

**TROPICAL
BIRDING** 

SOUTHERN ECUADOR:
Tumbesian Rarities and Highland Endemics

January 21 – February 7, 2010



JOCOTOCO ANTPITTA Tapichalaca

Tour Leader: Sam Woods

All photos were taken on this tour by Sam Woods

Itinerary

January 21	Arrival/Night Guayaquil
January 22	Cerro Blanco, drive to Buenaventura/Night Buenaventura
January 23	Buenaventura/Night Buenaventura
January 24	Buenaventura & El Empalme to Jorupe Reserve/Night Jorupe
January 25	Jorupe Reserve & Sozoranga/Night Jorupe
January 26	Ututana & Sozoranga/Night Jorupe
January 27	Ututana and Catamayo to Vilcabamba/Night Vilcabamba
January 28	Cajanuma (Podocarpus NP) to Tapichalaca/Night Tapichalaca
January 29	Tapichalaca/Night Tapichalaca
January 30	Tapichalaca to Rio Bombuscaro/Night Copalinga Lodge
January 31	Rio Bombuscaro/Night Copalinga
February 1	Rio Bombuscaro & Old Loja-Zamora Rd/Night Copalinga
February 2	Old Zamora Rd, drive to Cuenca/Night Cuenca
February 3	El Cajas NP to Guayaquil/Night Guayaquil
February 4	Santa Elena Peninsula & Ayampe/Night Mantaraya Lodge
February 5	Ayampe & Machalilla NP/Night Mantaraya Lodge
February 6	Ayampe to Guayaquil/Night Guayaquil
February 7	Departure from Guayaquil

DAILY LOG

Day 1 (January 21)

CERRO BLANCO, MANGLARES CHARUTE & BUENAVENTURA

We started in **Cerro Blanco** reserve, just a short 16km drive from our Guayaquil hotel. The reserve protects an area of deciduous woodland in the Chongon hills just outside Ecuador's most populous city. This is a fantastic place to kickstart the list for the tour, and particularly for picking up some of the Tumbesian endemics that were a focus for much of the tour. Soon after arrival we were hearing one of the shyest of these, as the distinctive calls of **Pale-browed Tinamous** were heard all around, although unfortunately they always remained just out of reach at this time. Playing a **Peruvian (Pacific) Pygmy-Owl** can work wonders in this humid woodland, and can often bring in a mobbing horde of passerines. This did not work well in this respect initially, although did bring in the owl to everyone's delight, that glared at us fiercely as only an owl can do. **Ecuadorian Thrushes** were found hopping along the road and perched in the trees alongside. Flocks of **Red-lored Amazons** overflew us above the woodland, and later a **Crane Hawk** passed overhead too. A male **Ecuadorian Trogon** came and perched alongside us too. A short walk along a trail brought us our first pair of **Collared Antshrikes**, the diminutive **Ecuadorian Piculet**, a pair of striking **Speckle-breasted Wrens**, and our first cute **Scarlet-backed Woodpecker**. We also picked up our first **Pacific Elaenia** of the tour right around the parking lot; although a calling **Crimson-breasted Finch** could not be located at this time and would have to wait for another day...

After just a few hours there we had to hit the road and head south out of Guayas province towards the foothills of the Andes in El Oro, where our next destination was Umbrellabird Lodge in the heart of Buenaventura Reserve. Before we got to that reserve we kept our eye out for wetland birds along the way as marshy areas just south of Guayaquil were packed with birds, with **Snail Kites** lining the roadside for some time. A short distance on we made a specific stop on the fringe of the reserve of **Manglares Charute**, the last western stronghold for the humungous **Horned Screamer**. Sometimes this can take a little time to find, although on this day was just way too easy as at least a dozen of these massive waterbirds were seen dotted about the marsh and even feeding boldly right beside the main highway (**see photo below**). Also at various marshes along the way were a lone **Greater Ani**, (a rare find in the west of Ecuador), a sharp **Pearl Kite**, and many **Wattled Jacanas**, a few **Limpkins**, and other waterbirds.



In the late afternoon we rose up in to the mist enshrouded foothills of the Andes, and with the low cloud opted to take in the spectacle of Buenaventura's hummer feeders. The feeders within the reserve are rightly touted as the best feeders in the south of this bird-rich country and we saw this first hand as hummingbird species visiting at the time reached double figures, and hundreds of individuals swarming the nectar feeders, including dozens of **Violet-bellied Hummingbirds** and many of the restricted range **Emerald-bellied (Green-crowned) Woodnymph**.

Day 2 (January 22)

BUENAVENTURA

The reserve of Buenaventura held some key species for the tour, and our pre-dawn breakfast was planned with one particularly massive target bird in mind, the scarce and odd **Long-wattled Umbrellabird**. We left in darkness so that we could get to the lekking area of the males near dawn, where several or more visit daily and give low mooring calls to attract females. As we waited for the sun to rise, a first moo drifted up from the valley below that caused us to head down to the area with a quickened pace. There was a brief respite from the calling, and we waited a little impatiently for them to start up again, and hopefully reveal their location in the process. Sure enough another cow-like call was heard and we backtracked in the direction of the call, when our keen-eyed local guide gestured quietly ahead of us. We stared into the gloom and then there it was: a spectacular male sitting on an open branch just above eye level with its impressive wattle extended to its full



incredible 30cm length, and sporting a distinctive “punk” hairstyle. A stunned silence fell over the group as they took in every inch of this awesome bird. We bumped into them again over the next half hour or so, with up to four different males seen, including one that froze on top of a dead snag for a long, long time. However, everyone agreed there was just no beating that first unforgettable view, where that particular male displayed its lengthy wattle to greatest effect. A small stroll further along the forest trail

bought us a group of **Song Wrens**, three of which were watched feeding amongst the leaf litter. Buenaventura is the last outlier for some Chocó species that are well south of their usual range, but for a few species this reserve is the very southern limit of their more northerly range. As we returned to the trail head we heard one of these “beeping” away in the trees. The **Club-winged Manakin** makes this strange noise by rubbing its wings together at high speed, and we watched on as a male displayed and flashed his black and white wings at a lek site. A couple of dazzling hummers that were strangely absent from their feeders also repeatedly

visited some flowers by the manakin lek, which included spectacular males of both **Violet-tailed Sylph** and **Booted Racket-tail**. Another localized species, the striking **Guayaquil Woodpecker**, was then drawn into a dead tree above us, having alerted us to its presence by its distinctive calls. To finish off this frantic fifteen minutes of top birds we then homed in on an **Ochraceous Attila** that was lured in with a little playback onto an open branch for smashing views of this bright ginger flycatcher, and photos (**see photo on page 4**).



As our guide had informed us that they had recently been getting another endemic, the **Rufous-headed Chachalaca** (**see photo above**), at their fruit feeders we could not resist returning to the lodge for a short time to check them out. We were interrupted on our short return journey by a **Chocó Toucan** croaking from a treetop, another of the Chocó species that is at the very southern edge of its range here. On reaching the feeders there was no initial sign of any chachalacas but the hummer feeders were buzzing with activity and bought in **Long-billed Starthroat**, a bunch of **Violet-bellied Hummingbirds** (**see photo on page 7**), more **Emerald-bellied Woodnymphs** and numerous **White-necked Jacobins** among other hummers, that competed at the feeders with **Green Honeycreepers** too. Then a movement in the trees caught our eye as the **Rufous-headed Chachalacas** decided to come in and pick on the fruit at the table, just five meters away.

With the chachalaca seen extremely well it was time to move on to a higher area just outside the reserve, where local landowners have allowed the Jocotoco Conservation Foundation to set up nest boxes for another rare and localized species, the El Oro Parakeet. This parakeet was only discovered in 1980, and is

confined to a tiny area in southern Ecuador. We trudged up a muddy pasture (spotting a magnificent male **Golden-headed Quetzal** perched at the forest edge), and soon noticed a nest box on the side of a palm tree. A short time later an **El Oro Parakeet** poked its head out of the hole and looked around, where we could see the distinctive red “bridge” across the forehead. Also in this higher sector of the reserve we bumped into a small flock of **Rufous-throated Tanagers** and picked out a couple of shrieking **Gray-backed Hawks**, that later landed in the trees and were observed mating. In the afternoon, after soaking up more hummingmer action (competing with a mob of **South American Coatis** for sugar water-**see photo**), at the lodge feeders, and a **Gartered Trogon** (the recently split northern form of **Violaceous Trogon**) that came and perched by the feeders too, we headed up to the higher sector (seeing a **Gray-and-gold Warbler** en-route), and checked their other hummingmer feeders that bought us the desired **White-whiskered Hermit**, and Barbara found a **Pale-mandibled (Collared) Aracari**, two other species that’s ranges are centered on the Chocó region further north. On heading back to the lodge we also bumped into a pack of **Collared Peccary** snuffling alongside the track.



Day 3 (January 23)

BUENAVENTURA & EL EMPALME

We spent a final morning birding the western foothills of the Andes in **Buenaventura** before heading south into Loja province, and checking the dry deciduous woods of **El Empalme** en-route for a few local specialties. We began in a section of lower forest where we finally found the **Brownish Twistwing** that had eluded us the day before, and also added a **White-throated Spadebill** in the same spot. On the way up once more to some of



the higher cloudforest within the reserve a large black bird flying into a canopy stopped us in our tracks, and we soon homed in on another **Long-wattled Umbrellabird** for the tour, and a **Pale-vented Thrush** hopped along the track in front of our vehicle a little further up. A flock appeared as mist descended on the forest although that did not detract us from picking out the scarce **Brown-billed Scythebill** in its ranks. The star bird that morning was our first antpitta of the trip (one of seven species seen by the entire group), and what a species to begin with. The low hooting of the bird could be heard emanating from a wet gully in the forest and I decided that the only way to have the slightest chance at seeing this shy species was to climb up into the gully itself. After a short initial showing, we persevered before Rick spotted the **Plain-backed Antpitta** perched on an open branch further up the gully bringing us prize winning views in the process. After that we watched (once again) the bizarre displays of the **Club-winged Manakin** at the trailhead, and ran into another flock of **Rufous-throated Tanagers**.

Time was then called for Buenaventura and we hit the road south into much drier and humid woodland in Loja province. The scrubby hillsides and woods of **El Empalme** held some localized species for us, not least the striking **White-headed Brush-Finch** that after some time made a dramatic and prolonged appearance (**see photo on this page**). Playing the Peruvian Pygmy-Owl call worked wonders again as it brought in a **Tumbes Hummingbird** and a **Baird's Flycatcher**. The same area also produced our first **White-edged Orioles** and **Gray-cheeked Parakeets**, more very vociferous **Fasciated Wrens**, and our only **Tumbes Sparrows** of the trip. At the end of the day we checked into the new Urracas Lodge (Jay Lodge) in the heart of the **Jorupe Reserve** near the border town of Macara, just a few miles from Peru.



Day 4 (January 24)
JORUPE & SOZORANGA

We awoke at our lodge with the deep calls of a pair of **Spectacled Owls** emanating from the trees around the lodge, and a little use of the I-Pod brought in one of these huge owls into a large *ceiba* tree overhead. A great way to start our day, even before first light. For this day we were based out of the new Urracas Lodge, so named after the **White-tailed Jays** that flock around the lodge and sometimes feed on grain that is laid out for them there. Ironically we did not find a flock of them at the feeders but got up close and personal with a few of these very striking jays around the parking lot. We spent the morning walking in various parts of the reserve picking up many Tumbesian birds in the process. The calls of the restricted

range **Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner** was heard calling all around, although proved a slippery customer to see for some time. Several fleeting glimpses finally came to fruition late in the morning when finally one remained on an open branch and gave us all the looks we had been craving. Four or more birds were seen throughout the morning including one bird that was nesting in a cavity alongside the track. Another localized species, the **Blackish-headed Spinetail** was found with little effort although low cloud descended just as it popped into view. Thankfully we waited patiently, the cloud lifted, and the bird was lured in even closer giving us all stellar looks. Calls of **Pale-browed Tinamous** called all around but again proved elusive and remained hidden the whole time. However, **Watkins's Antpitta** was way more helpful; a little playback bringing the bird out on to the open track in front of us, (to gasps all around). Not the kind of behavior ordinarily associated with the notoriously shy antpittas. A number of parakeets were flying around the reserve, and finally we got a few **Red-masked Parakeets** scoped up high in *ceiba* tree, revealing to us its distinctive scarlet masks as they did so. Further down the track our first of many **Black-capped Sparrows** recorded on the tour homed into view, another striking and distinctive endemic species. Less dapper was a **Sooty-crowned Flycatcher**, one of the inconspicuous *myiarchus* flycatchers. Returning to the lodge we finally got the endangered **Slaty Becard** to respond and realized that the pair had a nest in the area, although we only managed good looks at the male that angrily flew into trees overhead with a little use of the tape. The skies above produced a small flock of **Tumbes (Short-tailed) Swifts** passing by too.



We then decided to walk a narrow forest track back to the lodge in attempt to find another localized foliage-gleaner, getting rightly distracted by the very scarce **Gray-capped Cuckoo** at the trailhead, and just as rain started to splatter down on us we came across a pair of bright ruddy **Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaners** too. After a hearty meal at the lodge, realizing we

had little to find still in this area, we decided to head uphill towards the Andean town of **Sozoranga**, where a small town brought us excellent looks at 20 or more **Chestnut-collared Swallows** (see photo on previous page) that were nesting under the low eaves. In **Sozoranga** the mist descended again and made birding a little difficult, and though we did tempt up a **Bay-crowned Brush-Finch** and a couple of **White-winged Brush-Finches** the low cloud made getting clear views of them tricky. Around the town **Ash-breasted Sierra-finches** competed with **Saffron Finches** for a place on the wires and roofs, before we returned to Urracas

Lodge once more for the night where once again we were frustrated by a calling Peruvian Screech-Owl.

Day 5 (January 25)

UTUANA & SOZORANGA

For this day we ascended into the southwestern highlands, home to many scarce and localized birds that have tiny ranges in Ecuador and northern Peru. Some of these are associated with the remnant patches of bamboo that occur along the roadsides near **Ututana** and this is exactly where we began our day. Despite much of the bamboo having died and receded we still managed to find many of these in their usual haunts. A pair of

Piura Hemispingus

kickstarted a great spell of an hour where we picked up many of our target birds in quick succession. Next up, and in the very same stand of dead *chusquea* bamboo were a pair of **Chapman's Antshrikes**, quickly followed by a male **Silvery Tanager**, and several **Rufous-chested Tanagers**. We barely had time to take this in when an explosive call drew our attention to a **Black-cowled Saltator** perched in the roadsides treetops. A flock of nineteen **Red-masked Parakeets** also overflew us in the same area. Heading further up the road towards the Jocotoco Conservation



Foundation reserve of Ututana, we made a few stops by patches of remnant bamboo to try for one of the rarest and toughest target species in the area, **Gray-headed Antbird**. Despite hearing one in the area we simply could not get close to this calling bird. However, a trill alerted us to a **Jelski's Chat-Tyrant** perched up in the *chusquea* bamboo, and not far from this a cute **Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher** also emerged from the bamboo to give us a choice look.

Having picked up almost all of our target birds along the road we entered the reserve for a few other special birds of the region that are much easier to come by within the reserve. A couple of these were hummingbirds, and we headed in earnest for the hummingbird feeders buried within the bamboo choked forest within the reserve. The commonest visitor at the feeders was also the number one target for us in the reserve, the spectacular **Rainbow Starfrontlet** that was rightly singled out as one of the highlights of the trip at our final, farewell dinner. This dazzling hummer is actually the most regular visitor to the Ututana feeders allowing

for great views of this large, multicolored hummingbird. Also visiting the feeders were a number of **Purple-throated Sunangels**, and a **Mountain Velvetbreast** dropped in occasionally too. A brief break from ogling the starfrontlets was necessary when the “oh so cute” **Black-crested Tit-Tyrant** began calling close by (**see photo on this page**), another of the southwestern highlands specialties we were seeking. It toyed with us for a while before the pair finally emerged from deep cover and perched out in the open. A great little bird that was justifiably picked out by some at the final reckoning when assessing the highlights from the tour at our farewell dinner. Also in the same area were a pair of **Red-crested Cotingas**



standing sentry by the “starfrontlet” feeders. We also picked up a **Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush** that was giving its melancholy song from deep within the bamboo that cloaks this mountain reserve.

With such a successful morning we decided to drop in altitude and check the remnant forest patches and scrub on the outskirts of the Andean town of **Sozoranga**, that worked out well as we picked up the endangered **Gray-breasted Flycatcher** and also managed to ‘scope up our first marvelous **Elegant Crescentchest**. However, one of the “day’s” highlights came after dark, as we finally caught up with the pint-sized (**West**) **Peruvian Screech-Owl**, that had been eluding us nightly up until this,

our final night in **Jorupe** reserve. The bird made up for it though by giving us super looks, even allowing us to return to our rooms pick up our cameras and return to the spot to snap it. This tiny owl received a worthy nomination for top trip bird at the end of the tour.

Day 6 (January 26)

SOZORANGA, UTUANA & CATAMAYO

Early in the morning we checked out of our accommodation in Jorupe reserve, picking up both **Bat Falcon** and **Laughing Falcon** as we descended out of the reserve for the last time. We then dropped into **Sozoranga** one final time where we managed further views of the dapper **Black-capped Sparrow**, and also saw our first (**Highland**) **Hepatic Tanagers**. After the previous afternoon's first crescentchest we also had views of two more **Elegant Crescentchests**. The final,

third, bird will be remembered best though, as this bird came out and sung for us from a dead tree, giving us all close range unobstructed views of this striking Tumbesian passerine. Next stop was back at **Utua** (picking up "**Loja**" **Tyrannulet** en-route-see photo on page 10), for one final attempt at their rarest resident, the skulking, bamboo-loving **Gray-headed Antbird**, which was finally tempted across a narrow gap in the bamboo that brought views for at least half of the group (although unfortunately would not return for the others to get looks too). Also around Utua were another **Pacific Pygmy-Owl**, and several **Three-banded Warblers** too.



Our time in the southwestern highlands finally came to a close and we had to hit the road again heading to the "sacred valley" of Vilcabamba for the night our base for our following days foray into the temperate forests of the eastern Andes. En-route we stopped by some scrubby fields in **Catamayo** and spent some time scanning for finches. We found our first **Parrot-billed Seedeaters**, a single **Dull-colored Grassquit**, and several **Drab Seedeaters** there too, along with our first **Croaking Ground-Doves** and a **Purple-collared Woodstar** working some roadside flowers. A little further on we also came across two male **Band-tailed Sierra-Finches** (see photo on this page).

Day 7 (January 27)

CAJANUMA (PODOCARPUS NP) & TAPICHALACA

Over the next few days we spent time in the wet temperate forests of the eastern Andes. This provided some challenges for us, not least a spell of heavy rains that dogged our birding both here in the temperate zone and also later in the eastern foothills around Rio Bombuscaro. However, we stuck to the task and managed to bird our way around the heavy bouts of rain and pick up some good stuff in the process. Flocks along a forested road within the **Cajanuma** sector of **Podocarpus**

NP, near the highland city of Loja, brought us groups of **Black-capped Hemispingus**, and other mixed bird parties held **Citrine Warblers**, striking **Grass-green Tanagers**, and the chubby **Barred Becard**. Other morning highlights included two species of fruiteater, with first a male **Barred Fruiteater**, and later a female **Green-and-black Fruiteater** along the same forested section of the road, and a **Smoky Bush-Tyrant**. Other birds that morning included a **Plain-tailed Wren** skulking in the bamboo, a wonderful **Glowing Puffleg** that flashed its glittering turquoise upper tail at us, and Barbara found a smart pair of **Black-throated Tody-Tyrants**. Rick though made one of the morning's star finds while making a pit stop when he disturbed a **Bearded Guan** that had been sitting quietly alongside!

Having endured some rather heavy bouts of rain, and with no sign of this abating, we continued our journey south into the province of Zamora-Chinchiipe towards the legendary reserve of **Tapichalaca**, home of the fabled **Jocotoco Antpitta**. En-route we bumped into a superb feeding flock that held a bunch of the gorgeous **Golden-crowned Tanager**, and a few **Pale-naped Brush-Finches** and **Lacrimose Mountain-Tanagers** too. Thick low clouds greeted us on our arrival in Tapichalaca reserve making late afternoon birding limited although a short foray on one of the lodge trails bought us excellent looks as **Chusquea Tapaculo**, small flocks of **Golden-plumed Parakeets** were seen coming into roost behind the lodge in the late afternoon, and a female **Swallow-tailed Nightjar** came down and perched a couple of times on the entrance track to the lodge.

Day 8 (January 28) **TAPICALACA AND** **VALLADOLID**

Over the next few days we were made to work our way around heavy, prolonged bouts of rain. Although for this red letter day we had a respite from this and enjoyed a phenomenal days birding first in the temperate forest within the reserve, and later in the afternoon in the forest patches down slope near the town of Valladolid.

The morning was largely about the most famous bird in Tapichalaca, the incredible **Jocotoco Antpitta**. Discovered in 1997, this striking antpitta is classified as *endangered*, with the world



population estimated at a maximum of 1000 birds and perhaps as few as 250 birds. Despite extensive searches the bird remains rare, and has only be found at five locations in southern Ecuador and extreme northern Peru, with the reserve of Tapichalaca being the only reliable place to see it. In recent years seeing this extremely distinctive antpitta has become remarkably straightforward as the local rangers have habituated a pair that comes in to feed on worms daily at extremely close range. Indeed, this may arguably now be considered one of the easiest Ecuadorian antpittas to see!

We set off at dawn for the forest trail that leads up to the Jocotoco feeding area. However, before we turned our attentions to the Jocotoco we had plenty of other birds to take in along the way. An open track gave us great looks over the forest and brought us prolonged views of a number of **Golden-plumed Parakeets** perched in the trees allopreening, revealing their fine golden facial plumes in the process. Also in the same area were a few vociferous **Orange-banded Flycatchers**. Once on the forest trail a movement ahead of us stopped us in our tracks as a **Rufous Antpitta** hopped along the trail and fed in the open just in



front. A little while later high-pitched whistles drew our attention to another antpitta, the diminutive **Slate-crowned Antpitta**, calling from some close *chusquea* bamboo. A little playback bought a pair of these tiny antpittas in extremely close for superb views of our second antpitta in a very short time. Further along the trail we crept up to a specially set up bird table that allowed us rare, close up views of a **White-throated Quail-Dove** feeding on the grain laid out

for it. We then bumped into a couple of researchers that had a juvenile **Jocotoco Antpitta** standing alongside them, just a few feet away, and our cameras went into overdrive. Not much further on the adults then came in and thrilled us with their boldness and gave us an unforgettable experience with this legendary bird (**see photos on this and the previous page**). Before lunch we had three antpittas in the bag bringing our antpitta total for the trip to four species. Things were going swimmingly and we were very happy with our haul at this point, and yet there was

still more to come. Just a short distance further along this narrow forest trail we heard one of the most enigmatic birds in the Andes, the **Ocellated Tapaculo**. Just a quick burst of playback and this polka-dotted, cherry-faced tapaculo emerged out of the dark shadows within the bamboo and continued to call away at close range, and even provided a rare opportunity for scope views! Also on the trail that morning were a pair of **White-browed Spinetails**, both **Crowned and Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrants**, a **Flammulated Treehunter** was found skulking in some dense *chusquea* bamboo, a **Long-tailed Antbird** was seen calling from another stand of bamboo, and a pair of **Black-headed Hemispingus** was found within a passing feeding flock.

After lunch back at the lodge, where we watched hummingbirds buzzing around their small set of feeders including the dazzling **Long-tailed Sylph**, both **Amethyst-throated and Flame-throated Sunangels**, and **Collared Incas**, we headed down slope beyond the town of **Valladolid**. On the way down we stopped for a roadside pair of **Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrants**. The patches of forest below this small Andean town are much lower than the Tapichalaca reserve and allowed us access to our first eastern foothill species like **Olive-chested Flycatcher**, **Mottle-backed Elaenia**, **Paradise and Golden-eared Tanagers**, **Lined Antshrike**, and **Speckled Chachalaca**. A couple of species with small Ecuadorian ranges restricted to this area of the south also put in appearance including the localized **Marañon Thrush**, and **Black-faced Tanager**, both highly local species in Ecuador.

Day 9 (January 29)

TAPICHALACA & COPALINGA (RIO BOMBUSCARO)

A final morning around **Tapichalaca** produced more **Golden-crowned Tanagers**, several male **Slaty Finches** buzzing from the bamboo, another **Barred Fruiteater**, and two more **Chusquea Tapaculos** seen at extremely close range, **Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant** (one of 6 species of chat-tyrants seen on the tour), further views of **White-throated Quail-Doves** at the feeder, and more perched up looks at **Golden-plumed Parakeets**.

We then headed east to the marvelous **Copalinga Lodge**, just outside the Rio Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus National Park, in the eastern foothills of the Andes. A frantic search around the grounds of the lodge in the last hour of light produced a flurry of new and exciting birds, including **Violet-headed Hummingbirds** competing with a **Spangled Coquette** for a place at the purple flowers in the lodge garden. A *cecropia* tree hosted a pair of wonderful **Wire-crested Thorntails**, including an excellent male complete with its funky crest and distinctive spiky tail. The feeders did not have a huge variety of birds but were dominated by the superb **Violet-fronted Brilliant**. Just in front of the restaurant a pair of **Golden-winged Tody-Flycatchers** turned up too. At dusk we headed just up the road from the lodge and watched several **Blackish Nightjars** as our first day in the eastern foothills came to a close.

Day 10 (January 30)

RIO BOMBUSCARO

We spent most of the day within the Rio Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus NP. Right at the trailhead we picked up one of our top targets, a superb **Copper-chested Jacamar**. A wide open track passes through superb foothill forest that is loaded with many special species, and is especially noted for tanager diversity. Indeed on this day alone we amassed 21 species of tanager. This was largely aided by a period of heavy prolonged rain that led us to be marooned at the park HQ, where (luckily for us), a large roaming flock of tanagers was in attendance allowing us repeated looks as we sheltered in the picnic area. Tanagers in this large impressive flock included **Paradise, Golden-eared, Yellow-bellied, Spotted, Orange-eared, and Green-and-gold Tanagers**, and also the striking **Flame-crested Tanager** too. This fantastic mixed flock was not just about tanagers though and also held a number of other key species for us too, including the recently described **Foothill Elaenia** (first formally described in 2000, and still only known from just four sites in Ecuador and Peru), **Ecuadorian Tyrannulet**, a pair of **Blue-naped Chlorophonias**, a striking male **Golden-collared Honeycreeper**, a number of wintering **Canada Warblers**, and a pair of **Equatorial Graytails**.

Other birds found along the trail in between the prolonged bouts of heavy rain included a fantastic **Black-streaked Puffbird**, and our second umbrellabird of the tour, this time **Amazonian Umbrellabird**, thanks to Maxine's sharp eyes. Also noteworthy were a pair of the very scarce **Orange-crested Flycatcher**, **White-necked Thrush**, and both **Striped and Blue-rumped Manakins**. Back at the lodge in the late afternoon we ran into the same **Spangled Coquette** again working the blooms, a **Green Hermit** dropped into the feeders a number of times, and an **Ash-browed Spinetail** fed low down by the parking lot, and a **Gray-fronted Dove** was seen walking out in the open along the road near there.

Day 11 (January 31)

RIO BOMBUSCARO & OLD LOJA-ZAMORA ROAD

After a dawn appearance of a **Sickle-winged Guan** right beside our breakfast table at the lodge, we ventured back into **Podocarpus National Park**. Once again we picked up another key bird right at the start of the trail, swapping yesterday's jacamar for a cute **Lanceolated Monklet** in almost the same spot. A pair of **Foothill Antwrens** was found further along this superb forest trail, and we even found another **Orange-crested Flycatcher** in a different area from the pair seen the day before. Also along the same trail was a **Lafresnaye's Piculet**, our third and final piculet of the trip that lingered in my 'scope for some time. Other notable sightings in the forest of Bombuscaro included two different **White-breasted Wood-Wrens**, and a male **Collared Trogon**. We also found ourselves stranded at the park HQ once more when low cloud and heavy rains descended on us once more and brought us further views of the fascinating tanager flock that was again roaming the area, and again held the gorgeous male **Golden-collared Honeycreeper** that gave us our best looks yet when it fed on some low fruits for some time. There was also the usual variety of tanagers in attendance that helped us to top yesterday's impressive tanager haul. By visiting both the park and also

the Old Loja-Zamora Road we managed to total up **23 tanager species for the day!**

In the afternoon we headed slightly higher up to patches of remnant foothill forest along the old road to Loja from Zamora. This bought us spectacular views of a number of tanagers as they fed at eye level in the canopies of trees alongside the road that included **Golden-eared, Golden-naped, Guira, Beryl-spangled and Saffron-crowned Tanagers** among others. Other flocks held **Olivaceous Greenlet**, and a **Gray-mantled Wren**. However, the rarest sighting of the day was a **Semicollared Hawk** that flew in and perched above us, a very difficult bird throughout its range.

Day 12 (February 1)

OLD LOJA-ZAMORA ROAD

We could not resist a final look around the excellent garden before we finally checked out of this wonderful Andean birding lodge. This bought us nothing new although no one complained about further up close and personal looks at a male **Wire-crested Thorntail**, and the “usual” female **Spangled Coquette** also visiting the same bush alongside. It was then back to the **Old Loja-Zamora Road** where we quickly picked up two new antbirds: first a male **White-browed Antbird**, followed by a group of three **Blackish Antbirds**. Then things went a bit quiet

(apart from a **Blue-browed Tanager** that showed up for Maxine and Barbara) as thick cloud descended on the forest causing us to backtrack and return to some lower sections of forest along the road, where Barbara then made the discovery of the morning, a superb group of the near-endemic **White-breasted (-necked) Parakeet**. 6 of these birds were watched perched in a bare tree where they preened



one another, flashed their vivid crimson wing patches and just generally gave us quality looks at this restricted range species (**see photo**). The same area also produced a vivid male **Andean Cock-of-the-rock** that threw the rulebook out the window and perched right out in the open while the parakeets remained preening in the next tree along. Apart from a **Dark-breasted Spinetail**, and a **Golden-**

headed Quetzal en-route little else was seen as we spent the remainder of the day heading north into Azuay province. At the end of the day we checked into the colonial Andean city of Cuenca, just a short distance from El Cajas Park, our next destination for the tour.

Day 13 (February 2)

EL CAJAS

This was the highest day of the tour (spent at altitudes from 3168m-4148m/10,394-13,608 ft), with most of the day spent within the high Andean temperate forests and windswept grasslands or paramo within **El Cajas National Park**. With this increased altitude we entered a realm with a whole new suite of high Andean birds and exciting new birding possibilities.

We began first at **Laguna Llaviucu** a scenic lake surrounded by Andean cloudforest. The lake itself held (**Andean**) **Ruddy Duck**, **Andean Teal** (recently split from Speckled Teal), **Andean (Slate-colored) Coot**, and a ghostly white **Andean Gull** surveyed the waters from the skies above. The reeds on the fringe of the lake held **Grass (Sedge) Wren**, a few of which emerged from the depths of the reed bed to sing from up high, in the calmer less squalid periods of weather during this rainy morning. Walking down towards the lake saw us run into a **Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** that skirted across the path in front of us. In the forest itself we found mixed flocks that contained both **Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers** and **Blue-and-black Tanagers**, **Streaked Tuftedcheek**, and **White-banded**, and **White-throated Tyrannulets**. When we walked down to the lake edge a movement caught our eye around a small group of pink flowers that turned out to be a **Violet-throated Metaltail**. This dowdy hummer is an Ecuadorian endemic that has a tiny range, and is known from just a small number of locations within the provinces of Azuay and Cañar in the south of the country. This was therefore one of our key target birds for our El Cajas visit and so it was quite pleasing to catch up with it so early on. We should have been used to rain by now, having had a week long period of frequent and heavy rains, and so it was no surprise here at such high altitudes to experience further periods of heavy downpours. In between one of these a **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan** emerged out from the depths of the cloudforest to perch in the treetops, recently fallen raindrops glistening on its back. Another of these multi-colored Andean toucans was found as we made our way back to the car in order to head to some higher sections of the park. A **Sapphire-vented Puffleg** was another welcome hummer addition in this area too.

We drove higher up and left the forested slopes behind, emerging onto the harsh environment of the high Andean paramo. A little like an English moorland it too can be unforgiving and inclement weather can drop in at any time. Sometimes it is hard to believe that many birds manage to eek out a living in these seemingly difficult environments but many do, including a number of high altitude hummingbirds. We stopped along the road at a stakeout for **Mouse-colored Thistletail**, a restricted range species known from northern Peru and just a few sites in southern Ecuador that duly popped out of a patch of *polylepis* to show itself to us at very close

quarters. The same area was a boon for other *furnariids* too as **Andean Tit-Spinetail**, **Many-striped Canastero**, and **Bar-winged Cinclodes** were all found in the same area, along with a superb **Tawny Antpitta** that bounded clumsily across the main highway that runs through the park! Having added the chestnut-crowned earlier in the morning our trip antpitta total reached a heady seven species on this day. We also added **Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant** there which was our *sixth* chat-tyrant of the tour.

Next stop was a small lake fringed by flaky red-barked *polylepis* trees. The trees hosted a small group of **Tit-like Dacnis** (see photos on this page), and some orange *chuquiragua* flowers alongside the woods attracted a pair of **Ecuadorian Hillstars**, the immaculate, violet-headed male proving quite a crowd pleaser. Also

in the area was another high Andean hummer, the larger and more subtle **Blue-mantled Thornbill**, and a **Stout-billed Cinclodes** fed on a boggy Andean pasture nearby. We then retreated to a local café overlooking a high Andean lake for a welcome hot drink and revitalize ourselves after suffering through some “classic” high Andean weather conditions during the morning (i.e. chilly, windy and rainy!)



Having replenished our lost energy we were ready for another foray into another area of *polylepis* to look for another special bird that is confined to this highly endangered habitat. As we walked down the track playing its call I was surprised when literally just a few minutes later a pair of **Giant Conebills** dropped into a low stunted *polylepis* tree in front of us. This striking pair of conebills then lingered in the area giving unbeatable views for the next ten minutes or so. This lengthy look and the sheer brilliance of the birds led them to be named as the **best bird of the trip**, and indeed was the only bird picked out by all in their final top five birds. Even those who had seen them before were simply blown away by the views of these superb high Andean birds. A magic moment in the high Andes of El Cajas. We then picked up a **Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant** hunting for insects by the lake edge. With time moving on we started our journey back towards Guayaquil, first ascending over a high pass, then dropping through more areas of *polylepis* lining the road,

before we finally left El Cajas behind for good. Just before we left the park though a last roadside stop bought us our final paramo birds of the trip, this boggy pasture holding a small group of vociferous **Andean Lapwings**, a bunch of **Plain-capped (Paramo) Ground-Tyrants**, and a pair of **Paramo Pipits**. As we swiftly dropped out of the clouds and towards the coastal lowlands around Guayaquil we quickly began shedding layers as the temperature rose and we experienced high humidity once more. As we drove through the marshes south of Guayaquil once more we picked up a few more **Horned Screamers** along the route and dozens of **Snail Kites**, **Wattled Jacanas** and other waterbirds.

Day 14 (February 3)

SANTA ELENA PENINSULA

We left Guayaquil under cover of darkness, a very early start being required to get us into the coastal scrub on the **Santa Elena Peninsula** before the day became too hot and bird activity slowed. Luckily in this area the birding can be quite straightforward and target birds came to us thick and fast once we reached this



unspectacular looking area of scrubby bushes. The area was bone dry and clearly had not suffered the rain showers we had over the past week or so, with very little greenery being seen anywhere. The only color provided by a small set of red flowers that attracted a **Short-tailed Woodstar**, and of course the birds themselves! A pygmy-owl call in this area can work wonders bringing in mobbing groups of passerines from all

around, and we utilized this to good effect. Large groups of **Parrot-billed Seedeaters** invariably came in to mob our owl call, on occasions accompanied by **Necklaced Spinetails**, **Superciliated Wrens**, the odd-looking **Short-tailed Field-Tyrant**, dowdy **Tumbesian (Mouse-colored) Tyrannulets**, and a number of "horny" **Gray-and-white Tyrannulets**. Also found in the coastal scrub were **Band-tailed Sierra-Finch**, **West Peruvian (Pacific) Dove**, and **Croaking Ground-Doves**, a pair of smart **Collared Antshrikes** (see photo on page 21), and a number of sharp-dressed **Collared Warbling-Finches**.

By this point the humidity level was high as the day was warming considerably. We were also now only on the lookout for the nomadic Crimson-breasted Finch that can be very common in the area, but was completely absent during our visit there. With little more to look for we decided to head down to the coast road and bird the myriad of lagoons and shrimp ponds that line the road for an injection of waterbirds. List padding ensued soon after! A pack of bright pink **Chilean Flamingos** lit up one of the ponds and many boreal shorebirds were found wintering in the area including a throng of spinning **Wilson's Phalaropes**, and **Stilt Sandpipers**, **Short-billed Dowitchers**, **Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers**, in addition to resident **Collared Plovers** and **American Oystercatchers**, along with **Yellow-crowned Night-herons**, and **Royal and Sandwich Terns**. These pelican lined lagoons also played host to large flocks of **White-cheeked Pintails**, with a few wintering **Blue-winged Teals** found within their midst.

After a seafood spread in the tourist town of **Salinas** we headed north up the *Ruta del Sol* towards our next hotel, Mantaraya Lodge, set on a scrubby hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean. However, well before we reached the province of Manabi and our next resort, we stopped for a **Pearl Kite** hunting from a roadside cable. I also could not resist having a first brief foray along the **Rio Ayampe**, the stronghold for the globally endangered **Esmeraldas Woodstar** (see photo). We have had some luck with this species over recent years, picking them up on every tour at this time of year over the past



five years in very small numbers. This year was no different as we managed to find a female bird on our first afternoon with little trouble, although of course everyone was still craving for a male over the coming days after... A final finale for the day occurred right on our lodge grounds as we wandered down to some scrub and lured in a **Scrub (Anthony's) Nightjar** at dusk. It reacted so strongly and whipped by so close to our heads it felt like it shaved a little of our hair off!!! Great finish to a day that had bought us many, many new trip birds.

Day 15 (February 4)

RIO AYAMPE & MACHALILLA NP

For the morning we once again returned to the patches of humid woods that line the **Rio Ayampe**. For those of us seeking a better, brighter version of the **Esmeraldas Woodstar** (i.e. all of us!) we were not disappointed as on this years extension we experienced extraordinary numbers of this extremely rare hummingbird, on this morning alone we bumped into at least five different woodstars including several spanking males in full gorgeous breeding dress (**see photo on previous page**).



Continuing the hummer theme, a number of red *heliconia* flowers attracted multiple **Green-throated (Black-throated) Mangos**. Also along the track were many vociferous **Tumbes (Tropical) Pewees**, a pair of **White-backed Fire-eyes**, a superb male **Great Antshrike** with an impressive red “fire-eye” of its own, and several **Ecuadorian Trogons**. Over all of our visits to Ayampe a backdrop to our birding was provided by the constant cries of a **Gray Hawk (see photo)** that posed in the trees beside the track. Harsher shrieks emanated from an overflying **Gray-backed Hawk** that gave us much better looks here than we had enjoyed at Buenaventura earlier on the tour. We finally also caught up with **Crimson-breasted Finch** that had been strangely absent on the Santa Elena Peninsula, a number of which were seen feeding alongside the track.

Late in the morning Barbara found a **White-whiskered Puffbird** hiding in a dark vine tangle, and as we wandered back at the end of the morning we came upon a pair of **Saffron Siskins** feeding along the track that all too soon flitted out of sight.

We retired back to the lodge for a rest in the heat of the day, when Rick noticed a movement outside his room and soon realized that it was yet another **Esmeraldas**

Woodstar, and a fine male no less that was frequenting the flowers outside his room just five feet or so from his window!!! As we prepared to leave for Machalilla NP in the afternoon we were distracted by a flurry of activity around the parking lot that brought us further looks at the cute **Scarlet-backed Woodpecker**, and also a superb male **Slaty Becard** (see photo).

We opted for **Machalilla NP** in the afternoon, just north of the coastal town of Puerto Lopez with one special target in mind: **Pale-browed Tinamou**. We had heard this bird often at Jorupe and Cerro Blanco earlier on the tour although it had remained frustratingly just out of reach. While never easy the open nature of the scrub at Machalilla provides a good setting in which to see one of these endemic tinamous in, and we quickly set about chasing after a calling bird. We went into the scrub, settled ourselves down and tried to call the bird in to absolutely no effect, other than causing the bird to fall silent. We returned back to path and soon after realized the tinamou had begun calling again, and what's more seemed to be calling from the very spot where we had been stood just minutes before! Rankled at this we made our way back into the scrub once more, when a movement caught my eye and I soon saw the tinamou scurrying away from us, giving only a few of us the most cursory of glances. I tried the tape again and almost immediately the bird switched direction and walked straight towards us, even lingering in one spot with a completely unobstructed view! We came back out of the scrub once it has scurried off



into the bush once more, adrenalin pumping through our veins from the excitement and on a massive high from such an exceptional experience with a tinamou. After wandering further up the track and running into some **Necklaced Spinetails**, another **Ecuadorian Piculet**, **Rufous-headed Chachalaca**, another fierce looking **Peruvian (Pacific) Pygmy-Owl** and getting cracking looks at **West Peruvian (Pacific) Dove**, we turned around and headed back towards the van. Only to realize that the **Pale-browed Tinamou** was now calling right by the track. Soon after we picked it up again and watched in amazement as it stood frozen in one spot for over ten minutes and we could even observe it pulling its head back and giving its explosive call in the 'scope (see photo below)! This magical sighting of

this endemic tinamou was quite rightly talked about much at the end of the trip as one of the undoubted trip highlights.



Day 16 (February 5)

RIO AYAMPE

A final morning was spent in the area around **Rio Ayampe** getting last looks at species and picking up some final new ones too, before we had to throw in the towel and head back to Guayaquil for our final farewell dinner and the end of what had been a magnificent circuit of the south. Beginning along a scrubby roadside we dodged the high speeding buses and picked up three different **Black-lored Yellowthroats**, and a final pair of **Esmeraldas Woodstars**.

Back at the humid woods and forest of **Ayampe** we ran into more **Crimson-breasted Finches**, the now familiar **Gray Hawk** calling from its regular *cecropia* tree, and more dapper **Black-capped Sparrows**. Notable additions included a smart male **Blue Ground-Dove** that came in and perched beside us, and a **Black-tailed Flycatcher** fanning its tail and flashing its lemon-yellow rump at us from a vine tangle. We then discovered a nice forest track that ran into a nice patch of humid forest. A little way down the track a small antswarm attracted up to 6 **White-backed Fire-eyes**, a few **Bicolored Antbirds**, and a **Plain Antvireo**. The same area also held a **Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher**, good to see so soon after the similar Black-tailed seen just 30 minutes earlier. Also on the same trail was a

superb **Southern Nightingale (Scaly-breasted) Wren** that taped in close and then proceeded to sing back at us from an open branch. A little further up this fascinating trail we found a pair of the vulnerable **Gray-breasted Flycatcher** that gave us much better, longer looks than we had experienced previously on the tour at Sozoranga. Finally, another **Ochraceous Attila** put in an appearance in the same area, rounding off a great tour of the south, after which we headed directly back to Guayaquil for a final slap up meal and review of the trip.

Despite some limiting heavy periods of rain during our visits to Tapichalaca and Rio Bombuscaro we managed to amass a good total of over 550 species recorded on the tour, including over 520 species that were seen by one or more people on the tour. Within this total hummingbirds and tanagers were particularly well represented. An amazing **53 different hummingbirds** were recorded (including several spectacular ones, including a smashing male **Wire-crested Thorntail** at Copalinga Lodge, an unusually high number of **Esmeraldas Woodstars** at Ayampe, the amazing **Booted Racket-tail** and **Violet-tailed Sylph** at Buenaventura, an immaculate **Ecuadorian Hillstar** in the scenic high Andes of El Cajas NP, and the spectacular **Rainbow Starfrontlet** in the southwestern highlands of the Andes). Furthermore, an incredible **62 species of tanager** were seen, with **23 tanagers recorded in a single day** in the eastern foothills around Rio Bombuscaro, that included a fantastic male **Golden-collared Honeycreeper** that was predictably mentioned at the end of the tour as one of the trip highlights. On top of that **7 different antpittas** were seen by everyone in the group including the notoriously difficult **Plain-backed Antpitta** (referenced in Ridgely and Tudor as “*an exceptionally secretive antpitta, often judged the hardest to see*”), and the incredible **Jocotoco Antpittas** of Tapichalaca, one of South America’s most legendary birds. Among the many, many other highlights on the tour were several humungous male **Long-wattled Umrellabirds** in Buenaventura, including one fantastic male with its 30cm wattle extended to its full impressive length. The **Pale-browed Tinamou** that remained calling in our scope for ten minutes within Machalilla NP was a particular standout moment, appreciated for its endemic status and also for the simple fact it is rare indeed to be able to view any tinamous in Ecuador for such a prolonged period. Jorupe reserve was good to us too with the expected **White-tailed Jays** superb as ever, although it was the **West Peruvian Screech-Owl** on our final night there that stole the headlines for most. Other birds that lingered in everyone’s minds were the **Scarlet-backed Woodpeckers** recorded time and again on the tour, the confiding **Jelski’s Chat-Tyrant** and **Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher** both seen within meters of each other one morning at Utuana. Others that got a worthy mention at the final farewell dinner included the extremely showy **Slate-crowned Antpitta** in our triple antpitta morning at Tapichalaca, and the impossibly cute **Black-crested Tit-Tyrant** at Utuana, the latter one of my all time favorite birds of this diverse and exciting southern tour. However, the one that beat them all, and the only one to be chosen by everyone on their final top five of the tour, was the stunning pair of **Giant Conebills** that posed in the flaky, red-barked *polylepis* trees in the paramo of El Cajas National Park.

Summary of the tour:

- **More than 550 species recorded (more than 520 seen)**
- **53 different hummingbirds recorded**
- **62 different tanagers recorded**
- **7 different antpitta species seen** (Plain-backed, Watkins's, Rufous, Slate-crowned, Jocotoco, Chestnut-crowned, & Tawny)
- **Top Birds of the Tour:**
 - 1 Giant Conebill** (El Cajas NP, February 2)
 - 2= Pale-browed Tinamou** (Machalilla NP, February 5)
 - Wire-crested Thorntail** (Copalinga Lodge, February 1)

Other birding highlights:

A dozen **Horned Screamers** at Manglares Charute; confiding **Rufous-headed Chachalacas** at the Buenaventura feeders; perched **Semicollared Hawk** along the Old Loja-Zamora Road; vivid green **Golden-plumed Parakeets** perched up in the scope at Tapichalaca; a nesting **El Oro Parakeet** at a nest site near Buenaventura; the erratic **Gray-capped Cuckoo** that turned up along a trail at Jorupe; **Violet-throated Metaltail** feeding on some pink blooms around a scenic forest fringed lake in the highlands of El Cajas; a cute **Lanceolated Monklet** that lingered in our scope along a forest track in Podocarpus NP; **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan** perched high in the trees with recently fallen raindrops glistening on its back in El Cajas; **Choco Toucan** croaking from a treetops in the western foothills of the Andes; **three species of tiny piculet, including the endemic Ecuadorian Piculet**; the striking **Guayaquil Woodpecker** clasped to a dead snag within Buenaventura reserve; two species of restricted range furnariids in the woods of Jorupe: **Rufous-necked and Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaners**; a **Brown-billed Scythebill** that came through with a frantic feeding flock in the western foothills; the rare and endangered **Gray-headed Antbird** skulking in the bamboo of Utuana; the unforgettable **Ocellated Tapaculo** that allowed us to line it up within the scope along a narrow track through the temperate forest of Tapichalaca; **6 species of chat-tyrants, including Crowned, Slaty-backed and the previously mentioned Jelski's**; an interesting set of cotingas including **Barred and Green-and-black Cotingas, Amazonian and Long-wattled Umbrellabirds**, and a superb male **Andean Cock-of-the-rock** seen along the Old Loja-Zamora Road; displaying **Club-winged Manakins** in Buenaventura; a showy male of the endangered **Slaty Becard** in the parking lot of Mantaraya Lodge; nesting **Chestnut-collared Swallows** peering out of their mud nests at us in a small highland town in the Andes; a pair of pristine **Piura Hemispingus** near Utuana; many tame cobalt blue **Tit-like Dacnis** in the paramo of El Cajas; a

number of gorgeous **Golden-crowned Tanagers** in the temperate forests around Tapichalaca; the beastly **Black-cowled Saltator** in the southwestern highlands; and a showy pair of **White-headed Brush-Finches** in the dry woods and scrub of El Empalme.

BIRD LIST

The taxonomy of the list follows: Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. **The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World**. Cornell, 2007.

This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell in December 2008, and further changes published in December 2009.

Species highlighted in **RED** are **CHOCÓ ENDEMIC**S

Species highlighted in **BLUE** are **TUMBESIAN LOWLAND ENDEMIC**S

Species highlighted in **GREEN** are **SOUTHWESTERN HIGHLANDS ENDEMIC**S

Species highlighted in **VIOLET** are **INTERANDEAN SLOPES AND VALLEYS ENDEMIC**S

Species highlighted in **GRAY** are **EAST SLOPE OF THE ANDES ENDEMIC**S

(As listed and defined in Ridgely, R. S. and Greenfield, P. J. **The Birds of Ecuador. Volume I: Status, Distribution, and Taxonomy**. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York).

Please note: Recent taxonomic changes (published by Cornell in December 2008 & 2009) render some that were lumped on the Clements list part of a more widespread species, and so are not always considered as endemics, although are listed here for completeness as some authors still believe them to be separate species, and therefore still regarded as endemic.

	TINAMOUS	TINAMIDAE
H	Gray Tinamou	<i>Tinamus tao</i>
	<i>Heard calling distantly from behind Copalinga Lodge in the eastern foothills.</i>	
H	Little Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>
	<i>A close calling bird could not unfortunately be tempted into the open at Ayampe.</i>	
	Pale-browed Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus transfasciatus</i>

*What a show! After hearing a number of uncooperative birds calling in Cerro Blanco and Jorupe, we finally had unstoppable views in Machalilla NP, where a bird was seen twice at very close range. On the final occasion we watched the bird calling on and off in our scope for at least ten minutes! **ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP***

	SCREAMERS	ANHIMIDAE
	Horned Screamer	<i>Anhima cornuta</i>

A dozen birds were seen near Manglares Charute on our first day, including a number of birds feeding right out in the open immediately beside the main highway. Another few were seen in the same area (their last stronghold in western Ecuador), on our return journey from El Cajas to Guayaquil on the final day of the main tour.

	DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL	ANATIDAE
	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
	<i>A few were seen flying around the marshes at Manglares Charute.</i>	
	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>
	<i>A few were found among a pack of White-cheeked Pintails at Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>	
	White-cheeked Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>

Good numbers of these handsome ducks were seen at Ecuasal Lagoons.

Andean Teal	Anas andium
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Small numbers were seen around El Cajas National Park.

(Andean) Ruddy Duck	Oxyura jamaicensis andina
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Small groups of these highland ducks were seen in El Cajas NP.

GUANS, CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS CRACIDAE

Rufous-headed Chachalaca	Ortalis erythroptera
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This year proved a good one for this species. During our visit to Buenaventura a "tame" pack of these birds came down to the lodge feeders allowing for crippling views of this Tumbesian endemic. Others were seen at Machalilla NP, and another was seen at Rio Ayampe.

Speckled Chachalaca	Ortalis guttata
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Rick picked up our first near the town of Valladolid below Tapichalaca, and others were seen around the lodge at Copalinga on the edge of Podocarpus NP.

Bearded Guan	Penelope barbata
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Rick found one at Cajanuma, and another was seen in the San Francisco sector of Podocarpus NP too.

Sickle-winged Guan	Chamaepetes goudotii
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One was seen early one morning by the lodge at Copalinga on the edge of Rio Bombuscaro.

NEW WORLD QUAIL ODONTOPHORIDAE

H Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail	Odontophorus erythrops
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A distantly calling bird was heard in Rio Bombuscaro.

GREBES PODICIPEDIDAE

Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps
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A few were seen on the journey south from Guayaquil to Buenaventura, and others were seen at Ecuasal Lagoons.

FLAMINGOS PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Chilean Flamingo	Phoenicopterus chilensis
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Twenty or more birds were seen on a lagoon at Ecuasal.

BOOBIES AND GANNETS SULIDAE

Blue-footed Booby	Sula nebouxii
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Small numbers of these were seen cruising past, just offshore near Salinas.

PELICANS PELECANIDAE

Peruvian Pelican	Pelecanus thagus
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One flock of these massive pelicans was seen flying over Ecuasal Lagoons.

Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis
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Common along the coast near Ecuasal Lagoons, and near Ayampe.

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus
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Seen a number of times around Ecuasal Lagoons and also just south of Guayaquil.

ANHINGAS ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga	Anhinga anhinga
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One flew over Manglares Charute, while we were watching a group of Horned Screamers.

FRIGATEBIRDS		FREGATIDAE	
Magnificent Frigatebird		<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	
<i>Commonly recorded on the coast in Guayas and Manabi.</i>			
HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS		ARDEIDAE	
Great Egret		<i>Ardea alba</i>	
<i>Commonly recorded in a number of wetland areas.</i>			
Little Blue Heron		<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	
<i>An adult was seen just south of Guayaquil on our first day.</i>			
Snowy Egret		<i>Egretta thula</i>	
<i>Commonly recorded in wetland areas at a number of spots on the tour.</i>			
Cattle Egret		<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
<i>A few scattered records throughout the tour.</i>			
Striated Heron		<i>Butorides striata</i>	
<i>Five or more birds were seen in marshes to the south of Guayaquil.</i>			
Black-crowned Night-Heron		<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
<i>One bird was seen on the journey between Salinas and Ayampe.</i>			
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	
<i>Three were seen around Ecuasal, and another couple were seen on the journey between there and Ayampe.</i>			
NEW WORLD VULTURES		CATHARTIDAE	
Black Vulture		<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	
<i>Regularly seen in lowland areas.</i>			
Turkey Vulture		<i>Cathartes aura</i>	
<i>Commonly recorded in low lying areas.</i>			
HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES		ACCIPITRIDAE	
Hook-billed Kite		<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>	
<i>One was seen over the woods of Jorupe, and another was seen soaring above Sozoranga.</i>			
Swallow-tailed Kite		<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	
<i>Several sightings were made around Buenaventura, and another was seen in Jorupe reserve.</i>			
Pearl Kite		<i>Gampsonyx swainsonii</i>	
<i>Barbara spotted one hunting along the edge of a pond near Santa Rosa, with another seen perched on a roadside wire just north of Salinas on the extension.</i>			
White-tailed Kite		<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	
<i>A pair of these kites was found perched by the marshes at Manglares Charute.</i>			
Snail Kite		<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	
<i>Many of these distinctive kites were seen in marshes to the south of Guayaquil.</i>			
Plumbeous Kite		<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	
<i>One was seen perched in Buenaventura, and another was seen in Ayampe.</i>			
Semicollared Hawk		<i>Accipiter collaris</i>	
<i>This rare hawk was seen perched alongside the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>			
Sharp-shinned (Plain-breasted) Hawk		<i>Accipiter striatus ventralis</i>	
<i>A few were seen around Utuana.</i>			
Crane Hawk		<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>	
<i>One overflew us while we were at Cerro Blanco on the first day.</i>			

Gray-backed Hawk	<i>Leucopternis occidentalis</i>
<i>A pair were seen soaring and even mating at Buenaventura, and another flew low over us at Ayampe on the extension.</i>	
Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>
<i>Scattered sightings were made in the lowlands, including near Ayampe.</i>	
Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>
<i>Singles were recorded in El Empalme, Jorupe, and near Utuana.</i>	
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>
<i>Five or six sightings were made at a number of sites through the tour.</i>	
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>
<i>One was seen at Tapichalaca, and another along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Gray Hawk	<i>Buteo nitidus</i>
<i>A vocal adult was seen on all of our visits to Rio Ayampe.</i>	
White-rumped Hawk	<i>Buteo leucorrhous</i>
<i>Two were seen soaring above the Utuana reserve.</i>	
Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>
<i>One flew over us at Buenaventura.</i>	
Variable Hawk	<i>Buteo polyosoma</i>
<i>Several were seen hovering above El Cajas National Park.</i>	

FALCONS AND CARACARAS

FALCONIDAE

Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>
<i>A few were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula on the extension.</i>	
Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>
<i>One was seen perched in a large ceiba tree as we left Jorupe reserve.</i>	
H Collared Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>
<i>Heard around Jorupe several times and also heard calling at dawn at Ayampe, on the extension.</i>	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
<i>Several were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula, and another was seen near Catamayo.</i>	
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>
<i>One was seen twice in the Jorupe reserve, with another being seen in the Rio Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus.</i>	

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS

RALLIDAE

H White-throated Crake	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>
<i>One was heard calling from an area of dense, rank grass at Buenaventura.</i>	
H Rufous-necked Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides axillaris</i>
<i>This very rarely seen Ecuadorian rail was heard calling several times within the Jorupe reserve, although predictably never responded to playback.</i>	
H Plumbeous Rail	<i>Pardirallus sanguinolentus</i>
<i>Heard calling close in the town of Vilcabamba from an area of dense grass.</i>	
Common Moorhen (Gallinule)	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
<i>One was seen on a small lake in El Cajas NP.</i>	
Slate-colored (Andean) Coot	<i>Fulica ardesiaca</i>
<i>Small numbers were seen on several lakes in El Cajas NP.</i>	

LIMPKIN		ARAMIDAE	
Limpkin		<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	
<i>A couple were seen in marshy areas south of Guayaquil on two days.</i>			
PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS		CHARADRIIDAE	
Andean Lapwing		<i>Vanellus resplendens</i>	
<i>Five of these handsome lapwings were seen in a boggy field on the edge of El Cajas NP.</i>			
Black-bellied (Gray) Plover		<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
<i>Commonly recorded on the Santa Elena Peninsula.</i>			
Semipalmated Plover		<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	
<i>Just three birds were seen at Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>			
Collared Plover		<i>Charadrius collaris</i>	
<i>Two were seen at Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>			
OYSTERCATCHERS		HAEMATOPODIDAE	
American Oystercatcher		<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	
<i>Commonly recorded on the Santa Elena Peninsula.</i>			
STILTS AND AVOCETS		RECURVIROSTRIDAE	
Black-necked Stilt		<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	
<i>Good numbers were seen on the coast of Guayas.</i>			
JACANAS		JACANIDAE	
Wattled Jacana		<i>Jacana jacana</i>	
<i>Good numbers were seen in roadside marshes just south of Guayaquil.</i>			
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES		SCOLOPACIDAE	
Short-billed Dowitcher		<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	
<i>A few groups were seen at Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>			
Whimbrel		<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
<i>Seen regularly along the shoreline on the Santa Elena Peninsula.</i>			
Spotted Sandpiper		<i>Actitis macularius</i>	
<i>One was seen in marshes to the south of Guayaquil on our first day, with others seen around Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>			
Greater Yellowlegs		<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	
<i>A few birds were seen at Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>			
Willet		<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	
<i>Good numbers were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula.</i>			
Ruddy Turnstone		<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
<i>Seen a number of times on the Santa Elena Peninsula.</i>			
Sanderling		<i>Calidris alba</i>	
<i>Commonly recorded around Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>			
Semipalmated Sandpiper		<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	
<i>Small numbers were seen in mixed groups with the next species at Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>			
Western Sandpiper		<i>Calidris mauri</i>	
<i>A few were identified within a group of mixed sandpipers at Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>			
Least Sandpiper		<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	
<i>Commonly recorded around Ecuasal Lagoons.</i>			

Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>
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Two were seen on a lagoon at Ecuasal.

Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>
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Over a hundred birds were seen spinning on a lagoon at a Ecuasal.

GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS

LARIDAE

Andean Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus serranus</i>
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Two sightings were made in El Cajas NP, a single bird flying around Laguna Llaviucu, and another ten or so birds in a roadside flock higher in the park.

Gray-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
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Commonly seen along the coast.

Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>
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Commonly seen on the coast on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>
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At least one bird was found within a gull flock at Ecuasal Lagoons.

Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
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Seen around marshes south of Guayaquil, and also on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>
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Regularly seen around Ecuasal Lagoons, and also on the Guayas coast north of there.

Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
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Regularly seen on the coast, and also around ponds and marshes south of Guayaquil.

PIGEONS AND DOVES

COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
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Commonly seen in towns throughout the tour.

Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>
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Seen a number of times around Utuana, Sozoranga, and also near Valladolid.

Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>
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Seen on our journey south from Guayaquil to Buenaventura on our first day, with others seen regularly around Ayampe on the extension.

Plumbeous Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>
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Seen at Buenaventura in El Oro province, and also at Copalinga Lodge in Zamora-Chinchipec.

Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>
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One was seen at Valladolid south of Tapichalaca, and another was seen near Rio Bombuscaro.

Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
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Recorded around Loja in the highlands, and also seen near El Empalme.

West Peruvian Dove	<i>Zenaida meloda</i>
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A few birds were seen in flight on the Santa Elena Peninsula, although much better (perched) views came during our "tinamou hunt" at Machalilla NP.

Ecuadorian Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina buckleyi</i>
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Recorded regularly at Cerro Blanco, and on our journey south from there to Buenaventura. Also seen a number of times around Ayampe on the extension.

Croaking Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina cruziana</i>
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First found at Catamayo, and good numbers were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

Blue Ground-Dove	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>
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One male was taped in, and then observed calling, at Ayampe.

White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
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Recorded at a number of sites throughout the tour.

Gray-fronted Dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>
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One was seen wandering along a road near Rio Bombuscaro.

H Ochre-bellied Dove	<i>Leptotila ochraceiventris</i>
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Heard calling distantly on several occasions at Rio Ayampe.

White-throated Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon frenata</i>
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Excellent views of two birds were had in Tapichalaca reserve, where a bird table has been successfully set up with grain in order to attract this species.

PARROTS

PSITTACIDAE

Golden-plumed Parakeet	<i>Leptosittaca branickii</i>
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This vulnerable species was seen really well several times at Tapichalaca, including two birds seen at length perched when their fine gold plumes could be seen well.

El Oro Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura orcesi</i>
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This endangered species was discovered as recently as 1980, and has a tiny world range, confined to southern Ecuador. We saw a bird at a nest box in Buenaventura, which is the type locality for the species.

White-necked (-breasted) Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura albipectus</i>
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*This near-endemic is found at just a few sites in southern Ecuador, and has also been recorded in extreme northern Peru. It is classified as vulnerable by IUCN, and has an estimated world population of fewer than one thousand birds. This year this species made me sweat a little, with two rainy days in Rio Bombuscaro coming up blank with no sight nor sound of them. Barbara finally put us out of our misery in our final minutes in the eastern foothills, when she found a fantastic flock of six birds along the Old Loja-Zamora Road, that we watched at length. Also known as **WHITE-BREASTED PARAKEET**.*

Red-masked Parakeet	<i>Aratinga erythrogenys</i>
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Our first birds were heard at Buenaventura, that unfortunately showed only to the guide. All of us caught up with them in Jorupe reserve, where several were seen well perched. Others were seen below Utuana, including one flock of nineteen birds that passed overhead.

White-eyed Parakeet	<i>Aratinga leucophthalma</i>
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Several were seen perched below Tapichalaca, on the road to Valladolid.

Pacific Parrotlet	<i>Forpus coelestis</i>
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This tiny parrot was seen at a number of sites on the tour, including Cerro Blanco, Catamayo, the Santa Elena Peninsula, and Ayampe.

Gray-cheeked Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris pyrrhoptera</i>
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Two were seen at Cerro Blanco on our first morning, with others seen perched at El Empalme, and others overflowed us at Sozoranga.

Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
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Two sightings on the tour: one flock flew past Copalinga Lodge in the eastern foothills, and another small group passed overhead at Rio Ayampe.

Red-billed Parrot	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>
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Flocks flew past in the Rio Bombuscaro area, although much better views of a perched bird were had on the road down to Valladolid (below Tapichalaca).

Bronze-winged Parrot	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i>
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Many were seen at Rio Ayampe, and a few others flew overhead at Buenaventura.

Red-lored Parrot (Amazon)	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>
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A few small groups were seen on our first morning in Cerro Blanco.

Scaly-naped Parrot (Amazon)	<i>Amazona mercenaria</i>
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A few birds were seen in the temperate forests within the Cajanuma sector of Podocarpus NP, and Tapichalaca.

CUCKOOS		CUCULIDAE	
GO	Little Cuckoo		<i>Coccyua minuta</i>
	<i>Just a brief sighting, for only the leader, at Rio Ayampe.</i>		
	Gray-capped Cuckoo		<i>Coccyzus lansbergi</i>
	<i>This cuckoo is rare and highly erratic in its appearances and was certainly one of the highlights of our time at Jorupe. Some considerable neck straining was required in order to see it well, which we all did, looking up at it in an area of dense scrub not far from the new lodge in the reserve.</i>		
	Striped Cuckoo		<i>Tapera naevia</i>
	<i>A couple were seen perched on wires near Santa Rosa.</i>		
	Greater Ani		<i>Crotophaga major</i>
	<i>Barbara found on of these large anis in a wetland area near Santa Rosa, a good find in the west of Ecuador where it is rare and local.</i>		
	Smooth-billed Ani		<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
	<i>Commonly recorded in many lowland areas.</i>		
	Groove-billed Ani		<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>
	<i>Commonly recorded in humid areas of the west, including around Ayampe and Jorupe.</i>		
OWLS		STRIGIDAE	
	(West) Peruvian Screech-Owl		<i>Megascops roboratus</i>
	<i>This tiny owl occurs right around the new lodge at Jorupe reserve, where we stayed for three nights. They were strangely difficult and uncooperative during our first two nights there, with few calling at all. However, a bird more than made up for this on our final night when fantastic views were had close to the lodge, and leading one person to mention this at his top bird of the trip. ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP</i>		
	Spectacled Owl		<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>
	<i>A highly responsive bird came in and perched in large ceiba tree overhead near our cabins, at the new Urracas Lodge in Jorupe reserve.</i>		
H	Band-bellied Owl		<i>Pulsatrix melanota</i>
	<i>Heard calling from Copalinga Lodge on the edge of Podocarpus NP.</i>		
H	Andean Pygmy-Owl		<i>Glaucidium jadinii</i>
	<i>A close calling bird could sadly not be located in an area of temperate cloud forest in El Cajas NP.</i>		
	Peruvian (Pacific) Pygmy-Owl		<i>Glaucidium peruanum</i>
	<i>Seen three times on the tour, at Cerro Blanco, below Utuana, and also in Machalilla NP.</i>		
H	Black-and-white Owl		<i>Ciccaba nigrolineata</i>
	<i>Heard calling close a number of times at Buenaventura, although remained in dense cover the whole time.</i>		
NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES		CAPRIMULGIDAE	
	Common Pauraque		<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
	<i>Seen along the road near Copalinga Lodge, and others were heard calling at Buenaventura and Jorupe.</i>		
	Scrub (Anthony's) Nightjar		<i>Caprimulgus anthonyi</i>
	<i>This restricted range species was taped in really close at Mantaraya Lodge, when it literally flew within a couple of inches of the top of my head, allowing for great views of the bird in flight. Also known as ANTHONY'S NIGHTJAR.</i>		
	Blackish Nightjar		<i>Caprimulgus nigrescens</i>
	<i>Two birds were seen near Copalinga Lodge, on the edge of Podocarpus NP.</i>		
	Swallow-tailed Nightjar		<i>Uropsalis segmentata</i>
	<i>A female bird flew in and landed on the entrance track to Tapichalaca Lodge a couple of times one night.</i>		

SWIFTS	APODIDAE
Chestnut-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>
<i>Five or so birds were seen near Valladolid, and others were seen near Rio Bombuscaro, and on the journey between there and the colonial city of Cuenca.</i>	
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
<i>Recorded at a number of sites including Cerro Blanco, Buenaventura, and Utuana.</i>	
Short-tailed (Tumbes) Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura ocybetes</i>
<i>A small group (5 birds) flew over Jorupe reserve one morning.</i>	
Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
<i>Seen in Buenaventura and Rio Bombuscaro.</i>	
White-tipped Swift	<i>Aeronautes montivagus</i>
<i>Three birds were seen on the journey between Zamora and Cuenca.</i>	
HUMMINGBIRDS	TROCHILIDAE
White-necked Jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>
<i>A common visitor to the amazing feeders at Buenaventura.</i>	
White-whiskered Hermit	<i>Phaethornis yaruqui</i>
<i>This Choco endemic was seen at the feeders within the Buenaventura reserve in the western foothills of the Andes. Buenaventura is at the southern limit of its range.</i>	
Green Hermit	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>
<i>At least one bird came into one of the feeders at Copalinga Lodge in the eastern foothills on several days.</i>	
Tawny-bellied Hermit	<i>Phaethornis syrmatorphorus</i>
<i>One was seen in a patch of forest just below Utuana.</i>	
Long-billed (Baron's) Hermit	<i>Phaethornis longirostris baroni</i>
<i>Singles were seen in the humid lowlands at Cerro Blanco and Ayampe, with further sightings in the western foothills of the Andes at the Buenaventura feeders.</i>	
Wedge-billed Hummingbird	<i>Schistes geoffroyi</i>
<i>One bird came in to feed on a clump of heliconias in Buenaventura.</i>	
Brown Violetear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>
<i>A common and regular visitor to the Buenaventura feeders.</i>	
Green Violetear	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>
<i>One was sharing a section of purple blooms at Copalinga Lodge, with a Spangled Coquette, a Sparkling Violetear, and several Violet-headed Hummingbirds.</i>	
Sparkling Violetear	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>
<i>Several birds were regularly seen defending flowers within the Copalinga Lodge garden.</i>	
Purple-crowned Fairy	<i>Heliostyris barroti</i>
<i>One was seen briefly within Buenaventura reserve.</i>	
Green-breasted (Black-throated) Mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii iridescens</i>
<i>Commonly recorded at Ayampe, where a good number of heliconias were attracting three or four birds on a regular basis on all of our visits there.</i>	
Amethyst-throated Sunangel	<i>Heliangelus amethysticollis</i>
<i>Regularly seen coming to the Tapichalaca feeders.</i>	
Little (Flame-throated) Sunangel	<i>Heliangelus micraster</i>
<i>Also regularly visiting the Tapichalaca feeders.</i>	
Purple-throated Sunangel	<i>Heliangelus viola</i>
<i>Although outnumbered by the spectacular Rainbow Starfrontlet, a regular visitor in small numbers to the feeders within Utuana reserve.</i>	

Wire-crested Thorntail	<i>Discosura popelairii</i>
<i>This fantastic little hummer was seen a number of times in the garden at Copalinga Lodge in the eastern foothills of the Andes. ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP</i>	
Green Thorntail	<i>Discosura conversii</i>
<i>One of the commonest hummers visiting the superb Buenaventura feeders.</i>	
Spangled Coquette	<i>Lophornis stictolophus</i>
<i>A female bird visited flowers in the garden of Copalinga Lodge on all three days there.</i>	
Speckled Hummingbird	<i>Adelomyia melanogenys</i>
<i>Common at the feeders in Tapichalaca reserve, with others seen at the Utuana feeders, and also one was seen in the eastern foothills along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Long-tailed Sylph	<i>Aglaiocercus kingi</i>
<i>This stunning hummingbird was seen daily coming to the feeders in the Tapichalaca reserve.</i>	
Violet-tailed Sylph	<i>Aglaiocercus coelestis</i>
<i>Although not coming to the feeders while we were there, several males and females of this restricted range species were seen visiting flowers within the Buenaventura reserve.</i>	
Ecuadorian Hillstar	<i>Oreotrochilus chimborazo</i>
<i>This stunning highland hummer was seen in El Cajas NP, where both a female and an immaculate violet-headed male, were watched visiting a patch of their favored chuquiragua flowers in the windswept paramo there. ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP</i>	
Blue-mantled Thornbill	<i>Chalcostigma stanleyi</i>
<i>Three birds were seen in the paramo of El Cajas NP.</i>	
Tyrian Metaltail	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>
<i>One was seen in temperate forest within the Cajanuma sector of Podocarpus NP, and others were seen in El Cajas NP.</i>	
Violet-throated Metaltail	<i>Metallura baroni</i>
<i>This endangered Ecuadorian endemic has a tiny world range confined to the south of this Andean country, and was therefore a key target during our day within El Cajas NP. One bird was seen a number of times feeding on pink flowers at the edge of a highland lake in the park.</i>	
Glowing Puffleg	<i>Eriocnemis vestita</i>
<i>A number of these pufflegs were seen along the track at Cajanuma, an area of temperate forest within Podocarpus NP. This hummer is deceptive in appearance appearing dull blackish and even uninteresting in some lights. One of the birds at Cajanuma caused quite a stir as the light caught the upper tail just right, when it lit up with bright turquoise, when the bird suddenly came to life. Very nearly one of the top birds of the trip for that alone, and rightly mentioned by some at the end of the trip, although got narrowly beaten by a swathe of other contenders at the final reckoning!</i>	
Sapphire-vented Puffleg	<i>Eriocnemis luciani</i>
<i>One was seen in an area of temperate cloud forest in El Cajas NP.</i>	
Bronzy Inca	<i>Coeligena coeligena</i>
<i>A couple of birds were seen around Tapichalaca.</i>	
Collared Inca	<i>Coeligena torquata</i>
<i>A daily visitor to the feeders within the temperate forest reserve of Tapichalaca. Also unusually seen within the eastern foothills at Copalinga Lodge and within Podocarpus NP.</i>	
Buff-winged Starfrontlet	<i>Coeligena lutetiae</i>
<i>A single bird regularly came to feeders at Casa Simpson (Tapichalaca).</i>	
Rainbow Starfrontlet	<i>Coeligena iris</i>
<i>This sensational hummingbird was the most regular species coming to the feeders at Utuana, where we watched them for some time. Unsurprisingly, ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP</i>	

Mountain Velvetbreast	<i>Lafresnaya lafresnayi</i>
<i>A female bird visited the feeders at Utuana several times, while we were transfixed by the spectacular Rainbow Starfrontlets there.</i>	
Chestnut-breasted Coronet	<i>Boissonneaua matthewsii</i>
<i>Commonly recorded at the Tapichalaca feeders.</i>	
Booted Racket-tail	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>
<i>Seen several times in the western foothills of the Andes in Buenaventura, including one male seen several times visiting a set of flowers while we watched a male Club-winged Manakin displaying. Also seen in the eastern foothills within Podocarpus NP.</i>	
White-tailed Hillstar (east)	<i>Urochroa bougueri leucura</i>
<i>One was seen briefly darting by at Rio Bombuscaro.</i>	
Fawn-breasted Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa rubinoides</i>
<i>Recorded on both the foothills of the western Andes at Buenaventura, and also in the temperate zone of the east Andes at Tapichalaca.</i>	
Green-crowned Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa jacula</i>
<i>A regular visitor to the Buenaventura feeders.</i>	
Violet-fronted Brilliant	<i>Heliodoxa leadbeateri</i>
<i>A number of birds were regularly coming to the Copalinga Lodge feeders in the eastern foothills of the Andes.</i>	
Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>
<i>One came to the feeders in the reserve at Buenaventura, and another was seen on the extension at Ayampe.</i>	
Purple-collared Woodstar	<i>Myrtis fanny</i>
<i>One visited some flowers at Catamayo.</i>	
White-bellied Woodstar	<i>Chaetocercus mulsant</i>
<i>Several visited the Tapichalaca feeders, and two more were seen in the garden of Copalinga Lodge.</i>	
Esmeraldas Woodstar	<i>Chaetocercus berlepschi</i>
 <i>An amazing year for this endangered, poorly known species. An Ecuadorian endemic that is only known from just two or three sites. It is only present at the best of these, Rio Ayampe, for just a few months a year. A brief late afternoon visit bought us our first of at least nine birds seen this year, (this first one a female). The following morning a longer visit to Rio Ayampe produced at least five different birds including several spanking adult males. Later that same day Rick also came across another male feeding on flowers just outside his room at Mantaraya Lodge! Finally, on our last day in the area we found another pair feeding on some white flowers along the highway between Mantaraya and Ayampe. A number of other unidentified woodstars were also seen feeding high in some trees. An incredible showing for this genuinely rare species. Unsurprisingly, ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TRIP</i>	
Short-tailed Woodstar	<i>Myrmia micrura</i>
<i>One bird was seen repeatedly visiting some red flowers on the Santa Elena Peninsula, at the start of the extension.</i>	
Violet-headed Hummingbird	<i>Klais guimeti</i>
<i>Three or four birds were seen visiting the flowers daily at Copalinga Lodge in the eastern foothills of the Andes.</i>	
Green-crowned Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania fannyi verticeps</i>
<i>A few were seen at Rio Ayampe on the Pacific Coast Extension.</i>	
Green-crowned (Emerald-bellied) Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania fannyi hypochlora</i>
<i>This distinctive "form" of Green-crowned Woodnymph was seen in good numbers this year at the Buenaventura feeders.</i>	
Fork-tailed Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania furcata</i>
<i>Just one was seen in the garden of Copalinga Lodge, in the eastern foothills of the Andes.</i>	
Tumbes Hummingbird	<i>Leucippus baeri</i>
<i>One came in to our pygmy-owl tape at El Empalme.</i>	

Andean Emerald	<i>Amazilia franciae</i>
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A regular visitor in good numbers to the Buenaventura feeders.

Glittering-throated Emerald	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>
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A few came to the flowers in the garden of Copalinga Lodge daily.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>
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Recorded around Buenaventura and Rio Ayampe.

Amazilia Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia amazilia</i>
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*Several forms of this distinctive hummingbird were seen on the tour. The alticola subspecies (sometimes split by some as Loja Hummingbird **A. alticola**), was seen a few times in Jorupe reserve. The nominate **Amazilia, A. amazilia** was seen at Cerro Blanco and Rio Ayampe.*

GO Golden-tailed Sapphire	<i>Chrysuronia oenone</i>
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Unfortunately a bird just came in briefly into the garden at Copalinga Lodge, where it showed to the guide only.

Violet-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Damophila julie</i>
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One of the commonest hummingbirds at the Buenaventura feeders.

TROGONS

TROGONIDAE

Ecuadorian Trogon	<i>Trogon mesurus</i>
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*A good run on this restricted range species this year, with first a pair seen at Cerro Blanco on our first morning, followed by two at Jorupe and daily sightings at Rio Ayampe. This has recently been split from **Black-tailed Trogon, T. melanurus**.*

Gartered (Northern Violaceous) Trogon	<i>Trogon caliaegatus</i>
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One was seen right beside the lodge restaurant at Buenaventura, and another was seen at Rio Ayampe.

Collared Trogon	<i>Trogon collaris</i>
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A male showed well along a forest trail at Rio Bombuscaro.

Golden-headed Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>
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*A pair were seen well as we made our way up to the **El Oro Parakeet** nesting area, another was seen in subtropical forest below Tapichalaca, and a final sighting was made in Podocarpus NP.*

MOTMOTS

MOMOTIDAE

Blue-crowned Motmot	<i>Momotus momota argenticinctus</i>
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Two singles were seen in Jorupe reserve, and a final sighting was made at Machalilla NP on the extension.

Blue-crowned (Highland) Motmot	<i>Momotus momota aequatorialis</i>
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Four singles were seen in various sectors of Podocarpus NP.

H Rufous Motmot	<i>Baryphthengus martii</i>
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One was heard calling in the western foothills of the Andes at Buenaventura.

Broad-billed Motmot	<i>Electron platyrhynchum</i>
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One was seen at Buenaventura.

KINGFISHERS

ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquatus</i>
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Scattered sightings were made at various wetland areas on the tour.

PUFFBIRDS

BUCCONIDAE

White-whiskered Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila panamensis</i>
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Barbara found a bird quietly sitting within a dark vine tangle at Rio Ayampe.

Black-streaked Puffbird	<i>Malacoptila fulvogularis</i>
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Maxine picked up a fine bird that was calling back to playback within Podocarpus NP on one afternoon.

Lanceolated Monklet	<i>Micromonacha lanceolata</i>
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This cute puffbird was 'scoped up along the trail at Rio Bombuscaro (Podocarpus NP).

JACAMARS	GALBULIDAE
Coppery-chested Jacamar	<i>Galbula pastazae</i>

This superb jacamar kickstarted our first morning within the Rio Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus NP, in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

NEW WORLD BARBETS	CAPITONIDAE
Red-headed Barbet	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>

A pair of these striking barbets was seen below the town of Valladolid, and further birds were seen in Rio Bombuscaro, and along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

TOUCANS	RAMPHASTIDAE
H Crimson-rumped Toucanet	<i>Aulacorhynchus haematopygus</i>

One was heard calling in Buenaventura.

Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan	<i>Andigena hypoglauca</i>
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Two birds were seen in a patch of temperate forest in El Cajas NP.

Collared (Pale-mandibled) Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus erythropygius</i>
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Two singles were seen in Buenaventura.

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan	<i>Ramphastos swainsonii</i>
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Two were seen in Buenaventura reserve.

Choco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos brevis</i>
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One was seen calling near Umbrellabird Lodge at Buenaventura.

WOODPECKERS	PICIDAE
Lafresnaye's Piculet	<i>Picumnus lafresnayi</i>

One lingered for some time in our scope in Podocarpus NP.

Ecuadorian Piculet	<i>Picumnus sclateri</i>
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Three sightings in the western lowlands: one at Cerro Blanco, another single at Jorupe, and finally in Machalilla NP.

Olivaceous Piculet	<i>Picumnus olivaceus</i>
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Two sightings were made in the western foothills of the Andes at Buenaventura.

Little Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis passerinus</i>
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Two birds were seen in the eastern foothills, including one from the lodge at Copalinga.

Scarlet-backed Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis callonotus</i>
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This fantastic little woodpecker was seen at various sites in the west, including Cerro Blanco, Jorupe, Rio Ayampe, and also around the lodge at Mantaraya on the extension.

GO Bar-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis nigriceps</i>
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One showed up briefly at Utuana.

Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>
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Recorded at Cerro Blanco, Rio Bombuscaro, and at Ayampe.

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rivolii</i>
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This superb woodpecker was seen just once, within temperate forest in the Cajanuma sector of Podocarpus NP.

Guayaquil Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus gayaquilensis</i>
<i>One bird was seen at Buenaventura in an amazing few hours of birding that also brought us Long-wattled Umbrellabird, Song Wren, Club-winged Manakin, Ochraceous Attila, Rufous-headed Chachalaca, and El Oro Parakeet.</i>	
OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS	FURNARIIDAE
Stout-billed Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes excelsior</i>
<i>This range-restricted species was seen in the paramo of El Cajas NP.</i>	
Bar-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>
<i>Regularly recorded in the paramo at El Cajas NP.</i>	
Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero	<i>Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus</i>
<i>A common bird within the lowlands of the west, recorded at many sites on the tour.</i>	
Andean Tit-Spintail	<i>Leptasthenura andicola</i>
<i>Two sightings were made within El Cajas NP.</i>	
Mouse-colored Thistletail	<i>Schizoeaca griseomurina</i>
<i>One bird came in really well in El Cajas NP, showing within a few meters of us in an area of polylepis woodland.</i>	
Azara's Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis azarae</i>
<i>Heard around Utuana and Cajanuma, and seen once at Buenaventura.</i>	
Dark-breasted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis albigularis</i>
<i>One showed well in the eastern foothills, along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Rufous Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis unirufa</i>
<i>Great views of several birds (including two dowdy brown juveniles), were had within the reserve at Tapichalaca.</i>	
Slaty Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis brachyura</i>
<i>Several were seen at Rio Ayampe on the extension.</i>	
Blackish-headed Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis tithys</i>
<i>This distinctive and endangered Tumbesian spinetail has a tiny world range, confined to just the southwest of Ecuador, and northwest of Peru. Great looks were obtained within the reserve at Jorupe.</i>	
Necklaced Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis stictothorax</i>
<i>A number of these spintails were seen during our morning on the Santa Elena Peninsula, with further birds seen later at Machalilla NP.</i>	
White-browed Spinetail	<i>Hellmayrea gularis</i>
<i>A pair were seen along the Jocotoco Trail at Tapichalaca.</i>	
Ash-browed Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca curtata</i>
<i>Seen several times in the eastern foothills of the Andes, with the best views obtained in the parking lot of Copalinga Lodge.</i>	
Line-cheeked Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca antisimensis</i>
<i>After a brief view in Buenaventura, much better looks were obtained in the southwestern highlands near Utuana.</i>	
Many-striped Canastero	<i>Asthenes flammulata</i>
<i>One bird was seen in El Cajas NP.</i>	
Equatorial Graytail	<i>Xenerpestes singularis</i>
<i>A pair were found in an amazing mixed flock in Podocarpus NP, that also contained Foothill Elaenia, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, and a whole swathe of tanagers including Paradise, Orange-eared, Yellow-bellied, and Golden-eared Tanagers.</i>	
Spotted Barbtail	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>
<i>One was seen in Tapichalaca.</i>	

	Pearled Treerunner	<i>Margarornis squamiger</i>
	<i>Recorded in temperate areas, at Tapichalaca, Cajanuma, and in El Cajas NP.</i>	
	Streaked Tuftedcheek	<i>Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii</i>
	<i>A pair were found in a mixed feeding flock in an area of temperate cloud forest in El Cajas NP.</i>	
	Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Anabacerthia variegaticeps</i>
	<i>Two singles were found in Buenaventura.</i>	
	Montane Foliage-gleaner	<i>Anabacerthia striaticollis</i>
	<i>One was seen in a mixed flock in the eastern foothills of the Andes, in Podocarpus NP.</i>	
	Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner	<i>Syndactyla ruficollis</i>
	<i>This vulnerable restricted range species is confined to southwestern Ecuador and northwestern Peru. A pair were seen well close to our lodge at Jorupe, and another was heard along the road up to Utuana.</i>	
	Flammulated Treehunter	<i>Thripadectes flammulatus</i>
	<i>One of these skulking furnariids was seen along a narrow forest trail in Tapichalaca.</i>	
H	Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>
	<i>One of these ovenbirds was heard calling several times at Rio Ayampe.</i>	
	Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner	<i>Hylocryptus erythrocephalus</i>
	<i>Four birds were seen in Jorupe, including one bird at a nest. This is another furnariid that is classified as vulnerable that has a small fragmented range in southwest Ecuador and northwest Peru.</i>	
	Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>
	<i>One was seen in the eastern foothills at Rio Bombuscaro.</i>	
	Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>
	<i>Recorded near Valladolid, at Copalinga Lodge, and also at Machalilla NP.</i>	
	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>
	<i>Two birds were seen at Rio Ayampe.</i>	
	Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus aequatorialis</i>
	<i>The western form was seen Cerro Blanco, Jorupe, and in Rio Ayampe.</i>	
	Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>
	<i>Two were seen in Podocarpus NP.</i>	
H	Spotted Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>
	<i>Heard calling at Buenaventura.</i>	
	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>
	<i>Recorded at a number of sites including Buenaventura, Cerro Blanco, Jorupe, Sozoranga, and Ayampe.</i>	
	Montane Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger</i>
	<i>One was seen at Sozoranga.</i>	
	Red-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus trochilirostris</i>
	<i>Good views of a bird were obtained at Cerro Blanco just outside of Guayaquil.</i>	
	Brown-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus pusillus</i>
	<i>One of these scarce scythebills was seen in Buenaventura.</i>	
	TYPICAL ANTBIRDS	THAMNOPHILIDAE
	Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>
	<i>A superb, fiery-red eyed male was seen at Rio Ayampe.</i>	
	Chapman's Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus zarumae</i>
	<i>A pair were seen in a bamboo stand at Utuana, that also held a pair of Piura Hemispingus.</i>	
	Lined Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus</i>
	<i>A male was seen in a forest patch below the town of Valladolid.</i>	

Collared Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus bernardi</i>
<i>A pair of these striking antshrikes was seen during our first morning at Cerro Blanco. Others were also seen at Jorupe, on the Santa Elena Peninsula, and at Machalilla NP.</i>	
Western Slaty-Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>
<i>One male was seen in the western foothills of the Andes, at Buenaventura.</i>	
Uniform Antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus unicolor</i>
<i>A male was seen in Buenaventura.</i>	
Russet Antshrike	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>
<i>A pair of these antshrikes was seen in the reserve at Buenaventura.</i>	
Plain Antwireo	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>
<i>Several birds were seen at Rio Ayampe, including a female attracted to an antswarm that also had White-backed Fire-eyes and Bicolored Antbirds in attendance.</i>	
Foothill Antwren	<i>Epinecophylla spodionota</i>
<i>A pair were seen in the eastern foothills of the Andes, within Podocarpus NP.</i>	
Slaty Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>
<i>A small party were seen at Buenaventura, and another pair were found on our final visit to Ayampe.</i>	
Long-tailed Antbird	<i>Drymophila caudata</i>
<i>Seen twice in the temperate forest of Tapichalaca.</i>	
Blackish Antbird	<i>Cercomacra nigrescens</i>
<i>A group of three birds were seen along the Old Loja-Zamora Road, in the eastern foothills of the Andes.</i>	
White-backed Fire-eye	<i>Pyriglena leuconota</i>
<i>A pair were seen briefly on our first morning at Ayampe, and up to six different birds were seen visiting a small antswarm there during our final visit.</i>	
White-browed Antbird	<i>Myrmoborus leucophrys</i>
<i>A male bird was seen along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>
<i>One was seen briefly on the west slope of the Andes, in Buenaventura reserve.</i>	
H Esmeraldas Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza nigricauda</i>
<i>A bird was calling downslope from us at Buenaventura, but could not be tempted in any closer unfortunately.</i>	
Immaculate Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza immaculata</i>
<i>One jet black male was seen in the western foothills of the Andes within Buenaventura reserve.</i>	
Bicolored Antbird	<i>Gymnopithys leucaspis</i>
<i>Two were found at an antswarm at Rio Ayampe, that also attracted up to 6 White-backed Fire-eyes, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, and a Plain Antwireo.</i>	
Gray-headed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza griseiceps</i>
<i>This rare antbird is classified as vulnerable and has a tiny and fragmented range in southwest Ecuador and northwest Peru. We managed to find one on our final morning just below Utuana, when a bird was lured across a small gap in a dense stand of chusquea bamboo, when half of the group managed to get a look at it before it returned into deep cover once more.</i>	
ANTTHRUSHES	FORMICARIIDAE
H Short-tailed Antthrush	<i>Chamaeza campanisona</i>
<i>One was heard calling along a forest track at Rio Bombuscaro.</i>	
H Barred Antthrush	<i>Chamaeza mollissima</i>
<i>A distant calling bird was heard within the reserve at Tapichalaca. None were heard at all at the historically good site of San Francisco, in Podocarpus NP.</i>	

ANTPITTAS		GRALLARIIDAE	
H	Undulated Antpitta		Grallaria squamigera
	<i>One was heard calling within El Cajas NP.</i>		
H	Scaled Antpitta		Grallaria guatemalensis
	<i>Several calling birds were heard in Buenaventura reserve.</i>		
	Plain-backed Antpitta		Grallaria haplonota
	<i>For me one of the tour highlights was getting great looks at this tough antpitta in the reserve at Buenaventura. A little off trail walking was necessary to get us in position, where finally Rick picked out the bird sitting in a great position.</i>		
	Chestnut-crowned Antpitta		Grallaria ruficapilla
	<i>One of these handsome antpittas scurried across the path in front of us in El Cajas NP.</i>		
	Watkins's Antpitta		Grallaria watkinsi
	<i>This restricted range antpitta was seen well at Jorupe, even hopping out onto the path in front of us at one stage.</i>		
	Jocotoco Antpitta		Grallaria ridgelyi
	<i>Strangely not mentioned as one of the tour highlights at our final farewell dinner. Perhaps they were just a little too easy! Currently one of the easiest Ecuadorian antpittas to see, by virtue of the fact they have a habituated pair and juvenile coming daily to feed on worms. We first saw a juvenile bird standing brazenly on the trail, before later seeing both the adults too within just a few feet of us at times. Superb as always. One of Ecuador's most charismatic birds, that was only discovered back in 1997, and remains listed as endangered.</i>		
GO	Chestnut-naped Antpitta		Grallaria nuchalis
	<i>One bird finally taped in at Tapichalaca, although passed by quickly before anyone but the leader could see it.</i>		
	Rufous Antpitta		Grallaria rufula
	<i>We followed a bird that was feeding on a forest trail during a three antpitta morning (along with Jocotoco and Slate-crowned Antpittas) at Tapichalaca.</i>		
	Tawny Antpitta		Grallaria quitensis
	<i>Our seventh and final antpitta of the tour was this one in El Cajas. A bird was seen scrambling clumsily across the main highway through the park.</i>		
	Slate-crowned Antpitta		Grallaricula nana
	<i>A pair gave extremely good views in a patch of chusquea bamboo in the reserve of Tapichalaca.</i>		
TAPACULOS		RHINOCRYPTIDAE	
H	Ash-colored Tapaculo		Myornis senilis
	<i>A close calling bird at Tapichalaca could not be tempted out into the open.</i>		
H	Blackish (Unicolored) Tapaculo		Scytalopus (unicolor) latrans
	<i>Heard around Utuana and later at El Cajas.</i>		
H	(Northern) White-crowned Tapaculo		Scytalopus atratus
	<i>A bird was heard calling from dense cover along the Old Loja-Zamora Road in the eastern foothills.</i>		
	Chusquea Tapaculo		Scytalopus parkeri
	<i>Three different birds were seen very well along the forest trails at Tapichalaca.</i>		
	Ocellated Tapaculo		Acropternis orthonyx
	<i>This large and distinctive polka-dotted tapaculo is one of the classic birds of the Andes. We saw one very well along the trail at Tapichalaca, even allowing us to scope it up for a time too!</i>		
CRESCENTCHESTS		MELANOPAREIIDAE	
	Elegant Crescentchest		Melanopareia elegans
	<i>Three different sightings were made at Sozoranga, the final one being the best of all when a bird emerged out of the scrub and sang for a time from an open branch in a dead tree.</i>		

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS	TYRANNIDAE
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>
<i>Recorded at a number of lowland sites throughout, including Cerro Blanco, Jorupe, and Ayampe.</i>	
White-tailed Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus poecilocercus</i>
<i>Recorded near Utuana in the southwestern highlands of the Andes.</i>	
White-banded Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus stictopterus</i>
<i>Recorded in the temperate highland forests of Cajanuma, and El Cajas NP.</i>	
White-throated Tyrannulet	<i>Mecocerculus leucophrys</i>
<i>One was found in a feeding flock in an area of temperate cloudforest in El Cajas.</i>	
Black-crested Tit-Tyrant	<i>Anairetes nigrocristatus</i>
<i>This delightful flycatcher was found in the Jocotoco Foundation reserve of Utuana.</i>	
Mouse-colored (Tumbesian) Tyrannulet	<i>Phaeomyias murina tumbezana</i>
<i>At least three birds were seen during our morning on the Santa Elena Peninsula.</i>	
Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>
<i>A pair were found in a bamboo stand at Rio Ayampe.</i>	
Foothill Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis olallai</i>
<i>A single bird was found in a magical mixed flock on two consecutive days within Podocarpus NP. This bird was only described for the first time in 2000.</i>	
Pacific Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis subplacens</i>
<i>Seen during the first tour of the morning at Cerro Blanco, with others recorded in Jorupe, Sozoranga, and Ayampe.</i>	
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>
<i>One was seen at Cerro Blanco, and others were found on the Santa Elena Peninsula, and at Rio Ayampe.</i>	
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>
<i>Recorded daily at Rio Ayampe.</i>	
White-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>
<i>Seen in Podocarpus NP, at Cajanuma.</i>	
Mottle-backed Elaenia	<i>Elaenia gigas</i>
<i>One was seen just south of the Andean town of Valladolid.</i>	
Sierran Elaenia	<i>Elaenia pallatangae</i>
<i>A few were seen near Valladolid, downslope from Tapichalaca.</i>	
Olive-striped Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>
<i>Recorded at Buenaventura and in the Rio Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus NP.</i>	
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>
<i>A few were seen in a mixed flock within Podocarpus NP.</i>	
Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant	<i>Phylloscartes ophthalmicus</i>
<i>One was found within a mixed flock in Rio Bombuscaro.</i>	
Ecuadorian Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscartes gualaquizae</i>
<i>Seen in the eastern foothills of the Andes at Rio Bombuscaro.</i>	
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias griseiceps</i>
<i>One was seen at Rio Ayampe.</i>	
Black-capped Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias nigrocapillus</i>
<i>Seen in the highlands of the eastern Andes at Cajanuma and Tapichalaca.</i>	
Golden-faced Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius chrysops chrysops</i>
<i>This eastern form of Golden-faced Tyrannulet was seen near Valladolid, in the grounds of Copalinga Lodge, and along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	

Golden-faced (Loja) Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius chrysops flavidifrons</i>
<i>This southwestern "form" (confined to SW Ecuador) of Golden-faced Tyrannulet was seen several times in the Utuana area, where their distinctive vocalizations were also heard frequently.</i>	
Ornate Flycatcher	<i>Myiotriccus ornatus</i>
<i>Recorded in both the western (Buenaventura), and eastern foothills (Rio Bombuscaro) of the Andes.</i>	
Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Pseudotriccus ruficeps</i>
<i>One was seen in a thick stand of chusquea bamboo at Tapichalaca.</i>	
Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Euscarthmus meloryphus</i>
<i>Seen in several sights in the lowlands of the west, including El Empalme, on the Santa Elena Peninsula, and lastly at Ayampe.</i>	
Gray-and-white Tyrannulet	<i>Pseudelaenia leucospodia</i>
<i>At least four of these "horny" flycatchers were seen in the dry scrub of the Santa Elena Peninsula on the extension.</i>	
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>
<i>One was seen in the western foothills of the Andes at Buenaventura.</i>	
Black-throated Tody-Tyrant	<i>Hemitriccus granadensis</i>
<i>Barbara found a pair of these cute highland flycatchers during our wet morning in the Cajanuma sector of Podocarpus NP.</i>	
Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilotriccus ruficeps</i>
<i>Another stunning little flycatcher (that was picked out by at least one member of the group as one of their top five birds of the trip), that was seen in a stand of bamboo below Utuana.</i>	
Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilotriccus calopterus</i>
<i>This striking flycatcher was seen in the garden of Copalinga Lodge just shortly after our arrival.</i>	
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
<i>Recorded in the eastern foothills of the Andes at Copalinga Lodge, and also seen near the town of Valladolid in the east, with others seen at Ayampe in the western lowlands.</i>	
Brownish Twistwing	<i>Cnipodectes subbrunneus</i>
<i>One of these distinctive vocal flycatchers was seen well at Buenaventura.</i>	
Yellow-olive Flycatcher (Flatbill) (west)	<i>Tolmomyias sulphureus aequatorialis</i>
<i>This western form was seen in the Jocotoco Foundation reserve of Jorupe.</i>	
White-throated Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>
<i>One was seen in the forest understorey at Buenaventura.</i>	
Cinnamon Flycatcher	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus</i>
<i>Seen within the wet forests of the eastern highlands at both Cajanuma and Tapichalaca.</i>	
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius sulphureipygius</i>
<i>A bird showed all too briefly at Buenaventura, although the one found in a really nice forest patch at Ayampe showed much better on our final afternoon.</i>	
Black-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Myiobius atricaudus</i>
<i>Not long before Barbara found a Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher at Ayampe we got to see one of these very similar birds, making for good comparison of the two species.</i>	
Orange-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus phoenicomitra</i>
<i>This scarce Andean flycatcher was seen on both our visits to the Rio Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus NP.</i>	
Orange-banded Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus lintoni</i>
<i>This distinctive flycatcher has a tiny range, and is local within this area of southern Ecuador and extreme northern Peru. A vocal bird was found at dawn at Tapichalaca, with another small group seen later the same morning there too.</i>	

Olive-chested Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus cryptoxanthus</i>
<i>A bird was found south of the Andean town of Valladolid, with another pair found in the lodge garden at Copalinga.</i>	
Bran-colored Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
<i>One was seen near Jorupe, and another at Ayampe on the extension.</i>	
Gray-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Lathrotriccus griseipectus</i>
<i>This flycatcher is classified as vulnerable, and is declining within its small range in southern Ecuador and northern Peru. The population is estimated at fewer than one thousand birds. One was seen just before our first Elegant Crescentchest at Sozoranga, and another pair showed much better in our final moments of birding at Rio Ayampe on our final day of the tour.</i>	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>
<i>Two were seen one afternoon along the Old Loja-Zamora Road in the eastern Andes.</i>	
Smoke-colored Pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>
<i>Several were seen in area around Sozoranga.</i>	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
<i>One of these boreal migrants was seen just south of Valladolid.</i>	
Tropical (Tumbes) Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus punensis</i>
<i>Recorded in good numbers daily in Ayampe on the extension.</i>	
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
<i>Scattered sightings made along various Andean rivers throughout the tour.</i>	
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
<i>Seen on our first morning in Cerro Blanco, and many were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula.</i>	
Plain-capped (Páramo) Ground-Tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola alpinus</i>
<i>Three were found in open paramo at El Cajas NP.</i>	
Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant	<i>Agriornis montanus</i>
<i>One of these white-tailed high Andean flycatchers was seen in El Cajas NP.</i>	
Smoky Bush-Tyrant	<i>Myiotheretes fumigatus</i>
<i>One was seen in area of temperate forest in El Cajas.</i>	
Masked Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola nengeta</i>
<i>Several were seen in marshes south of Guayaquil en-route to Buenaventura, and others were seen at Ayampe.</i>	
Crowned Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca frontalis</i>
<i>One showed in Tapichalaca, during our "antpitta morning" in this highland reserve.</i>	
Jelski's Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca jelskii</i>
<i>One was seen at Utuana.</i>	
Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca diadema</i>
<i>Two were seen at Tapichalaca.</i>	
Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris</i>
<i>Two were found en-route to Valladolid on the east slope of the Andes.</i>	
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca rufipectoralis</i>
<i>Two of these striking chat-tyrants were found at Tapichalaca.</i>	
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	<i>Ochthoeca fumicolor</i>
<i>Two were seen in paramo at El Cajas NP.</i>	
Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>
<i>Two were found just south of Valladolid.</i>	
Short-tailed Field-Tyrant	<i>Muscigralla brevicauda</i>
<i>Just one was seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula, when it came in to mob our pygmy-owl tape.</i>	

Ochraceous Attila	<i>Attila torridus</i>
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This endangered bird was very vocal during the tour. One came in well at Buenaventura where at least two other birds were heard in our two days there. Another bird was found in a nice patch of forest at Ayampe on the extension.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
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Recorded at Buenaventura and near Utuana.

Sooty-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus phaeocephalus</i>
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One was seen at Jorupe.

Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
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Recorded at a number of lowland sites, including Jorupe, and Ayampe.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
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Seen at Cerro Blanco on our first morning.

Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
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Recorded in the eastern foothills around Zamora, and also seen near the Andean town of Valladolid.

H Lemon-browed Flycatcher	<i>Conopias cinchoneti</i>
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Heard several times in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Golden-crowned Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</i>
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A pair were seen at Rio Bombuscaro.

Baird's Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes bairdii</i>
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Two were seen en-route to Jorupe at El Empalme, and another was hanging around the lodge garden at Mantaraya Lodge.

Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
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Two were seen at Cerro Blanco on our first morning, commonly encountered at Jorupe, and regularly too at Ayampe.

Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
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Two sightings in the eastern foothills of the Andes.

Snowy-throated Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus niveigularis</i>
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One was seen on our journey south from Cerro Blanco to Buenaventura on our first day, and another was seen during our morning on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
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Regularly recorded throughout the tour.

COTINGAS

COTINGIDAE

Red-crested Cotinga	<i>Ampelion rubrocristatus</i>
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A pair were found at Utuana.

Green-and-black Fruiteater	<i>Pipreola riefferii</i>
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One pair were found at Cajanuma, not far from where we had just had a Barred Fruiteater.

Barred Fruiteater	<i>Pipreola arcuata</i>
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A male was seen at Cajanuma, and later another bird (this time a female) was seen at Tapichalaca.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola peruvianus</i>
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A female was seen at Rio Bombuscaro, although a stunning fiery-orange male was seen the following day along the Old Loja-Zamora Road that atypically fed boldly in the open, just a short distance from where a group of White-breasted Parakeets was perched.

Amazonian Umbrellabird	<i>Cephalopterus ornatus</i>
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Maxine glanced up to find one of these huge black cotingas perched above us, in Rio Bombuscaro, that completed a nice brace of umbrellabirds for the tour.

Long-wattled Umbrellabird	<i>Cephalopterus penduliger</i>
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One of the biggest (literally) target birds on the tour, this localized bird has a regular lek in the Buenaventura reserve. A pre-dawn start saw us heading down the trail at first light, and pretty soon we heard the characteristic low mooing of this giant cotinga. We walked down the trail and found one male sitting low with its incredibly long wattle extended to full amazing effect. Over the next half hour or so up to 4 different males were encountered in the area. Surprisingly not picked by anyone in their final choices of top five birds of the trip!

MANAKINS	PIPRIDAE
Club-winged Manakin	<i>Machaeropterus deliciosus</i>

Several superb males were seen giving their fascinating display in the reserve at Buenaventura.

Striped Manakin	<i>Machaeropterus regulus</i>
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Encountered during both of our visits to the Rio Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus NP in the eastern foothills.

Blue-rumped Manakin	<i>Lepidothrix isidorei</i>
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A single male was seen on both of our trips to Rio Bombuscaro.

White-bearded Manakin	<i>Manacus manacus</i>
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Several females were seen at Buenaventura, and later a male was seen at Ayampe.

TITYRAS AND ALLIES	TITYRIDAE
Masked Tityra	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>

Several were seen in the eastern foothills of the Andes, and another was seen at Rio Ayampe.

Thrush-like Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis turdina</i>
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A bird was found by the feeders at Buenaventura.

GO Green-backed (Yellow-cheeked) Becard	<i>Pachyramphus viridis xanthogenys</i>
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An unusually elusive bird came into tape just briefly near the town of Valladolid, but quickly retreated back into cover.

Barred Becard	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>
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One male was found in a mixed flock with Citrine Warblers and others in Podocarpus NP, and a female was seen as we travelled to Tapichalaca in a mixed flock with Golden-crowned Tanagers and Black-headed Hemispinguses.

Slaty Becard	<i>Pachyramphus spodiurus</i>
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A nesting pair were seen in the reserve at Jorupe, and a feisty male was seen in the parking lot at Mantaraya Lodge.

Black-and-white Becard	<i>Pachyramphus albogriseus</i>
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In a rich corner of the Jorupe reserve for becards, we found three species in one massive ceiba tree: a male of this one, a pair of Slaty Becards that were nesting within the tree, and a One-colored Becard too.

One-colored Becard	<i>Pachyramphus homochrous</i>
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A few were seen in the Jorupe area.

GO VIREOS	VIREONIDAE
Brown-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>

One was seen by only the leader in the Utuana area.

Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
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Commonly encountered in Jorupe, Cerro Blanco, and Ayampe.

Olivaceous Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus olivaceus</i>
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A calling bird in the lodge garden could not be located at Copalinga Lodge, although one was seen a short time later along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
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A few were seen at Cerro Blanco, Jorupe, Sozoranga, Valladolid, and Ayampe.

CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES

CORVIDAE

Green (Inca) Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas yncas</i>
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A pair seen on the road to Valladolid was our first sightings, and further birds were encountered around Rio Bombuscaro.

White-tailed Jay	<i>Cyanocorax mystacalis</i>
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One of the most stunning Tumbesian birds, recorded a number of times in Jorupe reserve, and also seen a little higher than there at Sozoranga.

Turquoise Jay	<i>Cyanolyca turcosa</i>
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Seen in the wet temperate forests of Cajanuma and Tapichalaca.

SWALLOWS

HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
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Seen at many sites on the tour, from the lowlands right up into temperate areas of the highlands.

Brown-bellied Swallow	<i>Orochelidon murina</i>
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A few were seen near Tapichalaca, and others were seen in the paramo of El Cajas.

White-banded Swallow	<i>Atticora fasciata</i>
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A few were seen flying around Copalinga Lodge.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
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Commonly encountered in lowland areas.

Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
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Regularly recorded around the Santa Elena Peninsula, in the Guayaquil area, and in other low lying areas.

Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
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A few were seen just south of Guayaquil on several journeys in the area.

Chestnut-collared Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon rufocollaris</i>
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This local species was seen nesting in a highland town near Jorupe, that got us some great looks at them as they stared out at us from their mud nests.

WRENS

TROGLODYTIDAE

Fasciated Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus fasciatus</i>
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This bold and vociferous wren was recorded in dry areas of the tumbesian region a number of times including in Cerro Blanco, El Empalme, Jorupe, Sozoranga, and also within the grounds of Mantaraya Lodge.

Gray-mantled Wren	<i>Odontorchilus branickii</i>
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One bird was found within a small flock along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Rufous Wren	<i>Cinnycerthia unirufa</i>
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Recorded daily at Tapichalaca, and also in the San Francisco area of Podocarpus NP.

Plain-tailed Wren	<i>Thryothorus euophrys</i>
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Their loud calls were heard regularly around Tapichalaca, although just one was seen at Cajanuma.

H Whiskered Wren	<i>Thryothorus mystacalis</i>
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Heard a few times at Buenaventura.

Bay Wren	<i>Thryothorus nigricapillus</i>
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Two birds were seen in the reserve at Buenaventura.

Speckle-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus sclateri</i>
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A pair were seen first in Cerro Blanco, and then a few more birds were seen in Rio Ayampe.

Superciliated Wren	<i>Thryothorus superciliaris</i>
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Several birds came in to mob our owl tape on the Santa Elena Peninsula, and others were seen at Ayampe and Machalilla NP.

House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
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Seen at Cerro Blanco, Buenaventura, Jorupe, and Ayampe.

Mountain Wren	<i>Troglodytes solstitialis</i>
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Single birds were seen in the wet temperate forests of Cajanuma and Tapichalaca.

Sedge (Grass) Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis aequatorialis</i>
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Two birds were seen singing from a stand of sedges in El Cajas NP.

White-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>
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Two birds were seen during one morning at Rio Bombuscaro.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>
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One was seen in Buenaventura.

Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren	<i>Microcerculus marginatus</i>
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A bird came in extremely close and then showed off to us by singing from an open branch in front of us all at Ayampe on our final afternoon.

Song Wren	<i>Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus</i>
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Three birds were seen scratching around in the leaf litter at Buenaventura.

GNATCATCHERS

POLIOPTILIDAE

Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>
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Seen at a number of lowland sites, including Cerro Blanco, El Empalme, and also on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>
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One was seen at Buenaventura.

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus fuscater</i>
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A bird came in well in the reserve at Utuana.

Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
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This winter visitor from North America was encountered at Buenaventura, Tapichalaca, Rio Bombuscaro, and at Ayampe.

Plumbeous-backed Thrush	<i>Turdus reevei</i>
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Our first sighting came in the dry scrub of El Empalme, and many were seen at Jorupe. Finally, a single bird was seen during our "tinamou hunt" in Machalilla NP.

Pale-vented Thrush	<i>Turdus obsoletus</i>
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A bird was seen hopping along the track in front of our vehicle at Buenaventura.

Ecuadorian Thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>
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This recently recognized species was seen in Cerro Blanco, with others seen near Jorupe, and Ayampe.

Black-billed Thrush	<i>Turdus ignobilis</i>
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Several were seen in the lodge garden at Copalinga. Another was seen below Valladolid.

Marañon Thrush	<i>Turdus maranonicus</i>
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Just one bird was found south of Valladolid.

Great Thrush	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>
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Commonly encountered in the highlands of the Andes.

Chiguanco Thrush	<i>Turdus chiguanco</i>
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One was seen in our hotel garden in Cuenca, and others were seen near Utuana.

Glossy-black Thrush	<i>Turdus serranus</i>
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Recorded near Utuana, and another was seen on the journey between Tapichalaca and Copalinga Lodge.

White-necked Thrush	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>
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A single bird was seen in a fruiting tree at Rio Bombuscaro on both of our visits to there.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

MIMIDAE

Long-tailed Mockingbird	<i>Mimus longicaudatus</i>
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Commonly seen around Jorupe, on the Santa Elena Peninsula and also at Machalilla NP.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS

MOTACILLIDAE

Paramo Pipit	<i>Anthus bogotensis</i>
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A pair were seen in the paramo at El Cajas NP.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

PARULIDAE

Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>
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Recorded in Jorupe, Rio Bombuscaro, and a number of times at Ayampe.

Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>
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Seen at Cajanuma, near Valladolid, and along the Old Loja-Zamora Road on several occasions.

Olive-crowned Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis semiflava</i>
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A pair were seen at Buenaventura.

Masked (Black-lored) Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis auricularis</i>
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Three different birds were seen on our final morning in the Ayampe area.

Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>
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A number of birds were seen within mixed feeding flocks at Rio Bombuscaro and also along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Slate-throated Redstart	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
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Encountered in mixed flocks at Buenaventura, Utuana, Rio Bombuscaro, and finally along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Spectacled Redstart	<i>Myioborus melanocephalus</i>
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This highland warbler was seen in Cajanuma, Tapichalaca, and also in a patch of cloudforest in El Cajas NP.

Gray-and-gold Warbler	<i>Basileuterus fraseri</i>
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A single bird was seen in Buenaventura, and a number of different sightings were made in Jorupe.

Citrine Warbler	<i>Basileuterus luteoviridis</i>
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Two birds were found in mixed flocks at Cajanuma, and a few more were seen in Tapichalaca.

Black-crested Warbler	<i>Basileuterus nigrocristatus</i>
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Recorded at Utuana, and also in an area of temperate forest in El Cajas NP.

Russet-crowned Warbler	<i>Basileuterus coronatus</i>
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Seen at Cajanuma and also in Tapichalaca.

Three-banded Warbler	<i>Basileuterus trifasciatus</i>
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A pair were found at Buenaventura, and a few others were seen around Utuana.

Three-striped Warbler	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>
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Two were seen in Buenaventura.

H Buff-rumped Warbler	<i>Phaeothlypis fulvicauda</i>
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One bird was heard calling close from dense cover along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

BANANAQUIT		COEREBIDAE	
Bananaquit		Coereba flaveola	
<i>Commonly encountered in lowland areas throughout the tour.</i>			
TANAGERS AND ALLIES		THRAUPIDAE	
Black-faced Tanager		Schistochlamys melanopis	
<i>Although not globally rare, in Ecuador this bird is very local, found only in the Rio Marañon drainage basin in the extreme south of the country. We just got into its range south of Valladolid where a single bird was seen in an area that also produced another Marañon specialty, Marañon Thrush.</i>			
Magpie Tanager		Cissopis leverianus	
<i>Small numbers of this huge striking tanager were seen around the garden of Copalinga Lodge.</i>			
Black-capped Hemispingus		Hemispingus atropileus	
<i>Five or more birds were found in a mixed understory flock in Podocarpus NP (Cajanuma).</i>			
Superciliaried Hemispingus		Hemispingus superciliaris	
<i>Just the one bird was seen during our wet morning in the temperate forest of Cajanuma.</i>			
Black-eared (Piura) Hemispingus		Hemispingus melanotis piurae	
<i>This strikingly different "form" of Black-eared Hemispingus used to be considered a separate species, confined to just southern Ecuador and NW Peru. Whether it is a distinct species or not it is a stunning hemispingus. A pair was found in a large stand of bamboo near Utuana, that also held a pair of Chapman's Antshrikes, several Rufous-chested and Silvery Tanagers, and a beastly Black-cowled Saltator.</i>			
Black-headed Hemispingus		Hemispingus verticalis	
<i>A pair of these handsome tanagers was seen in a mixed feeding flock in Tapichalaca reserve.</i>			
Gray-hooded Bush Tanager		Cnemoscopus rubrirostris	
<i>A number of these tail-pumping tanagers were seen in various flocks around Tapichalaca.</i>			
Rufous-chested Tanager		Thlypopsis ornata	
<i>This bright orange tanager was seen a number of times in the Utuana area.</i>			
Blue-backed Conebill		Conirostrum sitticolor	
<i>One was seen in a mixed flock in Cajanuma, and another was seen in an area of temperate forest in the lower reaches of El Cajas NP.</i>			
Capped Conebill		Conirostrum albifrons	
<i>Seen within the Cajanuma sector of Podocarpus NP, and later also in Tapichalaca too.</i>			
Giant Conebill		Oreomanes fraseri	
<i>The BIRD OF THE TRIP. A fantastic pair of these polylepis specialists were found in an area of this woodland in El Cajas NP. This charismatic conebill gave a wonderful performance. After the pair came into investigate my tape they lingered on an open flaky red polylepis branch for some time ensuring we all soaked them up thoroughly. One of the classic birds of the high Andes.</i>			
Tit-like Dacnis		Xenodacnis parina	
<i>Another classic high Andean species, only found locally in southern Ecuador, and also Peru. El Cajas is an excellent site for the species that are often tame and approachable there. We had stellar views of both males and females in the park, at extremely close quarters.</i>			
Common Bush-Tanager		Chlorospingus ophthalmicus	
<i>Regularly recorded within flocks in the eastern foothills of the Andes.</i>			
Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager		Chlorospingus flavigularis	
<i>Seen in the foothills of the west (Buenaventura), and also in the eastern foothills around Rio Bombuscaro.</i>			
Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager		Chlorospingus canigularis	
<i>A few were seen on both of our days in the reserve at Buenaventura.</i>			

	Guira Tanager	<i>Hemithraupis guira</i>
	<i>Just the one bird was seen, a male, along the Old Loja-Zamora Road in the eastern foothills of the Andes.</i>	
	Ochre-breasted Tanager	<i>Chlorothraupis stolzmanni</i>
	<i>One that came through in a busy mixed flock as thick cloud descended upon us at Buenaventura, unfortunately did not linger for everyone to see it.</i>	
	Flame-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus cristatus</i>
	<i>One was found in a dizzy flock of tanagers and others around the HQ at Rio Bombuscaro. The same flock held Spotted, Golden-eared, Orange-eared, Paradise, and Yellow-bellied Tanagers, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Foothill Elaenia, Ash-browed Spinetail, and Equatorial Graytail!</i>	
	White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>
	<i>Just one was recorded at Buenaventura.</i>	
	White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>
	<i>Just recorded on the east side of the Andes around Copalinga Lodge.</i>	
	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>
	<i>First recorded south of the town of Valladolid, with others seen around Copalinga Lodge, and along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
	Flame-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus flammigerus icteronotus</i>
	<i>Commonly recorded in the lowlands and foothills of the west.</i>	
	Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
	<i>Recorded at a number of low lying areas throughout the tour.</i>	
	Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
	<i>Seen around Buenaventura, Copalinga Lodge, Valladolid, and Ayampe.</i>	
	Blue-capped Tanager	<i>Thraupis cyanocephala</i>
	<i>Two were seen in Utuana, and others were seen around Tapichalaca.</i>	
GO	Hooded Mountain-Tanager	<i>Buthraupis montana</i>
	<i>One came through in a fast moving flock in the garden of Casa Simpson in Tapichalaca.</i>	
	Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager	<i>Anisognathus lacrymosus</i>
	<i>This "teary" tanager was seen in a number of flocks in the temperate forest in the Tapichalaca reserve.</i>	
	Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager	<i>Anisognathus igniventris</i>
	<i>A pair of these striking Andean birds were seen in a patch of temperate forest within El Cajas NP.</i>	
	Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager	<i>Anisognathus somptuosus</i>
	<i>A small group were found between Tapichalaca and Valladolid, and another was seen in the San Francisco sector of Podocarpus NP.</i>	
	Grass-green Tanager	<i>Chlorornis riefferii</i>
	<i>Two of these handsome Andean tanagers were found within a feeding flock in a rainbreak at Cajanuma.</i>	
	Golden-crowned Tanager	<i>Iridosornis rufivertex</i>
	<i>For me one of the best of all the Andean tanagers found in Ecuador. Four were seen in a mixed flock as we traveled into Tapichalaca. Another sighting was made later within the reserve there too.</i>	
	Fawn-breasted Tanager	<i>Pipraeidea melanonota</i>
	<i>Two were seen in Buenaventura, and another was seen below Utuana.</i>	
H	Glistening-green Tanager	<i>Chlorochrysa phoenicotis</i>
	<i>One of these local tanagers was heard calling within a mixed flock just as thick cloud descended upon us (in Buenaventura), making anything within near impossible to see. Sadly once the cloud rolled back the flock had moved on!</i>	
	Orange-eared Tanager	<i>Chlorochrysa calliparaea</i>
	<i>Several of these vivid green tanagers were seen in THE tanager flock within Rio Bombuscaro, on both of our visits to the area.</i>	

Paradise Tanager	<i>Tangara chilensis</i>
<i>Three were seen just below Valladolid, and others were seen regularly within Rio Bombuscaro, and along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Green-and-gold Tanager	<i>Tangara schrankii</i>
<i>Commonly seen within Rio Bombuscaro.</i>	
Golden Tanager	<i>Tangara arthus</i>
<i>Recorded several times in Buenaventura, and also in the eastern foothills of the Andes.</i>	
Silver-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>
<i>Just one was seen in Buenaventura.</i>	
Saffron-crowned Tanager	<i>Tangara xanthocephala</i>
<i>One was found between Tapichalaca and Valladolid, and small numbers were also seen along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Golden-eared Tanager	<i>Tangara chrysotis</i>
<i>Three were found near the Andean town of Valladolid, and others were seen in Rio Bombuscaro and along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Flame-faced Tanager	<i>Tangara parzudakii</i>
<i>One was seen along a forest trail in Rio Bombuscaro.</i>	
Yellow-bellied Tanager	<i>Tangara xanthogastra</i>
<i>One was seen in a huge tanager flock within the Rio Bombuscaro sector of Podocarpus NP.</i>	
Spotted Tanager	<i>Tangara punctata</i>
<i>Recorded regularly within mixed flocks in the eastern foothills of the Andes.</i>	
Rufous-throated Tanager	<i>Tangara rufigula</i>
<i>A small group was encountered on both of our days within Buenaventura.</i>	
Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>
<i>Just a single bird was seen in Buenaventura, and another small group were seen in Podocarpus NP.</i>	
Golden-naped Tanager	<i>Tangara ruficervix</i>
<i>Two singles were encountered along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Blue-browed Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanotis</i>
<i>Maxine and Barbara found one of these scarce tanagers within a tanager flock along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Blue-necked Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>
<i>Regularly seen within tanager flocks in the eastern foothills of the Andes.</i>	
Beryl-spangled Tanager	<i>Tangara nigroviridis</i>
<i>Just a few birds were seen along the Old Loja-Zamora Road, and also within Podocarpus NP.</i>	
Blue-and-black Tanager	<i>Tangara vassorii</i>
<i>One was seen in El Cajas National Park.</i>	
Silvery (Silver-backed) Tanager	<i>Tangara viridicollis</i>
<i>Two pairs were seen in Utuana.</i>	
Black-faced Dacnis	<i>Dacnis lineata lineata</i>
<i>Just one female was seen, along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>	
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>
<i>Commonly encountered at Buenaventura, where a number of males were visiting the crowded hummingbird feeders. A couple of females were also seen near the town of Valladolid.</i>	
GO Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>
<i>A female was seen by the leader only, in Buenaventura.</i>	

Golden-collared Honeycreeper	<i>Iridophanes pulcherrimus</i>
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A gorgeous male honeycreeper was seen on both days within the massive tanager flock that hanging around by the park HQ, that also contained Green-and-gold, Blue-necked, Paradise, Spotted, Yellow-bellied, Golden-eared, and Orange-eared Tanagers, and Foothill Elaenia!

Swallow Tanager	<i>Tersina viridis</i>
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A few were seen at Buenaventura, and also around Copalinga Lodge in the east.

Streaked Saltator	<i>Saltator striatipectus</i>
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The unstreaked flavidicollis race of Streaked Saltator was seen in the west at Cerro Blanco, and near Jorupe, and the streaked peruvianus race was seen near Valladolid in the east.

Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>
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A couple were seen in the garden of Copalinga Lodge.

Black-cowled Saltator	<i>Saltator nigriceps</i>
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This beastly saltator was seen near Utuana in the southwestern highlands. This bird has a small range in southern Ecuador and northern Peru.

Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
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Recorded at Buenaventura, Copalinga Lodge, and Rio Ayampe.

Black-winged Saltator	<i>Saltator atripennis</i>
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Just one was seen in Buenaventura.

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS AND ALLIES

EMBERIZIDAE

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus unicolor</i>
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Encountered regularly in the paramo at El Cajas NP.

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus plebejus</i>
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Easily seen around Sozoranga, where a number of them were perched on wires around this Andean village.

Band-tailed Sierra-Finch	<i>Phrygilus alaudinus</i>
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Two dapper males were seen in the finch capital of Ecuador, Catamayo.

Collared Warbling-Finch	<i>Poospiza hispaniolensis</i>
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This smart finch was seen a number of times during our morning in the dry coastal scrub on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
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First seen in a field at Catamayo that also held Parrot-billed and Drab Seedeaters too, and others were seen around Zamora, and Ayampe.

Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>
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Recorded regularly at Rio Ayampe.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>
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Seen at Buenaventura and Ayampe.

Parrot-billed Seedeater	<i>Sporophila peruviana</i>
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Three were seen first at Catamayo, in an area that also held Drab Seedeater. Very common in the coastal scrub on the Santa Elena Peninsula, and a few were also seen in Machalilla NP.

Drab Seedeater	<i>Sporophila simplex</i>
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Two were seen at Catamayo.

Chestnut-throated Seedeater	<i>Sporophila telasco</i>
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Two were seen on the journey between Guayaquil and Buenaventura, at Catamayo, and also on the Santa Elena Peninsula, and finally at Ayampe.

Thick-billed (Lesser) Seed-Finch	<i>Oryzoborus (angolensis) funereus</i>
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One was seen in the western foothills at Buenaventura.

Plain-colored Seedeater	<i>Catamenia inornata</i>
<i>One was seen in the paramo at El Cajas NP.</i>	
Dull-colored Grassquit	<i>Tiaris obscurus</i>
<i>One was seen in Catamayo, and another was seen at Ayampe.</i>	
Slaty Finch	<i>Haplospiza rustica</i>
<i>A brief sighting for the guide was had in Utuana, that was followed by a number of sightings in Tapichalaca where they were regularly heard buzzing from the bamboo.</i>	
Glossy Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa lafresnayii</i>
<i>Seen in the temperate zone at Cajanuma.</i>	
Black Flowerpiercer	
<i>Several were seen in El Cajas NP.</i>	
White-sided Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa albilatera</i>
<i>Singles were seen in Utuana and Tapichalaca.</i>	
Bluish Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa caerulescens</i>
<i>Several were seen in the park at Rio Bombuscaro, in a large mixed flock.</i>	
Masked Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa cyaneus</i>
<i>Recorded at Utuana, Tapichalaca, Rio Bombuscaro, along the Old Loja-Zamora Road, and at El Cajas NP.</i>	
Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
<i>Seen regularly in humid areas of the west.</i>	
Pale-naped Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes pallidinucha</i>
<i>Recorded regularly around Tapichalaca.</i>	
Tricolored Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes tricolor</i>
<i>One was seen at Buenaventura.</i>	
Yellow-breasted (Rufous-naped) Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes latinuchus</i>
<i>Seen at both Cajanuma and Tapichalaca.</i>	
White-winged Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes leucopterus</i>
<i>Seen several times at Sozoranga and also in Utuana.</i>	
White-headed Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes albiceps</i>
<i>A superb showy pair were found at El Empalme.</i>	
Bay-crowned Brush-Finch	<i>Atlapetes seebohmi</i>
<i>A bird came into playback briefly at Sozoranga, during a period when thick cloud had descended around us, making for a poor view at the time. Unfortunately none others could be found.</i>	
Crimson-breasted Finch	<i>Rhodospingus cruentus</i>
<i>None were seen on the Santa Elena Peninsula, where they can often be common at this time, perhaps due to the extremely dry conditions there at the time, when no greenery was evident anywhere. However, small numbers of them were found and showed well at Rio Ayampe.</i>	
Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantiirostris</i>
<i>One was seen at Buenaventura, and another bird was seen several times at the feeders at Copalinga Lodge.</i>	
Black-capped Sparrow	<i>Arremon abeillei</i>
<i>Two different birds were found in the reserve at Jorupe, two more were seen at Sozoranga, and a few more were seen at Rio Ayampe.</i>	
Stripe-headed Brush-Finch	<i>Arremon torquatus</i>
<i>One was seen at Buenaventura, with others being heard at Utuana, Sozoranga, and El Cajas NP.</i>	
Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>
<i>Two were seen in Buenaventura, and another was seen at Ayampe on the extension.</i>	

Tumbes Sparrow	<i>Aimophila stolzmanni</i>
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Two were found at El Empalme, en-route to Jorupe.

Yellow-browed Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus aurifrons</i>
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One was seen at Valladolid, and another was seen in the lodge grounds at Copalinga.

Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
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Recorded at a number of highland sites in the Andes.

CARDINALS AND ALLIES

CARDINALIDAE

(Highland) Hepatic Tanager	<i>Piranga flava lutea</i>
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Seen at Utuana, Sozoranga, and also at Ayampe.

Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
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Seen several times within the eastern foothills, and also at Rio Ayampe in the western lowlands.

H Red-hooded Tanager	<i>Piranga rubriceps</i>
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One was heard a few times before a heavy downpour at Cajanuma.

Golden-bellied (Southern Yellow) Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus chrysogaster</i>
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First seen at Cerro Blanco, with others picked up at El Empalme, Jorupe, Sozoranga, and Ayampe.

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES

ICTERIDAE

Peruvian Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella bellicosa</i>
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One was seen with nesting material at Catamayo, and commonly encountered on the extension, especially on the Santa Elena Peninsula.

Scrub Blackbird	<i>Dives warszewiczi</i>
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Commonly recorded in humid lowland areas in the west.

Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>
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A few were seen beside marshes south of Guayaquil, during a couple of journeys in that area.

Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
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A few scattered sightings were made in the western lowlands.

Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
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One passed by at Ayampe.

White-edged Oriole	<i>Icterus graceanae</i>
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One was found in Cerro Blanco, with further sightings in the humid semi-deciduous woods of Jorupe, and El Empalme.

Yellow-tailed Oriole	<i>Icterus mesomelas</i>
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Recorded frequently around Jorupe, with other sightings coming from Cerro Blanco and Ayampe.

(Northern) Mountain Cacique	<i>Cacicus chrysonotus leucoramphus</i>
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Three of these highland caciques were found at Cajanuma.

Scarlet-rumped (Subtropical) Cacique	<i>Cacicus uropygialis uropygialis</i>
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Three were found along the Old Loja-Zamora Road on the east slope of the Andes.

Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>
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Regularly found in the humid western lowlands (Cerro Blanco, Jorupe, and Ayampe).

Russet-backed Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius angustifrons</i>
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A couple of flocks were found along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
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Seen first within the grounds of Copalinga Lodge, and later in Rio Bombuscaro, and along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES		FRINGILLIDAE	
	Thick-billed Euphonia		<i>Euphonia laniirostris</i>
	<i>Seen at Cerro Blanco, Jorupe, Sozoranga, Copalinga Lodge, and Ayampe.</i>		
GO	Bronze-green Euphonia		<i>Euphonia mesochrysa</i>
	<i>Seen passing through quickly on two days with a mixed flock at Rio Bombuscaro, although both times moved on quickly before anyone else could get a clear look.</i>		
	Orange-bellied Euphonia		<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
	<i>Seen at Buenaventura several times, Jorupe, Copalinga Lodge, Rio Bombuscaro, and along the Old Loja-Zamora Road.</i>		
	Blue-naped Chlorophonia		<i>Chlorophonia cyanea</i>
	<i>A pair were seen in a colorful mixed feeding flock at Rio Bombuscaro, that also contained Green-and-gold, Golden-eared, Orange-eared, Spotted, Blue-necked, and Paradise Tanagers, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, Foothill Elaenia, and a pair of Equatorial Graytails.</i>		
	Hooded Siskin		<i>Spinus magellanica</i>
	<i>Three were seen at Utuana.</i>		
	Saffron Siskin		<i>Spinus siemiradzkii</i>
	<i>A pair was found along the track at Rio Ayampe.</i>		
OLD WORLD SPARROWS		PASSERIDAE	
	House Sparrow		<i>Passer domesticus</i>
	<i>A few were seen just north of the Santa Elena Peninsula.</i>		

MAMMAL LIST

	White-fronted Capuchin		<i>Cebus albifrons</i>
	<i>One was seen at an unusually high elevation in the San Francisco sector of Podocarpus NP.</i>		
H	Mantled Howler Monkey		<i>Alouatta palliata</i>
	<i>Heard regularly around Buenaventura.</i>		
	Sechura Fox		<i>Pseudalopex sechurae</i>
	<i>One was seen trotting off the side of the road on the way up to Utuana.</i>		
	South American Coati		<i>Nasua nasua</i>
	<i>A band of these mischievous coatis has learned well that bananas and sweet sugar water are on offer daily at the Buenaventura reserve. We saw them coming into the feeders a number of times while staying there, much to the chagrin of the staff there, who now have to more regularly refill the sugar water dishes for the hummingbirds as just one visit from a coati can drink them dry!</i>		
	Tayra		<i>Eira barbara</i>
	<i>One was seen slinking away from the forest hummingbird feeders at Buenaventura.</i>		
	Collared Peccary		<i>Tayassu tajacu</i>
	<i>A small group of these rarely seen animals were found on a track just in front of our van at Buenaventura.</i>		
	Brazilian Rabbit		<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>
	<i>Seen near Copalinga, and also in El Cajas NP.</i>		
	Red-tailed Squirrel		<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>
	<i>One was seen in Buenaventura reserve.</i>		
	Guayaquil Squirrel		<i>Sciurus stramineus</i>
	<i>Seen in Cerro Blanco near the city of Guayaquil on our first morning.</i>		