

MONTANE ECUADOR

June 11, 2010 to June 19, 2010

Guided by
Mitch Lysinger

This was yet another successful and memorable trip to the northern Andes of Ecuador. I'm sure all of you felt the same, but I just never cease to be amazed at the incredible diversity of birds to be found in only a week of birding the slopes, from high, wind-swept Paramo, to moss-laden cloud forests. Ecuador can be a rainy place, but even though we had to battle elements a time or two, we still tagged in with a more than respectable (and even over the top) list of birds.

Everybody certainly has their favorites, but here are some that I thought really sent our trip into orbit: that male Torrent Duck right near the police check stop as it sat on a rock; scope views of a responsive Barred Forest-Falcon; a pair of Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe in beautiful afternoon light in the Paramo; males of both of the possible long-tailed nightjar species, Lyre-tailed & Swallow-tailed; perched spotlight views of the rare Andean Potoo; over 40 species of hummingbirds, but how can you beat that Sword-billed and both of those amazing sylphs?; a wonderful afternoon run on males of both Crested and Golden-headed Quetzals at San Isidro; scope views of that Toucan Barbet that finally cooperated; Plate-billed and Black-billed Mountain-Toucans, on their respective slopes - both for scope studies; those smashing Crimson-mantled Woodpeckers; Powerful Woodpecker at a nest at Tandayapa; three antpittas seen well, but I think the White-bellied coming to feed on worms at San Isidro was the best show; a long list of confusing flycatchers, with stand-outs that included Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Agile Tit-Tyrant, and Masked Water-Tyrant; nice scope views at a female Black-chested Fruiteater at San Isidro; a loud and active lek of the west slope - scarlet - form of Andean Cock-of-the-Rock through the scope as they displayed through the scope; males of both Golden-winged and Club-winged Manakins through the scope in the west; and more colorful tanager species than most will be able to digest, but how about that group of loud White-cappeds at San Isidro, the pair of Giant Conebills that came bombing in high up in a Polylepis woodland, a healthy assortment of mountain-tanagers, and those intense Flame-faced Tanagers? I could go on, but I'm afraid I might end up repeating all that is written on the list that follows. So, have a seat and flip through some pages for a pretty complete recap of a great trip!

Other than the actual birding side of things, we had some fun interacting with the locals, like a wonderfully skilled driver, Edgar, who handles that over mountain roads as good as anybody. We also enjoyed some mighty fine meals at every stop, but I really have to plug Carmen's gourmet cuisine at San Isidro! I thoroughly enjoyed birding with all of you and your company in the field really made this trip a pleasure to lead... really! Be seeing each other some time soon, I hope... so, bird-on! Mitch.

List total: 343 bird taxa and 3 mammal taxa

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

mon10a-m1

Phalacrocoracidae

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus brasilianus*)

One flying by low over the water at Papallacta Lake on out last afternoon.

Ardeidae

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis ibis*)

A few scattered birds in the foothills of the west slope.

Anatidae

TORRENT DUCK (*Merganetta armata colombiana*)

We cut this one pretty close, only managing to snag them on our last day of the trip as we birded our way back to Quito. First we stumbled across a young male for pretty good looks between San Isidro and the town of Baeza, but then we scored smashing views at a full-blown male right from the bridge at the police check-stop near Baeza... nice!

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

Seen well first up in a paramo bog near the Papallacta Pass when a pair flew in for us. This is a rather dull duck with an overall gray tinge to its plumage.

YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL (*Anas georgica georgica*)

Through the scope on Papallacta Lake where we could make out that yellow bill. This species has a buffer aspect to its plumage when compared to the previous species.

Cathartidae

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

Common on the west slope.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

A few in the west; less numerous than the previous.

Accipitridae

BARRED HAWK (*Leucopternis princeps*)

An attractive hawk that we saw well in flight just up the hill from Tandayapa one sunny morning. Has also been called Black-chested, or Prince's Hawk.

HARRIS' HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

One flyby of an immature bird at my house in Tumbaco.

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

Seen first on our first day on our way down from Yanacocha when we spotted an immature bird in flight with some Puna (Variable) Hawks; we noted how hefty it was, and how the flight feathers almost merged with the edge of the tail.

ROADSIDE HAWK (*Buteo magnirostris magnirostris*)

A common hawk of open country; the one with the rufous flight feathers.

WHITE-RUMPED HAWK (*Buteo leucorrhous*)

One soaring adult up along the Tandayapa Ridge one late morning for pretty nice views.

PUNA (VARIABLE) HAWK (*Buteo poecilochrous*)

The common and large high elevation hawk here in Ecuador. We had plenty of fine studies at light, gray, and dark morph birds. This species has the common habit of 'kiting', where it hovers in one spot before descending upon its prey.

Falconidae

CARUNCULATED CARACARA (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*)

One immature bird near the Papallacta Pass when it flew by with what appeared to be a prey item.

BARRED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur ruficollis interstes*)

Sensational scope views along the trail at Tandayapa Lodge after we called it in. Forest-Falcons can be tricky to see well, so we lucked out!

COLLARED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur semitorquatus semitorquatus*)

Heard at San Isidro.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius aequatorialis*)

Central Valley not far from Quito. This was one of the resident breeding races.

Cracidae

- * ANDEAN GUAN (*Penelope montagnii brooki*)
I glimpsed one along the Guacamayos trail, but I think the rest only heard them.
- SICKLE-WINGED GUAN (*Chamaepetes goudotii fagani*)
Those of us that went out to the bird blind at Tandayapa had quick but pretty decent views of one bird along the trail when it flushed from overhead.

Rallidae

- * VIRGINIA (ECUADORIAN) RAIL (*Rallus limicola aequatorialis*)
Heard in a paramo marsh on our last day; there was no getting those guys out of there!
- ANDEAN (SLATE-COLORED) COOT (*Fulica ardesiaca*)
A couple floating and feeding along the edges of Papallacta Lake.

Charadriidae

- SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*)
Excellent scope views of them up above San Isidro along the Caucheras rd. as they stood about in some wet pastures. A really snazzy lapwing, and one that seems to be moving up in elevation here in Ecuador.

Thinocoridae

- RUFIOUS-BELLIED SEEDSNIPE (*Attagis gayi latreillii*)
We missed them on our first attempt up at the antennas, but more than made up for it when we scored big-time with a pair in perfect light right next to the road... crippling, and a great clean-up bird for what was almost a clean run of everything we could have hoped for in the paramo.

Laridae

- ANDEAN GULL (*Larus serranus*)
An elegant silvery-white gull of the high Andes; we had good looks at them on our last day over the pass a few times.

Columbidae

- I ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)
Common in urban areas... as usual.
- BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Patagioenas fasciata albilinea*)
The common highland pigeon.
- PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)
A surprising record so high, and away from water, but we had a few birds not far from Milpe for good looks. This marks the second time I have seen them in this area, so I guess they might be there to stay.
- PLUMBEOUS PIGEON (*Patagioenas plumbea chapmani*)
We had our best looks at this west slope race when a pair fed right on the road near the Tandayapa Ridge.
- * RUDDY PIGEON (*Patagioenas subvinacea berlepschi*)
Heard only in the west.
- EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata hypoleuca*)
Common in the central valley; I think our most memorable looks of this one came when we found a tree at my house (Tumbaco) that seemed to almost be blooming with them!
- WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi decolor*)
Creeping around on the ground in the west; a wide ranging and common species in the neotropics.
- WHITE-THROATED QUAIL-DOVE (*Geotrygon frenata bourcierii*)
Spectacular studies of at least two birds feeding right in front of us one early morning at Tandayapa lodge's bird blind.

Psittacidae

- MAROON-TAILED PARAKEET (*Pyrrhura melanura pacifica*)
Diane spotted four birds perched up on some high snags for us at Milpe for pretty good looks before they flew; when they took flight we could see the bright orange in their wings.
- RED-BILLED PARROT (*Pionus sordidus corallinus*)
W had to settle for rather unsatisfying flybys on this one.

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

We ran into a large and very noisy group of them one glorious afternoon along one of the trails at San Isidro for excellent looks as they crept about along the branches of a large tree over our heads.

BRONZE-WINGED PARROT (*Pionus chalcopterus*)

An unusual parrot in that it isn't mainly green, but rather dark blue. After seeing numerous fly-overs, Diane spotted them for us perched at Milpe for really nice looks.

SCALY-NAPED PARROT (*Amazona mercenaria*)

One group of about 8-10 birds flew noisily overhead, very high up (I might add), in the Guacamayos.

Cuculidae

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana nigricrissa*)

Nice looks at one when it flew in for us right at the entrance to the road into Milpe. This eastern race has the yellow eye ring.

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

Very briefly from the bus in the west.

Strigidae

* COLOMBIAN SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops colombianus*)

Heard at dawn as we sat in the bird blind at Tandayapa, but we were sort of bound to stay inside and not flush those quail-doves!

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

After a bit of searching after dinner, we turned this one up right next to the cabins. The jury is still out as to this species' identity, for the reasons explained on the tour, but we are poised to get it figured out soon! Nevertheless, a beautiful owl species that we are all glad to have around the lodge, regardless of its id.

RUFIOUS-BANDED OWL (*Ciccaba albitarsus*)

Diane spotted one at dusk during one of her hikes along the trails below the cabins at San Isidro when it came swooping in... nice goin'!

Nyctibiidae

ANDEAN POTOO (*Nyctibius maculosus*)

I thought the fog was going to nix our chances at being able to find and then spotlight this one, but we persevered and were really fortunate. We first saw it flying off in the distance, and were pretty sure we had seen it, but then Edgar searched around, while we were busy with the nightjar, and found it perched just downhill for excellent views. This is a rare and easily missed bird.

* COMMON POTOO (*Nyctibius griseus panamensis*)

Heard just pre-dawn at Tandayapa Lodge as we made our way to the bird blind.

Caprimulgidae

RUFIOUS-BELLIED NIGHTHAWK (*Lurocalis rufiventris*)

Nice looks at this large nighthawk as a few individuals swirled around one evening in the Guacamayos near San Isidro.

LYRE-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Uropsalis lyra lyra*)

Arguably one of the top birds of the trip when we stopped off to try and find it in the evening near Tandayapa. After a short stroll down the road to some preferred cliffs, we called in a responsive male for mesmerizing views of it as it sailed over us in the spotlight... wow!

SWALLOW-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Uropsalis segmentata segmentata*)

A trip that got males of both possible, long-tailed nightjars! After some very fine looks at a female perched on a fern leaf, we then plowed ahead and found a male in flight in the Guacamayos for looks that we'll never forget.

Apodidae

SPOT-FRONTED SWIFT (*Cypseloides cherriei*)

Pretty good looks in morning light along the old Nono-Mindo rd. just above the town of Tandayapa; some could even make out the white spots in front of the eyes. We also heard them in the fog on the east slope.

WHITE-CHINNED SWIFT (*Cypseloides cryptus*)

Zooming over in the light fog in the Guacamayos; the identification was mainly based on voice.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne rutila brunntorques*)
Seen at the same spot as the Spot-fronted Swifts where a few males circled overhead for nice looks.

WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT (*Streptoprocne zonaris albicincta*)
The largest of the swifts, and we had some pretty good views of them on both slopes.

WHITE-TIPPED SWIFT (*Aeronautes montivagus*)
A few seen well as they stared flying above Tandayapa.

Trochilidae

WHITE-WHISKERED HERMIT (*Phaethornis yaruqui*)
The hermit we saw well at Milpe's feeders.

TAWNY-BELLIED HERMIT (*Phaethornis syrmatophorus columbianus*)
Diane and I could glimpse of one that blasted by us along the Guacamayos trail on our way out after a very productive morning.

BROWN VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri delphinae*)
A few visiting the feeders at Tandayapa.

GREEN VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri thalassinus cyanotus*)
Fairly common at Tandayapa's feeders.

SPARKLING VIOLET-EAR (*Colibri coruscans coruscans*)
The common large violet ear with the blue chin and belly, and metallic and scaly chest. We had very nice studies many times over the course of the trip.

GREEN THORNTAIL (*Discosura conversii*)
The small hummer with the white rump band at Milpe's feeders.

BLUE-TAILED (WESTERN) EMERALD (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus melanorhynchus*)
Some amazing glittering males of this tiny hummer at Tandayapa's feeders.

GREEN-CROWNED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania fannyi verticeps*)
Seen first when we spotted a female visiting the feeders at Tandayapa, but later seen really at Milpe where both males and females graced the feeders. Those intensely-colored violet and green males were breath-taking.

RUFIOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia tzacatl*)
The one with the orange bill that was common at the feeders in the west.

ANDEAN EMERALD (*Agyrtria franciae viridiceps*)
The common hummer with the snow white underside and glittering aqua crown that we had at Tandayapa's feeders.

SPECKLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Adelomyia melanogenys melanogenys*)
One of the most common hummers at San Isidro's feeders. This was the small and chunky one with the white brow stripe... like a really dull White-eared Hummingbird.

FAWN-BREASTED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa rubinoides aequatorialis*)
This west slope form was common at Tandayapa's feeders.

FAWN-BREASTED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa rubinoides cervinigularis*)
The east slope form that is equally common at San Isidro's feeders.

EMPRESS BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa imperatrix*)
We finally had good looks at this elegant and long-tailed Brilliant at Mindo Loma on our last afternoon in the west. This used to be a really tough bird to come by before the advent of the feeders.

GREEN-CROWNED BRILLIANT (*Heliodoxa jacula*)
We got our first one when a female popped in to the feeders at Tandayapa, but had many nicer looks at Milpe's feeders where there were some gorgeous males in great light.

WHITE-TAILED HILLSTAR (*Urochroa bougueri leucura*)
One of this east slope race (without the rufous gap) on the slopes of the Guacamayos; its white tail was easy enough to follow as it drifted around on the slope above us.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CORONET (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*)
Abundant at Guango's and San Isidro's feeders. The highlight encounter with this species, and certainly one of the most memorable of the trip, was when Diane charmed one in to letting her stroke its breast - guess it needed some warming up during the long rain!

- BUFF-TAILED CORONET** (*Boissonneaua flavescens flavescens*)
The nominate eastern form with the larger and paler patches in the tail; we had a few at Guango's feeders. Come to think of it, I've never seen this race away from feeders!
- BUFF-TAILED CORONET** (*Boissonneaua flavescens tinochlora*)
The west slope race with the slightly darker color in the tail. This one was common at Tandayapa's feeders. Remember how this one also showed fairly significant white leg puffs.
- VELVET-PURPLE CORONET** (*Boissonneaua jardini*)
Arguably one of the most incredibly colored hummers of all, with bright iridescent green, turquoise, purple, blue... ah, I just can't stand it! We had many fine views at Mindo Loma's feeders.
- SHINING SUNBEAM** (*Aglaeactis cupripennis cupripennis*)
Fine views of this orange hummer at Yanacocha on our first day.
- CHIMBORAZO HILLSTAR** (*Oreotrochilus chimborazo*)
Pretty decent views of a male chasing a female around up near the Papallacta Pass.
- MOUNTAIN VELVETBREAST** (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi saul*)
The skittish hummer with the decurved bill that hit the far feeders a few times at Yanacocha.
- BRONZY INCA** (*Coeligena coeligena obscura*)
Common at San Isidro's feeders; our final Inca of the trip, to complete the run.
- BROWN INCA** (*Coeligena wilsoni*)
The Inca with the white neck patches that we saw at Tandayapa's feeders.
- COLLARED INCA** (*Coeligena torquata torquata*)
The Inca that looks like it is wearing a tuxedo that we had at Guango and San Isidro.
- BUFF-WINGED STARFRONTLET** (*Coeligena lutetiae*)
Abundant at Yanacocha's feeders; the one with the obvious large pale wing patches.
- SWORD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Ensifera ensifera*)
Stunning views at this spectacular hummer at Yanacocha's and Guango's feeders. It still always amazes me how skillful this species is at maneuvering that unbelievable bill!
- GREAT SAPPHIREWING** (*Pterophanes cyanopterus cyanopterus*)
The second largest of all hummers. We had multiple nice studies at males and females at Yanacocha.
- GIANT HUMMINGBIRD** (*Patagona gigas peruviana*)
We had one waiting for us right at my house in the central valley for scope views of it perched. This is, needless to say, the largest hummingbird species of them all!
- TOURMALINE SUNANGEL** (*Heliangelus exortis*)
Abundant at Guango's feeders; the one with the immaculate white undertail covert feathers.
- SAPPHIRE-VENTED PUFFLEG** (*Eriocnemis luciani*)
The puffleg with the bluish crown that we had commonly at Yanacocha.
- GOLDEN-BREASTED PUFFLEG** (*Eriocnemis mosquera*)
Right next to the previous species at Yanacocha's feeders. This one has the nice wash of golden-yellow across the breast and green crown.
- GREENISH PUFFLEG** (*Haplophaedia aureliae russata*)
This fairly drab hummingbird was seen very well in the Guacamayos as we worked a tanager flock as it fed on some nearby flowers.
- PURPLE-BIBBED WHITETIP** (*Urosticte benjamini benjamini*)
Common at Tandayapa's feeders; the one with the large white patch on top of the tail.
- BOOTED RACKET-TAIL** (*Ocreatus underwoodii melanatherus*)
The male of this species is just so well dressed, with those long and delicate looking tail plumes. We had them for stunning views at Tandayapa's feeders. It was fascinating to watch the males approach the females with the peculiar posture.
- BOOTED RACKET-TAIL** (*Ocreatus underwoodii peruanus*)
We saw one of this east slope race briefly in the Guacamayos. This one has buffy boots, rather than clean white.
- BLACK-TAILED TRAINBEARER** (*Lesbia victoriae victoriae*)
Awesome long-tailed males in the central valley a few times.

PURPLE-BACKED THORNBILL (*Ramphomicron microrhynchum microrhynchum*)

As common as I have ever had them at Yanacocha where they feed on small yellow composite flowers, not at the feeders.

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina quitensis*)

The common small hummingbird at Yanacocha's feeders; males had that small green gorget.

TYRIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura tyrianthina tyrianthina*)

A few of this east slope race at Guango.

VIRIDIAN METALTAIL (*Metallura williami primolinus*)

One silhouetted, perched bird in the paramo shrubbery near the Papallacta Pass.

BLUE-MANTLED THORNBILL (*Chalcostigma stanleyi stanleyi*)

Nice scope views of a male - where we could see the green in its throat - near the Papallacta Pass... nice!

RAINBOW-BEARDED THORNBILL (*Chalcostigma herrani herrani*)

Actively chasing each other about up near the Papallacta Pass in some high temperate forest. We got one to come in and perch for very nice studies one time. This one had the big white tail-tip spots and rufous crown.

PURPLE-THROATED WOODSTAR (*Calliphlox mitchellii*)

The common woodstar at Tandayapa's and Mindo Loma's feeders. The male of this species was the one that held its tail slightly cocked when hitting the feeders. We had some nice looks at them in proper light to get some flashes of that bright magenta gorget.

WHITE-BELLIED WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)

First seen when we spotted a female in some central valley shrubbery, but much better later on in the day at Guango's feeders where there were some males lurking about. This species is chunkier than the previous species, with brighter green and a pot-belly.

GORGETED WOODSTAR (*Chaetocercus heliodor*)

Bonnie had good looks a female that visited San Isidro's feeders while we were out chasing quetzals!

Trogonidae

* COLLARED TROGON (*Trogon collaris virginalis*)

Heard distantly singing from the woodlands at Milpe.

MASKED TROGON (*Trogon personatus personatus*)

Point-blank studies at the resident pair around the lodge at San Isidro, where some nice photos were taken... even with a 'snappy' camera.

MASKED TROGON (*Trogon personatus assimilis*)

This west slope race was seen a few times, such as right around Tandayapa Lodge.

CRESTED QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus antisianus*)

I could not believe our luck when a male of this species flew right up along a trail at San Isidro and offered up nice scope views. We had set out to find quetzals that afternoon, and that is precisely what we did!

GOLDEN-HEADED QUETZAL (*Pharomachrus auriceps auriceps*)

Diane made one of the top spots of the trip when she pulled a full-blown male this one out of the hat after we had been searching for its hideout for about 10 minutes. We knew it had to be there, as we saw it fly up behind some trees after playing its song, but it then just seemed to vanish. The scope views were terrific and more than satisfying after having gone quetzal-less for much of the trip!

Momotidae

HIGHLAND MOTMOT (*Momotus aequatorialis aequatorialis*)

Seen by most folks as they sneaked about around the cabins at San Isidro in the early mornings or late afternoons. This highland form has long been considered a species distinct from the Blue-crowned Motmot from which it was split years back. The SACC is not so convinced and has decided to re-lump it.

Capitonidae

RED-HEADED BARBET (*Eubucco bourcierii aequatorialis*)

Nice looks at males with the flocks at Tandayapa Lodge.

RED-HEADED BARBET (*Eubucco bourcierii orientalis*)

One male with a tanager flock on the slopes of the Guacamayos

TOUCAN BARBET (*Semnornis ramphastinus ramphastinus*)

Finally on our last day on the west slope when we called one up out of the forest along the old Nono-Mindo rd. just above the town of Tandayapa. We enjoyed some nice scope studies of this ridiculously patterned (clown-like) bird as it sat quietly for a few minutes. The song of this species - a dueted series of 'honks' - was memorable as well.

Ramphastidae

ANDEAN TOUCANET (*Aulacorhynchus albivitta albivitta*)

After a long round of hearing one and trying to see it along the Guacamayos trail, we ended up stumbling upon another at a fruiting fig tree for scope views right near the parking lot there! The SACC re-lumps this one with the Emerald Toucanet.

CRIMSON-RUMPED TOUCANET (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus sexnotatus*)

Seen pretty well by most around Tandayapa Lodge.

PLATE-BILLED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN (*Andigena laminirostris*)

Diane spotted out first one for quick looks on our first afternoon along the old Nono-Mindo rd. Two days later though, I believe it was Donna who found one for us for the looks we deserved! This is a beautifully patterned toucan that is restricted to the western slopes Ecuador and Colombia at mid-elevations.

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

Heard calling upslope one drippy afternoon at Guango, but we couldn't get a rise out of it!

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

We really lucked out with this east slope mountain-toucan in the Guacamayos. After having searched for it all morning, and even glimpsing one flying over, we finally heard one call out at the parking lot. We got no response, but thought that they just might pop in to the same tree the toucanet was in. Within a few minutes we had a pair feeding downslope from us for pretty nice scope views.

BLACK-MANDIBLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos ambiguus swainsonii*)

We saw this west slope race on our way down slope to bird the Milpe area. Spotting them from the bus we quickly dashed out and had one up and perched, as it sang loudly. This west slope form is sometimes split out and called Chestnut-mandibled Toucan.

Picidae

* YELLOW-VENTED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis dignus baezae*)

Heard near the dining room at San Isidro, but we couldn't get it to respond.

BAR-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis nigriceps equifasciatus*)

Very nice looks as one with a large flock at Guango as it slowly foraged about.

SMOKY-BROWN WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis fumigatus fumigatus*)

An active and noisy pair was seen well from the deck at Tandayapa Lodge.

GOLDEN-OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Piculus rubiginosus buenavistae*)

One foraging actively with a flock on the slopes of the Guacamayos for scope views.

CRIMSON-MANTLED WOODPECKER (*Piculus rivolii brevisrostris*)

An outrageously colored woodpecker that we ran into a number of times on both slopes. We probably had our best looks right around the dining room at San Isidro when a pair came in to feed on fruits at close range.

POWERFUL WOODPECKER (*Campephilus pollens pollens*)

We lucked into a nesting pair right next to the lodge at Tandayapa!

Furnariidae

BAR-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes fuscus albidiventris*)

The smaller of the two cinclodes species here. This one has a much more petite bill. We called one in from across a bog up at the Papallacta Pass.

STOUT-BILLED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes excelsior excelsior*)

The larger cinclodes of the paramos here in Ecuador, with a darker plumage and thicker, longer, and slightly decurved bill. We called them in near the Papallacta Pass for excellent studies.

PALE-LEGGED (PACIFIC) HORNERO (*Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus*)

In the west at the entrance road into Milpe where we called them in and had them sitting up in some roadside trees for nice looks. This one has a funny chicken walk when strutting around.

- ANDEAN TIT-SPINETAIL (*Leptasthenura andicola andicola*)
A very handsome little paramo bird - with the white brow, streaky underparts, and rufous crown - that we pulled up out of the some high elevation shrubbery near the Papallacta Pass.
- RUFOUS SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis unirufa unirufa*)
We called one up out of a bamboo thicket at Guango for quick, but nice looks.
- AZARA'S SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis azarae media*)
Linda and Bonnie had looks at the around the lodge at San Isidro, but then we all caught up with this cut little skulker for excellent studies in the central valley on our last afternoon before heading to Quito.
- * SLATY SPINETAIL (*Synallaxis brachyura nigrofumosa*)
Heard calling from a vervain thicket at Milpe... wouldn't come out for a look though!
- WHITE-BROWED SPINETAIL (*Hellmayrea gularis*)
A chunky little spinetail with a relatively short tail that we called in for quick views at Yanacocha.
- RED-FACED SPINETAIL (*Cranioleuca erythroptus erythroptus*)
This arboreal spinetail was responsive behind the lodge at Tandayapa.
- WHITE-CHINNED THISTLETAIL (*Schizoeaca fuliginosa fuliginosa*)
A tough one to see well at times, but we had a cooperative pair right up near the Papallacta Pass in the high elevation shrubbery. This was the one with the rufous upper parts and gray belly; it doesn't have much of a white chin, but we could see its whitish brow!
- MANY-STRIPED CANASTERO (*Asthenes flammulata flammulata*)
Yet another smart little bird of the high paramos. We had no trouble pulling this one up out of the shrubbery for scope views. The word 'canastero' means basket maker; this group of birds tends to make stick nests resembling baskets.
- RUSTY-WINGED BARBTAIL (*Premnornis guttuligera*)
Good looks at one bird as it moved with a small understory flock along the Tandayapa Ridge through some bamboo.
- SPOTTED BARBTAIL (*Premnoplex brunnescens brunnescens*)
Funny how long it took us to find this one (as it sat out in the open!), calling its head off! It ended up being a recently fledged bird, hence its less skittish habits.
- PEARLED TREERUNNER (*Margarornis squamiger perlatus*)
Wasn't this one of the top 100 birds you are supposed to see before you die? Well, we had nice looks at San Isidro, so I guess there are only 99 to go!
- MONTANE FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Anabacerthia striaticollis montana*)
Very nice looks at this foliage-gleaner with a small flock from the guard station in the Guacamayos. That bright rufous tail was certainly in evidence!
- STREAKED TUFTEDCHEEK (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii boissonneautii*)
Pretty good scope views at a perched bird along the old Nono-Mindo rd. This species' large size, bright rufous tones, and bold white cheek make unmistakable.
- * FLAMMULATED TREEHUNTER (*Thripadectes flammulatus flammulatus*)
We had a loud singing bird along the Guacamayos trail. While it did mostly stay out of sight in the vine tangles above us, we did manage to get some holes for quick looks.
- STREAK-CAPPED TREEHUNTER (*Thripadectes virgaticeps virgaticeps*)
Quick flyby looks at one after some playback at Tandayapa Lodge; we never could find its hidden perch once it started calling back though.
- * LINEATED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Syndactyla subalaris subalaris*)
Heard with the flocks around Tandayapa Lodge.
- BUFF-FRONTED FOLIAGE-GLEANER (*Philydor rufus riveti*)
Made to order when we called one up into a nearby tree for excellent views at Milpe. This really a good looking foliage-gleaner, with those rich orange tones.

Dendrocolaptidae

TYRANNINE WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocincla tyrannina tyrannina*)

A tricky mid-elevation woodcreeper to find much of the time, but we called one right out of the woods, after we heard it vocalizing, along the forested roadside at San Isidro.

STRONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus promeropirhynchus*)

A real hulk of a woodcreeper, and one that we saw very well along the trail at Tandayapa Lodge.

SPOTTED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus erythrogygius aequatorialis*)

A few seen very nicely with a flock at Milpe.

OLIVE-BACKED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus triangularis triangularis*)

The east slope replacement of the previous species. We had nice looks at this one at San Isidro one morning when it came in to feed on moths under the lights in the early morning.

MONTANE WOODCREEPER (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger aequatorialis*)

Slightly smaller and more finely patterned than the previous species. We had them commonly in the flocks at mid-elevation.

BROWN-BILLED SCYTHEBILL (*Campylorhamphus pusillus*)

Scythebills are sort of like the kings of woodcreepers with those outrageous bills! We had pretty good looks at one feeding with a mixed flock in the Guacamayos one morning.

Thamnophilidae

SLATY ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula schisticolor schisticolor*)

"Ant-things" can often be a challenge to see, but we did a fine job of seeing the pair of this small species along the trails at Tandayapa Lodge on our morning there.

LONG-TAILED ANTBIRD (*Drymophila caudata caudata*)

Clean-cut males were seen well in bamboo stands - this is a bamboo specialist, by the way - on both slopes.

IMMACULATE ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza immaculata macrorhyncha*)

Close-up views at a pair from the bird blind at Tandayapa at dawn when they came in to feed on moths.

Formicariidae

* BARRED ANTHRUSH (*Chamaeza mollissima mollissima*)

Heard around San Isidro, but none seemed interested.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria ruficapilla ruficapilla*)

Just about everybody had looks at the resident bird that pops out onto the trails around the lodge at San Isidro during walks to and from the dining room!

WHITE-BELLIED ANTPITTA (*Grallaria hypoleuca*)

Antpitta viewing has undergone some revolutionary changes here in Ecuador over the last few years with the whole worm feeding scene, hasn't it?! San Isidro has a couple of its own cast of characters these days that sometimes pop in for a view, without long and drawn out standing around, waiting for only a shadow to flash by. We had incredible looks at this hard to find species within only minutes of waiting when it hopped out for all to see well.

* RUFIOUS ANTPITTA (*Grallaria rufula rufula*)

Heard a few times in the highlands, but sort of too distant to try for.

TAWNY ANTPITTA (*Grallaria quitensis quitensis*)

Scope views of this high elevation antpitta in the paramo near the Papallacta Pass; our first seen antpitta of the trip!

* SLATE-CROWNED ANTPITTA (*Grallaricula nana nana*)

We heard the fairly close a few times in the east, but never could coax them in for a view.

Rhinocryptidae

* ASH-COLORED TAPACULO (*Myornis senilis*)

Heard distantly around San Isidro.

BLACKISH TAPACULO (*Scytalopus latrans latrans*)

Pretty good naked-eye views of this one near the dining room at San Isidro when it popped in. This form is part of the 'Unicolored Tapaculo' group, and sometimes lumped with it.

* LONG-TAILED TAPACULO (*Scytalopus micropterus*)

Heard at San Isidro, but less than responsive.

- * NARINO TAPACULO (*Scytalopus vicini*)
Heard at Tandayapa Lodge very close.
 - * SPILLMANN'S TAPACULO (*Scytalopus spillmanni*)
A common voice at mid-elevations on both slopes.
 - * PARAMO TAPACULO (*Scytalopus canus opacus*)
Heard near the Papallacta Pass.
- OCELLATED TAPACULO (*Acropternis orthonyx infuscata*)
Bonnie did a fine job of spotting this one as it called through a small hole up along the ridge at Bellavista; Diane got onto it as well before it jumped out of sight.

Cotingidae

- RED-CRESTED COTINGA (*Ampelion rubrocristata*)
This high elevation cotinga was seen very well at Yanacocha on our first day.
- GREEN-AND-BLACK FRUITEATER (*Pipreola riefferii occidentalis*)
Scope views of a male along the Tandayapa Ridge.
- GREEN-AND-BLACK FRUITEATER (*Pipreola riefferii chachapoyas*)
The east slope race that we saw well - a gorgeous male - along the Guacamayos Ridge trail.
- * BARRED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola arcuata arcuata*)
Heard distantly at Yanacocha on our first day, and one that ignored our efforts to get it in.
- BLACK-CHESTED FRUITEATER (*Pipreola lubomirskii*)
This can be a devil of a bird to get a look at as it tends to stay out of sight, high in the canopy, but we scored big when we scoped a female along the trails at San Isidro.
- ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK (*Rupicola peruviana sanguinolenta*)
We entertained ourselves on part of the first afternoon of the trip with a lek of this raucous species as they displayed through the scope across a river valley along the old Nono-Mindo rd. This was a must see for some, like Laurie, and a real Andean classic!

Pipridae

- * GOLDEN-WINGED MANAKIN (*Masius chrysopterus pax*)
Diane heard them along the trails at San Isidro during one of the group breaks after lunch.
- GOLDEN-WINGED MANAKIN (*Masius chrysopterus coronulatus*)
Fantastic scope studies of this west slope form at a small lek along the trail at Tandayapa Lodge.
- CLUB-WINGED MANAKIN (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*)
We managed to hunt down a male of this handsome manakin species along the trail at Milpe. I was a bit worried about our prospects of seeing them as the park guard had said they had not been very active of late. Well, we trudged on and came out victorious. We even spotted a quiet female as well.

Tyrannidae

- SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)
A common little bushy-crested tyrannulet that is common in the drier central valley. We called them in at my house in Tumbaco for nice studies.
- YELLOW TYRANNULET (*Capsiempis flaveola magnirostris*)
A single mildly responsive bird along the road at Milpe was a nice last minute grab there.
- WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA (*Elaenia albiceps griseigularis*)
Briefly in the central valley for some.
- TORRENT TYRANNULET (*Serpophaga cinerea cinerea*)
A nice clean-up bird on the last day when we spotted a pair attending a nest at the police control stop at Guaguayacu (near Baeza).
- STREAK-NECKED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes striaticollis columbianus*)
A few times on the east slope.
- STREAK-NECKED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes striaticollis viridiceps*)
We had this west slope form a few times as they raided fruiting trees. Many flycatchers are actually mostly frugivorous.

- RUFIOUS-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon rufipectus rufipectus*)
Nice looks at this east slope flycatcher with the flocks at San Isidro.
- SLATY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon superciliaris transandinus*)
We had this west slope form with a fast moving flock at Milpe.
- SLATY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Leptopogon superciliaris superciliaris*)
Briefly in the Guacamayos.
- RUFIOUS-HEADED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Pseudotriccus ruficeps*)
Very satisfying views of this little understory bird when we caught a pair feeding about along the Guacamayos trail. The one with the rufous head and wings, but otherwise olive body.
- MARBLE-FACED BRISTLE-TYRANT (*Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus ophthalmicus*)
Seen with a fast moving flock on the slopes of the Guacamayos. It sat high above us, but we were still able to manage some decent views.
- * ASHY-HEADED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias cinereiceps*)
Of the few that we heard, none came in for a look.
- TAWNY-RUMPED TYRANNULET (*Phyllomyias uropygialis*)
Seen well at eye level as it moved with a flock at Yanacocha... and we even had a few shots at the tawny rump!
- GOLDEN-FACED TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius chrysops albigularis*)
Split out from the Golden-faced by SACC, and called the 'Choco Tyrannulet'. We had a few in the canopy at Milpe.
- GOLDEN-FACED TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius chrysops chrysops*)
On the slopes of the Guacamayos.
- WHITE-THROATED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus leucophrys rufomarginatus*)
A large and very erect species for this genus. We had good looks at them on our first day at Yanacocha with the flocks, and then again up in the stunted shrubbery near the Papallacta Pass.
- WHITE-TAILED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)
A common tyrannulet with flocks in the subtropical forests of both slopes.
- SULPHUR-BELLIED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus minor*)
Seen a few times with the flocks at San Isidro and on the slopes of the Guacamayos.
- WHITE-BANDED TYRANNULET (*Mecocerculus stictopterus stictopterus*)
A tyrannulet of higher elevations such as the temperate forests around Yanacocha and Guango. This was the one with the bold white eyeline and wingbars.
- AGILE TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes agilis*)
Picture-perfect studies of at least a pair as they moved with a small flock in the high temperate forests above the town of Papallacta. Remember that this was the one with the orange mouth lining and swept back blackish crest.
- TUFTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes parulus aequatorialis*)
An active little tyrant that we saw well in the central valley shrubbery. Through the scope some of us had nice looks at the breast streaking and black, curly crest.
- * SCALE-CRESTED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Lophotriccus pileatus squamaecrista*)
Heard at Milpe where we saw the Club-winged Manakin.
- RUFIOUS-CROWNED TODY-TYRANT (*Poecilotriccus ruficeps*)
Wonderful studies at this little bamboo specialist right next to the parking lot at San Isidro.
- ORNATE FLYCATCHER (*Myiotriccus ornatus stellatus*)
And ornate this species is, with that bright yellow rump and rufous tail! These were common in the woodlands around Milpe.
- FLAVESCENT FLYCATCHER (*Myiophobus flavicans flavicans*)
A rather drab species that we saw along the trail at Tandayapa Lodge.
- HANDSOME FLYCATCHER (*Myiophobus pulcher bellus*)
Large and noisy groups of them with the flocks along the Guacamayos trail where we had good enough looks to see the peachy breast.
- CINNAMON FLYCATCHER (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea pyrrhoptera*)
A common but very attractive flycatcher of forest edges.

SMOKE-COLORED PEWEE (*Contopus fumigatus zarumae*)

The all grayish flycatcher with the pointy crest that we scoped along the old Nono-Mindo rd. not far from the town of Tandayapa. This species used to be considered conspecific with the Greater Pewee that some of you may be familiar with from the US.

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans angustirostris*)

One on the roof at Guango.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus piurae*)

One stunning male at my house in Tumbaco in the central valley.

CROWNED CHAT-TYRANT (*Ochthoeca frontalis frontalis*)

Diane and I had quick looks at one in the temperate shrubbery near the Papallacta Pass.

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

We all agreed that this one should better be called the 'Yellow-browed Chat-Tyrant'; its belly isn't all that yellow! We finally found one along the Guacamayos trail for excellent studies.

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

A responsive pair of this well-marked species was seen pretty well by most along the upper part of the old Nono-Mindo rd. on our first day. This one had the white spots in front of the eye, and darted around with great agility.

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

Nice scope views at a pair near the Papallacta Pass; the one with the buff brow and rich brown underparts.

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

A large and richly-colored tyrant of the central valley. We had nice scope views at one near the town of Mulauco.

SMOKY BUSH-TYRANT (*Myiotheretes fumigatus*)

The mostly dull brownish sizeable tyrant that we scoped along the trail at Yanacocha - remember that this one had the dark line through the eye. We also had another in the fog in the Guacamayos.

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

Fairly distant views of a pair on the west side of the Papallacta Pass, but the scope allowed us to see the large white tail as they perched and zipped about.

a WHITE-BROWED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola albilora*)

A migrating group up in the grassy fields near Yanacocha. This species spends the southern winter here along the equator; they nest down in Chile and Argentina.

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

In the Birds of Ecuador, Ridgely & Greenfield split this northern resident form out from the more migratory southern South American forms, and call it the 'Paramo' Ground-Tyrant. We had some nice studies of them up around the Papallacta Pass.

RUFIOUS-TAILED TYRANT (*Knipolegus poecilurus*)

Always a nice one to find on this tour as it seems to occur in very small numbers on the slopes of the Guacamayos, and almost always singly. We had one perched right at eye level, at very close range, as it fed from a dead tree, seemingly undisturbed by our presence.

MASKED WATER-TYRANT (*Fluvicola nengeta atripennis*)

Very nice looks at this cleanly marked tyrant as it trotted about in a cattle corral at the bottom of the old Nono-Mindo rd.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer nigriceps*)

A few of this west slope form in the Milpe area.

PALE-EDGED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cephalotes cephalotes*)

The Myiarchus of the east slope, and a very common species right around the lodge at San Isidro.

RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes cayanensis hellmayri*)

One at Milpe where they can be common in pasture edge situations.

LEMON-BROWED FLYCATCHER (*Conopias cinchoneti cinchoneti*)

Nice scope views in the Guacamayos at a family group of them as they called loudly from the treetops along the roadside. This one has the rounded head and broad yellow brow.

GOLDEN-CROWNED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus minor*)

In the same genus as the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher that some of you may be familiar with from SE Arizona. We had them commonly at mid-elevations on both slopes, such as around the lodge at San Isidro where they come in to feed on moths under the lights in the early morning,

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus melancholicus*)

An abundant bird of more open habitats, and one known well to many!

BARRED BECARD (*Pachyramphus versicolor versicolor*)

Seen best as they fed on moths under the lights at San Isidro, where we saw a pair really well.

CINNAMON BECARD (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus*)

Some of the group had one pop up at a gas station stop in the west near Milpe for ok views in tough light.

WHITE-WINGED BECARD (*Pachyramphus polychopterus dorsalis*)

We had this grayer (a male), west slope race respond right over the lodge at Tandayapa for good looks.

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

Briefly with a flock for most of the group on the slopes of the Guacamayos.

Hirundinidae

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

The common swallow at mid-elevations.

BROWN-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Notiochelidon murina murina*)

Tends to replace the previous species at higher elevations. This one has the all dark brownish underside and a dull greenish shine to the back.

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

A few on the slopes of the Guacamayos; the one with the pale rump.

Motacillidae

PARAMO PIPIT (*Anthus bogotensis bogotensis*)

After a few attempts to see them in the grasslands near Yanacocha, we finally hunted down a group of them as they vocalized and fed about for excellent studies.

Cinclidae

WHITE-CAPPED DIPPER (*Cinclus leucocephalus leuconotus*)

Unlike the American Dipper, this species does not submerge itself. We had good looks at single bird as it fed along the edges of the Papallacta River at Guango.

Troglodytidae

RUFIOUS WREN (*Cinnycerthia unirufa unirufa*)

An all rufous and chunky wren of temperate forests on both slopes. We had our first good looks at them at Yanacocha when we encountered a few family groups feeding at close range.

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

Very similar in plumage to the previous species, but slightly duller, other wise very hard to tell apart other than the voice and the fact that this one tends to replace the Rufous at lower elevations. We had this one with the flocks along the Guacamayos trail.

WHISKERED WREN (*Thryothorus mystacalis*)

We managed to pull one of this species into view along the old Nono-Mindo rd., not far from Tandayapa, for unusually nice views of its malar streak. This species seems to have moved up in elevation in recent years.

PLAIN-TAILED WREN (*Thryothorus euophrys longipes*)

It took a few tries, but we finally scored when we reeled in a family group of three in a bamboo thicket along the forested roadside at San Isidro. That dueted song is simply amazing!

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon albicans*)

One or two at Milpe. I was shocked to hear that species is known kill young and adult bluebirds on the nest!

MOUNTAIN WREN (*Troglodytes solstitialis solstitialis*)

Good looks at a pair along the roadside at San Isidro. This one is sort of like a smaller House Wren, but more forest based and with a more richly colored tone to its plumage.

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

Heard in the high paramo grasslands, but unresponsive this trip.

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

The voice of the mid-elevation forests here in Ecuador... decibel per gram, this one has to have one of the loudest songs of any bird! We had some very nice studies of them as they crept about in the undergrowth right near the dining room at San Isidro

Turdidae

ANDEAN SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes ralloides plumbeiceps*)

Scope views for most of a singing bird along the trail at Tandayapa Lodge.

GREAT THRUSH (*Turdus fuscater quindio*)

The common thrush of the highlands; this one is really a habitat generalist, being able to stand elevations from 7,000-14,000 ft., and even the hustle and bustle of Quito itself!

GLOSSY-BLACK THRUSH (*Turdus serranus fuscobrunneus*)

Like a smaller and more boldly marked form of the previous species. We saw this one on many days in the highlands, but had our first looks through the scope at Yanacocha where we had a male up and singing in the top of an emergent tree.

Poliophtidae

TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila plumbea*)

One bird at the entrance road to Milpe, where I had never seen it; probably another one that is moving up in elevation from drier zones.

Corvidae

GREEN JAY (*Cyanocorax yncas yncas*)

A loud and in your face jay that we saw daily (or even minutely!) around the lodge at San Isidro. The Birds of Ecuador splits the South American forms out from the northern birds, calling it the 'Inca' Jay.

TURQUOISE JAY (*Cyanolyca turcosa*)

Nice looks at this intensely colored jay at Yanacocha, and then again at Guango.

Vireonidae

BROWN-CAPPED VIREO (*Vireo leucophrys*)

Common with flocks on both slopes; this was the one that many flocks likened to a Warbling Vireo, and for good reason since it was at one time lumped with it.

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus griseobarbatus*)

Common around Milpe and pretty strong numbers.

* OLIVACEOUS GREENLET (*Hylophilus olivaceus*)

Heard distantly on the slopes of the Guacamayos.

BLACK-BILLED PEPPERSHRIKE (*Cyclarhis nigrirrostris nigrirrostris*)

We waited patiently for this one to show up at the moth feeding frenzy near the dining room at San Isidro, and it finally did, for very nice looks as it foraged around slowly.

Fringillidae

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia laniirostris hypoxantha*)

A few pairs of them at Milpe. The male of this species has th dark mask and yellow running right up to its chin.

GOLDEN-RUMPED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia cyanocephala pelzelni*)

Beautiful males and females in the central valley at my house; Tumbaco.

BRONZE-GREEN EUPHONIA (*Euphonia mesochrysa*)

Nice looks at this east slope species in the Guacamayos as they fed on mistletoe berries. We noted that the male had that small yellow frontal patch over the bill... remember?

ORANGE-BELLIED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)

Common on both slopes, and the most easily seen of the euphonias on the slopes at mid-elevations.

BLUE-NAPED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia cyanea longipennis*)

We caught pretty good looks at a male of this stunner as it fed on mistletoe fruits along a trail at San Isidro. This really helped in getting our run of breath-taking, bright green birds rolling that one afternoon!

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CHLOROPHONIA (*Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys*)

One pair with a roadside flock at San Isidro was a nice find, and we even had the outrageous male in the scope briefly.

HOODED SISKIN (*Carduelis magellanica capitalis*)

The common siskin of the central valley highlands, but they were sort of scarce this trip; we only had a few quick ones on our first day around Yanacocha.

Parulidae

TROPICAL PARULA (*Parula pitiayumi pacifica*)

Most common with the flocks around Milpe, where we saw them well and had them singing.

OLIVE-CROWNED YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis semiflava semiflava*)

We called a territorial male right up out of the pasture growth along the roadside at Milpe for point-blank views.

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART (*Myioborus miniatus*)

The common redstart with the flocks at mid-elevations on both slopes; the one with the dark throat. The Birds of Ecuador made an attempt to call this genus 'whitestarts', but the SACC still refers to them as 'redstarts'.

SPECTACLED REDSTART (*Myioborus melanocephalus ruficoronatus*)

Replaces the previous species at higher elevations, right on up to paramo edge shrubbery, but they do overlap slightly in some areas, such as at San Isidro.

CHOCO WARBLER (*Basileuterus chlorophrys*)

Very nice looks at a small group of this species as they foraged with a mixed flock at Milpe. The SACC has lumped this disjunct, west slope form back in with the Golden-bellied Warbler.

BLACK-CRESTED WARBLER (*Basileuterus nigrocristatus*)

Seen in the undergrowth on our first day at Yanacocha when they came creeping through.

RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER (*Basileuterus coronatus orientalis*)

The grayer form of the east slope that we saw around the lodge at San Isidro.

RUSSET-CROWNED WARBLER (*Basileuterus coronatus elatus*)

This west slope form has a brighter yellow belly; we had a few along the old Nono-Mindo rd. The dueted song of this species is a characteristic sound of the montane forests here in Ecuador.

THREE-STRIPED WARBLER (*Basileuterus tristriatus*)

Common with understory flocks on the slopes. The one that somebody mentioned reminded them of a Worm-eating Warbler, with those crown stripes.

Thraupidae

CINEREOUS CONEBILL (*Conirostrum cinereum fraseri*)

Superficially reminiscent of a female Black-throated Blue-Warbler since it has that overall grayish-buff coloration and whitish wing spot. We had this common highland species a few times over the course of the trip.

BLUE-BACKED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum sitticolor sitticolor*)

A really attractive little conebill species, with its combination of bold black, blue, and rust colors. We had them a few times with the temperate forest flocks, such as at Yanacocha and Guango, where they often fed at close range for nice looks.

CAPPED CONEBILL (*Conirostrum albifrons atrocyaneum*)

We saw mostly females of this sexually dimorphic conebill species; Diane did pick one male out of a flock though. This species has the peculiar habit of constantly flicking its tail as it forages about.

GIANT CONEBILL (*Oreomanes fraseri fraseri*)

*The last big score of the trip before we packed it in and headed to Quito. After bombing at my usual sights, Edgar suggested a spot that I had been to in years, where he had had it with other groups. Well, it only took a short stroll and a play rounds of ipod play of its song, and a pair bombed right in to some *Polylepis* trees right next to us. We had to get into the forest to see them, but the looks were memorable. Rather than calling this the 'Giant' Conebill, I think 'Polylepis' Conebill would be a more suitable name as it really isn't that much bigger than the other conebill species, but does specialize on prying arthropods out from under the flaky bark of *Polylepis* trees!*

MAGPIE TANAGER (*Cissopis leveriana leveriana*)

The longest of tanagers, and one that we saw well on the slopes of the Guacamayos. Its black-and-white plumage pattern really does give it an aspect of a magpie.

GRASS-GREEN TANAGER (*Chlorornis riefferii riefferii*)

Seen well, finally, on our penultimate day of the trip along the Guacamayos trail, where we ran into a couple of foraging, some at very close range near eye level. This tanager is really unlike any other, and is so placed in its own genus.

WHITE-CAPPED TANAGER (*Sericossypha albocristata*)

Another very distinctive and sought after tanager, this one an east slope inhabitant only. As we drove along the roadside at San Isidro, we abruptly came to a screeching halt when we heard a noisy group of this species calling right over us. We had to battle a rain a bit, but it was well worth the effort for the scope views we clinched of this sometimes hard to find (an beautiful!) species.

COMMON BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus phaeocephalus*)

A fairly dull species, but it does sport that yellowish breast band and pale eye. This one is common on the east slope, and we had many fine views at San Isidro and in the Guacamayos.

DUSKY BUSH-TANAGER (*Chlorospingus semifuscus semifuscus*)

A very dull bush-tanager species of the west slope that we saw with the flocks along the old Nono-Mindo rd. This one sort of replaces the previous species here, and sounds a lot like it.

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

With the flocks at Milpe, where they are one of the more common tanager species.

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

The whose plumage reminded some of a male Connecticut Warbler, and rightfully so, with that bold gray hood, olive back, and bright yellow belly. This species' habits are quite different though, as they are canopy foragers in high elevation temperate forests of the Andes. As if its distinctive plumage weren't enough, their constant tail flicking also helps with identification! We had very nice studies of the at Guango.

BLACK-CAPPED HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus atropileus atropileus*)

A chunky hemispingus of thick understory tangles. Common at Guango, we had a small group of them there as they foraged with a mixed flock, and noted that bold creamy brow.

SUPERCILIARIED HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus superciliaris nigrifrons*)

A canopy hemispingus of high temperate forests. We had them on our first day at Yanacocha as they flicked about in the overhanging trees. Just love the name!

BLACK-EARED HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus melanotis melanotis*)

Common with flocks and general morning activity at San Isidro, where they come in to feed on moths in the early morning. This is the nominate east slope form, with the obvious black mask.

BLACK-EARED (WESTERN) HEMISPINGUS (*Hemispingus melanotis ochraceus*)

This form is split out from the true Black-eared Hemispingus of the east in the Birds of Ecuador. We had a couple of brief brushes with this bamboo species in the west, but never really locked onto them for great views.

RUFIOUS-CRESTED TANAGER (*Creurgops verticalis verticalis*)

We had the luxury of even looking down at this canopy tanager on the slopes of the Guacamayos from our perch at the ranger station when a small group swept through! The one with the all slaty back and rich rufous underparts.

WHITE-WINGED TANAGER (*Piranga leucoptera ardens*)

Really nice scope studies of a male along the old Nono-Mindo rd. not far from Tandayapa.

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus carbo carbo*)

Common on the slopes of the Guacamayos, where we found some nice males.

FLAME-RUMPED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus flammigerus icteronotus*)

A tanager of trash habitats, but that male is still a real looker! We had them in good numbers at forest edges around Milpe.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus quaesita*)

The duller west slope form.

BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus coelestis*)

This east slope form is a brighter powder blue, and sports that big white shoulder bar.

BLUE-AND-YELLOW TANAGER (*Thraupis bonariensis darwini*)

Diane spotted our first, a male, perched up for scope views at my house in the central valley.

PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)

When seen well, this (often thought of as a) dull tanager is actually quite handsome, with rich olive and even violaceous tones to its plumage. We had our best looks at them at the hanging bananas at Mindo Loma.

HOODED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Buthraupis montana cucullata*)

A large and noisy mountain-tanager that moves around in family groups, with and away from flocks. It took until almost the end of the trip before we connected with them for fine studies; Guacamayos trail. This was the one with the bright yellow underparts, blue back, black hood, and red eye.

LACRIMOSE MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Anisognathus lacrymosus palpebrosus*)

A few good looks at them as they mingled with the flocks along the Guacamayos trail. The one with the citrine orange underparts and teardrop spot of the same color.

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

Similar in pattern to the previous species but the orange-yellow is replaced by intense red. We had many fantastic scope studies of this beautiful tanager, mainly at Yanacocha.

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

The west slope race with the black back that we saw multiple times along the old Nono-Mindo rd., ut best at Mindo Loma's banana feeders.

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

The east slope race with the greenish olive back which we saw well around San Isidro.

BUFF-BREASTED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER (*Dubusia taeniata taeniata*)

Pretty good looks at this skulking mountain-tanager species as it sneaked around with a flock at Guango. This one has only a narrow, pale-buff breast band; more obvious is its blue spangled brow!

FAWN-BREASTED TANAGER (*Pipraeidea melanonota venezuelensis*)

Diane and Bonnie had them around San Isidro.

ORANGE-EARED TANAGER (*Chlorochrysa calliparaea bourcieri*)

The bright, glittering green tanager that we saw with the flocks on the east slope in the Guacamayos... unbelievable colors.

PARADISE TANAGER (*Tangara chilensis*)

A real target bird for some, and we were rewarded with some quality views as they foraged about overhead in a flock along the slopes of the Guacamayos, right up at their usual upper elevational limit. The colors on this one are just unmatched... a bird that has to be seen to be believed!

GOLDEN TANAGER (*Tangara arthus goodsoni*)

The west slope race which is yellow; fairly common with the flocks, such as around Tandayapa and along the old Nono-Mindo rd. The black ear patch is also a good mark to go by.

GOLDEN TANAGER (*Tangara arthus aequatorialis*)

These eastern birds are a richer shade of yellow, tending towards orange on some parts of the plumage. We had them a few times with the bird activity on the slopes of the Guacamayos.

SILVER-THROATED TANAGER (*Tangara icterocephala*)

As common as I've ever had them on this trip, with even a few at Tandayapa Lodge, where I don't remember ever having seen them. This one is very superficially similar to the Golden, but has that grayish-white throat, paler yellow plumage, and spectacled effect.

GOLDEN-EARED TANAGER (*Tangara chrysotis*)

A group of three popped in on the slopes of the Guacamayos during some fast paced activity there for brief, but good views. A specialty of the eastern foothills.

SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER (*Tangara xanthocephala venusta*)

This one should be called the 'Saffron-helmeted' Tanager... it is not just the crown that is yellow!!! We found this one to be most common with the flocks around San Isidro, where they offered up some nice views.

FLAME-FACED TANAGER (*Tangara parzudakii parzudakii*)

The subspecies of the east, and the one with the more distinct red and yellow on the head. Fairly common around San Isidro.

FLAME-FACED TANAGER (*Tangara parzudakii lunigera*)

These west slope birds, seen very well at Mindo Loma's banana feeders, for instance, have more of a flame-orange coloration on the head.

RUFIOUS-THROATED TANAGER (*Tangara rufigula*)

Very nice scope views at a few of this west slope specialty at Milpe... just before my scope took a dive and popped off of the tripod! This was the one with the blackish head, deep rufous throat and speckled breast; and handsome tanager when seen well.

BAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Tangara gyrola nupera*)

A few backlit birds with the flocks at Milpe.

SCRUB TANAGER (*Tangara vitriolina*)

A nice central valley bird to get, and we had one sitting right up out in the open at my house for scope views of its rufous crown.

GOLDEN-NAPED TANAGER (*Tangara ruficervix leucotis*)

Seen best at Mindo Loma's banana feeders!

BLUE-NECKED TANAGER (*Tangara cyanicollis*)

The tanager with the bright blue head that we saw well on both slopes.

BERYL-SPANGLED TANAGER (*Tangara nigroviridis*)

The speckled blue tanager with a black ground color. In nice light, this is a very fancy tanager, and we had many fine studies on both slopes.

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

Seen along the old Nono-Mindo rd. along the Tandayapa ridge, and then again at Guango More of a temperate forest bird, this is the highest occurring member of the genus here in Ecuador.

BLACK-CAPPED TANAGER (*Tangara heinei*)

*Most common around San Isidro. This species is different from the rest of the birds in the genus *Tangara* that we saw on the trip in that the males and females are quite different.*

GOLDEN-COLLARED HONEYCREEPER (*Iridophanes pulcherrima pulcherrima*)

A few seen pretty well, especially with the aid of the scope, on the slopes of the Guacamayos. Some folks even got looks at the male's collar.

GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

One male at Milpe during a mobbing session... not sure what had them all upset.

PURPLE HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes caeruleus microrhynchus*)

A tree full of males on the slopes of the Guacamayos was a nice treat; those yellow legs really stand out!

SWALLOW TANAGER (*Tersina viridis occidentalis*)

Common in the treetops at Milpe. This species seems to be nomadic (migratory?) and is often found in large groups; not a flock bird like many other tanager species.

PLUSH-CAPPED FINCH (*Catamblyrhynchus diadema*)

We lucked out and found a single bird feeding in bamboo - this is another bamboo specialist, by the way - from the ranger station in the Guacamayos. That orange-yellow crown was seen well by all! Also called, Plushcap'.

Emberizidae

PLUMBEOUS SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus unicolor geospizopsis*)

Males and females up in the high paramo around the Papallacta Pass. Males are a rich blue-gray color, while females are streaky brown.

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina peruviansis*)

One seen briefly near Milpe.

YELLOW-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila nigricollis vivida*)

Fairly common in grassy areas around Milpe.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila castaneiventris*)

Bonnie spotted a male for us in the Guacamayos from the ranger station as it sat up in a tree fern.

* BLUE SEEDEATER (*Amaurospiza concolor aequatorialis*)

We heard a few singing birds, but they were all too distant to get a look at.

BAND-TAILED SEEDEATER (*Catamenia analis soederstromi*)

A couple of birds briefly in the central valley scrub.

PARAMO SEEDEATER (*Catamenia homochroa homochroa*)

We pulled in a singing male for nice views in some paramo edge growth at the Cayambe-Coca reserve.

DULL-COLORED GRASSQUIT (*Tiaris obscura*)

A couple of this, well... dull species as they fed in the grass at Tandayapa Lodge. The best identifying feature for this species seems to be the bill: the upper mandible is dark, while the lower is pale.

RUSTY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa sittoides decorata*)

Pretty good looks at a female at my house in the central valley as it fed on Abutilon (Hibiscus-type) flowers along a hedge row.

GLOSSY FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa lafresnayii*)

Most common at Yanacocha, where they frequently visit the hummingbird feeders. This was the large black flowerpiercer with the blue-gray shoulder-patch.

BLACK FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossa humeralis aterrima*)

The all black flowerpiercer of the central valley.

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

The most striking of the flowerpiercers on this trip, in my opinion, with that deep blue plumage and bright yellow eye. We had good looks at them as they fed along the roadsides on the slopes of the Guacamayos. Called, 'Golden-eyed' Flowerpiercer in Birds of Ecuador.

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

Common around San Isidro, and we called one in not far from the lodge for good looks at its dull reddish eye and washed out blue plumage. This species has a less pronounced hook at the end of its bill.

MASKED FLOWERPIERCER (*Diglossopsis cyanea cyanea*)

The most wide ranging of the flowerpiercers on our trip, and one of the most distinctive, with its all blue plumage, large black mask, and bright red eye.

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

We had an exceptionally good trip for seen brush-finches. We had this one very well on our last day as we birded the paramo edge shrubbery of the Cayambe-Coca reserve. Remember that this was the one with that long stripe on the crown that starts orange and then goes clean white.

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

Seen well on our first day at Yanacocha.

SLATY BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes schistaceus schistaceus*)

Common with the understory mixed flocks at Guango. This is a very attractive brush-finch species, with a slate plumage and bright ferruginous crown.

TRICOLORED BRUSH-FINCH (*Atlapetes tricolor crassus*)

Like a duller version of the Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch, and replaces it lower down on the west slope. We called in a pair at Tandayapa Lodge during our early morning birding there.

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

Seen best along the old Nono-Mindo rd. when one popped out for all to see well after the quick looks that only some had at Tandayapa Lodge.

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

Seen hopping around on the trail between the cabins and the dining room at San Isidro at dawn and dusk. This one had the rich chestnut crown and bright white throat.

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

Diane and I had brief looks at this west slope form when it lasted across the trail at Yanacocha.

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

Seen well by just about everybody as it moved with a flock above the town of Papallacta.

BLACK-STRIPED SPARROW (*Arremonops conirostris*)

We called up a pair out of the undergrowth at Milpe for nice looks at that striped crown.

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis*)

An abundant sparrow of open habitats in the Andes.

Cardinalidae

BLACK-WINGED SALTATOR (*Saltator atripennis*)

Seen briefly around Tandayapa Lodge, but each time we were about to get onto them, they took flight and disappeared!

GOLDEN-BELLIED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus chrysogaster chrysogaster*)
One scope male in the central valley scrub.

Icteridae

SCRUB BLACKBIRD (*Dives warszewiczi warszewiczi*)
Now common along the roadsides near Milpe, where they have invaded from drier climates due to forest disturbance.

SUBTROPICAL CACIQUE (*Cacicus uropygialis*)
The all black cacique around San Isidro with the red rump, pale bill, and light blue eye. This species has quite a vocal repertoire, and heard some nice chorusing of them!

MOUNTAIN CACIQUE (NORTHERN) (*Cacicus chrysonotos leucoramphus*)
The cacique with the yellow in the rump and shoulder that we finally tracked down along the Guacamayos trail.

RUSSET-BACKED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius angustifrons angustifrons*)
Common in large groups around San Isidro, where they were busy attending their recently fledged young.

MAMMALS

BRAZILIAN RABBIT (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*)
Common along roadsides in the highlands.

RED-TAILED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus granatensis*)
The most commonly seen mammal of the trip!

BLACK AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*)
Seen briefly at San Isidro a time or two, scurrying away.