

SOUTHWESTERN ECUADOR SPECIALTIES

February 21, 2010 to March 7, 2010

Guided by
Mitch Lysinger

This year's SW Ecuador tour was blessed with near perfect weather. Sure, maybe it was a little too foggy at times, but it beats hard and driving rain... and this in a country where you can get rain everyday of the trip! We scoured the better part of the southwest quadrant of Ecuador, covering many miles and a diversity of habitats, begging the question, where does it end? The diversity, I mean... and I'm not sure that it does! At least nobody has found the tail-end yet. From dry coastal scrub and deciduous Bombax-dominated forests (influenced by the Humboldt Current) that cover much of the western lowlands from Guayaquil south, we then poked into the last remaining very wet cloud forests of the southern Choco, and then explored the varied, convoluted valleys and ridges of Ecuador's southern Andes.

For its size, Ecuador rivals any country on the planet for biodiversity, but surprisingly, few endemic birds are found within its borders; regional endemics abound, and we saw a wealth of them. We focused our efforts on chasing down many of the Tumbesian endemics and many other range-restricted species only known from tiny corners within Ecuador or fringes of adjacent Peru. Without question, the top priority bird to search for had to be the Jocotoco Antpitta, a fabulous bird restricted - well, almost restricted - to a small area of windswept, weather tormented ridges in southern Ecuador where it was discovered in 1997. I don't think there is any doubt that this was among our favorite highlights, dueling for first place only with that mesmerizing male, Long-wattled Umbrellabird.

The runaway two favorites were obvious, but second, third, fourth places? Too many to call! We all have our favorites, but here are some of the species that I feel really added spice to our trip and made it an unforgettable one: a close and perched Gray-backed Hawk; many fine looks at Golden-plumed Parakeets at Tapichalaca, and the range-restricted El Oro Parakeet at Buenaventura; perched and scope Red-faced Parrots to die for!; that sneaky Gray-capped Cuckoo at Cerro Blanco that finally emerged from the Bombax forest; some eye-popping hummers, but those Rainbow Starfrontlets were hard to beat; An awesome display from a family group of Spectacled Owls; the Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucans that emerged out of the fog; Black-faced Spinetail singing and posing right underneath its nest; an impressive Red-billed Scythebill; a singing male Esmeraldas Antbird; a bucket full of other nice antpittas, including Plain-backed and Watkin's; outstanding Chusquea and Ocellated Tapaculos; two Scaled Fruiteaters at Buenaventura; those entertaining Club-winged Manakins that were so energetic; a long list of flycatchers, but how about nice scope views of the rare White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant right near a Black-billed for comparison, and the Pacific Royal-Flycatcher Ochraceous Attila?; nesting Slaty Becards; the pair of handsome and responsive White-tailed Jays; more tanagers than the average human can digest, but how about Grass-greens at eye-level, and the White-capped screaming at us right over our heads at Tapichalaca? Also gotta plug the Lacrimose and Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers, and Yellow-tufted Dacnis, for beauty; and of, course, the finale of our trip - and possibly one of the rarest and range-restricted species on the planet - the Pale-headed Brush-Finch, only recently re-discovered after decades of being lost without a trace!

We also encountered a few other wonderful creatures on our journey. I thought one of the most notable were those little Poison Dart Frogs at Buenaventura! We also got a charge out of those comical White-nosed Coatis gorging themselves on bananas there as well. My personal non-avian finds were a couple

of cool snakes, both at Buenaventura: the close Vine Snake was captivating, but that speckled tree-viper took the cake!

An important point, which we discussed on the trip, is how important the Jocotoco Foundation has become in the world of Ecuadorian conservation. We visited five of their eight reserves and experienced first hand what a marvelous job they are doing. Jocotoco has managed, in only 10 years, to establish the only reserves that target and protect some of the country's most endangered, endemic species: The Jocotoco Antpitta, El Oro Parakeet, Pale-headed Brush-Finch and the Black-breasted Puffleg. Were it not for the foundation's efforts, these species would be facing a very grim future indeed. In doing so, the foundation's reserves also protect a huge number of other threatened species, and not just birds, but also amphibians and reptiles, mammals and plants. Much of the success of our trip can be attributed to their efforts and they should be applauded. If you know of potential donors interested in such conservation projects, I could not suggest a better cause.

And I certainly can't forget to thank our cheerful spirited and careful driver, Wilson. His skills behind the wheel, and even knowledge of a few nice birding spots really enhanced the safety and enjoyment of our trip.

I had a fantastic time leading such a great bunch of folks and hope to do so again soon, sometime, somewhere! Sharing Ecuador's birds with you was a thrill... I know that I never get tired of it. This is a 'bigish' list, so sit down and get comfortable! Mitch.

List total: 422 bird taxa and 6 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

esw10-m/

Tinamidae

- * PALE-BROWED TINAMOU (*Crypturellus transfasciatus*)
Heard on a daily basis when in the proper Bombax forest habitata, such as around Cerro Blanco and Jorupe.

Phalacrocoracidae

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus brasilianus*)

Anhingidae

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga anhinga*)
A few flying over on our way out of Guayaquil.

Fregatidae

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*)

Ardeidae

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*)
One flew over in the afternoon west of Guayaquil.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba egretta*)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula thula*)

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis ibis*)

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata striata*)

Particularly common in the marshes (Manglares-Churute) SE of Guayaquil, right where we had the otter swim by.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*)

Anhimidae

HORNED SCREAMER (*Anhima cornuta*)
A bizarre species that we saw very well - a few pairs - at the Manglares-Churute marshes. We could even see the strange 'horn' with the aid of the scope. We also enjoyed the company of that wonderfully crushed and ripe snapping turtle!

Anatidae

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)
A few out in the Maglares-Churute marshes.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis discolor*)
The most common duck at Manglares-Churute.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (*Anas bahamensis rubrirostris*)

Cathartidae

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

KING VULTURE (*Sarcorampus papa*)
One distant and soaring bird Cerro Blanco.

Pandionidae

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*)

Accipitridae

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*)
Majestic!

PEARL KITE (*Gampsonyx swainsonii magnus*)
Cal spotted the first one out in the arid scrub west of Guayaquil. It was also nice to have another during our drive to Buenaventura.

SNAIL KITE (*Rostrhamus sociabilis sociabilis*)

PLUMBEOUS KITE (*Ictinia plumbea*)

CRANE HAWK (*Geranospiza caerulescens balzarensis*)

A couple of them on our first day at Cerro Blanco as they flew by; nice to see the bold crescent windows in the wings.

BARRED HAWK (*Leucopternis princeps*)

Some caught a quick flyby when it blasted through the forest at Buenaventura... must have been in hunting mode.

GRAY-BACKED HAWK (*Leucopternis occidentalis*)

This range-restricted species was seen very well a few times at Buenaventura, where it happens to be one of the best places in the country for it. At one point we even had one perched right next to the cobblestone road for frame-filling scope studies... fantastic!

GREAT BLACK-HAWK (*Buteogallus urubitinga urubitinga*)

One flew over us on our first day west of Guayaquil in the arid scrub.

SAVANNA HAWK (*Buteogallus meridionalis*)

Where were they this trip. At least we salvaged things when our local guide, Leo, pointed one out not far from Macara.

HARRIS' HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*)

Fairly common in scrub habitats of the west.

BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD-EAGLE (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus australis*)

Very nice studies on our last day at Yunguilla when we had one flying about overhead and then perched through the scope. Remember its thick-set build and frosty-gray upper wings?

GRAY HAWK (*Buteo nitidus*)

Cerro Blanco.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris*)

b BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus platypterus*)

During our birding downslope from Tapichalaca.

WHITE-RUMPED HAWK (*Buteo leucorrhous*)

One immature bird soaring over the Utuana reserve.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus brachyurus*)

Nice scope studies at a perched, white-morph bird near Buenaventura.

RED-BACKED (VARIABLE) HAWK (*Buteo polyosoma*)

Kiting over Acacana as it undertook some midday hunting.

Falconidae

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway cheriway*)

LAUGHING FALCON (*Herpetotheres cachinnans fulvescens*)

Cal made another nice spot when he found this one through a small hole in the trees after we had heard it vocalizing; Cerro Blanco. Sort of like the Lone Ranger of raptors with that black mask.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius peruvianus*)

BAT FALCON (*Falco rufigularis petoensis*)

Jorupe where we had one perched right over the bus.

Cracidae

RUFOUS-HEADED CHACHALACA (*Ortalis erythroptera*)

We had our best looks at this Tumbesian chachalaca species right from the dining room at Buenaventura where they come in most mornings to raid the berries of a fruiting tree. Sometimes rainouts have their advantages!

BEARDED GUAN (*Penelope barbata*)

This one came close to side-stepping us, but we nabbed them along the roadside down below Tapichalaca for exceptional scope views. This one is regional endemic that also occurs in N Peru.

Odontophoridae

* RUFOUS-FRONTED WOOD-QUAIL (*Odontophorus erythrops*)

Aramidae

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna guarauna*)

Rallidae

RUFIOUS-NECKED WOOD-RAIL (*Aramides axillaris*)

Now here is a tricky one that you don't see on many triplists... much less on a nest! The staff at Jorupe had a nest of one staked out for us that Harold Greeney (of nest-finding fame) had found the week before. As it turns out, Harold later told me that he had also found two other nests, less accessible, of course.

* PLUMBEOUS RAIL (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*)

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinica*)

Some might have glimpsed this one in a roadside marsh out on the western lowlands as we drove along.

Jacaniidae

WATTLED JACANA (*Jacana jacana scapularis*)

Recurvirostridae

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus*)

Charadriidae

b SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus peruvianus*)

COLLARED PLOVER (*Charadrius collaris*)

A few at close range in a muddy shrimp pond near the town of Santa Rosa.

Scolopacidae

b WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

One scoped at the same spot as the previous.

b SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*)

Laridae

GRAY-HEADED GULL (*Larus cirrocephalus cirrocephalus*)

We had this and the next species out on a mudflat where the plovers and Whimbrel were for nice scope studies.

b FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Larus pipixcan*)

Sternidae

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Sterna nilotica*)

Pretty numerous on the same flats as the previous two gulls.

b SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida*)

A few perched up on some posts in an inundated shrimp pond near Santa Rose.

Columbidae

I ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata albilinea*)

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis occidentalis*)

PLUMBEOUS PIGEON (*Patagioenas plumbea chapmani*)

Nice scope views of this pale-eyed pigeon species at Buenaventura.

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata hypoleuca*)

ECUADORIAN GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina buckleyi*)

Once lumped with the Ruddy Ground-Dove, this rather featureless little dove, restricted to the west, was seen very well a few times, such as at Cerro Blanco.

CROAKING GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina cruziana*)

A very distinctive little ground-dove, with its yellow cere and rich salmon coloration; we saw them well in the Catamayo Valley, and even heard their strange call.

BLUE GROUND-DOVE (*Claravis pretiosa*)

A bit of a surprise when a male poked out onto the road to feed at Cerro Blanco... nice!

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi decolor*)

* OCHRE-BELLIED DOVE (*Leptotila ochraceiventris*)

Well, at least we even heard it! This is one of the hardest of the Tumbesian endemics to track down, often only being heard at a distance. This one teased us for a while at Jorupe along the trail as it called, but demonstrated no interest in coming down for a look.

WHITE-THROATED QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon frenata subgrisea*)

Fabulous studies at them at Tapichalaca where they had success at attracting them to corn feeders along the Jocotoco Antpitta trail.

* RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon montana montana*)

Psittacidae

RED-MASKED PARAKEET (*Aratinga erythrogenys*)

Most common Buenaventura where we had some nice scope views.

GOLDEN-PLUMED PARAKEET (*Leptosittaca branickii*)

The fog was often touch and go at Tapichalaca, but it lifted a few times for longer periods to allow for some outstanding studies at this local species. It is heartening to see that they are taking to the nest boxes placed on wax palms. An amazing parrot with a loud, arresting call.

E EL ORO PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura orcesi*)

The best looks at this species that I have had in years! Our local guide at Buenaventura led us right to the nesting area on our first full morning there for blowout views. This range-restricted species is the principal reason that the Jocotoco Foundation targeted the forests at Buenaventura.

BARRED PARAKEET (*Bolborhynchus lineola*)

Seen as high flybys, as is usually the case.

PACIFIC PARROTLET (*Forpus coelestis*)

The smallest and one of the most common psittacids of the trip.

GRAY-CHEEKED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris pyrrhopterus*)

Nice scope views of this Tumbesian endemic (largely restricted to Ecuador) east of Guayaquil where our driver, Wilson, led us to a birdy patch with a few other surprises.

ROSE-FACED PARROT (*Pionopsitta pulchra*)

Five birds came screaming by overhead at Buenaventura as we waited for the El Oro Parakeets to come back, but the looks weren't too bad as the rose in the face was visible.

RED-FACED PARROT (*Hapalopsittaca pyrrhops*)

An excellent trip for psittacids, and this was one of the highlights indeed when we nailed them for scope views on some remnant forest near Saraguro. At first I think we were all worried that we might have to settle for in-flight views, but they circled around and we found them sitting in beautiful light.

BLUE-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus menstruus*)

Pretty common in the humid forests east of Guayaquil.

RED-BILLED PARROT (*Pionus sordidus corallinus*)

Flybys at Tapichalaca, but that reddish bill did stand out a time or two.

SPECKLE-FACED (WHITE-CAPPED) PARROT (*Pionus tumultuosus seniloides*)

Flying by in the fog at Tapichalaca.

BRONZE-WINGED PARROT (*Pionus chalcopterus*)

Jill really enjoyed seeing this one as she is particularly fond of this genus, and they put on some nice shows at Buenaventura.

RED-LORED PARROT (*Amazona autumnalis lilacina*)

A pair flying over at Cerro Blanco.

SCALY-NAPED PARROT (*Amazona mercenaria*)

Also at flybys at Tapichalaca.

Cuculidae

GRAY-CAPPED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus lansbergi*)

This species was quiet at Cerro Blanco where they are often a bit more vocal this time of the year. Hats off to Sandra for spotting this one for us along the trail there soon after we had played some song.

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana nigricrissa*)

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris sulcirostris*)

* STRIPED CUCKOO (*Tapera naevia naevia*)

Tytonidae

- * BARN OWL (*Tyto alba contempta*)

Strigidae

WEST PERUVIAN SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops roboratus pacificus*)

A real devil to see this trip, but most folks who tried for the third and final round with this guy on our last morning at Jorupe landed quick, but good looks when we called one into a low tree.

BLACK-AND-WHITE OWL (*Ciccaba nigrolineata*)

One responsive and vocal bird in the spotlight up the road from Buenaventura lodge.

- * RUFOUS-BANDED OWL (*Ciccaba albitarsus*)

SPECTACLED OWL (*Pulsatrix perspicillata chapmani*)

One of the great sounds of the neotropics, as far as I am concerned, and we had a crippling encounter with a family group right from the dining room at Jorupe when we hit them with the spotlight. That white juvenile is so striking! This species constant presence around the lodge may have accounted for the West Peruvian Screech being so hard to get in.

PERUVIAN PYGMY-OWL (*Glaucidium peruanum*)

Caprimulgidae

PAURAQUE (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)

Apodidae

CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne rutila brunntorques*)

Some nice studies at a close feeding group south of Loja one afternoon.

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

GRAY-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura cinereiventris occidentalis*)

Fairly common around Buenaventura lodge.

TUMBES SWIFT (*Chaetura ocyptetes*)

Now considered by the SACC to represent only a Tumbesian form of the Short-tailed Swift. We had them swirling around overhead one afternoon near Jorupe.

LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT (*Panyptila cayennensis*)

Buenaventura, where there is an old nest hanging right under the roof of one of the cabins.

Trochilidae

WHITE-TIPPED SICKLEBILL (*Eutoxeres aquila heterura*)

After hearing them a few times blast by in the forest at Buenaventura, I believe it was Judith who spotted one perched in a Heliconia clump not far from the lodge... spectacular! We soon after even had a chance to feed and see how it uses its bizarre bill.

WHITE-WHISKERED HERMIT (*Phaethornis yaruqui*)

Seen best at the feeders at Buenaventura.

BARON'S HERMIT (*Phaethornis baroni*)

Seen in a remnant patch of semi-humid forest east of Guayaquil, but then later on even better at the Buenaventura feeders.

GRAY-CHINNED HERMIT (*Phaethornis griseogularis porcullae*)

Seen blasting by by some in the montane forests above Sozoranga.

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*)

A really handsome species present at Buenaventura's feeders.

BROWN VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri delphinae*)

The loudest hummingbird voice at Buenaventura's feeders! They hit the feeders frequently.

- * GREEN VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri thalassinus cyanotus*)

SPARKLING VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri coruscans coruscans*)

Common around Yunguilla.

GREEN-BREASTED MANGO (*Anthracothorax prevostii iridescens*)

Seen briefly in our forest patch east of Guayaquil. The Birds of Ecuador considers this W Ecuadorian form to belong to the Black-throated Mango group, while the SACC now refers them to this group.

- GREEN THORNTAIL (*Discosura conversii*)
The male of this species is just spectacular with that long, pointy tail.
- EMERALD-BELLIED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania hypochlora*)
A regional specialty that has now become a regular at Buenaventura's feeders. The SACC merged this one with the Green-crowned Woodnymph, 'T. fannyi'.
- VIOLET-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Damophila julie*)
Certainly one of the most intensely-colored hummers of the trip. Wow!
- RUFIOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia tzacatl jucunda*)
- AMAZILIA HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia amazilia dumerilii*)
Common in the drier lowlands of the west.
- LOJA HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia alticola*)
The SACC sunk this one back in with the Amazilia, which I sort of agree with; there seems to be a lot of variability in this one and often strikes me as being too close to call when trying to differentiate it from true Amazilia.
- ANDEAN EMERALD (*Agyrtria francae*)
Common at Buenaventura's feeders; this was the one with clean white below.
- SPECKLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Adelomyia melanogenys maculata*)
Common around Tapichalaca.
- FAWN-BREASTED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa rubinoides aequatorialis*)
Common at Tapichalaca's feeders.
- GREEN-CROWNED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa jacula jamesoni*)
The most common of the larger hummers at Buenaventura.
- CHESTNUT-BREASTED CORONET (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*)
Tapichalaca's feeders.
- MOUNTAIN VELVETBREAST (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi saul*)
The jittery hummer with the curved bill at Utuana that some of us got onto as it tried its best to sneak into the feeders there.
- BROWN INCA (*Coeligena wilsoni*)
Some nice looks at this one at Buenaventura.
- COLLARED INCA (*Coeligena torquata fulgidigula*)
A feeder addict at Tapichalaca.
- BUFF-WINGED STARFRONTLET (*Coeligena lutetiae*)
Not around at Tapichalaca this trip, but we lucked into a perched female at Acacana for nice scope studies.
- RAINBOW STARFRONTLET (*Coeligena iris iris*)
Clouds of this gorgeous hummer at Utuana - what a thrill to see so many, and so close. The hood on this bird, in the right light, leaves you speechless... well, not me... I've always got something foolish to say!
- AMETHYST-THROATED SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus amethysticollis laticlavus*)
Wonderful looks at Tapichalaca where it is a feeder bird. The one with the white collar.
- LITTLE (FLAME-THROATED) SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus micraster*)
I think 'Flame-throated' is certainly the better name for this one since it has that bright orange throat. Common around Tapichalaca. I love how the gorget on this one can change from lime-green, to fiery orange!
- PURPLE-THROATED SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus viola*)
Common at Utuana's feeders. The purple throat is another sight to behold.
- GLOWING PUFFLEG (*Eriocnemis vestitus smaragdinipectus*)
What an amazing, shimmering yellowish-green rump; Cajanuma and Acacana.
- GREEN-TAILED TRAINBEARER (*Lesbia nuna gracilis*)
We stumbled into a patch of them at Utuana.
- TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina tyrianthina*)
Tapichalaca and Acacana where it is common at forest edges.

RUFIOUS-CAPPED THORNBILL (*Chalcostigma ruficeps*)

This genus of thornbill has the habit of feeding on the flowers of low shrubby bushes near the ground, often in barren areas, such as landslides or road cuts. This trip they were real suckers for the small yellow, orchid flowers at Tapichalaca.

LONG-TAILED SYLPH (*Agelaiocercus kingi mocoa*)

The sylph of the east slope, replacing the Violet-tailed of the west.

VIOLET-TAILED SYLPH (*Agelaiocercus coelestis aethereus*)

Common at Buenaventura where it is also a feeder bird. That tail is just mind-blowing!

PURPLE-CROWNED FAIRY (*Heliothryx barroti*)

Briefly a few times in the humid western forests, such as around Buenaventura.

LONG-BILLED STARTHROAT (*Heliothryx longirostris albicrissa*)

A few visited the feeders at Buenaventura on a regular basis.

PURPLE-COLLARED WOODSTAR (*Myrtis fanny fanny*)

After a string of a few drab females, we finally connected with a full-blown male on our way out of Yunguilla as it chased the gals (and young males?) about, strutting his fancy throat and collar... yeah!

WHITE-BELLIED WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)

One female at Acacana.

Trogonidae

COLLARED TROGON (*Trogon collaris virginalis*)

A nice pair along the trail at Jorupe.

BLACK-TAILED (ECUADORIAN) TROGON (*Trogon melanurus mesurus*)

Very cooperative birds for scope views east of Guayaquil were a hit! Many experts (including SACC!!!) now split this species out from the Black-tailed Trogon. The main obvious difference is that this one has the pale eye.

Alcedinidae

RINGED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle torquatus*)

GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana cabanisii*)

Momotidae

BLUE-CROWNED MOTMOT (*Momotus momota argenticinctus*)

Abundant around the cabins at Jorupe, among other spots, where they chorus at dawn and dusk.

RUFIOUS MOTMOT (*Baryphthengus martii semirufus*)

Another Cal find along the Buenaventura, cobblestone road. We had it well through the scope.

BROAD-BILLED MOTMOT (*Electron platyrhynchum platyrhynchum*)

A three motmot trip! This one was pretty common at Buenaventura.

Ramphastidae

ANDEAN TOUCANET (*Aulacorhynchus albivitta cyanolaemus*)

Jill spotted this southern race with the blue throat down the road from Tapichalaca for scope looks.

COLLARED (PALE-MANDIBLED) ARACARI (*Pteroglossus torquatus erythropygius*)

Buenaventura where we saw them briefly.

GRAY-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN (*Andigena hypoglauca lateralis*)

Awe, I knew we'd get it... just needed Cal to find them - nice goin'! Once the fog cleared, we were treated to outstanding scope studies as they perched right above us down the road from the Tapichalaca lodge. This is the prettiest of the mountain-toucans in my opinion.

CHOCO TOUCAN (*Ramphastos brevis*)

We called in a very responsive pair at Buenaventura where we threw the scope on them for nice views and could discern the black - not chestnut - in the bill. Nice to have them calling as well.

BLACK-MANDIBLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii*)

The west slope form of this species - formerly called Chestnut-mandibled - that runs right up through Middle America; seen well a few times at Buenaventura.

Picidae

ECUADORIAN PICULET (*Picumnus sclateri*)
Excellent studies of a pair on our first day of birding at Cerro Blanco.

OLIVACEOUS PICULET (*Picumnus olivaceus*)
Nicely east of Guayaquil in some humid forest; replaces the previous species in more humid habitats.

BLACK-CHEEKED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes pucherani*)
Same spot as the previous when we spotted one on a dead snag.

SCARLET-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis callonotus*)
A had a family group land in nice light for us near Jorupe as we dug for the Elegant Crescent-chest!

BAR-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis nigriceps equifasciatus*)
Eye-level scope studies at a pair at Tapichalaca.

* SMOKY-BROWN WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis fumigatus*)
GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Piculus rubiginosus rubripileus*)
Neill got us onto this one at Jorupe.

LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus fuscipennis*)
Buenaventura.

GUAYAQUIL WOODPECKER (*Campephilus guayaquilensis*)
Right at the Parakeet spot at Buenaventura when a pair came in.

Furnariidae

PALE-LEGGED (PACIFIC) HORNERO (*Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus*)
A common bird in drier habitats as well as in disturbed humid areas; seen on most days of the trip. Horneros are known for their mud, Dutch-oven nests seen so often conspicuously placed in trees and power posts.

RUFIOUS SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis unirufa unirufa*)
We one about as close and in the open as you could hope for a Tapichalaca.

AZARA'S SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis azarae ochracea*)
The common highland spinetail.

SLATY SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis brachyura griseonucha*)
We didn't even have to call it in; this can be a real stinker to see most of the time, but the calling bird at Buenaventura pranced right through a fairly open vine tangle for killer looks.

BLACK-FACED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis tithys*)
Singing right under its nest at Jorupe!

NECKLACED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis stictothorax stictothorax*)
I thought that this was going to be a bit more of a struggle, but we nailed a responsive pair at our first roadside stop west of Cerro Blanco, in the arid scrub, in a matter of minutes.

WHITE-BROWED SPINETAIL (*Hellmayrea gularis gularis*)
This can be another hard one to pry out of the 'woodwork', but we lucked into excellent views of one at Tapichalaca. Very wren-like, and shorter-tailed than most other spinetails.

LINE-CHEEKED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca antisiensis antisiensis*)
Humid forests above Sozoranga.

MOUSE-COLORED THISTLETAIL (*Schizoeaca griseomurina*)
One crept in as we waited patiently for an antpitta, whose name I won't mention (!), to appear.

PEARLED TREERUNNER (*Margarornis squamiger perlatus*)
Common in the flocks around Tapichalaca and Acacana.

STREAKED XENOPS (*Xenops rutilans guayae*)
A few with the flocks.

SCALY-THROATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps temporalis*)
Repeated nice looks at this flock-follower at Buenaventura. Remember that this one had that distinctive buffy-orange brow.

STREAKED TUFTEDCHEEK (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii orientalis*)
With a fast moving flock at Tapichalaca.

RUFIOUS-NECKED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Syndactyla ruficollis*)

Easily at Jorupe when we called one in for nice looks. This one has given me trouble in the past.

HENNA-HOODED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Hylocryptus erythrocephalus*)

Calling and readily seen at Jorupe; surprisingly quiet at Cerro Blanco - probably just too hot!!! This is a large and very distinctive looking foliage-gleaner that nests in holes it digs in the sides of dirt banks.

Dendrocolaptidae

* PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa ridgwayi*)

OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (*Sittasomus griseicapillus aequatorialis*)

This western race was pretty common around Jorupe.

WEDGE-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus sublestus*)

Regular with the flocks at Buenaventura.

STRONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus crassirostris*)

One marginally responsive bird at Tapichalaca for pretty good views. A real hulk of a woodcreeper.

SPOTTED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus erythrogygius aequatorialis*)

This medium-sized woodcreeper is common with the flocks at Buenaventura.

STREAK-HEADED WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*)

Common in the west, such as around Buenaventura and Jorupe.

RED-BILLED SCYTHEBILL (*Campylorhamphus trochilirostris thoracicus*)

Fantastic studies of one when we called it in for multiple views at Cerro Blanco.

Thamnophilidae

GREAT ANTSHRIKE (*Taraba major transandeanus*)

Seen best when we got a male to pop out right into the open - even if only briefly - down the road from Buenaventura.

COLLARED ANTSHRIKE (*Sakesphorus bernardi*)

An easy antshrike to see and call in, and we did so on our first day at Cerro Blanco. Wags its tail when calling, in typical antshrike fashion.

CHAPMAN'S ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus zarumae zarumae*)

We were lucky to have gotten onto the ones we did just above Sozoranga, because all of the others we tried were less than disinterested!

UNIFORM ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus unicolor unicolor*)

Pretty common, and seen well in the understory of forest at Buenaventura.

WESTERN SLATY-ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus atrinucha atrinucha*)

Pretty common in the western lowlands in humid forest.

RUSSET ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnistes anabatinus intermedius*)

With the canopy flocks at Buenaventura.

PLAIN ANTVIREO (*Dysithamnus mentalis aequatorialis*)

First at Cerro Blanco, and then again at Jorupe where Leo pointed one out on a nest.

SLATY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula schisticolor schisticolor*)

A common flock bird at Buenaventura, but not always easy to see. We fine success though, seeing them a few times well.

LONG-TAILED ANTBIRD (*Drymophila caudata*)

A bamboo dweller, as are all of the birds in this genus. We called in a territorial pair at Tapichalaca for very good looks. A really handsome bird.

DUSKY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)

East of Guayaquil at our humid forest patch that Wilson sniffed out!

WHITE-BACKED (PACIFIC) FIRE-EYE (*Pyriglena leuconota pacifica*)

Staggering views of a responsive male down the road from the Buenaventura lodge.

ESMERALDAS ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza nigricauda*)

It took a little patience to reel it in, but we ended up with excellent looks at a male as it sang and hoped about at Buenaventura. Certainly worth the hike in, even if that dreaded tapaculo didn't want to play!

Formicariidae

- * BARRED ANTPITTA (Chamaeza mollissima mollissima)
- * SCALED ANTPITTA (Grallaria guatemalensis regulus)
PLAIN-BACKED ANTPITTA (Grallaria haplonota)
A winner trip for seen antpittas, and this one kicked the run off when we patiently - and successfully - worked on one in the understory at Buenaventura. I find this species particularly difficult to see well.
- * CHESTNUT-CROWNED ANTPITTA (Grallaria ruficapilla connectens)
WATKINS' ANTPITTA (Grallaria watkinsi)
I'm sure glad we decided to try and call it in for a second look, because it popped right into a whole for scope views as it preened; Jorupe.
CHESTNUT-NAPED ANTPITTA (Grallaria nuchalis nuchalis)
About half of the group got onto this stealthy species at Tapichalaca. This was the one that Virginia spotted in the undergrowth, and then Romney and Sandra had the right angle as well. Jill caught good looks at possibly the same bird a couple of days later for another round of torture!
- JOCOTOCO ANTPITTA (Grallaria ridgelyi)
Well, after over a decade of struggling to see and show this superb (and recently discovered) antpitta to groups, the 'shooting fish in a barrel' approach as a welcome change! As one of the trip highlights and big reasons why many of you signed up for this trip, this bird is nothing less than jaw-dropping - it's large, gorgeously patterned, and happens to be one of the rarest and sought after birds in South America. The worm feeding station really takes a few layers out of the antpitta stress sandwich. Sure, it is a bit staged, but who would rather the other possible alternative... search non-stop for two days, and miss it? No way! From a conservation standpoint, I think the tamed down family group is doing a great service to birders, themselves, and other pairs alike: no longer do birders have to struggle and beat them with excessive tape-play that could have negative affects on their breeding and day-to-day life. I sort of see it as making peace with this wonderful critter, as opposed to firing rockets at them. The setting was so captivating as well... you have to love those mossy, epiphyte laden forests, home to such an intriguing bird that somehow evolved right there. Makes you feel lucky to be in such a wonderful spot. So, a big round of applause to Bob Ridgely and the Jocotoco Foundation for finding, and setting in motion one of the continent's most important reserves... Tapichalaca. But why does it have to sound so much like 'chachalaca'?
- RUFOUS ANTPITTA (Grallaria rufula rufula)
Neill heard it, Cal spotted it, and well got it... now that's team work! We were just so lucky to have had it come in so readily at Cajanuma for cracking views.
- * OCHRE-BREASTED ANTPITTA (Grallaricula flavirostris zarumae)
- * RUSTY-BREASTED ANTPITTA (Grallaricula ferruginepectus leymeabambae)
To far away to even have a realistic chance of seeing...
- SLATE-CROWNED ANTPITTA (Grallaricula nana nana)
The fog hurt the visibility and contrast, but most folks ended up getting pretty decent views of this small antpitta along the trails at Tapichalaca.

Rhinocryptidae

- ELEGANT CRESCENT-CHEST (Melanopareia elegans elegans)
This one was not going to get away! We worked it until everybody had excellent looks in some secondary woodland near Jorupe. And a fine looking bird it is!
- ASH-COLORED TAPACULO (Myornis senilis)
Quick, but pretty good looks at responsive birds at Tapichalaca.
- * BLACKISH TAPACULO (Scytalopus latrans subcinereus)
- * ECUADORIAN TAPACULO (Scytalopus robbinsi)
We did our best, but it just didn't want any part of us. I guess it went undiscovered until recently for a reason.
- CHUSQUEA TAPACULO (Scytalopus parkeri)
Amazing views of one at Tapichalaca when it sat right out in the open. Named by Niels Krabbe, in honor of his friend and incredibly talented ornithologist, the late, Ted Parker.
- OCELLATED TAPACULO (Acropternis orthonyx infuscata)
Tremendous looks at one of a very responsive pair at Acacana, thanks to a tip from Juan Carlos' group!

Cotingidae

RED-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rubrocristata*)

Scope vies of this handsome cotinga at Utuana where we could even see the swept back crest.

GREEN-AND-BLACK FRUITEATER (*Pipreola riefferii occidentalis*)

After some work, nice looks at a pair at Tapichalaca.

* BARRED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola arcuata arcuata*)

SCALED FRUITEATER (*Ampelioides tschudii*)

Judith spotted our first one right at the El Oro Parakeet sight - a female - which we scoped. We also ran into a male later on at Buenaventura for equally nice looks.

LONG-WATTLED UMBRELLABIRD (*Cephalopterus penduliger*)

The hunt was on! We heard them calling down the trail not far from us... like the horn of a distant ship. It was getting late, but there was still enough light to continue the chase. The tree from where it was calling was largely obstructed, and then it flew to a perch further away, out of sight... drats! After a quick hit or two of its song, it blasted in and sat only meters above our heads for breath-taking studies of its ridiculously long wattle that seemed to rival the length of the bird itself... wow! The Buenaventura reserve was initially bought to secure the habitat for the El Oro Parakeet, but with perks like this, how can you go wrong?

Pipridae

WHITE-BEARDED MANAKIN (*Manacus manacus*)

Seen by a few at Buenaventura, but uncharacteristically tricky!

GOLDEN-WINGED MANAKIN (*Masius chrysopterus coronulatus*)

A stunning scoped male at Buenaventura.

CLUB-WINGED MANAKIN (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*)

What a charge it was watching those goofy males launch into their bizarre wing-displays!

Tyrannidae

SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum sclateri*)

The common crested tyrannulet we saw in various habitat types.

MOUSE-COLORED (TUMBES) TYRANNULET (*Phaeomyias murina tumbezana*)

Some consider this a species separate from the true Mouse-colored Tyrannulet east of the Andes, such as Ridgely and Greenfield in the Birds of Ecuador. We had many nice studies of this common bird in near the town of Sozoranga.

YELLOW TYRANNULET (*Capsiempis flaveola magnirostris*)

Common in the shrubby growth around Buenaventura.

PACIFIC ELAENIA (*Myiopagis subplacens*)

Fairly common in the deciduous forests of the SW.

GREENISH ELAENIA (*Myiopagis viridicata implacens*)

Nice scope views of this obscure elaenia at Cerro Blanco.

YELLOW-BELLIED ELAENIA (*Elaenia flavogaster semipagana*)

A responsive pair at Buenaventura.

WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA (*Elaenia albiceps griseigularis*)

The common elaenia at Utuana.

MOTTLE-BACKED ELAENIA (*Elaenia gigas*)

Now that's a crest! We had one scoped bird near the town of Valladolid, downslope from Tapichalaca.

* SIERRAN ELAENIA (*Elaenia pallatangae pallatangae*)

OLIVE-STRIPED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes olivaceus hederaceus*)

A few around Buenaventura.

RUFIOUS-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon rufipectus rufipectus*)

One seen briefly in a fast moving flock downslope from Tapichalaca.

SLATY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon superciliaris transandinus*)

Buenaventura.

* RUFIOUS-HEADED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Pseudotriccus ruficeps*)

- SOOTY-HEADED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias griseiceps griseiceps*)
The small tyrannulet with no wingbars that we saw at Buenaventura.
- BLACK-CAPPED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias nigrocapillus nigrocapillus*)
Common in the flocks at Tapichalaca.
- TAWNY-RUMPED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias uropygialis*)
Seen well in the montane forests of Utuana.
- GOLDEN-FACED (LOJA) TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius chrysops flavidifrons*)
We called them up out of the montane scrub during a stop on the way to Jorupe.
- WHITE-TAILED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)
- WHITE-BANDED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus stictopterus stictopterus*)
- BLACK-CRESTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes nigrocristatus*)
Nice views of this fancy little tyrant at Utuana... what an amazing crest this one sports! Also known as Maranon Tit-Tyrant. And good spotting, Cal.
- TAWNY-CROWNED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Euscarthmus meloryphus fulviceps*)
A common bird of the undergrowth in arid scrub.
- SCALE-CRESTED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Lophotriccus pileatus squamaecrista*)
Common and vocal at Buenaventura; we had some nice studies.
- RUFIOUS-CROWNED TODY-TYRANT (*Poecilotriccus ruficeps*)
A sprite little flycatcher that we called up out of the undergrowth at Tapichalaca.
- BLACK-THROATED TODY-TYRANT (*Hemitriccus granadensis pyrrhops*)
Nice studies of this rusty-faced 'pyrrhops' race at Tapichalaca.
- COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum sclateri*)
- YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens aequatorialis*)
- WHITE-THROATED SPADEBILL (*Platyrinchus mystaceus albogularis*)
A tiny little flycatcher that we saw at Buenaventura.
- PACIFIC ROYAL-FLYCATCHER (*Onychorhynchus occidentalis*)
A bit of a bonus bird for this itinerary since I did not know about the spot until chatting with our driver, Wilson. When he mentioned it to me, and how close it was to our route south, I said, "why not"? Plus, we'd probably get a few extra birds in the process. It turned out to be a real bonanza. The flycatcher was sensational when we finally tracked it down along a stream where we found a few old nests hanging about. Sometimes a little bit of exploration can go a long way!
- ORNATE FLYCATCHER (*Myiotriccus ornatus stellatus*)
A brightly-colored flycatcher, and one that we saw well many times at Buenaventura.
- ORANGE-BANDED FLYCATCHER (*Myiophobus lintoni*)
Common at Tapichalaca where we had one sitting only about a meter off of a few folk's noses! Maybe "Buff-banded Flycatcher" would have been a better name.
- BRAN-COLORED FLYCATCHER (*Myiophobus fasciatus crypterythrus*)
A few of this widespread species were seen.
- SULPHUR-RUMPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiobius sulphureipygius aureatus*)
- CINNAMON FLYCATCHER (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea pyrrhoptera*)
A conspicuous flycatcher of roadsides and forest edges which we saw well a couple of times.
- GRAY-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Lathrotriccus griseipectus*)
A very responsive individual at Cerro Blanco was a good early snag; Leo, at Jorupe, pointed out a nest of one in between two small bromeliads right over the trail.
- SMOKE-COLORED PEWEE (*Contopus fumigatus zarumae*)
- b** WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus sordidulus*)
- TROPICAL (TUMBES) PEWEE (*Contopus cinereus punensis*)
Good looks at a close perched bird near Jorupe as it sallied out for insects.
- BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans angustirostris*)
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus piurae*)

CROWNED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca frontalis frontalis*)

It took a bit of work and patience, but we all finally had the looks we wanted at this high elevation chat-tyrant of temperate woodlands. This one is often tricky to see well as it stays well under cover.

YELLOW-BELLIED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca diadema gratiosa*)

A close relative of the previous species, and seems to replace it at mid-elevations. We had this one wonderfully along the trails at Tapichalaca. The yellow brow is what really stands out.

SLATY-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris cinnamomeiventris*)

Fog made the visibility one afternoon out of Tapichalaca a real challenge, but it did clear one time long enough for us to get excellent scope studies at this distinctive chat-tyrant... the one with the white headlights!

RUFIOUS-BREASTED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis obfuscata*)

Pretty common around Tapichalaca, but mostly a canopy bird, unlike the others we saw.

STREAK-THROATED BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes striaticollis striaticollis*)

Quality studies at a pair at Yunguilla where we could see every mark.

SMOKY BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes fumigatus cajamarcae*)

The duller relative of the previous species that we saw at Cajanuma and Tapichalaca.

BLACK-BILLED SHRIKE-TYRANT (*Agriornis montana solitaria*)

An awesome one-two punch when we nabbed this and the next species at the same spot south of Saraguro. It is rare to see them together, at least here in Ecuador, so it was really a treat to be able to compare them within only minutes of each other. This is the common species that is duller gray and has a smaller bill, and usually with a paler eye; the White-tailed (both have white tails!) is considerably larger, with a richer brown tone and thick, hooked bill. Nice!

WHITE-TAILED SHRIKE-TYRANT (*Agriornis andicola*)

MASKED WATER-TYRANT (*Fluvicola nengeta atripennis*)

Only seen on one day at the drying pools of the Santa Rosa marshes near Machala.

OCHRACEOUS ATTLA (*Attila torridus*)

After hearing them a time or two at Buenaventura, we finally called in a responsive bird for tremendous studies as it vocalized back to us.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer atriceps*)

SOOTY-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus phaeocephalus phaeocephalus*)

One at Cerro Blanco.

BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarhynchus pitangua chrysogaster*)

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis grandis*)

* GOLDEN-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus minor*)

BAIRD'S FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes bairdii*)

This Tumbesian endemic was most numerous north of Macara area where the habitat is drier.

STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus chapmani*)

PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*)

SNOWY-THROATED KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus niveigularis*)

Only seen on one day, but we had a few nice looks out in the drier scrub west of Guayaquil.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus melancholicus*)

YELLOW-CHEEKED BECARD (*Pachyramphus xanthogenys xanthogenys*)

A really good trip for becards, and this one spiced things up nicely when we had good looks at a male in the Maranon drainage downslope from Tapichalaca. SACC lumps this one back in with Green-backed Becard.

BARRED BECARD (*Pachyramphus versicolor versicolor*)

Pretty common with flocks at Tapichalaca.

BLACK-AND-WHITE BECARD (*Pachyramphus albogriseus guayaquilensis*)

We called a responsive male in at Jorupe.

SLATY BECARD (*Pachyramphus spodiurus*)

Plenty of them nesting at Jorupe this time of the year.

ONE-COLORED BECARD (*Pachyramphus homochrous homochrous*)

Also actively nesting at Jorupe. A large becard with a chunky head.

MASKED TITYRA (*Tityra semifasciata nigriceps*)
Buenaventura.

Hirundinidae

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea chalybea*)

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca cyanoleuca*)

BROWN-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Notiochelidon murina murina*)
Neill and Virginia had a few in the Acacana area.

PALE-FOOTED SWALLOW (*Notiochelidon flavipes*)

A few of this forest based swallow at Cajanuma and Tapichalaca; mainly identified by call and flight behavior.

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis uropygialis*)

CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon rufocollaris aequatorialis*)

A Tumbesian endemic swallow and one that we saw well at the roosting site in Sozoranga one afternoon.

Troglodytidae

FASCIATED WREN (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus pallescens*)

The Campylorhynchus representative of Tumbesia, which we saw plenty of on the dry western lowlands. I'm still a trite puzzled over the darker, more richly colored birds we had at Buenaventura, so must hold off on calling them anything other than this species.

RUFOUS WREN (*Cinnycerthia unirufa unibrunnea*)

Common around Tapichalaca and Acacana.

SHARPE'S (SEPIA-BROWN) WREN (*Cinnycerthia olivascens olivascens*)

The slightly lower elevation replacement of the previous species that we saw along the roadside downslope from Tapichalaca.

WHISKERED WREN (*Thryothorus mystacalis mystacalis*)

A responsive pair at the entrance to the Buenaventura cobblestone road that most saw pretty well when it climbed up high into a forest edge tree.

PLAIN-TAILED WREN (*Thryothorus euophrys*)

Seen briefly at Tapichalaca when a pair traipsed by.

SPECKLE-BREASTED WREN (*Thryothorus sclateri paucimaculatus*)

Seen well early on at Cerro Blanco when we called in a bird right over our heads into a vine tangle.

BAY WREN (*Thryothorus nigricapillus nigricapillus*)

Abundant at Buenaventura.

SUPERCILIATED WREN (*Thryothorus superciliaris*)

We coaxed one in near Jorupe in some roadside Acacia forest.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon albicans*)

MOUNTAIN WREN (*Troglodytes solstitialis solstitialis*)

GRAY-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucophrys hilaris*)

SONG WREN (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus phaeocephalus*)

We had some of the best studies I've ever had at this species during our birding at Buenaventura.

Mimidae

LONG-TAILED MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus longicaudatus punensis*)

Turdidae

ANDEAN SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes ralloides plumbeiceps*)

One responsive bird at Buenaventura.

SLATY-BACKED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH (*Catharus fuscater fuscater*)

Seen best at Yunguilla when we called one across a dark tangle a few times.

b SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus swainsoni*)

CHIGUANCO THRUSH (*Turdus chiguanco chiguanco*)

The last new bird of the trip - just before we boarded the plane for our flight to Quito from Cuenca - when we spotted one across the runway on a distant house.

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater gigantodes*)
Common in the humid highlands, where it replaces the previous species.

- * ANDEAN SLATY-THRUSH (*Turdus nigriceps*)
PLUMBEOUS-BACKED THRUSH (*Turdus reevei*)
Common at Jorupe where they are singing and breeding this time of the year.

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH (*Turdus ignobilis*)
One singing bird near Valladolid.

PALE-VENTED THRUSH (*Turdus obsoletus parambanus*)
We called one in for decent views at Buenaventura.

ECUADORIAN THRUSH (*Turdus maculirostris*)
Common in the western lowlands, such as at Cerro Blanco and Jorupe.

Poliptilidae

TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (*Poliptila plumbea bilineata*)
Usually the first bird on the scene after playing the pygmy-owl.

Corvidae

WHITE-TAILED JAY (*Cyanocorax mystacalis*)
A gorgeous jay that we saw well at Jorupe, where they are in the process of breeding.

TURQUOISE JAY (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)
Pretty common in the temperate forests at Tapichalaca where we enjoyed some nice looks.

Passeridae

- I HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

Vireonidae

BROWN-CAPPED VIREO (*Vireo leucophrys josephae*)

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*)

LESSER GREENLET (*Hylophilus decurtatus minor*)
Pretty common with the canopy flocks at Buenaventura.

RUFIOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKE (*Cyclarhis gujanensis virenticeps*)
A common bird, especially in drier habitats, of the west.

Fringillidae

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia lanirostris hypoxantha*)
The common euphonia in drier habitats.

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia xanthogaster quitensis*)

HOODED SISKIN (*Carduelis magellanica*)
One of the last birds of the trip at our lodge near Yunguilla just before we headed to Cuenca for our flight!

OLIVACEOUS SISKIN (*Carduelis olivacea*)
Replaces the previous species on the east slope; we had one downslope from Tapichalaca along the roadside.

Parulidae

TROPICAL PARULA (*Parula pitiayumi pacifica*)

- b BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*)
OLIVE-CROWNED YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis semiflava semiflava*)
Nicely at Buenaventura.

"BLACK-LORED" YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis auricularis*)
Juan Carlos, an old birding buddy of mine that we birded with for a couple of days, called a male up nicely for quality studies at Yunguilla.

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus verticalis*)
A common flock bird.

SPECTACLED REDSTART (*Myioborus melanocephalus ruficoronatus*)
Common at higher elevations than the Slate-throated, such as at Tapichalaca where it can be found in almost every flock.

GRAY-AND-GOLD WARBLER (*Basileuterus fraseri ochraceicrista*)

The northern form, with the orange coronal streak, which some saw at Cerro Blanco.

GRAY-AND-GOLD WARBLER (*Basileuterus fraseri fraseri*)

The yellow-crowned form which we saw at Jorupe.

* CITRINE WARBLER (*Basileuterus luteoviridis luteoviridis*)

They just did not want to play this trip, despite having run into 3-4 pairs!

BLACK-CRESTED WARBLER (*Basileuterus nigrocristatus*)

Likes brushier, disturbed habitat. The one that we superficially likened to Wilson's Warbler.

RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER (*Basileuterus coronatus castaneiceps*)

Tapichalaca. This is another species with a fantastic duet.

THREE-BANDED WARBLER (*Basileuterus trifasciatus nitidior*)

We pulled out a few in the humid forests near Sozoranga.

Coeribidae

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola intermedia*)

Thraupidae

BLUE-BACKED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum sitticolor sitticolor*)

This stunning conebill species was seen well at Cajanuma and Tapichalaca.

CAPPED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum albifrons atrocyaneum*)

A tail wagger that moved with the flocks at Tapichalaca.

BLACK-FACED TANAGER (*Schistochlamys melanopis*)

One bird perched up in a Cecropia tree near Valladolid.

GRASS-GREEN TANAGER (*Chlorornis riefferii riefferii*)

A true Andean classic that we saw well at Tapichalaca as they foraged with mixed flocks.

WHITE-CAPPED TANAGER (*Sericossypha albocristata*)

A key east slope tanager to nail. We had heard them on two straight afternoons right from the lodge at Tapichalaca, so I thought a late afternoon stakeout was the thing to do... and it worked! We waited for them to give their loud, clear calls, and bingo, there they were; I suspect that they were coming in to an evening roost each evening. After hitting them with some sound, one blasted in and gave us knee-buckling views right next to the hummer feeders, despite the fog.

COMMON BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus phaeocephalus*)

Fairly common at Buenaventura.

YELLOW-THROATED BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus flavigularis marginatus*)

Common with the flocks at Buenaventura.

ASHY-THROATED BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus canigularis paulus*)

Also regular in family groups with the flocks at Buenaventura.

GRAY-HOODED BUSH-TANAGER (*Cnemoscopus rubrirostris rubrirostris*)

We had our best looks at this flock follower up slope from the lodge at Tapichalaca when we ran right into a raging flock. We saw this species particularly well when they foraged right in front of us at eye level.

BLACK-HEADED HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus verticalis*)

This species feeds right at the very tops of trees, sitting right on the crowns. We had excellent luck with them at Tapichalaca and Acacana.

RUFOUS-CHESTED TANAGER (*Thlypopsis ornata media*)

We worked a very responsive pair at Yunguilla reserve for outstanding studies.

GUIRA TANAGER (*Hemithraupis guira*)

A few in the western humid lowlands and foothills.

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*)

Buenaventura.

HEPATIC TANAGER (*Piranga flava lutea*)

In the drier highland forests a few times north of Jorupe.

- SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo carbo*)
Common in the Marañon drainage downslope from Tapichalaca.
- FLAME-RUMPED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus flammigerus icteronotus*)
A common second-growth bird at Buenaventura. The one - male - with the bright yellow rump.
- BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus quaesita*)
The duller west slope form that was common at many sites.
- BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus caerulea*)
The east slope form of southern Ecuador with the richer blue plumage and white patch in the wing.
- BLUE-CAPPED TANAGER (*Thraupis cyanocephala cyanocephala*)
We had our best looks at this subtly beautifully tanager at Utuana.
- PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum violilavata*)
- HOODED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Buthraupis montana cucullata*)
A large and noisy mountain-tanager of the montane zone which we had repeated good looks at during our birding at Tapichalaca.
- LACRIMOSE MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus lacrymosus caerulescens*)
Regular with flocks at Tapichalaca
- SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus igniventris erythrotis*)
Only seen at Acacana, where it is common and conspicuous; that pair near the lunch stop blew us away.
- BLUE-WINGED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus somptuosus alamosis*)
Some folks caught a glimpse at a family group at Yunguilla reserve, where they probably just barely sneak in due to the slightly more humid conditions.
- GOLDEN-CROWNED TANAGER (*Iridosornis rufivertex rufivertex*)
A brilliantly colored tanager that knocked our socks off a few times as they moved with the temperate forest flocks.
- FAWN-BREASTED TANAGER (*Pipraeidea melanonota venezuelensis*)
One fine singing male at Buenaventura.
- GOLDEN TANAGER (*Tangara arthus goodsoni*)
Common with the flocks at Buenaventura.
- SILVER-THROATED TANAGER (*Tangara icterocephala icterocephala*)
Ditto!
- FLAME-FACED TANAGER (*Tangara parzudakii*)
A smashing Tangara - with that rich orange helmet - which we saw at Buenaventura.
- RUFIOUS-THROATED TANAGER (*Tangara rufigula*)
At the extreme southern end of its range in the cloud forests of Buenaventura; we enjoyed a few nice encounters with this tanager at Buenaventura.
- BAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara gyrola nupera*)
Common at Buenaventura.
- BLUE-NECKED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanicollis caeruleocephala*)
The form we saw in the eastern foothills below Tapichalaca.
- BLUE-NECKED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanicollis cyanopygia*)
The western form, common at Buenaventura.
- BLUE-AND-BLACK TANAGER (*Tangara vassorii vassorii*)
Seen at both Tapichalaca and Acacana. The highest occurring Tangara in Ecuador.
- SILVER-BACKED TANAGER (*Tangara viridicollis fulvigula*)
Those silver-backed males - not gorillas! - were quite stunning.
- BLACK-FACED (YELLOW-TUFTED) DACNIS (*Dacnis lineata egregia*)
Seemed pretty common down the road from Buenaventura this trip; I don't ever remember them being so prodigious here. Judith skillfully spotted this one for us.
- GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza exsul*)
Common at Buenaventura.

SWALLOW TANAGER (*Tersina viridis*)
Virginia spotted a group of them.

Emberizidae

CRIMSON-BREASTED FINCH (*Rhodospingus cruentus*)
Some spectacular singing males west of Guayaquil in the arid scrub forest.

* BAND-TAILED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus alaudinus bipartitus*)

ASH-BREASTED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus plebejus ocularis*)
Drier terrain of the Catamayo Valley.

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina peruviansis*)

VARIABLE SEEDEATER (*Sporophila corvina corvina*)

YELLOW-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila nigricollis*)

DRAB SEEDEATER (*Sporophila simplex*)

Good looks at this one in the dry acacia-dominated forests west of Loja. Remember that this was the boring looking seedeater with the two prominent wingbars.

PARROT-BILLED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila peruviana devronis*)

One singing male west of Guayaquil.

CHESTNUT-THROATED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila telasco*)

Up and singing in the dry Catamayo Valley.

THICK-BILLED SEED-FINCH (*Oryzoborus funereus*)

The large-billed, all black seedeater with the white wing patches that we saw at Buenaventura.

BLUE SEEDEATER (*Amaurospiza concolor aequatorialis*)

We heard them singing from the hills at Yunguilla, but only Romney and I got onto one - a female-plumaged bird - briefly before it vanished.

PARAMO SEEDEATER (*Catamenia homochroa homochroa*)

Abundant this year at Tapichalaca where the bamboo was in full seed.

DULL-COLORED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris obscura pauper*)

We were really hot to get this one, and finally did in flying colors at Yunguilla where it is one of the most common birds.

SLATY FINCH (*Haplospiza rustica rustica*)

With the bamboo seeding at Tapichalaca, we had many knock-out views at males of this often hard to find species. Harold found no less than 10 nests one morning.

WHITE-SIDED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa albilatera schistacea*)

Most common around Tapichalaca.

GLOSSY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa lafresnayii*)

Seen first at Tapichalaca; the all black flowerpiercer with the blue-gray shoulder patch.

BLUISH FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossopsis caerulescens*)

One seen well at Tapichalaca.

MASKED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossopsis cyanea dispar*)

The most common flowerpiercer of humid highlands.

SAFFRON FINCH (*Sicalis flaveola valida*)

Abundant in many parts of SW Ecuador.

PALE-NAPED BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes pallidinucha papallactae*)

A brush-finch of tree-line and temperate forests on the east slope which offered us some excellent views at Tapichalaca.

YELLOW-BREASTED (RUF-NAP) BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes latinuchus comptus*)

A common bird of brushy habitats at Tapichalaca.

TRICOLORED BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes tricolor crassus*)

A duller relative of the previous species, and restricted to the west slope here in Ecuador. We had them at Buenaventura where they are usually relatively common.

WHITE-WINGED BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes leucopterus dresseri*)

We stumbled across a few in the humid forested roadside near Sozoranga, some with whiter heads, others with obvious eye-rings

PALE-HEADED BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes pallidiceps*)

One of the trip highlights, from a rarity stand point. What makes this bird so special is that it was lost to science for decades, despite much searching in what seemed to be suitable habitat. As a result, this species was on the brink of being declared extinct, but Niels Krabbe rediscovered it in a remote valley south of Cuenca - the Yunguilla reserve - where it is now protected thanks to the efforts of the Jocotoco Foundation. Our patient search took us a while before we could claim true success, but in the end we had gratifying scope views of a singing male on territory, thanks to our local guide, Enrique.

STRIPE-HEADED BRUSH-FINCH (*Buarremon torquatus nigrifrons*)

Seen well at Yunguilla where it is common in the understory.

ORANGE-BILLED SPARROW (*Arremon aurantirostris santarosae*)

Common at the lower sector of the Buenaventura reserve.

BLACK-CAPPED SPARROW (*Arremon abeillei abeillei*)

Seen best at Jorupe where we encountered a singing male.

BLACK-STRIPED SPARROW (*Arremonops conirostris striaticeps*)

We finally tracked down a singing bird at Buenaventura.

TUMBES SPARROW (*Aimophila stolzmanni*)

A Tumbesian endemic that inhabits the Acacia scrub forests of highland valleys. Our first attempt for it proved successful west of Loja when a few popped up for excellent studies.

YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW (*Ammodramus aurifrons aurifrons*)

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis*)

Cardinalidae

STREAKED SALTATOR (*Saltator striatipectus flavidicollis*)

We saw this unstreaked race around Cerro Blanco and also one of the more streaked races in the Marañon Valley downslope from Tapichalaca.

BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator maximus maximus*)

Common at Buenaventura.

SLATE-COLORED GROSBEAK (*Saltator grossus*)

Neill had one from the cabin at Buenaventura.

BLACK-WINGED SALTATOR (*Saltator atripennis*)

Good looks at Buenaventura. A really well marked saltator species.

BLACK-COWLED SALTATOR (*Saltator nigriceps*)

The most attractive of the saltators on the trip with its coral bill and bold gray and black patterning. Good thing stopped for that pair that we spotted from the bus near Sozoranga, because we never saw them again!

GOLDEN-BELLIED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus chrysogaster chrysogaster*)

Has also been called Southern Yellow-Grosbeak. Those males at Yunguilla were stunning.

Icteridae

PERUVIAN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella bellicosa bellicosa*)

Great looks at this beautiful meadowlark west of Guayaquil.

SCRUB BLACKBIRD (*Dives warszewiczi warszewiczi*)

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis*)

YELLOW-TAILED ORIOLE (*Icterus mesomelas taczanowskii*)

Carolyn spotted this one for us at Cerro Blanco on our first day.

WHITE-EDGED ORIOLE (*Icterus graceanae*)

We had our first good looks at this Tumbesian endemic in the Bombax forests north of Jorupe.

YELLOW-BILLED CACIQUE (*Amblycercus holosericeus australis*)

We called up a pair of this skulker at Tapichalaca... they can be real toughies to see.

YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus cela flavicrissus*)

Common and noisy this time of the year at Cerro Blanco and Jorupe where they are in full breeding condition.

MOUNTAIN CACIQUE (NORTHERN) (*Cacicus chrysonotos leucoramphus*)

Scoped right at the scene of the Red-faced Parrots... but the parrots sort of stole their thunder!

MAMMALS

* MANTLED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta palliata*)

NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO (*Dasypus novemcinctus*)

They were all over in the roadside brush at Buenaventura!

RED-TAILED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus granatensis*)

SQUIRREL SP. (*Sciurus stramineus*)

The chunky squirrel of the dry Bombax forests, also known as the 'Guayaquil Squirrel'.

WHITE-NOSED COATI (*Nasua narica*)

The resident group around Buenaventura were mighty happy to have those banana feeders.

SOUTHERN RIVER OTTER (*Lutra longicaudis*)

One cruised by us out at the Manglares-Churute marshes, popping its head up a few times.