



We certainly had some excellent encounters with Palkachupa Cotinga – this is a male (Denzil Morgan)!

BOLIVIA: PALKACHUPA COTINGA EXPEDITION

8 – 15 OCTOBER 2017

LEADER: JÁNOS OLÁH

Following the Birdquest regular tour to Bolivia we offered an expedition this year to try and locate the highly localised Palkachupa or Apolo Cotinga which was rediscovered in 2000 after 98 years of the original discovery (though there is a specimen labled La Paz, Bolivia in 1847) by the local bird protection society of Armonía. This species was split from Swallow-tailed Cotinga as recently as 2011 based on the disjunct distribution, plumage and habitat differences and now considered a Bolivian endemic. This was a new bird for Birdquest and we were also checking how it could be integrated to our main tour or make it a regular extension. This stunning and special bird is breeding in a wet savannah habitat amongst wet forest fragments which is threatened by agriculture, hence it is listed as endangered and the total population is estimated to be a mere 400-500 individuals. Armonía created a Palkachupa Cotinga Reserve near Atén in a Leco indigenous community and trying to save this species. You can find out more on Armonía work on their website: armoniabolivia.org.

It is supposedly a sedentary bird though birds were located away from this special habitat in wet Yungas foothill forests of the Andes and certainly more research is needed. The alternative name 'Apolo' came from

the name of the biggest nearby settlement to this habitat. Getting to Apolo however is not easy hence there is no currently operating airport with public access anyway – there used to be one in the past – and it takes many hours of driving to get there.



Andean Ibis on our way to Charazani in Bolivia (János Oláh).

Our party of keen Birdquesters said goodbye to the rest of the group at Lake Titicaca when the tour finished and next morning we started our journey towards Apolo. While cruising along Lake Titicaca we were still checking the flamingos and in the early morning hours had fantastic looks of Andean Geese and Puna (Short-billed) Pipits. From the already high altiplano we climbed even higher and crossed the Andes on a pass of 4640 meter. We encountered fantastic scenery and some of the special high altitude birds like Chilean Flamingos, Andean Ibis, Giant Coot, Mountain Caracara, Andean Lapwing, Slender-billed Miner and Bright-rumped Yellow Finch. It was a rather long drive to the town of Charazani where we arrived in the early afternoon. The town is somewhat limited for sightseeing so we ventured lower to about 2400 meter of elevation for an afternoon birding. The roadside river held many pairs of Torrent Ducks and a Fasciated Tiger Heron while the forest and bushes gave us White-bellied Hummingbird, Blue-banded Toucanet, White-winged Cinclodes, White-winged Black-Tyrant and Peruvian Sierra Finches. We were still high for proper Yungas forest birding so we retired early with excitement about our final journey to Apolo on the coming day.



Torrent Duck family near Charazani (János Oláh)!

Next morning we embarked on the bumpy drive towards Apolo but we were hoping to drive through some Yungas forest where a few birding stops were planned. After a few hours we took a breakfast break in proper forest habitat and the morning activity quickly produced a few goodies like Western Striolated Puffbird, Chesnut-backed and Upland Antshrikes and superb looks of Yungas Tody-Tyrant. The rest of the day was also spent driving and stopping at various good-looking habitats. Our best birds were a magnificent perched Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, Yungas Dove, Yungas Manakin, Cabanis's Spinetail, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher and Yellow-crested Tanager. At one of our stops we got really excited as we heard the calls of a Bolivian Recurvbill, which was only seen by some on the main tour. Unfortunately despite considerable time and effort the bird did not show although it was calling very close a few times in its thick bushy-bamboo habitat. It was very frustrating but we had to move on – and to be honest we were hoping to bump into this species again along the road (but never did). When we were getting closer to Apolo in the late afternoon the habitat changed and we arrived to a wet savannah with forest fragments. Another focus of our tour was to locate another localised species and yet another new bird to Birdquest: the Green-capped Tanager. This species also has a very restricted range and only occurs in Peru and Bolivia. This tanager occurs in such forest fragments so we made two more stops in the hope of locating one. It was late afternoon and the activity was good, however we only saw a few interesting birds such as White-eared Puffbird and a breeding Variegated Flycatcher as well as hearing Black-capped Tinamou. We were certainly exhausted after bumpy driving when we arrived to Apolo. Our accommodation was in a local monastery with basic but immaculate rooms and the food was produced from their own garden! So it took two full days of driving – with birding stops – but we got to Apolo and we were about to look for one of the rarest cotingas the next day! Needless to say we were exciting and our local guide had arranged to meet with a representative (or warden?) of the Palkachupa Cotinga Reserve the next day to share some recent information about sightings.



Neither the plain Yungas Tody-Tyrant (top) nor the Upland Antshrike were as showy as they were on our expedition (János Oláh).

Early morning we were on our way to a nearby settlement called Atén. Although we were informed that we will only meet with our 'warden' later in the day, this did not disappoint us. We were eager to get into habitat and look for the Palkachupa Cotinga! Our first stop was a site where our guide has already seen the cotinga before. We scanned the forest patch for some time but did not produce any cotingas though a fine Red-winged Tinamou was found on the burnt grassy side of the road.



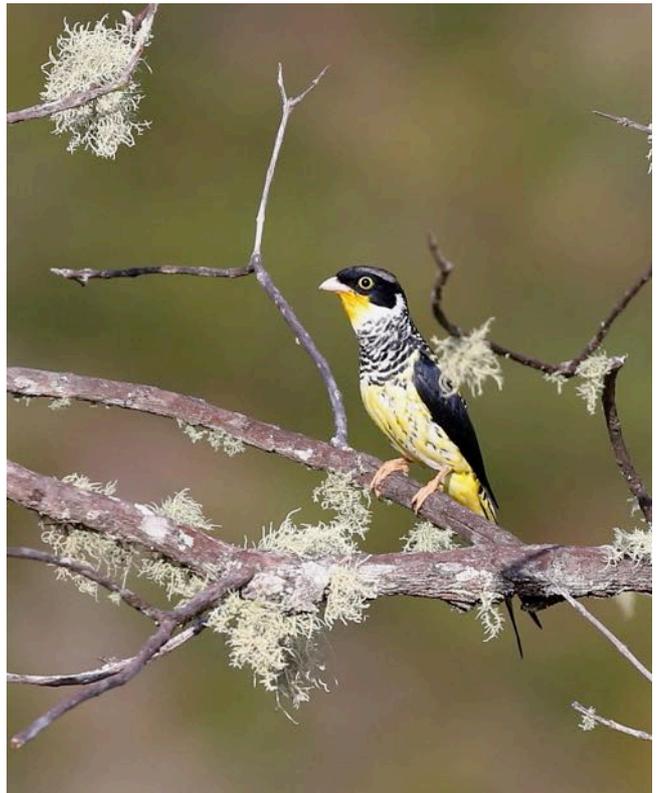
Landscape and habitat of the Palkachupa or Apolo Cotinga near Atén (top) and a fine male at the same spot (János Oláh).

We continued driving and our first cotinga was spotted from the bus! Excitement as we got out but the bird was not on the perch where it was spotted. A few minutes scanning produced another sighting and at least we all got looks of this special bird. We explored some side roads looking for scanning places and eventually our guide was speaking with a local farmer who assured him he knows where the cotingas can be easily seen. After a quick field breakfast we took another side track and as soon as we turned off we spotted a female bird on a treetop which allowed prolonged scope looks before it flew off. We started walking into the valley on this side road and had two more brief looks of cotingas on the forest edge. However when we got out to open savanna area with scattered trees when we hit the proper (breeding) habitat of this bird. We found several birds here and while following a pair we bumped into an incubating female! It was nesting on a low tree and the nest was at eye-level and had one egg in it. There were other birds around and in the next hour we found two more nests in a rather small area – almost like a loose colony!?! A colonial breeder cotinga?



Female Palkachupa or Apolo Cotinga on nest (János Oláh).

Interestingly, however, they were in rather various stages of breeding and while one nest had a single egg (probably just started breeding) another had 2 eggs and the third nest had two juvenile birds (probably around a week old). It was almost noon so we left the area and continued to Atén for a lunch in a local house. Needless to say there were happy faces around and everybody was very satisfied with the experience we had! All in all we got absolutely superb looks at both sexes and had the experience of finding nests without really looking for them was amazing. We were on a roll and still before lunch another quick roadside stop produced our other main target, a fine Green-capped Tanager! It was a bit skittish but finally we all managed to get good looks and some of us even managed record shots! What a successful morning with two Birdquest lifers! The local lunch tasted good - although after a morning like this everything taste good for a birder – and we discussed plans for the afternoon. A storm was building up and when we were finishing our lunch it started to rain. Little later we continued birding along the road to look for more tanagers but we had no other sightings of Green-capped Tanager despite a good two hours search so we decided if we are here in the Atén area we better go back and enjoy more cotinga experience in the late afternoon when we got the best light! And sure we did get more unexpected looks when we returned to the 'breeding colony' as we found a flock of males (about 8 birds) not far from the nesting area. They were probably all breeding birds in this area but we did not look for more nests just enjoyed watching these superb birds. When we came on this expedition we certainly hoped to see the Palkachupa Cotinga but none of us expected such a fantastic and unforgettable experience with them! We also had another Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, Green-cheeked Parakeets and more White-eared Puffbirds here but could not be bothered to do much more. We were soaking up the cotinga experience and estimated that we had a total of 18 Palkachupa Cotingas today.



Palkachupa or Apolo Cotinga female on nest (top), female (left) and male (János Oláh).

It was mission completed and we still had two days to explore the area. As it was an expedition and we did not know how easy the cotingas will be to see, a sufficient amount of time was left for the Apolo area. In the next two days we explored the various habitats around town, concentrating mainly on Yungas forests but also visited the dry forests of the Madidi National Park. I think it is fair to say we were expecting to find more

of the hard-to-find Yungas birds but despite extensive search we could not locate any Yungas Antwren or Hazel-fronted Pygmy-Tyrant – not to mention the undescribed San Pedro Tanager. However, we did see some good birds, which included the rare Yungas Tyrannulet. Some of the other notable birds were White Hawk, Versicolored (Blue-moustached) Barbet, Blue-tailed Emerald, Black-bellied Antwren, McConell's Flycatcher, Cabanis's Spinetail, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Yungas Manakin, Bronze-green Euphonia, Yungas Warbler, Saffron-billed Sparrow and Rust-and-yellow and Masked Tanagers.



Yungas Tyrannulet (top) by Denzil Morgan and Ochre-faced Tody Flycatcher (János Oláh).

On our last day we decided to travel back to Lake Titicaca in one day and skip the overnight in Charazani so we had a long drive back through the scenic Andes. We were certainly ready for bed when we got to our hotel, which was still at 3800 meters. Next morning we took a short boat ride to get close to the Titicaca Grebes and we had several swimming around us. In the hotel garden Black-throated Flowerpiercer was entertaining us on the flowers. The expedition ended and all was left for us to drive back to La Paz and take our international flight home. It was a keen group of birders and we certainly did see the Palkachupa Cotinga!



Male Palkachupa or Apolo Cotinga near Atén (János Oláh).



Green-capped Tanager was our other main target for the expedition and a new bird for Birdquest (János Oláh)!

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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

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

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

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

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

CR = Critically Endangered, **E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows **Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.2)**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

All of our checklists are powered by our partner iGoTerra (www.igoterra.com) who provide web and mobile applications for bird and wildlife enthusiasts and businesses. Their suite of services cover observations, rankings, lists, photos and trip management tools.

Hooded Tinamou ◇ *Nothoberbus nigrocapillus* (H) Heard in Yungas forest only on our last morning [*nominate*].
Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* (H) It was heard once distantly [*inconspicuus*].
Black-capped Tinamou ◇ *Crypturellus atrocapillus* (H) One was heard near Apolo [*garleppi*].
Red-winged Tinamou *Rhynchotus rufescens* One was seen near Atén [*rufescens*].
Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata* Four were seen near Cochabamba [*garleppi*].
Andean Goose *Chloephaga melanoptera* Common around Lake Titicaca.
Yellow-billed Teal *Anas flavirostris* It was common around Lake Titicaca [*oxyptera*].
Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica* It was seen at Lake Titicaca [*spinicauda*].
Puna Teal *Anas puna* Just a few around Lake Titicaca.
Andean Duck *Oxyura ferruginea* It was seen at Lake Titicaca.
Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata* A few seen [*subaffinis*].
Rufous-breasted Wood Quail ◇ *Odontophorus speciosus* (H) It was heard distantly in Yungas forest.
White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland* Common at Lake Titicaca [*chilensis*].
Titicaca Grebe ◇ *Rollandia microptera* We saw many at Lake Titicaca. Superb looks! **EN**



Titicaca Grebe was seen well on the expedition too (János Oláh).

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* Hundreds were seen along Lake Titicaca and on high altitude lakes.
Andean Ibis ◇ *Theristicus branickii* Seven were seen on our way to Charazani.
Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi* Common around Lake Titicaca.
Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* One was seen on the river near Charazani [*salmon*].
Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Just a few around Lake Titicaca [*nominate*].
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* It was very common [*jota*].
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Very common throughout.
Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus* Two were seen in the high Andes on our way back.
Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle ◇ *Spizaetus melanoleucus* Superb looks on our way to Apolo and at Atén.
Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* Two were seen in the lower Yungas forests [*nominate*].
Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* Just four were seen near Apolo.
Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* Regularly seen throughout [*occiduus*].

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* One was seen near Atén [*nominata*].

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* It was seen near Charazani [*australis*].

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis* A pair was seen in wet Yungas forest [*nominata*].

Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* One was seen near Apolo [*tschudii*].

Andean Coot *Fulica ardesiaca* Common at Lake Titicaca [*nominata*].

Giant Coot ◊ *Fulica gigantea* We saw 6 on a high altitude lake on our way to Charazani.

White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus* Just a few at Lake Titicaca.

Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens* Four were seen towards Charazani.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* A singleton near Lake Titicaca.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* One was seen on a river in the Yungas.

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus* Regularly seen around Lake Titicaca.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Common.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* A few near Charazani.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* Fairly common in the Apolo area [*andersoni*].

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* It was common.

Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Three were seen towards Apolo [*nominata*].

Picui Ground Dove *Columbina picui* Just two near Charazani [*nominata*].

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* Several sightings [*decipiens*].

Yungas Dove ◊ *Leptotila megalura* Just one seen on our second day towards Apolo.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* Just one seen on our second day towards Apolo [*dubus*].

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Just a few seen.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Several sightings in the Yungas forest [*obscura*].

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* Four were seen on the expedition [*boliviana*].

Scissor-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis torquata* One was seen at dawn on our second day towards Apolo [*furcifer*].

Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne rutile* About 15 were seen on our way back [*brunnitorques*].

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* Regular sightings [*kuenzeli*].

White-tipped Swift *Aeronautes montivagus* One was seen near Charazani [*nominata*].

Great-billed Hermit *Phaethornis malaris* Two sightings near Apolo [*bolivianus*].

Blue-tailed Emerald *Chlorostilbon mellisugus* A single male seen in lower Yungas forest [*peruanus*].

Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata* A few sightings on the expedition [*boliviana*].

Golden-tailed Sapphire *Chrysuronia oenone* Two were seen near Atén [*josephinae*].

White-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia chionogaster* Two were seen near Charazani [*hypoleuca*].

Violet-fronted Brilliant *Heliodoxa leadbeateri* Two were seen in Yungas forest [*otero*].

Blue-crowned Trogon *Trogon curucui* A pair was seen in forest [*peruvianus/behni*].

Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus* A pair was seen on our second day towards Apolo [*submontanus*].

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula cyanescens* One seen in the Madidi NP [*rufoviridis*].

White-eared Puffbird *Nystalus chacurui* Several seen around Apolo [*uncirostris*].

Western Striolated Puffbird ◊ *Nystalus obamai* Great looks of one on our first Yungas birding towards Apolo.

Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus* (H) Heard in lower Yungas forest [*insperatus*].

Versicolored Barbet ◊ *Eubucco versicolor* Just a female seen [*nominata*]. See note.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* (H) It was only heard in Yungas forest.

Black-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus atrogularis* (H) It was only heard in Yungas forest.

Chestnut-tipped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus derbianus* (H) Heard only.

Blue-banded Toucanet ◊ *Aulacorhynchus coeruleicinctis* One was seen near Charazani.

Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis* One was seen on our second day towards Apolo [*australis*].

Bar-breasted Piculet *Picumnus aurifrons* (LO) Two were seen in Madidi NP.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* Three were seen.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* A single bird was seen in Yungas forest [*canipileus*].

Andean Flicker *Colaptes rupicola* It was seen in the high Andes on our travels [*nominata*].

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* One was seen in Madidi NP [*nominata*].

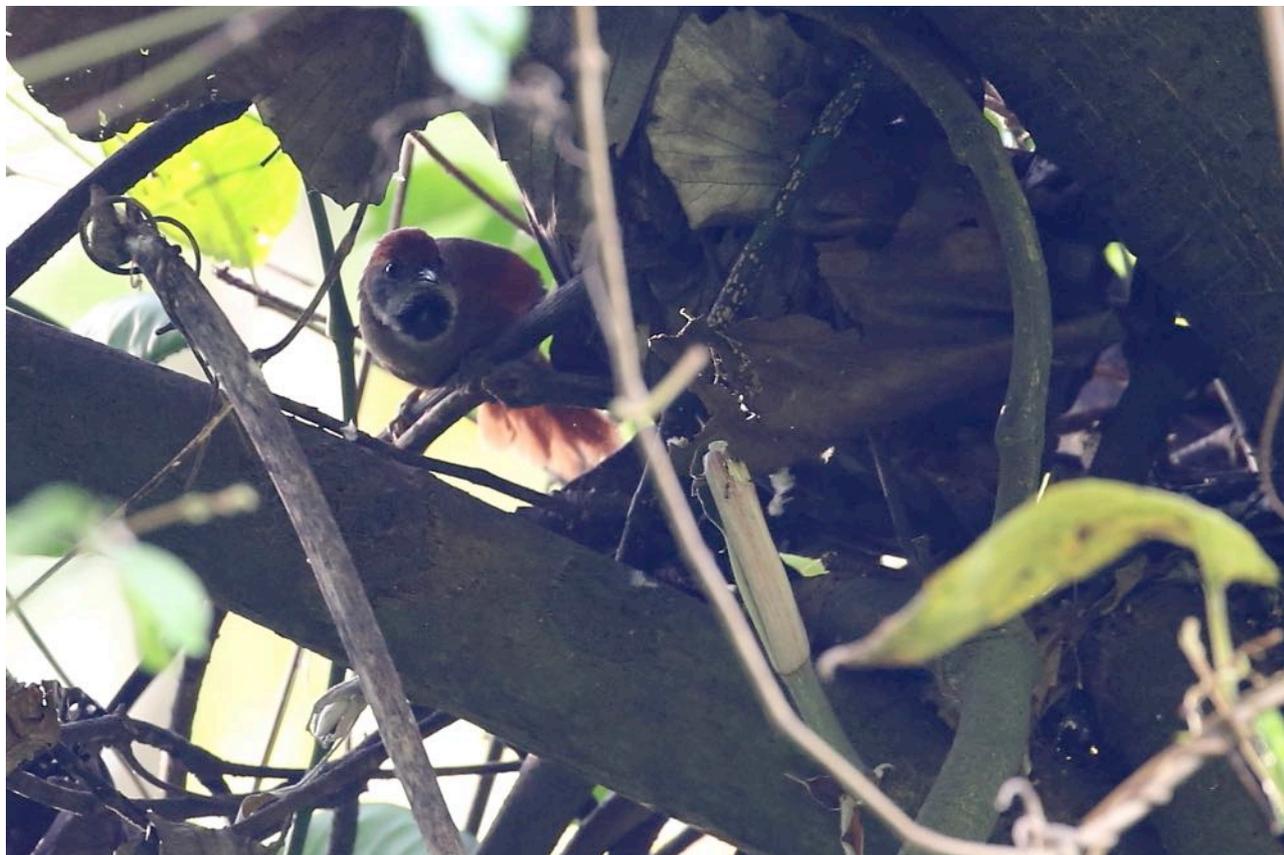
Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus* It was commonly seen at high elevation.

Southern Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus* One seen near Apolo.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* Regular sightings [*cinnamominus*].

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* A few sightings in forest [*nominata*].

Green-cheeked Parakeet *Pyrrhura molinae* Just six were seen near Atén [*nominata*].
White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus* About ten were seen towards Apolo [*nominata*].
Slender-billed Miner *Geositta tenuirostris* Two were seen in high elevation [*nominata*].
Cream-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albiventris* Regular sightings at high elevation [*nominata*].
White-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes atacamensis* One was seen near Charazani [*nominata*].
Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae* A few sightings in Yungas forest [*nominata*].
Cabanis's Spinetail *Synallaxis cabanisi* Great looks of this skulker [*fulviventris*]!



Skulking Cabanis's Spinetail was finally tracked down (János Oláh).

Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis* Just one was seen in Yungas forest [*yungae*].
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus* One was heard near Atén [*nominata*].
Bolivian Recurvebill ◊ *Simoxenops striatus* (H) Despite much effort remained heard only. NT
Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* (H) It remained heard only in Yungas forest [*viridis*].
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Two were seen in Yungas forest [*albigularis*].
Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* (H) It was heard once on our way back from Apolo [*radiatus*].
Chestnut-backed Antshrike *Thamnophilus palliatus* Great looks of a pair in Yungas forest [*puncticeps*].
Upland Antshrike ◊ *Thamnophilus aroyae* Superb looks of this specialty.
Stripe-chested Antwren ◊ *Myrmotherula longicauda* Excellent looks of a showy pair in Madidi NP [*australis*].
Black-bellied Antwren *Formicivora melanogaster* A disjunct and isolated population in Madidi NP. Several seen.
White-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena leuconota* Several seen in Yungas forest [*marcapatensis?*].
Short-tailed Anthrush ◊ *Chamaeza campanisona* (H) It was heard in Yungas forest [*boliviana*]. See note.
Bolivian White-crowned Tapaculo ◊ *Scytalopus bolivianus* (H) Heard twice but we did not bother.
Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* (H) It was heard only [*boliviana*].
Yungas Tyrannulet ◊ *Phyllomyias weedeni* A pair was finally tracked down for good looks!
Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* Just one seen [*nominata*].
Small-billed Elaenia *Elaenia parvirostris* Two were seen.
Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis* Three were seen near Atén [*albivertex*].
Sierran Elaenia *Elaenia pallatangae* Two were seen near Atén [*exsul*].



A male Stripe-chested Antwren (János Oláh).

- Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet** *Phaeomyias murina* Two were seen on the expedition [*wagae*].
- McConnell's Flycatcher** *Minoectes macconnelli* About five were seen in Yungas forest [*nominate*].
- Sepia-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* Just one was seen [*peruvianus*].
- Yungas Tody-Tyrant** ◊ *Hemitriccus spodiops* Several excellent looks of this unobtrusive bird.
- Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer* Two were seen in Madidi NP [*rufipes*].
- Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher** ◊ *Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps* Superb looks in Yungas forest [*obscurus*].
- Yellow-olive Flatbill** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* Just a few seen [*pallenscens*].
- Cinnamon Flycatcher** *Pyrhomyias cinnamomeus* It was seen fairly common [*nominate*].
- Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* Only two were recorded near Charazani [*latirostris*].
- Eastern Wood Pewee** *Contopus virens* Several were seen in forest.
- White-winged Black Tyrant** *Knipolegus aterrimus* Several were around Charazani [*anthracinus*].
- Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant** *Agriornis montanus* Just one was seen above Charazani [*intermeduis*].
- Long-tailed Tyrant** *Colonia colonus* Two sightings of single birds.
- Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* Two were noted on our drive to Apolo [*nominate*].
- Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* Several sightings on the expedition [*solitarius*]. See note.
- Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes luteiventris* Three were seen on a fruiting tree in the Yungas forest.
- Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* A single observation [*nominate*]. See note.
- Variegated Flycatcher** *Empidonomus varius* Many seen and it was found nesting near Apolo [*nominate*]. See note.
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* Common [*nominate*].
- Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufus* One was seen in Madidi NP.
- Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Several seen in Yungas forest [*atriceps*].
- Short-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus ferox* Just two were seen [*australis*].
- Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* It was seen in dry habitat of Madidi NP [*nominate*].
- Palkachupa Cotinga** ◊ *Phibalura boliviana* Fantastic experience! About 18 were seen in total. Three nests found. **EN**



A pair of Paklachupa or Apolo Cotinga (top) and a few days old chicks in the nest (János Oláh).

Amazonian Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus ornatus* One male seen in Yungas forest.

Yungas Manakin ♦ *Chiroxiphia boliviana* We had great looks of lekking bird in the Yungas forest.

Brown-winged Schiffornis *Schiffornis turdina* Only heard once distantly [*steinbachii*].

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus* Just two were seen in Madidi NP [*spixii*].

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (NL) One was seen by some. See note.

White-collared Jay ◊ *Cyanolyca viridicyanus* (H) It was only distantly heard at Charazani [*nominata*].

Purplish Jay *Cyanocorax cyanomelas* Several sightings on the expedition.

Inca Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* Four were seen in Yungas forest [*nominata*].

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* It was common in the highlands. See note.

Andean Swallow ◊ *Haplochelidon andecola* Just a few seen at Lake Titicaca.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Just a few seen on the expedition. See note.

American Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* A migrant flock of 2000 were seen at Apolo.



A migrant flock of American Cliff Swallows in the rain near Apolo (János Oláh).

Moustached Wren *Pheugopedius genibarbis* Four were seen [*bolivianus*].

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* Fairly common and widespread [*tecellatus, rex*]. See note.

Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* (H) Heard in Yungas forest [*boliviana*].

Southern Nightingale-Wren *Microcerculus marginatus* (H) One was heard in Yungas forest [*nominata*].

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas* It was common on the expedition [*nominata*].

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* One was seen on a fruiting tree in the Yungas.

White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus* One was spotted near Charazani [*nominata*]. See note.

Puna Pipit ◊ *Anthus brevirostris* About five singing birds were seen at Lake Titicaca. Recently split!

Black Siskin *Spinus atratus* About 10 were seen in the Andes.

Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthogastrus* A single male was seen [*stejnegeri*].

Bronze-green Euphonia *Euphonia mesochrysa* Five were seen in Yungas forest [*tavarae*].

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster* Just a few were seen [*ruficeps*].

Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea* Three were seen in Yungas forest [*longipennis*].

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitaiyumi* Just one seen on the expedition [*nominata*].

Two-banded Warbler *Myiothlypis bivittata* Several were seen in Yungas forest [*nominata*].

Yungas Warbler ◊ *Basileuterus punctipectus* Several were seen in Yungas forest [*nominata*].

Dusky-green Oropendola *Psarocolius atrovirens* We saw 8 birds in the Yungas..

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* Common [*maculosus*].

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* Just a few seen [*nominata*].

Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelasticus thilius* We saw several at Lake Titicaca [*alticola*]. See note.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* Regularly seen on the expedition [*dispar*]. See note.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* It was very common.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis* A single one was seen near Atén.

Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons* Two were seen on the way back from Apolo [*nominata*].

Saffron-billed Sparrow *Arremon flavirostris* Several were seen in the Madidi NP [*dorbignii*]. See note.

Black-faced Tanager *Schistochlamys melanopis* Commonly seen around Apolo [*olivina*].

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leverianus* A few sightings in disturbed habitat [*nominata*].

Yellow-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus rufiventer* We had great looks on the second day towards Apolo.

Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca* Common [*boliviana*].

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* Common [*melanopectera*]. See note.

Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis* Several seen in the lower Yungas forest [*nominata*].

Green-and-gold Tanager *Tangara schranki* A single one was seen on a fruiting tree.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* Several sightings in the Yungas forest.

Green-capped Tanager ◊ *Tangara meyerdeschauenseei* A single one was found near Atén. Birdquest lifer!

Blue-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanicollis* Commonly seen.

Spotted Tanager *Tangara punctata* Four were seen on a fruiting tree in the Yungas [*punctulata*].

Masked Tanager *Tangara nigrocincta* Three were seen on a fruiting tree in the Yungas.

Rust-and-yellow Tanager *Thlypopsis ruficeps* Excellent looks in the Yungas.

Black-eared Hemispingus *Hemispingus castaneicollis* Two were seen in the Yungas [*nominata*].

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis* Excellent looks in the Yungas forest [*occidentalis*].

Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata* Several were seen in the Yungas.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* Repeated good sightings [*glaucogularis*].

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* Several good looks.

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus* It was common [*microrhynchus*].

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira* A pair was seen in the Yungas [*boliviana*].

Black-throated Flowerpiercer *Diglossa brunneiventris* Just a few seen at Lake Titicaca [*nominata*].

Peruvian Sierra Finch *Phrygilus punensis* Several sightings around Charazani [*punensis*].

Bright-rumped Yellow Finch *Sicalis uropygialis* A flock of 50 around Lake Titicaca [*nominata*].

Wedge-tailed Grass Finch *Emberizoides herbicola* One was seen in the Atén area [*nominata*]. See note.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* About five were seen [*nominata*].

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Several were seen in open habitat.

Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis* Several seen in open habitat near Apolo.

Tooth-billed Tanager *Piranga lutea* A female seen in the Yungas [*nominata*].



Black-throated Flowerpiercer (left) and Puna Pipit near Lake Titicaca (János Oláh).

MAMMALS

(Yungas) **Bolivian Squirrel** *Sciurus ignitus* Several sightings.

Tayra *Eira barbara* (NL) One was seen by some.

Central American Aguti *Dasyprocta punctata* Just one was seen.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird List (v7.3). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/ioc-lists/master-list/>

Versicolored Barbet *Eubucco versicolor*

HBW now splits the Versicolored Barbet to Blue-cowled Barbet *E. steerii*, Blue-chinned Barbet *E. glaucogularis* and Blue-moustached Barbet *E. versicolor* (the nominate form). The one we saw along the Chapare Road is the latter, the **Blue-moustached Barbet**.

Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona*

HBW suggests it might be a future split into several species. It would be Roraiman Short-tailed Antthrush *C. fulvescens*, Venezuelan Short-tailed Antthrush *C. venezuelana*, Colombian Short-tailed Antthrush *C. columbiana*, Peruvian Short-tailed Antthrush *C. olivacea* and Brazilian Short-tailed Antthrush *C. campanisona* (the currently nominate form). We saw the *boliviana* race of the **Peruvian Short-tailed Antthrush** on the tour at Los Volcanes. Their vocalisation is clearly different, the Peruvian Short-tailed Antthrush has a much faster song than the birds further north.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*

HBW now splits the Streaked Flycatcher to Northern Streaked Flycatcher *M. maculatus* (the nominate form) and Southern Streaked Flycatcher *M. solitarius*. We saw the **Southern Streaked Flycatcher** on the tour.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*

HBW suggests it might be a future split. It would be Northern Boat-billed Flycatcher *M. mexicanus*, Tumbes Boat-billed Flycatcher *M. chrysogaster* and Southern Boat-billed Flycatcher *M. pitangua* (the currently nominate form). The one seen on the tour would be the **Southern Boat-billed Flycatcher**.

Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius*

HBW suggests it might be a future split. It would be Northern Variegated Flycatcher *E. rufinus* and Southern Variegated Flycatcher *E. varius* (the currently nominate form). The one we saw on the tour is the **Southern Variegated Flycatcher**.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

HBW suggests it might be a future split. It would be Chivi Vireo *V. chivi* and Red-eyed Vireo *V. olivaceus* (the currently nominate form). All South American races would be moved to Chivi Vireo. The one we saw on the tour is the **Chivi Vireo**.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*

HBW suggests it might be a future split. The *patagonica* race would be split off as Patagonian Swallow while all other races remain in the Blue-and-white Swallow complex. The one we saw on the tour is **Blue-and-white Swallow**.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

HBW suggests it might be a future split. The *erythrogaster* race would be split off as American Barn Swallow while all other races would be in the Eurasian Barn Swallow complex. The one we saw on the tour is **American Barn Swallow**.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

HBW suggests it might be a future split into several species. It would be Northern House Wren *T. aedon* (the currently nominate form), Brown-throated Wren *T. brunneicollis*, Antillean House Wren *T. martinicensis* and Southern House Wren *T. musculus*. We saw the *tecellatus* and *rex* races of the **Southern House Wren** on the tour.

White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus*

HBW suggests it might be a future split into several species. It would be Santa Marta Dipper *C. rivularis*, White-backed Dipper *C. leuconotus* and White-capped Dipper *C. leucocephalus* (the currently nominate form). We saw the **White-capped Dipper** on the tour.

Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelastictus thilius*

HBW suggests it might be a future split. It would be Titicaca Blackbird *A. alticola* and Yellow-winged Blackbird *A. thilius* (the currently nominate form). The one we saw on the tour is the **Titicaca Blackbird**.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

HBW suggests it might be a future split into three species (to start with). It would be Bahama Bananaquit *C. bahamensis*, Greater Antillean Bananaquit *C. flaveola* (the currently nominate form) and Common Bananaquit *C. bartholemica*. We saw the *dispar* race of the **Common Bananaquit** on the tour.

Saffron-billed Sparrow *Arremon flavirostris*

HBW suggests it might be a future split into three species. It would be Stripe-crowned Sparrow *A. dorbignii*, Grey-backed Sparrow *A. polionotus* and Saffron-billed Sparrow *A. flavirostris* (the currently nominate form). We saw the **Stripe-crowned Sparrow** on the tour.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*

HBW suggests it might be a future split. It would be Violaceous Palm Tanager *T. violilavata* and Olive Palm Tanager *T. palmarum* (the currently nominate form). We saw the *melanoptera* race of the **Olive Palm Tanager**.

Wedge-tailed Grass Finch *Emberizoides herbicola*

HBW suggests it might be a future split. It would be Northern Wedge-tailed Grass Finch *E. sphenurus* and Southern Wedge-tailed Grass Finch *E. herbicola* (the currently nominate form). We saw the **Southern Wedge-tailed Grass Finch** on the tour.

APPENDIX 1: Overall results of the 'Bird of the tour' contest

Species	Points	Nominations
1st Palkachupa Cotinga	30	3
2nd Green-capped Tanager	22	3
3rd Yungas Tyrannulet	12	2



Savanna habitat with forest fragments near Atén – Palkachupa Cotinga habitat (János Oláh).