

Birding the Chocó:

Cloud-forests and remote lowlands of NW-Ecuador

Getting some of the finest and rarest Chocó endemics...



Rufous-crowned Antpitta - Playa de Oro 25 Oct - 8 Nov 2010

Text and photos by Dušan M. Brinkhuizen ©

Introduction

The Chocó is a biodiversity hotspot that extends from easternmost Panama (Darién) to the Pacific coast of Colombia and Ecuador. With up to 16.000 mm. of rain per year in some areas this is probably the wettest place on earth. The Chocó Endemic Bird Area supports the largest number of restricted-range birds of any EBA in the Americas with over 50 species being endemic to the area. Thus, the Chocó is an important region not to be missed by the serious birder. Many of these specialties are only found in South-west Colombia and North-west Ecuador. North-west Ecuador is a safe and accessible region with many reserves, birding trails and comfortable lodges, being a perfect destination to explore the Chocó. Sadly, the Chocó is also one of the most threatened regions in South America. Massive logging, palm cultivation and cattle-grazing make forests disappear at alarming rates. Birding the Chocó is a good way to support local tourism and helps to keep the flora and fauna of this incredibly diverse region protected from extinction.



The first week of our tour is based at Reserva Las Gralarias. This reserve covers over 400 hectares of Chocó Cloud-forest and has a very comfortable lodge. It is located in the Mindo region which is one of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Ecuador. All the famous birding sites are at short distance from the lodge and easily reached by car. In the first week we do daytrips covering different elevations ranging from 3400m to 400m asl. In this way we target a wide range of

bird species and visit a nice set of different habitats. Our second week is a lowland extension to Playa de Oro. It is one of the last places where you can bird in vast areas of truly pristine Chocó lowland forests (photo).

Birding the Chocó can be tough and rolling up all the endemics in one trip is nearly impossible. However, by including some "new" and "hot" sites in the itinerary we got close! To give you an idea of

our success here just a few of the rare Chocó endemics that we saw: Rufous-crowned Antpitta, Five-colored Barbet, Starchested Treerunner, Purplish-mantled Tanager (photo), Chocó Vireo, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Berlepsch's Tinamou, Black Solitaire, Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Moss-backed Tanager, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Rose-faced Parrot, Uniform Treehunter, Chocó Trogon, Hoary Puffleg and many more! We recorded 453 species → check out the trip list!





Tour itinerary

25 - Oct	Quito → Yanacocha → Reserva Las Graiarias
26 - Oct	Reserva Las Gralarias
27 - Oct	Milpe Bird Sanctuary → Mindo
28 - Oct	Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary
29 - Oct	Mashpi Reserve → Cueva de los Tayos
30 - Oct	Refugio Paz de las Aves → Tandayapa Valley
31 - Oct	Bellavista Cloud-forest Reserve→ Quito
2 - Nov	Quito \rightarrow Salinas \rightarrow Playa de Oro, Tigrillo Lodge
3 - Nov	Playa de Oro, Pueblo trail
4 - Nov	Playa de Oro, Santo del Peña trail
5 - Nov	Playa de Oro, Paila trail
6 - Nov	Playa de Oro \rightarrow Yalare \rightarrow Tundaloma
7 - Nov	$Tundaloma \to Yalare \to Durango$
8 - Nov	Cerro Golondrinas \rightarrow Lago San Pablo \rightarrow Quito

Day-by-day reports

25 - Oct - Quito → Yanacocha → Reserva Las Gralarias

The Yanacocha reserve is located on the north-western flank off the Pichincha Volcano just outside off Quito at 3400m. It is owned by the Jocotoco Foundation and the birding is superb. It is probably the best and for sure the easiest place to bird temperate forest on the west-slope of the Andes in Ecuador. It is home to the critically endangered Black-breasted Puffleg. Unfortunately, recent sightings of this rare species are extremely few (June might be your best bet to try). The drive up to the reserve goes through pastures and secondary habitat. We stopped here for a singing Tawny Antpitta that we saw briefly. Black Flowerpiercer and Plain-colored seedeater were also seen. At the reserve entrance the habitat looks much better: steep cliffs with pristine montane forest and the view is spectacular. The Inca-trail is relatively flat and provides easy birding. At the start of the trail we heard an Occelated Tapaculo calling down in the valley. Blackish Tapaculo's were calling at closer range. The first flock were mainly Glossy and Masked Flowerpiercers. We heard a single high pitched note of Barred Fruiteater and some of us lucked into seeing the male. At the start flock activity was low and we had to pick up species one by one. A Smokey Bush-tyrant gave good views as it was perched right in the open at eye-height. A pair of Powerfull Woodpeckers was heard next to the trail. We had to wait for them to come out and later we got rewarded by nice views of this large woodpecker species. Our first proper flock had Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Hooded Mountain-tanager, Superciliaried Hemispingus, Spectacled Whitestart, Blue-backed Conebills, White-throated Tyrannulet, Cinereous Conebill, White-banded Tyrannulet and many Masked and Glossy Flowerpiercers. The hummingbird feeders at the reserve, especially the ones at the end of the Inca-trail, are rewarding. Many different



species of hummingbirds were seen in a short time at close range. The *Sword-billed Hummingbird* was no doubt the most spectacular one and the large-sized *Great Sapphirewing* was also impressive with its relatively slow wing beat. Both *Sapphire-vented Puffleg* and *Golden-breasted Puffleg* were regular visitors as well as the smaller *Tyrian Metaltail*. The *Buff-winged Starfrontlet* was the most abundant hummer at the feeders. Good stuff we added on the way back included *Crowned Chat-tyrant*

and Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet. Back at the ranger station we got some extraordinary views of a pair of Tawny Antpitta's (photo). From Yanacocha we continued on birding along the "Eco ruta", the old road between Nono and Mindo. Habitat along this route changes slowly as we drop in elevation. The fast flowing river is a good spot for White-capped Dipper, a species that we got to see well. A male Torrent Duck was very shy and was seen only briefly. After about two hours driving the route meets up with the Tandayapa Valley. Here we watched a male Andean Cock-of-the-Rock that was being noisy at its playground. A little later a stunning Plate-billed Mountain-toucan perched in the same tree. A small mixed-species flock added some nice species, including two Blackburnian Warblers, one of them still in breeding plumage. A pair of Toucan Barbets was also present and showed well, a nice Chocó endemic to end the day with.



26 - Oct - Reserva Las Gralarias

Reserva Las Gralarias is one of the best birding sites in the Mindo area. The reserve consists of mainly pristine cloud-forest ranging from 1700 to 2300m in elevation. The birding on the trails and from the lodge is superb. The feeders at the lodge attract a good set of hummers, including a few Chocó endemics. We started an early morning hike to catch up with the dawn chorus. A pair of *Red-faced Spinetail* responded well to the tape and *Rufous-crowned Tody-flycatcher* was heard only. The rattling song of the *Spillman's Tapaculo* and the three notes of the *Yellow-breasted Antpitta* were commonly heard inside the forest. Our first canopy flock produced nice views of *Streaked Tuftedcheek, Blue-winged Mountain-tanager, Blue-capped Tanager, Golden Tanager, Brown-capped Vireo, White-tailed Tyrannulet, Pearled Treerunner* and the drab (but Chocó endemic) *Dusky Bush-tanager.* A pair of *Chocó Brush-finches* (nowadays a split from Tricolored Brush-finch) was seen briefly as well as a female *Wedge-billed Hummingbird.* Further along the walk we found a *Rufous-headed Pygmy-tyrant* that showed well in the understory. A pair of *Masked Trogons* was perched in full view a little later. At the same spot we heard a *Strong-billed Woodcreeper.* The bird came right in after playback showing its massive bill at close range. We tried for the elusive *Moustached Antpitta* with playback of song in a known territory. Soon the bird responded by singing back from the understory. We placed the speaker



on the trail and waited in silence. For a split second it jumped out on the trail in front of us. It went so fast that some of us actually missed the bird! A group of *Plate-billed Mountain-toucans* came through that showed well. A loud calling *Barred Hawk* flew over and was seen by some of us while a pair of *Green-and-black Fruiteaters* showed well in a tree. We glimpsed a small herd of *Dark-backed Wood-quails* that had crossed the trail. They responded to playback with their loud calls but unfortunately moved away from us. It started to get hot and activity dropped. At the lodge we had a drink while we watched the feeders. They attract large numbers of hummingbirds, usually about twelve species. *Buff-tailed Coronets* and *Fawn-breasted Brilliants* are the most abundant. The common Chocó endemic hummers are stunning: The *Violet-tailed Sylph* with its long tail streamers *(photo)*, the colourful *Velvet-purple Coronet* and the elegant *Empress Brilliant*. The male *Booted Racket-tail* often steals the show



as well as the "bubble bee" Purplethroated Woodstar. Two rare species were seen at the feeders during our stay, namely Whitetailed Hillstar and Hoary Puffleg. After lunch we birded the road, but the clouds came in quickly, minimising visibility. We hoped to find the adult Spectacled Bear that was seen that day by others, but we only found the traces of it. A nice male Golden-headed Quetzal that was inspecting a cavity was our best bird of the afternoon walk.

27 - Oct - Milpe Bird Sanctuary → Mindo

The Milpe reserve is located in the foothills of the western Andes at 1100m. This relatively small reserve, owned by the Mindo Cloud-forest Foundation, offers some great birding. It is one of the best places to see the *Club-winged Manakin*. Bird activity can be good at times, especially when cloudy, as it was on our visit. We started with a loose association of birds at the entrance which included some target species like *Chocó Warbler* and *Ochre-breasted Tanager*. A male *American Redstart* was also present in the flock. At a particular spot *Immaculate Antbirds* were showing themselves extremely well (photo), an indication of a small antswarm. *Bay Wren* and *Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant* were also present at this site. Lower down the trail we got our first *Club-winged Manakins*. Two males were chasing each other continuously. Activity of the manakins was high with many displaying males heard. Soon we got a "lekking" male into view. The male makes a bizarre sound, exclusively with the movement of its wings, by flipping them up during a little dance, a spectacular performance. *Golden-winged Manakin* and *White-bearded Manakin* were other species of manakins seen. Close to the Club-winged Manakin lek we saw both *Rufous* and *Broad-billed Momot*. A *Pale-vented Thrush* and



Yellow-collared Chloroponias were spotted high up in the canopy. We heard two species of trogon, namely Collared Trogon and Chocó Trogon. The latter responded to our whistle as a male came in nicely. At the forest edge we run into a "monster flock" of birds with at least 48 species participating in the flock. The best birds included a stunning male Glistening-green Tanager, Rufous-Tyrannulet, Rufous-throated winged Tanager, Rufous-rumped Antwren, Slaty Antwren, White-shouldered Tanager, Yellow-tufted Dacnis, Tawny-breasted



Myiobius, two American Redstarts, two Blackburnian Warblers, Acadian Flycatcher, Summer Tanager and many more! On our way back we heard Esmeraldas Antbird and a Western Woodhaunter came in to playback of song. At the mirador we watched a nest with two chicks that were being fed by a Green-fronted Lancebill. Back at the parking lot we had lunch and watched the hummingbird feeders. The tiny Green Thorntails were abundant, as well as the larger Green-crowned Brilliants. A White-whiskered Hermit came in a few times, as did a male White-necked Jacobin. Either a Purple- or Blue-chested Hummingbird came in shortly on the flowers. An interesting record as both species normally do not occur this high in elevation. Unfortunately, the bird did not return and we could not determine its identification. After lunch we went to the town of Mindo to get some "open country" species. A scrubby field just outside of town was very productive. Blue-black Grassquit, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Yellow-bellied Seedeaters and Black-and-white Seedeaters were feeding in the field. Both Bran-colored Flycatcher and Rusty-margined Flycatcher showed well. Shiny Cowbirds and a nice Masked Water-tyrant were foraging on the short grass. Our best bird at the spot was a family group of Lesser Elaenias (photo). Identification of this species is very complicated and there are very few documented



records of this species in Ecuador. We documented our observation properly by taking photos and sound recordings. Our recordings matched with the recordings made by the late Paul Coopmans (Niels Krabbe pers.comm) thereby confirming our identification. The race of Lesser Elaenia (brachyptera) found in NW-Ecuador is vocally different from the widespread race and probably involves a separate species, namely Nariño Elaenia. Our sighting involves the first documented record for the Mindo region. Back at Reserva Las Gralarias we tried



for *Rufous-bellied Nighthawk* at dusk. A *Cloud-forest Pygmy-owl* was heard in the distance but too far to call in. We whistled the song of the nighthawk and one flew right over our heads. As we followed the bird in the spotlight it responded by uttering a few low calls. Great bird before bedtime!

28 - Oct - Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary

Rio Silanche is another popular birding spot. The small reserve is also managed by the Mindo Cloud-forest foundation and is mostly secondary habitat at about 500m elevation. It is an island of left-over habitat that still holds a good number of interesting birds. Sadly, the surrounding area is mostly plantations and it seems to be the last refuge for some species. As a result the reserve can be very birdy at times. It is a nice introduction to the Chocó lowlands but if you want to get rare "quality" Chocó species a visit to Rio Canandé and/or Playa de Oro is required. We had a successful day at Rio

Silanche and recorded a total of 145 species that day. In the morning we started with a small canopy flock that was watched from the canopy tower. The best birds included a pair of *Slate-throated Gnatcatchers* and *Brown-capped Tyrannulets*, both species at touching distance. Dozens of *Palm* and *Blue-gray Tanagers* overruled the flock and were foraging in the fruiting trees. A few *Pale-mandibled Aracaris* came in to feed on fruits as well. Inside the



forest we run into another mixed-species flock with some goodies like *Orange-fronted Barbet, Scarlet-browed Tanager, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, Guira Tanager* and *Rufous-winged Tanager.* A pair of *White-whiskered Puffbirds* showed well and both *Chestnut-backed* and *Bicolored Antbird* were seen in the understory. Our rarest bird of the day was a sub-adult *Plumbeous Hawk* that perched at close range *(photo)*. Back at the car we followed a nice understory flock. Birds in the flock included *Western Slaty Antshrike, Checker-throated Antwren, Dot-winged Antwren, White-flanked Antwren, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, Yellow-margined Flatbill, Greenish Elaenia, Sulphur-rumped Myiobius, Plain Xenops,*



Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant and Red-rumped Woodpecker. At the canopy tower we watched a Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift and some unidentified Chaetura, probably Chimney Swifts that flew by swiftly. We had good views of both Blue-crowned Manakin (photo) and White-bearded Manakin inside the forest. A flock of larger birds included a pair of Guayaquil Woodpeckers, Purple-throated Fruitcrows and Scarlet-rumped Caciques, which all showed well. A beautiful female Rufous-tailed Jacamar was seen near

the entrance. On our way back we did some roadside birding that yielded *Snowy-throated Kingbird* and *Black-winged Saltator*. We made a stop to try for the rare Brown Wood-rail at a known territory. Unfortunately, the bird did not respond to playback this time. But, at the little pond we did see a nice *Northern Waterthrush*, a rare migrant in Ecuador.



29 - Oct - Mashpi Reserve → Cueva de los Tayos

The road to the Mashpi reserve is a new and "hot" birding spot. It is easily reached by car from Pacto and offers superb roadside birding around 1300m elevation. Some Chocó specialties seem to be more common here then elsewhere, plus chances to see some major rarities are in store. We started with a cracker namely an adult *Indigo Flowerpiercer*. The bird sang continuously from a treetop and showed itself well. Mashpi has become a reliable site for this rarity, especially the steep wall at the entrance road. Short after getting the flowerpiercer we ticked in two nice Moss-backed Tanagers and a Yellowcollared Chloroponia in a single tree. Three Rosy-faced Parrots flew over and a female Black-andwhite Becard was seen well. The first flock we encountered yielded species like Glisting-green Tanager, Rufous-throated Tanager and Chocó Brush-finches. A Black Solitaire flew out of the tree but was glimpsed only. A pair of Slaty Spinetail showed itself right in the open at a fallen tree. A certain spot along the road was rewarding. First an Emeraldas Antbird was seen and a little later a Uniform Treehunter turned up. A pair of Uniform Antshrike was calling and the male was seen shortly. We got great views of a Rufous-rumped Antwren that foraged at close distance. Spotted Barbtail came in after we played its call. Then I heard a familiar song from the canopy; it was a Chocó Vireo! We were lucky as the sun was breaking the clouds and we could actually see the bird well. The singing bird was accompanied by a second bird, two Chocó Vireos! I had discovered this rare bird here in June 2010, but had only seen single birds. Nice that it found a mate! Later a sharp whistle drew our attention and soon a superb male Orange-breasted Fruiteater popped up right in front of us at eye-level. On our way back we run into a flock that produced great views of both Black-chinned Mountain-tanager and Pacific Tuftedcheek. We played for Whiskered Wren and an aggressive pair came right in. After lunch we drove to the Guayllabamba River to look for Oilbirds. In a small gulch we watched about ten of these mysterious creatures, some at very close range (photo).





30 - Oct - Refugio Paz de las Aves → Tandayapa Valley

Refugio Paz de las Aves is a magical place. The brothers Paz own a small property of cloud-forest near Nanegalito and bring the forest alive. Antpittas, antthrushes, pihas, wood-quails, quail-doves, guans, barbets, toucanets, tanagers, dippers and even Torrent Ducks, you name it, Angel Paz have had them at his feet! Every morning, 365 days a year, the brothers feed worms and fruits to birds



inside the forest, birds that got slowly habituated to human presence. Most of the birds he feeds are elusive species and watching them at close range is a unique experience. Still, these are wild birds and every day turns out different, nothing is guaranteed! We started at dawn at the lek of *Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (photo)*. Activity was good with at least four displaying males. From the hide

we watched these beautiful cotingas for about half an hour. The holy grail of the reserve named "Maria" was standing just outside the hide waiting for worms. Maria is a *Giant Antpitta* that has been fed by Angel for at least five years. The bird is rather tame and we watched her from 2m distance. A second *Giant Antpitta* named "Manuelito" was seen on the trail further up. Angel went to look for the Yellow-breasted Antpitta down at the river, but came back with negative news: the bird had not come to feed for the last four days. We went to look for "Shakira", the Ochre-breasted Antpitta, but according

to Angel she was away on concert that day. There was a deep silence at the fruit feeders. There was no bird activity at all. A large raptor flew through the forest. No wonder there were no birds at the feeders! According to Angel it was a juvenile Black-and-chestnut Eagle. Unfortunately, we could not confirm his identification as we only glimpsed the bird. On our way back we got some nice views of a Moustached Antpitta (photo). The hummingbird feeders attracted many of the same species that we had seen at Reserva Las Gralarias. The Tawny-bellied Hermit was the only "new" bird at the feeders, a species that we had seen in the forest before. For pre-lunch we had delicious "bolones de verde" and "empanadas con queso". We continued on to the Tandayapa Valley for some roadside birding. It was noon, hot and sunny, a bad time for birding. In the





lower stretch we saw very few birds. An *Andean Cock-of-the-Rock* chick on the nest was a nice sighting. Higher up the road close to the Bellavista Lodge, was more promising as it got a little cooler. We run into a small "bamboo flock" and picked out some of the better species namely *Western Hemispingus*, *Rusty-winged Barbtail* and *Plushcap*. We got a few small flocks along the way with a nice *Grass-green Tanager* being a favorite. Twice we were lucky to watch a *Slaty Finch* foraging on the road. The birds seemed to be feeding on the little seeds that were blooming along the roadside. By staying in the car and using it as a hide we got great looks at this scarce and erratic species. After dinner some of us went to look for the *Colombian Screech-owl*. The species (formerly a subspecies of Rufescent Screech-owl) has a territory close to the Las Gralarias Guesthouse. We got a response within 15 min. after playing the call. It took us a while to locate the calling bird, but eventually got it in full view in the spotlight.

31 - Oct - Bellavista Cloud-forest Reserve → Quito

The Bellavista area is a great birding spot that provides easy roadside birding. You will pass good patches of cloud-forest if you take the "Eco-ruta" from San Tadeo back towards Tandayapa. The highest parts are the best sites for the rare Tanager Finch, especially the curve with the dripping water tank. We searched for the species two days in a row, but unfortunately no success. Luck is needed for this rare bird. We did see other interesting birds, but it was hard for us to add new ones, since we had seen most of them at Reserva Las Gralarias. We tried to tape in *Occelated Tapaculos* at several different stakeouts but none of them came into view. They respond well to playback, but rarely come in close. We enjoyed a group of the beautiful *Turquoise Jays* and a *Plain-breasted Hawk* showed well. A neat sighting was a noisy flock of 30 *Barred Parakeets* that flew right over our heads. We run into a large flock at the Tanager Finch site and picked out a couple of new birds. A family group of *Sicklewinged Guans* showed well, a species that we had missed at Paz de las Aves. Other new species included *Black-capped Tyrannulet*, *Sierran Elaenia* and *Blue-and-black Tanager*. We birded the "bio-

station road", a second site for the Tanager Finch, but the heat of the day already came in. Activity dropped and a single good-sized flock with *Grass-green Tanager* (photo) did not have any new birds for us. We tried again for *Plain-tailed Wren* in the bamboo and finally got splendid views of a pair (we had "dipped" seeing the species a few times before). We had lunch back at Las Gralarias and packed up our stuff for the drive back to Quito.





2 - Nov - Quito → Salinas → Playa de Oro, Tigrillo Lodge

It is a long drive from Quito to Selva Alegre so we had an early start. On the way we had breakfast near Salinas where we did some dawn birding. The area around Salinas is dry scrub and holds some interesting species. Our best bird was a female Blue-headed Sapphire, a range-restricted species. Other good birds included Tumbesian Tyrannulet, Scrub Tanager, Streaked Saltator and Western Emerald. We also got some great views of White-tipped Swift. Julio with his canoe was waiting for us at Selva Alegre. The river was low and it took us about 2 hours to get to the lodge. A few "standard species" like Ringed and Green Kingfisher, Snowy Egret, Osprey, Swallow-tailed Kite and Neotropical Cormorant were seen during the canoe ride. Playa de Oro is a remote village along the Rio Santiago in the province of Esmeraldas. The community of Playa de Oro runs a lodge named "Campamento Tigrillo" located about 20 minutes upstream from the village. It is as remote as you can get into the Ecuadorian Chocó. Sadly, it is also one of the last parts of truly pristine Chocó rainforest left in Ecuador. The forest and the birds are spectacular and we strongly recommend others to visit this fantastic place. Canoe rides, rustic accommodation, local food, local guides and hikes into remote forest will give you a real "expedition" experience. We have done a couple of tours to the area, all very successful, including this trip. De area has many superb trails, but many of them are moderately to strenuous. This trip we did not go for the remote hikes. We birded mainly around the lodge picking the easy and flattish trails. Although we missed some higher elevation species like Golden-chested Tanager, we did incredibly well. We proved that the good birds are right behind the lodge as well! After a good lunch we birded the circular trail behind the lodge. As soon as we entered the forest I heard the calls of Broad-billed Sapayoa. This much sought-after species is surprisingly common at Playa de Oro. If you know the call well you will probably run into them daily. The species likes to join the midstory flocks; it might even be a nuclear flock member. The flock behind the lodge was seen daily and we picked out the following species: Broad-billed Sapayoa, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, Dot-winged Antwren, White-flanked Antwren, Checker-throated Antwren, Griscom's Antwren, Lemon-spectacled Tanager, Tawny-crested Tanager, Dusky-faced Tanager, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, Pacific Flatbill,



Sulphur-rumped Myiobius, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, Stripe-throated Wren, Western Woodhaunter and Western Slaty Antshrike. A Stubtailed Antbird was singing from a distance. As soon as we played the song it came in close and showed itself well. We heard a Berlepsch's Tinamou in the distance. Back at the lodge we got a Red-billed Scythebill. An injured Spectacled Owl was kept at the lodge for the night (photo).



3 - Nov - Playa de Oro, Pueblo trail

The Pueblo trail starts behind the lodge and after a 2 hours walk you get to the village of Playa de Oro. The first stretch of the trail is flat and this is where we birded. A *Songwren* was heard and after playback a pair gave a beautiful concert at close range *(photo)*. The duet song of this chunky wren is fantastic. We run into a midstory flock and saw species like *Broad-billed Sapayoa*, *Black-striped*



Woodcreeper and Lemon-spectacled Tanager. A Black-headed Antthrush was singing but did not come closer to our playback. Back at the lodge we got Rufous Piha and Chestnut-headed Oropenula. After lunch we heard a Berlepsch's Tinamou right behind the lodge. We watched the trail and got lucky: the bird had crossed the trail, spectacular! Late afternoon we watched the river and birded the secondary habitat around the lodge. Species regular at the lodge include Long-tailed Tyrant, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Golden-hooded Tanager, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Pacific Antwren, One-colored Becard, Cinnamon Becard, Yellow-margined Flatbill, Common and Black-headed Tody-flycatcher, Buff-rumped Warbler, Lesser Greenlet and Streaked Flycatcher. Rose-faced Parrots flew over on a regular basis. With luck one can see Blue-whiskered Tanager, Lita Woodpecker and Scarlet-breasted Dacnis from the balcony.

4 - Nov - Playa de Oro, Santo del Peña trail

The Santo del Peña trail is perhaps the best birding trail in the area. It starts on the opposite side of the river and you will need a canoe ride to get there. The start of the trail goes through semi-flooded forest and gradually goes up into the foothills. After a few steeps climbs you reach a kind of plateau that stays flat for most of the time. From here you can get Golden-chested Tanager (higher parts of the Angostura trail has this species as well). About halfway there is a viewpoint that can be very rewarding. After this point the trail soon meets up with the Cascada trail. You can either walk the same route back or have Julio pick you up with the canoe at the start of the Cascada trail. We only did the very first part of the Santo del Peña trail and did not reach the viewpoint. Nevertheless, we got a nice set of birds. A Lanceolated Monklet was singing at dawn and we tried hard to get it. The bird only responded once and stopped calling. We had more luck with a singing Black-headed Antthrush. After playback of song the antthrush came in and showed well. We flushed a large bird from the midstory that perched right above us: a stunning Great Jacamar. We had a nice mixed-species flock but the birds came through fast. A Lita Woodpecker was calling from the flock and we tried hard for it.



Playback worked out well and we got splendid views of a male *Lita Woodpecker*. Other noteworthy birds in the flock included, *Scarlet-browed Tanager*, *Lemon-spectacled Tanager*, *Slate-throated Gnatcatcher* and *Ochre-breasted Tanager*. A *Gray-headed Kite* flew over and landed in the canopy where it started calling. On our way back it started to get really hot and activity dropped significantly. Our only bird was a *Scaly-throated Leaftosser*; but a good bird! A *Black Hawk-eagle* was seen at the river and more surprisingly an adult *Peregrine Falcon* was soaring right above the lodge. After a "siesta" we birded the circular trail behind the lodge. We run into the "house flock" again and got scope views of *Broad-billed Sapayoa*. We were lucky with a *Tooth-billed Hummingbird* that landed right in front of us. A pair of *Olive-backed Quail-doves* showed well while they crossed the trail. A *Streak-chested Antpitta* was hopping on the trail as it started to get dark.

5 - Nov - Playa de Oro, Paila trail

Today we explored the Paila trail. The trail starts behind the lodge and continuous on upstream. The first stretch is flat and that is where we birded. We heard an *Ocellated Antbird* calling and played the tape in the hope it would come to us. This large and spectacular "king" of the antbirds came in instantly. A second bird followed and we got some fantastic views. A *Great Jacamar* was calling from the canopy and a typical "sapayoa flock" passed by. I heard a call that reminded me strongly of the *Rufous-crowned Antpitta*, one of the holy grails of the Chocó. The call came from far, so I wasn't sure at all, probably a Tawny-faced Gnatwren. We continued on and heard a *Berlepsch's Tinamou* calling next to the trail. I got some good recordings and did playback but the elusive bird stayed in the understory. Clide spotted some movement on the trail behind us. We watched two small songbirds that were in full fight. The colors were stunning: bright turquoise with black and a hint of red. Two males *Scarlet-thighed Dacnis* had dropped down from the canopy and lay right in front of us! We watched the spectacle for a minute before the birds realized that we were watching them from only a few feet away. I gave it a try and played the antpitta. After less than a minute we got a response: the call sounded incredibly good for the species. I played the tape once again and we waited patiently. A

few minutes later a loud rattle came from a few meters away: "that's the excitement call of the *Pittasoma*, I'm a 100% sure now"! We watched the understory and detected some movement. A male *Rufous-crowned Antpitta* hopped out right in the open, WOW! We watched this "mega" for a few minutes in full view before it vanished into the understory. I was even lucky to get some decent pictures (*photo*).





Joyfully we walked back to the lodge were we had a little ant swarm. *Bicolored Antbird, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Spotted Antbird* and *Plain-brown Woodcreeper* were attending the swarm. In the "house flock" we got some great views of both *Golden-crowned Spadebill* and *Griscom's Antwren*. Two *Chocó Poorwills* were singing at dusk just before we went for dinner.

6 - Nov - Playa de Oro \rightarrow Yalare \rightarrow Tundaloma

It was raining in the morning. We watched a few birds from the balcony but did not see any new ones. Clide did see a male *Black-tipped Cotinga* at the river. We loaded our stuff and left after breakfast to Selva Alegre. The canoe ride was refreshing as the rain had just stopped. A large raptor, most probably a *Black Hawk-eagle*, was seen perched in a tree. Juan Carlos picked us up at Selva Alegre

and we continued straight on to Bosque Humedal Yalaré. Yalaré is a reserve located along the highway between Borbon and San Lorenzo. It is a "paper reserve" as it is not protected at all. There is no primary forest left and it is surrounded by huge palm plantations. Locals are invading the reserve, cutting down trees, burning down lots, hunting birds etc. It is a very sad situation. The easiest and perhaps the best place to bird is along the road to Concepcion. First you pass a large palm plantation but soon the road enters the forest. The forest is owned by "Plywood S.A." a lumber company that has an extensive tree plantation. This is where you still have chance to see some interesting birds. As it is lower than Playa de Oro (below 50m) some of the species can be only found here.



Morning and afternoon are the best times to look for birds here. It can get very hot and activity can drop to zero easily. We arrived at about 9 am. It was already warming up and we had to look hard for



birds. We scoped a puffbird and it was just the right species we were looking for: *Black-breasted Puffbird (photo)*. This species is rare throughout its range and Yalaré is perhaps the best place to see it. Also White-necked and Pied Puffbird can be found in the same forest patch. We found some activity at a fruiting *Cecropia* tree. Two barbets were feeding on the fruits but not the species we hoped for. It was a pair of *Orange-fronted Barbets*, a species we had seen a few times before. However, five minutes later we clearly heard the call of our main target bird the *Five-colored Barbet!* We hooked up the player with the sound system of Juan Carlos inside his van. A perfect way for playback if you need volume! The barbet came in right away and we got fantastic looks of a male. The bird fed on the *Cecropia* for a few minutes *(photo)*.

A Western Sirystes was seen shortly before we went for lunch at Tundaloma. The Tundaloma Lodge



is located a few km south of San Lorenzo. It is situated on a small forested hill, all secondary forest, but also the only forest left in the area. The lodge has a few nice decks from where you can scope the canopy and look for flocks. It is one of the best spots for *Blue Cotinga* and we watched a female feeding in a fruiting tree below the deck. Other birds that we saw from the deck include a male *Scarletthighed Dacnis*, *Piratic Flycatcher*, *Masked Tityra*, *Golden-hooded Tanager*, *Blue-necked Tanager* and *Blue-headed Parrot*. *Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds* and *Purple-chested Hummingbirds* were regular at the flowers. In the afternoon we got a *Brown Wood-rail* next to the river. It responded well to the tape but the vegetation was so dense that we could not see it. At dusk we watched two *Short-tailed Night-hawks* flying by the deck; a good bird in Ecuador. A *Chocó Poorwill* and a *Pauraque* were heard in the distance. A *Spectacled Owl* was calling all night long.

7 - Nov - Tundaloma → Yalare → Durango

We went again to the Concepcion road in the early morning to get some more humid lowland specialties. In some secondary habitat before getting to the forest edge we got a male *Slaty Becard*, *Pacific Antwren* and *Yellow-margined Flatbill*. In the forest we started with a *Crane Hawk* that flew low over the canopy. At a fruiting tree we watched four *Stripe-billed Aracaris* and *Chestnut-mandibled Toucan*. We heard a *Black-capped Pygmy-tyrant* calling from the midstory and finally we got this tiny little tyrant in full view. We had been looking for it all the time but finding them high up in the canopy is often a needle in a haystack. We were happy to see this little bugger at such close range. A little further we heard *Scarlet-breasted Dacnis* and soon we got good looks of a pair of this pretty Chocó endemic. Clide saw a *Muscovy Duck* flying by. This species is rare in Ecuador and unfortunately we could not document this record. Again we got great looks of *Black-breasted Puffbird* and a *Snowy-throated Kingbird* was seen perched in a tree top. We got permission to enter a little side track that looked good for birding. Unfortunately, it was warming up and activity dropped. A female *Slaty-tailed Trogon* was seen well, a rarity in Ecuador. A pair of *White-ringed Flycatchers* responded well to playback and showed itself nicely. A *Black Hawk-eagle* was calling from far inside the forest. We went



back for lunch to Tundaloma and had a short rest at the heat of the day. In the afternoon we drove up to the foothills of Durango in search of some new species. A *Swallow-tailed Kite* without tail and with heavy moult in the wing tips needed some time for identification. We run into one good flock but most birds were familiar to us. An *Emerald Tanager* was a new addition to the trip list. It started to poor down rain and we had to stop birding. Back at Tundaloma the rain hadn't come in yet and we watched the canopy

from the deck. A nice male *Scarlet-browed Tanager* showed well *(photo)*. *Rufous-fronted Wood-quail* was calling from inside the forest but did not come in to our playback.



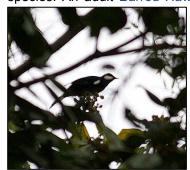
8 - Nov - Cerro Golondrinas → Lago San Pablo → Quito

Cerro Golondrinas is an exciting "new" birding spot that certainly will get popular in the future. In May 2010 we had explored the area and discovered a new public road that goes through pristine Chocó

Cloud-forest. This "new road to Chical" is easily reached from the Lita highway and it takes about an hour drive from El Limonal to get to the forest. The forest starts at about 1500m and the pass is around 2250m. The birding on both sides of the pass is fantastic and apart from the typical "Pichincha" species some extremely rare birds seem to be do-able here. We left Tundaloma early in the morning to get on time at the pass. Our first flock was a "bamboo flock" that held goodies like *Plushcap* and *Western Hemispingus*. I played the tape



for *Purplish-mantled Tanager* and "oh yes" a pair came in from the flock. We got fantastic looks of this beautiful tanager and I managed to get some good photos of this "lifer" *(photo)*. The species is endemic to the Chocó and extremely rare in Ecuador. It seems to be regular at this new spot and thus tours to this site will continue for sure! At the pass we got some nice looks at both *Toucan Barbet* and *Plate-billed Mountain-toucan*. We tried to tape in a *Yellow-breasted Antpitta* but the bird did not come into view. A *Yellow-vented Woodpecker* responded well to tape and we got nice views of this scarce species. An adult *Barred Hawk* flew over. Clide glimpsed a pitch black bird crossing the road. We



relocated the bird and it turned out to be a *Black Solitaire!* Two adult *Black Solitaires* were feeding on berries and we even managed to get a record shot of this much sought-after species *(photo)*. Lower down the road we run into a canopy flock and picked out a *Star-chested Treerunner!* This is another very rare Chocó endemic in Ecuador and we just got the full set in a few hours birding. We had lunch in the field and slowly started to head back to Quito. Close to Otavalo at Lago

San Pablo we had a short stop. We scoped a few highland water birds like *Andean Ruddy Duck*, *Andean Coot* and *Yellow-billed Pintail*. Some migrants like *Greater Yellowlegs*, *Spotted Sandpiper* and *Blue-winged Teal* were also seen. Our main target, the *Ecuadorian Rail*, was taped in easily and we got great looks of two adults.

Acknowledgements

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staff at Reserva Las Gralarias, Julio, Mercedes and Domingo for the great service at Playa de Oro, Andreas and his kind staff at Tundaloma and Nestor and Juan-Carlos for their professional driving during the trip.

Species list

The taxonomy of this list follows:

Ridgely, R.S. & Greenfield, P.J. (2006). Aves del Ecuador, Vol I. Quito: Colibri Digital

Great Tinamou Tinamus major Berlepsch's Tinamou Crypturellus berlepschi Little Tinamou Crypturellus soui Muscovy Duck Cairina moschata **Torrent Duck** Merganetta armata Yellow-billed Pintail Anas georgica Blue-winged Teal Anas discors Andean Ruddy Duck Oxyura jamaicensis Sickle-winged Guan Chamaepetes goudotii Crested Guan Penelope purpurascens Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail **Odontophorus** erythrops Dark-backed Wood-Quail Odontophorus melanonotus Pied-billed Grebe **Podilymbus** podiceps **Neotropic Cormorant Phalacrocorax** brasilianus Striated Heron **Butorides** striata Cattle Egret **Bubulcus** ibis **Great Egret** Ardea alba **Snowy Egret** Egretta thula Little Blue Heron Egretta caerulea **Turkey Vulture** Cathartes aura **Black Vulture** Coragyps atratus Osprey Pandion haliaetus Gray-headed Kite Leptodon cayanensis Swallow-tailed Kite Elanoides forficatus Plumbeous Kite Ictinia plumbea Plain-breasted Hawk Accipiter ventralis Crane Hawk Geranospiza caerulescens Plumbeous Hawk Leucopternis plumbeus Barred Hawk Leucopternis princeps Roadside Hawk **Buteo** magnirostris **Broad-winged Hawk** Buteo platypterus Short-tailed Hawk Buteo brachyurus Variable Hawk **Buteo** polyosoma Black Hawk-Eagle Spizaetus tyrannus American Kestrel Falco sparverius



Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus Ecuadorian Rail Rallus aeguatorialis Brown Wood-Rail **Aramides** wolfi White-throated Crake Laterallus albigularis Common Gallinule Gallinula chloropus **Andean Coot Fulica** ardesiaca Spotted Sandpiper Actitis macularius melanoleuca **Greater Yellowlegs** Tringa Common Ground-Dove Columbina passerina **Ecuadorian Ground-Dove** Columbina buckleyi Scaled Pigeon Patagioenas speciosa Band-tailed Pigeon Patagioenas fasciata Pale-vented Pigeon Patagioenas cayennensis Plumbeous Pigeon Patagioenas plumbea Ruddy Pigeon Patagioenas subvinacea **Dusky Pigeon** Patagioenas goodsoni **Eared Dove** Zenaida auriculata White-tipped Dove Leptotila verreauxi Pallid Dove Leptotila pallida Olive-backed Quail-Dove Geotrygon veraguensis White-throated Quail-Dove frenata Geotrygon Maroon-tailed Parakeet Pyrrhura melanura **Barred Parakeet Bolborhynchus** lineola Pacific Parrotlet coelestis **Forpus** Rose-faced Parrot Pyrilia pulchra Blue-headed Parrot **Pionus** menstruus Red-billed Parrot sordidus **Pionus** White-capped Parrot **Pionus** seniloides **Bronze-winged Parrot Pionus** chalcopterus mercenaria Scaly-naped Amazon Amazona Mealy Amazon farinosa **Amazona** Squirrel Cuckoo Piaya cayana Smooth-billed Ani Crotophaga ani Striped Cuckoo **Tapera** naevia colombianus Colombian Screech-Owl Otus Spectacled Owl **Pulsatrix** perspicillata Mottled Owl Ciccaba virgata Black-and-white Owl Ciccaba nigrolineata Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl Glaucidium nubicola Oilbird Steatornis caripensis Short-tailed Nighthawk Lurocalis semitorquatus Rufous-bellied Nighthawk Lurocalis rufiventris Common Paurague **Nyctidromus** albicollis Chocó Poorwill Nyctiphrynus rosenbergi Band-winged Nightjar Caprimulgus *longirostris* Chestnut-collared Swift Streptoprocne rutila



White-collared Swift Streptoprocne zonaris Band-rumped Swift Chaetura spinicaudus Gray-rumped Swift Chaetura cinereiventris Short-tailed Swift Chaetura brachyura Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift Panyptila cavennensis White-necked Jacobin Florisuga mellivora **Band-tailed Barbthroat** ruckeri **Threnetes** Stripe-throated Hermit **Phaethornis** striigularis White-whiskered Hermit **Phaethornis** yaruqui Tawny-bellied Hermit **Phaethornis** syrmatophorus Green-fronted Lancebill Doryfera *ludovicae*

Wedge-billed Hummingbird **Schistes** geoffroyi Colibri Green Violetear thalassinus Sparkling Violetear Colibri coruscans Tooth-billed Hummingbird Androdon aequatorialis Purple-crowned Fairy Heliothryx barroti Gorgeted Sunangel Heliangelus strophianus Green Thorntail Discosura conversii Speckled Hummingbird Adelomyia melanogenys Violet-tailed Sylph Aglaiocercus coelestis

Lesbia

victoriae

Tyrian Metaltail Metallura tyrianthina Hoary Puffleg Haplophaedia lugens Sapphire-vented Puffleg **Eriocnemis** luciani Golden-breasted Puffleg **Eriocnemis** mosquera **Shining Sunbeam** Aglaeactis cupripennis Brown Inca Coeligena wilsoni Collared Inca Coeligena torquata **Buff-winged Starfrontlet** Coeligena *lutetiae* Sword-billed Hummingbird Ensifera ensifera **Great Sapphirewing** Pterophanes cyanopterus **Buff-tailed Coronet** Boissonneaua flavescens

Velvet-purple Coronet Boissonneaua jardini Booted Racket-tail **Ocreatus** underwoodii White-tailed Hillstar Urochroa bougueri Purple-bibbed Whitetip **Urosticte** benjamini Fawn-breasted Brilliant Heliodoxa rubinoides Green-crowned Brilliant Heliodoxa jacula **Empress Brilliant** Heliodoxa imperatrix Purple-throated Woodstar Calliphlox mitchellii

Western Emerald Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus

Green-crowned Woodnymph Thalurania fannyi Rufous-tailed Hummingbird Amazilia tzacatl Andean Emerald Amazilia franciae Blue-chested Hummingbird Amazilia amabilis Purple-chested Hummingbird Amazilia rosenbergi



Black-tailed Trainbearer

Blue-headed Sapphire Hylocharis grayi Golden-headed Quetzal **Pharomachrus** auriceps Crested Quetzal antisianus **Pharomachrus** Slaty-tailed Trogon Trogon massena Western White-tailed Trogon Trogon chionurus Chocó Trogon Trogon comptus Collared Trogon Trogon collaris Masked Trogon Trogon personatus Ringed Kingfisher Megaceryle torquata Green Kingfisher Chloroceryle americana **Broad-billed Motmot Electron** platyrhynchum **Rufous Motmot** Baryphthengus martii Rufous-tailed Jacamar Galbula ruficauda **Great Jacamar Jacamerops** aureus Black-breasted Puffbird Notharchus pectoralis Pied Puffbird Notharchus tectus White-whiskered Puffbird Malacoptila panamensis Lanceolated Monklet Micromonacha lanceolata Orange-fronted Barbet Capito squamatus Five-colored Barbet Capito quinticolor Red-headed Barbet **Eubucco** bourcierii **Toucan Barbet** Semnornis ramphastinus Chestnut-mandibled Toucan Ramphastos swainsoni Chocó Toucan Ramphastos brevis Crimson-rumped Toucanet Aulacorhynchus haematopygus Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan Andigena laminirostris Pale-mandibled Aracari Pteroglossus erythropygius Stripe-billed Aracari Pteroglossus sanguineus Black-cheeked Woodpecker Melanerpes pucherani Smoky-brown Woodpecker **Picoides** fumigatus Red-rumped Woodpecker Veniliornis kirkii Yellow-vented Woodpecker Veniliornis dignus Lita Woodpecker **Piculus** litae rubiginosus Golden-olive Woodpecker Colaptes Crimson-mantled Woodpecker Colaptes rivolii Cinnamon Woodpecker Celeus *loricatus* Lineated Woodpecker Dryocopus lineatus Powerful Woodpecker Campephilus pollens Guayaquil Woodpecker Campephilus gayaquilensis Broad-billed Sapayoa Sapayoa aenigma Scaly-throated Leaftosser Sclerurus guatemalensis Pacific Hornero **Furnarius** leucopus Azara's Spinetail Svnallaxis azarae Rufous Spinetail Synallaxis unirufa Slaty Spinetail Synallaxis brachyura Red-faced Spinetail Cranioleuca erythrops



Rusty-winged Barbtail Premnornis guttuligera Premnoplex Spotted Barbtail brunnescens Star-chested Treerunner Margarornis stellatus **Pearled Treerunner** Margarornis squamiger Pacific Tuftedcheek **Pseudocolaptes** lawrencii Streaked Tuftedcheek Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner Anabacerthia variegaticeps Lineated Foliage-gleaner Syndactyla subalaris Western Woodhaunter Hyloctistes virgatus **Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner** Philydor rufum **Uniform Treehunter Thripadectes** ignobilis Streak-capped Treehunter **Thripadectes** virgaticeps Plain Xenops **Xenops** minutus Plain-brown Woodcreeper Dendrocincla fuliginosa Olivaceous Woodcreeper Sittasomus griseicapillus Wedge-billed Woodcreeper **Glyphorynchus** spirurus Strong-billed Woodcreeper **Xiphocolaptes** promeropirhynchus Black-striped Woodcreeper **Xiphorhynchus** lachrymosus Spotted Woodcreeper **Xiphorhynchus** erythropygius Streak-headed Woodcreeper Lepidocolaptes souleyetii Montane Woodcreeper Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger Red-billed Scythebill Campylorhamphus trochilirostris Western Slaty-Antshrike **Thamnophilus** atrinucha Spot-crowned Antvireo **Dysithamnus** puncticeps Checker-throated Antwren Epinecrophylla fulviventris Griscom's Antwren Myrmotherula ignota Pacific Antwren Myrmotherula pacifica White-flanked Antwren Myrmotherula axillaris Myrmotherula schisticolor Slaty Antwren **Dot-winged Antwren** Microrhopias quixensis Long-tailed Antbird Drymophila caudata Terenura callinota Rufous-rumped Antwren **Dusky Antbird** Cercomacra tyrannina exsul Chestnut-backed Antbird Myrmeciza Esmeraldas Antbird Myrmeciza nigricauda Stub-tailed Antbird Myrmeciza berlepschi Immaculate Antbird Mvrmeciza immaculata **Bicolored Antbird Gymnopithys** leucaspis Spotted Antbird Hylophylax naevioides Ocellated Antbird **Phaenostictus** mcleannani Black-headed Antthrush **Formicarius** nigricapillus Rufous-breasted Antthrush **Formicarius** rufipectus Giant Antpitta Grallaria gigantea Moustached Antpitta Grallaria alleni Chestnut-crowned Antpitta Grallaria ruficapilla Chestnut-naped Antpitta Grallaria nuchalis



Yellow-breasted Antpitta Grallaria flavotincta Grallaria Rufous Antpitta rufula Grallaria Tawny Antpitta quitensis Streak-chested Antpitta Hylopezus perspicillatus Rufous-crowned Antpitta Pittasoma rufopileatum Ash-colored Tapaculo Myornis senilis Blackish Tapaculo Scytalopus latrans Nariño Tapaculo Scytalopus vicinior Spillmann's Tapaculo Scytalopus spillmanni Ocellated Tapaculo Acropternis orthonyx Sooty-headed Tyrannulet **Phyllomyias** griseiceps Black-capped Tyrannulet Phyllomyias nigrocapillus Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet **Phyllomyias** uropygialis Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet **Tyrannulus** elatus Greenish Elaenia Myiopagis viridicata White-crested Elaenia Elaenia albiceps Lesser Elaenia Elaenia chiriquensis Sierran Elaenia Elaenia pallatangae **Brown-capped Tyrannulet Ornithion** brunneicapillus Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet Camptostoma obsoletum White-tailed Tyrannulet Mecocerculus poecilocercus White-banded Tyrannulet Mecocerculus stictopterus White-throated Tyrannulet Mecocerculus leucophrys Mecocerculus Rufous-winged Tyrannulet calopterus **Torrent Tyrannulet** Serpophaga cinerea Yellow Tyrannulet Capsiempis flaveola Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant **Pseudotriccus** pelzelni Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant **Pseudotriccus** ruficeps Chocó Tyrannulet Zimmerius albigularis Streak-necked Flycatcher **Mionectes** striaticollis Olive-striped Flycatcher **Mionectes** olivaceus Ochre-bellied Flycatcher **Mionectes** oleagineus Slaty-capped Flycatcher superciliaris Leptopogon Ornate Flycatcher Myiotriccus ornatus Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant Myiornis atricapillus Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant Lophotriccus pileatus Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher Poecilotriccus ruficeps Common Tody-Flycatcher **Todirostrum** cinereum Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher **Todirostrum** nigriceps Pacific Flatbill Rhynchocyclus pacificus Yellow-margined Flatbill **Tolmomyias** flavotectus Golden-crowned Spadebill **Platyrinchus** coronatus Flavescent Flycatcher Myiophobus flavicans Bran-colored Flycatcher Myiophobus fasciatus Tawny-breasted Myiobius Myiobius villosus Sulphur-rumped Myiobius Myiobius barbatus



Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher **Terenotriccus** erythrurus Cinnamon Flycatcher **Pyrrhomyias** cinnamomeus Acadian Flycatcher **Empidonax** virescens Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi Smoke-colored Pewee Contopus fumigatus Western Wood-Pewee Contopus sordidulus Black Phoebe Sayornis nigricans Vermilion Flycatcher Pyrocephalus rubinus Smoky Bush-Tyrant Myiotheretes fumigatus Masked Water-Tyrant Fluvicola nengeta Crowned Chat-Tyrant Ochthoeca frontalis Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant Ochthoeca diadema Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant **Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant** Ochthoeca fumicolor Long-tailed Tyrant Colonia colonus Piratic Flycatcher Legatus leucophaius Rusty-margined Flycatcher Myiozetetes cayanensis Social Flycatcher similis Myiozetetes Gray-capped Flycatcher Myiozetetes granadensis White-ringed Flycatcher Conopias albovittatus Golden-crowned Flycatcher Myiodynastes chrysocephalus Streaked Flycatcher Myiodynastes maculatus Boat-billed Flycatcher Megarynchus pitangua

Tyrannus

Tyrannus

Sirystes

Sirystes

Pipreola

Pipreola

Pipreola

Rupicola

Attila

Myiarchus

Rhytipterna

Tropical Kingbird Rufous Mourner Western Sirystes Sirystes **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** Bright-rumped Attila Green-and-black Fruiteater **Barred Fruiteater** Orange-breasted Fruiteater Andean Cock-of-the-rock Blue Cotinga Rufous Piha Black-tipped Cotinga

Snowy-throated Kingbird

Cotinga Lipaugus Carpodectes Purple-throated Fruitcrow Querula Golden-winged Manakin Masius Club-winged Manakin Machaeropterus Blue-crowned Manakin Lepidothrix White-bearded Manakin Manacus Masked Tityra Tityra **Pachyramphus** Cinnamon Becard **Pachyramphus** Black-and-white Becard Pachyramphus

holerythra albogrisues sibilator tuberculifer spadiceus riefferii arcuata jucunda peruvianus nattererii unirufus hopkei purpurata chrysopterus deliciosus coronata manacus semifasciata spodiurus cinnamomeus

albogriseus

niveigularis

melancholicus



Slaty Becard

One-colored Becard **Pachyramphus** homochrous Chocó Vireo Vireo masteri Vireo **Brown-capped Vireo** leucophrys Red-eyed Vireo Vireo olivaceus Tawny-crowned Greenlet Hylophilus ochraceiceps Lesser Greenlet Hylophilus decurtatus Turquoise Jay Cyanolyca turcosa Blue-and-white Swallow Pygochelidon cyanoleuca **Brown-bellied Swallow** Orochelidon murina White-thighed Swallow tibialis Atticora Southern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx ruficollis **Gray-breasted Martin** Progne chalybea Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica Southern Nightingale Wren Microcerculus marginatus House Wren **Troglodytes** aedon Mountain Wren **Troglodytes** solstitialis **Grass Wren** Cistothorus platensis Plain-tailed Wren **Thryothorus** euophrys Whiskered Wren **Thryothorus** mystacalis Bay Wren **Thryothorus** nigricapillus Stripe-throated Wren **Thryothorus** leucopogon Rufous Wren Cinnycerthia unirufa Sepia-brown (Sharpe's) Wren Cinnycerthia olivascens White-breasted Wood-Wren Henicorhina leucosticta Gray-breasted Wood-Wren Henicorhina leucophrys Song Wren Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus **Microbates** cinereiventris Tawny-faced Gnatwren **Tropical Gnatcatcher** Polioptila plumbea schistaceigula Slate-throated Gnatcatcher Polioptila White-capped Dipper Cinclus leucocephalus Myadestes Andean Solitaire ralloides Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush Catharus fuscater Swainson's Thrush Catharus ustulatus **Black Solitaire Entomodestes** coracinus Pale-vented Thrush Turdus obsoletus **Great Thrush Turdus** fuscater Glossy-black Thrush **Turdus** serranus Dagua Thrush **Turdus** daguae **Tropical Mockingbird Mimus** gilvus Superciliaried Hemispingus Hemispingus superciliaris Western Hemispingus Hemispingus ochraceus White-shouldered Tanager **Tachyphonus** luctuosus Tawny-crested Tanager **Tachyphonus** delatrii White-lined Tanager **Tachyphonus** rufus Lemon-rumped Tanager Ramphocelus icteronotus Blue-gray Tanager **Thraupis** episcopus



Palm Tanager **Thraupis** palmarum **Thraupis** Blue-capped Tanager cyanocephala Blue-and-yellow Tanager **Thraupis** bonariensis Moss-backed Tanager edwardsi Bangsia Hooded Mountain-Tanager **Buthraupis** montana Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager Anisognathus igniventris Anisognathus Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager somptuosus Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager Anisognathus notabilis Grass-green Tanager Chlorornis riefferii Iridosornis Purplish-mantled Tanager

porphyrocephalus Fawn-breasted Tanager Pipraeidea melanonota Glistening-green Tanager Chlorochrysa phoenicotis Golden-naped Tanager Tangara ruficervix Scrub Tanager Tangara vitriolina Golden-hooded Tanager larvata Tangara Blue-necked Tanager Tangara cyanicollis Rufous-throated Tanager Tangara rufigula vassorii Blue-and-black Tanager Tangara Beryl-spangled Tanager Tangara nigroviridis Metallic-green Tanager Tangara **labradorides** Rufous-winged Tanager Tangara lavinia

Bay-headed Tanager gyrola Tangara Saffron-crowned Tanager xanthocephala Tangara Flame-faced Tanager Tangara parzudakii Blue-whiskered Tanager johannae Tangara Golden Tanager arthus Tangara florida **Emerald Tanager** Tangara

Silver-throated Tanager Tangara icterocephala

Swallow Tanager Tersina viridis Yellow-tufted Dacnis **Dacnis** egregia Scarlet-thighed Dacnis **Dacnis** venusta Blue Dacnis **Dacnis** cayana Scarlet-breasted Dacnis **Dacnis** berlepschi Purple Honeycreeper Cyanerpes caeruleus Green Honeycreeper Chlorophanes spiza

Scarlet-browed Tanager Heterospingus xanthopygius

Guira Tanager Hemithraupis guira Cinereous Conebill Conirostrum cinereum Blue-backed Conebill Conirostrum sitticolor Capped Conebill Conirostrum albifrons Glossy Flowerpiercer Diglossa lafresnayii Black Flowerpiercer Diglossa humeralis White-sided Flowerpiercer Diglossa albilatera Indigo Flowerpiercer Diglossa indigotica Masked Flowerpiercer Diglossa cyanea Plushcap Catamblyrhynchus diadema



Dusky Bush-Tanager Chlorospingus semifuscus Chlorospingus Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager flavigularis **Dusky-faced Tanager** Mitrospingus cassinii Bananaquit Coereba flaveola Yellow-faced Grassquit **Tiaris** olivaceus **Dull-colored Grassquit Tiaris** obscurus Slate-colored Grosbeak Saltator grossus **Buff-throated Saltator** Saltator maximus Black-winged Saltator Saltator atripennis Streaked Saltator Saltator striatipectus Rufous-collared Sparrow Zonotrichia capensis Slaty Finch Haplospiza rustica Blue-black Grassquit Volatinia iacarina Variable Seedeater Sporophila corvina Black-and-white Seedeater Sporophila luctuosa Yellow-bellied Seedeater Sporophila nigricollis Thick-billed Seed-Finch Oryzoborus funereus Plain-colored Seedeater Catamenia inornata Orange-billed Sparrow Arremon aurantiirostris Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch Arremon brunneinucha Chocó Brush-Finch **Atlapetes** crassus Rufous-naped Brush-Finch Atlapetes latinuchus **Summer Tanager** Piranga rubra Lemon-spectacled Tanager Chlorothraupis olivacea Ochre-breasted Tanager Chlorothraupis stolzmanni Southern Yellow Grosbeak **Pheucticus** chrysogaster **Tropical Parula** Parula pitiayumi Blackburnian Warbler Dendroica fusca American Redstart Setophaga ruticilla Northern Waterthrush noveboracensis Seiurus Olive-crowned Yellowthroat Geothlypis semiflava Slate-throated Redstart miniatus Myioborus Spectacled Redstart Myioborus melanocephalus Chocó Warbler Basileuterus chlorophrys Black-crested Warbler Basileuterus nigrocristatus Russet-crowned Warbler Basileuterus coronatus Three-striped Warbler Basileuterus tristriatus **Buff-rumped Warbler** Phaeothlypis fulvicauda Chestnut-headed Oropendola **Psarocolius** wagleri Scarlet-rumped Cacique Cacicus uropygialis Scrub Blackbird **Dives** warszewiczi Shiny Cowbird Molothrus bonariensis Hooded Siskin Carduelis magellanica Yellow-bellied Siskin Carduelis xanthogastra Orange-crowned Euphonia Euphonia saturata Thick-billed Euphonia Euphonia laniirostris



Fulvous-vented Euphonia	Euphonia	fulvicrissa
White-vented Euphonia	Euphonia	minuta
Orange-bellied Euphonia	Euphonia	xanthogaster
Yellow-collared Chlorophonia	Chlorophonia	flavirostris

N = 453



Giant Antpitta - "Maria"

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