



The superb Jocotoco Antpitta - not quite our bird of the trip this year! (Pete Morris)

SOUTHERN ECUADOR

17 JANUARY – 1/3 FEBRUARY 2017

LEADER: JUAN CARLOS CALVACHI and PETE MORRIS

The 2017 Birdquest Ultimate tour to Southern Ecuador was once again a magnificent adventure around some stunning sites in the south of this incredibly bird-rich country. We explored a variety of habitats, spanning from coastal wetlands to arid Tumbesian scrub, to rich Andean foothill forest (both west and east of the Andes), to the spectacular High Andes and even to the fringes of the Amazonian avifauna. Everyday was action-packed, and in a little over two weeks, including the extension, we recorded a highly impressive 685 species (including a number that were heard only). Amongst these was a very high percentage of the specialities we were looking for. Of course the standout species were as expected... the magnificent displaying Long-wattled Umbrella-birds; the sensational Jocotoco Antpittas; an unbelievably obliging Crescent-faced Antpitta; a breathtaking male Ecuadorian Hillstar and some stunning Orange-throated Tanagers. Perhaps less expected highlights were some sensational White-breasted Parakeets at their clay-lick, the rarely seen Red-faced Parrot posing in full view, a completely unexpected Sungrebe and an amorous pair of Grey Tinamous at almost touching distance. This of course only scratches the surface. If I were to mention 11 species of owls, and an amazing 63 hummingbirds, it begins to convey what a mind-boggling avian feast we experienced!



The outrageous Long-wattled Umbrellabird, in full display ended up as our top bird (Pete Morris)

We all assembled in Guayaquil at the start of the tour and very soon got the show on the road. With the excellent and knowledgeable Juan Carlos, and our extremely competent driver, we soon knew that we were in safe hands, and launched into our first of many action packed days. We were on a pretty tight time schedule as we exited Guayaquil before the morning rush hour had really begun. We made a series of stops as we headed south along the coast, the first at the Mangoles Chorute. Here, the tide was not on our side, so we instead focused on the dry woodland around the parking lot where we were soon enjoying a number of goodies such as Ecuadorian Trogon, Lineated Woodpecker and Plain-brown Woodcreeper, whilst the calls of Pacific Pygmy Owl called in not only the owl itself, but a number of smaller mobbing species, including some much-appreciated Orange-crowned Euphonias. After some effort, we also found some skulking Jet Antbirds playing hide-and-seek in a vine tangle.

A little further down the road we called in at some wetland areas. Here, our main target soon obliged as some impressive Horned Screamers posed on roadside trees. Peruvian Meadowlarks flashed colour from the fields, a stately Savanna Hawk sat up and a number of widespread waterbirds were also present, including Comb Duck, White-cheeked Pintail, our only Anhinga and Western Osprey of the tour, Limpkins, a couple of Burrowing Owls and a smart Masked Water Tyrant. We then moved on to our next stop, a small remnant patch of forest at Quizas Hoy. Here we were soon distracted by some inquisitive Long-billed (Baron's) Hermits, and our first Snowy-throated Kingbird. Before long we had set eyes on our prime target, the rare Pacific Royal Flycatcher, though it took a while before we got some great looks at the pair. Whilst looking we turned up a number of interesting birds including a Brownish Twistwing, Pacific Elaenia, an unexpected Brown-capped Tyrannulet, White-shouldered Tanagers and a pair of Guira Tanagers as well as Violet-bellied Hummingbirds and some smart Purple-crowned Fairies. In the nearby open country it didn't take us too long to track down a hulking Large-billed Seedfinch and a smaller Chestnut-bellied Seedfinch, before retiring for lunch in a nearby restaurant. Even here though, there were constant distractions! Pacific Parrotlets and rare Grey-cheeked Parakeets posed in the scope, a Fasciated Wren firkled in the undergrowth and a Spotted Sandpiper bobbed in the river. After our interesting lunch, we called in at some more wetlands where large numbers of herons, Wood Storks, waders, gulls and terns were present, but only briefly, for we had another appointment to keep!



The rare Pacific Royal Flycatcher was a highlight of our first morning (Mike Galtry)

We were soon at the wonderful Buenaventura Reserve, and made our way straight to a narrow trail from where we could soon here the muffled but unmistakable booming of our quarry. The bizarre Long-wattled Umbrellabird really does have to be seen to be believed, and before long we had feasted our hungry eyes on several of these amazing creatures. A few other species were present including Yellow-throated Toucan, White-whiskered Hermits, a White-booted Racket-tail, Red-rumped Woodpecker, Spotted Woodcreeper, a sneaky Northern Schiffornis and White-bearded Manakins, but the afternoon was really about those incredible umbrellabirds!! That evening we had our first views of the splendid Black-and-white Owl around the lodge, a star that was to give us several opportunities during our stay.

The following day we had the full day to explore the excellent and diverse reserve. We began around the lodge itself where the hummingbird feeders attracted numerous Brown Violetears, Green Thorntails, Violet-bellied Hummingbirds, Andean Emeralds and Green-crowned Brilliants, whilst nearby a pair of Guayaquil Woodpeckers put on a fine show. Moving higher we soon found another main target, the amazing Club-winged Manakin, in full display, and also nearby we found the rare Esmeralda's Antbird which was very showy. Less obliging was the skulking Western Woodhaunter and Song Wren whilst other goodies included Choco Toucan, Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner and Uniform and Black-crowned Antshrikes.

We then ventured higher still, easily finding the rare El Oro Parakeet and with a fine supporting cast which included an unexpected Ornate Hawk-Eagle, stunning Violet-tailed Sylphs, a Golden-headed Quetzal and our first Pale-mandibled Aracaris. Making our way down we stopped in more productive forest which yielded a stunning male Scaled Fruiteater, a couple of Golden-winged Manakins, a furtive Russet Antshrike, and a couple of Choco Brushfinches, though best of all was a remarkably obliging White-tipped Sicklebill. We also found a number of beautifully-coloured *Tangara* tanagers, including Golden, Silver-throated, Flame-faced, Bay-headed and Golden-naped Tanagers as well as some chunky Black-winged Saltators, Three-banded Warblers, and some stunning Red-masked Parakeets that posed by the roadside.

After a fine lunch, we headed down the hill. Here, our main quarry, the localized Ochraceous Attila was fairly easily found, alongside much appreciated Barred and White-whiskered Puffbirds. Pallid Dove took a bit of effort, a Pale-tailed Barbthroat sang its heart out and other goodies included Bat Falcon, Yellow Tyrannulet, White-throated Spadebill (complete with an erect yellow crest!), a fine male Yellow-tufted Dacnis, and, as dusk fell, our first Pauraque.



Goodies at Buenaventura included the rare El Oro Parakeet, Guayaquil Woodpecker and Black-and-white Owl (Pete Morris)



The following morning, after a final peak at the Black-and-white Owl, we set off for some higher forest. Here, we heard El Oro Tapaculo, but sadly could not attract it to us as is often the case with this elusive bird. By way of compensation, we did get amazing views of a brilliant Scaled Antpitta, and for some, a Plain-backed Antpitta, and other new birds included our first Line-cheeked Spinetail and a tame Ornate Flycatcher. We also popped in to another set of productive hummingbird feeders. Here, we soon bumped in to a much wanted group of Rufous-headed Chachalacas whilst the feeders themselves held Fawn-breasted Brilliants, some incredible Velvet-purple Coronets, two or three Brown Incas and more stunning Violet-tailed Sylphs. We then embarked upon a bit of an adventure, leading us to a private garden where we soon found the hoped-for 'Ecuadorian' Plumeleeter. This interesting form is currently treated as part of Bronze-tailed Plumeleeter by some authorities, but may well be split in the future.

After this stop we continued on into more and more arid country, as we began our quest for the Tumbesian endemics. Our first stop near to Empalme yielded several of the hoped-for species. White-edged Orioles, Long-



'Ecuadorian' Hillstar was seen extremely well, as were numerous scintillating Violet-bellied Hummingbirds (Pete Morris)

tailed Mockingbirds and Golden Grosbeaks were visible on arrival, and soon we found the hoped-for Tumbes Hummingbird – not the most impressive but a good one nevertheless! Other goodies at the stop included smart Collared Antshrikes, Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrants, Tumbes Pewee, the distinctive Baird's Flycatcher, sneaky Superciliated Wrens, and, after a bit of effort, the scarce Tumbes Sparrow. By the time we rolled into the excellent Jorupe Reserve, it was just about tea time!

That evening and the following morning, nightbirding excursions yielded Spectacled Owl for some and some obliging West Peruvian Screech Owls. After a fine breakfast, we sat down and waited for the birds to come to us! Soon numerous White-tailed Jays were joined by attractive Plumbeous-backed and subtle Ecuadorian Thrushes and colourful Whooping Motmots. Amazilia Hummingbirds investigated the feeders, whilst corn on the ground attracted Blue Ground Doves and Red-masked Parakeets. Pale-browed Tinamous could be heard all around, but it took a while before they joined the party, allowing rare close up views. We then explored the



A showy Pale-browed Tinamou at Jorupe (Pete Morris)



The lodge at Jorupe was great for watching White-tailed Jay, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Whooping Motmot and Ecuadorian Thrush , as well as a number of other species that were attracted to the feeders (Pete Morris)



surrounding area with a specific target list in mind. Soon we found a diminutive pair of Ecuadorian Piculets, obliging Blackish-headed Spinetails, smart Grey-and-gold Warblers, and a fine pair of Slaty Becards, though the Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner was a bit tougher to see well. Having heard the distinctive calls cutting through the air all morning, it was a great relief when we saw the smart Watkins's Antpitta. Also here was our first Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, and overhead, Tumbes (Short-tailed) Swifts swooped around.

In the afternoon we explored some forest remnants and dry forest above Jorupe, partly in the hope of finding the rare Grey-headed Antbird. To this end we failed, but we did find the localized Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner, the scarce Loja Tyrannulet, a sneaky White-winged Brushfinch and a fine Silver-backed Tanager, as well as Smoky-brown Woodpecker and Tumbesian Tyrannulet. We also eventually found some smart Chestnut-colored Swallows having sadly witnessed how many of the colonies had been destroyed by the unaccommodating (at least if you're a swallow!) local folk.



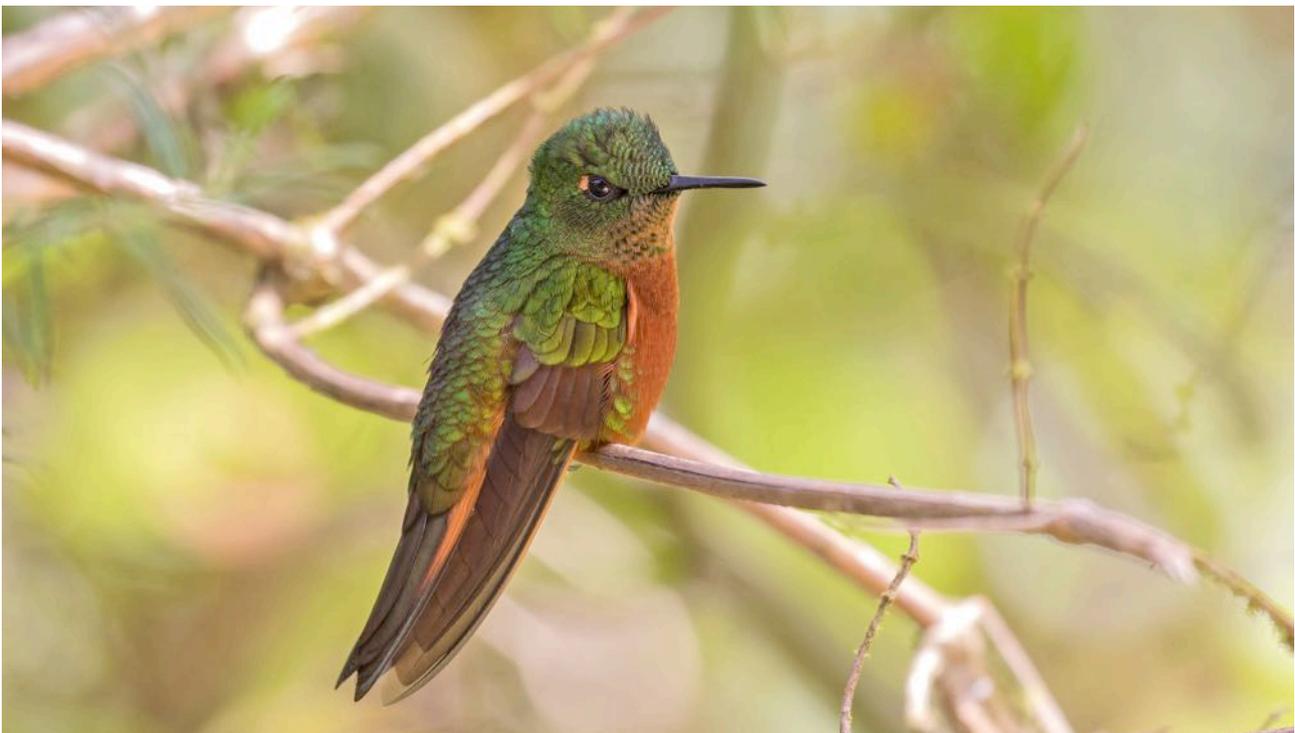
A couple of West Peruvian Screech Owls and a Spectacled Owl from Jorupe (Pete Morris)

Onward ever onward, and the following morning found us listening to the calls of a Leymebamba (Rusty-breasted) Antpitta which refused to emerge from its inaccessible patch of roadside scrub. Undeterred we continued to explore some montane forest patches in the Utuana area, finding some great birds. Black-crested Tit-Tyrant was a favourite for many, but our best achievement was to get some great views of the rare Grey-headed Antbird – an arch skulker which eventually showed superbly! Also in the area we found the localized Chapman's Antshrike, a lovely Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, a Red-crested Cotinga, our first Blue-and-black Tanagers, some smart Rainbow Starfrontlets, gorgeous Purple-throated Sunangels and both White-rumped and Zone-tailed Hawks.

We then embarked upon the longish drive to Tapichalaca, with a fortuitous stop yielding our only Bay-crowned Brushfinches of the tour! On arrival at the lovely lodge, things were quietening off, but numerous feisty Chestnut-breasted Coronets guarded the feeders zealously.



Highlights of a busy day included Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, the gorgeous Purple-throated Sunangel and Chestnut-breasted Coronet (Pete Morris)



Tapichalaca and its famous antpitta were the foundation blocks for the superb Jocotoco Foundation, an organization set up to preserve critical habitat, and indeed we visited several of their wonderful reserves. Our time at Tapichalaca was special indeed, and none of us will forget the awesome experience of watching a family of incredible Jocotoco Antpittas feeding just a few metres away, totally unconcerned. It was unquestionably a tour highlight. But the reserve's riches did not stop there! We also had incredible views of a show-stopping Ocellated Tapaculo as well as both Rufous and Chestnut-naped Antpittas, and found a sneaky Slate-crowned Antpitta, as well as a number of other montane goodies. Top picks of the other species seen included smart Golden-plumed Parakeets, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucans, Amethyst-throated Sunangels, sensational Red-hooded Tanagers, Black-capped Tyrannulet, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, the localized Orange-banded Flycatcher, Green-and-black Fruiteater, Rufous and elusive Plain-tailed Wrens, Yellow-breasted Brushfinch, Grey-hooded Bush Tanager, colourful Hooded, Lacrimose and Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers and the chunky Grass-green Tanager.

In the afternoon we moved down to lower areas where we found another set of birds including smart Crimson-mantled Woodpeckers, a smart Black-throated Toucanet, Ash-browed Spinetails, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, our first Montane Foliage-gleaner, Olivaceous Greenlet, a singing Pale-eyed Thrush, Maranon Thrush and Yellow-whiskered Bush Tanager. An evening owling session back near to the lodge was largely unsuccessful, though we did encounter a chilly-looking Band-winged Nightjar.



Jocotoco Antpitta indulgence!! An adult in situ and the happy family of three!! (Pete Morris)





It's fair to say we quite enjoyed the Jocotoco Antpittas! Juvenile above, adult below! (Pete Morris)





Chestnut-naped Antpitta and *Rufous Antpitta* (below right) were also seen brilliantly at Tapichalaca (Pete Morris)





Another star! The incredible Ocellated Tapaculo at Tapichalaca - check out the hindclaw! (Pete Morris)



We were once again up and away early the following day, this time to Cerro Toledo, in search of the range-restricted Neblina Metaltail. It was sunny, and therefore, in the paramo at least, quiet, but it didn't take us too long to track down our quarry, alongside some amazing Rainbow-bearded Thornbills. Other highlights here included a fine tapaculo hat-trick (with Ash-colored, Chusquea and Paramo Tapaculos all showing well), Scaly-naped Amazon catching the sun at eye-level, Glowing Pufflegs, Mouse-coloured Thistletails, a couple of Crowned Chat-Tyrants, Pale-naped Brushfinches and gorgeous Golden-crowned Tanagers.



Two of the highlights of Cerro Toledo - the striking Neblina Metaltail and the brilliant Golden-crowned Tanager (Pete Morris)



Later we moved down to Vilcabamba where we explored some brushy fields and scrub. Here we were pleasantly surprised to find the unusual Slaty Finch as well as an exquisite pair of Collared Crescentchesters, Purple-collared Woodstars, Yellow-tailed Oriole and some very yellow, presumed Hooded Siskins. After some searching we also gained some excellent views of Andean Tinamous. A final stop produced an excitable pair of Plumbeous Rails, one of which showed superbly, rounding the day off nicely!



Plumeous Rails showed well at Vilcabamba (Pete Morris) as did Andean Tinamou (Mike Galtry) whilst Andean Slaty Thrush was a bonus (Pete Morris)

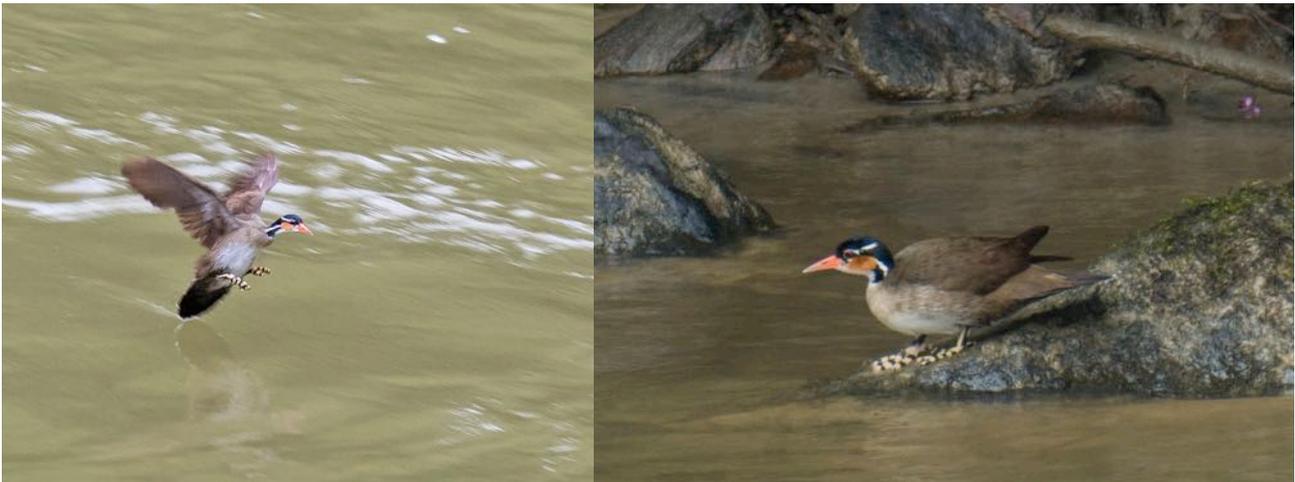


The following day saw us reaching for our umbrellas as we headed along the old highway that runs between Loja and Zamora. The intermittent rain added a challenge, but we were soon enjoying some of the gems of the region. Most remarkable was Juan Carlos's spot of a couple of Oilbirds hiding in a crevice by the river! A fine family of Torrent Ducks ran the rapids whilst White-capped Dippers and Torrent Tyrannulets flitted along the riverside rocks. Despite the thundering noise of the rivers we managed to find a few mixed flocks, unearthing goodies including the scarce Fulvous-breasted Flatbill, as well as sneaky Spotted Barbtails, our first Olive-backed Woodcreeper, a smart Yellow-breasted Antwren, an Ashy-headed Tyrannulet, Grey-mantled Wren, a male Olivaceous Siskin, Subtropical Caciques, Ash-throated and Yellow-whiskered Bush Tanagers, and smart Orange-eared, Paradise and Spotted Tanagers. We even saw some flyover White-breasted Parakeets, though we were hoping for better...

We paused for a picnic lunch where we soon picked up our first Black-billed Thrushes and Mottle-backed Elaenias as well as Little and Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers and Black-faced and Yellow-bellied Dacnises. Totally unexpected though was a female Sungrebe which performed at length, posing in the scope complete with stripey feet! Later we made our way towards Yankuam. A productive pause at a roadside marsh saw us tee up several hulking Black-billed Seedfinches in the scope as well as our first Speckled Chachalacas, Glittering-throated



Two aquatic denizens that gave us great pleasure: a male Torrent Duck (Pete Morris) and a female Sungrebe (left Pete Morris, right Mike Galtry)



Emerald, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, noisy Black Caracaras, an obliging Dark-breasted Spinetail, Violaceous Jays, numerous Chestnut-bellied and Black-and-white Seedeaters and Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch.

We had a day and a morning to explore the remnant forest patches south of Yankuam, including the Maycu Reserve. This area shot to fame in the ornithological world when Orange-throated Tanager was discovered there, and this of course was the prime reason for our visit. It did take a while before we heard the musical chortling of a flock, but then the *Wetmorethraupis* was in the bag! The area is of course home to a whole range of Amazonian foothill species, and in our brief visit, we could only scratch the surface. A sneaky Fulvous Antshrike was a major surprise, and Grey-tailed Piha, Golden-winged and Black-and-white Tody Flycatchers and a tiny White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant much appreciated. Among the long list of other species seen, the highlights included perched Plumbeous Pigeons, a fine male Black-throated Brilliant scoped up, the smart Black-eared Fairy, subtle Purplish Jacamars, Gilded and Lemon-throated Barbets, Ivory-billed and Chestnut-eared Aracaris, a tiny Lafresnaye's Piculet, an obliging White-throated Woodpecker, a Laughing Falcon, a fine Speckled Spinetail, the often elusive Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner, a whole host of antbirds including Lined and Plain-winged Antshrikes, Ornate, Stripe-chested, White-flanked and Rufous-winged Antwrens, and Grey, Black, White-browed and Peruvian Warbling Antbirds, Wing-barred Piprites, the rather subtle Ecuadorian Tyrannulet,



The stunning Orange-throated Tanager gave some great views at Yankuam (Pete Morris)

Olive-chested Flycatcher, a cracking Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo (the flock leader!?), Flame-crested, Turquoise, Masked, Opal-rumped, Green-and-gold, Yellow-backed and Masked Crimson Tanagers, and, at the last moment, a fine pair of Yellow-shouldered Grosbeaks.

It had been hard work at times, but as we sat down for lunch at our pleasant but rustic lodge at Yankuam, we could be reasonably pleased with our tally. As usual though, we couldn't dwell on our success for too long as we had more appointments to keep! A speculative stop en route brought us some good scope views of Blackish Rails, and the Sungrebe was still at the river! We pulled in to the delightful Copalinga Lodge in good time and were delighted to be greeted by both female Little Woodstar and Spangled Coquette that were buzzing around the *Verbena*. Not a bad start. But we had another target, and grabbed our tin of corn and headed for the trail. Upon arrival, a magnificent Grey Tinamou was waiting for us... Wow, just wow! What a bird, and it let us watch it at point blank range as it awaited its corn! Also here were Grey-fronted Doves and White-necked Thrush, and those that waited were pleased to see a bit of intimate action when a second Grey Tinamou showed up! Nearby Blackish Nightjars showed well, and a fine dinner that night was washed down with excellent craft beers!



A female Spangled Coquette (Pete Morris) and Wire-crested Thorn-tails (Mike Galtry) were stars in the Verbena at Copalinga.



The incredible Grey Tinamous at Copalinga are rising stars of the tour! (Pete Morris)

We spent the following two mornings exploring the excellent Bombuscaro section of the Podocarpus National Park. It wasn't all plain sailing and some birds proved a little hard to get, but over the course of the two mornings we accrued a pretty good list of birds. Pride of place went to the fabulous White-breasted Parakeets which initially played hard to get, but eventually succumbed, allowing amazing views as they came down to take minerals from the edge of the trail! Also popular were some stolid Black-streaked Puffbirds and a fine Coppery-chested Jacamar. Interesting hummers included Ecuadorian Piedtail, Green-fronted Lancebill and Grey-chinned Hermit, whilst mixed flocks held the local Foothill Elaenia (discovered by my late good friend Paul Coopmans), a furtive Black-billed Treehunter, Lemon-browed Flycatchers and a male Golden-collared Honeyeater. Other new species for our ever growing list included Andean Motmot, Common Scale-backed and Spot-backed Antbirds (both singing birds in female-type plumage), Cliff Flycatchers, the extremely localized Orange-crested Flycatcher, Blue-rumped and Golden-headed Manakins, a brief Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, and a couple of smart Olive Finches. In the hours of darkness around the lodge, we had some fabulous views of three Band-bellied Owls, and as day broke, obliging Sickle-winged Guans appeared. During our spare time near the lodge, Red Pileated Finches were present, and hummingbirds were conspicuous and included stunning Violet-fronted Brilliants, Golden-tailed Sapphires, Violet-headed Hummingbirds and Wire-crested Thorntails.

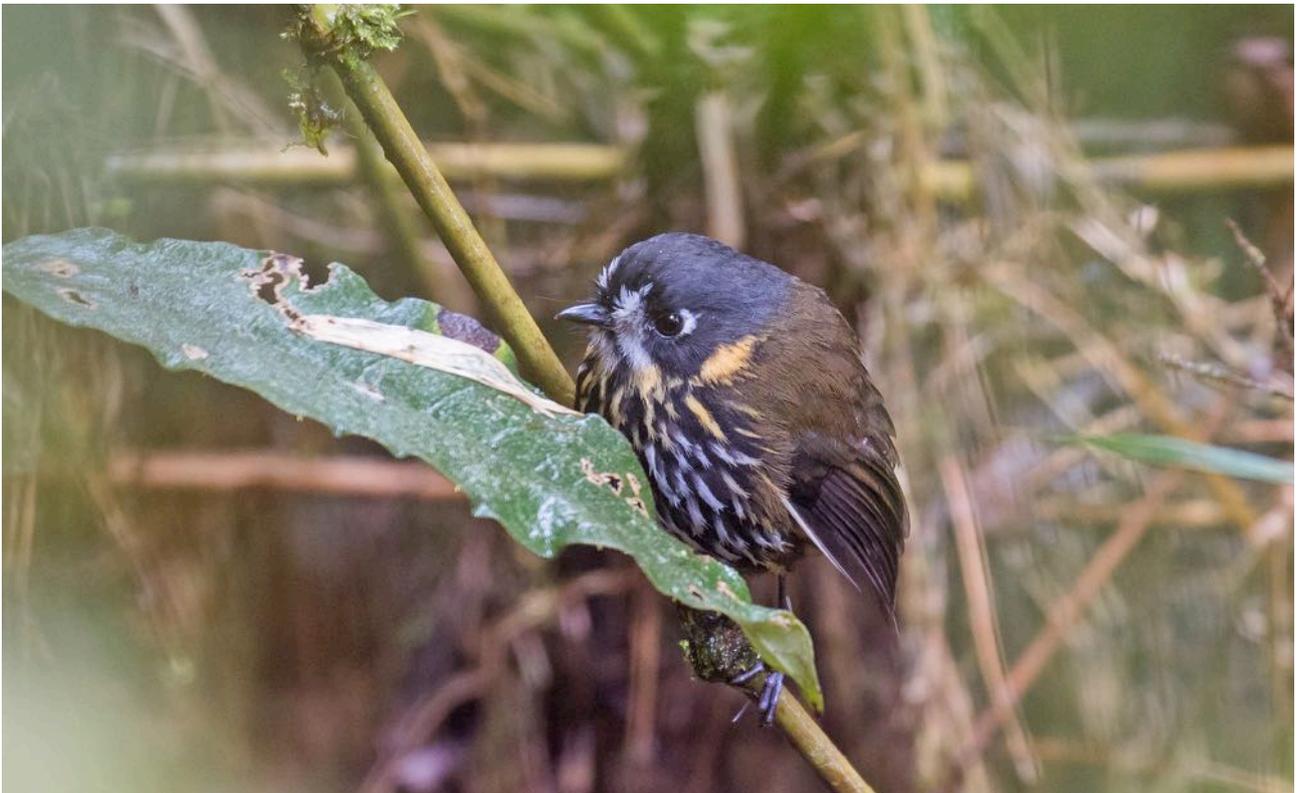
In the intervening afternoon we explored an interesting section of forest nearby. On the way we found a fabulous Fasciated Tiger Heron and once there we were delighted to find the bizarre Wattled Guan. Also here were smart Red-headed Barbets, a fine Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, showy Red-billed Parrots, more Pale-eyed Thrushes, some subtly smart Bronze-green Euphonias, gorgeous Golden-eared Tanagers, some stunning White-winged Tanagers and some obliging Tooth-billed Tanagers.

After a fond farewell to the wonderful Copalinga Lodge, we retraced our steps and made our way back to Zamora. Our first stop provided an excellent greasy bonus, in the shape of a pair of much-wanted Lanceolated Monklets. We struggled to find much else new, though enjoyed more views of the Oilbirds, and later we stopped at higher altitude where some gorgeous Beryl-spangled Tanagers caught our eye, a sneaky White-bellied Antpitta played hide-and-seek with us, and Pale-edged Flycatchers were added to our list.



We were extremely fortunate to get such amazing views of the rare Red-faced Parrot (Pete Morris)

We were again on the road early again the following day, beginning with a stop in an unlikely looking area. Our quarry soon appeared, but was the wrong one, as a Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant revealed its white eye and slim black bill. Remarkably, whilst watching it, the more desirable White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant appeared in view and showed well, allowing us to compare the two species almost side-by-side! We continued on to a small area of cloud forest. Seeing anything was a challenge. We could hear distant Bearded Guans, and after a while heard the shrill calls of the much-wanted Red-faced Parrot. Hearing them was one thing, seeing them was another, but then, almost by magic a pair appeared, and we enjoyed sating views of this seldom seen species, and what a cracker it was. We then moved higher, way up into the bamboo zone, to look for another mega! Once again, we had a battle on, but once again we succeeded, and everyone managed to see the fabulous little Cres-



Any day you see a Crescent-faced Antpitta has to be a good day! (Pete Morris)



A particularly dark Andean Pygmy Owl granted us great views at Acacana (Mike Galtry)

cent-faced Antpitta lurking in the bamboo! We then explored the higher areas further adding goodies including a chocolate-coloured Andean Pygmy Owl, an obliging Black-throated Tody-Tyrant and mixed flocks holding Pearled Treerunner, White-throated and White-banded Tyrannulets, Citrine and Black-crested Warblers, more delightful Spectacled Whitestarts and Superciliaried and the smart the smart Black-headed Hemispinguses. By the time we arrived in La Union, there was just time to settle in before dinner.

An optional owling session yielded a Mottled Owl, though little else, and we soon made our way to look for another of Ecuador's rarest, the Pale-headed Brushfinch. This we saw well, and with ease, and we also found a showy Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (eating bread!!), nest-building Line-cheeked Spinetails, a sneaky Blackish Tapaculo, a lovely Turquoise Jay, a shy Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, and another Andean Slaty Thrush whilst other more widespread species included a showy Striped Cuckoo, Amazilia Hummingbirds, some lovely male Purple-collared Woodstars, a female Golden-rumped Euphonia, a couple of cracking Black-lored Yellowthroats, melodious Russet-crowned Warblers, Grey-browed Brushfinches, smart Fawn-breasted and Rufous-chested Tanagers, and more confusingly bright Hooded Siskins.



The rare Pale-headed Brushfinch (Pete Morris)



Our hotel was home to numerous Andean Gulls and Andean Teals (Pete Morris)

Later we made our way higher still into El Cajas National Park and up to our stunning accommodation. Now we were surrounded by Andean Gulls and Andean Teals. A short walk nearby soon yielded the endemic Violet-throated Metaltail, and here, in the wonderful mountains we also watched Variable Hawks, Carunculated Caracaras and a fine Great Sapphirewing.

We set off early the following morning, with one main objective before dawn broke. This we achieved with excellent views of a Rufous-banded Owl in the spotlight. Nearby it didn't take too long to find several smart Ecuadorian Rails, whilst on the lake, new species included Yellow-billed Pintail and Andean Duck. Mountain Velvetbreast also obliged, though sadly a calling Undulated Antpitta could not be enticed in.



The endemic Violet-throated Metaltail showed very well indeed (Pete Morris)



Rufous-banded Owl made us work, but we got there... (Pete Morris)

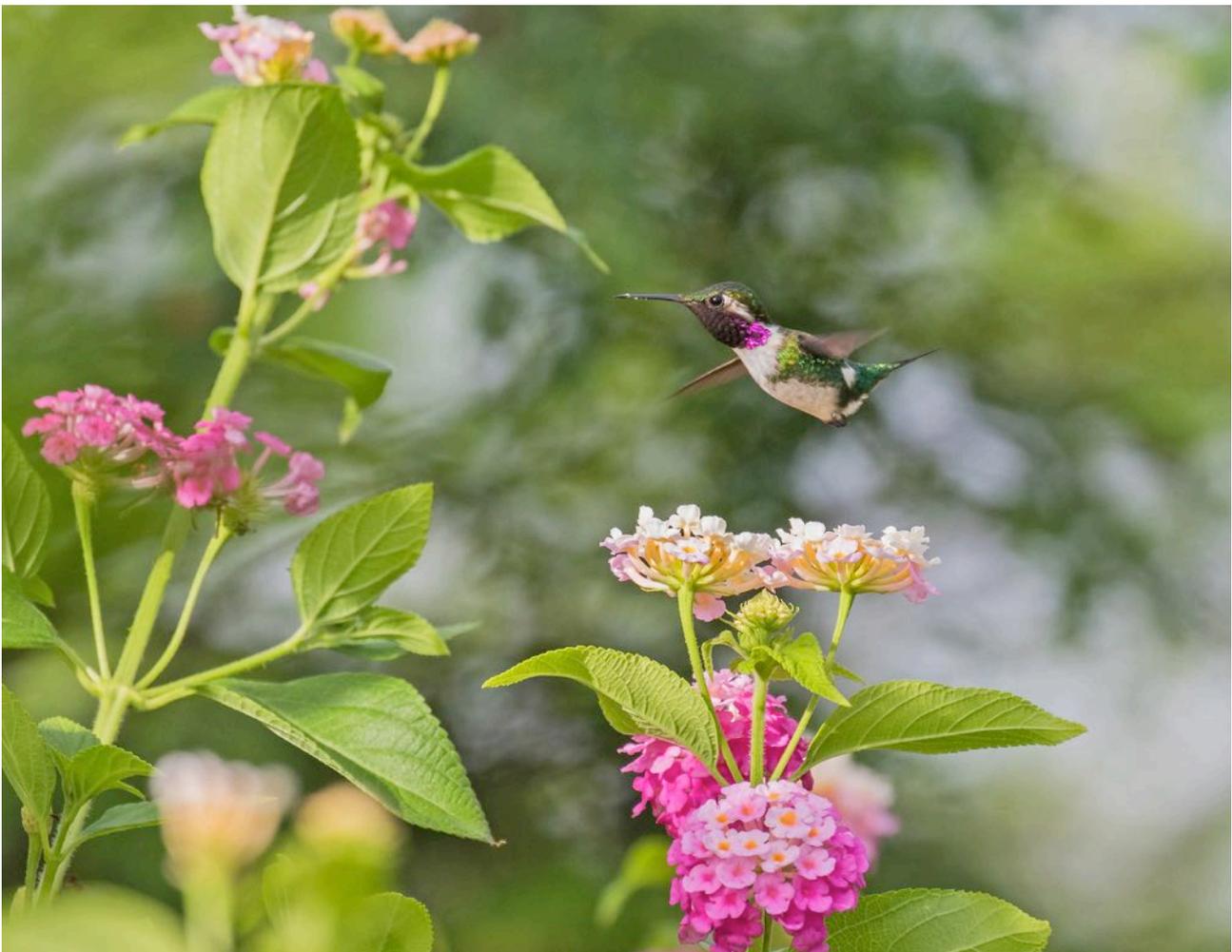
We returned for a fine breakfast before heading higher up the mountain into increasingly scenic country. We paused by another lake and were once again treated to more stunners. Pride of place went to an unbelievable male Ecuadorian Hillstar, complete with his purple gorget, but also well appreciated were some smart Blue-mantled Thornbills. Chestnut-winged and Stout-billed Cinclodes, both obliged, a singing Many-striped Canastero was scoped up, Tawny Antpittas bounded around the open ground and the seldom-seen Tit-like Dacnis also showed well. A further stop for Giant Conebill proved unsuccessful, though we did find a roosting Great Horned Owl before the heavens really opened. As we headed back to Guayaquil, we saw many familiar species, including more Grey-cheeked Parakeets and a number of waterbirds, and by early evening we were into our comfortable hotel, the main tour now concluded.

Having said goodbye to those not joining us on our brief extension, we set off and made our way to the Santa Elena Peninsula. Skies were leaden and heavy, the ground was muddy, and the prospect of a walk through the desert was less than appealing!! Still, we only had one chance, so the boots were donned, the umbrellas raised and we set off. I think, in summary, one could say it was a very wet but ultimately successful morning! As noisy Peruvian Meadowlarks displayed, it was the similarly-coloured gaudy Crimson-breasted Finches that were first to catch our eye. Hundreds of Croaking Ground Doves and numerous Parrot-billed Seedeaters and Band-tailed Sierra Finches grovelled on the ground, and, after a bit of tracking down, we were delighted to find some sizeable flocks of the nomadic Sulphur-throated Finch, which included some relatively bright individuals. Collared Warbling Finches appeared, Necklaced Spinetails were teased from the scrub and other new birds included a soggy Great Black Hawk, West Peruvian Doves and some tiny Short-tailed Field Tyrants, and on the way back we were delighted to find an obliging Short-tailed Woodstar. By now we were drenched, but fortunately the sun was beginning to poke out, and the mercury rising rapidly, so it didn't take too long to dry out!

Later we explored the nearby saltpans, which held impressive numbers of waterbirds. Amongst the numerous Brown Pelicans we picked out some Peruvian Pelicans, a few Chilean Flamingos graced one of the pools alongside Roseate Spoonbills, and a male Snowy Plover was a good find amongst a good selection of shorebirds which included Short-billed Dowitcher, Semi-palmated, Western, Least and Stilt Sandpipers and 100s of Wilson's Phalaropes. Diligent searching amongst the numerous Grey-headed and Laughing Gulls revealed a single Franklin's Gull and a couple of unexpected Kelp Gulls, and 100s of Royal and Cabot's Terns were also present. We then paused for a fine seafood lunch, entertained by Magnificent Frigatebirds, Blue-footed Boobys and American Oystercatchers as we ate.

Having settled in to our accommodation, we were once again out, this time to a fabulous little garden and an equally lovely hostess. Here, we were able to watch Pacific Parrotlets and Pacific Pygmy Owls as we waited for the main event! And it didn't take too long before we saw the tiny Esmeralda's Woodstar buzzing around the flowers like a bee. First a surprisingly richly-coloured female, and then a fine magenta-throated male. Job done! We then moved on to our last stop of the day. Here we found impressive Red-billed Scythebills, subtle Sooty-crowned Flycatchers, and, at dusk, despite the spitting rain, some good looks at Anthony's Nightjar.

On our final day, just a few targets remained. We began near to our lodge with some excellent views of the unobtrusive Grey-breasted Flycatcher as well as a pair of White-backed Fire-eyes, numerous bold Black-capped Sparrows, Slaty Spinetail and another furtive Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner. We then moved on to another area and immediately found our next target, the localized Saffron Siskin. We got great views of a whole flock, many of which were very bright, but still we wondered how different they were from the Hooded Siskins we'd seen earlier! Further wanders yielded Scarlet-backed Woodpeckers and more Collared Antshrikes, but really, that was it. A journey back, another seafood lunch and time to reflect on a brilliant trip! And as a final reminder that the rainy season was beginning, once back in Guayaquil, a boat would have been more appropriate transport than a car, but that just added to the fun!



The rare and endemic Esmeralda's Woodstar was the focus of the extension and didn't disappoint (Pete Morris)



The incredible Ecuadorian Hillstar has to be seen to be believed!! (Pete Morris)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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).

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

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

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

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>

(EW) = Extinct in the wild, **(CR)** = Critically Endangered, **(EN)** = Endangered, **(VU)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

Species only recorded on the Southwestern Ecuador extension are indicated by the symbol (E*)

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). **2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.2)**. 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.

Grey Tinamou ◊ *Tinamus tao* (VU) Brilliant views of a stunner down to a couple of metres at Copalinga Lodge [kleei].
Highland Tinamou *Nothocercus bonapartei* (H) One heard distantly at Tapichalaca [plumbeiceps].
Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* (H) Heard a couple of times at Copalinga Lodge [nigriceps].
Pale-browed Tinamou ◊ *Crypturellus transfasciatus* (NT) Great views of one coming to the feeders at Jorupe.
Andean Tinamou *Nothoprocta pentlandii* Great views of at least 3 in scrub above Vilcabamba [ambigua].
Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta* Four seen well south of Taura.



The impressive Horned Screamer was seen on our first day out (Pete Morris)

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Good numbers seen along the coast [nominate].
Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* A few in wetlands around Taura and Santa Rosa.
Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata* Brilliant views of a pair and two juvs along the old Loja - Zamora Road [leucogenis].
Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis sylvicola* Quite a few seen, the first south of Taura.
Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* A couple of drakes on the Santa Elena Salinas.
White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* Seen near Taura and at the Santa Elena Salinas [rubrirostris].
Andean Teal *Anas andium* Several seen in El Cajas NP, including around the hotel [nominate].
Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica* Two on the Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP [spinicauda].
Andean Duck *Oxyura ferruginea* Several on Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.
Rufous-headed Chachalaca ◊ *Ortalis erythroptera* (VU) Excellent views of four near Pinas (Buenaventura Reserve).
Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata* 2 seen on the drive to Yankuam. Also at Copalinga Lodge [nominate].
Bearded Guan ◊ *Penelope barbata* (H) (VU) A couple heard at Tapichalaca. Also heard around Acacana.
Andean Guan *Penelope montagnii* (H) Heard at dawn by Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP [brooki].
Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* (H) Heard distantly at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura [aequatorialis].
Wattled Guan ◊ *Aburria aburri* (NT) Brilliant views of a few along the old Loja - Zamora road.
Sickle-winged Guan *Chamaepetes goudotii* Seen well on a couple of mornings at Copalinga Lodge [tschudii].



Sickle-winged Guan (left) and Wattled Guan were both appreciated (Pete Morris)

Rufous-fronted Wood Quail *Odontophorus erythrops* (H) (NT) Heard distantly from Umbrellabird Lodge [nominate].
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* One seen in the wetlands near to Taura [*antarcticus*].
Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* A few seen very well in the Santa Elena Salinas.
Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* One seen at the Santa Rosa shrimp ponds.
American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* A few seen at the Santa Rosa shrimp ponds [*ramobustorum*].
Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* A few seen at the Santa Rosa shrimp ponds. Also around Santa Elena.
Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* Best was the showy subadult along the old Loja - Zamora Road [*salmonii*].



A stately Fasciated Tiger Heron fishing near to Zamora (Pete Morris)

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (E*) One seen near to Ayampe [*hoactli*].
Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* One near Guayaquil and a couple near to Ayampe [*caliginis*].
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* A few seen, first at La Flora, Mangales Chorute [nominate].
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Reasonably common and widespread.
Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* A few seen in the wetlands between Guayaquil and Quizas Hoy.
(American) Great Egret *Ardea [alba] egretta* Reasonably common and widespread.
Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* A couple at the Santa Rosa shrimp ponds and a few around Santa Elena.
Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* One seen at the Santa Rosa shrimp ponds.
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Reasonably common and widespread [nominate].
Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (E*) Common along the coast in the Santa Elena area [*murphyi*].
Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus* (E*) A few along the coast in the Santa Elena area.
Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Very common along the coast in the Santa Elena area.
Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* (E*) Several seen along the coast in the Santa Elena area [nominate].
Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* First on the drive to Jorupe. Plenty in the Santa Elena area [nominate].
Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Just one seen in the wetlands near Taura, between Guayaquil and Quizas Hoy.
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Common and widespread.
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Common and widespread.
King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* One over the dry forest near to Puerto Lopez.
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Just one, in the wetlands between Guayaquil and Quizas Hoy [*carolinensis*].
White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* A few around the wetlands between Guayaquil and Quizas Hoy [nominate].
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* Reasonably common and widespread. First on the drive to Buenaventura.
Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* (NT) Excellent looks over the upper section of Buenaventura [*vicarius*].
Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* Three seen at Buenaventura.



Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans were very common along the coast (Pete Morris)



- Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* Very common in the wetlands between Guayaquil and Santa Rosa [nominate].
- Savanna Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis* One seen in the wetlands between Guayaquil and Quizas Hoy.
- Great Black Hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga* (E*) Singles near Atahuala, Santa Elena Peninsula, and Puerto Lopez [nominate].
- Barred Hawk** *Morphnarchus princeps* (H) Heard by some at the Buenaventura Reserve.
- Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris* Plenty, first noted in the upper section of the Buenaventura Reserve.
- Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* A few seen, the first at Jorupe [*harrisi*].
- White-rumped Hawk** *Parabuteo leucorrhous* Excellent views of a circling dark phase bird near Utuana.
- Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma* Most seen, especially in El Cajas NP would be the nominate form.
- Grey-backed Hawk** ◊ *Pseudastur occidentalis* (EN) Great looks at 2 in the upper part of the Buenaventura Reserve.
- Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* Excellent views of a circling dark phase bird near Utuana.
- Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* Stunning views of an extremely obliging female in the river at La Saquea, near Zamora.
- Rufous-sided Crane** *Laterallus melanophaius* (H) One heard in marshes south of Yankuam [*oenops*].
- White-throated Crane** *Laterallus albigularis* Heard and one flushed briefly in the upper section of Buenaventura [nominate].
- Ecuadorian Rail** ◊ *Rallus aequatorialis* Great scope views of at least 3 at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.
- Rufous-necked Wood Rail** *Aramides axillaris* (H) Heard at dawn at Jorupe.
- Grey-necked Wood Rail** *Aramides cajaneus* (H) Heard distantly at Yankuam.
- Blackish Rail** *Pardirallus nigricans* Heard near Yankuam, then great scope views of a pair near Paquisha [nominate].
- Plumbeous Rail** *Pardirallus sanguinolentus* Excellent views of a responsive pair near Vilcabamba [*simonsi*].
- Andean Coot** *Fulica ardesiaca* Several on Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP [*atrura*].
- Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* Several seen in the wetlands between Guayaquil and Santa Rosa [nominate].



Grey-backed Hawk (above) and Ornate Hawk-Eagle were good through the scope! Savanna Hawk a little closer! (Pete Morris)



- American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* (E*) Common along the coast in the Santa Elena area.
- Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* Several between Guayaquil and Santa Rosa and in the Santa Elena area.
- Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* (E*) Several on the Santa Elena Salinas [*cynosurae*].
- Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* (E*) Good numbers on the Santa Elena Salinas.
- Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* (NL) One seen by some from the bus in the wetlands between Guayaquil and Santa Rosa.
- Snowy Plover** *Charadrius nivosus* (NT) (E*) A cracking male on the Santa Elena Salinas [*occidentalis*].
- Wattled Jacana** *Jacana jacana* Several seen in the wetlands between Guayaquil and Santa Rosa [*scapularis*].
- Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* (E*) Several on the Santa Elena Salinas [*caurinus*].
- (Hudsonian) Whimbrel** *Numenius [phaeopus] hudsonicus* (E*) A couple on the Santa Elena Salinas.
- Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* (E*) Several on the Santa Elena Salinas.
- Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* (E*) At least one on the Santa Elena Salinas.
- (Western) Willet** *Tringa [semipalmata] inornata* (E*) At least three on the Santa Elena Salinas.
- Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* First seen in the river at Parador El Saman. A few others noted.
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (E*) A few seen on the Santa Elena Salinas [*morinella*].
- Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* (E*) c12 on the Santa Elena Salinas.
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba* (E*) 70+ seen, most in a roosting flock, on the Santa Elena Salinas [*rubida*].
- Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* (E*) A few on the Santa Elena Salinas.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* (NT) (E*) Quite a few seen on the Santa Elena Salinas.
- Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* (E*) A few, including some showing colour already, on the Santa Elena Salinas.
- Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* (E*) Several hundred on the Santa Elena Salinas. Nice to see.
- Andean Gull** *Chroicocephalus serranus* c20 in El Cajas NP, especially around the hotel.
- Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* (E*) Common along the coast in the Santa Elena area [nominate].
- Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* One at the Santa Rosa shrimp ponds. Common along the coast [*megalopterus*].
- Franklin's Gull** *Leucophaeus pipixcan* A few at the Santa Rosa shrimp ponds and 1 on the Santa Elena Salinas.



A short-billed Dowitcher and one of two tatty Kelp Gulls seen during the tour (Pete Morris)

- Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* Two, a 2w and a near adult, along the coast in the Santa Elena area [nominate].
- Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* A few at the Santa Rosa shrimp ponds and Santa Elena salinas [*nilotica*-group].
- (American) Royal Tern** *Thalasseus [maximus] maximus* (E*) Common along the coast in the Santa Elena area.
- Cabot's Tern** *Thalasseus acutiflavus* (E*) Small numbers on the Santa Elena Salinas [nominate].
- Rock Dove (Feral)** *Columba livia* Introduced vermin of course.
- Band-tailed Pigeon** *Patagioenas fasciata* First in roadside forest near to Utuana. Common elsewhere [*albilinea*].
- Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* One on the journey to Santa Rosa and a couple of others [*occidentalis*].
- Plumbeous Pigeon** *Patagioenas plumbea* 2 seen well perched, others heard at Yankuam [*pallescens*].
- Ruddy Pigeon** *Patagioenas subvinacea* (VU) One seen in the upper section of the Buenaventura Reserve [*berlepschi*].
- Ecuadorian Ground Dove** ◊ *Columbina buckleyi* Fairly common and widespread, especially along the coast [nominate].
- Croaking Ground Dove** *Columbina cruziana* (E*) Abundant on the Santa Elena Peninsula and in the Ayampe area.
- Blue Ground Dove** *Claravis pretiosa* Great views of several coming to the feeders at Urraca Lodge, Jorupe Reserve.



Blue Ground Dove was showy at Jorupe (Pete Morris)

- White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* Fairly common and widespread in suitable habitat [*decolor*].
- Grey-fronted Dove** *Leptotila rufaxilla* See note.
- Pallid Dove** ◊ *Leptotila pallida* We eventually got some views of a pair below the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura.

White-throated Quail-dove *Zentrygon frenata* (H) Several heard, the first above Sozoranga (nr Jorupe) [*subgrisea*].
Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* Reasonably common and widespread [*hypoleuca*].
West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda* First seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula, several more around Ayampe.
Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Reasonably common and widespread.
Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* First seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula. Several more around Ayampe.
Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* Great views of one at Yunguilla. Others heard.
Little Cuckoo *Coccyua minuta* One seen briefly and heard at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [nominat].
Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Two forms: *nigricrissa* first at Quizas Hoy, *mesura* first at Yankuam.
West Peruvian Screech Owl ♦ *Megascops roboratus* Great views of several around Urraca Lodge, Jorupe [*pacificus*].
White-throated Screech Owl *Megascops albogularis* (HNL) Heard while we were looking for Rufous-banded Owl.
Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* Great views of a roosting bird in the Polylepis patch in El Cajas NP [*nigrescens*].



A day-roosting Great Horned Owl, Peruvian Pygmy Owl and a Band-winged Nightjar (Pete Morris)



Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* Great views for some at Yunguilla [nominate].
Rufous-banded Owl *Strix albitarsis* Excellent spotlight views of one in El Cajas NP. Great bird [nominate]!
Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata* Excellent views on several occasions, coming to the lights at Buenaventura.
Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* A couple for some along the trails from Urraca Lodge, Jorupe [*chapmani*].
Band-bellied Owl *Pulsatrix melanota* One heard by Yankuam Lodge, then great views of 3 at Copalinga [nominate].



Band-bellied Owls were great to see at Copalinga (Pete Morris)

Andean Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium jadinii* Great views of one in the upper reaches of Acacana.
Pacific Pygmy Owl ◊ *Glaucidium peruanum* Quite common. First seen at La Flora, Mangales Chorute.
Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* First seen by the wetlands between Guayaquil and Quizas Hoy [*pichincha*].
Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* 2 scoped in a ravine along the old Loja - Zamora Road. Great spot J-C!
Blackish Nightjar *Nyctipolus nigrescens* Good spotlight views of a couple near to Copalinga Lodge.
Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* First seen near the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura and a few others [nominate].
Anthony's Nightjar ◊ (Scrub N) *Nyctidromus anthonyi* (E*) Excellent spotlight views near to Puerto Lopez.
Band-winged Nightjar *Systellura longirostris* Good views of one spotlighted at Tapichalaca [*ruficervix*].
White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* First seen well at Tapichalaca. Many more seen.
Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* A few seen. First noted at the Buenaventura Reserve [*occidentalis*].
Short-tailed Swift ◊ *Chaetura brachyura* Excellent views near Jorupe [*ocypetes* - Tumbes Swift].
White-tipped Swift *Aeronautes montivagus* A few seen over the hotel at La Union [nominate].
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis* Just one seen at Jorupe.
White-tipped Sicklebill ◊ *Eutoxeres aquila* Three seen at Buenaventura, including one which perched at length [*heterurus*].
Band-tailed Barbtroop *Threnetes ruckeri* Great views of a singing below the Umbrellabird Lodge [nominate].
White-whiskered Hermit ◊ *Phaethornis yaruqui* Several seen around the Buenaventura Reserve.
Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* First seen along the old Loja - Zamora Road. Also at Copalinga etc [*apicalis*].
Long-billed (or Baron's) Hermit *Phaethornis [longirostris] baroni* Great views of 2 at Quizas Hoy and one at Buenaventura.
Grey-chinned Hermit *Phaethornis griseogularis* One seen quite briefly at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP [nominate].
Green-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera ludovicae* A couple of good views at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP [nominate].
White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* Especially common at the feeders at Buenaventura [nominate].



Clockwise from top left, some scarce but dull hummingbirds: Many-spotted Hummingbird at Copalinga, Band-tailed Barbthroat (Pete Morris) and White-tipped Sicklebill at Buenaventura (Mike Galtry), and our only Tumbes Hummingbird of the tour (Pete Morris)



- Brown Violetear** *Colibri delphinae* Best views were at the feeders at the Umbrellabird Lodge.
- Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans* First along the old Loja - Zamora Road. Common at Copalinga Lodge [nominate].
- Black-throated Mango** *Anthracothorax nigricollis* (E*) One for some near to Ayampe.
- Violet-headed Hummingbird** *Klais guimeti* Common around the Verbena at Copalinga Lodge [nominate].
- Spangled Coquette** ◊ *Lophornis stictolophus* A female was very showy around the Verbena at Copalinga Lodge.
- Wire-crested Thorntail** *Discosura popelairii* (NT) Frequent and showy around the Verbena at Copalinga Lodge.
- Green Thorntail** *Discosura conversii* Common at the feeders at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura Reserve.
- Crowned (or Emerald-bellied) Woodnymph** *Thalurania [colombica] hypochlora* Singles at Buenaventura and Puerto Lopez.
- Fork-tailed Woodnymph** *Thalurania furcata* A few seen at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [*viridipectus*].
- Violet-bellied Hummingbird** *Juliomyia julie* Common at the feeders at Umbrellabird Lodge. Stunners [*feliciana*]!!
- Golden-tailed Sapphire** *Chrysuronia oenone* Several seen well around Copalinga Lodge [nominate].

Tumbes Hummingbird ◇ *Leucippus baeri* Excellent views of one at El Empalme, on the drive to Jorupe.

Many-spotted Hummingbird ◇ *Taphrosphilus hypostictus* Excellent views of a couple at Copalinga Lodge.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* Fairly common and widespread, First noted at Quizas Hoy [*jucunda*].

Amazilia Hummingbird (Loja) *Amazilia amazilia* Two forms: *alticola* (Loja H) first at Jorupe, *dumerilii* at Yunguilla.

Andean Emerald *Amazilia franciae* Fairly common. First seen on the feeders at the Umbrellabird Lodge [*viridiceps*].

Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata* Just a few, the first at the small marsh near to Paquisha [*fluviatilis*].

Bronze-tailed (or Ecuadorian) Plumeleteer *Chalybura [urochrysia] intermedia* See note.

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys* Two forms: nominate at Tapichalaca, *maculata* at Yunguilla.

Ecuadorian Piedtail ◇ *Phlogophilus hemileucurus* (VU) Great views of a singing male at Bombuscaro.

Black-throated Brilliant ◇ *Heliodoxa schreibersii* Good scope views of a male at Yankuam [nominate].

Fawn-breasted Brilliant *Heliodoxa rubinoides* Two forms: *aequatorialis* at Buenaventura; *cervinularis* at Tapichalaca.

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula* Common at the feeders at Umbrellabird Lodge [*jamersoni*].

Violet-fronted Brilliant *Heliodoxa leadbeateri* Brilliant views at the feeders at Copalinga Lodge [*sagitta*].



Violet-fronted Brilliant - another beauty at Copalinga (Pete Morris)

Chestnut-breasted Coronet ◇ *Boissonneaua matthewsii* Very common on the feeders at Tapichalaca.

Velvet-purple Coronet ◇ *Boissonneaua jardini* Excellent views of some stunners at the hummingbird garden at Pinas.

Ecuadorian Hillstar ◇ *Oreotrochilus chimborazo* A stunning male seen superbly in El Cajas NP [*jamesonii/soderstromi*].

Mountain Velvetbreast *Lafresnaya lafresnayi* A female at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP [*saul*].

Bronzy Inca *Coeligena coeligena* One for some along the old Loja - Zamora Road.

Brown Inca ◇ *Coeligena wilsoni* Excellent views of a few at the hummingbird garden at Pinas.

Collared Inca *Coeligena torquata* A few seen on the feeders at Tapichalaca [nominate].

Rainbow Starfrontlet ◇ *Coeligena iris* Excellent views of several on feeders at Utuana. A few others seen [nominate].

Great Sapphirewing *Pterophanes cyanopterus* A male seen by the hotel in El Cajas NP [*peruvianus*].

Amethyst-throated Sunangel *Heliangelus amethysticollis* Several, including on the feeders, at Tapichalaca [*aticlavius*].

Flame-throated Sunangel ◇ *Heliangelus micraster* (NL) One for some of the group at Tapichalaca.

Purple-throated Sunangel ◇ *Heliangelus viola* Excellent views of several on the feeders near Utuana.

Glowing Puffleg *Eriocnemis vestita* Good looks at several on Cerro Toledo [*smaragdinipectus*].

Golden-breasted Puffleg *Eriocnemis mosquera* One for some at Cerro Toledo.

Sapphire-vented Puffleg *Eriocnemis luciani* Briefest views of one in El Cajas NP [*baptistae*].

White-booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii* See note.

Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina* First seen at Tapichalaca. Several more seen later at Acacana [nominate].

Violet-throated Metaltail ◇ *Metallura baroni* (EN) Several seen well in El Cajas NP. Not always easy to see the violet!

Neblina Metaltail ◇ *Metallura odomae* Great views of a couple at Cerro Toledo, 24/1.

Blue-mantled Thornbill ◇ *Chalcostigma stanleyi* A couple of males seen well in El Cajas NP [nominate].

Rainbow-bearded Thornbill ◇ *Chalcostigma herrani* Great views of several at Cerro Toledo [nominate].

Long-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus kingii* Just a couple of sightings [mocoa].

Violet-tailed Sylph ◇ *Aglaiocercus coelestis* A few seen, including some fine males, around Buenaventura [aethereus].

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliiothryx barroti* A couple seen well at Quizas Hoy.

Black-eared Fairy *Heliiothryx auritus* One seen in a forest patch near to Shaime, south of Yankuam [nominate].

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* Just a few seen, the first at Buenaventura [albicrissa].

Purple-collared Woodstar *Myrtis fanny* A few in scrub above Vilcabamba and several males at Yunguilla [nominate].

Short-tailed Woodstar ◇ *Myrmia micrura* (E*) Great views of a female near to Atahuala on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

White-bellied Woodstar *Chaetocercus mulsant* A very brief view of a female at Copalinga Lodge.

Little Woodstar ◇ *Chaetocercus bombus* (VU) A couple of females were showy around the Verbena at Copalinga.



A beautiful Violet-tailed Sylph, and a strangely buffy female (assumed) Esmeralda's Woodstar (Pete Morris)

Esmeraldas Woodstar ◇ *Chaetocercus berlepschi* (EN) (E*) Brilliant views of a pair at Las Tunas. Female buffier than expected!

Golden-headed Quetzal *Pharomachrus auriceps* A brief male at the upper section of the Buenaventura Reserve.

Ecuadorian Trogon ◇ *Trogon mesurus* A few seen well, the first male at La Flora, Mangales Chorute.

White-tailed Trogon *Trogon chionurus* A couple seen near to Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura Reserve.

Green-backed Trogon *Trogon viridis* Heard and seen by some at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus* A couple seen well on wires near Zuruma [concinus].

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* A pair seen at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [nominate].

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* Just two seen, the first at La Flora, Mangales Chorute [cabanisii].

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Just one, in the wetlands between Guayaquil and Quizas Hoy [nominate].

Whooping Motmot *Momotus subrufescens* Great views of several at the Jorupe Reserve [argenticinctus].

Andean (or Highland) Motmot *Momotus aequatorialis* One seen well at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP [nominate].

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii* (NL) One seen at Buenaventura.

Coppery-chested Jacamar ◇ *Galbula pastazae* (VU) Excellent views of one at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.

Purplish Jacamar ◇ *Galbula chalcothorax* Great views of several at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.

Barred Puffbird ◇ *Nystalus radiatus* Great scope views of one below Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura Reserve.

Black-streaked Puffbird ◇ *Malacoptila fulvogularis* Several seen, best views at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis* Great views of one below the Umbrellabird Lodge [poliopsis].

Lanceolated Monklet ◇ *Micromonacha lanceolata* Great scope views of a pair just outside Zamora. Superb!

Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus* A few seen at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [punctatus].

Lemon-throated Barbet ◇ *Eubucco richardsoni* A male at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [nominate].



More goodies that were seen well included, clockwise from top left, Black-streaked Puffbird (Mike Galtry), White-whiskered Puffbird, the rare Copper-chested Jacamar and Purplish Jacamar (all Pete Morris)



Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii* A couple seen at Copalinga Lodge.

Black-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus atrogularis* One taped in at the forest fragment near Valladolid [*cyanolaemus*].

Chestnut-tipped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus derbianus* Excellent views of one along the old Loja - Zamora road.

Ivory-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus azara* A couple seen well at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [*flavirostris*].

Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis* A few seen at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [nominate].

Pale-mandibled Aracari *Pteroglossus erythropygius* At least five seen well at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Golden-collared Toucanet *Selenidera reinwardtii* (H) One heard briefly at the Maycu Reserve [nominate].

Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan *Andigena hypoglauca* (NT) Good views of 2 or 3 at Tapichalaca [*lateralis*].

Channel-billed (or Yellow-ridged) Toucan *Ramphastos [vitellinus] culminatus* (VU) A couple seen at Yankuam.

Choco Toucan *Ramphastos brevis* A couple seen well at Buenaventura.

Yellow-throated (or Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan *Ramphastos [ambiguus] swainsonii* (NT) Seen well at Buenaventura.

Lafresnaye's Piculet *Picumnus lafresnayi* Great views of a near to Shaime, south of Yankuam [nominate].

Ecuadorian Piculet ♦ *Picumnus sclateri* Good views of a pair, after much searching, at the Jorupe Reserve [nominate].

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* Common, first at the lunch stop at La Saquea, near Zamora.



Yellow-throated Toucans were pretty showy at times (Pete Morris)

- Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani* (E*) Just one, at the Rio Chico near Ayampe.
- Little Woodpecker** *Veniliornis passerinus* A female at the lunch stop by the river at La Saquea, near Zamora [*agilis*].
- Scarlet-backed Woodpecker** ◊ *Veniliornis callonotus* First seen near Jorupe. Later, many near Puerto Lopez [*major*].
- Red-rumped Woodpecker** *Veniliornis kirkii* A pair above the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura Reserve [*cecillii*].
- Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Leuconotopicus fumigatus* A couple seen, the first in the Sozoranga area [*obscuratus*].
- White-throated Woodpecker** *Piculus leucolaemus* Good scope views of a male at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
- Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus* Two forms: *coloratus* first at Vilcabamba; *rubripileus* first near Utuana.
- Crimson-mantled Woodpecker** *Colaptes rivolii* A couple seen well below Tapichalaca, and 1 at Yunguilla [*brevirostris*].
- Spot-breasted Woodpecker** *Colaptes punctigula* A male seen at the small marsh at Paquisha [*guttatus*].
- Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* See note.
- Powerful Woodpecker** *Campephilus pollens* (H) One heard below Tapichalaca, but no luck.
- Guayaquil Woodpecker** ◊ *Campephilus guayaquilensis* (NT) Excellent views of a pair at the Umbrellabird Lodge.
- Black Caracara** *Daptrius ater* A few seen on the drive to Yankuam, at the small marsh at Paquisha. Others heard.
- Carunculated Caracara** *Phalcoboenus carunculatus* Excellent views of a few in El Cajas NP.
- Northern Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway* Small numbers noted, the first at the Buenaventura Reserve.
- Laughing Falcon** *Herpetotheres cachinnans* Excellent views of one at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [n nominate].
- American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* A few seen. First seen below Tapichalaca [*peruvianus*].
- Bat Falcon** *Falco ruficularis* A couple seen at the Buenaventura Reserve [*petoensis*].
- Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* One on the drive to Jorupe, and another on the Santa Elena Peninsula [*cassini*].
- Grey-cheeked Parakeet** ◊ *Brotogeris pyrrhoptera* (EN) Great views at Parador El Saman. A few others seen well.
- Red-faced Parrot** ◊ *Hapalopsittaca pyrrhops* (VU) Brilliant views of a stunning pair at the Acacana Reserve. Superb!!
- Red-billed Parrot** *Pionus sordidus* A few over at Tapichalaca. Best views along the old Loja - Zamora Road [*corallinus*].
- Blue-headed Parrot** *Pionus menstruus* Common, first seen on the drive to Yankuam.
- Bronze-winged Parrot** ◊ *Pionus chalcopterus* Several seen well at the start of the trip; first on the drive to Buenaventura.
- Scaly-naped Amazon** *Amazona mercenarius* Best were the flight views at eye level at Cerro Toledo [*canipalliata*].
- Pacific Parrotlet** *Forpus coelestis* Seen well on several occasions, the first at Parador El Saman
- El Oro Parakeet** ◊ *Pyrrhura orcesi* (EN) Great views of five in the upper section of the Buenaventura Reserve.
- White-breasted Parakeet** ◊ *Pyrrhura albipectus* (VU) Brilliant views of at least 10 at the clay lick at Bombuscaro!
- Golden-plumed Parakeet** ◊ *Leptosittaca branickii* (VU) Great views of a few at Tapichalaca. Also a few at Cerro Toledo.



We found plenty of cracking parrots during the tour including (clockwise from above) Red-masked Parakeet, the rare Grey-cheeked Parakeet, the cute Pacific Parrotlet and the smart Golden-plumed Parakeet (all Pete Morris)



Red-masked Parakeet ◊ *Psittacara erythrogenys* (NT) Good numbers seen with the best views at the Jorupe Reserve.

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus* Several flyover groups, the first on the drive to Yankuam.

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albidiventris* Excellent views in El Cajas NP [nominate].

Stout-billed Cinclodes *Cinclodes excelsior* Excellent views in El Cajas NP [nominate].

Pacific Hornero *Furnarius cinnamomeus* Common in suitable areas, with several seen on our first day.

Mouse-colored Thistletail ◊ *Asthenes griseomurina* Great views of several at Cerro Toledo.

Many-striped Canastero ◊ *Asthenes flammulata* One scoped at Laguna Illinocha in El Cajas NP.

Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa* One seen briefly at Tapichalaca. Also heard there.

Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae* Several heard then seen well at Yunguilla [*elegantior*-group].

Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis* Nice views at the small marsh at Paquisha. Others heard [*albigularis*].

Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura* (E*) Great views of one at Ayampe [*griseonucha*].

Blackish-headed Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis tithys* (EN) Great views of a couple of responsive birds at Jorupe.



Blackish-headed Spinetail, a good localized endemic at Jorupe, and a Chestnut-winged Cinclodes at El Cajas NP (Pete Morris)

Necklaced Spinetail ◊ *Synallaxis stictothorax* (E*) First seen near to Atahuala on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

White-browed Spinetail ◊ *Hellmayrea gularis* (H) Heard in dense bamboo at Tapichalaca [nominate].

Ash-browed Spinetail *Cranioleuca curtata* (VU) Good views of one below Tapichalaca, and heard near Yankuam [*cisandina*].

Line-cheeked Spinetail ◊ *Cranioleuca antisimensis* First seen near Utuana, but best views at Yunguilla.

Speckled Spinetail *Cranioleuca gutturata* Good views of one in a forest patch near to Shaime, south of Yankuam.

Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons* Good views of at least four below Valladolid [*peruvianus*].

Equatorial Greytail *Xenerpestes singularis* One briefly for some along the old Loja - Zamora Road.

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens* A few, best along the old Loja - Zamora Road [nominate].

Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger* A handful at Tapichalaca and at Acacana [*perlatus*].

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner ◊ *Anabacerthia variegaticeps* Three in mixed flocks at Buenaventura [*temporalis*].

Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis* One near to Valladolid and a couple later in the trip [*montana*].

Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner ◊ *Syndactyla ruficollis* (VU) Reasonable views of one above Sozoranga.

Western Woodhaunter *Hylocistetes virgatus* Heard, and seen extremely briefly, at Buenaventura [*assimilis*].

Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner *Philydor ruficaudatum* One seen quite well but briefly at Yankuam [*subflavescens*].

Bamboo Foliage-gleaner ◊ *Anabazenops dorsalis* (H) One heard at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam, but no response.

Black-billed Treehunter ◊ *Thripadectes melanorhynchus* Reasonable views of one at Bombuscaro [nominate].

Streak-capped Treehunter *Thripadectes virgaticeps* One for some of the group at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner ◊ *Hylocryptus erythrocephalus* (VU) Sneaky but seen at Jorupe and Ayampe [nominate].

Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans* Two forms: *guayae* first at Quizas Hoy; *peruvianus* near to Yankuam.

Tyrannine Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla tyrannina* Great views of a pair at Tapichalaca [nominate].

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* A few noted, the first at La Flora, Mangales Chorute [*ridgwayi*].

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* See note.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Two forms: *subrufescens* first at Quizas Hoy; *ruficularis* at Yankuam.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius* A few seen well at the Buenaventura Reserve [*aequatorialis*].

Olive-backed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus triangularis* 1 along the old Loja - Zamora Road, and another later [nominate].
Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* Several, the first at La Flora, Mangales Chorute [esmeraldae].
Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* See note.
Red-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris* (E*) Great views of a pair near to Puerto Lopez [thoracicus].



This impressive Red-billed Scythebill was seen on the extension (Pete Morris)

Brown-billed Scythebill** *Campylorhamphus pusillus* (H) Heard by some at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* (H) One heard at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [intermedius].
Fulvous Antshrike *Frederickena fulva* A male seen fairly briefly, at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Great Antshrike *Taraba major transandeanus* Several heard and a male briefly at Ayampe on the extension [transandeanus].
Collared Antshrike *Thamnophilus bernardi* Two at El Empalme, and more near Puerto Lopez [nominate].
Chapman's Antshrike *Thamnophilus zarumae* Good looks at a male at Bosque Hanne, near Utuana [nominate].
Lined Antshrike *Thamnophilus tenuepunctatus* (VU) Heard below Valladolid and a pair seen well at Yankuam [berlepschi].
Uniform Antshrike *Thamnophilus unicolor* A female at the Buenaventura Reserve, and others heard [nominate].
Plain-winged Antshrike *Thamnophilus schistaceus* A few seen well at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [capitalis].
Mouse-colored Antshrike *Thamnophilus murinus* (H) One heard by some at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Black-crowned (or Western Slaty) Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* Several at the Buenaventura Reserve [nominate].
Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus* One seen well at the Buenaventura Reserve [intermedius].
Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis* One above Sozoranga (near Jorupe) [aequatorialis].
Foothill Antwren *Epinecrophylla spodiota* (H) Heard at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP, but no luck [nominate].
Ornate Antwren *Epinecrophylla ornata* Great views at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [saturata].
Pygmy Antwren *Myrmotherula brachyura* (H) One heard briefly in a forest patch near to Shaime, south of Yankuam.
Stripe-chested Antwren *Myrmotherula longicauda* Great views of a male at the Maycu Reserve [pseudoaustralis].
White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris* One at Buenaventura [albigula] and 2 at Yankuam [melaena].
Yellow-breasted Antwren *Herpsilochmus axillaris* (VU) Great views along the old Loja - Zamora Road [aequatorialis].
Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus* Great views at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [frater].
Grey Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens* Heard and seen moving in a tangle at the Maycu Reserve [nominate].
Black Antbird *Cercomacra serva* A female seen well and others heard at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Jet Antbird *Cercomacra nigricans* A male seen eventually and others heard at La Flora, Mangales Chorute.
White-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena leuconota* (E*) Great views of a male, and a female briefly, at Ayampe [pacific].
White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* Great views of a pair at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [nominate].
Peruvian Warbling Antbird *Hypocnemis peruviana* Great views at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [saturata].
Yellow-browed Antbird *Hypocnemis hypoxantha* (H) A few heard in the Yankuam area [nominate].
Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul* (H) A few heard at the Buenaventura Reserve [maculifer].
Esmeraldas Antbird *Myrmeciza nigricauda* Brilliant views of a male at the Buenaventura Reserve.



Peruvian Warbling Antbird and White-browed Antbird from Yankuam, a Yellow-breasted Antwren near to Zamora and a male White-backed Fire-eye seen at Ayampe on the extension (Pete Morris)



- Grey-headed Antbird** *Myrmeciza griseiceps* (VU) Superb views of an eventually showy male near to Utuana.
- Spot-backed Antbird** *Hylophylax naevius* A singing female-plumaged bird at Bombuscaro was a surprise [theresae].
- Common Scale-backed Antbird** *Willisornis poecilinotus* A singing female-plumaged bird at Bombuscaro [lepidonota].
- Rufous-breasted Antthrush** *Formicarius rufipectus* (H) One heard distantly at the Buenaventura Reserve [carrikeri].
- Short-tailed Antthrush** *Chamaeza campanisona* (H) Heard at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP [punctigula].
- Undulated Antpitta** *Grallaria squamigera* (H) Heard at the car park for Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP, but no luck.
- Scaled Antpitta** *Grallaria guatemalensis* Great views in the upper section of the Buenaventura Reserve [regulus].
- Plain-backed Antpitta** *Grallaria haplonota* One heard and seen by some at the Buenaventura Reserve [parambae].
- Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** *Grallaria ruficapilla* Heard at several sites. Great views at Yunguilla [connectens].
- Watkins's Antpitta** *Grallaria watkinsi* (NT) Great views of one near the Jorupe Reserve. Many more heard.
- Jocotoco Antpitta** *Grallaria ridgelyi* (EN) Amazing views of a pair with a juvenile at Tapichalaca. Awesome birds!
- Chestnut-naped Antpitta** *Grallaria nuchalis* Brilliant views of a couple at Tapichalaca. Others heard.
- White-bellied Antpitta** *Grallaria hypoleuca* An elusive bird at Podocarpus San Francisco [castanea].
- Rufous Antpitta** *Grallaria rufula* Brilliant views of a couple at Tapichalaca. Others heard [nominat].
- Tawny Antpitta** *Grallaria quitensis* Great views of a couple at Laguna Illinocha in El Cajas NP [nominat].
- Thrush-like Antpitta** *Myrmothera campanisona* (H) A few heard at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [signata].
- Rusty-breasted Antpitta** *Grallaricula ferruginepectus* (H) Heard below Utuana, but sadly no luck [leymebambae].
- Slaty-crowned Antpitta** *Grallaricula nana* One seen well but briefly at Tapichalaca. Others heard [nominat].
- Crescent-faced Antpitta** *Grallaricula lineifrons* (NT) Brilliant views in the upper reaches of Acacana. Mega birds!
- Ocellated Tapaculo** *Acropternis orthonyx* Incredible views of a pair at Tapichalaca. Awesome birds [infuscatus]!
- Ash-colored Tapaculo** *Myornis senilis* Great views of one on Cerro Toledo. Others heard .
- Northern White-crowned Tapaculo** *Scytalopus atratus* (H) Heard a couple of times but no luck [nominat].
- El Oro (or Ecuadorian) Tapaculo** *Scytalopus robbinsi* (H) (EN) One heard at the Buenaventura Reserve, but sadly no luck.
- Chusquea Tapaculo** *Scytalopus parkeri* One briefly at Tapichalaca then great views of one on Cerro Toledo.
- Paramo Tapaculo** *Scytalopus opacus* Good views of one on Cerro Toledo. Others heard [androstictus].
- Blackish Tapaculo** *Scytalopus latrans* See note.
- Elegant Crescentchest** *Melanopareia elegans* (H) Great views of a pair above Vilcabamba. Others heard [nominat].

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* Excellent views of one at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [tschudii].
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseiceps* A few heard but first seen well at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Black-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus* One seen at Tapichalaca, and seen again at Acacana [nominat].
Ashy-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias cinereiceps* Nice scope views of one along the old Loja - Zamora Road.
Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias uropygialis* One for some at Sozoranga.
Grey Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps* (H) One heard at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [cinerea].
Foothill Elaenia *Myiopagis olallai* (VU) Good scope views on a couple of occasions at Bombuscaro [nominat].
Pacific Elaenia *Myiopagis subplacens* One seen at Quizas Hoy and several more at Jorupe and around Ayampe.
Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* A couple seen, the first at Buenaventura [implacens].
Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* First seen below Valladolid [semipagana].
White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps* A couple seen and others heard in the Utuana area [griseigularis].
Mottle-backed Elaenia *Elaenia gigas* A couple seen well at the lunch stop by the river at La Saquea, near Zamora.
Highland Elaenia *Elaenia obscura* One seen in roadside scrub above Valladolid [nominat].
Sierran Elaenia *Elaenia pallatangae* One seen well in the scope at Yunguilla [nominat].
Brown-capped Tyrannulet *Ornithion brunneicapillus* A singing bird at Quizas Hoy was a surprise.
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* Common and widespread. First at Quizas Hoy [sclateri].
White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys* Several at Acacana and El Cajas NP [rufomarginatus].
White-tailed Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus poecilocercus* A couple of singing birds above Sozoranga (near Jorupe).
White-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus stictopterus* A few in the higher reaches of Acacana and El Cajas NP [nominat].
Black-crested Tit-Tyrant ◊ *Anairetes nigrocristatus* Great views of a pair at Bosque Hanne, near Utuana.
Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea* A few seen along the old Loja - Zamora Road [nominat].
Tumbesian Tyrannulet ◊ *Phaeomyias tumbezana* First seen near Sozoranga. Also near Valladolid and on the extension.
Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola* Great views of a pair below the Umbrellabird Lodge [magnirostris].
Rufous-headed Pygmy Tyrant *Pseudotriccus ruficeps* Great views at Tapichalaca. Others heard there.
Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant *Euscarthmus meloryphus* Great views of a couple at El Empalme, others heard [fulviceps].
Grey-and-white Tyrannulet ◊ *Pseudelaenia leucospodia* (E*) Several seen well in dry scrub near to Atahuala.
Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Zimmerius chrysops* First seen near to Valladolid. A few others seen and heard.
Loja Tyrannulet ◊ *Zimmerius flavidifrons* Great views of 3 or 4 in the montane forest patch above Sozoranga.
Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant *Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus* First seen in the forest fragment near to Valladolid [nominat].
Ecuadorian Tyrannulet ◊ *Phylloscartes gualaquizae* (NT) Several seen well at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Streak-necked Flycatcher *Mionectes striaticollis* A single seen below Tapichalaca.
Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus* Just one seen at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [fasciaticollis].
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* Best views were at the Buenaventura Reserve [pacificus].
Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris* Several, the first at the Buenaventura Reserve [nominat].
Orange-crested Flycatcher ◊ *Myiophobus phoenicomitra* Brilliant views of a pair at Bombuscaro [nominat].
Olive-chested Flycatcher *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus* A few seen around a small wetland south of Yankuam.
Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus* A few seen, the first few in the Jorupe area [crypterythrus].
Orange-banded Flycatcher ◊ *Nephelomyias lintoni* (NT) Excellent views of flocks at Tapichalaca and Cerro Toledo.
Ornate Flycatcher *Myiotriccus ornatus* See note.
Black-throated Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus granadensis* Heard at Tapichalaca, then seen at Acacana [pyrrhops].
White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant ◊ *Myiornis albiventris* Good views of a singing bird at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus* Several seen, the first at Quizas Hoy, and more heard [squamaecrista].
Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher ◊ *Poecilotriccus capitalis* Good views at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher ◊ *Poecilotriccus calopterus* A pair seen well at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* A few seen. First noted at the Buenaventura Reserve [sclateri].
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps* (H) One heard at Quizas Hoy.
Brownish Twistwing *Cnipodectes subbrunneus* Excellent views at Quizas Hoy. Others heard at Buenaventura [nominat].
Fulvous-breasted Flatbill ◊ *Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus* Great views of one along the old Loja - Zamora Road.
Yellow-olive Flatbill *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* A few seen. First at La Flora, Mangales Chorute [aequatorialis].
Zimmer's Flatbill *Tolmomyias assimilis* One seen well, heard, and photographed, at the Maycu Reserve [obscuriceps].
White-throated Spadebill *Platyrrhynchus mystaceus* Superb views of one at the Buenaventura Reserve [albugularis].
Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus* (H) Heard at Tapichalaca, amazingly none seen [pyrrhopterus]!!
Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea* Several seen well at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP [sclateri].
Grey-breasted Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus griseipectus* (VU) Heard at Buenaventura, then brilliant views at Ayampe (E*).
Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* Fairly common and widespread. First at the Buenaventura Reserve [angustirostris].
Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* (NT) Scope views of one at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.



Clockwise from top: The localized Grey-breasted Flycatcher was finally tracked down at Ayampe; Ecuadorian Tyrannulet at Yankuam; Yellow Tyrannulet at Buenaventurs; the uncommon Orange-banded Flycatcher at Acacana and an unexpected Brown-capped Tyrannulet at Quizas Hoy (Pete Morris)



Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus* (H) Just one seen well, near to Valladolid [*zarumae*].

Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* A few seen in the Yankuam area, and several more later in the trip.

Tumbes Pewee *Contopus punensis* Good views of 1 at El Empalme, and seen again near to Puerto Lopez.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus obscurus* A female at Quizas Hoy and several more on the extension [*piurae*].

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus* Excellent views of one near to Santiago, on the drive to Acacana [*solitarius*].

White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant ◊ *Agriornis albicauda* (VU) Great views virtually side-by-side with the previous species [*pollens*].

Streak-throated Bush Tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis* A brief view in the Utuana area [nominate].

Masked Water Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta* One seen well in the wetlands between Guayaquil and Quizas Hoy [*atripennis*].

Crowned Chat-Tyrant ◊ *Silvicultrix frontalis* A couple of good views at Cerro Toledo [nominate].

Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant *Silvicultrix diadema* One seen well but briefly at Tapichalaca [*gratiosa*].

Jelski's Chat-Tyrant ◊ *Silvicultrix jelskii* Great views of one at Bosque Hanne, near Utuana.

Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris* (H) Heard at the Tapichalaca Reserve, but not seen.

Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis* (H) Just one heard at Acacana [*obfuscata*].

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor* Common in El Cajas NP [*brunneifrons*].

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* A few seen in the Yankuam area [*niveiceps*].

Short-tailed Field Tyrant *Muscigralla brevicauda* (E*) Excellent views of several on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* A few heard, first seen well near Yankuam [nominate].

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Two forms noted: *grandis* in the west, nominate in the east.

Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis* Great views of a couple south of Yankuam [*obscurior*].

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* Just a few, the first at the lunch stop by the river at La Saquea [nominate].

Lemon-browed Flycatcher *Conopias cinchoneti* (VU) Poor views (looking up) of a group at Bombuscaro [nominate].

Baird's Flycatcher ◊ *Myiodynastes bairdii* Several seen well, the first at El Empalme, on the drive to Jorupe.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Several seen, the first at Quizas Hoy [*chapmani*].

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* A few seen and heard, the first at Quizas Hoy.

Crowned Slaty Flycatcher *Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus* One near to Yankuam. A bit of a surprise [nominate].

Snowy-throated Kingbird *Tyrannus niveigularis* Excellent views of one at Quizas Hoy; at least 3 on the extension.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* Common and widespread [nominate].

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Just a couple, the first at the Buenaventura Reserve [*nigriceps*].

Pale-edged Flycatcher *Myiarchus cephalotes* Good views of a pair at Podocarpus San Francisco.

Sooty-crowned Flycatcher *Myiarchus phaeocephalus* (E*) A few in the dry forest near to Puerto Lopez.

Ochraceous Attila ◊ *Attila torridus* (VU) Great views of a pair below the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura Reserve.



A couple more unusual and localized flycatchers: an Ochraceous Attila and a fabulous Black-crested Tit-Tyrant (Pete Morris)

Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus* Just one seen, at Bosque Hanne, near Utuana.

Green-and-black Fruiteater *Pipreola riefferii* One at Tapichalaca was the only one seen [*confusa*].

Fiery-throated Fruiteater ◇ *Pipreola chlorolepidota* (NT) One heard briefly at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.

Scaled Fruiteater ◇ *Ampelioides tschudii* Great views of a male in the Buenaventura Reserve.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus* Seen in flight a couple of times at Bombuscaro.

Dusky Piha ◇ *Lipaugus fuscocinereus* (H) One heard at Tapichalaca.

Grey-tailed Piha ◇ *Snowornis subalaris* (NT) Great views of one at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam. Others heard.

Long-wattled Umbrellabird ◇ *Cephalopterus penduliger* (VU) Brilliant views of several males at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin *Tyrannetes stolzmanni* (H) One heard in a forest patch near to Shaime, south of Yankuam.

Golden-winged Manakin *Masius chrysopterus* A couple seen at the Buenaventura Reserve [*coronulatus*].

Blue-rumped Manakin ◇ *Lepidothrix isidorei* Brief views of a female at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP [nominate].

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* A few heard and a handful seen at the Buenaventura Reserve [*bangsi*].

Club-winged Manakin ◇ *Machaeropterus deliciosus* Great views of several at the Buenaventura Reserve. Amazing!

Western Striped Manakin *Machaeropterus striolatus* (H) A couple heard at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP [nominate].

Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopipra erythrocephala* A male seen and others heard at Bombuscaro [*berlepschii*].

Pacific Royal Flycatcher ◇ *Onychorhynchus occidentalis* (VU) Great views of a pair at Quizas Hoy.

Black-tailed Myiobius *Myiobius atricaudus* Assumed to be this species seen briefly at the Maycu Reserve [*adjacens*].

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor* Good views of a pair by Yankuam Lodge [*buckleyi*].

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* A few seen in the Yankuam area [*fortis*].

Northern Schiffornis ◇ *Schiffornis veraepacis* One seen by some and heard at Buenaventura [*rosenbergi*].

Yellow-cheeked Becard ◇ *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* One heard below Vallodolid, below Tapichalaca [nominate].

Slaty Becard ◇ *Pachyramphus spodiurus* (EN) Excellent views of a pair at the Jorupe Reserve.



A fine male Slaty Becard from Jorupe and a 'record shot' of the Grey-tailed Piha from the Maycu Reserve (Pete Morris)

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychropterus* A couple, best views at the Maycu Reserve, [*tenebrosus*].

Black-and-white Becard *Pachyramphus albogriseus* Good views of a male along the old Loja - Zamora road [*salvini*].

One-colored Becard *Pachyramphus homochrous* Several at Quizas Hoy and the Buenaventura Reserve [*homochrous*].

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Several, the first at the Jorupe Reserve [*virenticeps*].

Slaty-capped Shrike-vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* Great views of one south of Yankuam [nominate].

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* Several heard and a few seen, the first at Tapichalaca [*virenticeps*].

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* Several seen at the start of the tour and on the extension.

Olivaceous Greenlet *Hylophilus olivaceus* (NT) Great views below Vallodolid and another at the Sungrebe bridge.

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* A few at Quizas Hoy and the Buenaventura Reserve [*minor*].

Turquoise Jay ◇ *Cyanolyca turcosa* Just one seen well, at Yunguilla.

Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus* Common in the Yankuam area. First seen on the drive there [nominate].

White-tailed Jay ◇ *Cyanocorax mystacalis* Very common, especially coming to the feeders at the Jorupe Reserve.
Inca Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* A few seen, the first along the old Loja - Zamora Road [nominate].
Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Plenty seen, the first leaving Guayaquil on the first day.
Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* Common and widespread. First on the drive to Jorupe [nominate].
Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina* Seen well at Acacana and in El Cajas NP [nominate].
White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata* Best views were from the bridge at La Saquea, near Zamora,
Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Plenty, the first south of Guayaquil [*uropygialis*].
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (NL) (E*) A couple for some on the extension.
Chestnut-collared Swallow ◇ *Petrochelidon rufocollaris* Seen well near to Sobiango, and again on the extension [*aequatorialis*].



This excitable White-throated Spadebill showed brilliantly at Buenaventura whilst Chestnut-collared Swallows were much appreciated (Pete Morris)

Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla* Excellent views of a pair south of Yankuam [*nigrodorsalis*].
Fasciated Wren ◇ *Campylorhynchus fasciatus* Fairly common early in the trip, first at Parador El Saman [*pallescens*].
Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus* Several heard and one seen around Yankuam [*hypostictus*].
Grey-mantled Wren *Odontorchilus branickii* Good looks at one along the old Loja - Zamora Road [nominate].
Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa* Several seen very well at Tapichalaca [*unibrunnea*].
Grass Wren *Cistothorus platensis* Seen well at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP [*aequatorialis*].
Plain-tailed Wren ◇ *Pheugopedius euophrys* Heard and seen fairly briefly at Tapichalaca [*longipes*].
Whiskered Wren *Pheugopedius mystacalis* Just one seen at the Buenaventura Reserve [*mystacalis*].
Coraya Wren *Pheugopedius coraya* Several heard and one seen at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [*griseipectus*].
Speckle-breasted Wren ◇ *Pheugopedius sclateri* Seen below the Umbrellabird Lodge, and at Jorupe [*paucimaculatus*].
Superciliated Wren ◇ *Cantorchilus superciliaris* Nice views of a pair at El Empalme, on the drive to Jorupe [*baroni*].
Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus* Plenty heard, and a couple seen at the Buenaventura Reserve [nominate].
House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* Pretty common and widespread. Subspecies *albicans* part of the Southern H W complex.
Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis* A few seen at Tapichalaca [nominate].
White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta* A few heard, and brief views of a pair at Yankuam [*hauxwellii*].
Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* (H) A few heard, first at Buenaventura, but none seen [*hilaris*].
Southern Nightingale-wren *Microcerculus marginatus* A few heard, and one seen at the Maycu Reserve [nominate].
Musician Wren *Cyphorhinus arada* (H) A pair heard at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [*salvini*].
Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus* A few heard at Buenaventura and seen briefly by some [nominate].
Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea* Common in drier areas - first seen on the first day [*bilineata*].
Long-tailed Mockingbird *Mimus longicaudatus* Common. First seen near Guayaquil [*albogriseus*].
Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloides* (H) A couple heard in the Buenaventura area, but no response [*plumbeiceps*].
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater* One seen and several heard at Yunguilla. Dark-eyed here [nominate].
Spotted Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus dryas* (H) One heard at the Buenaventura Reserve, but no luck [*maculatus*].
Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* Quite a few seen, especially in the Loja-Zamora area [*swainsoni-group*].
Pale-eyed Thrush ◇ *Turdus leucops* Great views near Valladolid and along the old Loja - Zamora road.
Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater* Common and widespread in the highlands. First seen at Tapichalaca [*gigantodes*].
Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco* Just a couple seen, above Sozoranga and above Vilcabamba [*conradi*].

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* (H) A few heard at Utuana and Tapichalaca [*fuscobrunneus*].
Andean Slaty Thrush ◊ *Turdus nigriceps* Great views in scrub above Vilcabamba and another at Yunguilla.
Plumbeous-backed Thrush ◊ *Turdus reevei* Great views around the feeders at Jorupe, and a few on the extension
Maranon Thrush ◊ *Turdus maranonicus* A singing bird seen below Valladolid.
Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis* Plenty seen. First noted at the lunch stop near Zamora [*debilis*].
Ecuadorian Thrush ◊ *Turdus maculirostris* Best views were around the feeders at the Jorupe Reserve.
White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis* Just one seen well at Copalinga Lodge [*spodiolaemus*].
White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus* A few great views along the old Loja - Zamora Road [*leuconotus*].
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (introduced) (E*) Only seen on the extension [nominate].
Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthogastrus* Two or three seen at the Buenaventura Reserve [nominate].
Olivaceous Siskin *Spinus olivaceus* Good views of a male along the old Loja - Zamora Road.
Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus* See note.
Saffron Siskin ◊ *Spinus siemiradzki* (VU) (E*) A flock of at least 30 seen well between Ayampe and Puerto Lopez.



We finally found some smart Saffron Siskins near to Ayampe on the extension, after a few false starts... (Pete Morris)

Orange-crowned Euphonia ◊ *Euphonia saturata* Excellent views of several at La Flora, Mangales Chorute.
Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris* Two forms: *hypoxantha* widespread; *melanura* at Yankuam.
Golden-rumped Euphonia ◊ *Euphonia cyanocephala* Good views of a female at Yunguilla [*pelzelni*].
Bronze-green Euphonia *Euphonia mesochrysa* Best views were along the old Loja - Zamora road.
White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta* A male was seen at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [*humilis*].
Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster* Common and widespread. First seen at Buenaventura [*quitensis*].
Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea* (H) A few heard at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP [*longipennis*].
Black-lored Yellowthroat *Geothlypis auricularis* Great views of a male at Yunguilla [nominate].
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* Singles seen at Quizas Hoy and below the Umbrellabird Lodge. A write-in!
Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitaiyumi* Several seen, the first at Quizas Hoy [*pacifica*].
Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* A couple seen below Tapichalaca, and several others subsequently.
Citrine Warbler *Myiothlypis luteoviridis* Heard at Tapichalaca, and one seen at Acacana [nominate].
Black-crested Warbler *Myiothlypis nigrocristata* A few seen in higher forest areas, the first at Cerro Toledo.
Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* Several seen, the first at the Buenaventura Reserve [*semicervina*].
Grey-and-gold Warbler ◊ *Myiothlypis fraseri* Several seen well. First at Buenaventura, but best at Jorupe [nominate].
Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiothlypis coronata* Eventually seen well at Yunguilla [*coronata-group*].
Three-banded Warbler *Basileuterus trifasciatus* Fairly common. First seen at the Buenaventura Reserve [*nitidior*].
Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus* A couple seen well below Tapichalaca [*tristriatus/baezae*].



Blackburnian Warbler was the commonest of the wintering warblers, and perhaps the most attractive (Pete Morris)

- Canada Warbler** *Cardellina canadensis* Fairly common, first seen along the old Loja - Zamora Road.
- Slate-throated Whitestart** *Myioborus miniatus* Common and widespread. First seen at Buenaventura [*subsimilis*].
- Spectacled Whitestart** *Myioborus melanocephalus* Seen very well at several high altitude forests [*ruficoronatus*].
- Peruvian Meadowlark** *Sturnella bellicosa* 4+ seen between Guayaquil and Quizas Hoy and common near Atahuala (E*).
- Russet-backed Oropendola** *Psarocolius angustifrons* Plenty, the first along the old Loja - Zamora Road [*alfredi*].
- Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* Just a handful, the first on the drive to Yankuam Lodge [nominate].
- Yellow-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus cela* Plenty seen, the first at Jorupe [*flavicrissus*].
- Subtropical Cacique** *Cacicus uropygialis* Great looks along the old Loja - Zamora Road and at Bombuscaro.
- Northern Mountain Cacique** *Cacicus leucoramphus* (H) Heard by some at Tapichalaca.
- Yellow-tailed Oriole** *Icterus mesomelas* Great views of 1 above Vilcabamba and a few on the extension [*taczanowskii*].
- White-edged Oriole** ◇ *Icterus graceannae* Three at El Empalme and a couple more at Jorupe.
- Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* Just one seen near Paquisha on the drive to Yankuam [nominate].
- Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* One seen at Yunguilla (where they are shot to protect the Brushfinches!!) [*occidentalis*].
- Scrub Blackbird** *Dives waczewiczii* Common at lower altitudes in the west [nominate].
- Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* A single seen when driving into Guayaquil [*peruvianus*].
- Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* Common and widespread at lower altitudes [*intermedia*].
- Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* Common at higher altitudes.
- Yellow-browed Sparrow** *Ammodramus aurifrons* A couple seen, the first along the old Loja - Zamora Road.
- Tumbes Sparrow** ◇ *Rhynchospiza stolzmanni* One seen well at El Empalme, on the drive to Jorupe.
- Black-striped Sparrow** *Arremonops conirostris* Just one seen briefly at Buenaventura [*striaticeps*].
- Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris* Excellent views of one below the Umbrellabird Lodge [*santarosae*].
- Black-capped Sparrow** *Arremon abeillei* A single at Jorupe; common around Ayampe on the extension [nominate].
- Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** *Arremon brunneinucha* (NL) One for some in the higher parts of Buenaventura
- Grey-browed Brushfinch** *Arremon assimilis* Great views of several at Yunguilla [*nigrifrons*].
- Olive Finch** ◇ *Arremon castaneiceps* (NT) Good views of a sneaky pair at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
- Pale-naped Brushfinch** *Atlapetes pallidinucha* Several seen at Cerro Toledo [*papallactae*].
- Choco Brushfinch** ◇ *Atlapetes crassus* A couple seen well in higher areas of the Buenaventura Reserve.
- Yellow-breasted Brushfinch** *Atlapetes latinuchus* Seen well at Tapichalaca, Cerro Toledo, and El Cajas NP.
- White-winged Brushfinch** ◇ *Atlapetes leucopterus* One seen near to Sozoranga.
- Pale-headed Brushfinch** ◇ *Atlapetes pallidiceps* (EN) Great views of several at Yunguilla.
- Bay-crowned Brushfinch** *Atlapetes seebohmi* At least three seen near to Cariamanga [*simonsi*].
- Common Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavopectus* A few seen in flocks at Buenaventura [*phaeocephalus*].
- Yellow-whiskered (or Short-billed) Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus parvirostris* Great views at two sites [*huallagae*].



Pale-naped Brushfinch, at Cerro Toledo, a smart Rufous-chested Tanager and a Yellow-whiskered Bush Tanager (Pete Morris)



- Yellow-throated Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus flavigularis* See note.
- Ashy-throated Bush Tanager** *Chlorospingus canigularis* Several, first seen along the old Loja - Zamora Road [*signatus*].
- Magpie Tanager** *Cissopis leverianus* Just a handful, the first along the old Loja - Zamora Road [n nominate].
- Black-capped Hemispingus** *Hemispingus atropileus* A couple seen at Tapichalaca were the only ones.
- Superciliaried Hemispingus** *Hemispingus superciliaris* A small group seen high up at Acacana [*maculifrons*].
- Black-headed Hemispingus** ◊ *Hemispingus verticalis* A couple in a fast moving flock high up at Acacana.
- Grey-hooded Bush Tanager** *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris* One seen at Tapichalaca [*rubrirostris*].
- Rufous-chested Tanager** *Thlypopsis ornata* Great views of several at Yunguilla, .
- Flame-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus cristatus* Several seen in the Yankuam area [*fallax*].
- White-shouldered Tanager** *Tachyphonus luctuosus* A few seen, the first at Quizas Hoy [*panamensis*].
- White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus* Just a couple of pairs noted, the first along the old Loja - Zamora Road.
- Fulvous Shrike-Tanager** *Lanio fulvus* Heard at the Maycu Reserve and good views for some at Bombuscaro [*peruvianus*].
- Masked Crimson Tanager** ◊ *Ramphocelus nigrogularis* Several seen well at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
- Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* First seen below Tapichalaca. Several thereafter [n nominate].
- Lemon-rumped Tanager** *Ramphocelus icteronotus* Common on the first day and in the Buenaventura area.
- Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* Two forms: *quaesita* in the west and white-winged [*episcopus-group*] in the east.
- Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* Several seen, most common around Yankuam [*violilavata*].
- Blue-capped Tanager** *Thraupis cyanocephala* (NL) A couple for some at Tapichalaca.
- Orange-throated Tanager** ◊ *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron* (VU) Great views of a couple of groups at Yankuam.
- Hooded Mountain Tanager** *Buthraupis montana* Great views of several at Tapichalaca [*cucullata*].
- Lacrimose Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus lacrymosus* Seen at Tapichalaca and at Acacana [*caerulescens*].
- Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus igniventris* Seen at Tapichalaca and other high altitude forests [*erythrotus*].



A fine Black-headed Hemispingus (Mike Galtry) and a colourful Green Honeycreeper (Pete Morris)

- Blue-winged Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus somptuosus* (H) Only heard at Yunguilla [*alamoris*].
- Grass-green Tanager** *Chlorornis riefferii* Great views of one at Tapichalaca. Smart [nominate]!
- Golden-crowned Tanager** ◊ *Iridosornis rufivertex* Brilliant views of these stunners at Cerro Toledo [*subsimilis*].
- Fawn-breasted Tanager** *Pipraeidea melanonota* Great views of several at Yunguilla [*venezuelensis*].
- Orange-eared Tanager** *Chlorochrysa calliparaea* Several, the first along the old Loja - Zamora Road [*bourcierii*].
- Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara mexicana* A couple in the forest patch near to Shaime, south of Yankuam [*boliviana*].
- Paradise Tanager** *Tangara chilensis* Plenty in the southeast, first along the old Loja - Zamora Road. Stunners [nominate]!
- Green-and-gold Tanager** *Tangara schrankii* First seen at the Maycu Reserve, also on the Copalinga feeders [nominate].
- Golden Tanager** *Tangara arthus* Two forms: *goodsoni* at Buenaventura; *aequatorialis* at the old Loja - Zamora Road.
- Silver-throated Tanager** *Tangara icterocephala* Several seen well at the Buenaventura Reserve [nominate].
- Saffron-crowned Tanager** *Tangara xanthocephala* One for some along the old Loja - Zamora Road.
- Golden-eared Tanager** *Tangara chrysotis* A few seen well at Copalinga Lodge and at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
- Flame-faced Tanager** *Tangara parzudakii* Just two smart individuals above the Umbrellabird Lodge [*lunigera*].
- Yellow-bellied Tanager** *Tangara xanthogastra* A few, especially at Yankuam and Bombuscaro [nominate].
- Spotted Tanager** *Tangara punctata* A couple seen reasonably well along the old Loja - Zamora Road [*zamorae*].
- Rufous-throated Tanager** ◊ *Tangara rufigula* (H) Heard briefly at the Buenaventura Reserve.
- Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola* A few seen, the first at Quizas Hoy [*nupera*].
- Golden-naped Tanager** *Tangara ruficervix* Just one in a mixed flock above the Umbrellabird Lodge [*leucotis*].
- Blue-necked Tanager** *Tangara cyanicollis* Fairly common in lower areas. First seen at Quizas Hoy [*cyanopygia*].
- Masked Tanager** *Tangara nigrocincta* One seen in the forest patch near to Shaime, south of Yankuam.
- Beryl-spangled Tanager** *Tangara nigroviridis* A couple seen well at Podocarpus San Francisco [nominate].
- Blue-and-black Tanager** *Tangara vassorii* A few seen near Utuana and also seen high up at Acacana [nominate].
- Silver-backed Tanager** ◊ *Tangara viridicollis* A few seen well, the first, a male, above Sozoranga (near Jorupe) [*fulvigula*].
- Opal-rumped Tanager** *Tangara velia* One seen perched up at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [*iridina*].
- Swallow Tanager** *Tersina viridis* Several seen, the first at Buenaventura.
- Black-faced Dacnis** *Dacnis lineata* Several seen well, the first at the lunch stop by the river near Zamora
- Yellow-tufted Dacnis** ◊ *Dacnis egregia* A fine male seen at the Buenaventura Reserve [*aequatorialis*].
- Yellow-bellied Dacnis** *Dacnis flaviventer* Seen well near Zamora and at the small marsh near to Paquisha.
- Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* A couple south of Yankuam, and others at Bombuscaro [*glaucogularis*].
- Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus* Just three seen at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam [*microrhynchus*].
- Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* Quite a few seen, the first at Umbrellabird Lodge [*exsul*].
- Golden-collared Honeycreeper** *Iridophanes pulcherrimus* A male at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP [nominate].
- Guira Tanager** *Hemithraupis guira* A few seen, the first pair at Quizas Hoy [*quirina*].
- Yellow-backed Tanager** *Hemithraupis flavicollis* A few seen near to Shaime, south of Yankuam [*peruana*].
- Tit-like Dacnis** ◊ *Xenodacnis parina* Very common around Laguna Illinocha in El Cajas NP [*petersi/bella*].
- Cinereous Conebill** *Conirostrum cinereum* Seen by some in El Cajas NP.

Blue-backed Conebill *Conirostrum sitticolor* First seen at Tapichalaca [nominate].
Giant Conebill *Oreomanes fraseri* (NT) (H) Heard by some in the high Polylepis in El Cajas NP.
Glossy Flowerpiercer *Diglossa lafresnayii* A few seen at Cerro Toledo.
Black Flowerpiercer *Diglossa humeralis* One for some in El Cajas NP.
White-sided Flowerpiercer *Diglossa albilatera* Just a few, the first at Utuana [*schistacea*].
Bluish Flowerpiercer *Diglossa caeruleascens* One for some at Tapichalaca.
Masked Flowerpiercer *Diglossa cyanea* First seen at Tapichalaca. Also at Acacana [nominate].
Red Pileated Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus* Several seen well around the garden at Copalinga Lodge [*fargoii*].
Crimson-breasted Finch \diamond *Rhodospingus cruentus* (E*) Quite common. First seen well near to Atahuala. Cracker!



Crimson-breasted Finch, a star of the extension, and the high-altitude Tit-like Dacnis (Pete Morris)



Plumbeous Sierra Finch *Phrygilus unicolor* (NL) One for some in El Cajas NP.
Ash-breasted Sierra Finch *Phrygilus plebejus* A few seen, the first in Sozoranga [*ocularis*].
Band-tailed Sierra Finch *Phrygilus alaudinus* (E*) At least four seen in the dry scrub near to Atahuala [*humboldtii*].
Collared Warbling Finch ◊ *Poospiza hispaniolensis* (E*) A few seen well near to Atahuala.
Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola* Pretty common in the lowlands. First seen on the first day out of Guayaquil [*valida*].
Sulphur-throated Finch *Sicalis taczanowskii* (E*) Brilliant views of many (c150 in total) near Atahuala. Bright yellow!!
Slate-colored Grosbeak *Saltator grossus* One eventually seen well at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* Fairly common and widespread. First seen at Quizas Hoy [*maximus*].
Black-winged Saltator *Saltator atripennis* Three seen at the Buenaventura Reserve.
Greyish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* Just a few, the first on the drive to Yankuam Lodge [*azarae*].
Black-cowled Saltator ◊ *Saltator nigriceps* Good views of a pair near to Sozoranga.
Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus* See note.
Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Reasonably common, first at La Flora, Mangales Chorute [*peruviansis*].
Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina* Seen in the wetlands south of Guayaquil and a few on the extension [*ophthalmica*].
Black-and-white Seedeater *Sporophila luctuosa* Especially common at the small marsh near to Paquisha.
Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* Just a few seen, the first below the Umbrellabird Lodge [*olivacea*].
Parrot-billed Seedeater *Sporophila peruviana* (E*) Very common near to Atahuala on the Santa Elena Peninsula [*devronis*].
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris* Quite a few, the first along the old Loja - Zamora Road.
Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco* A small flock seen near to La Flora, Mangales Chorute.
Thick-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus funereus* A female near Quizas Hoy, and a male at Buenaventura [*aethiops*].
Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis* Just a few seen, the first near to Paquisha [*torridus*].
Large-billed Seed Finch ◊ *Oryzoborus crassirostris* Excellent views of a striking near to Quizas Hoy [*occidentalis*].
Black-billed Seed Finch ◊ *Oryzoborus atrirostris* Great views of at least six near to Paquisha [nominate].
Band-tailed Seedeater *Catamenia analis* A few in roadside scrub below Tapichalaca [*soderstromi*].
Plain-colored Seedeater *Catamenia inornata* At least four seen at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP [*minor*].
Dull-colored Grassquit *Tiaris obscurus* A few seen in scrub above Vilcabamba and others later in the trip [*pauper*].
Plushcap *Catamblyrhynchus diadema* (H) Heard near to Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.
Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak ◊ *Parkerthraustes humeralis* Great views of a pair at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.
Tooth-billed (or Northern Hepatic) Tanager *Piranga lutea* Best views were along the old Loja - Zamora road [nominate].
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* A handful seen, the first at Quizas Hoy [nominate].
Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* A male seen in the forest patch near to Shaime, south of Yankuam.
White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera* A pair along old Loja - Zamora road. The male was particularly vivid [*ardens*]!
Red-hooded Tanager ◊ *Piranga rubriceps* Great views of a flock of 5+ at Tapichalaca. Stunners!
Golden Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysogaster* Many seen well, the first at El Empalme, on the drive to Jorupe [nominate].
Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* A few seen/heard, the first at Quizas Hoy [nominate].
Rothschild's Grosbeak ◊ *Cyanocompsa rothschildii* (H) Heard a couple of times at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.



The stunning Red-hooded Tanager and an impressive Black-billed Seed Finch (Pete Morris)



The Western Lowland Olingo at Buenaventura (Pete Morris)

MAMMALS

Brazilian Cottontail (B Rabbit, Forest R, Tapiti) *Sylvilagus brasiliensis* A couple seen in El Cajas NP.

Neotropical Red Squirrel (Red-tailed S) *Sciurus granatensis* One for some at Buenaventura.

Guayaquil Squirrel *Sciurus stramineus* Great views at the feeders at Jorupe.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* Several seen well, the first at Buenaventura.

Tayra *Eira barbara* (NL) One briefly for some of the group.

Western Lowland Olingo *Bassaricyon medius* One at night at the Umbrellabird Lodge, walking along the wires!

Black Agouti *Dasyprocta fuliginosa* Singles at Yankuam and Copalinga Lodge.

Mantled Howler Monkey (M Howler) *Alouatta palliata* A few heard, and one seen at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Common Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (E*) Four seen offshore on the way to Ayampe.



Two of the few mammals seen: a Guayaquil Squirrel and a White-nosed Coati (Pete Morris)



Brilliant White-breasted Parakeets at Bombuscaro. Definitely a major highlight (Pete Morris)

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 Names. (Gill, F and Donsker, D Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird Names v7.2. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*

First heard at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam. Several seen well at Copalinga Lodge, including a strangely dark individual which resembled an Ochre-bellied Dove [*dubusij*]!!

Bronze-tailed Plumeleeter *Chalybura urochrysia*

Excellent views of a fine male at feeders in a garden near Zuruma. The form here *intermedia* is aptly named and is somewhat intermediate between White-vented Plumeleeter *C. buffonii* and Bronze-tailed Plumeleeter. The IOC currently treat it as a subspecies of Bronze-tailed but there are suggestions that it merits specific status under the name Ecuadorian Plumeleeter.

White-booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii*

Just a few seen, the first, a male, along the Umbrellabird Trail at the Buenaventura Reserve. Note that the IOC now split the former Booted Racket-tail into three species (White-booted, Peruvian and Rufous-booted). The form of White-booted Racket-tail that we saw is *melanantherus*.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*

Two forms were noted. The form *fuscipennis* (Dusky-winged) was first noted at La Flora, Mangales Chorute. An odd brown looking bird, assumed to also be this form was seen below the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura Reserve. A few of the nominate form were also seen, the first on the drive to Yankuam.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*

We saw two forms of this wide-ranging and highly variable species. The two differ strikingly vocally and are likely to be regarded as separate species (along with some of the other forms) in the future. The 'Pacific' form, *aequatorialis*, was first seen at Quizas Hoy, the 'Amazonian' form, *amazonus*, was first seen in a forest patch near to Shaime, south of Yankuam.

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*

We recorded two subspecies of this widespread bird: the form *aequatorialis* was heard in the montane forest patch above Sozoranga (near Jorupe) whilst the form *warszewiczi* was seen in the forest fragment near to Valladolid.

Blackish Tapaculo *Scytalopus latrans*

We recorded two forms. A few of the nominate form were heard in the Sozoranga and Utuana areas whilst the form *subcinereus* was seen and heard at Yunguilla.

Ornate Flycatcher *Myiotriccus ornatus*

We noted two forms of this attractive flycatcher. The form *stellatus* was seen in the upper section (El Oro Parakeet area) of the Buenaventura Reserve, whilst the form *phoenicurus* was common at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.

Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus*

Several seen in scrub above Vilcabamba and at Yunguilla. Males of the race concerned, *paulus* are very bright yellow, closely resembling Saffron Siskin, but the greyish females are a bit of a giveaway! The similarity to Saffron Siskin is quite striking, and indeed, other than range and altitude, there seems to be few features to separate the males, leading some to speculate that the two may not even be good species! Perhaps more work is required?

Yellow-throated Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavigularis*

A single of the subspecies *marginatus* was first seen at the Buenaventura Reserve, whilst the nominate form was seen well at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam, and at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*

We saw two quite different forms of this species. The form *flavidicollis* was found in the west. First seen at Quizas Hoy, these birds are very unstreaked! Further east, a few streaky individuals below Tapichalaca were assumed to be the form *peruvianus*.



Ornate Flycatcher - one of the more distinctive tyrant flycatchers (Pete Morris)



Long-wattled Umbrellabird ended up as our top bird (Pete Morris)

APPENDIX 1

TOP 10 BIRDS OF THE TOUR

- 1st LONG-WATTLED UMBRELLABIRD**
- 2nd JOCOTOCO ANTPITTA**
- 3rd ECUADORIAN HILLSTAR**
- 4th White-breasted Parakeet**
- 5th Crescent-faced Antpitta**
- 6th Red-faced Parrot**
- 7th Black-crested Tit-Tyrant**
- 8th Orange-throated Tanager**
- 9th Sungrebe**
- 10th Andean Pygmy Owl**

A total of 45 species received at least one vote!



The scenic El Cajas National Park (Mike Galtry) and another view of the fabulous White-breasted Parakeet (Pete Morris)

