



**Naturalist Journeys and Caligo Ventures  
Galapagos Birding and Wildlife Tour  
Species List – Jan 15 – 22, 2017**

*With mainland Ecuador Puenbo/Antisana National Park pre-extension (Jan 14)*

*And Northwest Ecuador birding post-extension (Jan 22-26)*

Guide Carlos Sanchez, with local experts and 19 participants

**Galapagos Islands**

(E) = endemic to the Galapagos

**Birds (58 species):**

**Anatidae: Ducks, Geese, and Swans (1)**

**White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis* (2) — two of these handsome ducks observed in the brackish pools near Cerro Dragon, with a flock of over thirty observed on a lagoon at Poza El Chato on Santa Cruz later on

**Phoenicopteridae: Flamingos (1)**

**American Flamingo** *Phoenicopus ruber*— only two of these flamboyantly colored birds seen at Las Bachas Beach.

**Spheniscidae: Penguins (1)**

**Galapagos Penguin** *Spheniscus mendiculus* (E) — after much anticipation, distant scope views of these charismatic birds at Elizabeth Bay. Incredible views that same afternoon at Tagus Cove, where a family repeatedly swam right by the zodiac!

**Procellariidae: Petrels and Shearwaters (1)**

**Galapagos Shearwater** *Puffinus subalaris*— common species of the open ocean and along sea cliffs throughout our cruise in the Galapagos, often in large numbers

**Hydrobatidae: Storm-Petrels (3)**

**Elliot's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites gracilis*— an abundant species recorded daily over water throughout the Galapagos

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** *Oceanodroma castro* – a few individuals recorded on the west side of Isabela

**Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel** *Oceanodroma tethys* – the common storm-petrel on Genovesa and favorite prey of the resident Short-eared Owls. There were literally thousands swarming all over the main nesting area.

**Phaethontidae: Tropicbirds (1)**

**Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus*— about a dozen or so individuals flying along the sea cliffs at Genovesa, with one briefly landing in the midst of the Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel colony

**Fregatidae: Frigatebirds (2)**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*— the distinctive black silhouette of this species was a daily sight throughout the Galapagos – a couple even roosted on the boat overnight!

**Great Frigatebird** *Fregata minor*— we had our best studies of this frigatebird on Genovesa, where they are a common breeding species. Males have a distinctive greenish sheen, while young birds have light orange heads.

### **Sulidae: Gannets and Boobies (3)**

**Nazca Booby** *Sula granti*— many pairs displaying to each other, sitting on eggs, and choosing nesting sites on Genovesa; a few individuals observed at sea near Isabela

**Blue-footed Booby** *Sula nebouxii*— the quintessential booby of the Galapagos, often flying along cliffs or beaches in small flocks and plunge diving in search of fish

**Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula*— very common breeder on Genovesa, where it is the only booby that nests in trees. There are two color morphs in the Galapagos, with the brown morph being more predominant than the white.

### **Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)**

**Flightless Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax harrisi* (E) — this heaviest of cormorants is a reasonably common but highly local endemic on Fernandina and the west side of Isabela

### **Pelecanidae: Pelicans (1)**

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*— observed daily in small numbers throughout the islands

### **Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (4)**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— observed in the harbor of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on our first day, with small numbers recorded on Santa Cruz, Santiago, and Isabela. The birds on these islands are an endemic subspecies (*cognata*).

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*— huge numbers of this recent colonist on Santa Cruz Island

**Striated (Lava) Heron** *Butorides virescens sundevalli* (E) — sometimes considered a separate species, they were most conspicuous at James Bay on Santiago as they chased around small Sally Lightfoot Crabs

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*—only a couple of these elegant crustacean-eating specialists on our tour, with one dismantling a large crab right in front of us while we were searching for penguins at Tagus Cove

### **Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, and Eagles (1)**

**Galapagos Hawk** *Buteo galapagoensis* (E) —several of these large raptors observed at close range at James Bay on Isla Santiago, with an additional individual soaring on Rabida – the apex predator of the islands.

### **Rallidae: Rails, Coots, and Allies (1)**

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata*—a medium-sized flock present at a lagoon on Santa Cruz.

### **Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (1)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*—only a handful of these black and white birds in the brackish pools near Cerro Dragon on Santa Cruz

### **Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers (1)**

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*—observed with regularity on rocky and sandy beaches throughout the Galapagos. The birds on these islands represent an endemic subspecies (*galapagensis*).

### **Charadriide: Plovers and Lapwings (1)**

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*—these dumpy little birds were present wherever there were congregations of shorebirds

### **Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (7)**

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*—the most widespread shorebird on the islands, including a single individual sitting on an open field in the highlands!

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*—a common and familiar coastal species

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*—a couple of these very white shorebirds at Las Bachas Beach on Santa Cruz

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—recorded wherever there were congregations of shorebirds. This species is the smallest sandpiper in the world.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*—a single individual resting in the same lagoon as the flamingos even got one of our local guides excited. Not a common species in the Galapagos.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*—a few thousand of these wintering in the rich waters between Isabela and Fernandina. These shorebirds spin in nutrient-rich waters, creating whirlpools that stir up plankton and other tasty tidbits on the water's surface.

**Wandering Tattler** *Tringa incana*—recorded in small numbers on rocky shorelines throughout the islands

### **Laridae: Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (6)**

**Swallow-tailed Gull** *Creagrus furcatus*—moderate numbers of these elegant gulls on Genovesa, where they nest. It is unique among gulls in that it feeds nocturnally, mostly on fish and squid which rise to the surface at night.

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*—a few on our first afternoon in the harbor of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno

**Franklin's Gull** *Leucophaeus pipixcan*—almost a dozen on our first afternoon in the harbor of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno with smaller numbers elsewhere.

**Lava Gull** *Leucophaeus fuliginosus* (E) —despite its tiny world population, this endemic was common and widespread in small numbers throughout the Galapagos

**Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus*—the common tern in the Galapagos, recorded almost daily

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*—not a common bird in the Galapagos, with a couple recorded on the first afternoon in the harbor of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and a single flyover at Las Bachas Beach

### **Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (1)**

**Galapagos Dove** *Zenaida galapagoensis* (E) —this lovely little dove was delightfully common and tame on Genovesa, with small numbers recorded elsewhere

### **Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Allies (1)**

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani*—this introduced species was especially common in the greener highlands of Santa Cruz

### **Tytonidae: Barn Owls (1)**

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*—a single individual roosting in the lava tube at Poza El Chato. The subspecies here is endemic to the Galapagos (*punctatissima*).

### **Owls: Owls (1)**

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*—a half-dozen of these owls performed beautifully at the storm-petrel colony on Genovesa. The subspecies on these islands is endemic and a potential split (*galapagoensis*).

### **Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (1)**

**Galapagos Flycatcher** *Myiarchus magnirostris* (E) —these very tame, phoebe-like flycatchers were recorded almost daily throughout the islands

### **Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (1)**

**Galapagos Martin** *Progne modesta* (E) —a few individuals of this rare endemic observed on Espinoza Point on Fernandina. This is one of the world's least studied swallows.

### **Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers (2)**

**Galapagos Mockingbird** *Mimus parvulus* (E) —ubiquitous and brash! Recorded almost daily

**San Cristobal Mockingbird** *Mimus melanotis* (E) —observed on the very last morning on San Cristobal

### **Parulidae: New World Warblers (1)**

**Yellow (Galapagos) Warbler** *Setophaga petechia aureola* (E) –an endemic subspecies to the Galapagos, this warbler inhabited everything from rocky coastlines to wet highland forest!

### **Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (12)**

**Green Warbler-Finch** *Certhidea olivacea* (E) –a single individual observed on Isla Rabida with many (many!) more observed in the highlands of Santa Cruz

**Gray Warbler-Finch** *Certhidea fusca* (E) –a single individual observed on Genovesa, where it performed beautifully for the group. This species performs wing-flicking behavior not too dissimilar from a kinglet.

**Vegetarian Finch** *Platyspiza crassirostris* (E) –the last finch species we saw on our trip, deftly clipping coral bean flowers from the tree canopy. This largest of Darwin's finches is similar in size and behavior to the migratory grosbeaks in the United States.

**Woodpecker Finch** *Camarhynchus pallidus* (E) –a single individual observed well by all, collecting nesting material in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

**Large Tree-Finch** *Camarhynchus psittacula* (E) –a couple individuals observed well by a few in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

**Small Tree-Finch** *Camarhynchus parvulus* (E) –the most common and widespread of the arboreal finches

**Small Ground-Finch** *Geospiza fuliginosa* (E) –the most common of the Galapagos finches by far, occurring even in town squares much like House Sparrows

**Large Ground-Finch** *Geospiza magnirostris* (E) –small numbers recorded on Genovesa, Santa Cruz, and Isabela. The bill on this species is disproportionate in size relative to the rest of the bird!

**Sharp-beaked Ground-Finch** *Geospiza difficilis* (E) –good numbers observed only on Genovesa, where Small Ground-Finch does not occur

**Common Cactus-Finch** *Geospiza scandens* (E) –singles recorded on Cerro Dragon and Isla Rabida, always near cactus

**Medium Ground-Finch** *Geospiza fortis* (E) –small numbers recorded almost daily, occurring in mixed feeding flocks together with Small Ground-Finches

**Large Cactus-Finch** *Geospiza conirostris* (E) –a couple recorded in the *Opuntia* cactus on Genovesa

### **Mammals and Other Wildlife:**

**California (Galapagos) Sea Lion** *Zalophus californianus wollebaeki* –common along the shore throughout the Galapagos Islands

**Galapagos Fur Seal** *Arctocephalus galapagoensis* –a couple of these large-eyed seals observed on the rocks on Santiago – beautiful!

**Galapagos Giant Tortoise** *Geochelone elephantopus* –the best experience with these gentle giants was on Santa Cruz, where a large individual was ambling along on one of the hiking trails we were using

**Pacific Green Turtle** *Chelonia mydas* –pleasantly common along the shore throughout the Galapagos

**Marine Iguana** *Amblyrhynchus cristatus* –numerous and conspicuous on all the islands we visited

**Land Iguana** *Conolophus subcristatus* –not as common as the aforementioned species, preferring drier inland locations; a very bulky and colorful lizard

**Galapagos Lava Lizard** *Microlophus albemarlensis* –common and conspicuous at coastal sites

**San Cristobal Lava Lizard** *Microlophus bivattatus* –easily encountered on San Cristobal Island

## Mainland Ecuador Pre- and Post-Extensions

(HO)= heard only

(CH)= endemic to the Choco region of northwest Ecuador

### **Birds (239 species, of which 10 were heard only):**

#### **Tinamidae: Tinamous (1)**

**Little Tinamou** *Crypturellus soui* (HO)

#### **Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (3)**

**Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica*—a single observed in the scope at Antisana and a couple dozen loafing on the grassy islands at the Quito Airport pond

**Andean Teal** *Anas andium*—one bird waddling along the edge of the lagoon at Antisana

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*—a flotilla of these stiff-tailed ducks were floating out in the lagoon at Antisana

#### **Odontophoridae: New World Quail (1)**

**Dark-backed Wood-Quail** *Odontophorus melanotus* (CH)—incredible views of a covey of this usually rare and elusive wood-quail at Refugio Paz de las Aves

#### **Podicipedidae: Grebes (2)**

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*—a dozen of these widespread grebes at the Quito Airport pond on our last morning

**Silvery Grebe** *Podiceps occipitalis*—great views of this dainty Andean grebe at Antisana

#### **Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (1)**

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*—small numbers seen along the roadsides near Milpe and Rio Silanche Preserves

#### **Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (1)**

**Black-faced Ibis** *Theristicus melanopis*—a few of these Andean birds seen well in the scope at Antisana, represented here by an isolated population

#### **Cathartidae: New World Vultures (3)**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*—commonly seen soaring at mid- and lower elevation sites in northwest Ecuador

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—regularly seen soaring overhead in the same areas as the preceding species

**Andean Condor** *Vulture gryphus*—nice scope views of these giants perched on the cliff at Reserva Antisanilla and three more soaring effortlessly at Antisana. It is the national bird of Ecuador.

#### **Accipitridae: Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (6)**

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus*—what a great trip for this normally uncommon tree snail specialist! Multiple soaring birds in several plumage forms at Refugio Paz de las Aves, Rio Silanche, and Milpe

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus*—elegantly soaring over forest and open woodland at Refugio Paz de las Aves, Rio Silanche, and Milpe

**Roadside Hawk** *Rupornis magnirostris*—the most common raptor in northwest Ecuador, often observed from the road as we shuttled from site to site – appropriately named

**Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*—a pair near the Quito Airport on our last day, hunting in the arid scrub

**Variable Hawk** *Geranoaetus polyosoma*—our group saw one of these large and cleanly marked hawks on our day trip to Antisana; although about as large as a Red-tailed Hawk, they are tiny compared to the condors

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*—one of these small migrant hawks was perched in a tree by the road on our drive back from the upper Tandayapa Valley

### **Rallidae: Rails, Crakes, and Coots (1)**

**Slate-colored Coot** *Fulica ardesiaca*—the coots at Antisana and the Quito Airport pond were this species

### **Charadriidae: Lapwings and Plovers (1)**

**Andean Lapwing** *Vanellus resplendens*—several of these handsome and noisy shorebirds strolling around in the altiplano of Antisana

### **Laridae: Gulls and Terns (2)**

**Andean Gull** *Chroicocephalus serranus*—a small congregation of these gulls on the altiplano at Antisana together with the ibis and ground-doves; it was really nice to see these in full breeding plumage

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*—a single wayward bird at the Quito Airport pond

### **Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (8)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*—common while driving in Quito and around towns in northwest Ecuador

**Band-tailed Pigeon** *Patagioenas fasciata*—one perched briefly for scope views while driving back from the Tandayapa Valley

**Plumbeous Pigeon** *Patagioenas plumbea*—one of these sooty pigeons provided scope views on our drive back from the Tandayapa Valley

**Ruddy Pigeon** *Patagioenas subvinacea*—one cooperative individual perched nicely for us right by the canopy tower at Rio Silanche for all to see

**Dusky Pigeon** *Patagioenas goodsoni* (CH)—as in the preceding species, one perched right by the canopy tower at Rio Silanche but did not stick around long enough for the scope

**Black-winged Ground-Dove** *Metriopelia melanoptera*—a couple dozen of these chunky Andean doves were feeding in the wet altiplano of Antisana amongst the ibis and gulls

**Pallid Dove** *Leptotila pallida* (CH)—a couple of these regional endemics on the trail at Rancho Suamox

**Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata*—extremely abundant at Puembo Birding Garden!

### **Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis (3)**

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani*—common in wet pasture around Milpe and Rio Silanche

**Striped Cuckoo** *Tapera naevia*—excellent scope views and of two birds singing on a wire near Rio Silanche

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana*—while enjoying brunch at Refugio Paz de las Aves, one came into view from overlook

### **Strigidae: Owls (2)**

**White-throated Screech-Owl** *Megascops albogularis*—another guide alerted us to the presence of these owls near the main hummingbird feeders at Yanacocha, and we watched them at length through the scope so as not to disturb them from their roost

**Black-and-white Owl** *Ciccaba nigrolineata*—the resident bird at Sachatamia Lodge performed beautifully for everyone right after dinner

### **Apodidae: Swifts (2)**

**White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris*—these large and highly aerodynamic swifts were numerous at Antisana and overhead at Rio Silanche

**Gray-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris*—a flock of these small swifts were feeding overhead at Rio Silanche

### **Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (33)**

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora*—striking yet very common at Alambi, Rancho Suamox, and Milpe

**Band-tailed Barbthroat** *Threnetes ruckeri*—the entire group enjoyed this modestly colored hummingbird at Rancho Suamox while we had some local ice cream

**White-whiskered Hermit** *Phaethornis yaruqui* (CH)—singletons at Alambi and Rancho Suamox made infrequent visits to the feeders, but the entire group eventually got to see this regional endemic well

**Wedge-billed Hummingbird** *Schistes geoffroyi*—one at Refugio Paz de las Aves; this hummingbird often robs nectar from flowers without actually achieving pollination

**Brown Violetear** *Colibri delphinae*—one visited the Alambi feeders quite frequently

**Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans*—this common yet spectacular, large hummingbird was common in the high elevation areas of Antisanilla and Puembo Birding Garden

**Purple-crowned Fairy** *Heliathryx barroti*—this green and white hummingbird made a brief cameo at Rio Silanche

**Green Thorntail** *Discosura conversii*—regular in small numbers at both Rio Silanche and Milpe around both feeders and flowering porterweed

**Speckled Hummingbird** *Adelomyia melanogenys*—this drab little hummingbird made several passes at the feeder while we had brunch at Refugio Paz de las Aves

**Violet-tailed Sylph** *Agelaiocercus coelestis* (CH)—pleasantly common at the Sachatamia Lodge feeders – the long, iridescent tail is spectacular

**Black-tailed Trainbearer** *Lesbia victoriae*—several of these dainty hummingbirds were feeding in the montane scrub at the Antisanilla overlook, including some with very long tail streamers

**Tyrian Metaltail** *Metallura tyrianthina*—our first views were of a bird feeding on small flowers near the Antisanilla overlook; many visiting the feeders at the high elevation Yanacocha Reserve

**Sapphire-vented Puffleg** *Eriocnemis luciani*—several of these large, shimmering hummingbirds were active at the Yanacocha feeders

**Golden-breasted Puffleg** *Eriocnemis mosquera*—the less common of the two pufflegs at Yanacocha

**Shining Sunbeam** *Aglaeactis cupripennis*—the lilac-gold iridescent lower back and rump of this large hummingbird wowed the group at both the Antisana and Yanacocha lunch stops

**Brown Inca** *Coeligena wilsoni* (CH)—singles of this modestly attired hummingbird at Refugio Paz de las Aves and Sachatamia Lodge – a Choco endemic!

**Buff-winged Starfrontlet** *Coeligena lutetiae*—these very large hummingbirds were abundant at Yanacocha

**Sword-billed Hummingbird** *Ensifera ensifera*—after a bit of waiting, this spectacular hummingbird came into the feeders at Yanacocha. It is the third largest hummingbird.

**Great Sapphirewing** *Pterophanes cyanopterus*—half a dozen of these at Yanacocha, showing off their iridescent blue wings to great effect with their slow wing beats. It is the second largest hummingbird.

**Buff-tailed Coronet** *Boissonneaua flavescens*—unusually, there were only a few at Refugio Paz de las Aves and San Tadeo – usually an aggressive and boisterous hummingbird at the feeders

**Velvet-purple Coronet** *Boissonneaua jardini* (CH)—this iridescent purple and aqua hummingbird was numerous at the Sachatamia Lodge feeders. They glowed when the light hit them just right.

**Booted Racket-tail** *Ocreatus underwoodii*—these little crowd pleasers were delightfully common at multiple feeders throughout the northwest Ecuador extension. Birds on the west slope of the Andes have white ‘boots’ vs the orange ones on the east slope.

**Purple-bibbed Whitetip** *Urosticte benjamini* (CH)—we got good looks at both the male and female of this Choco endemic at Alambi

**Fawn-breasted Brilliant** *Heliodoxa rubinoides*—common at most mid-elevation feeders on this circuit

**Green-crowned Brilliant** *Heliodoxa jacula*—small numbers of this large hummer at Alambi and Milpe

**Empress Brilliant** *Heliodoxa imperatrix* (CH)—singles observed at both Refugio Paz de las Aves and Sachatamia Lodge of this most brilliant of brilliants

**Giant Hummingbird** *Patagona gigas*—the crowd gasped as this colossal hummingbird came into the feeders at the restaurant on our Antisana day trip

**Purple-throated Woodstar** *Calliphlox mitchellii*—several of these bee-like hummingbirds at Alambi Lodge

**Western Emerald** *Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus*—singles of this richly iridescent hummingbird at Puembo and Alambi; there are many green hummingbirds, but this one literally sparkles with green throughout

**Crowned Woodnymph** *Thalurania colombica*—singles at Alambi, Sachatamia, and Milpe

**Andean Emerald** *Amazilia franciae*—one of the most numerous hummingbirds at feeding stations

**Purple-chested Hummingbird** *Amazilia rosenbergi* (CH)—a pretty male showed well in the flowering vines by the canopy tower at Rio Silanche

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia tzacatl*—the default hummingbird of northwest Ecuador

### **Trogonidae: Trogons (2)**

**Golden-headed Quetzal** *Pharomachrus auriceps*—after a bit of work and shuffling around on a narrow trail, we eventually got a calling male in the scope for all to see well

**White-tailed Trogon** *Trogon chionurus*—our local guide worked hard to lure in a colorful male near the canopy tower at Rio Silanche, and we later saw another one while walking the loop trail in the forest

### **Momotidae: Motmots (1)**

**Rufous Motmot** *Baryphthengus martii*—a pair of these large and spectacular motmots performed well right at the entrance to Milpe

### **Capitonidae: New World Barbets (2)**

**Orange-fronted Barbet** *Capito squamatus* (CH)—this striking Choco endemic literally hopped into view at the Rio Silanche canopy tower, providing everyone with great views

**Red-headed Barbet** *Eubucco bourcierii*—our best views of this clown-like bird were at Rio Silanche

### **Semnornithidae: Toucan-Barbets (1)**

**Toucan Barbet** *Semnornis ramphastinus* (CH)—one came into the banana feeder just as we were finishing brunch at Refugio Paz de las Aves – a favorite for several in our group

### **Ramphasatidae: Toucans (5)**

**Crimson-rumped Toucanet** *Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*—hard to forget the one that came down to the feeders at San Tadeo – hard to get views better than that!

**Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan** *Andigena laminirostris* (CH)—a small family group announced their presence along the Bellavista Research Station Road before coming into view. This medium-sized blue toucan is nearly endemic to Ecuador and featured on the *Birds of Ecuador* field guide by Greenfield and Ridgely.

**Collared Aracari** *Pteroglossus torquatus*—many of these comical little toucans at Rio Silanche

**Yellow-throated Toucan** *Ramphastos ambiguus*—a few in the lower elevations of Rio Silanche and Milpe – best identified from the following species by the yelping calls. Formerly known as Chestnut-mandibled Toucan.

**Choco Toucan** *Ramphastos brevis* (CH)—two birds at Rio Silanche – best identified from the preceding species by its croaking calls.

### **Picidae: Woodpeckers (7)**

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** *Melanerpes pucherani*—the most common woodpecker in the foothills, offering great looks at both Rio Silanche and Rancho Suamox

**Smoky-brown Woodpecker** *Picoides fumigatus*—one of these small woodpeckers came in with a feeding flock while we were birding the entrance of Milpe Bird Sanctuary

**Bar-bellied Woodpecker** *Veniliornis nigriceps*—all to brief views of one working with a mixed feeding flock at Yanacochoa was just too quick for most of the group

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus*—the group enjoyed this one at the Rancho Suamox feeders

**Cinnamon Woodpecker** *Celeus loricatus*—this gorgeous woodpecker created a lot of excitement at Rio Silanche!

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus*—one of these large woodpeckers at Rio Silanche

**Guayaquil Woodpecker** *Campephilus gayaquilensis*—the large woodpecker photographed by one of the tour participants at Milpe was this impressive species

### **Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (4)**

**Barred Forest-Falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis*—we heard and then saw one of these shy and retiring raptors while scoping the Golden-headed Quetzal at Refugio Paz de las Aves

**Carunculated Caracara** *Phalacrocorax carunculatus*—abundant in the high grasslands of Antisana

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*—one at the Quito Airport pond

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*—one on the shore of the Quito Airport pond

### **Psittacidae: Parrots (4)**

**Blue-headed Parrot** *Pionus menstruus*—nice scope views of a medium-sized flock on the entrance road to Rio Silanche

**Bronze-winged Parrot** *Pionus chalcopterus*—spectacular views of a bird perched right by the canopy tower at Rio Silanche; we also had a couple big flocks near Milpe

**Pacific Parrotlet** *Forpus coelestis*—a few of these cute little birds in heavily deforested land near Rio Silanche

**Maroon-tailed Parakeet** *Pyrrhura melanura*—a trio briefly perching for the group near Milpe

### **Thamnophilidae: Antbirds (3)**

**Pacific Antwren** *Myrmotherula pacifica*—pair by the roadside at Rio Silanche and another pair at Rancho Suamox

**Slaty Antwren** *Myrmotherula schisticolor*—seen on both of our visits to Milpe in small numbers

**Zeledon's Antbird** *Myrmeciza zeledoni* (HO)—we heard the distinctive call right at the entrance to Milpe Bird Sanctuary early in the morning

### **Grallariidae: Antpittas (8)**

**Undulated Antpitta** *Grallaria squamigera* (HO)—we heard one calling at Yanacocha

**Giant Antpitta** *Grallaria gigantea* (CH)—could not ask for better views of an antpitta than the one we saw at Refugio Paz de las Aves – incredible!

**Moustached Antpitta** *Grallaria alleni*—the last of the antpittas that we saw at Refugio Paz de las Aves – quite shy

**Chestnut-crowned Antpitta** *Grallaria ruficapilla*—one performed nicely for the group in a gully at Refugio Paz de las Aves

**Yellow-breasted Antpitta** *Grallaria flavotincta* (CH)—a family group of these lovely blue-legged and yellow-breasted birds at Refugio Paz de las Aves

**Rufous Antpitta** *Grallaria rufula* (HO)—heard only at Yanacocha

**Tawny Antpitta** *Grallaria quitensis*—behaving almost like an American Robin at Antisana, with several hopping around right in the open

**Ochre-breasted Antpitta** *Grallaricula flavirostris*—this small antpitta ('Shakira') shook about for the group at Refugio Paz de las Aves

### **Rhinocryptidae: Tapaculos (2)**

**Blackish Tapaculo** *Scytalopus latrans* (HO)—frustratingly close but uncooperative at Yanacocha

**Spillmann's Tapaculo** *Scytalopus spillmanni* (HO)—heard well at the Bellavista Research Road

### **Furnariidae: Ovenbirds, Woodcreepers, and Allies (13)**

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*—we saw one of these little woodcreepers with a mixed feeding flock at Milpe

**Spotted Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*—the common woodcreeper at Milpe

**Streaked Tuftedcheek** *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*—one inspecting bromeliads only distracted a few of the group while the rest ogled at Plate-billed Mountain-Toucans

**Pale-legged Hornero** *Furnarius leucopus*—we got to see a pair attending their Dutch oven-like nest just outside Rancho Suamox

**Chestnut-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes albidiventris*—abundant at Antisana

**Stout-billed Cinclodes** *Cinclodes excelsior*—noticeably bulkier than the preceding species and with a heavier bill; we managed to pick out two individuals out of the many Chestnut-winged Cinclodes at Antisana

**Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner** *Philydor rufum*—small numbers on both visits to Milpe

**Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia variegaticeps*—one individual seen along the road to Milpe, associating with a mixed feeding flock

**Pearled Treerunner** *Margarornis squamiger*—a small mixed feeding flock on the Bellavista Research Road had one of these charming birds

**Andean Tit-Spinetail** *Leptasthenura andicola*—one in the bushes behind a building complex at Antisana

**White-browed Spinetail** *Hellmayrea gularis*—one of these distinctive spinetails at Yanacocha

**Many-striped Canastero** *Asthenes flammulata*—one at Antisana

**Red-faced Spinetail** *Cranioleuca erythrops*—one in the large tree by the home at Alambi

### **Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (18)**

**White-tailed Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus poecilocercus*—one at Bellavista Research Road with a mixed flock

**Tufted Tit-Tyrant** *Anairetes parulus*—a pair of these high altitude flycatchers gave us repeated but brief glimpses by a stream at Antisana

**White-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia albiceps*—a vocal and conspicuous individual while we waited for the Andean Condors at the Antisanilla overlook

**Slaty-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon superciliaris*—one in a mixed feeding flock at Milpe

**Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant** *Phylloscartes ophthalmicus*—one in a mixed feeding flock at Milpe

**Black-capped Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*—this colorful canopy flycatcher teased us with brief but definitive views at the Bellavista Research Road

**Ornate Flycatcher** *Myiobius ornatus*—this attractive Andean flycatcher delighted the group at Milpe

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum*—one at Rancho Suamox of this widespread species

**Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher** *Myiobius sulphureipygius*—one in a small understory flock at Rio Silanche; this flycatcher is a classic example of convergent evolution with the American Redstart and Australasian fantails

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi*—one of these stout pewees on a snag at Milpe – nice spot!

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—a brilliant red male at the Quito Airport pond and another at Puembo

**Masked Water-Tyrant** *Fluvicola nengeta*—spotted at the eleventh hour of our final day in Milpe, right by the bus

**Crowned Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca frontalis*—one at Yanacocha

**Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant** *Ochthoeca fumicolor*—a pair in the scope at Antisana

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*—a pair at Milpe

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua*—a vocal and conspicuous bird at Milpe right by the tower

**Rusty-margined Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes cayanensis*—small numbers at both Rio Silanche and Milpe

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*—common at all lower elevation sites

### **Cotingidae: Cotingas and Allies (4)**

**Green-and-black Fruiteater** *Pipreola riefferii*—quickly called in near Bellavista – beautiful!

**Barred Fruiteater** *Pipreola arcuata*—one of these special birds cooperated for us at Yanacocha

**Red-crested Cotinga** *Ampelion rubrocristatus*—one perched on the top of a bush as we left Yanacocha

**Andean Cock-of-the-Rock** *Rupicola peruvianus*—only a few lekking at Refugio Paz de las Aves but a special experience nonetheless **BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

### **Pipridae: Manakins (1)**

**Club-winged Manakin** *Machaeropterus deliciosus* (**CH**)—it took some time, but everyone eventually got good views of this regional endemic at Milpe. They make their distinctive sound with special feathers on their wings.

**White-bearded Manakin** *Manacus manacus* (HO)—heard at Milpe; they sound like two pebbles striking each other

### **Tityridae: Becards and Tityras (2)**

**Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata*—a pair stuck around for the entire morning at the Rio Silanche tower

**Cinnamon Becard** *Pachyrhamphus cinnamomeus*—one visiting the area around the feeders at Rancho Suamox

### **Vireonidae: Vireos (4)**

**Lesser Greenlet** *Pachysylvia decurtata*—one of these plain little birds came in with a feeding flock at Rio Silanche

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*—only the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> record for Ecuador, heard and then spotted by Carlos at

Rancho Suamox

**Brown-capped Vireo** *Vireo leucophrys*—seen by a few at Refugio Paz de las Aves

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*—seen by some at Rancho Suamox

**Corvidae: Crows and Jays (1)**

**Turquoise Jay** *Cyanolyca turcosa*—a couple of these raucous and colorful birds were associating with the Plate-billed Mountain-Toucans along the road above Bellavista

**Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (5)**

**Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*—several perched on a line, providing great views while we ate brunch at Refugio Paz de las Aves

**Brown-bellied Swallow** *Orochelidon murina*—several of these highaltitude swallows at Yanacocha

**White-thighed Swallow** *Atticora tibialis*—nice views of a perched individual at Rancho Suamox, showing off the white ‘thighs’

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*—common around Rio Silanche and Milpe

**Gray-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea*—a single bird overhead at Milpe

**Troglodytidae: Wrens (3)**

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*—a single bird at Rancho Suamox

**Mountain Wren** *Troglodytes solstitialis*—working the mossy branches and bromeliads at Refugio Paz de las Aves

**Gray-breasted Wood-Wren** *Henicorhina leucophrys*—a pair finally offered reasonable views to most of the group at Milpe after some strategic angling

**Poliophtilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)**

**Tropical Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila plumbea*—a couple birds flitting about in the trees at Rancho Suamox

**Cinclidae: Dippers (1)**

**White-capped Dipper** *Cinclus leucocephalus*—a pair nicely spotted in a stream right by the road as we dropped in elevation from Yanacocha

**Turdidae: Thrushes (6)**

**Andean Solitaire** *Myadestes ralloides* (HO)—its ethereal song echoed through the mountains above Bellavista

**Spotted Nightingale-Thrush** *Catharus dryas* (HO)—this lovely songster was vocal but elusive at Milpe

**Swainson’s Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*—this familiar thrush was a regular at most feeders on our itinerary

**Pale-vented Thrush** *Turdus obsoletus*—one on a misty morning in the Milpe Bird Sanctuary parking lot

**Ecuadorian Thrush** *Turdus maculirostris*—a few at the San Tadeo and Milpe feeders

**Great Thrush** *Turdus fuscaster*—very common at high elevation sites such as Antisana and Yanacocha

**Motacillidae: Pipits (1)**

**Paramo Pipit** *Anthus bogotensis*—a couple spotted and tracked in a furrow at Antisana

**Parulidae: New World Warblers (8)**

**Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrina*—one of these inconspicuous warblers at Alambi was an excellent find

**Olive-crowned Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis semiflava*—one on the entrance road to Milpe eventually cooperated for the entire group

**Tropical Parula** *Setophaga pitiayumi*—common in mixed feeding flocks at Milpe

**Blackburnian Warbler** *Setophaga fusca*—a common winter resident in Ecuador; a few at Milpe and Bellavista

**Buff-rumped Warbler** *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*—one vocal bird in the parking lot at Milpe

**Golden-bellied Warbler** *Myiothlypis chrysogaster*—this attractive warbler was common at Milpe

**Russet-crowned Warbler** *Myiothlypis coronata*—one in the undergrowth played hard to get on the research road above Bellavista

**Slate-throated Redstart** *Myioborus miniatus*—regular in mixed feeding flocks at Sachatamia and Milpe

**Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (44)**

**White-shouldered Tanager** *Tachyphonus luctuosus*—one along the Rio Silanche entrance road

**White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus*—a pair at the Alambi Lodge feeders and another at San Tadeo

**Flame-rumped Tanager** *Ramphocelus flammigerus*—common at all lower elevation sites. The form present in northwest Ecuador is the Lemon-rumped subspecies *icteronotus*, which is sometimes considered a separate species.

**Hooded Mountain-Tanager** *Buthraupis montana*—two of these jay-sized and gaudy tanagers on the Nono-Tandayapa Road

**Black-chested Mountain-Tanager** *Cnemathraupis eximia*—two cooperative individuals seen well at Yanacocha were an excellent find, as these are rather uncommon and local

**Grass-green Tanager** *Chlorornis riefferii*—this classic tanager of high elevation cloud forest was seen by only a few of the group at Yanacocha

**Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager** *Anisognathus igniventris*—another classic tanager of high elevation cloud forest. We saw about a half-dozen or so at Yanacocha, where they are regular in mixed feeding flocks.

**Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager** *Anisognathus somptuosus*—this large, gaudy tanager was pleasantly common at Sachatamia Lodge and along the road above Bellavista. We also had several visit the banana feeders while eating brunch at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

**Golden-crowned Tanager** *Iridosornis rufivertex*—a splendid individual in a mixed feeding flock at Yanacocha literally glowed deep violet-blue and gold

**Fawn-breasted Tanager** *Pipraeidea bonariensis*—one at Alambi and another at Milpe, where it is an uncommon inhabitant of gardens, secondary growth, and bushy pastures

**Blue-and-yellow Tanager** *Pipraeidea bonariensis*—only a few at Puenbo, where it is a local specialty

**Blue-gray Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus*—the most common tanager at all lower elevation sites

**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum*—this duller relative of Blue-gray Tanager was common at lower elevation sites

**Golden-naped Tanager** *Tangara ruficervix*—two of these beautifully colored birds at the banana feeders at Refugio Paz de las Aves

**Black-capped Tanager** *Tangara heinei*—a few individuals at the feeders of San Tadeo

**Gray-and-gold Tanager** *Tangara palmeri*—there were two of these with the mixed feeding flock at the Rio Silanche canopy tower

**Scrub Tanager** *Tangara vitriolina*—this large *Tangara* is a specialty of dry intermontane valley sites such as Puenbo, where most of the group saw this species

**Blue-necked Tanager** *Tangara cyanicollis*—we saw this striking tanager of secondary growth at Rio Silanche, Milpe, and Rancho Suamox

**Beryl-spangled Tanager** *Tangara nigroviridis*—common at Sachatamia Lodge right by the main building

**Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola*—one in a mixed feeding flock at Milpe on our last morning

**Flame-faced Tanager** *Tangara parzudakii*—a small party of these stunning birds visited the banana feeders at Refugio Paz de las Aves

**Golden Tanager** *Tangara arthus*—our best views were of the dozen or so birds at the feeders of San Tadeo, but we also saw this pretty species at Refugio Paz de las Aves and Sachatamia Lodge

**Silver-throated Tanager** *Tangara icterocephala*—pairs seen at Alambi, Rancho Suamox, and Milpe

**Black-faced Dacnis** *Dacnis lineata*—a male at the canopy tower of Rio Silanche, here represented by the 'Yellow-tufted' subspecies *egregia* which might be a separate species

**Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana*—brief views of a single bird at Rio Silanche at the canopy tower

**Scarlet-breasted Dacnis** *Dacnis berlepschi* (CH)—a stunning male of this rare regional endemic at Rio Silanche

**Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus*—single males at Rio Silanche and Milpe

**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza*—a single male at Rio Silanche of this pretty species

**Guira Tanager** *Hemithraupis guira*—one bird in a mixed feeding flock at Rio Silanche

**Blue-backed Conebill** *Conirostrum sitticolor*—this bright little conebill was a nice find at Yanacocha

**Glossy Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa lafresnayii*—common at the feeders at Yanacochoa  
**Black Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa humeralis*—a few at the overlook while we waited for the condors at Antisanilla  
**Masked Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa cyanea*—abundant at the feeders at Yanacochoa  
**Plumbeous Sierra-Finch** *Phrygilus plebejus*—quite a few of these chubby gray songbirds in the lawn in front of the main building complex at Antisana  
**Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola*—these canary yellow birds were common at Puenbo  
**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina*—two female birds along the entrance road to Rio Silanche  
**Large-billed Seed-Finch** *Sporophila crassirostris*—one subadult male singing from the top of a tree along the entrance road to Rio Silanche – quite a rare bird for the region  
**Variable Seedeater** *Sporophila corvina*—numerous in wet pastures at Rio Silanche and Milpe  
**Yellow-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila nigricollis*—singles at Rio Silanche and Milpe  
**Plain-colored Seedeater** *Catamenia inornata*—one of these pink-billed seedeaters at the Antisanilla overlook and another near the restaurant at Yanacochoa  
**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola*—a couple at Rio Silanche and Milpe, always with mixed feeding flocks  
**Dusky-faced Tanager** *Mitrospingus cassinii*—the nice views at the Rancho Suamox banana feeders were a big improvement over the brief views at Rio Silanche. This odd species might not be a true tanager.  
**Buff-throated Saltator** *Saltator maximus*—one at Rio Silanche  
**Black-winged Saltator** *Saltator atripennis*—a single bird outside the main building at Sachatamia Lodge

#### **Emberizidae: New World Sparrows (7)**

**Yellow-throated Chlorospingus** *Chlorospingus flavigularis*—a couple of these in a mixed feeding flock at Milpe  
**Dusky Chlorospingus** *Chlorospingus semifuscus*—one landed on a fruit feeder as we finished lunch on our last day  
**Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris* (HO)—frustratingly, this bird would simply not hop out for a clear view at Milpe  
**Chestnut-capped Brushfinch** *Arremon brunneinucha*—another last minute species, briefly hopping onto a fruit feeder on our last day  
**Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis*—abundant and conspicuous throughout most of the extension  
**Tricolored Brushfinch** *Atlapetes tricolor*—our best views were of a single bird at Alambi  
**Yellow-breasted Brushfinch** *Atlapetes latinuchus*—a couple birds at Yanacochoa

#### **Cardinalidae: Cardinals and Grosbeaks (2)**

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*—hard to forget the stunning male at San Tadeo, but we also had this species right outside our lodging at Sachatamia  
**Golden Grosbeak** *Pheucticus chrysogaster*—several participants caught sight of this species at Puenbo

#### **Icteridae: New World Blackbirds (4)**

**Scrub Blackbird** *Dives waczewiczi*—one greeted the group on arrival at Sachatamia Lodge one day  
**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis*—rather numerous at Puenbo  
**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus*—we saw one of these by the road at Rancho Suamox. They specialize in parasitizing caciques and oropendolas.  
**Scarlet-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus uropygialis*—two at Rio Silanche and a couple more at Rancho Suamox

#### **Fringillidae: Finches and Euphonias (5)**

**Orange-crowned Euphonia** *Euphonia saturata*—a pair of this uncommon species was coming to the feeders at Rancho Suamox. It is pretty close to being endemic to Ecuador.  
**Thick-billed Euphonia** *Euphonia laniirostris*—common at feeding stations on this trip  
**Orange-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia xanthogaster*—common at feeding stations on this trip  
**Yellow-bellied Siskin** *Spinus xanthogastrus*—one of these birds associating with a mixed feeding flock at Milpe  
**Hooded Siskin** *Spinus magellanicus*—a small flock in an introduced pine at Puenbo