seven month old immature Harpy Eagle was waiting to greet us! We enjoyed this spectacle for a while and then commenced our quest to find the forest birds of this magic area. Two notable early scores were a fine male White-throated Manakin that posed for us and a White-bellied Antbird.

We had the rest of the day and the following morning to explore the remnant Imataca Forest and scored well! Top birds included the fabulous Ferruginous-backed Antbird that crept around us, the delightful Musician Wren, the aptly-named Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, stunning Rufous-throated and White-plumed Antbirds attending an antswarm, a rather sneaky Black-throated Antshrike, a beautiful Rose-breasted Chat which gave unbelievable views, and a dazzling male Golden-sided Euphonia. We also managed to find a whole suite of other new species including Zone-tailed Hawk (even perched!), Little Chachalaca, Ruddy and Plumbeous Pigeons, Painted Parakeet, Green Aracari, Black-throated Trogon, smart Paradise Jacamars, noisy Black Nunbirds, Mouse-coloured Antshrike, the skulking Grey Antbird, Dusky Antbird, Pygmy Antwren, Grey-crowned Flatbill,



The obloigate antswarm followers: White-plumed and Rufous-throated Antbirds (Pete Morris)

Painted Tody-Flycatcher, the recently split Guianan Schiffornis, Wing-barred Piprites, much-wanted Screaming Pihas, Purple-throated Fruit Crow, White-breasted Wood-Wren, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, the canopy flock-leading Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Cayenne Jay, Red-rumped Cacique, Violaceous Euphonia and Spotted and Yellow-backed Tanagers. We also found several understorey flocks which were led by noisy Cinereous and Dusky-throated Antshrikes. We spent some time around the flocks digging out many goodies such as Grey, Long-winged, Brown-bellied and delightful Rufous-bellied Antwrens, Olivaceous Flatbill and Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper. We encountered a number of new hummingbirds including Reddish Hermit and Black-eared Fairy, and in one notable tree we found White-chinned and Rufous-throated Sapphires and female Tufted and Racket-tailed Coquettes. In open areas we also found Burrowing Owl and Red-breasted Blackbird. As usual, time had flown by, and it was time to throw the towel in and head back to the hotel to pack and have lunch, where we were entertained by Burnished-buff Tanagers and Saffron Finches. We then made our way to the gold digger village of Las Claritas, situated at the base of the legendary Escalera, the gateway to the fabulous Tepuis. It was a long drive, but eventually we arrived at Las Claritas after dark.



This Burrowing Owl peered down at us near Rio Grande (Pete Morris)

Once a little booking mix up had been ironed out, we settled into our cosy base at Las Claritas. Here we were treated to the winning combination of gracious hospitality, excellent food and splendid hummingbird feeders where outstanding Crimson Topaz hummingbirds performed at length alongside Grey-breasted Sabrewings, Rufous-breasted Hermits, White-necked Jacobins, Long-billed Starthroats, Fork-tailed Woodnymphs and Black-throated Mangos! It really was quite a sight and an easy place to while away an hour or two, especially as the garden also hosted a number of other interesting species. Fortunately we had five full days in this area, during which we concentrated on finding Guyana Shield specialities in the remaining accessible lowland forests and as many of the so called tepui endemics as possible along the Escalera.

To some degree we were up against it. The surge in gold rush meant that the Capuchinbird lek site was no longer accessible, and the combination of a holiday and essentially free fuel meant that the usually quiet road up the Escalera was full of holiday makers, making roadside birding less than pleasant at times! Over the days we explored a variety of altitudes, from the lowlands to the Gran Sabana and I'll describe our experiences working from the bottom up, rather than day-by-day.

At the lowest altitudes we had a couple of productive sessions along a rather unsavoury track close to Las Claritas. Here, we were delighted to find an unexpected and noisy group of Capuchinbirds, a species we thought we were not going to see. Surely one of the strangest of all cotingas, hearing their amazing calls was out of this world already, but seeing them calling in the canopy was really something else and we managed some great views of these fantastic birds. The supporting cast in the lowlands was superb, headed by a most unexpected and colossal adult Harpy Eagle! Raucous calls announced the arrival of some impressive Red-throated Caracaras and other goodies included a brilliant pair of Black-faced Hawks, arboreal and noisy Little Chachalacas, some superb Red-fan Parrot and vocal Black-headed Parrots, our first of a few rare Blue-cheeked Amazons, the

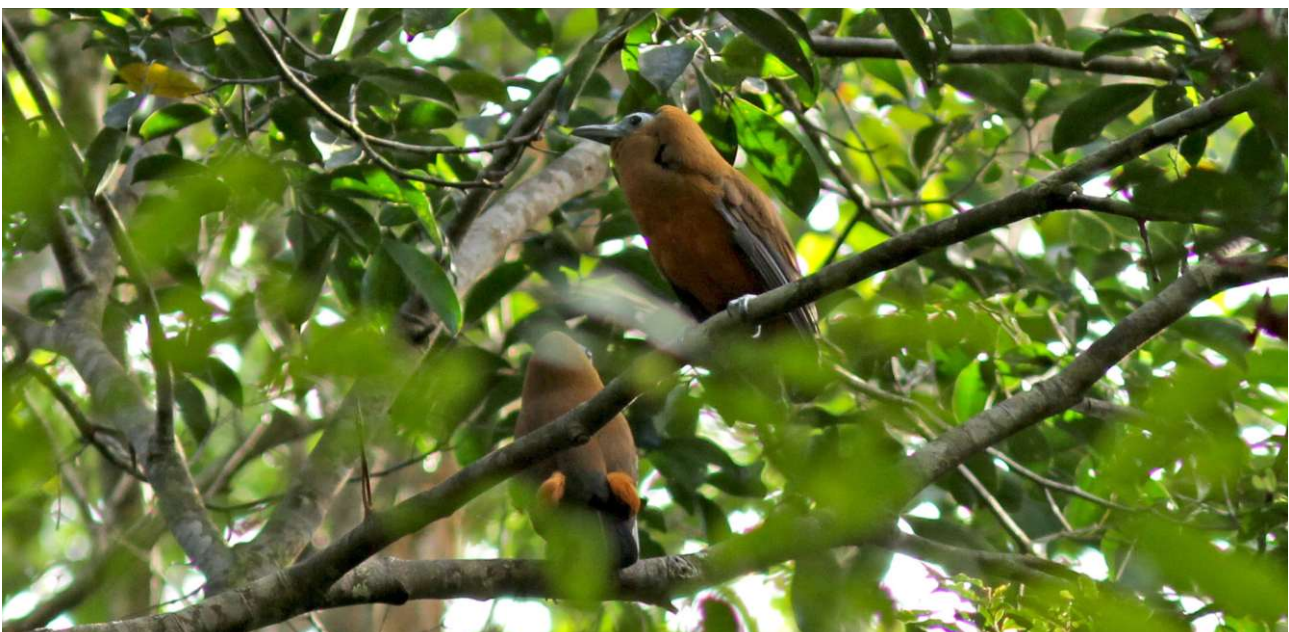
lossal adult Harpy Eagle! Raucous calls announced the arrival of some impressive Red-throated Caracaras and other goodies included a brilliant pair of Black-faced Hawks, arboreal and noisy Little Chachalacas, some superb Red-fan Parrot and vocal Black-headed Parrots, our first of a few rare Blue-cheeked Amazons, the



An adult Harpy Eagle - a complete surprise, and Yellow-billed Jacamar near to Las Claritas (Pete Morris)

colourful Yellow-billed Jacamar, striking Waved, Chestnut and Red-necked Woodpeckers, Guianan Trogons, our first of many Tepui Swifts, Amazonian Barred Woodcreepers, Black-throated Antbird, Guianan Streaked Antwren, canopy-loving Spot-tailed and Todd's Antwrens, Zimmer's Flycatcher, Flame-crested and gaudy Paradise Tanagers, and Black-faced Dacnises. On another occasions we visited another area of lowland forest further north. This also proved to be productive with Scaled Pigeons, Guianan Puffbird and delightful Green Aracaris amongst others.

Working our way up, (past the Cliff Flycatcher!) we made several stops in the taller forests of the lower Escalera, and these held a rather different assortment of species. Pre-dawn we notched up a very obliging Roraima Screech-Owl (as well as a Common Potoo and Short-tailed Nighthawk), and shortly after a Spix's Guan sprung



We were delighted to find the increasingly difficult Capuchinbird (Pete Morris)

to life! During our various other visits we found a whole host of goodies. Best of all were the stunning Guianan Cocks-of-the-Rock, and wonderful Guianan Toucanets that shared a fruiting tree with endemic Black-spotted Barbets. Other colourful favourites here included a furtive Whitely's (formerly Chestnut-tipped) Toucanet, and scoped Masked Trogons. There was also often a large flock here and one morning we spent a long time looking through it. The flock leader, Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, was seen very well and other good species included Golden-collared Woodpecker, the scarce Yellow-throated Flycatcher, Guianan and White-lored Tyrannulets, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Yellow-green Grosbeak, and Roraiman and Ash-winged Antwrens. Endemic orange-crested Roraiman Warblers showed well, and after some searching we enjoyed great views of the endemic Roraiman Antbird and Guianan Warbling Antbird in the understorey. On one occasion, on the way home, we were fortunate to find an immature male Pompadour Cotinga perched up.

Heading on up to the 'middle' Escalera, we could soon hear the loud clanks of White Bellbirds, and it didn't take us too long to track down this wonderful species, flicking its wattle from side to side as it called! Flocks of noisy Golden-tufted Mountain-Grackles appeared, and a patient vigil brought us the rare Blue-fronted Lancebill.



The magic White Bellbirds of the Escalera clanked away all day long! (Pete Morris)

It was really the upper Escalera, the epicentre of the endemics, that held the majority of the remaining targets that we were hoping to see, and with repeated visits to the stunted, moss-covered forests, we managed to see nearly all of them. Many of them are not too easy to see, but we did extremely well for the skulkers. Top of the bill were stunning Roraiman Barbtails that showed beautifully on a couple of occasions, but other denizens of the dark undergrowth included the ultra-elusive Tepui Antpitta and Flutist Wren, both of which showed brilliantly to all. Others included a fantastic calling Tepui Foliage-gleaner (probably the one we worked hardest for!), fine McConnell's and Tepui Spinetails, confiding Ruddy Tody-Flycatchers, Tepui Elaenias (another recent IOC split), a cracking pair of Streak-backed Antshrikes, the rather drab Olive Manakin, Orange-bellied (or Tepui) Manakins, musical Coraya Wrens, numerous attractive Tepui Brush-Finches, Red-shouldered and Yellow-bellied Tanagers and colourful Fiery-shouldered Parakeets. Hummers included several showy Straight-billed Hermits, Brown Violetears, fine endemic Rufous-breasted Sabrewings, several stunning Velvet-browed Brilliants, and some amazing Peacock Coquettes, while mixed flocks held other goodies including the distinctive Black-fronted Tyrannulet, the scarce McConnell's Flycatcher, Tepui Greenlet, pretty Tepui Whitestarts and Olive-backed Tanagers. Funkily coloured Rose-collared Pihás popped up, revealing an unnatural shade of



One of the smartest Tepui endemics - Red-banded Fruiteater (Pete Morris)

pink in their plumage, a stunning male Red-banded Fruiteater fed in roadside trees, and, after another effort, a superb male Scarlet-horned Manakin popped and croaked from its secluded lek, even moon-walking for us! A pair of Greater Flowerpiercers were a bonus, as were an unexpected pair of the little-known Plain-winged Antwren.

The final habitat that we explored was the extensive grasslands of the Gran Sabana that stretch right to the border with Brazil. In a forest patch at the edge of this habitat we found an endearing trio of Brown Jacamars



The gorgeous little Ruddy Tody-Flycatcher (Pete Morris)



Crimson Topaz, Velvet-fronted Brilliant and Brown Jacamar. Three more goodies seen during our stay (Pete Morris)

while further into the habitat we found a stunning Russet-crowned Crake and an impressive Giant Snipe. Other new species in this area included some smart Tawny-headed Swallows, as well as more widespread species such as Plain-crested Elaenia, Black-faced Tanager and Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch.

It had been an excellent stay from a birding perspective, although aesthetically, the traffic had put a bit of a downer on things! After a fond farewell to Henry and his wife, we embarked upon the long drive back to Puerto Ordaz. A brief stop yielded the much-wanted Venezuelan Troupial and a bonus in the form of a fabulous



Large-billed Tern and Spot-breasted Woodpecker were both found around Puerto Ayacucho (Pete Morris)

Horned Screamer. We then made our way to Puerto Ordaz airport in good time for our 1450 flight, which eventually left at 2000!

The extension began with a trip up to the nearby Avila National Park on our last morning. This proved to be a productive morning with several great birds which included noisy Blood-eared Parakeets, the endemic Caracas Tapaculo, a lovely pair of Black-throated Spinetails and a fabulous pair of Golden-breasted Fruiteaters as well as a number of more widespread species such as a Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (for some), Montane Woodcreeper, White-throated Tyrannulet, Black-capped and Common Bush Tanagers and Black-crested Warbler. After a fine lunch in Macuto we headed to the airport and took a flight to Puerto Ayacucho and that's where the proverbial really hit the fan. To cut a long story short, we spent two very frustrating days attempting to get to Junglaven, with repeated promises that things were nearly ready and we'd be flying soon. The bottom line is, an obstinate General refused to let us go, for no apparently good reason, and all we could do was wait and hope and escape for a little bit of birding when it seemed ok to do so. Sadly, nearly all of the forest close to the town has been heavily degraded, so the birding was a little thin, but nevertheless we did find a few noteworthy species. These included an unexpected Sunbittern, several Versicoloured Emeralds, a female Amethyst Woodstar, a pair of Green-tailed Jacamars, an obliging Spot-breasted Woodpecker, a pair of Gilded Barbets, many Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Black-tailed Tityras, a fine male Spangled Cotinga, a Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin giving its repetitive song, Masked and Magpie Tanagers and an Oriole Blackbird. By looking on the mighty Orinoco, we also managed to add a pair of Pied Plovers, numerous Large-billed Terns and Black-collared Swallows and got a look at adjacent Colombia!

By now we'd had enough and waved the white flag, and the following morning we were on our exciting private charter flights to Caracas. In two small planes it took the best part of three hours to get us there, but it was a real relief when we finally arrived, escaping the dreadful State of Amazonas and its horrible General!! We drove the relatively short distance to Maracay and settled in to our comfortable accommodation. We had a little over two days to explore the riches of the mighty Henri Pittier National Park, a stunning park in the Coastal Cordillera. Sadly, traffic was again a nuisance, but we battled on to good effect seeing many cracking 'compensation birds'. Pride of place went to two most unexpected (at least when we started the holiday) bonuses - a fine pair of brilliant Scallop-breasted Antpittas and some truly awesome Helmeted Curassows. It really felt like at last someone was on our side! We also found other good endemics such as more Blood-eared Parakeets,



The stunning Scallop-breasted Antpitta posed for all... (Pete Morris)

showy Crested Spinetails, a clockwork Schwartz's Antthrush, Venezuelan Tyrannulet, the subtle Venezuelan Bristle-Tyrant (nice comparisons with Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant), another Handsome Fruiteater, more Ochre-breasted Brush Finches and Rufous-cheeked and Fulvous-headed Tanagers, whilst other goodies included a Tropical Screech Owl, a singing Rufous Nightjar, Black and Ornate Hawk Eagles, an obliging Band-tailed Guan, Stripe-throated Hermit, more stunning White-tipped Quetzals, Collared Trogons, Scaled Piculets, Montane and Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaners, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, an obliging Short-tailed Antthrush, Golden-crowned Flycatchers, Chestnut-crowned Becards, Southern Nightingale and Whiskered Wrens, Guira, Blue-necked, Golden, Beryl-spangled, Grey-headed and Swallow Tanagers, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Oleaginous Hemispingus and Chestnut-capped Brush Finch. We also spent a little



Crested Spinetail and White-tipped Quetzal were appreciated in Henri Pittier NP (Pete Morris)



We had time to study the subtleties of Venezuelan (left) and Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrants (Pete Morris)

bit of time at lower elevations where we found a couple of stately Fasciated Tiger Herons as well as more Lance-tailed Manakins, the localized Venezuelan Flycatcher and the impressive Black-backed Antshrike.

It wasn't what we'd ordered, but in the end it proved to be a pretty decent alternative, and we left Henri Pittier with some good birds under our belts! We headed back to Caracas, and took our last lunch together at a welcoming house with a fine set of hummingbird feeders. The feeders attracted excellent numbers of these colourful gems including numerous multi-hued Golden-tailed Sapphires, Violet-fronted Brilliants, White-vented Plumeleteers, Sparkling and Brown Violetears and lovely Copper-rumped Hummingbirds. We then made our way back into Macuto where the tour ended, and we all started our journeys home. We had time to reflect back on what had been an interesting tour around this bird-rich country. There were many highlights, many great birds, but also, some less enjoyable aspects. We'll just have to hope that the politics in this unpredictable country improve and hopefully Venezuela's fantastic biodiversity will remain intact for many years to come!



The gorgeous Swallow Tanager can't fail to impress when seen this well (Pete Morris)



We were lucky to get sensational views of the often difficult Rose-breasted Chat at Rio Grande (Pete Morris)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

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).

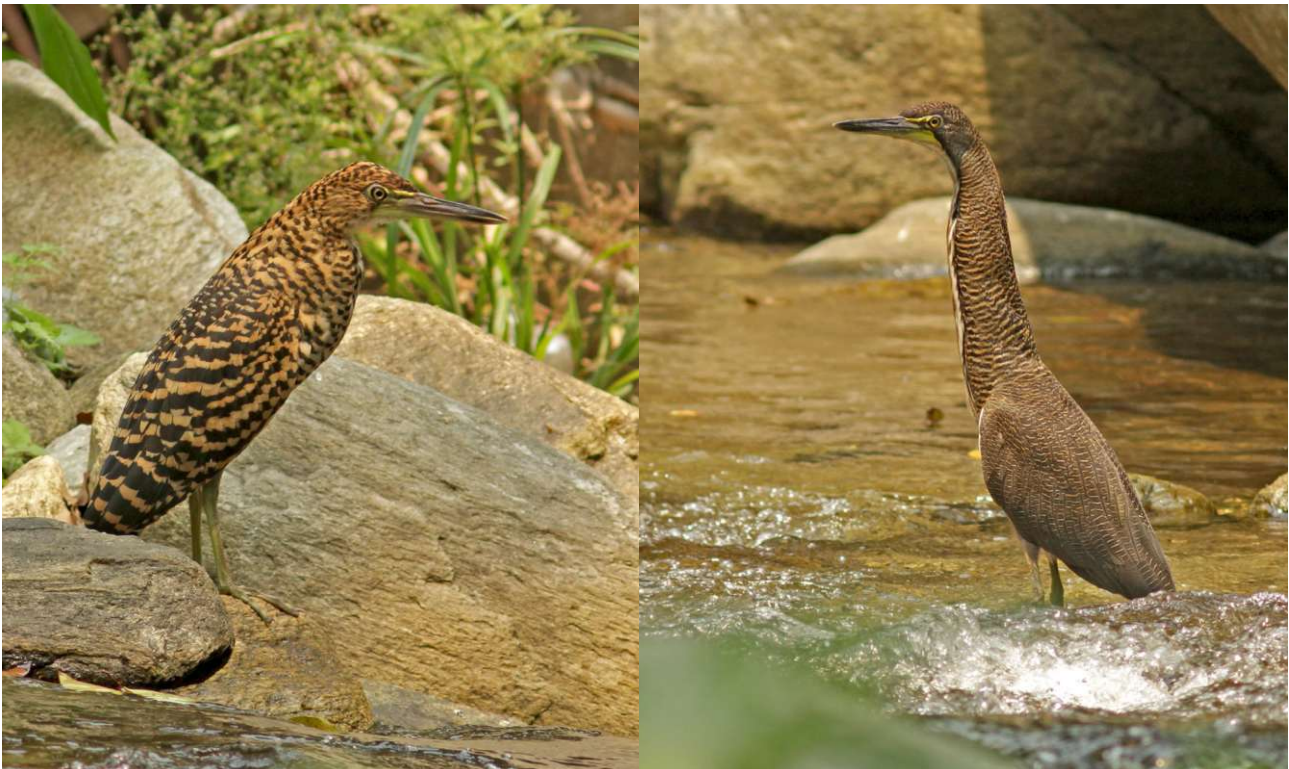
Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

(C) = Critically Endangered, **(E)** = Endangered, **(V)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

Potential splits that are considered reasonably likely to be split in the near future, but that are not yet split by the IOC, are treated as 'allospecies'. Each allospecies is given a unique English name and is identified in its scientific name by a trinomial with the superspecies name preceding it in square brackets.

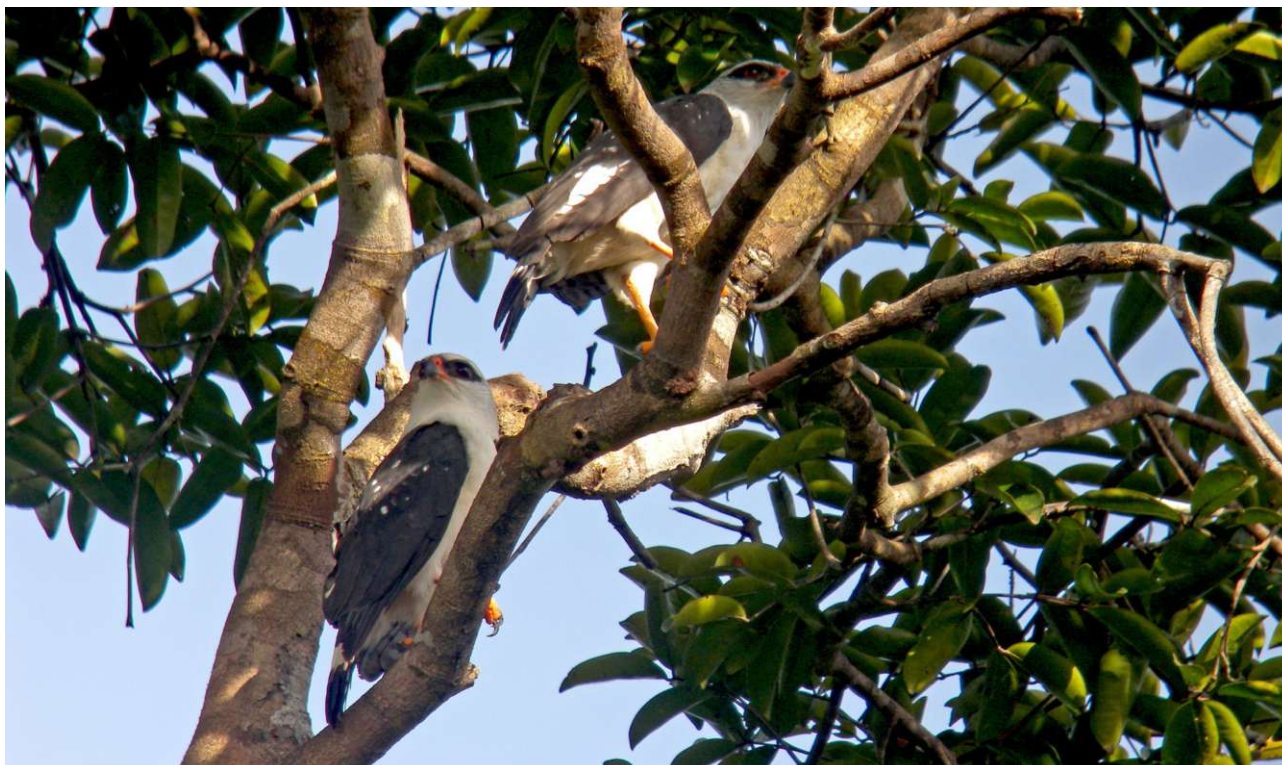
Grey Tinamou ◊ *Tinamus tao* (V) (H) As usual, heard only at Cerro Humo [*septentrionalis*].
Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* (NT) Heard, and one flushed, at Rio Grande [nominate].
Little Tinamou ◊ *Crypturellus soui* (H) A few heard. First heard at the Tunapuy - Guaranos Road [*andrei*].
Variiegated Tinamou *Crypturellus variegatus* (H) Heard distantly along the Gavilan Road, near to Puerto Ayacucho.
Rufous-vented Chachalaca *Ortalis ruficauda* First seen on the way up to Cerro Humo, and a few others [nominate].
Little Chachalaca *Ortalis motmot* One seen briefly at Rio Grande then first seen well near to Las Claritas.
Band-tailed Guan *Penelope argyrotis* Great views of 1 at Rancho Grande in Henri Pittier NP [nominate].
Spix's Guan *Penelope jacquacu* Great views of 2 on the Escalera, and a few others seen and heard during the visit.
Helmeted Curassow ◊ *Pauxi pauxi* (E) Amazing views of 4-5 in Henri Pittier NP. Real stunners - mega! [nominate].
Crested Bobwhite *Colinus cristatus* Two forms: [*mocquersyi*] on the Araya Peninsula; [*parvicristatus*] in the Rio Grande area.
Venezuelan Wood Quail ◊ *Odontophorus columbianus* (NT) (H) Sadly, only heard in Henri Pittier NP.
Horned Screamer ◊ *Anhima cornuta* One gave great views in the marshes near to El Palmar.
White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* First seen at the marshes near to El Palmar.
Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* First seen between Maturin and Puerto Ordaz [nominate].
Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* Largest numbers seen on the Araya Peninsula.
White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* Plenty seen well on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].
Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* A few seen; first seen on the Araya Peninsula [*brachyrhynchus*].
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* A couple on the reservoir south of Caripe [*antarcticus*].
American Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* Good numbers on the Araya Peninsula and also on the Curapano lagoon.
Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* First seen on the journey to Irapa.
Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus* A couple seen as we left Barcelona Airport and seen in Maeacay.
Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber* A few seen on the lagoon at Chacopata and near to Curapano.
Fasciated Tiger Heron ◊ *Tigrisoma fasciatum* Great views of an adult and a juv along the in Henri Pittier NP [*salmonii*].



Fabulous Fasciated Tiger Herons in Henri Pittier National Park. Juvenile on the left, adult on the right (Pete Morris)

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* First seen near to Curapano [*hoactli*].
Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* A couple seen at the lagoon near to Curapano [*cayennensis*].
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Just a couple, first seen on the reservoir south of Caripe [nominate].
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread and abundant.
Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* Just a few on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].
Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* Just a couple, the first at Cano Colorado.
American Great Egret *Ardea [alba] egretta* Common and widespread. Included in Great Egret by the IOC.
Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus* At least 3 seen at Cano Colorado – stunners!

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* A few seen on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Common and widespread [nominate].
Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Common along the coast. First seen in Macuto [*carolinensis*].
Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Also common along the coast and first seen in Macuto.
Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* A single off the Araya Peninsula [nominate].
Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Common, first seen on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].
Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* A few seen. First seen on the reservoir southwest of Caripe [nominate].
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Common and widespread [*ruficollis*].
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* First seen at Cano Colorado, and a couple in the llanos.
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus* A few at Rio Grande, and lowland forests further south.
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Common and widespread.
King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* 1 over the marshes near El Palmar and 1 over the Orinoco at Puerto Ayacucho.
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Several seen. First seen on the Araya Peninsula [*carolinensis*].
Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* Two seen well along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road – smart! [nominate].
Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* Seen very well, perched, along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* First seen at Rio Grande, and several on the Escalera.
Harpy Eagle ◊ *Harpia harpyja* (NT) A 7 month old juv seen well near Rio Grande and amazing views of an adult near Las Claritas!
Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* 4 seen well, first along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [*serus*].
Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* A calling bird scoped circling near Rancho Grande, Henri Pittier NP [nominate].
Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* Two seen circling along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* Common; first seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road.
Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis* Great views of 1 just outside Cariacao [nominate].
Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* One, a few kms from Cariacao was the only one [nominate].
Slender-billed Kite ◊ *Helicolestes hamatus* Excellent views of 2 perched along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road.
Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens* One on the Araya Peninsula and 1 along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* One circling along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis* First seen south of Maturin, 22/3.
Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* A few, first seen at Cerro Negro [nominate].
Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* Common and widespread [nominate].
Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* One seen on the Araya Peninsula [nominate] = Bay-winged Hawk.
White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* 1 south of Maturin and seen on the Escalera and Gran Sabana [nominate].
White Hawk ◊ *Pseudastur albicollis* (NL) One from the bus for some on the Escalera [nominate].
Black-faced Hawk ◊ *Leucopternis melanops* Brilliant views of a pair near to Las Claritas – great birds.



A pair of Black-faced Hawks near to Las Claritas (Pete Morris)

Grey-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus* Just 4 noted. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* Just 2, the first a circling bird seen well en route to Maturin [nominate].
Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* Best views were of 1 perched and flying at Rio Grande. Turkey Vulture mimic!
Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus* First seen well near to Las Claritas. What a racket!
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Common, first seen on the Araya Peninsula.
Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [cordata].
Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* 1 on the Araya Peninsula and 1 briefly near Rio Grande [nominate].
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* Fairly common, first seen on the Araya Peninsula [isabellinus].
Merlin *Falco columbarius* A couple on the Araya Peninsula [nominate] = Taiga Merlin.
Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* Three seen on the Escalera [nominate].
Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias* One seen well along the Gavilan Road, near to Puerto Ayacucho [nominate].
Russet-crowned Crane ◊ *Laterallus viridis* Brilliant views of 1 on the Gran Sabana [nominate].
Grey-necked Wood Rail *Aramides cajeneus* (HNL) Heard by some in the dark at Las Claritas.
Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* First seen on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].
American Coot *Fulica americana* See note.
Caribbean Coot ◊ *Fulica caribaea* (NT) Several (at least 25) seen well on the Araya Peninsula.
Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* Three seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Only seen on the Araya Peninsula, 17/3.
Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* First seen on the Araya Peninsula [cayennensis].
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* A few seen on the Araya Peninsula [cynosurae].
Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* (NT) A couple seen on the Araya Peninsula.
Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris* A smart pair with chicks at the sandpits south of Maturin were a surprise.
Pied Plover *Hoploxypterus cayanus* A pair seen well on the Orinoco near to Puerto Ayacucho.
Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* Two forms: *intermedia* first seen on the Araya Peninsula, nominate near to El Palmar.
South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae* (NL) One flushed on the Escalera [nominate].
Giant Snipe ◊ *Gallinago undulata* One flushed and seen well in flight on the Gran Sabana [nominate].
Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius [phaeopus] hudsonicus* A few seen on the Araya Peninsula. Not yet split by the IOC.
Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Two at the sandpits south of Maturin.
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* A few seen on the Araya Peninsula.
Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* A single just south of El Palmar, and another on the Escalera.
Eastern Willet *Tringa [semipalmata] semipalmata* A few seen on the Araya Peninsula. The 2 willets may well be split soon.
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* A few seen First seen south of Maturin.
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* A few seen on the Araya Peninsula [morinella].
Sanderling *Calidris alba* Two seen on the Araya Peninsula [rubida].
Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* Good numbers seen on the Araya Peninsula.
Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* Good numbers seen with the above on the Araya Peninsula. Nice comparisons.
Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* A few seen on the Araya Peninsula, 18/3.
Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* Two very grubby individuals seen at the sandpits south of Maturin [cinerascens].
Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* (NL) Seen off Caracas by some of the group.
Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* A few seen on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].
Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris* A single seen on the Araya Peninsula.
Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* Many seen well on the Orinoco near to Puerto Ayacucho [nominate].
Rock Dove *Columba livia* Introduced Feral Pigeons only.
Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* A few seen around Las Claritas.
Bare-eyed Pigeon ◊ *Patagioenas corensis* Good numbers on the Araya Peninsula and the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road.
Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* A few seen at Los Venados in Avila NP [nominate].
Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* Several seen. First seen on the way to Cerro Humo [andersoni].
Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* Seen especially well at Rio Grande [bogotensis].
Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* (V) See note.
Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* Several seen. First seen on the Araya Peninsula [stenura].
Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata* Common on the Araya Peninsula and many more seen [ridgwayi].
Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerina* Fairly common and widespread [albivitta].
Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Common and widespread [rufipennis].
White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* Plenty seen. First noted on the Araya Peninsula [verreauxi].
Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* A few in the southern forested areas. First seen at Cano Colorado [verreauxi].
Lined Quail-Dove ◊ *Geotrygon linearis* Several heard at various sites and a couple of brief sightings on Cerro Humo.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna* Four seen in flight at Cano Colorado.
Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloropterus* Just a few seen in flight over the Escalera.
Chestnut-fronted Macaw *Ara severus* Seen each evening, by those looking, at the hotel in Maracay [*verreauxi*].
Brown-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula pertinax* Quite common. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road.
Scarlet-fronted Parakeet *Psittacara wagleri* Seen at the Oilbird Cave, Cerro Negro and in Henri Pittier NP [*transilis*].
White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus* Seen at Cano Colorado and around Rio Grande [nominate].
Painted Parakeet *Pyrrhura picta* Three seen well perched at Rio Grande [nominate].
Venezuelan Parakeet ◊ *Pyrrhura emma* Seen well at Cerro Humo, and around Cerro Negro.
Fiery-shouldered Parakeet ◊ *Pyrrhura egregia* Several sightings of this endemic along the Escalera [*obscura*].
Blood-eared Parakeet ◊ *Pyrrhura hoematotis* Best views were in Henri Pittier NP [nominate].
Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus* Just a few. First seen at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande.
Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis* A few seen well low down in Henri Pittier NP [*exsul*].
Golden-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris chrysoptera* Best views were of perched birds at Cano Colorado [nominate].
Black-headed Parrot *Pionites melanocephalus* Best views of this cracker were along the track at Las Claritas [nominate].
Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* Common in the south. First seen at Cano Colorado [*menstruus*].
Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus* Seen well at Cerro Negro [*antelius*] and in Henri Pittier NP [nominate].
Blue-cheeked Amazon ◊ *Amazona dufresniana* (NT) Several seen in the Las Claritas area.
Yellow-crowned Amazon *Amazona ochrocephala* Seen at Cano Colorado and at Rio Grande [nominate].
Orange-winged Amazon *Amazona amazonica* Common and widespread. First seen below Cerro Humo.
Mealy Amazon *Amazona farinosa* A single perched briefly at Rio Grande [nominate].
Red-fan Parrot ◊ *Deroptryus accipitrinus* A superb pair seen well near to Las Claritas [nominate].
Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin* Great views of about 5 along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road. A crowd pleaser!
Greater Ani *Crotophaga major* Seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road and at Cano Colorado. Great calls.
Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Common and widespread. First seen on the Araya Peninsula.
Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* Many heard and one seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Little Cuckoo *Coccyua minuta* Great views of 2 along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* First seen on the Araya Peninsula [*mehleri*]. South of the Orinoco we saw the nominate.
Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* One flew across the road on the way to El Palmar [*hellmayri*].
Tropical Screech Owl *Megascops choliba* Great views of one on the last morning in Henri Pittier NP [*cruciger*].
Roraiman Screech Owl ◊ *Megascops roraimae* Great spotlight views of 1 low down on the Escalera, 29/3.
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* Seen at Cerro Negro and Henri Pittier NP. Others heard [*phalenooides*].
Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* A pair seen very well near to Rio Grande [*brachyptera*].
Oilbird ◊ *Steatornis caripensis* Great views of c50 in the Oilbird Cave at Caripe as usual. Amazing sounds!
Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* One heard and seen twice in flight on the lower Escalera [nominate].
Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus* A single in flight on the lower Escalera.
White-tailed Nightjar ◊ *Hydrosalis cayennensis* A male seen well on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].
Rufous Nightjar *Antrostomus rufus* Excellent views of a singing bird in Henri Pittier NP [*minimus*].
Tepui Swift ◊ *Streptoprocne helpsi* Seen very well a number of time from Las Claritas to the Upper Escalera.
White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* Two forms - *minor north* and *albicincta* south of the Orinoco.
Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus* A few. First seen near Las Claritas [nominate].
Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* First seen near Las Claritas [*guianensis*] = Ash-rumped.
Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi* Seen well in Henri Pittier NP [*aphanes*].
Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura* Distinctive shape - first seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
White-tipped Swift *Aeronautes montivagus* See note.
Neotropical Palm Swift *Tachornis squamata* Just a few, first seen below Cerro Humo [*semota*].
Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsutus* A few. First seen well at Cano Colorado [nominate].
Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* A few seen well, especially at Cerro Humo [nominate].
Long-tailed Hermit *Phaethornis superciliosus* Seen well around Rio Grande, and others seen later in the trip [nominate].
Straight-billed Hermit *Phaethornis bourcierii* A few seen well on the Escalera [nominate].
Sooty-capped Hermit ◊ *Phaethornis augusti* Seen at Cerro Humo, and then well on the drive to Caripe [nominate].
Little Hermit ◊ *Phaethornis longuemareus* A few at Cano Colorado, including one in an amazing helicopter display!
Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber* Excellent views of 1 at Rio Grande [*episcopus*].
Stripe-throated Hermit ◊ *Phaethornis striigularis* A couple of sightings in Henri Pittier NP [*ignobilis*].
Blue-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera johannae* One seen well, scoped, on the Escalera [*guianensis*].
Grey-breasted Sabrewing *Campylopterus largipennis* Best views in Henry's garden at Las Claritas [nominate].
Rufous-breasted Sabrewing ◊ *Campylopterus hyperythrus* Several seen well on the upper Escalera.



Brown Violetear (left) and Sparkling Violetear (Pete Morris)

- White-tailed Sabrewing** ◇ *Campylopterus ensipennis* (NT) One on Cerro Humo, and several seen well on Cerro Negro.
- White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* First seen at Cano Colorado, and a few at Rio Grande [nominate].
- Brown Violetear** *Colibri delphinae* First seen on the Escalera, and also seen at the Caracas feeders.
- Green Violetear** *Colibri thalassinus* Singles at Cerro Negro [*kerdeli*] and the feeders in Caracas [*cyanotus*].
- Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans* Common at the feeders at Casa Colibri Amaranta in Caracas.
- Black-throated Mango** *Anthracothorax nigricollis* Common. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road.
- Crimson Topaz** ◇ *Topaza pella* A very special visitor to Henry's garden at Las Claritas [nominate].
- Tufted Coquette** ◇ *Lophornis ornatus* Good scope views of a female at Rio Grande.
- Peacock Coquette** ◇ *Lophornis pavoninus* Brilliant views of several males and a female on the Escalera. Crackers!



A superb male Peacock Coquette and the colourful Golden-tailed Sapphire (Pete Morris)

- Racket-tailed Coquette** ◇ *Discosura longicaudus* Excellent and prolonged views of a female at Rio Grande.
- Blue-chinned Sapphire** *Chlorestes notata* A few seen. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
- Blue-tailed Emerald** *Chlorostilbon mellisugus* Singles on the Araya Peninsula [*caribaeus*] and El Palmar [*subfurcatus*].
- Green-tailed Emerald** ◇ *Chlorostilbon alicia* Several seen very well on Cerro Negro, 21/3.
- Fork-tailed Woodnymph** *Thalurania furcata* Seen well north [*refulgens*] and south [*fissilis*] of the Orinoco.
- Rufous-throated Sapphire** ◇ *Hylocharis sapphirina* Good scope views of a male at Rio Grande. Reddish tail obvious!



More cracking hummingbirds, clockwise from top left: A fine male Fork-tailed Woodnymph; a feeding Black-throated Mango; a stretching Sooty-capped Hermit; a fine Copper-rumped Hummingbird and a splendid male Violet-fronted Brilliant (Pete Morris)

- White-chinned Sapphire** *Hylocharis cyanus* A few seen. First seen well at Rio Grande [*viridiventris*].
- Golden-tailed Sapphire** ◇ *Chrysuronia oenone* Seen in Henri Pittier NP, and common at the Caracas feeders.
- Buffy Hummingbird** ◇ *Leucippus fallax* Very common and many seen well on the Araya Peninsula.
- Versicolored Emerald** *Amazilia versicolor* Several seen well along the Gavilan Road, near Puerto Ayacucho [*millerij*].
- White-chested Emerald** ◇ *Amazilia brevirostris* Great views of several. First seen at Cano Colorado.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata* First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Copper-rumped Hummingbird ◊ *Amazilia tobaci* See note.
White-vented Plumeleteer *Chalybura buffonii* Common at Casa Colibri Amaranta in Caracas [*aeneicauda*].
Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys* A single seen at Los Venados in Avila NP [*aeneosticta*].
Velvet-browed Brilliant ◊ *Heliodoxa xanthogonys* Fairly common on the Escalera, with many brilliant views!
Violet-fronted Brilliant ◊ *Heliodoxa leadbeateri* A cracker, common at Casa Colibri Amaranta in Caracas.
Scissor-tailed Hummingbird ◊ *Hylonympha macrocerca* (E) Brilliant views at Cerro Humo, including at least 2 or 3 males.
Long-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus kingii* A few seen in Henri Pittier NP [*margarethae*].
Black-eared Fairy *Heliostyris auritus* First seen at Rio Grande, where we had great views of a couple.
Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* First seen at Cerro Negro and then common at Henry's feeders [nominate].
Amethyst Woodstar *Calliphlox amethystina* A female seen well along the Gavilan Road, near Puerto Ayacucho.
Rufous-shafted Woodstar ◊ *Chaetocercus jourdanii* Great views of several males at Cerro Negro.
White-tipped Quetzal ◊ *Pharomachrus fulgidus* Brilliant views at Cerro Humo and in Henri Pittier NP. A stunner.
Green-backed (or Amazonian White-tailed) Trogon *Trogon viridis* First seen on Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Guianan Trogon ◊ *Trogon violaceus* Good scope views at Las Claritas. A split from Violaceous Trogon *T. violaceus*.
Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus* Excellent views of a male at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande [nominate].
Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* First seen on Cerro Humo and seen again around Henri Pittier NP [*exoptatus*].
Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus* A few seen well on the Escalera [*ptaritepui*].
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* Singles seen at the marshes near El Palmar and in Henri Pittier NP [nominate].
Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* Singles seen at the marshes near El Palmar and in Henri Pittier NP.
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Just 1, at the sandpits south of Maturin.
Amazonian Motmot *Momotus momota* (H) Only heard at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande.
Brown Jacamar *Brachygalba lugubris* Great views of three by the river on the Gran Sabana.
Yellow-billed Jacamar *Galbula albirostris* Brilliant views of a pair in the forest near to Las Claritas [nominate].
Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* Great views of one on the Araya Peninsula. Many more heard [nominate].
Green-tailed Jacamar ◊ *Galbula galbula* Best were the pair seen well along the Gavilan Road, near Puerto Ayacucho.
Paradise Jacamar *Galbula dea* Great views of a pair at Rio Grande [nominate].
Great Jacamar *Jacamerops aureus* (H) Sadly, only heard at Rio Grande and on the Escalera [nominate].
White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperhynchus* Seen well on the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road and Cano Colorado [nominate].
Guianan Puffbird ◊ *Notharchus macrorhynchus* Seen very well at a couple of sites near to Las Claritas.
Pied Puffbird *Notharchus tectus* Good views of a moulting juv near to Las Claritas [nominate].
Two-banded Puffbird ◊ *Hypnelus bicinctus* Seen well on the Araya Peninsula and a couple of other sites later [nominate].
Black Nunbird ◊ *Monasa atra* First seen at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande and just a handful of others.



Guianan Puffbird (left) was recently split from White-necked Puffbird (Pete Morris)

Swallow-winged Puffbird *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* Common after our first at Cano Colorado [nominate].
 Black-spotted Barbet ◊ *Capito niger* Good views of a pair on the lower Escalera. A smart speciality.
 Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus* A pair seen well along the Gavilan Road, near Puerto Ayacucho [*aurantiicinctus*].
 Groove-billed Toucanet ◊ *Aulacorhynchus sulcatus* See note.
 Whitely's Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus whitelianus* Great views of one on the lower Escalera (formerly Chestnut-tipped).
 Green Aracari *Pteroglossus viridis* Small but smart. Many great views, first seen at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande.
 Black-necked Aracari *Pteroglossus aracari* Fairly common. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [*atricollis*].
 Many-banded Aracari *Pteroglossus pluricinctus* One seen well along the Gavilan Road, near Puerto Ayacucho.
 Guianan Toucanet ◊ *Selenidera piperivora* Fantastic views of a stunning pair on the lower Escalera. What a bird!
 Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* Heard several times before first being seen near to Las Claritas.
 White-throated Toucan *Ramphastos tucanus* First seen along the Tunapuy to Guaraunos Road [nominate] = Red-billed.
 Golden-spangled Piculet *Picumnus exilis* First seen at Rio Grande [*clarus*] and seen on the Escalera [*undulatus*].
 Black-dotted Piculet ◊ *Picumnus nigropunctatus* Great views at the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road and Cano Colorado.



The endemic Black-dotted Piculet showed well at a couple of sites. The more widespread Golden-olive Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker (above left) and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers (this bird was strangely faded) all showed well (Pete Morris)

Scaled Piculet *Picumnus squamulatus* See note.
 Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* A few seen. First seen in the Rio Grande area.
 Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus* A common bird, first seen on the Araya Peninsula.
 Golden-collared Woodpecker *Veniliornis cassini* At least one in a mixed flock at on the lower Escalera.
 Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* Two forms: *rubiginosus* first on Cerro Humo and *guianae* on the Escalera.
 Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula* Great views of one near to Puerto Ayacucho [*punctipectus*].
 Waved Woodpecker ◊ *Celeus undatus* After hearing a few, eventually seen well near to Las Claritas [nominate].
 Chestnut Woodpecker *Celeus elegans* Great views of 1 in the forest near to Las Claritas [*jumanus*].
 Cream-colored Woodpecker *Celeus flavus* Seen very well along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road. A few others seen [nominate].
 Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* A single below Cerro Humo was the first of a dozen or so [nominate].
 Red-necked Woodpecker *Campephilus rubricollis* Brilliant views of a stunning male at a nest near Las Claritas [nominate].
 Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* A few seen, including a strangely faded individual.
 Black-throated Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis castanea* A cracking pair seen very well at Los Venados, Avila NP.
 Stripe-breasted Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis cinnamomea* See note.
 Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens* See note.
 McConnell's Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis macconnelli* Excellent views of 1 on the upper Escalera, and others heard [nominate].
 Crested Spinetail ◊ *Cranioleuca subcristata* A pair seen well at Los Venados, and incredible views in Henri Pittier NP.
 Tepui Spinetail ◊ *Cranioleuca demissa* A few seen well high up on the Escalera [nominate].
 Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* Seen near to El Palmar [*orenocensis*] and heard on the Paria [nominate].
 Plain Thornbird *Phacellodomus inornatus* First seen south of Caripe and common at Cano Colorado [*castilloi*].
 White-throated Barbtail ◊ *Premnoplex tatei* See note.
 Roraiman Barbtail ◊ *Roraimia adusta* Brilliant views of a pair and then a single on the Upper Escalera [nominate].
 Streaked Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii* One seen well in a feeding flock in Henri Pittier NP [*striaticeps*].
 Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis* A couple seen in Henri Pittier NP [*venezuelana*].
 Guttulate Foliage-gleaner ◊ *Syndactyla guttulata* See note.
 Tepui Foliage-gleaner ◊ *Syndactyla roraimae* After much searching, great views of a pair on the upper Escalera, [nominate].



The endemic Tepui Foliage-gleaner eventually showed well on the Escalera (Pete Morris)

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufum* Seen at Los Venados and in Henri Pittier NP [*columbianum*].
 Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus* (H) Heard along the lower Escalera [*turdinus*].
 Olive-backed Foliage-gleaner *Automolus infuscatus* Good views of 1 at Rio Grande [*cervicalis*].
 Grey-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus albigularis* (NT) Several at Cerro Negro, with some great views [nominate].

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* Just two seen, the first seen at Rio Grande [*ruficaudus*].

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* See note.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* First seen well at Cerro Negro [*griseus*]. Distinctive song.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* First seen well at Rio Grande [nominate].

Strong-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus* Brilliant views of a pair in Henri Pittier NP [*procerus*].

Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes certhia* Several seen well near to Las Claritas [nominate].

Black-banded Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* See note.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Dendroplex picus* Only seen near to Puerto Ayacucho [*duidae*].

Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper ◊ *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus* Seen in flocks at Rio Grande and Las Claritas [*caurensis*].

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* See note.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* First seen at Cerro Humo [*jardineij*] and heard in Henri Pittier NP [*nana*].

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* One seen below Cerro Humo, others heard [*littoralis*].

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* Seen well at Los Venados and Henri Pittier NP, [*lafresnayij*].

Black-throated Antshrike ◊ *Frederickena viridis* A very sneaky male gave a few views at Rio Grande.

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* A cracker, first seen well below Cerro Humo [*semifasciatus*].

Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphorus canadensis* Seen well on the Araya Peninsula and near Puerto Ayacucho [*trinitatis*].

Black-backed Antshrike ◊ *Thamnophilus melanonotus* Great views of a male in Henri Pittier NP.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* A pair seen well on the Araya Peninsula, others heard [*fraterculus*].

Mouse-colored Antshrike *Thamnophilus murinus* A few heard, and a male seen at Rio Grande [nominate].

Northern (or Guianan) Slaty Antshrike ◊ *Thamnophilus punctatus* Seen at Cano Colorado and Puerto Ayacucho [nominate].

Streak-backed Antshrike ◊ *Thamnophilus insignis* Brilliant views of a pair on the upper Escalera [nominate].

Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis* Excellent views of a few in Henri Pittier NP [*cumbreanus*].

Dusky-throated Antshrike *Thamnomanes ardesiacus* Seen well in a flock at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande [*obidensis*].

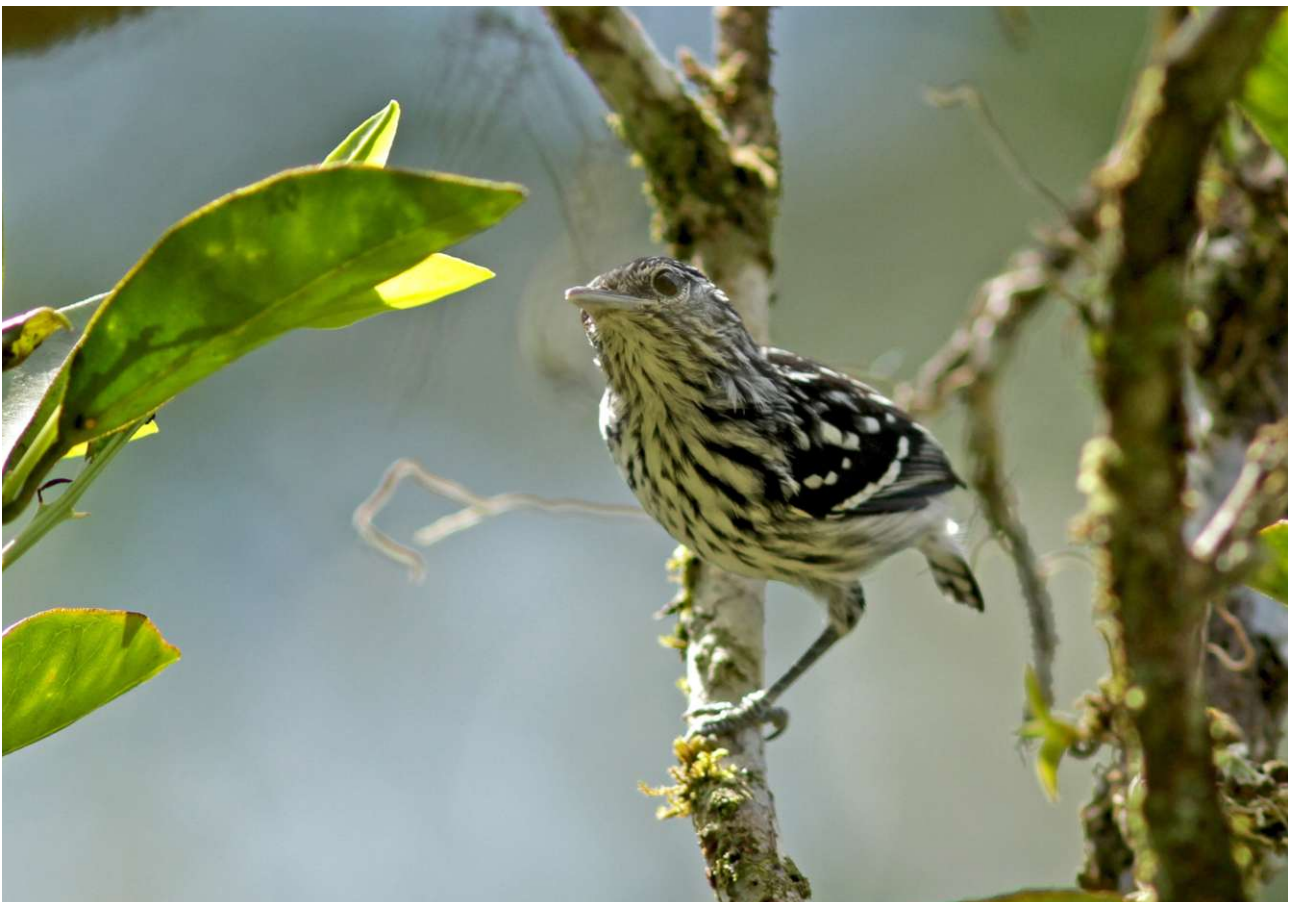
Cinereous Antshrike *Thamnomanes caesius* The flock leader, first seen at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande [*glaucus*].

Brown-bellied Antwren ◊ *Epinecrophylla gutturalis* (NT) Also seen well in understorey flocks at Rio Grande.

Rufous-bellied Antwren ◊ *Iseria guttata* A lovely male seen well at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande.

Pygmy Antwren *Myrmotherula brachyura* A single seen well at Rio Grande.

Guianan Streaked Antwren ◊ *Myrmotherula surinamensis* (V) First seen well near Las Claritas.



This Guianan Streaked Antwren was in the garden at Las Claritas (Pete Morris)

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor* Seen at Cerro Humo, Cerro Negro and Henri Pittier [*sanctaemartae*].

Long-winged Antwren *Myrmotherula longipennis* Seen well in a mixed understory flocks at Rio Grande [nominate].

Plain-winged Antwren ◇ *Myrmotherula behni* A pair in a flock on the upper Escalera were a pleasant surprise [*inornata*].

Grey Antwren *Myrmotherula menetriesii* Seen around Rio Grande [*cinereiventris*] and near Puerto Ayacucho [*pallida*].

Spot-tailed Antwren ◇ *Herpsilochmus sticturus* See note.

Todd's Antwren ◇ *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus* See note.

Roraiman Antwren ◇ *Herpsilochmus roraimae* Fairly common along the Escalera, several seen well [nominate].

Northern White-fringed Antwren *Formicivora intermedia* Seen well on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].

Ash-winged Antwren *Terenura spodioptila* Good scope views in the mixed flock on the Escalera [nominate].

Grey Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens* A few of these skulkers heard during the trip; 1 seen at Rio Grande [*immaculata*].

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina* Good views of a pair at Rio Grande. Others heard [nominate].

Jet Antbird *Cercomacra nigricans* Excellent views of 2+ at Cano Colorado [nominate].

White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* (H) One heard at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande [*angustirostris*].

Guianan Warbling Antbird ◇ *Hypocnemis cantator* (NT) Excellent views on the lower Escalera [*notaea*].

Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia* See note.

Roraiman Antbird ◇ *Schistocichla saturata* Excellent views of a sneaky pair on the lower Escalera [*obscura*].

White-bellied Antbird *Myrmeciza longipes* Great views of a superb male at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande [*griseipectus*].

Ferruginous-backed Antbird ◇ *Myrmeciza ferruginea* Brilliant views of a pair at Rio Grande. One of the best! [nominate].

Black-throated Antbird *Myrmeciza atrothorax* Great views of a pair near Las Claritas [nominate].

White-plumed Antbird ◇ *Pithys albifrons* Excellent views of several stunners attending an antswarm at Rio Grande [nominate].

Rufous-throated Antbird ◇ *Gymnopithys rufigula* Great views at antswarms at Rio Grande and Las Claritas [*pallidus*].

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* Great views at Cerro Humo and also seen in Henri Pittier NP [*saturatus*].

Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona* See note.

Schwartz's Antthrush ◇ *Chamaeza turdina* Great bird, seen well in the highest parts of Henri Pittier NP [*chionogaster*].

Scaled Antpitta *Grallaria guatemalensis* (H) A few heard along the middle Escalera [*roraimae*].

Plain-backed Antpitta ◇ *Grallaria haplonota* See note.

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta *Grallaria ruficapilla* A few heard, and seen by some of the group at Los Venados [*avilae*].

Thrush-like Antpitta *Myrmothera campanisona* (H) A single heard low down on the Escalera [nominate].

Tepui Antpitta ◇ *Myrmothera simplex* Brilliant views for all the group on the upper Escalera. Others heard [nominate].

Scallop-breasted Antpitta ◇ *Grallaricula loricata* (NT) Brilliant views of 2-3 of these crackers in Henri Pittier NP.

Sucre Antpitta ◇ *Grallaricula cumanensis* (V) Great views on Cerro Humo [*pariae*]. Bominated heard on Cerro Negro.

Caracas Tapaculo ◇ *Scytalopus caracae* A few heard and one seen at Los Venados in Avila NP.

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* Seen well at Rio Grande and in Henri Pittier NP [*chlorion*].

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseiceps* Excellent views of a pair at Cerro Humo [*cristatus*].



Sooty-capped Tyrannulet, like many in the family, is most easily identified by its song! (Pete Morris)

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus* First seen below Cerro Humo.

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii* First seen well at Cano Colorado. Many others heard and seen [*bogotensis*].

Yellow-crowned Elaenia ◊ *Myiopagis flavivertex* Brilliant views of a responsive bird at Cano Colorado.



Two more subtleties of the tyrant flycatcher world! Forest Elaenia (left) and the localized Yellow-crowned Elaenia (Pete Morris)

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* First seen on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].

Plain-crested Elaenia *Elaenia cristata* A couple seen well on the Gran Sabana.

Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis* One showed well on the Araya Peninsula [*albivertex*].

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii* One seen well at Los Venados, Avila NP [*pubida*].

Tepui Elaenia *Elaenia olivina* See note.

White-lored Tyrannulet *Ornithion inermis* Good views of a pair on the lower Escalera.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* Very few. First seen at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande [*venezuelae*].

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys* Seen at Cerro Negro [*nigriceps*] and Los Venados [*palliditergum*].

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina* A drab bird, seen well on the Araya Peninsula [*incomta*].

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola* Excellent views at Cano Colorado [*cerula*].

Venezuelan Tyrannulet ◊ *Zimmerius petersi* A few seen well in Henri Pittier NP.

Guianan Tyrannulet ◊ *Zimmerius acer* See note.

Coopmans's Tyrannulet ◊ *Zimmerius minimus* See note.

Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant *Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus* Several seen well in Henri Pittier NP [*purus*].

Venezuelan Bristle Tyrant ◊ *Pogonotriccus venezuelanus* (NT) See note.

Black-fronted Tyrannulet ◊ *Phylloscartes nigrifrons* A few seen well on the upper Escalera.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus* First seen at Cerro Humo and several in Henri Pittier NP [*venezuelensis*].

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* A single seen at Cerro Humo [*pallidiventris*].

McConnell's Flycatcher ◊ *Mionectes macconnelli* A couple seen on the upper Escalera [*roraimae*].

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* A few seen on the lower Escalera [*obscuritergum*].

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris* A few seen in Henri Pittier NP [*venezuelensis*].

Northern Scrub Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum* A few seen well on the Araya Peninsula [*glaber*].

Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus galeatus* Particularly good views along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road.

Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant *Atalotriccus pilaris* A few seen well at Cano Colorado [*griseiceps*].

Ruddy Tody-Flycatcher ◊ *Poecilotriccus russatus* Brilliant views on the upper Escalera. A real stunner.

Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus sylvia* Seen well at Cano Colorado. A smart little bird [*griseolus*].

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* Just a few seen. First seen below Cerro Humo [nominate].

Painted Tody-Flycatcher ◊ *Todirostrum pictum* Excellent scope views of one at Rio Grande.

Olivaceous Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus* Seen well in mixed flocks at Rio Grande [*guianensis*].

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* See note.



The Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant is a little more obvious, especially with its crest up (Pete Morris)

- Zimmer's Flatbill** *Tolmomyias assimilis* Many heard, first seen on the lower Escalera [*examinatus*].
- Grey-crowned Flatbill** *Tolmomyias poliocephalus* Seen well at Rio Grande and on the lower Escalera [*klagesi*].
- Ochre-lored Flatbill** *Tolmomyias flaviventris* Seen well on the Araya Peninsula [*collingwoodi*].
- Cinnamon Flycatcher** *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus* Seen at Cerro Humo [*pariae*], Cerro Negro and Henri Pittier NP [*spadix*].
- Cliff Flycatcher** *Hirundinea ferruginea* Four seen on the lower Escalera [n nominate].
- Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* One on the river low down in Henri Pittier NP [*angustirostris*] = White-winged.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi* A single near to the Choroni Pass, in Henri Pittier NP.
- Smoke-colored Pewee** *Contopus fumigatus* Seen on the Escalera, [*duidae*] and in Henri Pittier NP [*cineraceus*].
- Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus* A pair seen well at Cerro Humo [*bogotensis*].
- Pied Water Tyrant** *Fluvicola pica* Seen on the Araya Peninsula and along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road
- White-headed Marsh Tyrant** *Arundinicola leucocephala* A few. First seen at the reservoir south of Caripe.
- Long-tailed Tyrant** *Colonia colonus* A pair seen at Rio Grande [*poecilonota*].
- Cattle Tyrant** *Machetornis rixosa* A few at the marshes near to El Palmar [*flavigularis*].
- Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* Distinctive voice and many heard. First seen at Cano Colorado [n nominate].
- Rusty-margined Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes cayanensis* Common. Seen north [*rufipennis*] and south [n nominate] of the Orinoco.
- Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* Common. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [*columbianus*].
- Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* Common. Seen north [*rufipennis*] and south [*trinitatis*] of the Orinoco.
- Lesser Kiskadee** *Philohydor lictor* Excellent views along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [n nominate].
- Yellow-throated Flycatcher** *Conopias parvus* Three seen well on the lower Escalera, and others heard there.
- Golden-crowned Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus* Seen at Los Venados and in Henri Pittier NP [*cinerascens*].
- Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* A few, first seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road, 20/3.
- Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* Just a few. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [n nominate].
- Variegated Flycatcher** *Empidonomus varius* Four seen. First 1 along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road, [*rufinus*].
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* Common. Seen north [*satrapa*] and south [n nominate] of the Orinoco.
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana* Especially common near to Puerto Ayacucho. Assumed to be *monachus*.
- Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* A few heard but first seen at Rio Grande [*pallidus*].
- Swainson's Flycatcher** *Myiarchus swainsoni* A calling bird seen well on the Escalera [*phaeonotus*] = Whately's F.
- Venezuelan Flycatcher** ◇ *Myiarchus venezuelensis* Great views of calling in Henri Pittier NP.
- Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* Several seen well on the Araya Peninsula [n nominate].
- Cinnamon Attila** *Attila cinnamomeus* Seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road and at Cano Colorado.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus* (H) A few heard. First heard at Cerro Humo [nominate].

Golden-breasted Fruiteater ◊ *Pipreola aureopectus* Seen very well at Los Venados and again in Henri Pittier NP [festiva].

Handsome Fruiteater ◊ *Pipreola formosa* See note.

Red-banded Fruiteater ◊ *Pipreola whitelyi* Fantastic views of a calling male on the upper Escalera [kathleenae].

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock ◊ *Rupicola rupicola* Several great views of these fireballs on the Escalera.

Spangled Cotinga ◊ *Cotinga cayana* A male seen well along the Gavilan Road, near to Puerto Ayacucho.

White Bellbird ◊ *Procnias albus* Vocal on the Escalera where at least 3 different males were seen well [nominate].

Bearded Bellbird *Procnias averano* Commonly heard on the upper Escalera where one male was seen well [carnobarba].

Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans* Several heard during the tour and seen well around Rio Grande.

Rose-collared Piha ◊ *Lipaugus streptophorus* At least 4, including some cracking males, seen on the upper Escalera.

Pompadour Cotinga ◊ *Xipholena punicea* An immature male seen well on the lower Escalera.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata* Seen at Rio Grande and near to Las Claritas.

Capuchinbird ◊ *Perissocephalus tricolor* Great views of 4, seemingly lekking birds, near to Las Claritas. Brilliant!

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin *Tyranneutes stolzmanni* One seen very well along the Gavilan Road, near Puerto Ayacucho.

Tiny Tyrant-Manakin ◊ *Tyranneutes virescens* Great views of one at Santa Fe, near to Rio Grande, Many others heard.

White-throated Manakin ◊ *Corapipo gutturalis* Superb scope views of a brilliant male at Santa Fe, near Rio Grande.

Orange-bellied Manakin ◊ *Lepidothrix suavisima* Seemed scarce this year, with just 2 seen on the Escalera.

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* (H) Heard along the Gavilan Road, near to Puerto Ayacucho.

Lance-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia lanceolata* 2-3 seen on the way to Caripe and excellent views of a male in Henri Pittier NP.

Olive Manakin ◊ *Xenopipo uniformis* A few seen very well on the Escalera [nominate].

Crimson-hooded Manakin ◊ *Pipra aureola* Seen well along the Tunapuy to Guaraunos Road and at Cano Colorado [nominate].

White-crowned Manakin *Dixiphia pipra* Good views of a male near to Las Claritas, others heard [nominate].

Scarlet-horned Manakin ◊ *Dixiphia cornuta* Eventually, great views of a stunning male on the upper Escalera.

Golden-headed Manakin *Dixiphia erythrocephala* Several seen well. First seen below Cerro Humo.

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor* Seen twice. First seen well along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [erythrogenys].

Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana* Seen near to Las Claritas and near to Puerto Ayacucho [nominate].

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* Heard and seen by some in Henri Pittier NP [columbiana].

Guianan Schiffornis ◊ *Schiffornis olivacea* Fantastic views of a responsive bird at Rio Grande. A recent split.

Chestnut-crowned Becard *Pachyramphus castaneus* Great views of a few in Henri Pittier NP [intermedius].

Black-capped Becard *Pachyramphus marginatus* Good views of a pair in a mixed flock on the lower Escalera [nanus].

Pink-throated Becard *Pachyramphus minor* A female seen in a mixed flock at Rio Grande.



This Chestnut-crowned Becard showed very well in Henri Pittier NP (Pete Morris)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Seen north [*flavipectus*] and south [nominate] of the Orinoco.
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* Seen well at Rio Grande and on the lower Escalera. A flock leader.
Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* Seen well at Cerro Humo, and in Henri Pittier NP [*mirandae*].
Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* See note.
Tepui Greenlet ◇ *Hylophilus sclateri* Several seen well on the Escalera. First seen on the upper Escalera, 27/3.
Golden-fronted Greenlet *Hylophilus aurantiifrons* A few seen well. First seen at Cerro Humo [*saturatus*].
Buff-cheeked Greenlet ◇ *Hylophilus muscicapinus* Seen well in flocks at Rio Grande and the lower Escalera.
Scrub Greenlet *Hylophilus flavipes* Several on the Araya Peninsula and a few others seen [*acuticauda*].
Tawny-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus ochraceiceps* Great views in the big mixed flock on the lower Escalera [*ferrugineifrons*].
Cayenne Jay ◇ *Cyanocorax cayanus* First seen at Santa Fe, near El Palmar. Several other groups seen in the south.
Inca Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* First seen near to the Oilbird Caves at Caripe. Also in Henri Pittier NP [*guatemalensis*].
White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer* A handful seen. First seen at the hotel at Cariaco.
Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Common, first seen on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].
Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* Quite common. First seen in Caripe [nominate].
Black-collared Swallow ◇ *Atticora melanoleuca* Many seen well on the Orinoco near to Puerto Ayacucho.
Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Nominate first seen on the Araya Peninsula, *aequalis* at Los Venados.
Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopochelidon fucata* Great views of several of these smart swallows on the Gran Sabana.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Seen on 4 dates. First seen on the Araya Peninsula [*erythrogaster*].
Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla* First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].



The amazing Black-capped Donacobius (Pete Morris)

Stripe-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus nuchalis* Best views along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].
Bicolored Wren *Campylorhynchus griseus* A few seen. This hulking wren was first seen on the Araya Peninsula [*minor*].
Whiskered Wren ◇ *Pheugopedius mystacalis* Great views of a singing bird in Henri Pittier NP.
Coraya Wren *Pheugopedius coraya* One seen and others heard on the Escalera [*ridgwayi*].
Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus* Seen well at Cerro Humo, and again at Cerro Negro [nominate].
Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryophilus rufalbus* First seen at Cerro Humo, also seen in Henri Pittier NP [*cumanensis*].
Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus leucotis* First seen well at Cano Colorado [*albipectus*].
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* First seen below Cerro Humo. The form *clarus* is part of Southern House Wren.
White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta* Great views of a pair at Rio Grande [nominate] = Black-capped W W.
Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* Heard at Los Venados, then seen well in Henri Pittier NP [*venezuelensis*].

Southern Nightingale-Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* Great views of one in Henri Pittier NP [*squamulatus*].

Flutist Wren ◊ *Microcerculus ustulatus* Superb views of one for all on the Escalera. Kept hopping around us [*obscurus*].

Musician Wren ◊ *Cyphorhinus arada* Good views of 1 to at Rio Grande. Amazing song [*urbanoi*].

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Many heard. First seen on the way to Caripe, [*melanurus*-group].

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea* Seen on the Araya Peninsula [*plumbiceps*] and near El Palmar [*innotata*].

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* Abundant on the Araya Peninsula [*melanopterus*].

Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloides* A couple seen well near to the Choroní Pass, in Henri Pittier NP [*venezuelensis*].

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantirostris* A singing bird seen well at Los Venados, Avila NP [n nominate].

Yellow-legged Thrush *Turdus flavipes* Seen in the northeast [*melanopleurus*] and at Henri Pittier NP [*venezuelensis*].

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* Seen at Cerro Negro [*cumanensis*] and at Los Venados/Henri Pittier NP [*atrosericeus*].

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas* Best seen near to the Oilbird caves [*albiventer*].

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis* Several seen well on the Escalera [*murinus*].

Cocoa Thrush *Turdus fumigatus* Great views of 1 in a fruiting tree at the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road. Others heard [*aquilionalis*].

Spectacled Thrush (Bare-eyed T) *Turdus nudigenis* Best views along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [n nominate].

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis* Seen at Cerro Humo and Henri Pittier NP [*phaeopygoides*].

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthogastra* A few seen at Cerro Humo.

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica* (H) Heard near to Puerto Ayacucho [*cynophora*].

Trinidad Euphonia *Euphonia trinitatis* Seen on the Araya Peninsula and around Henri Pittier NP.

Violaceous Euphonia ◊ *Euphonia violacea* Common in the Rio Grande area and near to Las Claritas [*rodwayi*].

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris* First seen below Cerro Humo. Also in Henri Pittier NP [*crassirostris*].

White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta* Quite a few seen in the Rio Grande area [n nominate].

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster* A few seen on the Escalera [*brevirostris*] and in Henri Pittier NP [*exsul*].

Golden-sided Euphonia ◊ *Euphonia cayennensis* Fantastic scope views of a superb male at Rio Grande. Great bird.

Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea* Seen near to the Oilbird Caves [*minuscula*] and in Henri Pittier NP [*frontalis*].

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* Heard and seen briefly at Rancho Grande in Henri Pittier NP.

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina* A single below the Choroní Pass, in Henri Pittier NP.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* c15 seen. First seen at Cerro Humo.

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiaiyumi* Two forms: *elegans* first seen at Cerro Humo, *roraimae* on the Escalera.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* Just 4 seen, the first, a male, at Cerro Negro.

Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata* One near to Las Claritas, and a single near to Puerto Ayacucho.

Black-crested Warbler *Myiothlypis nigrocristata* Seen very well at Los Venados in Avila NP.

Roraiman Warbler ◊ *Myiothlypis roraimae* Excellent views on the lower Escalera. Not yet split by the IOC.

Grey-headed Warbler ◊ *Myiothlypis griseiceps* (E) Great views of a couple of pairs on Cerro Negro.

Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* Seen on the way to Caripe [*olivascens*] and in Henri Pittier NP [*cabanis*].



A smart Golden-crowned Warbler in Henri Pittier National Park (Pete Morris)

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus* Seen well on Cerro Humo [*pariae*] and in Henri Pittier NP [*bessereri*].
 Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* A smart male seen well near to the Caripe Oilbird Caves was a surprise.
 Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* The form *pallidiventris* first seen on Cerro Negro, *verticalis* on the Escalera.
 Paria Whitestart ◊ *Myioborus pariae* (E) Great views of several on Cerro Humo. Another real cracker.
 Tepui Whitestart ◊ *Myioborus castaneocapilla* Quite scarce with just two seen on the middle Escalera [n nominate].
 Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* First seen along the Tunapuy to Guaraunos Road [n nominate].
 Green Oropendola ◊ *Psarocolius viridis* Seen at Cano Colorado, Rio Grande area and near Las Claritas.
 Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons* Many seen in Henri Pittier NP [*oleagineus*].
 Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* Pretty common. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [n nominate].
 Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous* A few at Santa Fe, near El Palmar, and also seen near Las Claritas [n nominate].
 Venezuelan Troupial ◊ *Icterus icterus* A couple of sneaky individuals eventually showed well near to El Palmar [n nominate].
 Orange-crowned Oriole *Icterus auricapillus* A few seen, the first of which was on the way down from Cerro Humo.
 Yellow Oriole *Icterus nigrogularis* Especially common on the Araya Peninsula [n nominate].
 Oriole Blackbird *Gymnomystax mexicanus* Best was the one seen well near to Puerto Ayacucho.
 Golden-tufted Mountain Grackle ◊ *Macroagelaius imthurni* Very common along the middle and upper Escalera.
 Velvet-fronted Grackle ◊ *Lamprosar tanagrinus* Seen well at the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road, and Cano Colorado [*guianensis*].



Two good grackles! Golden-tufted Mountain Grackle and Velvet-fronted Grackle (Pete Morris)

Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* A couple seen distantly at the reservoir south of Caripe [n nominate].
 Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* Seen on 4 dates. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [n nominate].
 Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Seen a few times, first along the Tunapuy to Guaraunos Road [n nominate].
 Carib Grackle *Quiscalus lugubris* Abundant, first seen in Caracas [n nominate].
 Red-breasted Blackbird *Sturnella militaris* Just a few seen near to El Palmar.
 Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* Just a few; first seen near to El Palmar [*paralios*].
 Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* 3 forms: *luteola* first seen on the Araya P, *bolivari* at Cano Colorado, *roraimae* on the Escalera.
 Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* Two forms; Cerro Negro [*venezuelae*] and the Escalera [*roraimae*].
 Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis* One seen well in the Gran Sabana.
 Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris* A few seen from the jeep on the way up to Los Venados [n nominate].
 Chestnut-capped Brush Finch *Arremon brunneinucha* A couple of sightings in Henri Pittier NP [*frontalis*].
 Ochre-breasted Brush Finch ◊ *Atlapetes semirufus* Seen at Cerro Negro, Los Venados, and in Henri Pittier NP [*denisei*].
 Tepui Brush Finch ◊ *Atlapetes personatus* Fairly common on the Escalera, many good views [n nominate].
 Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus* Common at Los Venados and in Henri Pittier NP [*jacqueti*].
 Black-faced Tanager *Schistochlamys melanopsis* A few seen well seen on the Gran Sabana [*aterrima*].
 Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus* A couple seen along the Gavilan Road, near to Puerto Ayacucho [n nominate].
 Olive-backed Tanager ◊ *Mitrospingus oleagineus* A couple of flocks seen well on the upper Escalera [*obscuripectus*].
 Oleaginous Hemispingus *Hemispingus frontalis* Seen on Cerro Negro [*iteratus*] and at Los Venados/Henri Pittier NP [*hanieli*].

Fulvous-headed Tanager ◊ *Thlypopsis fulviceps* A few seen well in Henri Pittier NP. Great bird [nominate].

Grey-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata* A few seen in Henri Pittier NP [*affinis*].

Flame-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus cristatus* A pair seen well near to Las Claritas [*intercedens*].

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus* Three seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* Quite common. First seen below Cerro Humo.

Red-shouldered Tanager ◊ *Tachyphonus phoenicius* A few seen on the Escalera. Red shoulders difficult to see.

Fulvous Shrike-Tanager *Lanio fulvus* A few sightings in the big mixed flock on the lower Escalera [nominate].

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* Seen north [*capitalis*] and south [nominate] of the Orinoco.

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* Seen north [*cana*] and south [*nesophila*] of the Orinoco.

Glaucous Tanager ◊ *Thraupis glaucocolpa* Several seen well on the Araya Peninsula. Subtle but smart.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* Common and widespread [*melanoptera*].

Blue-capped Tanager *Thraupis cyanocephala olivicyanea* Common at Los Venados and in Henri Pittier NP [*olivicyanea*].

Blue-winged Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus somptuosus* A pair seen very well in Henri Pittier NP [*venezuelanus*].

Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota* One at Rancho Grande in Henri Pittier NP [*venezuelensis*].

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana* Common. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [*media*].

Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis* A cracker. Scarce this trip, but seen well near to Las Claritas [*paradisea*].

Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus* Common in Henri Pittier NP. Lovely russet breast in this form [nominate].

Yellow-bellied Tanager *Tangara xanthogastra* A few seen well on the Escalera [*phelpsi*].

Spotted Tanager *Tangara punctata* Seen well at Rio Grande and near to Las Claritas [nominate].

Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata* Seen north [*chrysophrys*] and south [nominate] of the Orinoco.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* Two forms: *viridissima* first seen at Cerro Humo; *toddi* in Henri Pittier NP.

Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana* A few, first seen in the hotel garden at El Palmar [nominate].

Rufous-cheeked Tanager ◊ *Tangara rufigenis* Great views of around four in Henri Pittier NP.

Blue-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanicollis* Several seen well in Henri Pittier NP. Colourful! [*hannahiae*].

Masked Tanager *Tangara nigrocincta* One seen well along the Gavilan Road, near to Puerto Ayacucho.

Beryl-spangled Tanager *Tangara nigroviridis* Several seen in Henri Pittier NP [*cyanescens*].

Black-capped Tanager *Tangara heinei* A few seen very well at Los Venados, Avila NP.

Black-headed Tanager *Tangara cyanoptera* Nominate first seen near the Oilbird Caves *whitelyi* on the Escalera.

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis* Common in Henri Pittier NP, many great views [*occidentalis*].

Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata* Good views of four or so near to Las Claritas.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* Quite common. First seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road [nominate].

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus* Seen north [nominate] and south [*microrhynchus*] of the Orinoco.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* A few in the south. First seen on the lower Escalera [nominate].

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* A few in the south. First seen at Rio Grande [nominate].

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira* Great views of at least 4 in Henri Pittier NP [*nigrigula*].

Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis* A few at Rio Grande and around Las Claritas [*hellmayri*].



The attractive Guira Tanager and the rare Greater Flowerpiercer (Pete Morris)

Bicolored Conebill *Conirostrum bicolor* (NT) Great views in the mangroves on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].

Greater Flowerpiercer ◊ *Diglossa major* Great views of 2 on the upper Escalera. One of the tougher tepui endemics.

Grey Pileated Finch *Coryphospingus pileatus* A few seen well on the Araya Peninsula [*brevicaudus*].

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola* Seen in the hotel garden at El Palmar [nominate].

Wedge-tailed Grass Finch *Emberizoides herbicola* Great views of a singing bird on the Gran Sabana [*sphenurus*].

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Small numbers seen. First seen below Cerro Humo [*splendens*].

Plumbeous Seedeater *Sporophila plumbea* A single male seen on the Gran Sabana soon vanished [*whiteleyana*].

Grey Seedeater *Sporophila intermedia* Seen at a few sites. First seen on the Araya Peninsula [nominate].

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* Two along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road, and seen around Henri Pittier NP.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta* A few at the marshes near to El Palmar [nominate].

Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis* Just a few. First seen at Rio Grande [*torridus*].

Black-faced Grassquit *Tiaris bicolor* Common on the Araya Peninsula [*omissus*].

Tooth-billed Tanager (Highland Hepatic T) *Piranga lutea* A male seen well in Henri Pittier NP [*faceta*].

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera* Three seen near to the Oilbird Caves at Caripe [*venezuelae*].

Rose-breasted Chat ◊ *Granatellus pelzelni* Absolutely stunning views of a superb male at Rio Grande [nominate].

Vermilion Cardinal *Cardinalis phoeniceus* Great views of a singing, female-plumaged bird, on the Araya Peninsula.

Yellow-green Grosbeak *Caryothraustes canadensis* A few seen around the lower Escalera [nominate].

Slate-colored Grosbeak *Saltator grossus* Heard at several sites and one seen well near Las Claritas [nominate].

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* A couple seen in Henri Pittier NP [nominate].

Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* Just a few. First seen on the Araya Peninsula [*brewsteri*].

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus* A few seen in Henri Pittier NP [*perstriatus*].

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* A few heard and one seen briefly at Rio Grande [*rothschildii*].

Ultramarine Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa brissonii* Seen briefly and heard singing in Henri Pittier NP [*minor*].

MAMMALS

Common Opossum (Black-eared O) *Didelphis marsupialis* 1 on the early drive to the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road.

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (B-t S) *Bradypus variegatus* A single in Henri Pittier NP.

Wedge-capped Capuchin Monkey (Weeping C M) *Cebus olivaceus* Four seen in Henri Pittier NP.

Venezuelan Red Howler Monkey *Alouatta seniculus* Several seen and heard during the trip.

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous* A couple seen during our drives.

Red-tailed Squirrel (Tropical Red S) *Sciurus granatensis* A few seen.

Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta agouti* Just one seen, at Cano Colorado.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

American Coot *Fulica americana*

A single with a flock of Caribbean Coots on the Araya Peninsula, 18/3 was a surprise as it is a rare vagrant here. Easily identified by lack of frontal shield, and dark reddish chestnut patch on the shield. Otherwise similar to Caribbean Coots. Perhaps a little smaller.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea*

We saw three different forms of this species. The form *peninsularis* was first seen along the Tunapuy - Guaraunos Road. The form *purpureotincta* was seen well at Rio Grande, and the form *zuliae* was seen well at several spots in Henri Pittier National Park.

White-tipped Swift *Aeronautes montivagus*

A few of the form *tatei* were seen on the Upper Escalera. At the end of the tour, many of the nominate form were seen well at Rancho Grande in Henri Pittier National Park. These birds were breeding in the buildings and vocally active!

Copper-rumped Hummingbird *Amazilia tobaci*

We noted two forms of this smart hummer. The form *caudata* was first seen on the way down from Cerro Humo whereas the form *feliciae* was common at the feeders at Casa Colibri Amaranta in Caracas.

Groove-billed Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus sulcatus*

In the northeast, we first saw the form *erythrognathus* on Cerro Humo whilst the nominate form was common in Henri Pittier National Park.

Scaled Piculet *Picumnus squamulatus*

It is interesting that this species seems to meet and co-exist with Black-dotted Piculet. A single [*obsoletus*] that we saw well along the Tunapuy to Guaraunos Road showed a few spots on the underparts, possibly a sign of hybridization with Black-dotted? In addition, a few *roehli* were seen in Henri Pittier National Park.

Stripe-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis cinnamomea*

Two localized endemics forms were seen. At Cerro Humo we got great looks at the localized form *pariae* whilst at Cerro Negro we were fortunate to get great views of the form *striatipectus*

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens*

We encountered three subspecies of this widespread species. On the Araya Peninsula the form *trinitatis* was seen well. The other two forms were only heard, *josephinae* on the Escalera and *nesiotis* on the way to Los Venados, Avila National Park.

White-throated Barbtail *Premnoplex tatei*

We saw both isolated forms of this cracking endemic. Several of the form *pariae* showed well on Cerro Humo whilst on Cerro Negro, a furtive individual of the nominate form eventually showed well while we were looking for leaf-tossers!

Guttulate Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla guttulata*

We were fortunate to see two forms of this skulking endemic very well. On Cerro Negro we enjoyed good views of one or two of the form *pallida* in a mixed flock. One spent some time poking around in a bromeliad, high up. At the end of the tour we encountered the nominate form, with good views of one at Los Venados in Avila National Park, and a few heard in Henri Pittier National Park.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*

We saw three forms of this highly variable species that may end up being part of two separate species! In the north we saw the form *meruloides* which showed well at Cerro Humo, and was also seen at Cerro Negro. A very rufescent and plain looking form. In the Rio Grande area we saw the form *fuliginosa* 'Line-throated Woodcreeper', a big and dark form with a well-marked face pattern. Around Las Claritas, the birds we saw were assumed to be the form *phaeochroa*.

Black-banded Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes picumnus*

We saw two forms. First we enjoyed great views of a few of the form *seilerni* near the Oilbird Caves and at Cerro Negro - a rather un-banded form. Around Las Claritas we saw the nominate form well. This form was much more heavily barred than the birds seen further north.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*

Two forms noted. Several *polystictus* seen around Rio Grande, and heard elsewhere. Along the Gavilan Road, near to Puerto Ayacucho we heard the form *guttatoides* which is occasionally split off as Lafresnaye's Woodcreeper.

Spot-tailed Antwren *Herpsilochmus sticturus*

Todd's Antwren *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus*

It took a while to get good views of these two similar species close to Las Claritas. Both travel in canopy flocks, often together, and are confusingly similar to look at. Fortunately their songs are different, and with persistence, we were able to watch both species singing. Spot-tailed shows distinctly greyer underparts than Todd's which shows bright whitish underparts.

Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia*

We enjoyed brilliant views of a stunning pair of the nominate subspecies along the Tunapuy to Guaraunos Road, and later heard the form *argentata* along the Gavilan Road, near to Puerto Ayacucho.

Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona*

On the lower Escalera, we heard the form *obscura* and then at the end of the tour we managed some good views of the

form *venezuelana* at Rancho Grande in Henri Pittier National Park. The two forms have quite different songs.

Plain-backed Antpitta *Grallaria haplonota*

This species proved quite elusive this year, although several of us did get good views of one of the form *pariae* on Cerro Humo. Others were heard there and at Henri Pittier NP where the nominate form occurs. Despite more efforts, no more were seen.

Tepui Elaenia *Elaenia olivina*

Several seen well on the middle Escalera. Note that this is a recent split, announced in the IOC update in December 2013. It was formerly lumped in Sierran Elaenia *E. pallatangae* but is actually quite different.

Guianan Tyrannulet *Zimmerius acer*

This recent split (from Slender-footed Tyrannulet *Z. gracilipes*) was seen very well on the lower Escalera. The distinctive song and 'tuc' call were heard well, and we obtained great views, noting the palish eyes, well-fringed coverts etc.

Coopmans's Tyrannulet *Zimmerius minimus*

This is another recent split, again announced in the IOC update in December 2013, this time from Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Z. chrysops*. We saw the form *cumanensis* well on the walk down from Cerro Humo. A particularly satisfying bird as it was named after my former colleague and great friend Paul Coopmans. I knew there was a reason for sending out the report late... ;-)

Venezuelan Bristle Tyrant *Pogonotriccus venezuelanus*

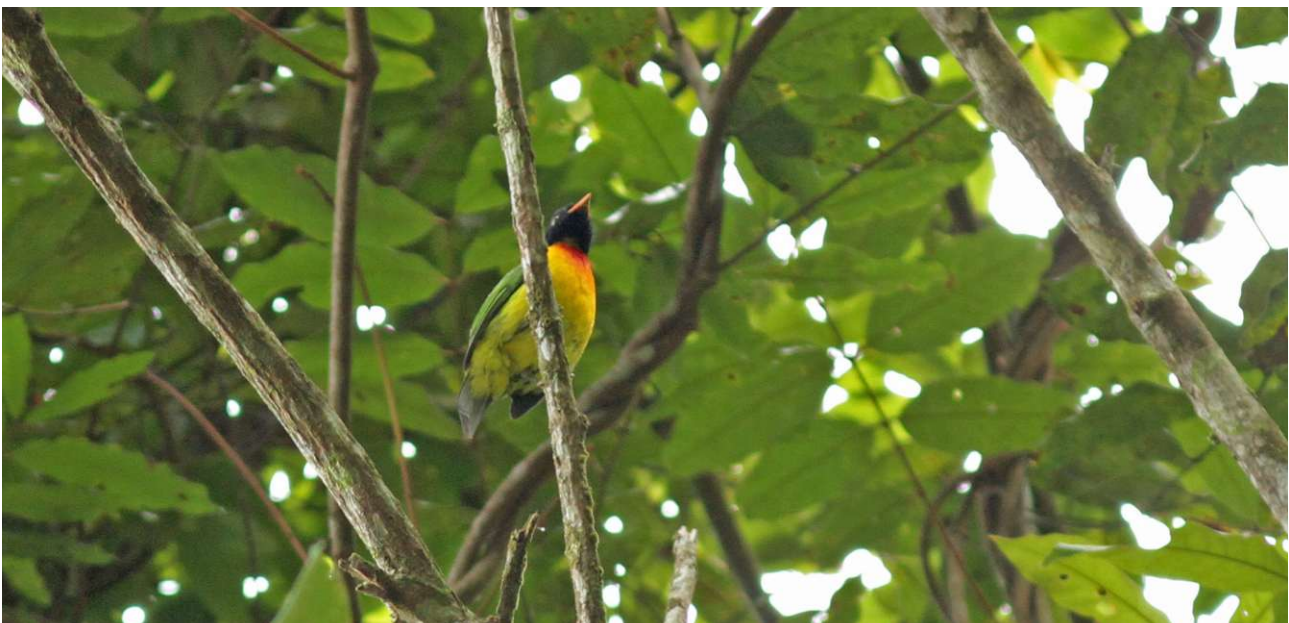
Superb views of 2-3 in Henri Pittier NP and seen in close proximity to the similar Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant. Subtly but obviously different from Marble-faced. Note in particular the pale lower mandible, yellow chin, cleaner head pattern, paler legs, and, especially the broader, spottier wingbars with no yellow fringes to the greater coverts which appear solidly black other than the tips.

Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*

This widespread species is almost certain to be split into multiple species and as a result it will pay to note which forms you have seen. On this tour we encountered three forms. 'Santa Marta Flatbill' *T. [sulphurescens] exortivus* was first seen on the way to Caripe. The other two forms are both part of Guianan Flatbill. The form *duidae* was seen well on the Escalera, and the form *cherriei* was heard at Rio Grande, 23/3.

Handsome Fruiteater *Pipreola formosa*

Aptly named as it really is a superb species. We saw two quite different forms. At Cerro Negro we enjoyed brilliant views of at least 3 of the form *rubidior*, whilst in Henri Pittier NP we had great views of a pair of the nominate form on the way down from the Choroní Pass.



A Handsome Fruiteater of the nominate form in Henri Pittier National Park (Pete Morris)

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

First seen on the Araya Peninsula, and quite a few others seen during the tour. Difficult to assign to race. Most appeared bright, and their eyes were not especially red. Most were probably the form *vividior*, part of the South American breeding Chivi Vireo.

APPENDIX 1 - TOP 10 Birds of the Tour

- 1st **HELMETED CURASSOW**
- 2nd **Harpy Eagle**
- 3rd **Capuchinbird**
- 4th Roraiman Barbtail
- 5th Peacock Coquette
- 6th White Bellbird
- 7th= Flutist Wren
- 7th= Red-banded Fruiteater
- 7th= Little Hermit
- 10th= Scallop-breasted Antpitta
- 10th= Hoatzin
- 10th= White-plumed Antbird



Two crackers that didn't make it! Ferruginous-backed Antbird and Cream-coloured Woodpecker (Pete Morris)