

SAN ISIDRO, ECUADOR

December 27, 2009 to January 5, 2010

Guided by
Mitch Lysinger

As I write this I'm sitting here at 5:30 P.M. at my house in Tumbaco (the one you all know well) while the Giant Hummingbird perches out there watching me through the window from a bare perch as he preens his soggy wings after a drizzle. Little rascal... well not quite: slightly larger rascal.

This moment of quiet does give me a chance to reflect on what an enjoyable trip we had, from great birds and gut-wrenching laughter, to marvelous scenery and Nico's behind the wheel expertise, and of course, Carmen's delectable food that made ripping ourselves away from the birding (for meal time) just as much of an event to look forward to as trudging out into the field. Not only did we see a lot of fabulous birds, but the group camaraderie was particularly delightful. And hey, we were even able to establish - thanks to Steve - the first annual fashion show/skit/cut-up session for New Year's (well almost) at San Isidro... maybe I'll even find a way for it to live on next year (anyone reading this other than the 2009 crazy crew will be lost here, and will just have to ask us in person sometime!).

Ok, enough goofing around - hard for this crowd, I know - but I must now get to some of the great birds we saw, because this is where the meat of any trip really lies. In all fairness, we did know when to get serious, and it shows with the birds we encountered. We had an ideal sampling of the birds to be found, all the way from Quito down to the eastern foothills, through a staggering diversity of bird-packed habitats. You never get them all, but with respect to our main targets, we just about did!

Here are some of the highlights that really deserve special note: an adult Fasciated Tiger-Heron concentrating on the fish at hand along a beautiful rushing river; that family of Torrent Ducks at Guango, as well as the White-capped Dipper that popped in nearby; that fly-over adult Black-and-chestnut Eagle, at Guango as well; all three possible species of Guans - Andean, Wattled, and Sicklewinged - for killer studies... especially that Wattled; a pair of Rufous-bellied Seedsnipes pecking away at the tundra-like growth high in the paramo on our second (and final) attempt, whew!; awesome views of the 'San Isidro' Owl after it played some hardball for a number of nights; excellent back to back studies of Rufous-bellied Nighthawk and a male Swallow-tailed Nightjar, and then that spectacular male Lyre-tailed nightjar a few nights later; some rarely seen swifts, including White-chested, White-chinned, and Spot-fronted; a mind boggling array of hummers, but I don't think you can top the Sword-billed or Black-tailed Trainbearer for sheer shock value and excitement; males of all three of the possible trogonids: Masked Trogon, and Crested and Golden-headed Quetzals; Highland Motmot on a rock in the middle of a river; the glittering male Coppery-chested Jacamar; a pair of Black-billed Mountain-Toucans calling through the scope; that dazzling Crimson-mantled Woodpecker and that cooperative family group of Powerfuls at San Isidro; four species of seen antpittas - the White-bellied at San Isidro stole the show though; enough tyrannids to make your head spin, but I think that the performance by the recently described, and hard to find, Foothill Elaenia even heightened our already gushing adrenaline level (that Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant flashing about in the paramo wasn't half bad either!); unbeatable Giant Conebills up in the high Polylepis woodlands; good looks at both Scarlet-bellied and Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers; an obscene collection of other tanagers - colorful and drab - best and most entertaining being the Rufous-crested (picking insects from under a roof!), Yellow-throated, Vermilion (wow!) Paradise (double wow!), Golden-eared, Saffron-crowned, and Flame-faced; our cooperative group of the high elevation occurring Black-backed Bush-Tanagers; and a clean run of all of the possible

flowerpiercers, Golden-eyed taking the cake. There are so many more that I could just go on here, sort of like James Brown being dragged off-stage... somebody throw me a towel!

I'll now leave the rest to you, so flip through the pages that follow for a recap of what was a highly successful round of birding on Ecuador's east slope, based out of two very birdy lodges! Bird-on, and I hope that I have the opportunity to spend more quality time in the field with all of you someday in the near future... pajama party anybody?! Mitch.

List total: 306 bird taxa and 4 mammal taxa

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

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Phalacrocoracidae

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

One out on the water at Papallacta Lake.

Ardeidae

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis ibis*)

Pauline spotted our only one of the trip as it perched up in a small tree right in the town of Cosanga... he looked sort of lonely, didn't he?!

FASCIATED TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*)

Katherine gets some major kudos for finding this riverine heron along the Loreto rd. Nice goin'!

Anatidae

TORRENT DUCK (*Merganetta armata colombiana*)

What an elegant duck! We had some fabulous luck finding a pair, as well as another distant female, along the Papallacta River at Guango Lodge. We hit all of the cool riverine species at this elevation in one shot here.

SPECKLED (ANDEAN) TEAL (*Anas flavirostris andium*)

Scope views of them on Papallacta Lake, among other spots in the paramo.

YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL (*Anas georgica spinicauda*)

Nice scope views on Papallacta Lake of this yellow-billed species... or was it the 'Yellow-billed Pintail'??? Just too many 'learns to name'. Inside joke there.

ANDEAN DUCK (*Oxyura ferruginea ferruginea*)

Nice studies - on a beautiful, clear morning I might add - up on lake Sucus in the paramo. A close relative of the Ruddy Duck.

Cathartidae

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Accipitridae

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*)

This elegant raptor was seen a couple of times in the foothills.

PLAIN-BREASTED HAWK (*Accipiter ventralis*)

Good looks at one when it flew by in the paramo above Papallacta. This species has been re-lumped back into Sharp-shinned by some authorities.

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

We had some excellent studies of this chunky eagle in the highlands. Remember how the short tail almost merged with the secondaries? Very distinctive.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris magnirostris*)

Seen numerous times and we noted on a few occasions those rufous flight feathers.

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

Scarce this trip, but we had one good adult in flight in the San Isidro area.

***** WHITE-RUMPED HAWK (*Buteo leucorrhous*)

Heard only at San Isidro.

PUNA (VARIABLE) HAWK (*Buteo poecilochrous*)

The large Buteo of the high paramos, which we saw well. Also called the Variable Hawk; we saw gray and black morphs.

BLACK-AND-CHESTNUT EAGLE (*Oroaetus isidori*)

The one nice soaring adult over Guango was a thrill, and our only one of the trip. Pauline got the gold star for spotting this for us! Remember how we noted the three points of white as an id feature?

Falconidae

CARUNCULATED CARACARA (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*)

Quality in-flight views of this well-marked caracara in the paramos.

***** COLLARED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur semitorquatus semitorquatus*)

Heard distantly at San Isidro.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius aequatorialis*)

Seen best at my house in Tumbaco where there is a resident pair.

ORANGE-BREASTED FALCON (*Falco deiroleucus*)

A real highlight during our foothill birding when we spotted a perched bird that we then got in the scope for fine studies. Stefanie was particularly pleased as she had mentioned her desire to see this rare falcon.

Cracidae

SPECKLED CHACHALACA (*Ortalis guttata guttata*)

One quick flyby along the Loreto rd.

ANDEAN GUAN (*Penelope montagnii brooki*)

Scope views of at least two birds in the Guacamayos as they fed at a fruiting tree. It was sure nice to nail all of the three possible guan species - and so well! - this trip.

WATTLED GUAN (*Aburria aburri*)

After a goofy time up on the observation deck at San Isidro trying to find the singing bird that we were hearing just out of sight, we were later rewarded with knee-buckling studies of what was probably the same bird in the forests just below the cabins. Paul was the point man on this find, and called us all back for it when it came in and landed right over his head, to then hang around only meters away as if in a daze! For the sake of clarification, the guan seemed to be in a daze, not Paul.

SICKLE-WINGED GUAN (*Chamaepetes goudotii tschudii*)

Seen incredibly well along the trails at San Isidro. We have our faithful driver, Nico, to thank for this one when he spotted it sneaking around in a large tree right above us. After some searching around, we were able to nail it in the scope for killer studies.

Rallidae

* VIRGINIA (ECUADORIAN) RAIL (*Rallus limicola aequatorialis*)

ANDEAN (SLATE-COLORED) COOT (*Fulica ardesiaca*)

Fairly common on Sucus and Papallacta Lakes.

Scolopacidae

b SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*)

Fairly common this time of the year along river and lake edges.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)

A few out along the edges of Papallacta Lake.

Thinocoridae

RUFIOUS-BELLIED SEEDSNIPE (*Attagis gayi latreillii*)

We bombed on our first attempt due to bad weather, but on our last day we made another run up and scored big-time for some very nice scope views of a pair as they foraged around right at the top of the 'hill'... nice!

Laridae

ANDEAN GULL (*Larus serranus*)

The best way to find this one is to locate a tractor plowing a field, which we did, and had some very nice looks at this attractive, high Andean gull species.

Columbidae

I ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

Yup!

SCALED PIGEON (*Patagioenas speciosa*)

Two flying over along the Loreto rd. Some even got the red bill.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata albilinea*)

The common highland pigeon, and one that many of you know well from up north.

RUDDY PIGEON (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)

Nice scope views at few birds near Baeza as they fed about in a fruiting tree. I had initially called them 'Plumbeous' as they looked unusually gray to me, but upon further inspection, their identification became clear... red eyes and all!

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata hypoleuca*)

Common in the central valley.

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

Psittacidae

- * BARRED PARAKEET (*Bolborhynchus lineola*)

Heard flying way overhead, as is usually the case with this species.

- * SPOT-WINGED PARROTLET (*Touit stictoptera*)

Seen very briefly by a few folks as it blasted by along the Loreto rd., but it really has to go down as a 'heard only'.

RED-BILLED PARROT (*Pionus sordidus corallinus*)

Pretty decent looks - as flybys go - around San Isidro.

SPECKLE-FACED PARROT (*Pionus tumultuosus*)

Very nice scope studies at a noisy group feeding on fruits at San Isidro. This form is sometimes split out from the birds of the southern Andes, and called the 'White-capped Parrot'.

SCALY-NAPED PARROT (*Amazona mercenaria*)

Seen pretty well in good light as they flew over a few times in the San Isidro area.

Cuculidae

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana mesura*)

Katherine spotted the first one, but we all ended up with good looks at a pair along the roadside in the Guacamayos.

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

Fairly common in the foothills.

Strigidae

- * WHITE-THROATED SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops albogularis albogularis*)

Heard close-by in the Guacamayos, but they never materialized.

"BLACK-BANDED OWL" TYPE (*Ciccaba* sp.)

Tough this trip as it managed to dodge us up until our penultimate night at San Isidro... whew! The jury is still out as to what this bird is, but when we know, it'll be on CNN.

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

Well, we did see one, but in the form of a roadkill in the Guacamayos. Otherwise, we had to settle for heard birds around San Isidro.

Caprimulgidae

RUFIOUS-BELLIED NIGHTHAWK (*Lurocalis rufiventris*)

Excellent spot-light views of this fast-flying species in the Guacamayos as we waited for the Swallow-tailed Nightjar to put in an appearance.

LYRE-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Uropsalis lyra lyra*)

They appeared right at dusk as we had hoped. Fortunately, we found a long-tailed male for nice spot-light views!

SWALLOW-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Uropsalis segmentata segmentata*)

Electrifying views of a male chasing a female in the Guacamayos, during an evening stint there, made braving out the chilly air there worth it!

Apodidae

WHITE-CHESTED SWIFT (*Cypseloides lemosi*)

A successful trip for some of the 'rarer' swifts. I say 'rarer', but they are actually fairly common, and mostly just easily overlooked and hard to identify without some experience under your belt. We found this (and the next species) floating about right over San Isidro for some nice studies, as we examined their shapes and did our best to hear their calls over the barks of the caretaker's dog, who seemed perturbed by our presence! After the trip, I made friends with him and turned him into a real sweetie!

SPOT-FRONTED SWIFT (*Cypseloides cherriei*)

Remember how we noted the distinctive wing shape? Some might have even caught the white spots in the face as they dove on us as well.

WHITE-CHINNED SWIFT (*Cypseloides cryptus*)

We had a few of these chasing about over the Cocodrilos ranger station in the Guacamayos briefly. The identification of this swift has long been a real trial, but now that we know what it sounds like, it has proven to be fairly common.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne rutila brunntorques*)

Some excellent studies at a large feeding group near San Isidro was a nice spectacle. This species tends to feed lower to the ground than the first three mentioned, so we were able to get better looks.

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris altissima*)

The highland race.

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris subtropicalis*)

The race found on the slopes, that we saw regularly around San Isidro.

Trochilidae

* TAWNY-BELLIED HERMIT (*Phaethornis syrmatophorus columbianus*)

GREEN VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri thalassinus*)

A wary visitor to the feeders at San Isidro.

SPARKLING VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri coruscans coruscans*)

A common hummer that we ran into in the central valley, and then again at San Isidro's feeders.

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania furcata viridipectus*)

Stefanie and I had quick looks at a male when it came to feed at some orange Cana flowers along the Loreto rd.

* ECUADORIAN PIEDTAIL (*Phlogophilus hemileucurus*)

SPECKLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Adelomyia melanogenys melanogenys*)

The most common hummer at San Isidro's feeders.

FAWN-BREASTED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa rubinoides cervinularis*)

Another common visitor to the feeders at San Isidro.

WHITE-TAILED HILLSTAR (*Urochroa bougueri bougueri*)

The best looks we were able to manage was when one came blasting through, flaring its white tail!

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CORONET (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*)

This east slope specialty is abundant at Guango's and San Isidro's feeders where we enjoyed plenty of fine views.

BUFF-TAILED CORONET (*Boissonneaua flavescens flavescens*)

We saw this east slope form - with the paler panels in the tail - at Guango, where there are a few resident birds. This bird perplexes me since I have never seen it away from a feeder - in the east, that is; western birds are abundant.

SHINING SUNBEAM (*Aglaeactis cupripennis cupripennis*)

Some nice looks at this all rufous hummer in the temperate forests above Papallacta on our second day.

CHIMBORAZO HILLSTAR (*Oreotrochilus chimborazo jamesonii*)

One fine male graced our presence in the paramo shrubbery near the Papallacta Pass on one occasion.

BRONZY INCA (*Coeligena coeligena obscura*)

Common at San Isidro's feeders. Not a real looker, but at least it's an east slope specialty.

COLLARED INCA (*Coeligena torquata torquata*)

The hummer that looks like it's wearing a tuxedo.

BUFF-WINGED STARFRONTLET (*Coeligena lutetiae*)

Plenty of fine studies at Guango; the one with the large buff wing-patches.

SWORD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Ensifera ensifera*)

Unforgettable! It never ceases to amaze me just how skilled they are with that huge bill! We had staggeringly close views of them at Guango's feeders.

GREAT SAPPHIREWING (*Pterophanes cyanopterus peruvianus*)

Quick, but decent, views in the paramo shrub zone above Papallacta of a female.

GIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*Patagona gigas peruviana*)

My favorite yard-bird! We had this one in our pockets on the first morning, shortly after pulling into my house in Tumbaco, to have a look at the feeders.

TOURMALINE SUNANGEL (*Heliangelus exortis*)

The most common and pugnacious hummer at Guango! Those males are simply spectacular when you get them in the right light.

GLOWING PUFFLEG (*Eriocnemis vestitus*)

Fabulous studies at a male that was hitting the feeders at Guango.

EMERALD-BELLIED PUFFLEG (*Eriocnemis alinae alinae*)

One bird popped in briefly along the Guacamayos trail to feed at some flowers at close range.

BLACK-TAILED TRAINBEARER (*Lesbia victoriae victoriae*)

Awesome views in the central valley at this long-tailed species.

GREEN-TAILED TRAINBEARER (*Lesbia nuna gracilis*)

Seen by some in the humid forest patches in the central valley on our first day. This one had the shorter - and greener - tail.

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina quitensis*)

Briefly in the central valley

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina tyrianthina*)

The subspecies of the east slope; we had them in good numbers at Guango's feeders.

VIRIDIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura williami primolinus*)

Nice looks at this mostly greenish hummer in the high temperate zone. This one has the steely-blue tail.

BLUE-MANTLED THORNBILL (*Chalcostigma stanleyi stanleyi*)

Nice studies at a perched and then feeding bird in the paramo shrubbery.

LONG-TAILED SYLPH (*Aglaiocercus kingi mocoa*)

Repeated fine studies of this beauty at Guango and San Isidro. What a tail!

WHITE-BELLIED WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)

The pot-bellied little hummer at Guango's feeders.

Trogonidae

MASKED TROGON (*Trogon personatus personatus*)

Tremendously close studies of the resident pair at San Isidro on almost everyday!

CRESTED QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus antisianus*)

We went on a quetzal quest one afternoon - after sort of feeling quetzal deficient - and had excellent scope views of male of this one almost right off the bat!

GOLDEN-HEADED QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus auriceps auriceps*)

We had males a couple of times along San Isidro's trails, such as during our quetzal quest, when we called one in almost immediately, and then again really well for some on our final afternoon hike for some clean-up species.

Momotidae

HIGHLAND MOTMOT (*Momotus aequatorialis*)

We first found this one as it called from a mostly concealed perch along the roadside in the Guacamayos, but managed to top this when Pauline spotted one sitting out on a rock along a river near Baeza for exceptionally nice views. Some have lumped this form back in with Blue-crowned Motmot.

Galbulidae

COPPERY-CHESTED JACAMAR (*Galbula pastazae*)

Scope views of this eastern foothill specialty along the Loreto rd.

Ramphastidae

ANDEAN TOUCANET (*Aulacorhynchus albivitta albivitta*)

Ben spotted our first one at San Isidro around the hummingbird feeders... about time Ben got his name in here after all of his great finds! This one is considered by most experts to only be a subspecies of the Emerald Toucanet.

MANY-BANDED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*)

Really only seen as a quick fly-over along the Loreto rd.

BLACK-BILLED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN (*Andigena nigrirostris spilorhynchus*)

One of the birds of the trip that helped send things over the top; on most trips there comes a point when you realize things are going really well bird-wise, and this was it for me! We enjoyed some pretty nice scope views of a calling pair in the Guacamayos.

CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos vitellinus culminatus*)

One flew over along the Loreto rd., but landed out of sight.

Picidae

LAFRESNAYE'S PICULET (*Picumnus lafresnayi lafresnayi*)

This tiny woodpecker relative was seen a couple of times well with the flocks along the Loreto rd.

YELLOW-TUFTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes cruentatus*)

A couple briefly along the Loreto rd.

YELLOW-VENTED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis dignus baezae*)

A couple of times with the flocks at San Isidro.

BAR-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis nigriceps equifasciatus*)

I think just about everybody got pretty decent looks at the one we had through the scope as it moved with a flock at Guango. This one replaces the previous species at higher elevations.

SMOKY-BROWN WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis fumigatus fumigatus*)

On our last morning at San Isidro during some last minute clean-up.

CRIMSON-MANTLED WOODPECKER (*Piculus rivolii brevisrostris*)

A stunning woodpecker that we saw well numerous times, such as right next to the viewing deck at San Isidro one evening.

POWERFUL WOODPECKER (*Campephilus pollens pollens*)

Wonderful and leisurely studies at a family group - that Andrew spotted for us - along the trails at San Isidro was a real charge!

Furnariidae

BAR-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes fuscus albidiventris*)

This and the next species are pretty common up in the paramo zone, and we had good looks at both. This species is the smaller of the two with the more petite bill.

STOUT-BILLED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes excelsior excelsior*)

The larger of the two cinclodes species in Ecuador, and the one with the thicker, more decurved bill.

ANDEAN TIT-SPINETAIL (*Leptasthenura andicola andicola*)

Seen pretty well as it attended a nest in the paramo shrub zone.

* RUFOUS SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis unirufa unirufa*)

AZARA'S SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis azarae media*)

Seen first and best during the morning feeding frenzy near the dining room at San Isidro.

DARK-BREASTED SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis albigularis rodolphei*)

A few folks got onto this one when it popped out along the Loreto rd.

* DUSKY SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis moesta brunneicaudalis*)

ASH-BROWED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca curtata cisandina*)

Nice looks at one through the scope as it sang from a tall, mossy tree along the roadside.

WHITE-CHINNED THISTLETAIL (*Schizoeaca fuliginosa fuliginosa*)

A real devil this trip, but at least some folks got onto it well when it poked its head out from the dense shrubbery a time or two.

MANY-STRIPED CANASTERO (*Asthenes flammulata flammulata*)

Seen well on both of our sweeps through the paramo.

PEARLED TREERUNNER (*Margarornis squamiger perlatus*)

A common and beautiful little flock bird of montane areas.

MONTANE FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Anabacerthia striaticollis montana*)

Pretty common with the flocks in the lower subtropical and foothills zones.

STREAKED TUFTEDCHEEK (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii orientalis*)

It took the better part of the trip before we landed decent views - along the Guacamayos trail - of this flashy furnariid.

* FLAMMULATED TREEHUNTER (*Thripadectes flammulatus flammulatus*)

LINEATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Syndactyla subalaris mentalis*)

Seen really well by about half of the group on our last afternoon hike - before the 'fashion show' - at San Isidro; the next day we (unfortunately) saw one all too well when it crashed into a window and soon perished.

Dendrocolaptidae

TYRANNINE WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocincla tyrannina tyrannina*)

Pretty quick but decent views at a responsive bird along the forested roadside at San Isidro.

* OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (*Sittasomus griseicapillus amazonus*)

OLIVE-BACKED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus triangularis triangularis*)

Seen best at the morning feeding frenzy where we had nice comparisons with the next species.

MONTANE WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger aequatorialis*)

The common, mid-sized woodcreeper of montane zones. This one has finer and cleaner markings than the Olive-backed.

Thamnophilidae

* LINED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*)

Never really could get one to come in for a look.

RUSSET ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnistes anabatinus aequatorialis*)

Nice scope views of a singing bird as it moved with a flock along the Loreto rd.

ORNATE ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula ornata*)

Really nice looks at a male along the Loreto rd. as it foraged about in some dead leaves. Not a commonly seen bird here.

YELLOW-BREASTED ANTWREN (*Herpsilochmus axillaris*)

Scope views of a singing male as it shivered its tail; Loreto rd.

LONG-TAILED ANTBIRD (*Drymophila caudata caudata*)

Sort of tough this trip, but some folks had good looks at San Isidro as they skulked about - the birds, not the people - in the bamboo.

RUFIOUS-RUMPED ANTWREN (*Terenura callinota callinota*)

I wish it would have stayed around a bit longer, because it was very responsive, but only briefly, as is often the case with this one. I believe that Ben and I were the only ones to lock onto it when it came blasting in to a close, eye-level tree in the Guacamayos; it then vanished without a trace!

* WHITE-BACKED FIRE-EYE (*Pyriglena leuconota castanoptera*)

Formicariidae

CHESTNUT-CROWNED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria ruficapilla ruficapilla*)

Andrew and Steve were the first ones to stumble across the resident bird that haunts the trail between the cabins and the dining room at San Isidro during the dawn and dusk periods.

* CHESTNUT-NAPED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria nuchalis nuchalis*)

WHITE-BELLIED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria hypoleuca castanea*)

Normally a very hard to see species of antpitta, but San Isidro has had fine luck 'training' one to come in to eat worms in the mornings near the dining room. After getting down the trail and settling in, it only took a matter of a few minutes before it appeared and put on a nice little show for us!

* RUFIOUS ANTPITTA (*Grallaria rufula rufula*)

TAWNY ANTPITTA (*Grallaria quitensis quitensis*)

Seen well is they scurried about in the paramo. This is one of the few antpitta species that is easy to see, without the aid of worms!

SLATE-CROWNED ANTPITTA (*Grallaricula nana nana*)

We had a pretty good antpitta trip: 4 seen well by just about everybody. This one took a while to coax in, but when we did, it almost hit me in the knees a couple of times! San Isidro trails.

Rhinocryptidae

- * ASH-COLORED TAPACULO (*Myornis senilis*)
- BLACKISH TAPACULO (*Scytalopus latrans latrans*)
Very nice looks at this one along the Guacamayos trail when we called one in right over our heads.
- LONG-TAILED TAPACULO (*Scytalopus micropterus*)
Also seen well along the Guacamayos trail when it sneaked past the group a few times, posing unobstructed more than once!
- * SPILLMANN'S TAPACULO (*Scytalopus spillmanni*)
- * PARAMO TAPACULO (*Scytalopus canus opacus*)
- * OCELLATED TAPACULO (*Acropternis orthonyx infuscata*)
Just never close enough to work!

Cotingidae

- RED-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rubrocristata*)
Some saw the one that we had perched briefly up in the paramo above Papallacta before it launched down the back side of the slope.
- GREEN-AND-BLACK FRUITEATER (*Pipreola riefferii confusa*)
Males and females were seen well repeatedly around San Isidro as well as along the Guacamayos trail.
- BLACK-CHESTED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola lubomirskii*)
Priscilla (nice goin'!) was the only one to get onto the bird that we had dancing around us in the Guacamayos, seemingly just always out of sight.
- * SCALED FRUITEATER (*Ampelioides tschudii*)
We sure had a rough go with the fruiteaters that one morning in the Guacamayos. This is another one that we heard pretty close in, but just could not convince it to come to within spying distance!
- OLIVACEOUS PIHA (*Snowornis cryptolophus cryptolophus*)
Nico spotted this one for us in an afternoon flock in the Guacamayos just before it started to pour!
- DUSKY PIHA (*Lipaugus fuscocinereus*)
Seen by most when it flew in and then perched right at the head of the Guacamayos trail. Now this is one large piha!
- ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK (*Rupicola peruviana aequatorialis*)
We ran into a few males not far from Baeza where most folks had good looks.

Tyrannidae

- SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum sclateri*)
We whistled one up at my house in Tumbaco in the central valley.
- FOOTHILL ELAENIA (*Myiopagis olallai*)
Tremendous scope studies at this recently described species along the Loreto rd.
- WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA (*Elaenia albiceps griseigularis*)
A couple of times at the fruiting myrtle bushes at San Isidro.
- TORRENT TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga cinerea cinerea*)
Right next to the Torrent Ducks at Guango.
- STREAK-NECKED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes striaticollis columbianus*)
A few around San Isidro.
- RUFIOUS-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon rufipectus rufipectus*)
We had our best studies right around the lamp post at the morning feeding frenzy at San Isidro. We commented that it really isn't 'rufous-breasted', but rather 'rufous lower-throated'.
- BRONZE-OLIVE PYGMY-TYRANT (*Pseudotriccus pelzelni pelzelni*)
The few of us that ran out on a trail on our last afternoon at San Isidro scored nice looks at this stealthy understory species.
- RUFIOUS-HEADED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Pseudotriccus ruficeps*)
Cripping studies at a responsive bird along the Guacamayos trail was well received by all!
- VARIEGATED BRISTLE-TYRANT (*Pogonotriccus poecilotis poecilotis*)
It took some work, but we finally reeled in one of this canopy species for about half of the group on the same walk that produced the Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant. Remember the pale mandible?

- MARBLE-FACED BRISTLE-TYRANT (*Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus ophthalmicus*)
Tremendous looks at this well-marked flycatcher at the feeding frenzy on our first morning at San Isidro.
- ECUADORIAN TYRANNULET (*Phylloscartes gualaquiza*)
Nice eye-level views at this confusing little tyrannid along the Loreto rd. as it foraged with a mixed flock.
- * SOOTY-HEADED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias griseiceps griseiceps*)
- ASHY-HEADED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias cinereiceps*)
This can be a tricky one to see well, but we had one coming in to feed on the moths at the San Isidro feeding frenzy for point-blank studies.
- TAWNY-RUMPED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias uropygialis*)
Some quick but decent views for most of this easily overlooked tyrannulet in the central valley on our first day .
- GOLDEN-FACED TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius chrysops chrysops*)
Common in pre-montane areas.
- WHITE-THROATED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus leucophrys rufomarginatus*)
The chunky tyrannulet of high elevations with the whitish throat and buffy wingbars. We had them a couple of times in the paramo edge habitats around the Papallacta Pass. This one probably doesn't even belong in this genus.
- WHITE-TAILED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)
A couple of times with the flocks around San Isidro.
- SULPHUR-BELLIED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus minor*)
Also fairly common with flocks around San Isidro.
- WHITE-BANDED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus stictopterus stictopterus*)
We got our best looks at this distinctive tyrannulet on our final day during a quick run back through Guango when we spotted one right at the car park. This species' bold white brow and wing-bars make identification easy... right?
- TUFTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes parulus aequatorialis*)
A few up in the central valley scrub. The one with the streaked belly and curly crest.
- RUFIOUS-CROWNED TODY-TYRANT (*Poecilotriccus ruficeps*)
Katherine got one at San Isidro six days before anyone else! Well... we couldn't let this slide, so we had to work for it on our last morning there for quality group studies. This one is an obligate bamboo dweller.
- FULVOUS-BREASTED FLATBILL (*Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus*)
Only a couple of folks got onto the single bird that we had moving with an understory mixed flock along San Isidro's trails.
- ORNATE FLYCATCHER (*Myiotriccus ornatus phoenicircus*)
As its name implies, this is really a handsome species; we had it well for most folks along the Loreto rd.
- FLAVESCENT FLYCATCHER (*Myiophobus flavicans flavicans*)
A rather dull little flycatcher that we saw along the roadside at San Isidro.
- HANDSOME FLYCATCHER (*Myiophobus pulcher bellus*)
Seen a few times with flocks around San Isidro and along the Guacamayos trail. This species' peachy breast seems to be the best mark.
- OLIVE-CHESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*)
Another rather unspectacular flycatcher of this genus; we found a responsive one in some second growth along the Loreto rd. during our second visit there.
- CINNAMON FLYCATCHER (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea pyrrhoptera*)
Common around San Isidro and Guango - a real stunner of a flycatcher.
- CLIFF FLYCATCHER (*Hirundinea ferruginea sclateri*)
Right where they should have been on that tall road cut along the Loreto rd. This really is an attractive flycatcher, especially in flight, with the orange flight feathers extended.
- SMOKE-COLORED PEWEE (*Contopus fumigatus ardosiacus*)
Plenty of good looks at this one, that used to be considered conspecific with the Greater Pewee.
- WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus sordidulus*)
Common in the foothill areas, such as along the Loreto rd.

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans angustirostris*)
A river edge addict!

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

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

The chat-tyrant with those bright white headlights that we saw during a quick stop in the Guacamayos... a real crowd pleaser!

- * RUFOUS-BREASTED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis obfusca*)

BROWN-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca fumicolor brunneifrons*)

A few nice looks at this high elevation species in the paramo.

SMOKY BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes fumigatus fumigatus*)

This one played hard to get, but many folks got onto it as it perched and flew about along one of the trails at San Isidro.

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

Another one that our driver, Nico, spotted for us. This can be a tricky one to connect with at times, but we had some really nice looks, white tail and all, as they fed about in the central valley, pre-paramo zone.

PLAIN-CAPPED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola alpinus alpinus*)

Called 'Paramo Ground-Tyrant' in the 'Birds of Ecuador' as many authorities consider this northern form distinct from the more migratory southern races. We had them well a few times up in the treeless paramo as they ran about in the tundra-like habitat.

PALE-EDGED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cephalotes cephalotes*)

A common bird right around the cabins at San Isidro, and the only Myiarchus at that elevation.

SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis similis*)

A few in the foothills along the Loreto rd.

- * LEMON-BROWED FLYCATCHER (*Conopias cinchoneti cinchoneti*)

GOLDEN-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus minor*)

Seen best right at the lights at San Isidro one morning as it gleaned insects.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus melancholicus*)

One of the best known flycatchers of the neotropics!

BARRED BECARD (*Pachyramphus versicolor versicolor*)

Our only becard of the trip, but one seen well a few times; we even saw it well enough to discern the fine barring on the belly.

Hirundinidae

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

The most commonly seen swallow of the trip.

BROWN-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Notiochelidon murina murina*)

The higher elevation replacement of the previous species.

Motacillidae

PARAMO PIPIT (*Anthus bogotensis bogotensis*)

We had some nice scope views of this species running around the edges of a high paramo bog.

Cinclidae

WHITE-CAPPED DIPPER (*Cinclus leucocephalus leuconotus*)

This completed our perfect run of the higher elevation riverine species at Guango when this one came flying in; I heard it, Ben spotted it, and then it promptly flew right in under the bridge below to land on some rocks for perfect studies... a big adrenaline rush for sure!

Troglodytidae

BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIOUS (*Donacobius atricapilla nigrodorsalis*)

We hit a marsh along the Loreto rd. that was rotten with them! This is really a nice looking bird with a convoluted taxonomic history... been bounced around a lot from one family to another. Poor guy - never really did have a stable family life.

- * THRUSH-LIKE WREN (*Campylorhynchus turdinus hypostictus*)

RUFIOUS WREN (*Cinnycerthia unirufa unibrunnea*)

Seen well a couple of times at the beginning of the Guacamayos trail.

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

The slightly duller cousin of the previous species that replaces it at lower elevations, although there does seem to be a bit of overlap, such as in the Guacamayos.

PLAIN-TAILED WREN (*Thryothorus euophrys longipes*)

Tremendous looks at a responsive bird singing from bamboo at San Isidro. Just love that explosive, dueted song.

MOUNTAIN WREN (*Troglodytes solstitialis solstitialis*)

The common arboreal forest wren in the highlands.

SEDGE (GRASS) WREN (*Cistothorus platensis aequatorialis*)

Briefly for some (most?) on our first day in the paramo.

* WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucosticta hauxwelli*)

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

Seen well when one came creeping in under the lamp posts at San Isidro in search of a few lingering moths!

* WING-BANDED WREN (*Microcerculus bambla albigularis*)

CHESTNUT-BREASTED WREN (*Cyphorhinus thoracicus*)

Glimpsed, but this really has to go down as a heard bird; Guacamayos where we were treated to a nice concert of this species' repertoire.

Turdidae

ANDEAN SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes ralloides venezuelensis*)

A voice one hears almost constantly, but the owner of this voice is rather skittish! We did have good looks at one in a flock in the Guacamayos, right where we saw the Olivaceous Piha.

b SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*)

Common as a boreal winter resident down here; we had them regularly right around San Isidro, as well as other spots.

PALE-EYED THRUSH (*Platycichla leucops*)

Some very nice scope views of singing males at San Isidro; this can be a really tricky bird to see well when not in song.

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater quindio*)

The most common thrush in the highlands, occurring from the heart of Quito, down into the humid, mid-elevation forests near San Isidro. This one is also the largest of its genus.

GLOSSY-BLACK THRUSH (*Turdus serranus fuscobrunneus*)

Paul spotted our first one as it sang from atop a tree near the hummingbird observation platform at San Isidro.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED THRUSH (*Turdus fulviventris*)

We called one up to within only a few meters in the Guacamayos.

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH (*Turdus ignobilis debilis*)

Fairly common down lower in the foothills; a pretty drab thrush.

Corvidae

GREEN JAY (*Cyanocorax yncas yncas*)

This South American form has been split out from the true Green Jay (of latitudes further north) in the Birds of Ecuador; we'll see what the new South American Classification Committee does with it. This is a ubiquitous bird in the area and one we had many opportunities to see (and hear!) well!

TURQUOISE JAY (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)

Fabulous studies at this stunner along the trails at Guango. I think we all agreed that 'turquoise' does not seem to be the right color for this one... sure sounds cool though!

Vireonidae

BROWN-CAPPED VIREO (*Vireo leucophrys leucophrys*)

A common bird in the flocks around Guango and San Isidro. Once considered conspecific with the migratory Warbling Vireo.

OLIVACEOUS GREENLET (*Hylophilus olivaceus*)

One really responsive bird along the Loreto rd. put on a nice show for us; once we got it going, it wouldn't shut up, and botched what should have been a really nice recording of Black-and-white Seedeater!

BLACK-BILLED PEPPERSHRIKE (*Cyclarhis nigrirostris nigrirostris*)

It took us until the final day to get the group looks we deserved, but it had to happen since the resident bird at San Isidro is there everyday!

Fringillidae

GOLDEN-RUMPED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia cyanocephala pelzelni*)

We enjoyed spectacular scope studies of a full-blown male right at my house in Tumbaco where they come to gorge on mistletoe berries.

BRONZE-GREEN EUPHONIA (*Euphonia mesochrysa mesochrysa*)

A few nice males in the foothills.

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia xanthogaster brevirostris*)

Seen well a time or two. This is a wide-ranging species found from the lowlands, all the way up to montane areas.

* BLUE-NAPED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia cyanea longipennis*)

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys*)

We heard them a few times as a group, but Katherine was the one to hit the jackpot when she found a male during some post-lunch downtime!

HOODED SISKIN (*Carduelis magellanica capitalis*)

A common bird in the central valley and even up into the paramo shrub zone.

OLIVACEOUS SISKIN (*Carduelis olivacea*)

A common bird in the lower montane and upper foothill zones of the east where it replaces the Hooded.

Parulidae

TROPICAL PARULA (*Parula pitiayumi alarum*)

A common bird that we saw best when it came down to eye-level along the Loreto rd.

b BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*)

Whew, talk about common this time of the year!

b BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*)

A few folks got onto the one - looked like a first winter female to me - that has been hanging around the gardens at San Isidro. Blackpolls tend to spend the northern winter in the Amazon and occur as transients here at SI, so this one as a winter resident is a bit of a surprise.

b CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*)

Ben and I caught quick looks at a male along the Loreto rd. before it got away... slippery little devil.

b CANADA WARBLER (*Wilsonia canadensis*)

A common boreal migrant, but seen less than the Blackburnian since it tends to spend its time skulking.

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus ballux*)

A common bird with flocks at mid-elevations.

SPECTACLED REDSTART (*Myioborus melanocephalus ruficoronatus*)

Replaces the previous species at higher elevations, occurring all the way up to paramo shrubbery.

BLACK-CRESTED WARBLER (*Basileuterus nigrocristatus*)

Common in secondary habitats at many elevations. We saw our first ones in the central valley chaparral.

RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER (*Basileuterus coronatus orientalis*)

A real songster with an amazing pair duet. We had nice looks at them at San Isidro a couple of times.

THREE-STRIPED WARBLER (*Basileuterus tristriatus baezae*)

We toyed around with this forest-based species a time or two, but only ever really got good looks on the final afternoon when about half of the group went out on the Antvireo trail.

Coeribidae

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola intermedia*)

Common our second day along the Loreto rd. where we saw a large number of young birds.

Thraupidae

- CINEREOUS CONEBILL (*Conirostrum cinereum fraseri*)
A common bird of the highlands, in both drier and humid conditions. Strangely, we only had them briefly on one day.
- BLUE-BACKED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum sitticolor sitticolor*)
Nice looks at this handsome conebill in a high temperate forest flock as it perched and sang.
- CAPPED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum albifrons atrocyaneum*)
I think most everybody ended up catching this one a some point with the flocks. Particularly hard this trip.
- GIANT CONEBILL (*Oreomanes fraseri fraseri*)
*Our strategy of running back up to the paramo to look for birds such as this proved to be a good one. We nailed a pair of this *Polylepis* forest specialist for magnificent studies. Always a great one to nab!*
- MAGPIE TANAGER (*Cissopis leveriana leveriana*)
The longest tanager of them all. We had several fine views of them in the foothills.
- GRASS-GREEN TANAGER (*Chlorornis riefferii riefferii*)
Some pretty unforgettable views of this unmistakable tanager a couple of times.
- COMMON BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus phaeocephalus*)
Common around San Isidro, such as right around the dining room at the fruiting myrtle bush.
- YELLOW-WHISKERED BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus parvirostris huallagae*)
Nice looks at a small group feeding with a flock along the Guacamayos trail.
- YELLOW-THROATED BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus flavigularis flavigularis*)
A prominent member of mixed flocks in the foothills along the Loreto rd.
- GRAY-HOODED BUSH-TANAGER (*Cnemoscopus rubrirostris rubrirostris*)
After missing this one during our first visit to Guango, we connected with it there the second time when we found them feeding with the canopy mixed flocks. This was the one with the gray head, pink bill, and yellow belly, that constantly bobbed its tail.
- BLACK-CAPPED HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus atropileus atropileus*)
Pretty responsive along the Guacamayos trail. The hemispingus with the pale lines on the head.
- OLEAGINOUS HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus frontalis frontalis*)
A real skulker, even when up in a high vine tangle where you would think you could see it! We actually did end up with pretty good looks at this one at San Isidro a few times. Certainly the most featureless bird of the trip!
- BLACK-EARED HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus melanotis melanotis*)
A bamboo skulker that can be tough to see well, but we had an easy time with them when they gave us some nice windows more than once around San Isidro.
- RUFIOUS-CRESTED TANAGER (*Creurgops verticalis*)
Seen best right at the Guacamayos guard station when one came in to feed on moths right inside the porch... can't beat that!
- WHITE-SHOULDERED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus luctuosus luctuosus*)
One pair with a flock along the Loreto rd.; the female was the one with the gray head and yellow belly.
- * SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra rubra*)
A common boreal, winter resident.
- VERMILION TANAGER (*Calochaetes coccineus*)
Andrew was my wingman on this one and got us all on them immediately when he picked them out of a canopy, eye-level flock in the Guacamayos. Certainly one of the big tanager highlights of the trip, and an east-slope specialty.
- SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo carbo*)
Common in the Guacamayos and Loreto rd. foothills, and a well-known bird in much of lowland South America.
- BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus coelestis*)
We saw plenty of this east-slope, white-shouldered form.
- BLUE-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Thraupis bonariensis darwinii*)
A bird of the drier central valley where had some great looks at the fancy male on our first day at my place.
- PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum melanoptera*)
A few in the foothills; a common bird in the neotropics.

HOODED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Buthraupis montana cucullata*)

The large mountain-tanager with the red eye and intense blue, black, and yellow plumage. We had our first looks at them from the Guacamayos Ridge one afternoon just before scoring the Black-billed Mountain-Toucans.

BLACK-CHESTED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Buthraupis eximia chloronota*)

We were actually pretty lucky to have snagged this one as we had to battle some sunny weather that quieted activity early on. We heard this one calling and hunted it down as it vocalized from a perch through a small hole up in the paramo-edge temperate forest above Papallacta.

LACRIMOSE MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus lacrymosus palpebrosus*)

Nice views of this one at Guango and then again in the Guacamayos. Named for its 'teardrop' below the eye.

SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus igniventris erythrotis*)

Andrew spotted the first one on our first day, but we all caught up with this spectacular tanager the following day for incredible scope studies up in the high temperate forests above Papallacta.

BLUE-WINGED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus somptuosus baezae*)

The common mountain-tanager of the subtropical zone, which we saw in almost every flock.

YELLOW-THROATED TANAGER (*Iridosornis analis*)

This tanager, and the others of its genus, skulk about in the undergrowth. We heard them singing along the roadside in the Guacamayos and called one up into a roadside tree for really nice looks. That canary-yellow throat is really stunning.

FAWN-BREASTED TANAGER (*Pipraeidea melanonota venezuelensis*)

A few in the early morning around the gardens at San Isidro.

ORANGE-EARED TANAGER (*Chlorochrysa calliparaea bourcierii*)

Seen by most in the flocks in the foothills - the only all bright green tanager of the trip.

PARADISE TANAGER (*Tangara chilensis chilensis*)

Stunning scope views of this unreal bird along the Loreto rd. a few times! I don't think that this one could have been 'designed' much better.

GREEN-AND-GOLD TANAGER (*Tangara schrankii schrankii*)

Quick looks for some along the Loreto rd. when they perched briefly up on a dead tree.

GOLDEN TANAGER (*Tangara arthus aequatorialis*)

A few with a flock along the Loreto rd.

GOLDEN-EARED TANAGER (*Tangara chrysotis chrysotis*)

A nice east slope specialty to get, so we were lucky to have found our only one of the trip along a side road near Baeza.

SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tangara xanthocephala venusta*)

The common tanager with flocks at San Isidro. Should be called, "Saffron-helmeted Tanager"!

FLAME-FACED TANAGER (*Tangara parzudakii parzudakii*)

One of my favorites, and we had them numerous times.

SPOTTED TANAGER (*Tangara punctata zamorae*)

A subtly attractive tanager that we saw well in the foothills.

BAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara gyrola catharinae*)

A few with the flocks in the foothills - a neotropical classic!

SCRUB TANAGER (*Tangara vitriolina*)

One of our first big scores of the trip when we hit a pair in the central valley in Tumbaco at my house on our first stop.

BLUE-NECKED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanicollis caeruleocephala*)

"Blue-headed Tanager" might have been a better name! We had lots of nice looks at them over the course of the trip.

BERYL-SPANGLED TANAGER (*Tangara nigroviridis nigroviridis*)

We even had some scope views to actually discern the beryl color.

BLUE-AND-BLACK TANAGER (*Tangara vassorii vassorii*)

Plenty of fine studies at Guango and in the Guacamayos; the highest occurring of the genus Tangara in Ecuador.

BLACK-CAPPED TANAGER (*Tangara heinei*)

Most folks finally got onto the male at one point or another.

GOLDEN-COLLARED HONEYCREEPER (*Iridophanes pulcherrima pulcherrima*)

Some folks got onto a female bird that we had briefly along the side road near Baeza when it came to feed in a fruiting Cecropia tree.

BLACK-BACKED BUSH-TANAGER (*Urothraupis stolzmanni*)

This is an easy one to miss if you don't get the right flock, but despite the sunny weather, we hit it right and found a small group of them feeding quietly in the undergrowth in the paramo-edge shrubbery.

Emberizidae

PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus unicolor geospizopsis*)

The common blue-gray finch of very high elevations; the female was the streaky one.

CAQUETA SEEDEATER (*Sporophila murallae*)

One nice singing male along the Loreto rd. Split from Variable Seedeater of the west-slope.

BLACK-AND-WHITE SEEDEATER (*Sporophila luctuosa*)

Nice looks at a small flock of this nomadic seedeater along the Loreto rd., and one male even decided to pop up into a nearby tree and start singing its heart out.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)

Common on the S. slope of the Guacamayos and in the foothills along roadsides.

BAND-TAILED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia analis soederstromi*)

Nice looks at males in an onion field in the central valley.

PLAIN-COLORED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia inornata minor*)

The higher elevation relative of the previous species that we saw on our first day up in the paramo grasslands.

RUSTY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa sittoides decorata*)

We found a nice patch of singing males for excellent studies in some central valley, chaparral woodland... nice! This is often the hardest one to get on this trip.

WHITE-SIDED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa albilatera albilatera*)

Our only one of the trip ended up being the female that sneaked in to feed at Guango's hummingbird feeders! But at least we got it for a perfect run of the possible flowerpiercers.

GLOSSY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa lafresnayii*)

We had marginal luck with this one, finding only a couple of solitary birds up in the temperate woodlands above Papallacta. Better than none though... and we had nice scope studies! The one with the bluish shoulder-patch.

BLACK FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa humeralis aterrima*)

Common in the central valley, humid second growth.

DEEP-BLUE (GOLDEN-EYED) FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossopsis glauca tyrianthina*)

This one nearly got away, but we called one up for fantastic studies in the Guacamayos on our penultimate day... whew! This is the snazziest of the flowerpiercers on this trip as far as I am concerned - I just love that royal blue plumage that contrasts with the golden eye.

BLUISH FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossopsis caerulescens media* (?))

Plenty of them in the San Isidro area.

MASKED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossopsis cyanea cyanea*)

The commonest flowerpiercer of the trip, and a real habitat generalist. The showing of them at Guango's feeders was a gas!

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

Awe, and we should have seen them as they were so close!

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

Most folks got onto them in the central valley scrub.

SLATY BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes schistaceus schistaceus*)

Ben and I got onto this one best at Guango as they skulked about in a mixed flock; we couldn't locate them on our second visit there.

CHESTNUT-CAPPED BRUSH-FINCH (*Buarremon brunneinuca frontalis*)

Seen crossing the trail at Guango on our first day by a few folks!

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

We teased one out into the open across a small ravine in the central valley on our first day. The one with the bright white throat.

YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW (*Ammodramus aurifrons aurifrons*)

A common roadside bird along the Loreto rd.

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis*)

Seen everyday of the trip. Despite being dirt common, we took time to enjoy some nice views of this handsome sparrow.

Cardinalidae

GRAYISH SALTATOR (*Saltator coerulescens azarae*)

Common along the Loreto rd., and very vocal.

GOLDEN-BELLIED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus chrysogaster chrysogaster*)

A few in the central valley at my house for scope views. Also known as Southern Yellow-Grosbeak.

Icteridae

RED-BREASTED BLACKBIRD (*Sturnella militaris*)

We were entertained by a nice male of this flashy blackbird near Baeza as it posed atop a fence post!

* YELLOW-BILLED CACIQUE (*Amblycercus holosericeus australis*)

SUBTROPICAL CACIQUE (*Cacicus uropygialis uropygialis*)

The common and very vocal cacique with the bright red rump.

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

This one has the bright yellow rump and shoulder.

RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius angustifrons angustifrons*)

A common bird on the east slope. We got a charge or two out of hearing them display.

MAMMALS

BLACK-MANTLE TAMARIN (*Saguinus nigricollis*)

After a bit of research and asking around a bit, I'm convinced that the small monkeys that we saw briefly along the Loreto rd. must have been What is known as the "Napo Tamarin", or "Rio Napo Tamarin", which seems to be a split from the Black-mantle Tamarin group. Apparently it is a very localized animal of this area only.

BRAZILIAN RABBIT (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*)

Common in the paramo where they scurry about along the roadsides.

RED-TAILED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus granatensis*)

Common at mid-elevations.

WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

We spotted a few out on the paramo plains for nice looks. This form of the White-tailed Deer seems shaggier than animals of this species in other areas.