



The recently discovered and stunning Blue-throated Hillstar ended up as the bird of the tour! (Chris Venetz)

SOUTHERN ECUADOR

17 JANUARY – 1/3 FEBRUARY 2020

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The 2020 Birdquest tour to Southern Ecuador continued the run of previous successful tours, and was once again a fabulous birding adventure around some of the most spectacular sites in the southern part of this incredibly bird-rich country. With some great infrastructures, some relatively short distances between birding hotspots, huge number of birds everywhere, this tour certainly belongs to the very top neotropical birding destinations. In the little southern part of Ecuador, we explored a wide range 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. An amazing high number of birds every day, and in a little over two weeks, including the extension, we encountered an impressive 667 species (including some heard only). Amongst these, we hit on a high percentage of Birdquest “diamonds” birds, including numerous near-endemic birds shared with neighbour countries, but also some strict

Ecuadorian endemics. Southern Ecuador has already shot the fame in the ornithological world when the Jocotoco Antpitta was discovered in the late 90's, but lately the area has once again demonstrated its true potential with another discovery of an absolutely stunning and endemic bird, the Blue-throated Hillstar. This year for the first time, we included an epic visit to the remote Cerro de Arcos to see this MEGA humming, which brilliantly added another unforgettable dimension to our experience! And of course, we had once again prolonged views of two glorious Jocotoco Antpittas coming to us at almost touching distance. The amazing Long-wattled Umbrellabird was brilliantly seen at the Buenaventura Reserve, whilst stunning Orange-throated Tanagers joined the standout species in the Maycu Reserve. Another great mission was achieved this year when we got good looks at the endangered endemic El Oro Tapaculo. Other highlights of the trip included the attractive Crescent-faced Antpitta, both White-breasted and El Oro Parakeets, the range-restricted Red-faced Parrot and the rare endemic Pale-headed Brushfinch. Perhaps less expected, we found this year the rare Chestnut-bellied Cotinga, a bird that still remains a ghost for lots of birders! As every true trip in the tropical Andes, we were blessed daily with an incredible hummingbird feast with no less than 73 species seen, including some highly desired ones such as the endemic Violet-throated Metaltail, the localized Neblina Metaltail, the stunning Ecuadorian Hillstar, the rare Ecuadorian Piedtail, the local form of White-vented Plumeleteer (also sometimes called 'Ecuadorian' Plumeleteer), the brilliant Velvet-purple Coronet, Purple, Amethyst-throated and Flame-throated Sunangel, Violet-tailed and Long-tailed Sylphs and even the amazing Rainbow Starfrontlet. As on every Birdquest tour we worked hard on night birding, and this year we were rewarded with a great set of owls seen very well including walk-away views of the range-restricted Koepcke's Screech Owl, a species that was once thought to be a strict Peruvian endemic. All these species mentioned above were just the icing on the cake of what was undoubtedly a successful tour!



We had this year again astonishing views of the brilliant Jocotoco Antpitta. (Chris Venetz)

This memorable tour started when we all gathered at our comfortable hotel in the city of Guayaquil. Excitement could be felt as soon as the very knowledgeable Juan Carlos gave us some early hints of what the following days were going to be! After a lovely breakfast on the following morning, we left the city and quickly started heading south towards the first important destination of the trip namely Buenaventura Reserve. But on the way, we made a series of good stops, the first at a nice wetland in Manglares Churute. This halt provided an excellent start as we soon found the much-wanted Horned Screamer and the monotypic Limpkin. A little bit further down the road, we quickly added some confiding Ecuadorian Ground Doves to the list, a smart Masked Water Tyrant, our only Wood Stork and Green Kingfisher of the tour, a few Wattled Jacanas, a nice male of Peruvian Meadowlark showing its bright red breast, a few Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling Ducks. We also located our first Pacific Pygmy Owl calling from a nearby tree, allowing us to watch a few common passerines mobbing around. Amongst them, the common Blue-grey Tanager, a vocal Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, a Rusty-margined Flycatcher, a nice male Vermillion Flycatcher, a tiny Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant, a smart Slaty Spinetail, and a Sooty-crowned Flycatcher. We even glimpsed our first Short-tailed Woodstar of the tour.



The bizarre-looking Horned Screamer was nicely seen at Manglares Churute. (Chris Venetz)

Back in the bus, there were always some avian distractions on the way to the next stop. A nice Savanna Hawk, a couple of White-tailed Kites, many Snail Kites and Pacific Horneros were caught while on the road. We then stopped at a good stakeout for the Large-billed Seedfinch, which was quickly located, while a confiding Olive-crowned Yellowthroat was found at the same location.

To continue the run to Buenaventura Reserve, we then moved on to our next stop, at a nearby remnant forest patch in Quizas Hoy. There we soon located our first Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant of the trip, a stunning male Crimson-breasted Finch, some Thick-billed and Orange-bellied Euphonias, a Yellow-olive Flatbill, some Boat-billed Flycatcher, and a couple of Grey-cheeked Parakeets. A little further in the reserve we also had great sightings of a confiding Brownish Twisting, a cracking Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, a nice male White-bearded Manakin, our only Purple-crowned Fairy and Brown-capped Tyrannulet of the tour, some Bay-headed Tanagers, and a nice set of Woodcreepers including Plain-brown, Streak-headed, Olivaceous and Wedge-billed Woodcreepers. We eventually enjoyed good looks at a perched Baron's Hermit (also known as Ecuadorian Hermit), playing hide-and-seek in the understory. Our main target here

was the Pacific Royal Flycatcher, which refused to show despite a long attempt to locate it. There was a little bit of frustration, but we knew we were coming back and have our revenge later on the tour! Just before arriving at the Buenaventura Reserve, we made a last and very productive stop at a nearby gas station, where we were very fortunate to watch a Pallid Dove on the nest with its chicks at almost touching distance! A bird that is often heard but sometimes tricky to find. Happy to have this one in the bag, we continued the road and finally reached the beautiful Umbrellabird Lodge at the Buenaventura Reserve in the afternoon. This fantastic place is the first of few others exciting places hold by the famous Jocotoco foundation that we visited during the tour.



Watching a Pallid Dove with chicks on the nest was much appreciated! (Chris Venetz)

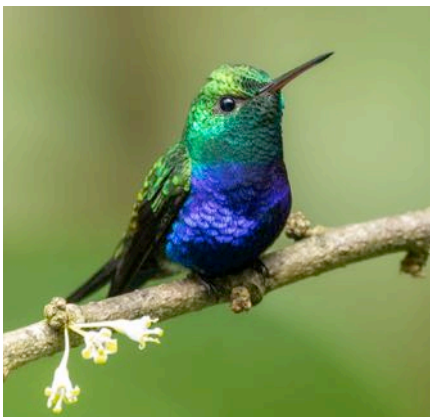
Arriving at the lodge, we checked in but had no time to rest as we quickly started to explore the lodge surroundings where hummingbird feeders attracted several nice Brown Violetears, Violet-bellied Hummingbirds, Andean Emeralds, Green Thorntails, Green-crowned Brilliants and even an unexpected Velvet-purple Coronet, as this species is usually easier to find in the lower part of the reserve. Other common passerines were seen at the feeders such as the nice Green Honeycreeper, a few Bananaquits and a Dusky-capped Flycatcher. We then made our way straight to the spot of the spectacular Long-wattled Umbrellabird hoping to find it just before dusk. Thankfully, we were not disappointed as we found it rather quickly once we arrived at the right site! We enjoyed prolonged views of this giant black cotinga, showing its bushy crest and its amazingly thick feathered wattle dangling from the throat. This bizarre-looking but yet impressive creature really has to be seen to be believed! Knowing what we just achieved, we enjoyed a nice dinner back at the lodge. Here again we couldn't rest on our laurels as we were soon distracted by a vocal Black-and-white Owl calling rather close to the dinning room. Torches ready, we quickly found this magnificent owl and even were lucky enough to watch it feeding on its prey (presumably a green honeycreeper). Nice way to wrap up the day!



Watching this amazing Long-wattled Umbrellabird extending its thick feathered wattle was a big highlight! (Chris Venetz)



This Black-and-white Owl sitting on mossy branch performed very well at the Umbrellabird Lodge. (Chris Venetz)



Stunning hummingbirds from the feeders at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura Reserve (clockwise from top): Brown Violetear; Andean Emerald; Green Thorntail; Violet-bellied Hummingbird. Below the stunning Green Honeycreeper. (Chris Venetz)



The next day was one of those epic days we will all remember. We had an early start from the lodge to reach the remote Cerro de Arcos with one single bird in mind, the Blue-throated Hillstar. This spectacular hummingbird was only discovered in 2017 and made the headlines in the ornithological world when it was described as new bird to science a year later. The hummer is currently only known from a very limited area in the Southwestern Ecuador, and can be hence easily considered as another “must-see” endemic bird of this tour. On the way, we found a Crested Guan when the sunshine just started to hit the horizon. Later, as we drove higher up, we encountered our first of many Band-tailed Pigeons, plenty of Great Thrushes and a couple of Bearded Guan. We then stopped to have breakfast and watched some Brown-bellied Swallows flying around. Still on the way up, we could feel the excitement building up and we eventually found ourselves in the high paramo of the Cerro de Arcos. Strong winds and a dense fog were there as well, but this did not stop us to walk towards a very specific place where the Hillstar is known to occur. We kept looking at those typical Andean orange flowers called chukirawa, which seem to be the favourite flower of the holy grail. Suddenly, a breathtaking male Blue-throated Hillstar appeared from the fog and perched a few meters right in front of us, allowing the group to have simply unbeatable views of what we could call the new jewel of Southern Ecuador! This moment just exceeded all our expectations! At the same location we also found two other good hummingbirds, a Viridian Metaltail and a nice Shining Sunbeam. Mission accomplished and some happy faces, it was time to go back to the Buenaventura Reserve.



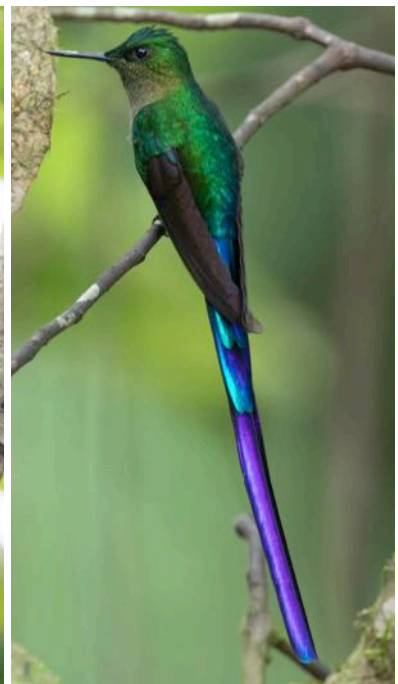
A stunning male Blue-throated Hillstar showing its shining blue throat. (Chris Venetz)

On our way back, we stopped for a coffee break at a private garden near to Zaruma where we soon found the hoped-for ‘Ecuadorian’ Plumeleeter. This interesting race isolated in Southwestern Ecuador is still considered as part of the White-vented Plumeleeter by some authorities, but may well be split in the near future. We arrived by lunch time at the Buenaventura Reserve, where we had our picnic lunch in front of what was a true hummingbird feast! Some more hummers were added to the list, including two Violet-tailed Sylphs, a few stunning Velvet-purple Coronets, Brown Incas, Fawn-breasted Brilliants, our only Crowned Woodnymph of the trip and a White-booted Racket-tail. By early afternoon, we reached the highest part of the reserve for another important mission, the rare El Oro Parakeet. On the way up, we were distracted by our first female Little Woodstar feeding in the flowers at almost touching distance. A few other species were present including Common and White-throated Bush Tanagers, a furtive Pale-mandibled Aracari and some Yellow-bellied Seedeaters here and there. We then ventured higher still and soon found our second endemic

of Ecuador, the El Oro Parakeet. We much appreciated the efforts of the Jocotoco Foundation, currently providing artificial nest boxes which have drastically increased the number of breeding pairs. Good one in the bag! Making our way down to the lodge, we stopped and watched a confiding Barred Puffbird, which allowed good scope views. A little further down, another stop was made to try for the localized Ochraceous Attila. The bird was heard several times but frustratingly refused to cooperate, and we only got brief flight views! During the battle, we were, nevertheless, distracted by a nice Choco Toucan, a vocal Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, our first Red-masked Parakeets and Grey-lined Hawk of the trip, a couple of Yellow-bellied Siskin and the more common Yellow-bellied Elaenia.



A few more good species from our time at the Buenaventura Reserve: (clockwise from top): The incredible Velvet-purple Coronet; the stunning Violet-tailed Sylph; the much-wanted Barred Puffbird; the endemic El Oro Parakeet in the nest box.



We finally reached an area nearby the lodge, and spent the last daylight hours birding with the hope to connect with more goodies. We quickly heard a couple of Esmeraldas Antbird calling and this was another battle. The two individuals just played hide-and-sick for a while, but after some efforts, the entire group eventually manage to obtain decent views of this localized species. We then heard another good bird in the area, the Club-winged Manakin making its typical mechanical buzzy note with the wings. Once again, we needed to fight before seeing it but the group finally enjoyed superb views of two males and three females. Good to find this little Choco speciality on its southernmost range! We concluded this great day with a sneaky Spotted Woodcreeper.

The following morning, we couldn't start any better as this time, we had excellent scope views of the Ochraceous Attila. Some happy people here, we then set off for some higher forest mainly for one big reason: The very rare and seldom-seen El Oro Tapaculo. We knew this would be another battle, but we would put all our effort. Arriving in the area, we left the bus and started walking for a little hike, crossing a few remnant patches of good forest. Quickly we found a couple of stunning Golden tanagers and a smart Ornate Flycatcher. Later, we all enjoyed good views of rather cooperative Scaled Antpitta, and still a little further up the trail, a much appreciated Uniform Treehunter was then seen very well! To continue the run of catching good species, we looked at the nice Andean Solitaire, the much-wanted Grey-backed Hawk, a couple of Short-tailed Hawk, and some displaying Barred Hawk. Arriving in the area of the tapaculo, we finally heard one bird responding around. We all went into the forest and waited for the tapaculo response enough close to spot it. Suspense was intense, but we eventually all had good looks of this very rare and localized bird! We knew we just accomplished another great mission and started walking back to the bus. We then drove down to another good patch of forest in hope to find some last good birds of the area before heading to our next destination. We soon found there some goodies including the smart White-throated Wedgebill, an inquisitive White-throated Spadebill, some much-appreciated Russet Antshrikes, a nice Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, and our first Three-banded Warbler and Grey-breasted Wood Wren of the tour.



The localized Grey-backed Hawk and the uncommon White-throated Wedgebill from our last day at Buenaventura. (Chris Venetz).

We said goodbye to the fantastic Buenaventura Reserve and were then on the road again. We continued on into more and more arid country, as we began our quest for the Tumbesian endemics. Indeed, the arid Tumbesian region of western Ecuador and north-western Peru is home to some specific species we were looking for. We made an important stop near to El Empalme, which enabled us to find a first hint of the hoped-for species. Some Baird's Flycatchers, a few Long-tailed Mockingbird were visible on our arrival. There, we soon found the much-wanted White-headed Brushfinch, which came very close to us. We then moved higher up the road for some more goodies. Again, we were soon rewarded and located our two main birds here, the localized Tumbes Hummingbird and the sometimes elusive Tumbes Sparrow. By the time we arrived at the wonderful Jorupe Reserve, it was about dinner and checklist time! That evening we had a nightbirding excursion in the area of the lodge and found a nice rufous morph of the localized West Peruvian Screech Owl. The more widespread Spectacled owl was only heard distantly. We put all our effort trying to tape in a Buff-fronted Owl also calling in the distance, but this one just remained a ghost, as it is often the case with this species.



Three Tumbes specialties from El Empalme, on the way to the Jorupe Reserve (clockwise from top): White-headed Brushfinch; Tumbes Hummingbird; Tumbes Sparrow. All showed very well!! (Chris Venetz)





This stunning rufous morph West Peruvian Screech Owl performed very well on our first night at Jorupe. (Chris Venetz)

After a nice breakfast, we sat down and waited for the birds to come to the feeders! Soon several White-tailed Jays investigated the feeders, and lately they were joined by an inquisitive Ecuadorian Thrush, a tailless Whooping Motmot, some much-wanted Rufous-headed Chachalacas, some beautiful White-edged and Yellow-tailed Orioles feeding on the nearby trees, and a subtle Amazilia (Loja) Hummingbird. We then explored an area surrounding the lodge with few specific birds in mind. We found some Grey-and-gold Warblers here and there, a nice pair of Ecuadorian Trogons, a responsive Grey-breasted Flycatcher, a furtive Slaty Becard and a vocal Pacific Elaenia, though the Rufous-collared Foliage-gleaner was a bit harder to see well. Overhead, some Tumbes (Short-tailed Swift) swooped around. A bit further up the trail, we connected with more goodies including the important Blackish-headed Spinetail, our first Collared Antshrike of the tour and a couple of the much-wanted Ecuadorian Piculets. We then added a very confiding and stunning Elegant Crescentchest to the list, and ended the morning with the more commons Olive-green Woodpecker and the smart Rufous-browed Peppershrike. We also tried at a specific place for the Watkins Antpitta, which refused to emerge from its inaccessible patch of roadside scrub.

In the afternoon, we explored a higher stretch of remnant dry forest near to Sozoranga in the hope to find more goodies. As soon as we left the lodge, we spotted a rather cooperative White-browed Tinamou from the bus and all got decent views of this good one, which was actually missing at the feeders earlier this morning. Good job! We drove for a little while and reached some higher forests and soon found some Bay-crowned, Grey-browed and White-winged Brushfinches, a first Loja Tyrannulet and a cracking Silver-backed Tanager. On the way down we stopped at the town of Sabiango and enjoyed some beautiful Chestnut-collared Swallows at their nest. We finally made a last stop to try again for the hoped-for Watkins Antpitta, but again, we were unlucky with this one despite the efforts. Nevertheless, we found there other very good birds such as a very showy Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, the subtle Tumbes Pewee, a couple of Blue Ground Doves, some good-looking Plumbeous-backed Thrushes and a few Golden Grosbeaks. Nightbirding wasn't productive that evening as the first drops of rain began to fall.



Rufous-headed Chachalaca was nicely seen at the feeders at Jorupe. (Chris Venetz)



The stunning White-tailed jays were the first to investigate the feeders at Jorupe. (Chris Venetz)



The near-endemic Blackish-headed Spinetail didn't disappoint at Jorupe. (Chris Venetz)



The beautiful Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner from the Jorupe Reserve. (Chris Venetz)

The next day, we had an early departure towards the Utuana Reserve. We made a very productive stop en route and soon found the hoped-for Black-cowled Saltator and a confiding Chapman's Antshrike. We had great looks at another Loja Tyrannulet and found our first Rufous-chested Tanager of the trip. We then explored some montane forest patched in the Utuana area in the hope to find some more great birds. Probably best were the much wanted Piura Hemispingus and the brilliant Black-crested Tit-Tyrant, but our best achievement was undoubtedly to get decent views of the rare and ultra-skulking Grey-headed Antbird. Also in the area, we had to battle but eventually found a sneaky Jelski Chat-Tyrant and some superb Blue-and-black Tanagers. Our last mission here was to explore the feeders which attracted some stunning Rainbow Starfrontlets as well as gorgeous Purple-throated Sunangels.



Two of the main targets in Utuana: the excellent Piura Hemispingus (top) and the incredible Black-crested Tit-Tyrant. (Chris Venetz)



The stunning Rainbow Starfrontlet showing all its colours at Utuana Reserve. (Chris Venetz)

We then embarked upon the longish drive to Tapichalaca, our next mega stop. On the road, we crossed a variety of habitats including an area of very dry scrubs which attracted our attention. Indeed, we stopped at a stakeout and soon found the somewhat dull but localized Drab Seedeater. Other goodies in the area included a Purple-collared Woodstar and a Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle. We eventually reached our charming lodge and on our arrival we were distracted by the feeders which attracted lots of hummingbirds! Amongst them, several Chestnut-breasted Coronets, some stunning Amethyst-throated and Flame-throated Sunangels, a furtive Long-tailed Sylph and a beautiful Collared Inca. A Barred Becard was calling around and we all had great looks at the bird just before dinner time. Finally, a nice nightbirding excursion yielded excellent views of a cracking White-throated Screech Owl.

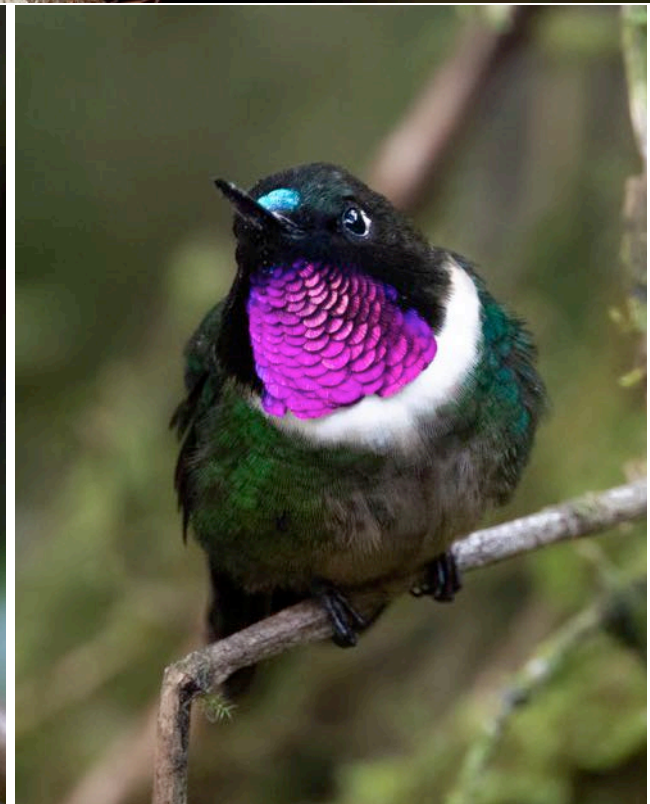
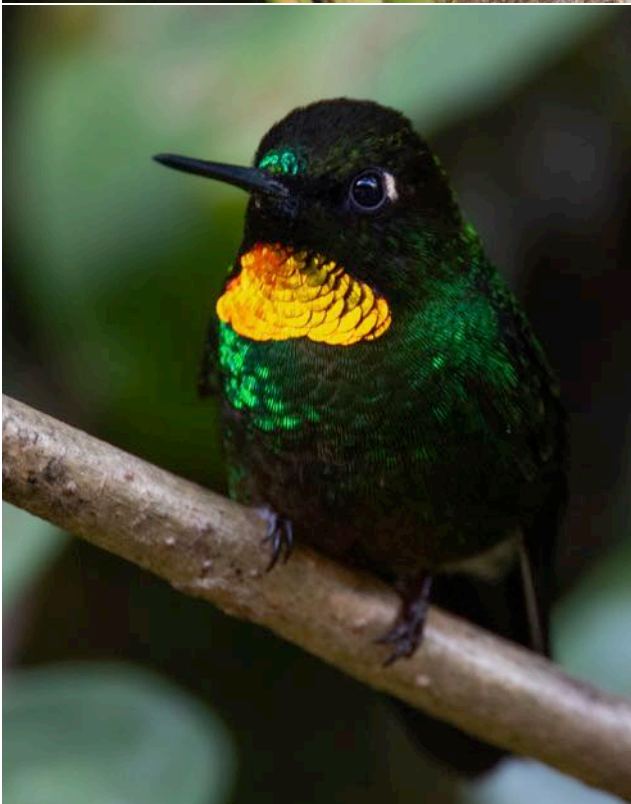
The next day was one of these greatest days we will all remember. We had a memorable appointment with the striking Jocotoco Antpittas. Thanks to the amazing work of the Jocotoco Foundation, one of the most incredible species could be nowadays enjoyed in full views, at almost touching distance. But, we started early morning at another feeding station, where we soon we had excellent views of a Chestnut-naped Antpitta. Then, before embarking the bus we were distracted by a confiding Slaty Finch and furtive Rufous Antpitta around the lodge. We then ventured higher in the reserve and found many other good birds of this incredible cloud forest such as Rufous Spinetail, Rufous and Plain-tailed Wren, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan, Powerful and Bar-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied and Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrants and White-throated Quail-Dove. We then reached the specific place for the Jocotoco Antpittas. There it was exactly as the scenario we have all hoped for, with two Jocotoco Antpittas popping just a few meters away, totally unconcerned! This was undoubtedly a mega highlight of the tour. On the way back to the lodge for lunch, we connected with some more goodies including Chusquea Tapaculo, Black-capped and Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulets, Grey-hooded Bush Tanager, Red-hooded Tanager, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant and Orange-banded Flycatcher. Some much-appreciated Pale-footed Swallows flying around concluded our nice morning. We spent the afternoon in some lower stretches of forest near to Valladolid. A first stop gave us the rare Blue-browed Tanager, but also a couple of Flame-faced Tanagers and a stunning Blue-naped Chlorophonia. Further down we soon found a singing Rufous-fronted Thornbird, a pair of Yellow-cheeked Becard, a Montane Woodcreeper, a much-wanted Maranon Thrush (nicely spotted by Rob) and also a Black-faced Tanager. We heard an Andean Potoo in the distance on our nightbirding excursion, but this one never showed despite a long try.



Seeing the striking Jocotoco Antpitta like this was a memorable experience at Tapichalaca. (Chris Venetz)



The Tapichalaca Reserve is home to some other amazing antpittas like this Chestnut-naped Antpitta. (Chris Venetz)



More goodies from Tapichalaca (clockwise from top): The stunning White-throated Screech-owl; Gorgeous Amethyst-throated and Brilliant Flame-throated Sunangels. (Chris Venetz)

After having said goodbye to the wonderful Tapichalaca Reserve the next morning, we moved to the High Andes, this time to Cerro Toledo in search for the range-restricted Neblina Metaltail. It was sunny that day, and therefore quiet in the paramo. Though, it didn't take too long before we found our main target bird, alongside with a few Rainbow-bearded Thornbills. We then birded further down the main road, where we found Mouse-colored Thistletail, a couple of White-browed Spinetails, Glowing Pufflegs, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, a glimpse of a Black-throated Toucanet and Glossy Flowerpiercer. We then drove to some lower elevations and stopped at some dry forests near to Vilcabamba. An Andean Tinamou was seen by some, and we located there our first Tumbesian Tyrannulet of the trip. It was raining when we finally reached our hotel in Loja. Later, the rain stopped for a while and therefore we went to try for the localized Koepcke's Screech Owl. And we concluded this day by immediately finding a wet but cracking Screech Owl!



Goodies from Cerro Toledo: The localized Neblina Metaltail (top) and the Mouse-colored Thistletail. (Chris Venetz)



Splendid views above the clouds at Cerro Toledo. (Chris Venetz)



This Koeppke's Screech Owl performed extremely well at Loja. (Chris Venetz)

The day after we left Loja early morning to head along the famous old Loja-Zamora road, where we made a few stops at different altitudes in search of more specialities. We made our first stop by a rapid river, enabling us to find a nice Torrent Duck, a few White-capped Dippers and some Torrent Tyrannulets along the water. In the area, we also found more goodies including White-whiskered Bush Tanager, Green-fronted Lancebill and Bronzy Inca. Following our descent towards Zamora, we made a second productive stop when we located a very good fruiting tree just along the road. With lots of tanagers flying and calling around, we waited there and soon enjoyed multiple stunning species visiting the tree. Spotted, Blue-necked, Bay-headed, Golden, Saffron-crowned, Golden-naped and golden-eared Tanager along with Red-headed Barbet, all came one after the other in a few minutes. Later we had a few other stops further down the road and found more good birds including a stunning male Blackburnian Warbler, an obliging Montane Woodcreeper, a Lafresnaye's Piculet, Ash-browed Spinetail and our first Olivaceous Greenlet and Ecuadorian Tyrannulet of the trip. We paused for a picnic lunch where we added White-banded Swallow and Black-billed Thrush to the list.



A stunning Golden-eared Tanager from the old Loja-Zamora road. (Chris Venetz)

Later we made our way towards Yankuam Lodge and the nearby incredible Maycu Reserve. We arrived there by mid-afternoon and quickly went on a boat trip along some incredible scenery. Although, the activity of birds was rather low along the river, we added a few birds on our list such as Green-backed Trogon and Cliff Flycatcher. The remaining afternoon saw us reaching for our umbrellas as the rain started when we headed to the nearby Maycu Reserve. The heavy rain added a challenge, but nonetheless we eventually found some of the gems of the region before dark. First, a confiding black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher showed up very nicely, and later we heard the incredibly distinctive and melodious voice of an Orange-throated Tanager. The tension was palpable until we located this large tanager moving in the nearby Cecropia trees. At this stage, we knew that we just accomplished the main mission of visiting this area and the pressure was certainly off for the day after!



Orange-throated Tanager was nicely seen in the first afternoon at the Maycu Reserve. (Chris Venetz)

The next day was a full day to explore to the different forest patches around Yankuam, including the Maycu Reserve. The area is home to a large range of Amazonian foothill species, and in such a short visit, we were able to only scratch the surface of the great potential here. Probably the two Collared Puffbirds were the greatest surprise here as this species is usually found at much lower elevations. We also found a whole bunch of antbirds including outrageous views of the rare and highly-desired Hairy-crested Antbird, a couple of Peruvian Warbling Antbirds, a Black Antbird, as well as Rufous-winged and Stripe-chested Antwrens. We were very fortunate to examine a group of Spot-fronted Swifts flying around. The much-wanted White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant was also nicely found, along with Purplish Jacamar and Duida Woodcreeper. We encountered a few good mixed flocks which produced stunning Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireos, Wing-barred Piprites, Rufous-tailed and Ruddy Foliage-gleaner, Speckled Spinetail, Yellow-bellied, Opal-rumped, Turquoise, Masked, Green-and-gold, Yellow-backed, and Crimson Masked Tanagers, a Fiery-throated Fruiteater scoped up, Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, Gilded and Lemon-throated Barbets, Black-throated Brilliant among many more stuff that joined the list that day. And of course Orange-throated Tanager was again noticed in the area. While waiting for dark, we found our last diurnal birds including Crimson-crested and Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers and Chestnut-eared Aracari. We had better luck with the weather that evening and soon found some very cooperative Band-bellied Owls and eventually went back to the lodge for dinner. What a day!

The next day we had a last morning to explore the Maycu Reserve. We first went to another stretch of forest in the hope to find more goodies. We started by watching almost simultaneously a vocal Coraya wren, a showy blackish Antbird and a cracking White-browed Antbird. We then also found a perched Great-billed and also a nice Grey-chinned Hermits. Further down the road, we could locate a stunning male Spangled Cotinga, some interesting White-thighed Swallows scoped up, but probably the most rewarding bird this morning was the Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher, a bird that demanded us lots of efforts to get good views. On our way back to the lodge, we made a last quick but very productive stop at the main patch of forest, where we had a serious battle with a White-throated Woodpecker that finally gave us brief views. But we concluded our morning and our excellent time in this area with a pair of Flame-crested Tanagers, a confiding Ecuadorian Piedtail and a nice Gould's Jewelfront. After lunch we packed our stuff and started heading back to Zamora where we would later stay at the Copalinga Lodge. As usual, we couldn't dwell on our success for too long, as we quickly made a stop at a stakeout for the uncommon Black-billed Seed-finch, where we had great looks at two males. We arrived by late afternoon at the comfortable Copalinga Lodge, where the hummingbird feeders and the charming garden of the lodge attracted several Violet-headed Hummingbirds, Violet-fronted Brilliants, a few Fork-tailed Woodnymphs, some Speckled Chachalacas and a tame Sicklet-winged Guan. Then a short walk in the forest took us to feeding station of the rare Grey Tinamou, but unfortunately the birds were not at the appointment. Night birding close by provided nice looks at the excellent Blackish Nightjar.



Hairy-crested Antbird of the melanosticta form was brilliantly seen at the Maycu Reserve. (Chris Venetz). Below, The nice Wing-barred Piprites also showed exceedingly well at the Maycu Reserve. (Chris Venetz)





The amazing Collared Puffbird was a great surprise at the Maycu Reserve. (Chris Venetz)



This cracking Band-bellied Owl from Yankuam was seen very well. (Chris Venetz)

We spent the next morning exploring the excellent Bombuscaro section of the Podocarpus National Park. Birding here was less rewarding in terms of number of species compared to the Maycu Reserve but it was home to some specific species we were searching for. As we just entered the park, we've seen a couple of White-collared Thrush hopping on the main trail. Following the trail, we soon encountered a first bird wave which held the local Foothill Elaenia and a much appreciated Black-billed Treehunter. Orange-crested Flycatcher and Black-streaked Puffbird were the next goodies to join the list, whilst a vocal Coppery-chested Jacamar refused to show. More hours in the park offered us Fulvous-breasted Flatbill, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, Striolated Manakin, Yellow-breasted Antwren, Montane Foliage-gleaner and an electrifying male Andean Cock-of-the-rock. The eastern race *aequatorialis* of the latter shows a flaming orange plumage rather than red like in the west. A real bowl of fire!



We had prolonged views of this stunning male Andean Cock-of-the-rock at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP. (Chris Venetz)

Back at the lodge for lunch, there were more distractions! We were very fortunate to watch the fabulous White-breasted Parakeets, which initially only gave us flight views, but eventually succumbed, allowing fantastic views as they came down to feed in a small fruiting tree just next to the dining room. Simply fantastic! In the afternoon we had a little drive to a nearby very productive hummingbird garden with a few species in mind. If I were to mention, within only a few minutes, we recorded 8 new species of hummingbirds for the trip including our hope-for species! Stunning males of Wire-crested Thorntails and Spangled Coquettes were the first seen, while no less than three species of Woodstar including Little, White-bellied and Amethyst Woodstar just appeared one after the other. Sparkling Violetear, Glittering-throated and Blue-tailed Emeralds were the last to join the feast. On the way back to lodge we made a last stop in a remnant forest patch near to Zamora and enjoyed watching a confiding Olive Finch, which was high in the wish list for some members of the group. And to conclude this fantastic day, we went back to try again for the Grey Tinamou, which finally performed exceedingly well at a couple of meters!



The amazing White-breasted Parakeet was seen exceedingly well at Copalinga. (Chris Venetz)



We had prolonged views of the rare Grey Tinamou on our second attempt at Copalinga. (Chris Venetz)

The following day, we started early morning at a specific forest patch in the upper part of the old Loja-Zamora road in the hope to add more good stuff to the list. We had some roadside birding starting first at about 1700m and made a few stops down the road. The activity was nice this morning and we quickly found a group of Subtropical Caciques. Then a few minutes later, a productive bird wave yielded a Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, a couple of Fawn-breasted Tanagers, a stunning Golden-collared Honeycreeper, our only Rufous-winged Tyrannulets of the trip and the rare Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet. Further down the road, we had great views of a nice Coppery-chested Jacamar, a bird which refused to show the day before at Bombuscaro. We then came across other good species such as White-winged Tanager, Tooth-billed Kite, Little Woodpecker and the scarce Olive-chested Flycatcher. At another forest patch, we worked hard to find the Equatorial Greytail which was only heard until there. As patience is often the key, we eventually watched a responsive Ecuadorian Greytail coming close to us! We drove back to the lodge for lunch before taking the road towards Loja. On the way we stopped and tried again for the Oilbird at Juan Carlos' specific location, but sadly, the birds were simply not there. The end of the afternoon was spent at a dry forest near to Loja where we struggled to find much else new except for the only Chiguango Thrush of the trip.



This Olive-chested Flycatcher was nicely found at the old Loja-Zamora road. (Chris Venetz)

Today we had a transfer to la Union (near to the Yunguilla Reserve) with some important birding at two different main sites at the Acacana Reserve, which kept us busy until mid-afternoon. First stop was actually still near to Loja at a roadside stakeout where we quickly found our main quarry here, the uncommon White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant. We then reached the first important location at the Acacana Reserve with the hope to find the localized Red-faced Parrot. Frustratingly, the parrots were not in the area, but nonetheless we found a few new birds like Northern Mountain Cacique and Masked Trogon. We couldn't wait too long for the parrots in our tight schedule of the day as we had to save some time for another important bird, the incredible Crescent-faced Antpitta. Hence, we decided to go directly to the second site before the sun would kill the activity. There, we were luckier as we soon heard the typical call of this amazing Antpitta. We all sat into the forest and waited for the bird to come closer, and in a few minutes, we had the Antpitta coming right at our feet and could brilliantly watching it before it disappeared! Mission accomplished! The same area was also extremely productive when a few minutes later, we had excellent views of the very rare Chestnut-bellied Cotinga! A second mega was in the bag! Other good stuff in the area included Blue-backed Conebill, Smoky Bush-Tyrant, Agile Tit-Tyrant, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Black-crested Warbler, Black-capped Tyrannulet, Mountain Caracara and the excellent Black-headed Hemispingus. A little further down the road, we made another stop where we found Ash-colored Tapaculo. We had a packed lunch in the area and went back to Red-faced Parrot place in the early afternoon. It took a little while but we eventually had twice decent flight views of the parrots (for some). Finally, we arrived by late afternoon at our hotel in La Union.



We had prolonged views of the rare Chestnut-bellied Cotinga at Acacana Reserve. (Chris Venetz)

The main reason why we came to la Union is the nearby Yunguilla Reserve, which is home to the very rare and endemic Pale-headed Brushfinch. The species can be easily seen at a feeding station in the forest of the reserve, where it is attracted by the oranges. We all sat and needed to wait quite a long time before we could watch our main quarry. This feeding station was also good for other interesting species like Grey-browed Brushfinch and Chestnut-crowned Antpitta. Overhead a nice Line-cheeked Spinetail played hide-and-sick but we eventually had good looks at the bird. Everyone being satisfied with the sightings of the important Pale-headed Brushfinch, we went birding in the nearby trails, where we could locate some more species. A vocal Blackish Tapaculo was first seen well, while a cracking Black-lored Yellowthroat also performed nicely. A stunning male Purple-collared Woodstar was scoped up and some Golden-rumped Euphonias were also seen in the area.



The endemic and rare Brushfinch at the Yunguilla Reserve was major highlight of the tour. (Chris Venetz)

After lunch, we left La Union and made our way north to reach some higher altitudes to the spectacular El Cajas National Park. After checking in at our excellent hotel, we birded the hotel's surroundings and soon found the endemic Violet-throated Metaltail, several Andean Gulls and a few Andean Teals. The last hour of birding was spent at the highest part of the park (at about 4000m) in the hope to find some typical species from the high Andes. We found some beautiful Tit-like Dacnises here and there, both Stout-billed and Chestnut-winged Cinclodes, the nice Blue-mantled Thornbill, the stunning Ecuadorian Hillstar, a showy Tawny Antpitta, a Many-striped Canastero and a last Andean Tit-Spinetail to complete the cast.



We had incredible views of the endemic Violet-throated Metaltail at El Cajas NP. (Chris Venetz)



Two more goodies from El Cajas NP: Cracking Tit-like Dacnis (left) and stunning Ecuadorian Hillstar. (Chris Venetz)

The following day we had an early predawn start at the Laguna Llaviuca in the lower part of El Cajas National Park in order to try for the Rufous-banded Owl. It actually took a while before the owl cooperated, but in the end, we were rewarded with great views of this stunner. We then also had a glimpse of a skittish Band-winged Nightjar just before dawn. With the first rays of light, we walked along the lagoon and soon found some Andean Teals, Andean Coots, Yellow-billed Pintails and Andean Ducks on the water. A responsive Ecuadorian Rail was also seen in the marshy area of the lagoon. On our way back to the bus, it was starting to rain but we could still connect with a few new species for the trip like Mountain Velvetbreast, Grass Wren, Plain-colored Seedeater, though sadly a calling Andean Pygmy Owl could not be found. We then returned to the hotel for a fine breakfast before checking out and start our way back to Guayaquil. But on the road we made a last stop in the park at a nice *Polylepis* forest, where we quickly located the much-wanted and beautiful Giant Conebill. Later we drove down the mountains to eventually reach the lowland. We made an important stop at Quizas Hoy, mainly to have a second attempt for the Pacific Royal Flycatcher. This time, we all had brilliant views of this special bird! We had lunch in a nearby restaurant, where we added Black-crowned Tityra to the list. After lunch, we drove to the Manglares Churute and amongst million mosquitoes we had great looks at a pair of Jet Antbirds and also at a Pale-mandibled Aracari. We then returned to Guayaquil and stopped at a park in the city and tried for the Rufous-necked Wood-rail, but we were sadly unlucky with this one. By late afternoon, we were at our comfortable hotel, the main tour now concluded.



This Rufous-banded Owl at El Cajas NP was hard to get, but we finally got excellent views. (Chris Venetz)



The Pacific Royal Flycatcher was eventually seen on our second attempt at Quizas Hoy. (Chris Venetz)

The extension started early the following morning when we left Guayaquil and quickly started heading north-west towards Ayampe. But on the way, we made a series of good stops, the first at a good dry scrubs area near to Atahualpa. As soon as we arrived there, we had scoped view of Zone-tailed Hawk. And with a great avian activity this morning, we quickly found our target species, including several Parrot-billed Seed eaters, the smart Collared Warbling Finch, good numbers of the very local Sulphur-throated Finch, much better views of Short-tailed Woodstar, cracking Necklaced Spinetails, Grey-and-white Tyrannulet, Snow-throated Kingbird, West Peruvian Doves and Band-tailed Sierra Finch. Other goodies in this place included surprising Comb Ducks (nicely spotted by Jules) and the widespread but superb Laughing Falcon. Back in the bus we then drove towards the Salinas, an important area for waterbirds. But on the way we made a quick stop at a stakeout for the Peruvian Thick-knee, which was quickly found. We could actually have enjoyed two adults with their chicks! Later we explored the sea shore and the nearby salt pans, which held great numbers of waterbirds. Along the coast, we quickly noticed the numerous Brown Pelicans and Magnificent Frigatebirds, alongside with Blue-footed Booby, Whimbrels, Willets, Sanderlings, American Oystercatchers, Royal Terns and a single Grey Gull. Then, we stopped at a busy saline and the list just kept growing as we found there: Peruvian Pelican, Western, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Franklin's, Laughing, Grey-headed and Kelp Gulls, Chilean Flamingos, Roseate Spoonbills, White-cheeked Pintails, a couple of Blue-winged Teal and a fine Cocoi Heron. There we also flushed a Lesser Nighthawk, which posed in the open and allowed excellent views. We made a last quick stop before lunch at La Chocolatera, a small coastal park at the westernmost point of Ecuador. There we soon found our main quarry, the Wandering Tattler known to spend the winter in the area. Heading north to Ayampe along the coast after lunch, we made a last stop at another saline, where we watched a nice group of Stilt Sandpipers alongside with Short-billed Dowitchers and Wilson's Phalaropes, as well as Cabot's and Gull-billed Terns.

Having settled to our accommodation in Ayampe, we were once again out, at a nearby nice forest patch. Here, we found a few new birds such as a responsive White-backed Fire-eye, a couple of Gartered Trogons and a Hook-billed Kite. We then moved on to our last stop of the day near to Puerto Lopez. Here we found Plumbeous-backed Thrush, the incredible Red-billed Scythebill, Great Black Hawk, Crane Hawk, and at dusk, we had some excellent views of the localized Anthony's Nightjar.

Our final day was a great day! We started early morning at a fabulous private garden where we waited for the main reason of the extension, the highly-desired and endemic Esmeraldas Woodstar. And it didn't take too long before we saw a tiny and stunning male Esmeraldas Woodstar coming in front of us, buzzing around the flowers like a bee. The views were simply fantastic and we knew the job was done! We then moved to another place and rapidly found our next and last target of the trip, the localized and nomadic Saffron Siskin. We had some more relaxed birding for the end of the morning. We visited a new hummingbird garden in Ayampe and had some nice coffee. We even watched another Esmeraldas Woodstar and finally added Black-throated Mango, our last new bird of the trip. After lunch, we drove back to Guayaquil and our Southern Ecuador adventure has finally come to an end and what a trip it had been!



The rare and endemic Esmeraldas Woodstar was the main reason of the extension and didn't disappoint! (Chris Venetz)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2019. IOC World Bird List (v 9.2)**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

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). The online checklist, available to download at the above website, includes all relevant taxonomic notes. The website also includes a useful section outlining recent taxonomic decisions and upcoming proposals.

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).

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* Brilliant views of stunner down to couple of meters Copalinga Lodge.
Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* First heard at Maycu Reserve, then 1 seen at Copalinga Lodge.
Pale-browed Tinamou ♦ *Crypturellus transfasciatus* Good views below the Urraca Lodge, Jorupe.
Andean Tinamou *Nothoprocta pentlandii* Seen for some at Villcabamba and Catamayo.
Rufous-headed Chachalaca ♦ *Ortalis erythroptera* Great views of several at the Urraca Lodge, Jorupe.
Speckled Chachalaca *Ortalis guttata* First views at the Maycu Reserve and then at Copalinga Lodge.
Bearded Guan ♦ *Penelope barbata* Two birds on the way to Cerro de Arcos and one seen at Tapichalaca.



Speckled Chachalaca from Copalinga and Bearded Guan on the way to Cerro de Arcos (Chris Venetz)

Andean Guan *Penelope montagnii* (H) Heard a couple of times at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.
Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens* One was seen near to Pinas on the way to the Cerro de Arcos.
Sickle-winged Guan *Chamaepetes goudotii* Great views of one at Copalinga Lodge.
Marbled Wood Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis* (H) Heard distantly at Maycu Reserve.
Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta* Great views of six at Manglares Churute.
Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Few seen at Manglares Churute.
Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* Several seen at Manglares Churute.
Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata* One seen well at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis sylvicola* Two seen near to Atahualpa.
Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* A couple seen at the Santa Elena Salinas.
White-cheeked Pintail (Bahama P) *Anas bahamensis* Several seen at the Santa Elena Salinas.
Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica* A few seen at Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.
Andean Teal *Anas andium* Several seen in El Cajas NP, including around the hotel.
Andean Duck (A Ruddy Duck) *Oxyura ferruginea* A few seen on Llaviuca Laguna in El Cajas NP.
Andean Potoo ♦ *Nyctibius maculosus* (H) One heard distantly but no luck despite hard work.
Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* One seen very well at the Santa Elena Salinas.
Blackish Nightjar *Nyctipolus nigrescens* One seen very well at dusk near to Copalinga Lodge.
Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* Two seen around the Urraca Lodge, Jorupe.
Anthony's Nightjar ♦ (Scrub N) *Nyctidromus anthonyi* Excellent spotlight views near to Puerto Lopez.
Band-winged Nightjar *Systellura longirostris* One briefly seen at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP
Spot-fronted Swift ♦ *Cypseloides cherriei* Brilliant views of five at Maycu Reserve !
Chestnut-collared Swift *Streptoprocne ruficollis* Seen at Buenaventura Reserve and at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP
White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* Common along the trip.
Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* Seen well at the Buenaventura Reserve.
Short-tailed Swift ♦ (Tumbes S) *Chaetura brachyuran* Three birds seen at Jorupe.
White-tipped Sicklebill *Eutoxeres aquila* A brief view at Buenaventura Reserve.
White-whiskered Hermit ♦ *Phaethornis yaruqui* (H) One heard and only seen by the leader at Buenaventura.



Lesser Nighthawk at Salinas was an excellent bonus. (Chris Venetz)

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* Great views at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.

Long-billed Hermit ♦ (Baron's H) *Phaethornis [longirostris] baroni* Great views at Quizas Hoy and at Ayampe.

Great-billed Hermit *Phaethornis [malaris] moorei* Nice views of one perched in Maycu Reserve.

Tawny-bellied Hermit *Phaethornis symatophorus* One seen at the Old-Loja Zamora road.

Grey-chinned Hermit *Phaethornis griseogularis* First seen at Jorupe, then at Maycu Reserve.

Green-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera ludovicae* Great views at the Old Loja-Zamora road.

Grey-breasted Sabrewing *Campylopterus largipennis* Excellent views at Maycu Reserve.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* Common on the feeders at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* Common on the feeders at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans* Seen at Copalinga Lodge and at Yantzaza.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis* A few seen in Ayampe.

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti* Common at Copalinga Lodge.

Spangled Coquette ♦ *Lophornis stictolophus* A nice male seen very well at Yantzaza.

Wire-crested Thorntail *Discosura popelairii* Excellent views of two at Yantzaza.

Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii* Several seen at the feeders at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura.

Blue-tailed Emerald *Chlorostilbon mellisugus* One bird seen very well at Yantzaza.

Crowned Woodnymph (Emerald-bellied W) *Thalurania colombica* A single bird at the feeders at Buenaventura.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata* Few birds seen at Copalinga Lodge.

Violet-bellied Hummingbird *Juliomyia julie* Seen at Quizas Hoy, then seen several seen at Buenaventura.

Golden-tailed Sapphire *Chrysuronia oenone* First at Maycu Reserve, then seen near to Zamora.

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

Many-spotted Hummingbird ♦ *Taphrospilus hypostictus* Couple seen at the feeders at Copalinga Lodge.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* Common and Widespread along the tour, first noted at Quizas Hoy.

Amazilia Hummingbird (Loja H) *Amazilia amazilia* Excellent looks at many along the tour, first at Quizas Hoy.

Andean Emerald *Amazilia franciae* Fairly common at the feeders at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura.

White-vented Plumeleteer ♦ (Ecuadorian P) *Chalybura [buffonii] intermedia* Excellent views at Zaruma.

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys* Very good views at the feeders at Utuana Reserve.

Ecuadorian Piedtail ♦ *Phlogophilus hemileucurus* Brilliant views at Maycu Reserve, also at Bombuscaro.

Black-throated Brilliant ♦ *Heliodoxa schreibersii* Nice views of one bird at Maycu Reserve.

Gould's Jewelfront *Heliodoxa aurescens* Seen very well at Maycu Reserve.

Fawn-breasted Brilliant *Heliodoxa rubinoides* Brilliant views at the feeders at Buenaventura.

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula* Seen at the feeders at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura.



Clockwise from top, more hummers from this trip: Purple-throated Sunangel at Utuana, Fork-tailed Woodnymph at Copalinga, Long-billed (Baron's) Hermit at Ayampe, Amazilia Hummingbird at Jorupe and White-necked Jacobin at Buenaventura. (Chris Venetz)



Violet-fronted Brilliant *Heliodoxa leadbeateri* Excellent views of many at the feeders at Copalinga Lodge.

Chestnut-breasted Coronet ♦ *Boissonneaua matthewsii* Many at Tapichalaca, and 1 surprisingly seen at Copalinga.

Velvet-purple Coronet ♦ *Boissonneaua jardini* Brilliant views of some stunners at the feeders at Buenaventura.

Shining Sunbeam *Aglaeactis cupripennis* Single bird at Cerro de Arcos.

Ecuadorian Hillstar ♦ *Oreotrochilus Chimborazo* Great views at El Cajas NP.

Blue-throated Hillstar ♦ *Oreotrochilus cyanolaemus* Brilliant views of this stunner at Cerro de Arcos! Birdquest lifer!

Mountain Velvetbreast *Lafresnaya lafresnayi* One seen at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.

Bronzy Inca *Coeligena coeligena* Good views at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Brown Inca ♦ *Coeligena wilsoni* Seen well at feeders at Buenaventura Reserve.

Collared Inca *Coeligena torquata* Few seen at the feeders at Tapichalaca Reserve.

Buff-winged Starfrontlet *Coeligena lutetiae* (LO) One seen at Acacana.

Rainbow Starfrontlet ♦ *Coeligena iris* Excellent views at Utuana Reserve.

Great Sapphirewing *Pterophanes cyanopterus* (LO) One at El Cajas NP.

Amethyst-throated Sunangel *Helianthus amethysticollis* Plenty seen well at Tapichalaca Reserve.

Flame-throated Sunangel ♦ *Helianthus micraster* Couple seen very well at the feeders at Tapichalaca.

Purple-throated Sunangel ♦ *Helianthus viola* Excellent views at Utuana Reserve.

Glowing Puffleg ♦ *Eriocnemis vestita* First seen at Cerro Toledo, then at Acacana.

Sapphire-vented Puffleg *Eriocnemis luciani* One was briefly seen at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.

White-booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii* Seen at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Green-tailed Trainbearer *Lesbia nuna* (LO) One seen at the Utuana Reserve

Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina* First seen at Tapichalaca, then at below Cerro Toledo and Acacana.

Viridian Metaltail ♦ *Metallura williami* Great looks at one at Cerro de Arcos

Violet-throated Metaltail ♦ *Metallura baroni* Brilliant views of this endemic at El Cajas NP.

Neblina Metaltail ♦ *Metallura odomae* Brilliant views of 3 at Cerro Toledo

Blue-mantled Thornbill ♦ *Chalcostigma stanleyi* Excellent looks at El Cajas NP.

Rainbow-bearded Thornbill ♦ *Chalcostigma herrani* Good views at Cerro Toledo

Long-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus kingie* First at Tapichalaca, then at the old Loja-Zamora road.

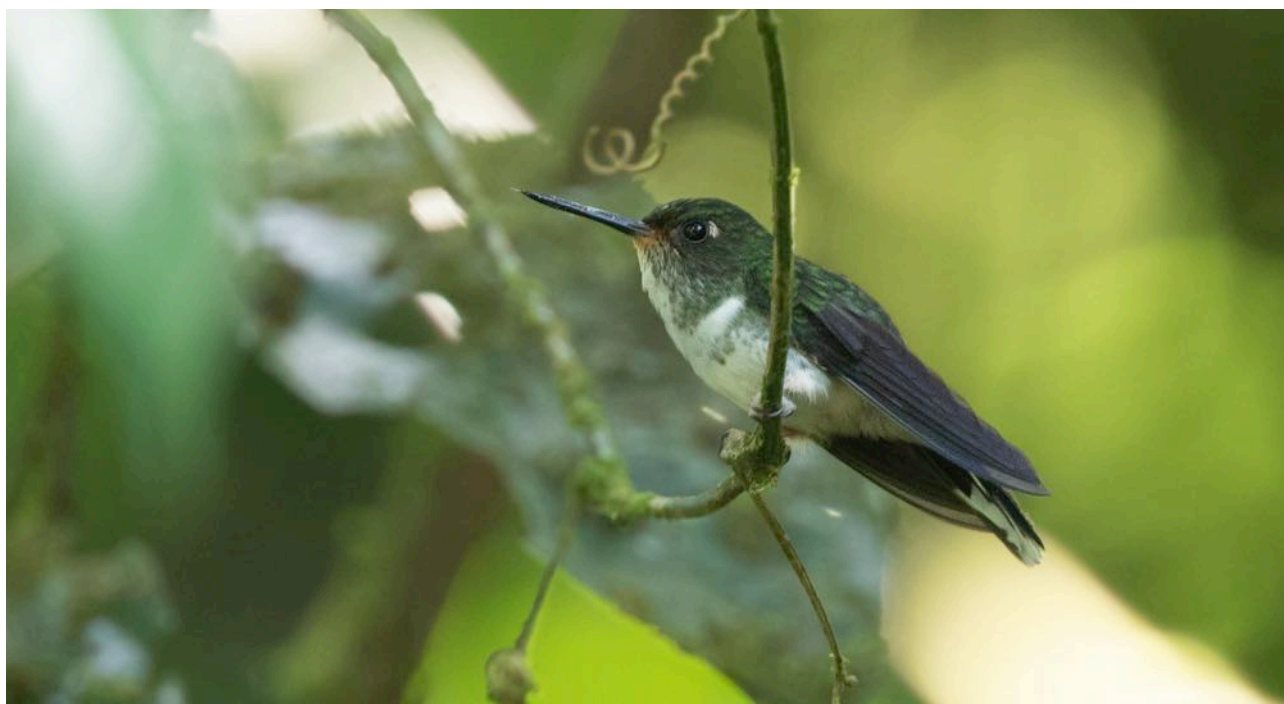
Violet-tailed Sylph ♦ *Aglaiocercus coelestis* Seen well at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliophryx barroti* A single bird seen at Quizas Hoy.

Black-eared Fairy *Heliophryx auritus* One bird seen at Maycu Reserve.

White-throated Wedgebill *Schistes albogularis* ♦ Excellent views of one at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Long-billed Starthroat *Helimaster longirostris* First noted at Jorupe, then a few seen at Ayampe.



The scarce Ecuadorian Piedtail was seen well at Maycu Reserve. (Chris Venetz)

Amethyst Woodstar *Calliphlox amethystine* Excellent looks at one in Yantzaza.

Purple-collared Woodstar *Myrtis fanny* First noted near to Catamayo and one gorgeous male seen at Yunguilla.

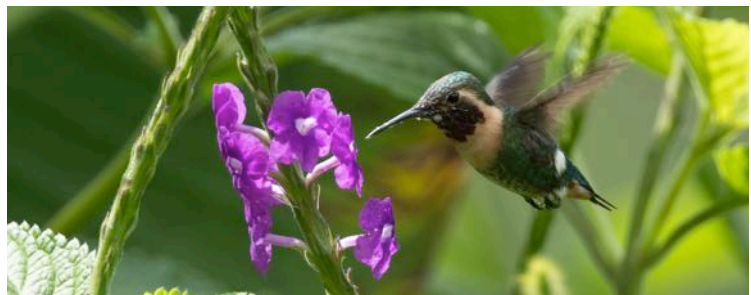
Short-tailed Woodstar ♦ *Myrmia micrura* Brief views at Manglares Churute, then excellent views at Yantzaza

White-bellied Woodstar *Chaetocercus mulsant* One seen well at Yantzaza.

Little Woodstar ♦ *Chaetocercus bombus* First noted at Buenaventura, then good looks at Yantzaza.

Esmeraldas Woodstar ♦ *Chaetocercus berlepschi* Brilliant views of at least 3 birds in Ayampe.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Reasonably common along the tour.



Clockwise from top, great set of hummingbirds at Yantzaza: Spangled Coquette, Little Woodstar, White-bellied Woodstar (female) and Wire-crested Thorntail. (Chris Venetz)

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* First noted at Manglares Churute, then more on the extension.

Striped Cuckoo (American S C) *Tapera naevia* (H) Heard at Yunguilla.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Widespread. At least four sightings along the tour.

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia* Always noticed.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* Common at higher altitude. First noted on the way to Cerro de Arcos.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* First noted on near to Quizas Hoy, then several seen at Ayampe.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* Seen at Maycu Reserve

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* One bird noted near to Valladolid

Ecuadorian Ground Dove ♦ *Columbina buckleyi* Fairly common and widespread, first seen at Manglares Churute.

Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana* Abundant, especially around Jorupe and during the extension.

Blue Ground Dove *Claravis pretiosa* A couple seen near to Jorupe.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* Fairly common and widespread in suitable habitat.

Grey-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* Heard at Maycu Reserve, and excellent views at Copalinga Lodge

Pallid Dove ♦ *Leptotila pallida* Brilliant views of one bird on the nest with chicks.

Ochre-bellied Dove ♦ *Leptotila ochraceiventris* (H) Heard at Jorupe.

White-throated Quail-Dove *Zentrygon frenata* Heard at Buenaventura and then great views at Tapichalaca.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* Fairly common and Widespread.

West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda* First seen at Atahualpa, several more at Ayampe.



West Peruvian Dove was seen on the extension. (Chris Venetz)

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis* (H) A few heard in the upper part at Buenaventura.

Ecuadorian Rail ♦ *Rallus aequatorialis* One bird seen at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.

Rufous-necked Wood Rail ♦ *Aramides axillaris* One bird was heard distantly near to Puerto Lopez.

Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans* Only heard at the new site near to Zamora, as the usual place was dry.

Andean Coot *Fulica ardesiaca* Few birds seen at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* Fairly common at Manglares Churute.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* A couple of birds seen at Manglares Churute.

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* A few seen at the Santa Elena Salinas.

Peruvian Thick-knee *Burhinus superciliaris* Two adults with chicks were seen near to Atahualpa

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* Several along the coast at the Santa Elena Salinas.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Fairly common in wetlands.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola* Several on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* A few on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* Several seen in the wetlands, first noted at Manglares Churute.



Peruvian Thick-knee was nicely seen on the extension! (Chris Venetz)

Whimbrel (Hudsonian W) *Numenius [phaeopus] hudsonicus* Several seen at the Santa Elena Salinas.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* A few birds found at the Santa Elena Salinas.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* A good group of 20 at the Santa Elena Salinas.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* A single bird seen on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Several birds recorded on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* A couple seen on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* Just a few seen on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* A single seen on the Santa Elena Salinas

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* A couple seen on the Santa Elena Salinas

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* One seen at Manglares Churute and another one at Ayampe.

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana* One was seen at La Chokolatera in Salinas.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Several seen on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Willet (Western W) *Tringa [semipalmata] inornata* A few seen along the coast on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Two birds on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus* Several seen at El Cajas NP.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* A few birds seen on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* A few on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* A single bird recorded on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Grey Gull *Leucophaeus modestus* One was seen along the coast in the Santa Elena area.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* A few birds along the coast in the Santa Elena area.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* A single bird found on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* Several along the coast on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus* Two birds found on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* A single bird noticed on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Good views of one at Manglares Churute.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Very common along the coast.

Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* A few birds observed along the coast in the Santa Elena area.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* First at Manglares Churute. Plenty in the Santa Elena area.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* Seen at Manglares Churute.

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* Common at Manglares Churute and on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* Several seen at Manglares Churute and on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* Brief views of one for some at Buenaventura.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Single at Manglares Churute.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* A single bird noticed on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* A few birds seen, first at Manglares Churute.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Fairly common and widespread.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* A few seen on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Great Egret (American G E) *Ardea [alba] egretta* Common and widespread. First at Manglares Churute.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* A couple seen on the Santa Elena Salinas.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* One seen at Manglares Churute.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Fairly common and widespread, especially in Manglares Churute.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Common along the coast in the Santa Elena area.

Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus* A few along the coast in the Santa Elena area.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Common and widespread.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus* A few seen at Maycu Reserve.

Black Vulture (American B V) *Coragyps atratus* Common and widespread.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* Two birds seen at Manglares Churute.

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii* One seen near to Guayaquil.

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* Seen well of at least three at Ayampe and at Puerto Lopez.

Swallow-tailed Kite (American S-t K) *Elanoides forficatus* Reasonably common. First at Buenaventura.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* One seen at Copalinga Lodge, then at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Bicolored Hawk *Accipiter bicolor* Excellent scope views at one near to Puerto Lopez.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* One bird at Buenaventura, then two seen at Ayampe.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* Common in wetlands, especially at Manglares Churute.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens* One bird near to Puerto Lopez.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis* Seen at Manglares Churute, and at Jorupe.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* One near to Puerto Lopez.

Barred Hawk *Morphnarchus princeps* A pair seen displaying at Buenaventura.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* Fairly common. First at Buenaventura.



Clockwise from top left: Turkey Vulture, Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle and White Hawk (Chris Venetz)

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* Seen at Manglares Churute.

Variable Hawk (Red-backed H) *Geranoaetus [polyosoma] polyosoma* One bird near to Atahualpa.

Variable Hawk (Puna H) *Geranoaetus [polyosoma] poecilochrous* One bird seen at El Cajas.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* First at Catamayo and then at Cerro Toledo.

White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis* Good views at the Maycu Reserve.

Grey-backed Hawk ♦ *Pseudastur occidentalis* Great views of two at Buenaventura.

Grey-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus* First at Buenaventura, also one near to Quizas Hoy.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* Seen near to Valladolid and at Maycu Reserve.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* Seen at Buenaventura and at Maycu Reserve.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* One was seen near to Atahualpa.

West Peruvian Screech Owl ♦ *Megascops roboratus* Excellent views of a rufous morph in Jorupe.

Koepcke's Screech Owl ♦ *Megascops koepckeae* Fantastic views of two at Loja.

White-throated Screech Owl *Megascops albogularis* Excellent views of this stunner at Tapichalaca.

Rufous-banded Owl *Strix albitarsis* Great views at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.

Black-and-white Owl *Strix nigrolineata* Excellent views at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata* (H) Heard around Urraca Lodge, Jorupe.

Band-bellied Owl *Pulsatrix melanota* Great sightings at Maycu Reserve and at the Yankuam Lodge.

Andean Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium jadinii* (H) Heard only despite long search at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.

Pacific Pygmy Owl ♦ (Peruvian P O) *Glaucidium peruanum* Quite common. First at Manglares Churute.



Pacific Pygmy-owl was regularly noticed in the west. (Chris Venetz)

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* Two birds seen near to Atahualpa

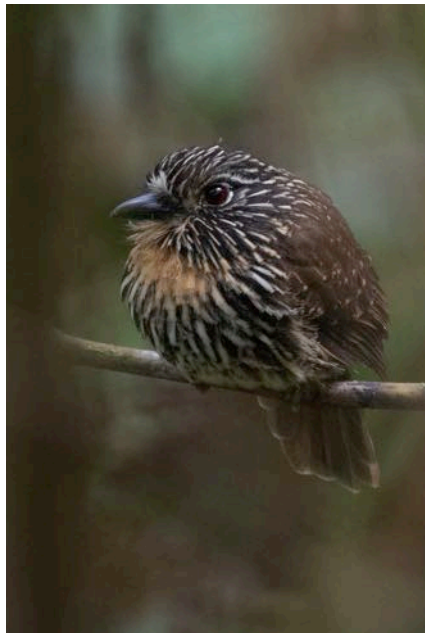
Ecuadorian Trogon ♦ *Trogon mesurus* A nice pair seen at Jorupe.

White-tailed Trogon (Western W-t T) *Trogon chionurus* (H) Heard at Buenaventura

Green-backed Trogon *Trogon viridis* A few seen at Maycu Reserve.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus* Two individuals seen at Ayampe.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve
Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus* Heard and one was seen by some near to Acacana.
Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* Single at Manglares Churute.
Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Great views in Manglares Churute.
Whooping Motmot *Momotus subrufescens* Seen well at Jorupe and one bird noticed at Ayampe.
Andean Motmot (Highland M) *Momotus aequatorialis* Single at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
Coppery-chested Jacamar ♦ *Galbula pastazae* One bird seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Purplish Jacamar ♦ *Galbula chalcothorax* A few seen at Maycu Reserve.
Collared Puffbird *Bucco capensis* An unexpected pair found at Maycu Reserve. Fantastic!
Barred Puffbird ♦ *Nystalus radiates* One was seen very well at Buenaventura.



Purplish Jacamar, Black-streaked Puffbird and Ecuadorian Trogon. (Chris Venetz)

Black-streaked Puffbird ♦ *Malacoptila fulvogularis* Two birds were seen at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
White-faced Nunbird ♦ *Haploptila castanea* (H) Heard distantly at Tapichalaca but sadly never came in.
Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus* One seen at Maycu Reserve.
Lemon-throated Barbet *Eubucco richardsoni* Seen at Maycu Reserve.
Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii* At least three birds seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Black-throated Toucanet ♦ *Aulacorhynchus atrogularis* One was briefly seen below Cerro Toledo.
Chestnut-tipped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus derbianus* Excellent views at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis* Single seen well at Maycu Reserve.
Pale-mandibled Aracari ♦ *Pteroglossus erythropygius* Glimpse at Buenaventura, then seen at Manglares Churute.
Golden-collared Toucanet *Selenidera reinwardtii* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.
Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan *Andigena hypoglaucha* Brilliant views of two at Tapichalaca.
Choco Toucan ♦ *Ramphastos brevis* Seen on two consecutive days at Buenaventura.
Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguous* A few heard and one was briefly seen at Buenaventura.
Lafresnaye's Piculet *Picumnus lafresnayi* Great sightings at the old Loja-Zamora road. Also at Maycu Reserve.
Ecuadorian Piculet ♦ *Picumnus sclateri* Excellent views at Jorupe. Also noticed near to Puerto Lopez.
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* First seen at Maycu Reserve, then also a pair at Yantzaza.
Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani* Seen at Buenaventura.
Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerines* One bird seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Scarlet-backed Woodpecker *Veniliornis callonotus* (H) Heard at Jorupe.
Bar-bellied Woodpecker *Veniliornis nigriceps* Brilliant views at Tapichalaca.
White-throated Woodpecker *Piculus leucolaemus* Brief views of a skittish bird at Maycu Reserve.
Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* First at Jorupe, then at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker *Colaptes rivolii* (H) Heard at Acacana Reserve.



Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan from Tapichalaca Reserve. (Chris Venetz)

Powerful Woodpecker *Campephilus pollens* Excellent views of one at Tapichalaca.
Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* Good views of one at Maycu Reserve.
Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* A few seen at Maycu Reserve.
Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus* One bird seen at Acacana Reserve.
Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* First near to Quizas Hoy, then near to Atahualpa.
Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* One bird seen near to Atahualpa.
Barred Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis* (H) Heard near to Copalinga Lodge
American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* A few seen. First at Catamayo.
Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* First at Jorupe, then at Maycu Reserve.



White-breasted Parakeet (left) from Copalinga and Golden-plumed Parakeet from Tapichalaca. (Chris Venetz)

Grey-cheeked Parakeet ♦ *Brotogeris pyrrhoptera* Excellent views at Quizas Hoy.

Cobalt-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris cyanoptera* A few seen at the Maycu Reserve.

Red-faced Parrot ♦ *Hapalopsittaca pyrrhops* Flight views a couple of time at the Acacana Reserve.

Red-billed Parrot *Pionus sordidus* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road and at Maycu Reserve

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* Seen at the Maycu Reserve.

Bronze-winged Parrot ♦ *Pionus chalcopterus* Great looks at Buenaventura.

Scaly-naped Amazon *Amazona mercenaries* Seen at Tapichalaca and at Cerro Toledo.

Dusky-billed Parrotlet *Forpus modestus* Flight views for some at the Maycu Reserve.

Pacific Parrotlet ♦ *Forpus coelestis* Fairly common in the west. First at Manglares Churute.

El Oro Parakeet ♦ *Pyrrhura orcesi* Prolonged views of an inquisitive bird from its nest box at Buenaventura.

White-breasted Parakeet ♦ *Pyrrhura albipectus* Brilliant views of a group in a fruiting tree at Copalinga Lodge.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna* (H) Incredibly heard at the Maycu Reserve, but unfortunately in the dense fog.

Golden-plumed Parakeet ♦ *Leptosittaca branickii* Excellent views at Tapichalaca.

Red-masked Parakeet ♦ *Psittacara erythrogenys* First at Buenaventura, then excellent views at El Empalme.

White-eyed Parakeet *Psittacara leucophthalmus* Four birds seen at Maycu Reserve.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* A few seen along the tour. First at Quizas Hoy.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* Seen at Manglares Churute and at Maycu Reserve.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorynchus spirurus* A few birds seen along the tour. First at Manglares Churute

Spotted Woodcreeper ♦ *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius* Single seen at Buenaventura.

Red-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris* Excellent views near to Puerto Lopez.



Red-billed Scythebill was nicely seen on the extension at Puerto Lopez. (Chris Venetz)

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* Seen at Quizas Hoy, Buenaventura and at Jorupe.

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* One at the old Loja-Zamora road and one seen near to Valladolid.

Duida Woodcreeper ♦ *Lepidocolaptes duidae* Great looks at one at Maycu Reserve.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* One bird was seen in a mixed flock at Maycu Reserve.

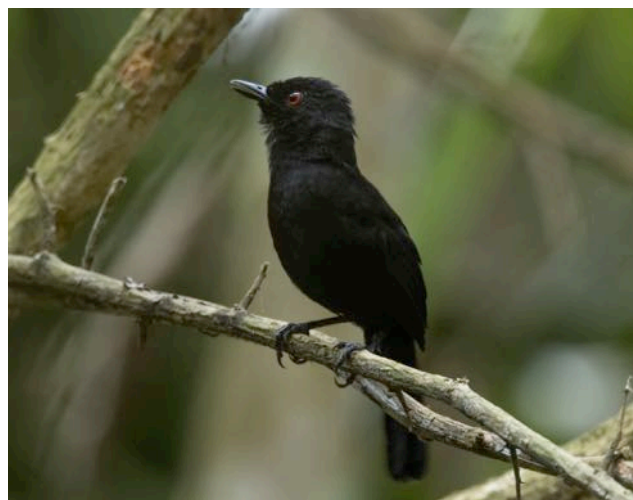
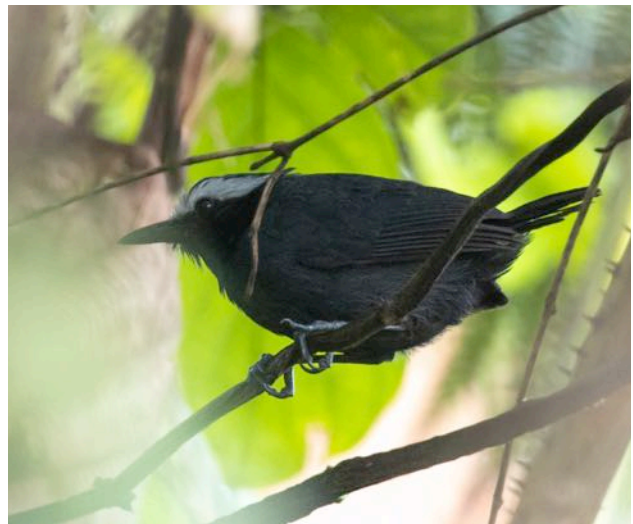
Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans* Seen at Quizas Hoy and at Buenaventura.

Streaked Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii* (H) Heard at Tapichalaca and at Cerro Toledo

Pacific Hornero *Furnarius cinnamomeus* Common in the west. First at Manglares Churute.

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes ♦ *Cinclodes albidiventris* Several encounters at El Cajas NP.

Stout-billed Cinclodes ♦ *Cinclodes excelsior* Seen at El Cajas NP.
Bamboo Foliage-gleaner (Dusky-cheeked F-g) *Anabazenops dorsalis* A glimpse at Maycu Reserve.
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufum* One was seen at Buenaventura.
Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis* At the old Loja-Zamora rd. and at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia ruficaudata* Seen at Maycu Reserve.
Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner ♦ *Syndactyla ruficollis* Brief views of one at Jorupe.
Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner ♦ *Clibanornis erythrocephalus* Seen very well at Jorupe.
Ruddy Foliage-gleaner *Clibanornis rubiginosus* Seen at Maycu Reserve.
Uniform Treehunter ♦ *Thripadectes ignobilis* One was seen at Buenaventura.
Black-billed Treehunter ♦ *Thripadectes melanorhynchus* One was seen at Buenaventura
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus* Seen at Ayampe.
Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger* Seen at Cerro Toledo.
Andean Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura andicola* Good views at El Cajas.
Rufous-fronted Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons* Seen near to Valladolid.
White-browed Spinetail ♦ *Hellmayrea gularis* Two found at Cerro Toledo.
Many-striped Canastero ♦ *Asthenes flammulata* Heard at Cerro de Arcos, then one was seen at El Cajas NP.
Mouse-colored Thistletail ♦ *Asthenes griseomurina* Excellent views of one at Cerro Toledo.
Equatorial Greytail ♦ *Xenerpestes singularis* One eventually seen at the old Loja-Zamora road. Superb !
Ash-browed Spinetail *Cranioleuca curtata* First near to Valladolid, then seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Line-cheeked Spinetail ♦ *Cranioleuca antisiensis* Seen at Sozoranga and at El Cajas NP.
Speckled Spinetail *Cranioleuca gutturata* One seen at Maycu Reserve.
Necklaced Spinetail ♦ *Synallaxis stictothorax* Excellent views near to Atahualpa.
Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyuran* One seen at Manglares Churute.
Dark-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albigularis* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.
Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae* Regularly heard along the tour, seen at Yunguilla.
Blackish-headed Spinetail ♦ *Synallaxis tithys* Excellent views at Jorupe.
Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa* Seen well at Tapichalaca.
Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus* Excellent views at Buenaventura.
Foothill Antwren ♦ *Epinecrophylla spodionota* (H) One bird was heard at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP, but no luck.
Ornate Antwren *Epinecrophylla ornate* One seen at Maycu Reserve.
Pygmy Antwren *Myrmotherula brachyura* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve
Stripe-chested Antwren ♦ *Myrmotherula longicauda* Excellent views of one at Maycu Reserve.
Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor* (H) Heard at Buenaventura.
Yellow-breasted Antwren ♦ *Herpsilochmus axillaris* One seen at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus* Seen at Maycu Reserve.
Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis* One bird was seen at Jorupe.
Collared Antshrike ♦ *Thamnophilus bernardi* First seen at Jorupe, then at Ayampe.
Chapman's Antshrike ♦ *Thamnophilus zarumae* Great looks at one on the way to Utuana Reserve.
Lined Antshrike *Thamnophilus tenuepunctatus* A pair seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Mouse-colored Antshrike *Thamnophilus murinus* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.
Black-crowned Antshrike (Western Slaty A) *Thamnophilus atrinucha* (H) Heard at Buenaventura
Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.
Hairy-crested Antbird *Rhegmatorhina melanosticta* Brilliant views of one at Maycu Reserve. Fantastic!
Peruvian Warbling Antbird *Hypocnemis peruviana* Excellent views at Maycu Reserve.
Yellow-browed Antbird *Hypocnemis hypoxantha* Seen at Maycu Reserve.
Northern Chestnut-tailed Antbird *Sciaphylax castanea* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.
Blackish Antbird *Cercomacroides nigrescens* Great views at Maycu Reserve.
Dusky Antbird *Cercomacroides tyrannina* (H) Heard at Buenaventura Reserve.
Black Antbird *Cercomacroides serva* One seen well at Maycu Reserve.
Grey Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.
Jet Antbird *Cercomacra nigricans* Great views of two at Manglares Churute.
Chestnut-backed Antbird *Poliocrania exsul* (H) Heard at Buenaventura Reserve.
Grey-headed Antbird ♦ *Ampelornis griseiceps* Decent views of one at Utuana Reserve.
Esmeraldas Antbird ♦ *Sipia nigricauda* Two birds were seen at Buenaventura Reserve.



Some nice antbirds from the tour included, clockwise from top, Peruvian Warbling Antbird, White-browed Antbird, White-backed Fire-eye, Rufous-winged Antwren and Stripe-chested Antwren. (Chris Venetz)

White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* Fantastic views at Maycu Reserve.
White-backed Fire-eye ♦ *Pyriglena leuconota* Good looks at Ayampe.
Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis* (H) One heard distantly at Maycu Reserve.
Rufous-breasted Antthrush *Formicarius rufipectus* (H) Heard distantly at Buenaventura Reserve.
Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona* (H) Heard near to Zamora.
Undulated Antpitta *Grallaria squamigera* (H) Heard at Utuana Reserve and at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.
Scaled Antpitta *Grallaria guatemalensis* Fantastic views at Buenaventura Reserve.
Plain-backed Antpitta ♦ *Grallaria haplonota* (H) Heard at Buenaventura Reserve.
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta *Grallaria ruficapilla* Excellent views at Yunguilla
Watkins's Antpitta ♦ *Grallaria watkinsi* (H) Heard at Jorupe. No luck despite hard work.
Jocotoco Antpitta ♦ *Grallaria ridgelyi* Brilliant views of two at Tapichalaca. Fantastic!
Chestnut-naped Antpitta ♦ *Grallaria nuchalis* Excellent views at Tapichalaca.
Rufous Antpitta *Grallaria rufula* Seen at Tapichalaca
Tawny Antpitta ♦ *Grallaria quitensis* Heard at Cerro de Arcos, then good views at El Cajas NP
Thrush-like Antpitta *Myrmothera campanisona* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve
Crescent-faced Antpitta ♦ *Grallaricula lineifrons* Excellent views at Acacana !
Ocellated Tapaculo ♦ *Acropternis orthonyx* (H) Heard at Tapichalaca and at Acacana.
Ash-colored Tapaculo ♦ *Myornis senilis* Superb views of one at Acacana.
Northern White-crowned Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus atratus* Heard at Copalinga and at the old Loja-Zamora road.
El Oro Tapaculo ♦ (Ecuadorian T) *Scytalopus robbinsi* Good views at Buenaventura Reserve! Fantastic!
Chusquea Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus parkeri* Seen at very well at Tapichalaca and then at Cerro Toledo.
Paramo Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus opacus* Seen at Cerro Toledo.
Blackish Tapaculo ♦ *Scytalopus latrans* Heard at Utuana, then excellent views at Yunguilla.
Elegant Crescentchest ♦ *Melanopareia elegans* Brilliant views at one in Jorupe.
Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* Great views at Maycu Reserve.
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseiceps* Seen at Buenaventura.
Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias plumbeiceps* Great views of this good one at the old Loja-Zamora rd.
Black-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus* Seen at Tapichalaca and at Acacana.
Foothill Elaenia ♦ *Myiopagis olallai* Two birds seen at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
Pacific Elaenia ♦ *Myiopagis subplacens* One bird at Jorupe, and then one at Ayampe.



Ecuadorian Tyrannulet from the old Loja-Zamora road. (Chris Venetz)

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* Seen at Buenaventura, also near to Valladolid, and finally at Ayampe.

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps* One at Cerro de Arcos and one at Utuana Reserve.

Brown-capped Tyrannulet *Ornithion brunneicapillus* Good views at one at Quizas Hoy.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* Regularly noticed along the tour.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys* (LO) One in mixed flocks at Acacana Reserve.

Rufous-winged Tyrannulet ♦ *Mecocerculus calopterus* Great looks at the old Loja-Zamora Road.

Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet ♦ *Mecocerculus minor* One bird was seen at Tapichalaca.

Black-crested Tit-Tyrant ♦ *Anairetes nigrocristatus* Excellent views at Utuana Reserve.

Agile Tit-Tyrant ♦ *Uromyias agilis* Excellent views at Acacana Reserve.



Agile Tit-tyrant was found on bird wave at Acacana Reserve. (Chris Venetz)

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Tumbesian Tyrannulet ♦ *Phaeomyias tumbezana* Seen near to Vilcabamba.

Bronze-olive Pygmy Tyrant ♦ *Pseudotriccus pelzelni* (LO) Heard at Buenaventura and only seen by the leader.

Rufous-headed Pygmy Tyrant *Pseudotriccus ruficeps* Heard at Tapichalaca and seen at Cerro Toledo.

Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant *Euscarthmus meloryphus* Regularly noticed along the tour.

Grey-and-white Tyrannulet ♦ *Pseudelaenia leucospodia* One bird seen near to Atahualpa.

Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Zimmerius chrysops* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road and several others heard.

Loja Tyrannulet ♦ *Zimmerius flavidifrons* Seen at Sozoranga.

Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant *Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus* Seen at Maycu Reserve and near to Zamora.

Ecuadorian Tyrannulet (E Bristle Tyrant) *Phylloscartes gualaquizae* A few seen. First at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus* Single at Maycu Reserve.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleaginous* Seen at Quizas Hoy and at Buenaventura Reserve.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon supercilialis* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road and the Maycu Reserve.

Orange-crested Flycatcher ♦ *Myiophobus phoenicomitra* Excellent views at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.

Olive-chested Flycatcher ♦ *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus* Seen at Quizas Hoy.

Orange-banded Flycatcher ♦ *Nephelomyias lintoni* Seen at Tapichalaca.

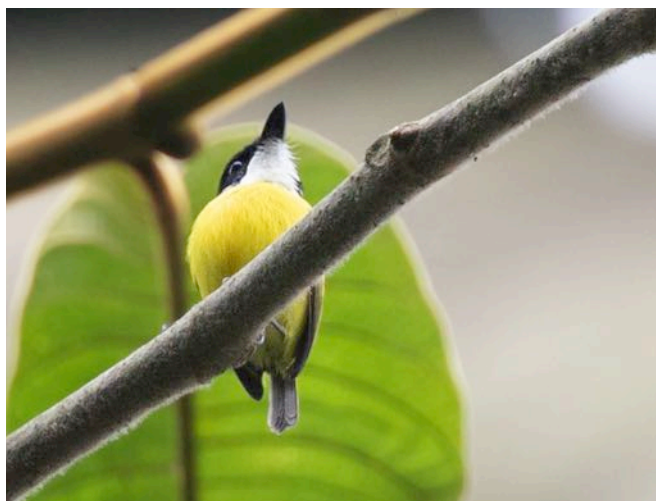
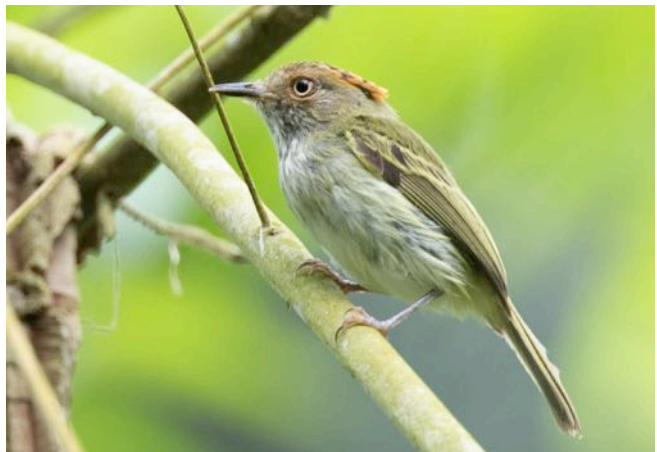
Ornate Flycatcher *Myiotriccus ornatus* Regularly noticed. First at Buenaventura Reserve.

Black-throated Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus granadensis* One bird seen at Tapichalaca.
White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant ♦ *Myiornis albiventris* One bird seen at Maycu Reserve.
Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus* Seen at Quizas Hoy and at Ayampe.
Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher ♦ *Poecilotriccus capitalis* Seen very well at Maycu Reserve.
Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher ♦ *Poecilotriccus calopterus* Good views at Maycu Reserve.
Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* One bird noticed at Jorupe.
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps* One bird seen well at Quizas Hoy.
Brownish Twistwing *Cnipodectes subbrunneus* Seen well at Quizas Hoy, then also noticed at Buenaventura.
Fulvous-breasted Flatbill ♦ *Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus* Excellent views at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.



The excellent Bombuscaro section of the Podocarpus NP produced goodies including this Fulvous-breasted Flatbill. (Chris Venetz)

Yellow-olive Flatbill (Y-o Flycatcher) *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* One bird seen at Quizas Hoy.
White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus* One bird seen at Buenaventura Reserve.
Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus* (H) Heard at Acacana Reserve.
Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea* Two birds were seen at Maycu Reserve.
Grey-breasted Flycatcher ♦ *Lathrotriccus griseipectus* Seen at Jorupe, then also heard at Ayampe.
Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* Fairly common along the tour.
Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* Regularly noticed at Maycu Reserve and at the Zamora area.
Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus* Seen at Sozoranga.
Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* Regularly seen at Maycu Reserve.
Tumbes Pewee ♦ *Contopus punensis* Seen at Jorupe and at Ayampe.
Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus obscurus* Several seen. First at Manglares Churute.
Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus* Seen at El Cajas NP.
White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant ♦ *Agriornis albicauda* Seen on the way between Loja and Acacana Reserve.
Smoky Bush Tyrant *Myiotheretes fumigatus* First at Tapichalaca, then at Acacana Reserve.
Masked Water Tyrant *Fluvicola nengeta* Two birds were seen at Manglares Churute.
Crowned Chat-Tyrant ♦ *Silvicultrix frontalis* (H) Heard at Cerro Toledo.
Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant *Silvicultrix diadema* Seen at Tapichalaca.
Jelski's Chat-Tyrant ♦ *Silvicultrix jelskii* Seen at Utuana Reserve.
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis* A few seen at Tapichalaca.



Clockwise from top, a few more tyrannidae from the tour: *Black-throated Tody-Tyrant*, *Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant*, *Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher*, *Brownish Twistwing* and *Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant*. (Chris Venetz)

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor* One bird noticed at Utuana.

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* A few seen at Maycu Reserve.

Short-tailed Field Tyrant *Muscigralla brevicauda* Excellent views near to Atahualpa

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* A few seen. First at Maycu Reserve.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis* Seen at Manglares Churute and near to Quizas Hoy.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* Regularly noticed along the tour. First at Buenaventura.

Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis* One bird seen near to Paquisha.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* (LO) On the road to Paquisha.

Lemon-browed Flycatcher *Conopias cinchoneti* Single found at Maycu Reserve.

Baird's Flycatcher ♦ *Myiodynastes bairdii* Seen at El Empalme and near to Atahualpa.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* Seen at Manglares Churute and a few on the extension.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* First at Quizas Hoy. Also at Manglares Churute and at Ayampe.

Snowy-throated Kingbird ♦ *Tyrannus niveigularis* A few seen near to Atahualpa.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* Common and widespread.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Seen at Quizas Hoy and at Buenaventura Reserve.

Sooty-crowned Flycatcher ♦ *Myiarchus phaeocephalus* One was seen at Manglares Churute. Then at Jorupe.

Ochraceous Attila ♦ *Attila torridus* Eventually great views at Buenaventura Reserve.

Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus* One seen for some at Utuana Reserve.

Chestnut-bellied Cotinga *Doliornis remseni* Brilliant views at the Acacana Reserve!

Barred Fruiteater *Pipreola arcuate* (H) Heard at Tapichalaca.

Fiery-throated Fruiteater ♦ *Pipreola chlorolepidota* Excellent scope views at Maycu Reserve.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus* Brilliant views of a stunning male at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.

Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana* Two birds seen at Maycu Reserve.

Grey-tailed Piha ♦ *Snowornis subalaris* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.

Long-wattled Umbrellabird ♦ *Cephalopterus penduliger* Amazing views at Buenaventura Reserve!

Blue-rumped Manakin ♦ *Lepidothrix isidorei* (H) Heard at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* Seen at Quizas Hoy.

Club-winged Manakin ♦ *Machaeropterus deliciosus* Good views at Buenaventura Reserve.

Striolated Manakin *Machaeropterus striolatus* Excellent views at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.

Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopipra erythrocephala* One bird seen at Copalinga Lodge.

Pacific Royal Flycatcher ♦ *Onychorhynchus occidentalis* Brilliant views at Quizas Hoy.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus* Nice views at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor* Two birds were seen at Quizas Hoy.

Yellow-cheeked Becard ♦ *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* A pair seen near to Valladolid.

Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor* One bird seen at Tapichalaca.

Slaty Becard ♦ *Pachyramphus spodiurus* One bird seen at Jorupe.

Black-and-white Becard *Pachyramphus albogriseus* Seen at Yunguilla.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* First seen at Jorupe. Then also at Yunguilla.

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* Seen at Maycu Reserve,

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* One bird seen near to Valladolid. A few others heard.

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

Olivaceous Greenlet ♦ *Hylophilus olivaceus* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus* A few seen at Quizas Hoy and at Ayampe.

Turquoise Jay ♦ *Cyanolyca turcosa* One bird seen at Tapichalaca.

Violaceous Jay *Cyanocorax violaceus* A few seen at Maycu Reserve.

White-tailed Jay ♦ *Cyanocorax mystacalis* Very common at Jorupe, especially coming to the feeders.

Inca Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* First seen near to Valladolid, then in the Zamora area.

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* Common along the tour. The first leaving Guayaquil on the first day.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* Common and widespread.

Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina* Seen well at Cerro de Arcos, at Acacana and at El Cajas NP.

Pale-footed Swallow ♦ *Notiochelidon flavipes* Excellent views at Tapichalaca.

White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata* Seen near to Zamora and at Maycu Reserve.

White-thighed Swallow ♦ *Neochelidon tibialis* Nice scope views at Maycu Reserve.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Plenty seen, the first south of Guayaquil.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Seen near to Manglares Churute.



White-banded Swallow (left) and Chestnut-collared Swallow were seen well. (Chris Venetz)

Chestnut-collared Swallow ♦ *Petrochelidon rufocollaris* Seen well near to Sabiango.
Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapilla* Excellent views near to Zamora.
Fasciated Wren ♦ *Campylorhynchus fasciatus* Fairly common early in the trip, first at El Empalme.
Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus* A couple seen at Maycu Reserve.
Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa* A few seen well at Tapichalaca.
Grass Wren *Cistothorus platensis* Seen at Cerro de Arcos and also at El Cajas NP.
Plain-tailed Wren ♦ *Pheugopedius euophrys* Seen at Tapichalaca and at Acacana Reserve.
Coraya Wren *Pheugopedius coraya* Single seen at Maycu Reserve.
Speckle-breasted Wren ♦ *Pheugopedius sclateri* Seen at Jorupe and Ayampe.
Superciliated Wren ♦ *Cantorchilus superciliaris* Seen at Manglares Churute and near to Atahualpa
Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus* Seen at Buenaventura Reserve.
House Wren (Southern H W) *Troglodytes [aedon] musculus* Regularly noticed along the tour.
Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis* One seen at Tapichalaca, around the feeders.
White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve and at the old Loja-Zamora rd.
Grey-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* Single seen at Buenaventura, several others heard.
Southern Nightingale-Wren (Scaly-breasted W) *Microcerculus marginatus* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.
Musician Wren *Cyphorhinus arada* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.



Rufous Wren from Tapichalaca Reserve. (Chris Venetz)

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea* Common in drier areas, first seen on the first day.
Long-tailed Mockingbird *Mimus longicaudatus* Common. First seen near to Atahualpa.
Andean Solitaire *Myadestes ralloides* Seen at Buenaventura Reserve.
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater* (H) Heard at Sozoranga and at Yunguilla.
Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* Seen at Maycu Reserve and at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater* Common in the highlands. First seen at Cerro de Arcos.
Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco* One bird seen near to Catamayo.
Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* One bird seen near to Zaruma.
Andean Slaty Thrush ♦ *Turdus nigriceps* (H) Heard distantly near to Vilcabamba.
Plumbeous-backed Thrush ♦ *Turdus reevei* Seen at Jorupe and near to Puerto Lopez.
Marañon Thrush ♦ *Turdus maranonicus* A couple found near to Valladolid.



The near-endemic Ecuadorian Thrush (left) and the localized Marañon Thrush. (Chris Venetz)

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis* Seen at Maycu Reserve.
Ecuadorian Thrush ♦ *Turdus maculirostris* Regularly noticed. Best views at Jorupe.
White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis* Good views at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus* A few seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* Seen at Guayaquil and on the extension.
Yellow-bellied Siskin *Spinus xanthyogastrus* Couple seen at Buenaventura Reserve.
Hooded Siskin *Spinus magellanicus* A few seen at Sozoranga.
Saffron Siskin ♦ *Spinus siemiradzkii* Excellent views near to Puerto Lopez.
Orange-crowned Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia saturate* (LO) One bird at Ayampe.
Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris* Fairly common along the tour. First at Quizas Hoy.
Golden-rumped Euphonia ♦ *Euphonia cyanocephala* Nice views at Yunguilla.
Bronze-green Euphonia *Euphonia mesochrysa* (H) Heard at Maycu Reserve.
Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster* Regularly seen. First at Buenaventura Reserve.
Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea* One bird seen near to Valladolid.
Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* Common at higher altitudes.
Yellow-browed Sparrow *Ammodramus aurifrons* Seen at Copalinga Lodge.
Tumbes Sparrow ♦ *Rhynchospiza stolzmanni* Excellent views at El Empalme.
Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris* Seen at Buenaventura, Maycu, and at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
Black-capped Sparrow ♦ *Arremon abeillei* Single seen at Jorupe.

Grey-browed Brushfinch *Arremon assimilis* Seen at Sozoranga and Yunguilla.
Olive Finch ♦ *Arremon castaneiceps* Excellent views of one near to Zamora.
Yellow-breasted Brushfinch *Atlapetes latinuchus* A few seen. Best views at Tapichalaca.
White-winged Brushfinch ♦ *Atlapetes leucopterus* Seen near to Sozoranga.
White-headed Brushfinch* ♦ *Atlapetes albiceps* Great looks at a couple at El Empalme.
Pale-headed Brushfinch ♦ *Atlapetes pallidiceps* Great views at Yunguilla.
Bay-crowned Brushfinch *Atlapetes seebohmi* Great views near to Sozoranga.



Bay-crowned Brushfinch from Sozoranga and Olive Finch from Zamora. (Chris Venetz)

Common Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavopectus* Single seen at Buenaventura Reserve.
Yellow-whiskered Bush Tanager (Short-billed B T) *Chlorospingus parvirostris* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Yellow-throated Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus flavigularis* Seen at Buenaventura, Maycu and near to Zamora.
Ashy-throated Bush Tanager *Chlorospingus canigularis* First at Buenaventura and then at the old Loja-Zamora rd.
Peruvian Meadowlark *Leistes bellicosus* A few seen. First at Manglares Churute.
Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus* (H) Heard distantly at Tapichalaca.
Russet-backed Oropendola *Psarocolius angustifrons* A few seen. Best views were at Maycu Reserve.
Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* A few seen at Maycu Reserve.
Yellow-rumped Cacique ♦ *Cacicus cela* A few seen at Buenaventura, near to Zamora and at Ayampe.
Subtropical Cacique *Cacicus uropygialis* A few seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Northern Mountain Cacique *Cacicus leucoramphus* Good views at Acacana Reserve.
Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas* Seen at Jorupe.
White-edged Oriole ♦ *Icterus graceannae* Seen at Jorupe, also near to Atahualpa and at Ayampe.
Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* Seen near to Vilcabamba.
Scrub Blackbird *Dives waczewiczi* Common at lower altitude.
Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* Seen near at Manglares Churute and on the extension.
Black-lored Yellowthroat *Geothlypis auricularis* Excellent views of one at Yunguilla.
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat *Geothlypis semiflava* Single at a stop between Manglares Churute and Quizas Hoy.
Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitaiayumi* Several seen, first at Quizas Hoy.
Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* A few seen. Best views were at the old Loja-Zamora road.
Citrine Warbler *Myiothlypis luteoviridis* Seen at Cerro Toledo.
Black-crested Warbler *Myiothlypis nigrocristata* Nice views at Utuana Reserve.
Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda* Seen at Yankuam and near to Zamora.
Grey-and-gold Warbler ♦ *Myiothlypis fraseri* Superb views at Jorupe.
Russet-crowned Warbler *Myiothlypis coronate* Single at Acacana Reserve.
Three-banded Warbler ♦ *Basileuterus trifasciatus* Seen at Buenaventura and at Sozoranga.
Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* A couple seen at Bombuscaro, Podocarpus NP.
Slate-throated Whitestart *Myioborus miniatus* Common and widespread. First seen at Buenaventura.
Spectacled Whitestart *Myioborus melanocephalus* A few seen well. First at Tapichalaca.
Tooth-billed Tanager (Northern Hepatic T) *Piranga lutea* Seen at Jorupe and at Yunguilla.
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* A handful seen. First at Quizas Hoy.



The excellent Red-hooded Tanager was seen well at Tapichalaca. (Chris Venetz)

- White-winged Tanager** *Piranga leucoptera* Single at the old Loja-Zamora road.
- Red-hooded Tanager** ♦ *Piranga rubriceps* Excellent views of one at Tapichalaca.
- Golden Grosbeak (Golden-bellied G)** *Pheucticus chrysogaster* Many seen well, first at El Empalme.
- Blue-black Grosbeak** *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* A few seen at Quizas Hoy. Then also at Ayampe.
- Rothschild's Grosbeak** *Cyanocompsa rothschildii* (H) Heard a couple of time at the Maycu Reserve.
- Black-faced Tanager** *Schistochlamys melanopsis* Single near to Valladolid.
- Maggie Tanager** *Cissopis leverianus* Seen at the Maycu Reserve and at the old Loja-Zamora road.
- White-capped Tanager** ♦ *Sericossypha albocristata* (H) Heard distantly in Tapichalaca, but no luck.
- Superciliaried Hemispingus** *Hemispingus superciliaris* (H) Heard at Laguna Llaviuca in El Cajas NP.
- Piura Hemispingus** ♦ *Hemispingus piurae* Excellent views at the Utuana Reserve.
- Black-headed Hemispingus** ♦ *Hemispingus verticalis* A couple seen very well at the Acacana Reserve.
- Grey-hooded Bush Tanager** *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris* One seen at Tapichalaca.
- Rufous-chested Tanager** *Thlypopsis ornate* First at the Utuana Reserve. Then also at Yunguilla.
- Flame-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus cristatus* Couple seen at Maycu Reserve.
- White-shouldered Tanager** *Tachyphonus luctuosus* Single seen at Ayampe.
- White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus* One seen at the Copalinga Lodge.
- Fulvous Shrike-Tanager** ♦ *Lanio fulvus* Nice views in mixed flocks at the Maycu Reserve.
- Masked Crimson Tanager** ♦ *Ramphocelus nigrogularis* A few seen at the Maycu Reserve.
- Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* First seen below Tapichalaca. Several thereafter.
- Lemon-rumped Tanager** ♦ *Ramphocelus icteronotus* Several seen at the Buenaventura Reserve. Also at Ayampe.
- Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* Common and widespread.
- Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* Common and widespread.
- Blue-capped Tanager** *Thraupis cyanocephala* Single seen at the Utuana Reserve.
- Orange-throated Tanager** ♦ *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron* Brilliant views of this stunner at Maycu Reserve.
- Hooded Mountain Tanager** *Buthraupis montana* (H) Heard at the Acacana Reserve.
- Lacrimose Mountain Tanager** *Anisognathus lacrymosus* Several seen. First at Tapichalaca.
- Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager** *Dubusia taeniata* (H) Heard at the Acacana Reserve.
- Golden-crowned Tanager** *Iridosornis rufivertex* A few seen. First birds were at Tapichalaca and Cerro Toledo.
- Fawn-breasted Tanager** *Pipraeidea melanonota* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
- Orange-eared Tanager** *Chlorochrysa calliparaea* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.
- Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara Mexicana* Seen at the Maycu Reserve.
- Paradise Tanager** *Tangara chilensis* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road and at the Maycu Reserve.



This stunning Green-and-gold Tanager was one of the numerous excellent "tangara" seen on this tour. (Chris Venetz)

Green-and-gold Tanager *Tangara schrankii* A few seen. First at the Maycu Reserve. Best views at Copalinga Lodge.

Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus* Several seen. First at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala* Single bird at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Saffron-crowned Tanager *Tangara xanthocephala* Great views in a fruiting tree at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Golden-eared Tanager *Tangara chrysotis* Great views in a fruiting tree at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Flame-faced Tanager *Tangara parzudakii* Seen at the Buenaventura Reserve, and near to Valladolid.

Yellow-bellied Tanager *Tangara xanthogastra* A couple seen at the Maycu Reserve.

Spotted Tanager *Tangara punctata* Excellent views at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Rufous-throated Tanager ♦ *Tangara rufigula* (H) One was heard in at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* Regularly seen along the tour. First at Quizas Hoy.

Golden-naped Tanager *Tangara ruficervix* A couple seen at the Maycu Reserve.

Blue-browed Tanager ♦ *Tangara cyanotis* Excellent views at one near to Valladolid.

Blue-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanicollis* Several seen along the tour. First at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Masked Tanager *Tangara nigrocincta* Single at Maycu Reserve.

Beryl-spangled Tanager *Tangara nigroviridis* A couple seen for some at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Blue-and-black Tanager *Tangara vassorii* Nice views at the Utuana Reserve.

Silver-backed Tanager ♦ (Silvery T) *Tangara viridicollis* Excellent views at Sozoranga.

Opal-rumped Tanager *Tangara velia* A few birds seen at the Maycu Reserve.

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis* Seen at the Maycu Reserve, and at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata* First near to Valladolid, then also at the Maycu Reserve.

Yellow-tufted Dacnis ♦ *Dacnis egregia* Single seen at Quizas Hoy.

Yellow-bellied Dacnis *Dacnis flaviventer* (LO) One at the Maycu Reserve.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* Two birds seen at the Maycu Reserve.

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus* A few seen at the Maycu Reserve.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* Regularly seen. Best views were at Buenaventura.

Golden-collared Honeycreeper *Iridophanes pulcherrimus* Seen at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira* Regularly noticed. First seen at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis* A few seen at the Maycu Reserve.



More stunning tanagers (Clockwise from top), Golden Tanager, Spotted Tanager and Golden-naped Tanager. (Chris Venetz)

- Tit-like Dacnis** ♦ *Xenodacnis parina* Excellent views at El Cajas NP.
- Blue-backed Conebill** *Conirostrum sitticolor* Great views at the Acacana Reserve.
- Giant Conebill** ♦ *Oreomanes fraseri* Two birds were seen very well at the El Cajas NP.
- Glossy Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa lafresnayii* Seen at Utuana Reserve, at Cerro Toledo and at El Cajas NP.
- White-sided Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa albilatera* Single bird seen at Utuana Reserve.
- Masked Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa cyanea* A few seen. First at the Utuana Reserve.
- Red Pileated Finch** *Coryphospingus cucullatus* (H) Heard near to Valladolid.
- Crimson-breasted Finch** ♦ (Crimson F) *Rhodospingus cruentus* Seen at Quizas Hoy, also a few on the extension.
- Plumbeous Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus unicolor* Seen at El Cajas NP.
- Ash-breasted Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus plebejus* Seen at El Empalme and at Sozoranga.
- Band-tailed Sierra Finch** *Phrygilus alaudinus* One seen near to Atahualpa.
- Slaty Finch** ♦ *Haplospiza rustica* One bird seen at Tapichalaca, coming to the feeders.
- Collared Warbling Finch** ♦ *Poospiza hispaniolensis* A few seen near to Atahualpa.

Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola* Common in the lowlands. First seen on the first day out of Guayaquil.

Sulphur-throated Finch ♦ *Sicalis taczanowskii* Great numbers seen near to Atahualpa.

Slate-colored Grosbeak *Saltator grossus* Seen at Maycu Reserve.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* Fairly common and widespread. First seen at Buenaventura.

Greyish Saltator *Saltator caeruleus* (H) Heard at the old Loja-Zamora road.

Black-cowled Saltator ♦ *Saltator nigriceps* Great looks at one on the way to Utuana Reserve.

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipictus* Seen at Buenaventura, at Jorupe and at Ayampe.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Reasonably common. First at Manglares Churute.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina* Reasonably common in the west. First at Manglares Churute.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* Seen at the Buenaventura Reserve.

Parrot-billed Seedeater ♦ *Sporophila peruviana* Great numbers seen near to Atahualpa

Drab Seedeater ♦ *Sporophila simplex* One bird seen at Catamayo.

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris* First near to Valladolid and then at the Maycu Reserve.

Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco* Regularly noticed. First at Manglares Churute.

Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis* Seen at Maycu Reserve.

Large-billed Seed Finch ♦ *Oryzoborus crassirostris* On the way to Quizas Hoy.

Black-billed Seed Finch ♦ *Oryzoborus atrirostris* Two birds were seen near to Paquisha.

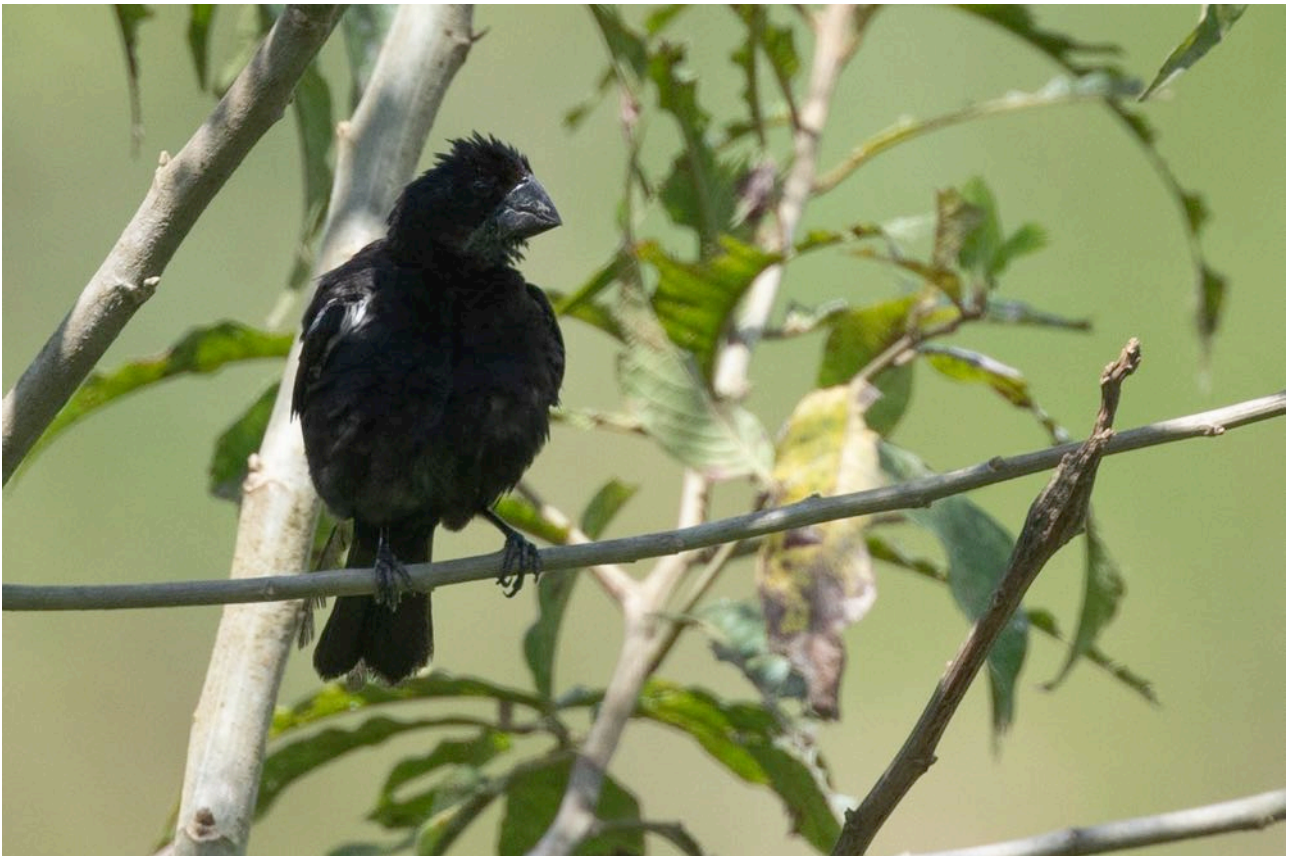
Plain-colored Seedeater *Catamenia inornata* Seen at El Cajas NP.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* Common and widespread at lower altitudes.

Dull-colored Grassquit *Tiaris obscurus* A few seen. First at Sozoranga.

Plushcap (Plush-capped Finch) *Catamblyrhynchus diadema* (LO) At Tapichalaca and at Acacana in mixed flocks.

Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak *Parkerthraustes humeralis* Brief views at Maycu Reserve.



The uncommon Black-billed Seed Finch was seen near to Paquisha. (Chris Venetz)

MAMMALS

White-fronted Capuchin (White-fronted C) *Cebus albifrons* A few coming to the feeders at Copalinga

Guayaquil Squirrel *Sciurus stramineus* Seen at Jorupe.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica* Excellent views at the Umbrellabird Lodge, Buenaventura.



White-fronted Capuchin was seen at the Copalinga Lodge. (Chris Venetz)

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). 2019. IOC World Bird Names v9.2. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

White-vented Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysa*

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

White-booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii*

Just a few seen, the first, first along at the feeders 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 in the west of White-booted Racket-tail that we saw is *melanantherus*.

Viridian Metaltail *Metallura williami*

The Viridian Metaltail complex includes the subspecies *atrigrularis*, which may become a full species in the near future. We have seen this subspecies at the Cerro de Arcos.

White-throated Wedgebill *Schistes albogularis*

Wedge-billed Hummingbird has been renamed as Geoffroy's Wedgebill *S. geoffroy* and is now split from the West Andes form namely White-throated Wedgebill *S. albogularis*. We've seen White-throated Wedgebill at Buenaventura Reserve.

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 and the 'Amazonian' form, *amazonus*, was seen at Yankuam.

Blackish Tapaculo *Scytalopus latrans*

We recorded two forms. A few of the nominate form were heard in the 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 of the Buenaventura Reserve, whilst the form *phoenicurus* was regularly noticed at the Maycu Reserve, Yankuam.

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 in the Zamora area.

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*

We saw only the form *flavidicollis* found in the west, which is completely unstreaked.



Another view of the incredible Blue-throated Hillstar. (Chris Venetz)



Tawny Antpitta in some nice colours at El Cajas NP. (Chris Venetz)



The incredible Paramo at El Cajas NP! (Chris Venetz)



The group at El Cajas National Park.

TOP 5 BIRDS OF THE TOUR

- 1. Blue-throated Hillstar**
- 2. Jocotoco Antpitta**
- 3. Hairy-crested Antbird**
- 4. Long-wattled Umbrellabird**
- 5. Esmeraldas Woodstar**