

Journey to the Galápagos | Species List

November 11-18, 2018 | Compiled by Pat Lueders



Guide Pat Lueders with 12 participants: Rick & Chris, Carlotta, Dave & Ellyn, Cathie, Beverley, Jenny, Judy, Kathy & Jim

317 Total Bird Species (Galápagos & Mainland Ecuador Combined)

Bird List — Galápagos:

56 Species Seen, with 20 Species-level Endemics; (E) = endemic

Anatidae: Ducks, Geese, and Swans (1)

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*) The only duck seen in the Galápagos, several were observed by the group at Punta Cormorant on Floreana near the Flamingos as well as in the Santa Cruz highlands on a pond at the Giant tortoise farm we visited.

Phoenicopteridae: Flamingos (1)

American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) We saw a large number of these beautiful birds on Floreana at Punta Cormorant including a Chilean Flamingo, larger and pinker than the surrounding American Flamingos that were once considered conspecific with the Greater Flamingo (*P. roseus*) of the Old World. Recent work suggests the “Galápagos Flamingo” may merit recognition as an endemic subspecies (i.e., *P. ruber* ssp. *glyphorhynchus*). We also saw one, which flew low over our panga, at Black Turtle Cove.

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (1)

Galápagos Dove (E) (*Zenaida galapagoensis*) Among the seven species in this genus (which includes Mourning and White-winged Doves), Galápagos Dove is the most striking, with rich reddish-brown plumage and a prominent sky-blue eye ring—a very tame species, seen on our walks at Punta Suárez and Gardner Beach on Española and at the Darwin Research Center on Santa Cruz.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Allies (1)

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) We first saw this conspicuous, all black species during our drive on Santa Cruz in route to the Giant Tortoise farm, and later three were in a small tree at the Darwin Research Center.

Rallidae: Rails, Coots, and Allies (1)

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) One individual was seen on the walk to the pond at the Giant Tortoise farm on Santa Cruz Is.

Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers (1)

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) We saw our first ones at the beach on Wizard Hill, San Cristóbal, and again at Punta Suárez, Española—the distinctly patterned population in the Galápagos represent an endemic subspecies (*galapagensis*).

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Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (2)

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) One bird was seen on the rocks on San Cristóbal at Wizard Hill.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) Never seen in large flocks, this Northern Hemisphere migrant was observed a few times. We saw the largest number with other shorebirds at Punta Cormorant.

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (8) (Note that the following birds are all No. Hemisphere breeding winter migrants)

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) Although this species will form flocks in the Galápagos, we didn't observe this—a handful of individual birds were observed by the group scattered among several islands.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) Seen by most of the group foraging along the coasts of several islands.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) Seen in low numbers on beaches including San Cristóbal, Gardner Beach, and Floreana.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) Group of five were seen on the rocks at Wizard Hill and four with other shorebirds on Floreana at Punta Cormorant.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) Seen with a group of shorebirds on Floreana at Punta Cormorant while birding at the American Flamingo pond.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) One individual seen with other shorebird species on Floreana at Punta Cormorant.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) Multiple flocks collectively comprising thousands of birds, which occasionally drifted close to the ship, were recorded while at sea—closely observed with binoculars on several occasions (which helped, since Red-necked are very similar to the much rarer Red Phalarope in non-breeding plumage).

Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*) Probably the most common shorebird of the trip, encountered wandering the rocky shore on several islands.

Laridae: Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (6)

Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrus furcatus*) We had several encounters with good numbers of this unique species including at Punta Suárez on Española, Punta Cormorant on Floreana, and breeding pairs on South Plaza—a *near endemic* (also breeds near the coast of Colombia), this gull is unique among gulls in feeding at night and flew alongside the ship during our evening passages.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) We saw at least 10 of this species over the beach at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, San Cristóbal, after leaving the boat on the last day—this is evidently early for the species to arrive in the Galápagos.

Lava Gull (E) (*Leucophaeus fuliginosus*) The rarest gull in the world (only a few hundred individuals known to exist), this species was nonetheless seen by us several times; a fly-by of four on San Cristóbal Is., at the fish market on Santa Cruz, on Bartolome on Summit Trail, and on North Seymour.

Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) Our guides were very excited to spot this large gull, their first of the season, on our walk on South Plaza Island off Santa Cruz.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) A type of tern, commonly seen while on board the *Letty* and from shore at several stops, the largest number seen off Floreana—the only all dark seabird we saw while on the water.

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) Seen by a few of us as it flew by us along the beach at Punta Suárez on Española.

Phaethontidae: Tropicbirds (1)

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) This impossibly graceful species was first observed soaring over the sea

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cliffs on Española at Punta Suárez & Gardner Beach. Seen nesting at North Seymour.

Spheniscidae: Penguins (1)

Galápagos Penguin (E) (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) All of us were excited to see our first of this sought after species feeding and swimming on Floreana at Punta Cormorant. Later we found two sitting on the rocks at Champion Island, and one alone on the rocks during the panga ride at Black Turtle Cove, a mangrove estuary off the northern shore of Santa Cruz.

Diomedidae: Albatross (1)

Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) We walked among a large number of nesting adults and juveniles on Española at Punta Suárez. We were also lucky to see the mating behavior of pairs clacking their bills together.

Hydrobatidae: Storm-petrels (1)

Elliot's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites gracilis*) The most common of the three readily observed shearwaters in the Galápagos, we saw many individuals daily—Elliot's is endemic to the Humboldt Current (*also known as White-vented Storm-Petrel*).

Procellariidae: Petrels and Shearwaters (2)

Galapagos Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) Only a few were seen at a distance after leaving Española.

Galápagos Shearwater (E breeder) (*Puffinus subalaris*) Seen daily from the boat in large numbers, and hundreds were seen at one of their breeding locations on the cliffs at South Plaza.

Fregatidae: Frigatebirds (2)

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) Commonly recorded every day, both at sea and on the islands, this was the frigatebird we typically saw hovering over the ship and harassing other species. We walked around their nests on North Seymour Island.

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) We first observed this species in the air around North Seymour and later walked around their nests observing adults feeding juveniles on the island.

Sulidae: Gannets and Boobies (3)

Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*) First encountered on San Cristóbal, later seen almost daily around all islands (*formerly a subspecies of Masked Booby*).

Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*) Common and highly active, this species was routinely seen throughout the islands—great close-ups were had during panga rides at Black Turtle Cove for photo opportunities. On North Seymour, we watched a pair doing their famous breeding dance.

Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) A common breeder on Punta Pitt at San Cristóbal, we saw juveniles flying near the boat and resting on the water.

Pelecanidae: Pelicans (1)

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) First observed at the docks at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristóbal Is., scattered individuals were noted later on several days throughout the islands. Largest number seen at South Plaza Island off the east coast of Santa Cruz.

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (4)

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) Recorded at San Cristóbal, Santa Cruz, and Bartolome (Galápagos birds are an

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endemic subspecies, *A. h. cognata*).

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) This opportunistic species was commonly seen in the highlands of Santa Cruz Is.

Striated (Lava) Heron (*Butorides striata*) For those who chase endemic species, the distinctive “Lava Heron” is no more, considered now by most authorities to be merely a race of the sole American subspecies (i.e., *sundevalli*) of Striated Heron—first spotted on San Cristóbal, also encountered several times later on other islands. The only striped, not gray, morph was seen on the Black Turtle Cove panga ride feeding in the mangroves.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) Typically crepuscular, the species will also forage for crabs in broad daylight—we observed one individual on the beach on Floreana.

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, and Eagles (1)

Galápagos Hawk (E) (*Buteo galapagoensis*) An impressive raptor (and an endemic to boot), we saw one adult when leaving the panga at Punta Suárez on Española. During the walk, we found a nest containing a juvenile and two adults feeding it. One adult buzzed our guide, Fabricio, and hovered near and above us during the trip.

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (1)

Galápagos Flycatcher (E) (*Myiarchus magnirostris*) Closely related to the Dusky-capped and Brown-crested Flycatchers of the U.S., this Galápagos endemic is exceptionally confiding, even for a *Myiarchus* species—we routinely saw at least two or three birds at close range on most of our hikes.

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (1)

Galápagos Martin (E) (*Progne modesta*) Despite its status as a local Galápagos endemic, this restricted species has attracted little attention from researchers—we had looks of three at Gardner Beach on Española.

Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers (4)

Darwin’s Mockingbirds—When Darwin visited the islands, September, 1835, it was the subtle differences in the mockingbirds that provided him with his first hint on the process of evolution. We saw all four species and were able to observe and compare the different field marks and behaviors of these mockingbirds.

Galápagos Mockingbird (E) (*Mimus parvulus*) We saw a number of this mockingbird species on Santa Cruz.

Floreana Mockingbird (E) (*Mimus trifasciatus*) Only two of this mockingbird were seen at the beach on our visit to the island of Floreana.

Española Mockingbird (E) (*Mimus macdonaldi*) We saw a number of this species as we hiked on Española at Punta Suárez.

San Cristóbal Mockingbird (E) (*Mimus melanotis*) We first heard the unusual vocalizations of the species, and then observed a pair, on our walk at the National Park Interpretation center on San Cristóbal.

Parulidae: New World Warblers (1)

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) Galápagos Yellow Warblers constitute a near endemic subspecies (*aureola*) that some feel may eventually warrant species status—it was exceedingly common and easy to spot wherever we went, often along the shores but in the uplands as well.

Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (10)

Darwin’s finches—now considered more closely related to tanagers than true finches—are a common and easily recognized collection of Galápagos songbirds, yet as we discovered (and discussed at length during the trip) they can be exasperatingly difficult to sort out to species level in the field. While some subgroups (the woodpecker and

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warbler-finches, in particular) present less of an ID challenge, the tree- (Camarhynchus spp.) and ground-finches (Geospiza spp.) are complex and often frustrating. Thoughts on how best to address this variation differ dramatically among the taxonomists and evolutionary biologists who have studied these enigmatic species.

The primary physical traits traditionally used to separate the finches (most notably beak size and shape) can be subtle and overlapping between taxa, an issue that is compounded by interspecific hybridization. Farrington et al.¹, among others, have documented pervasive gene flow between populations of the various finches, which they contend make it all but impossible to distinguish biological species using genetic markers or morphology.

With this in mind, McKay and Zink² proposed that all of the named species of ground-finches in Galápagos (either six or nine, depending on who you ask) would be more appropriately combined into one species: “We suggest that morphological clusters (of finch populations) represent locally adapted ecomorphs, which might mimic, and have been confused with, species. But these ecomorphs do not form separate gene pools and are ephemeral in space and time. Thus, the pattern of morphological, behavioral, and genetic variation supports recognition of a single species of Geospiza, which we suggest should be recognized as ‘Darwin’s Ground-Finch’.”

That’s certainly a tempting solution. However, others continue to advocate for the recognition of multiple separate finch species across the islands, arguing that much of the variation we see needs to be formally recognized. Perhaps the most provocative example of this to date is offered by Lamichhaney et al.³, where in a recent paper in the journal Science, they describe events they feel have led to a new species of Darwin’s finch being created and established in less than 3 years (originating from a single hybridization event between a Medium Ground Finch and a Large Cactus Finch that blew in from a neighboring island)! Hmm. It’s apparent that the controversy over Galápagos finch taxonomy is far from over.

OK. So how many species should we recognize, and more importantly, how many different finches did we actually see on our trip? Both points of view (above) have merit, but for now the prudent and practical approach (as far as birding is concerned) will be to go with the ‘Clements Checklist’ (maintained by Cornell University), a global bird taxonomy that follows regional authorities. This checklist is the basis for species lists generated by eBird. In the New World, the Clements Checklist largely defers to the two American Ornithological Society committees, i.e., the North American and South American Classification Committees (the NACC and SACC). The most recent update by the SACC covering the Galápagos Is. lists 17 species of Darwin’s finches, and both the International Ornithologists’ Union and the Charles Darwin Foundation follow their lead. The newly updated Ecuador guide book by McMullen and

Navarrete⁴ is particularly useful, as it illustrates and briefly discusses all 17, unlike older books on the Galápagos, which include fewer species.

To provide a complete taxonomic and nomenclatural update, based on the Clements list and eBird, all 17 currently recognized Galápagos finches are listed below. We didn’t see all of these, of course. The names of the species that

¹ Farrington, H. L., Lawson, L. P., Clark, C. M. & Petren, K. (2014). The evolutionary history of Darwin’s finches: speciation, gene flow, and introgression in a fragmented landscape. *Evolution* **68**, 2932-2944.

² McKay, B. D. & Zink, R. M. (2015). Sisyphean evolution in Darwin’s finches. *Biological Reviews* **90**, 689-698.

³ Lamichhaney, Sangeet, Fan Han, Matthew T. Webster, Leif Andersson, B. Rosemary Grant, & Peter R. Grant. (2017). Rapid hybrid speciation in Darwin’s finches. *Science (publ. online 23 Nov 2017)*.

⁴ McMullan, Miles and Leis Navarrete. (2017) 2nd Ed. Fieldbook of the Birds of Ecuador, including the Galápagos Islands. *Partnership for International Birding*.

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we did see on the trip are in **black boldface type** (not indented), and include some notes on where they were observed, etc. (The above research was done by Naturalist Journeys' guide Bob Meinke)

Green Warbler-Finch (E) (*Certhidea olivacea*) We saw an adult feeding a juvenile on our walk at the Highlands' Twin Craters on Santa Cruz Is.

Gray Warbler-Finch (E) (*Certhidea fusca*) We had good close looks at three of this species on Española at Punta Suárez and one was on the sand on the beach at Gardner Bay.

Vegetarian Finch (E) (*Platyspiza crassirostris*) Not seen (restricted to higher elevations where we didn't go)

Woodpecker Finch (E) (*Camarhynchus pallidus*) We watched an individual for quite awhile on our walk at Highlands' Twin Craters on Santa Cruz allowing us to observe its woodpecker-type behavior. We also saw additional individuals in this area.

Large Tree-Finch (E) (*Camarhynchus psittacula*) Several birds were seen in shrubbery along a fence line near the lava craters in the Highlands of Santa Cruz.

Medium Tree-Finch (E) (*Camarhynchus pauper*) Not seen (only known from Floreana Is. and we missed it).

Small Tree-Finch (E) (*Camarhynchus parvulus*) Seen most clearly on our walk at the Giant Tortoise farm on Santa Cruz. Many finches were feeding on the ground allowing comparisons of size and bill differences

Vampire Ground-Finch (E) (*Geospiza septentrionalis*) Not seen (restricted to Wolf and Darwin Is.).

Genovesa Ground-Finch (E) (*Geospiza acutirostris*) Not seen

Small Ground-Finch (E) (*Geospiza fuliginosa*) Very common throughout, often in mixed flocks with Medium- and sometimes Large Ground-Finch. First seen on our walk the first afternoon on San Cristóbal.

Large Ground-Finch (E) (*Geospiza magnirostris*) Less common than the above two species, but easier to pick out (beak size), especially the males—this bird was always a favorite with our guides for some reason (the beak was pretty cool. ...) Best looks were in the mixed flock on the ground at the Giant Tortoise farm.

Common Cactus-Finch (E) (*Geospiza scandens*) Good looks at this species perched on the top of a cactus at the Charles Darwin Research Station.

Medium Ground-Finch (E) (*Geospiza fortis*) Also common on many islands—its intermediate size often made it challenging to reliably separate this species from both Small- and Large-beaked Ground-Finches.

Española Ground-Finch (E) (*Geospiza conirostris*) We saw a good number of this species on our walk on Española at Punta Suárez.

Sharp-beaked Ground-Finch (E) (*Geospiza difficilis*) Not seen (only found in highlands of Pinta, Santiago, and Fernandina Is.).

Genovesa Cactus-Finch (E) (*Geospiza propinqua*) Not seen

Mangrove Finch (E) (*Camarhynchus heliobates*) Not seen (limited to few areas on Isabela Is.)

Animal List — Galápagos:

12 Species Seen, with 9 Species-level Endemics; (E) = endemic

California (Galápagos) Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*) Seen repeatedly most days—the populations in the Galápagos are an endemic subspecies (*wollebaeki*).

Galápagos Fur Seal (E) (*Arctocephalus galapagoensis*) Far less common than the sea lions, our guides were excited to find a male at a new location for them on Española at Punta Suárez. We saw another one on Floreana at Punta Cormorant.

Western Santa Cruz Giant Tortoise (E) (*Chelonoidis porteri*) This tortoise species is considered *Critically Endangered*

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on the IUCN Red List—we saw at least 50 in and around the farm we visited on Santa Cruz Is.

Galápagos Green Turtle (E breeder) (*Chelonia agassizii*) Seen virtually every day throughout our time in the Galápagos, often well out to sea (sometimes floating along in “mating groups”)—the Galápagos populations of the Green Turtle were split off as a new species due to the distinct color and shape of their shell (*Threatened* on the IUCN Red List).

Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) Considered *Critically Endangered* by IUCN on their Red List, it was a great surprise to come across two of these turtles, including very close looks at one in shallow water from the pangas, in the mangrove off Santa Cruz at Black Turtle Cove.

Marine Iguana (E) (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*) Widespread in most places we disembarked in the islands, this is considered a globally *Vulnerable* species (IUCN Red List)—most major islands have their own subspecies of marine iguanas (and if the trend continues, these may all end up distinct species at some point!).

Galápagos Land Iguana (E) (*Conolophus subcristatus*) Found on all the larger islands, we saw a large number of this is the most common of three species of land iguana in the Galápagos on South Plaza, a *Vulnerable* species (IUCN Red List). **Our naturalist also pointed out a hybrid of Marine and Land Iguana which occurs on this island.**

Galápagos Lava Lizard (E) (*Microlophus albemarlensis*) A common, variable species throughout most major islands, this is the small (relatively speaking) lizard species we saw at nearly every stop (but hold on, herpetologists may be splitting some of the various island races into several new species in the near future).

San Cristóbal Lava Lizard (E) (*Microlophus bivittatus*) Widespread on San Cristóbal Island, where it is endemic—we saw it at several places, considered *Near Threatened* on the IUCN Red List.

Floreana Lava Lizard (E) (*Microlophus grayi*) Seen on Floreana at Punta Cormorant.

Española Lava Lizard (E) (*Microlophus delanonis*) Many were seen on our walk on Española at Punta Suárez.

Dolphin (probably Bottle-nosed) (*Tursiops truncatus*) The Bottle-nosed is more often seen than **Common Dolphin** (*Delphinus delphis*) in the Galápagos, but it wasn't clear for sure which species we saw, or maybe we saw both—they were spotted from the boat.

Bird List — Antisana Ecological Reserve & Northwest Ecuador:

262 Species Seen, Combined

Just before Galápagos, our group arrived in Quito for a day-long trip to the Antisana Ecological Reserve in the high Andes, to sight-see and look for wildlife. After Galápagos, three participants stayed on in Ecuador (November 19-22) for a birding-intensive road trip into the western Andes around Mindo. The species list below combines the birds seen on both the Antisana and Mindo extensions. As a quick visual guide, species names in black font are those seen only on the post-Galápagos Mindo area extension. Species names in **red font** were seen during the November 10th day trip to Antisana.

(HO) = Heard only (species not seen, but heard distinctly)

Tinamidae: Tinamous (1)

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soni*) (HO) We heard this elusive species from the canopy tower at Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary.

Cracidae: Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows (1)

Andean Guan (*Penelope montagnii*) Fantastic views of a male and a female visiting the banana feeders at Yanacocha Reserve visitor area—beautiful birds!

Odontophoridae: Wood-Quails (1)

Dark-backed Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus melanonotus*) Three seen at close range coming to food put out for them

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by our host Angel at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Podicipedidae: Grebes (1)

Silvery Grebe (*Podiceps occipitalis*) One of this tiny Andean grebe was found at Antisana at Laguna La Mica, seen at close range swimming and diving near the shoreline.

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (5)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) The city pigeon we all know was common in Quito and other urban areas.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) There was a small flock of this species in the trees over the road at Refugio Paz de las Aves after viewing the Cock-of-the-Rock lek.

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) Two birds were perched in a tree at eye level at the canopy tower at Rio Silanche.

Dusky Pigeon (*Patagioenas goodsoni*) (HO) We heard these birds vocalize from the observation tower at Rio Silanche—difficult to get good views, however, as they largely stayed within the canopy (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) Very abundant on the San Jose Hotel grounds and also around Quito area.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis (3)

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) Seen reclining in wet fields as we left Rio Silanche for the highway.

Little Cuckoo (*Coccyzina minuta*) Pointed out by our guide Xavier during lunch at the Sachatamia Lodge.

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) Seen at close range first at Refugio Paz de las Aves after breakfast, then again at Rio Silanche, Milpe & Bellavista Reserve.

Caprimulgidae: Nightjars and Nighthawks (1)

Rufous-bellied Nighthawk (*Lurocalis rufiventris*) Known roosting location for this individual, our local guide Xavier gave us good scope looks.

Apodidae: Swifts (3)

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) We saw flocks of these large, easy-to-recognize swifts first at Yanacocha, and again at Milpe, the Bellavista Reserve, and at the Mindo Valley overlook at Sachatamia Lodge.

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*) A mixed flock of these small swifts were spotted from the canopy tower at Silanche.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) Pointed out by our guide from the canopy tower at Silanche.

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (37)

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) A common and easily identified hummingbird at several sets of feeders.

White-whiskered Hermit (*Phaethornis yaruqui*) Seen first at the Nanegalito restaurant feeders and several individuals at the Milpe feeders and the Alambi Hummingbird Reserve (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Tawny-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis syrmatorphorus*) One bird seen clearly at the feeders at the Alambi Hummingbird Reserve.

White-throated Wedgebill (*Schistes albogularis*) Seen coming to flowers on our walk in the Mindo area.

Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*) Best looks were at the Alambi Hummingbird Reserve.

Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*) The first hummingbird the group saw, common at stops up to Antisana, and later in the Mindo area.

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliodytes barroti*) Nice looks in good light coming to flowers at Silanche.

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Gorgeted Sunangel (*Heliangelus strophianus*) What a deserving name! We had good looks at this beauty coming to flowers on the road at the Bellavista Reserve.

Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) On flowering shrubs at forest margins at Rio Silanche and again at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*) Several birds observed at the feeders at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Violet-tailed Sylph (*Agelaiocercus coelestis*) Common at the Sachatamia Lodge feeders, the long, shimmering tail is amazing, almost reminiscent of purple cellophane in the right light (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Ecuadorian Hillstar (*Oreotrochilus chimborazo*) We were fortunate to run across this species (a near-endemic for Ecuador) near Antisana—we found birds visiting the orange flower heads of spiny *Chuquiragua*, a preferred host plant.

Black-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia victoriae*) Males and females were both seen by all of us on feeders at Restaurante Tambo Condor.

Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*) Seen at the feeders at Restaurante Tambo Condor, and one of the most common hummingbirds visiting the busy feeders at Yanacocha.

Sapphire-vented Puffleg (*Eriocnemis luciani*) Close-up views at the Yanacocha feeders, relatively common—gorgeous!

Shining Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*) A group favorite, this stunningly iridescent hummingbird, with several males and females seen clearly near Restaurante Tambo Condor (on the way back from Antisana), and again at the Yanacocha Reserve.

Brown Inca (*Coeligena wilsoni*) Seen coming to the feeders at Refugio Paz de las Aves and on the walk at Milpe. (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*) A large, stunning hummingbird with a clean white breast shield and flashing white tail, seen twice for a few seconds during our bist to Bellavista.

Buff-winged Starfrontlet (*Coeligena lutetiae*) Another of the common hummingbirds at the Yanacocha Reserve feeders, a large and striking hummingbird.

Sword-billed Hummingbird (*Ensifera ensifera*) This amazing species (the only bird in the world known to have a beak longer than its body!) was seen close up at the Yanacocha Reserve feeders—we also saw it along the road just outside the Reserve, visiting the elegant *Brugmansia* flowers.

Great Sapphirewing (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*) Seen first at the feeders at Restaurante Tombor Condor. Several males and females were at the feeders at Yanacocha—the second largest hummingbird during our trip (after the Giant), its flight is slow and rather labored (for a hummer).

Buff-tailed Coronet (*Boissonneaua flavescens*) Seen at the feeders at the Alambi Hummingbird Reserve.

Velvet-purple Coronet (*Boissonneaua jardini*) Seen at the feeders at the Refugio Paz de las Aves. (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Booted Racket-tail (*Ocreatus underwoodii*) An easily recognized and dramatically plumaged hummingbird, with long, “racqueted” tail feathers—very common at Sachatamia, also seen at the Bellavista and Alambi feeders.

Rufous-gaped Hillstar (*Urochroa bougueri*) Seen at Refugio Paz de las Aves feeders & on the Mindo area walk.

Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*) Seen first at feeders at Yanacocha, again at Refugio, Santa Deo, & Sachatamia Lodge feeders.

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) Seen at the Yanacocha, Refugio, and Alambi feeders.

Empress Brilliant (*Heliodoxa imperatrix*) Two individual birds were observed at Refugio Paz de las Aves feeders—this is a large, striking hummingbird with a bronzed, noticeably forked tail (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Giant Hummingbird (*Patagona gigas*) This would have been disappointing to miss, and we fortunately saw several

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birds at the Restaurante Tambo Condor feeders on our way back from Antisana—unbelievable size, the largest hummingbird species, flies a bit like a swallow!

Purple-throated Woodstar (*Calliphlox mitchellii*) This tiny hummingbird commonly seen at Yanacocha, Sachatamia and Alambi Hummingbird Reserve (where we finally saw males) seems to hover at times with its tail seemingly cocked back—has been said to have “bee-like” flight.

Western Emerald (*Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus*) We saw this species at Yanacocha and the restaurant at Nanegalito.

Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) Occasional birds were observed at the restaurant feeders in Nanegalito, at Milpe, and nice comparisons at feeders with Green-crowned at the Alambi Hummingbird Reserve—current guidebooks refer to these populations as Green-crowned Woodnymph (*T. fannyi*), but the Clements List (Cornell University) and eBird consider them a subspecies of *T. colombica*.

Andean Emerald (*Amazilia franciae*) Seen at the feeders at Refugio de las Aves and at Alambi Reserve.

Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia amabilis*) Seen at Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary.

Purple-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia rosenbergi*) A beautiful male bird sat quietly below the canopy observation tower at Rio Silanche on a small branch in full sunlight (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) Common throughout northwest Ecuador and the neotropics, seen at all hummingbird feeder locations.

Violet-bellied Hummingbird (*Juliomyia julie*) All were very excited at Alambi Hummingbird feeders when this small, strikingly colored bird appeared, a life bird for our local guide Xavier. We watched it throughout our stay at this location.

Rallidae: Rails, Crakes, and Coots (1)

Slate-colored Coot (*Fulica ardesiaca*) Several birds were seen milling around near the shoreline at Laguna de la Mica during the Antisana day trip—note that while this species is often referred to as the Andean Coot, Slate-colored is now the preferred name (used on eBird).

Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (1)

Andean Lapwing (*Vanellus resplendens*) Our Antisana guide, Andrea, had us watching for this species on the páramo. We found two with the Black-faced Ibis and another one later along the road.

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (1)

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) A single individual of this Northern Hemisphere migrant was spotted in the river in the Mindo area where we saw the Torrent Tyrannulet.

Laridae: Gulls and Terns (1)

Andean Gull (*Chroicocephalus serranus*) Numerous birds congregating and feeding on the páramo habitat at Antisana.

Eurypygidae: Sunbittern (1)

Sunbittern (*Eurypyga helias*) Possibly the most exciting find on the trip, we saw three of this sought after species walking along the rocks in the river on the road to Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary, and two of them flew displaying their beautiful wing patterns. What a treat!

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants and Shags (1)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) While driving on the road in the Mindo area, we saw two of this

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species flying along the river.

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (3)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) We saw three of this species along the water on our drive in the Mindo area.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) Seen sporadically throughout the Mindo extension trip, often locally common.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) We saw many of this species in the fields at the airports.

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (1)

Black-faced Ibis (*Theristicus melanopis*) We spotted two of these beautiful birds mingling with large numbers of Andean gulls on the open páramo as we drove the Antisana area on our day trip.

Cathartidae: New World Vultures (3)

Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*) We stopped at a lookout on the road to Antisana and found two adults perched across the valley, the largest flying bird in the world, tending to a nesting containing one juvenile. We waited and saw one of the adults fly to join the other. Later we saw an adult soaring above the páramo below Antisana Volcano.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Most common raptor seen by the group in mainland Ecuador.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) Occasional on the day trip to Antisana, extremely common when we later drove the road from Quito to the Mindo area and beyond.

Accipitridae: Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (6)

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) Seen at three different locations, including the Mindo area, on the road to Silanche, and at Bellavista Reserve.

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) Spotted by local guide Xavier perched at Rio Silanche for good scope looks.

Barred Hawk (*Morphnarchus princeps*) Seen soaring near the San Tadeo Birdwatching area.

Roadside Hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*) A very common small hawk, along roads and often perched atop utility poles.

Variable Hawk (*Geranoaetus polyosoma*) Observed on our first day drive up to Antisana, as well as west of Quito as we traveled towards the Yanacocha Preserve (during the Mindo extension road trip).

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) One spotted perched at the Andean Condor lookout providing good scope looks. Two seen soaring near the road to Antisana (above Restaurante Tambo Condor) being pestered by a caracara—also seen well later, in canyons on our approach to the Yanacocha Reserve

Strigidae: Owls (1)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) Seen at a known nesting spot on the drive from Yanacocha to Nangalito.

Trogonidae: Trogons (6)

Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*) We had scope looks at a pair across a ravine at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Crested Quetzal (*Pharomachrus antisianus*) Heard by our guide in the Bellavista Cloud Forest, then one landed within a few feet of us at eye level for great looks!

Blue-tailed Trogon (*Trogon comptus*) **(HO) Choco Trogon**—unfortunately, this species responded to calls at the Silanche canopy tower, but we didn't get good looks.

White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon chionurus*) We had brief looks at this species while hiking at Rio Silanche.

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Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) We spotted two of this species during our hike at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.

Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*) Our second trogon species of the trip was an unexpected surprise as it sat prominently (and quietly) among the displaying Andean Cocks-of-the-rock at Refugio Paz de las Aves (this species is a close relative of the Elegant Trogon that occurs in Arizona). Later we watched a male and female feeding on moths from the Sachatamia hide and seen later that day at the Bellavista Reserve.

Momotidae: Motmots (2)

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) Several seen well on our walk in the Mindo area.

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) A beautiful, smaller species, we had one perched along the trail as we walked at the Rio Silanche Sanctuary. We then watched it catch and consume a large insect.

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (1)

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) Spotted sitting on a rock in the same river on the road to Rio Silanche where we saw the Sunbittern.

Bucconidae: Puffbirds (1)

Barred Puffbird (*Nystalus radiatus*) When leaving Rio Silanche, we found a male and female sitting and vocalizing from bare tree branches over the road.

Capitonidae: New World Barbets (2)

Orange-fronted Barbet (*Capito squamatus*) Prolonged views at the Rio Silanche canopy tower, including males and females (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*) We saw male and females of this species most often at feeders including the restaurant at Nanegalito, San Tadeo, and the Sachatamia Lodge.

Semnornithidae: Toucan-Barbets (1)

Toucan Barbet (*Semnornis ramphastinus*) Another major target bird for the group, with patience we eventually had great views of this colorful and unusual species in the low canopy at a nest hole while walking trails at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Ramphastidae: Toucans (5)

Crimson-rumped Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*) While we were watching the feeders at Refugio Paz de las Aves, one flew in and perched close for great looks for all.

Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena laminirostris*) We first saw this species at the Refugio Paz de las Aves, then again at Bellavista Reserve—this is the species featured on the cover of the *Birds of Ecuador* field guide (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) Seen best during lunch at the Sachatamia Lodge coming to the banana feeders, also seen in the Mindo area and at Silanche.

Yellow-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) Observed flying overhead and in trees near Mindo and at a distance from the canopy tower at Silanche (best identified from the following species by the “yelping” calls—the subspecies we saw has been known as Chestnut-mandibled Toucan).

Choco Toucan (*Ramphastos brevis*) Several birds in the trees in the Mindo area, from the canopy tower, and on the road to Milpe—vocalization is markedly different from that of Yellow-throated (above), which is morphologically quite similar (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

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Picidae: Woodpeckers (7)

Olivaceous Piculet (*Picumnus olivaceus*) We were lucky to spot two of this diminutive species as we walked the road in the Mindo area.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) A common species, seen particularly well on several snags and bare branches at Rio Silanche Sanctuary at eye level from the canopy tower.

Crimson-bellied Woodpecker (*Campephilus haematogaster*) We heard this secretive species and had fleeting glimpses of it flying while walking at Rio Silanche.

Guayaquil Woodpecker (*Campephilus guayaquilensis*) Birds were entering and exiting a nest hole in a dead tree maybe 40 feet from the top of the canopy tower at Rio Silanche—excellent, close-in scoped views.

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) Good views of at least two birds (scoped) about 60 – 80 feet away from the Rio Silanche canopy tower, diligently working several trees.

Cinnamon Woodpecker (*Celeus loricatus*) (HO) Heard vocalizing on our walk at Rio Silanche.

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*) A rather tame bird was plying the feeders at the Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve while we ate lunch our last day on the road.

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (1)

Carunculated Caracara (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*) Almost too many birds to count, adults and juveniles, seen coursing over grasslands at Antisana.

Psittacidae: Parrots (4)

Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*) We had several sightings of this species flying in groups from the seating area (by the feeders) that overlooked the Mindo Valley in front of the Sachatamia Lodge and on Milpe Road.

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) Seen and heard from the canopy tower at Silanche.

Bronze-winged Parrot (*Pionus chalcopterus*) Seen flying and heard, we finally had one perched at Milpe for good scope looks.

Maroon-tailed Parakeet (*Pyrrhura melanura*) Several small flocks streaked overhead at Rio Silanche and were seen from the canopy tower (but not perched).

Thamnophilidae: Antbirds (4)

Black-crowned Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) (HO) We heard this species in Silanche but didn't see this skulker.

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*) (HO) We heard the distinctive vocalization of this species while walking at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Poliocrania exsul*) (HO) Vocalization pointed out by our guide at Silanche.

Esmeraldas Antbird (*Sipia nigricauda*) (HO) This species was heard but not seen on our walk on Milpe Road.

Grallariidae: Antpittas (6)

Giant Antpitta (*Grallaria gigantea*) The real “headliner” at Refugio Paz de las Aves, the bulky Giant Antpitta appreciatively responded to an offering of chopped worms by our host, Angel—a very rare bird! (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Moustached Antpitta (*Grallaria alleni*) Rather dapper, another of the antpittas we saw at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapilla*) Strutting out to get her offering of worms from Angel Paz, this is one of the more striking species of antpittas, with a bright tawny head and bold ventral streaks.

Yellow-breasted Antpitta (*Grallaria flavotincta*) This blue-legged and yellow-breasted species was the showiest of the five antpitta species we managed to see at Refugio Paz de las Aves (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

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Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*) We heard this species at the parking area of the Antisana visitor's center but were unable to see it. We again heard at least three individuals at the Yanacocha Reserve but only got quick glimpses of it flying (our only antpitta *not* at Refugio Paz de las Aves!).

Ochre-breasted Antpitta (*Grallaricula flavirostris*) By far the smallest of the antpitta species we saw at Refugio Paz de las Aves, barely four inches tall (but darn cute).

Rhinocryptidae: Tapaculos (3)

Ocellated Tapaculo (*Acropternis orthonyx*) (HO) We heard this species at the Bellavista Reserve but tapaculos are very hard to see well!

Nariño Tapaculo (*Scytalopus viciniar*) We were lucky to have this species appear while we were watching the Wood-Quails feeding on worms fed by Angel at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Spillmann's Tapaculo (*Scytalopus spillmanni*) (HO) We heard this elusive species on our walk at Bellavista Reserve.

Formicariidae: Antthrushes (2)

Black-headed Antthrush (*Formicarius nigricapillus*) (HO) This species was vocalizing continuously while we sat in the hide at Sachatamia Lodge. We waited for it to appear, as usual, but not this time!

Rufous-breasted Antthrush (*Formicarius rufipectus*) (HO) This species was heard twice, first at the Refugio Paz while we watched the Cock-of-the-Rock lek, again from the hide at the lodge.

Furnariidae: Ovenbirds, Woodcreepers, and Allies (23)

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) Seen three times including Silanche, Milpe and from the hide at our lodge.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) Great close looks at this species from the hide at the lodge (has the smallest bill of the woodcreepers).

Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*) Close looks from the hide at the lodge.

Black-striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) Foraging higher in the trees than many woodcreepers, the Black-striped can be tough to get a good look at—we finally got decent views at Rio Salanche from the canopy tower.

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) The common woodcreeper at Milpe, seen multiple times. and good looks from the hide at the lodge.

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*) A robust, beautifully-patterned species observed working low first at Refugio Paz de las Aves, at lunch at the lodge, and on our walk at the Bellavista Reserve.

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) Seen on our walk at Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary.

Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*) Seen while walking at Milpe, the characteristic chickadee-like clambering heard by our guide.

Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*) Seen fairly close on our walk at Bellavista Reserve.

Pale-legged Hornero (*Furnarius leucopus*) (HO) We heard this species vocalize at an odd place, while driving around the Mindo town park, and again on Milpe Road.

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes albidiventris*) Seen feeding with Stout-billed along road at Antisana Ecological Reserve for a nice comparison of bill structure.

Stout-billed Cinclodes (*Cinclodes excelsior*) Several were observed along a creek bed with Chestnut-winged from the road on our way to Antisana.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor rufum*) Seen moving quickly in the leaves on our walk at Milpe Bird Sanctuary.

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*) Watched a single bird briefly along a forested trail at

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the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.

Lineated Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla subalaris*) Seen feeding in the leaves from the hide at the lodge.

Striped Treehunter (*Thripadectes holostictus*) Close looks at this species from the hide at the Sachatamia Lodge.

Streak-capped Treehunter (*Thripadectes virgaticeps*) Another exciting species, seen well on our morning in the hide at the lodge!

Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) A striking bird, very small and dark, so easy to see from the hide but not easy to see in the forest.

Pearled Treerhunter (*Margarornis squamiger*) One of our favorite hard-to-see species at the hide, the “pearls” on the chest were striking!

Many-striped Canastero (*Asthenes flammulata*) One of this species came out in the open on a fence pole at the Antisana Visitor’s Center, vocalizing its distinctive song.

Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythropis*) We got good looks at this bird while in the hide at our lodge.

Slaty Spinetail (*Synallaxis brachyura*) Seen on our walk at Milpe Bird Sanctuary foraging along a tree trunk.

Azara’s Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*) (HO) Heard vocalizing but not seen on our visit to the hide at the lodge.

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (24)

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*) A couple birds were briefly active in the foliage on our walk at Bellavista Reserve.

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*) Common in mixed flocks in the canopy at Yanacocha Preserve, with wrens, redstarts, and mountain-tanagers.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes parulus*) A single bird seen well perched up at the lookout on the road to Antisana.

Coopman’s Elaenia (*Elaenia brachyptera*) Until 2016, this species was considered a subspecies of the Lesser Elaenia. This bird was seen flycatching on our walk on Milpe Road.

Sierra Elaenia (*Elaenia pallatangae*) Seen moving quickly in the canopy on our walk at Bellavista Reserve.

Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) A favorite of our group, we watched this species fly-catch from a rock in the river on our walk in the Mindo area.

Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) We got good looks at this heavily streaked flycatcher on our walk at Bellavista Reserve.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon superciliaris*) Seen low in the canopy as we walked along the road in the Mindo area.

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseiceps*) This tiny, unassuming species was picked up flitting between trees as we birded along Milpe Road.

Choco Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius albigularis*) Recently split from the more widespread Golden-faced Tyrannulet, based largely on genetic and geographic data, we saw the Choco Tyrannulet as we walked in the Mindo area (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*) A very common (and attractive) understory species at Milpe Sanctuary, several were observed the day we walked the trails, and one was perched on a tree when we visited the hide at our lodge.

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) Big name for this cute little guy that showed us his crest, first seen in the Mindo area, then perched out in the open on our walk at Silanche and again at Milpe.

Flavescent Flycatcher (*Myiophobus flavicans*) Of the several very similar-appearing small flycatchers in this genus, the Flavescent is most common—ours was sallying out and back from overhanging branches on our walk in the Mindo area.

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*) A strikingly different peewee than we’re used to in the U.S., uniformly dark gray-black in color—seen sitting patiently on a vine on our walk at Bellavista Reserve.

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Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) Two seen on opposite rocks in the river on our walk in the Mindo area.

Plain-capped Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola alpinus*) Seen perched on a fence behind the Antisana Visitor's Center.

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*) Behind the Antisana Visitor's center, two of this species perched on the fence for great looks. We also got pictures of one on a fence pole on our drive from Yanacocha to Nanegalito.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) An old friend from the states, after hearing its familiar vocalization, a Dusky-capped was sitting on an electric wire along the road on our walk at Milpe Bird Sanctuary.

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) A brightly-colored, conspicuous species, perched by the canopy tower at the Rio Silanche Sanctuary.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) We had four birds in the middle of the road as we drove in the Mindo area and others seen along the road as we left Silanche.

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) We saw this species on our walk in the Mindo area.

Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) Another Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher relative, two of this species sat on tree branches in front of us at the hide feeding on moths.

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) This large species, closely related to the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher that frequents southeast Arizona, perched out in the open for great looks from the canopy tower at Silanche.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) Common at most mid- and lower-elevation sites near and west of Mindo, its forked tail was a giveaway.

Cotingidae: Cotingas and Allies (3)

Red-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*) Spotted from the vehicle as we drove from the Yanacocha Reserve to the Nangelito restaurant, this species perched at the top of a tree for good views.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*) Angel Paz delivered for us, and we saw and heard the unique vocalization of about eight gorgeous males on lek at Refugio Paz de las Aves—it's hard to imagine any one species truly standing out above the others in a neotropical birding paradise like Ecuador, but the cock-of-the-rock makes a strong case. Later a female flew near us in the valley.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*) We heard these noisy birds first, then they flew in at eye level when we birded from the canopy tower at Silanche. One of the males extended its reddish purple throat as he courted the females. Impressive!

Pipridae: Manakins (2)

White-bearded Manakin (*Manacus manacus*) This elusive species was a lucky find at Rio Silanche, while we hiked in the quiet forest understory.

Club-winged Manakin (*Machaeropterus deliciosus*) This species was heard and seen at Milpe Bird Sanctuary where ecological and behavioral studies of manakins are underway (University of Wyoming)—they have a particular focus on the Golden-winged Manakin (which we missed!).

Tityridae: Becards and Tityras (3)

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) Two birds were repeatedly observed (in close) from the Rio Silanche canopy tower.

Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) We first got good looks at this species with a mixed feeding flock in the Mindo area when we stopped near the river. Later we saw others at Silanche and Milpe.

One-colored Becard (*Pachyramphus homochrous*) Darker and grayer than Cinnamon Becard, this species is more closely related to Rose-throated—found in a mixed-species canopy flock in the Mindo area, at Silanche, and again at Milpe.

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Vireonidae: Vireos (4)

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius leucotis*) We got fleeting glimpses of this species after hearing it repeatedly from the canopy tower at Silanche.

Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtata*) (HO) We hoped to see this bird but only heard it vocalize on our walk at Silanche.

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) Seen in the brush around the river on our walk in the Mindo area.

Chivi/Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) We saw this species in a number of locations and eBird states that only the time of year distinguishes between Chivi, the resident (DNA closely related to Black-whiskered Vireo), or Red-eyed Vireo, the wintering migrant, because of the seasonal overlap.

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (4)

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) Seen flying over the Mindo area, Silanche, Milpe, and Bellavista.

Brown-bellied Swallow (*Orochelidon murina*) Several small flocks swirling above the páramo below the Antisana Volcano and flying low near the Antisana Visitor's Center.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) Common in the valleys around Mindo and scope looks at birds perched on wires on our walks.

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) Small groups of these larger swallows were seen overhead at Milpe and Rio Silanche.

Troglodytidae: Wrens (5)

Scaly-breasted Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*) Previously known as Southern Nightingale-Wren, we had good looks at this dark, skulking species in the understory at on our walk at Milpe Bird Sanctuary.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) A single bird was nosing around the breakfast patio at Refugio Paz de las Aves and another seen daily during lunch at the Sachatamia Lodge.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) Formally Grass Wren, this highly secretive species heard several times, then finally seen in wet sedge meadow along the roadside heading up to Antisana.

Bay Wren (*Cantorchilus nigricapillus*) (HO) Their explosive calls were heard well daily around the lodge.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) We finally got great looks at this cute, often only heard, species coming to the moth sheet from the hide at the lodge.

Cinclidae: Dippers (1)

White-capped Dipper (*Cinclus leucocephalus*) A pair of birds was spotted on rocks in the river when we walked across the bridge at the Refugio Paz de las Aves. Another group target bird, we watched them feeding and foraging in the rapids.

Turdidae: Thrushes (5)

Andean Solitaire (*Myadestes ralloides*) (HO) We heard the melodious song of this species often but never got good looks at it in the deep forest understory.

Spotted Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus dryas*) This distinctive species was seen hopping along the trail on our walk at Milpe Road. Unfortunately, it was hard to get good looks at its yellow spotted chest.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) This familiar North American breeder (a migrant in Ecuador) was seen often including Mindo, Silanche, and during our visit at the hide.

Ecuadorian Thrush (*Turdus maculirostris*) Observed near gravel roads and trails at the Milpe and Rio Silanche

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sanctuaries, also seen in commercial blackberry fields at Refugio Paz de las Aves (this is a near Ecuadorian endemic, also barely occurs in Peru).

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*) Fairly common at Antisana, and then later very common in the higher Andes as we drove west towards Mindo.

Motacillidae: Pipits (1)

Páramo Pipit (*Anthus bogotensis*) Single bird was spotted on a rock on our drive to Antisana. Later four others were spotted in the fields around the Andean Gulls.

Fringillidae: Finches and Euphonias (3)

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*) First seen and heard in the trees at the San Jose Hotel. Later seen often at many locations including from the hide.

Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*) Frequently observed at feeding stations at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary, Sachatamia, and San Tadeo—the most common *Euphonia* of the trip.

Hooded Siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*) Brief but definitive look at this species when we visited the lookout on the road to Antisana.

Emberizidae: New World Sparrows (9)

Yellow-throated Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*) A few birds were scattered in the canopy on our walk on Milpe Road.

Dusky Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*) Seen coming to the breakfast area at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) Good looks coming to the feeders at Refugio and San Tadeo.

Gray-browed Brushfinch (*Arremon assimiliis*) Good looks at two of this species under the banana feeders in Yanacocha.

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) Lucky spotting right before we left Milpe. We walked down the trail from the feeders till all got good looks at this distinctive sparrow's orange bill.

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) First seen in the diningroom by the group at the San Jose Hotel, common throughout most of mainland Ecuador.

Tricolored Brushfinch (*Atlapetes tricolor*) Our only sighting of this more uncommon brushfinch, this bird was coming to the bananas at the San Tadeo feeders.

Yellow-breasted Brushfinch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*) Seen on our trip to Antisana at the feeders at the restaurant Tambo Condor and again under the bananas at Yanacocha.

White-winged Brushfinch (*Atlapetes leucopterus*) A bit like a towhee, this species hopped and scratched below the feeders at the Alambi Lodge, a nice bird for our last day.

Icteridae: New World Blackbirds (3)

Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) Only sighting, including the scarlet rump, from the canopy tower at Silanche.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) Seen feeding on the ground during our visit to the San Tadeo feeders.

Scrub Blackbird (*Dives waczewiczi*) Frequent along the roadsides and in agricultural areas of northwest Ecuador

Parulidae: New World Warblers (8)

Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*) Observed often, including the stop along the river at Refugio de las Aves, on the Mindo walk, and at the lodge during lunch.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) A fairly common winter resident in Ecuador, seen on our walk in the

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Mindo area and at Milpe with mixed feeding flocks at tree top.

Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*) First seen at the feeders at San Tadeo, we watched this bird at close range feeding on moths on our visit to the hide at the lodge. Reminded us of our North American Worm-eating Warbler.

Black-crested Warbler (*Myiothlypis nigrocristata*) Good, close look at eye level on our walk at Yanacochoa, this species reminded us of a Wilson's Warbler.

Buff-rumped Warbler (*Myiothlypis fulvicauda*) We often heard this species vocalizing around water but didn't get good looks until one perched on a rock along the river on our visit to Silanche.

Golden-bellied Warbler (*Myiothlypis chrysogaster*) Choco Warbler, a regional endemic, was seen in the understory on our walk on Milpe Road.

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Myiothlypis coronata*) Hard to see in the understory, we got glimpses of this species on our walk at the Bellavista Reserve.

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) Reasonably common, we saw this species at most locations.

Mitrospingidae: Mitrospingid Tanagers (1)

Dusky-faced Tanager (*Mitrospingus cassinii*) Heard and a brief view at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary (recent phylogenetic studies have determined this species and three others form a distinct lineage and are not "true tanagers," and are now placed in their own family).

Cardinalidae: Cardinals and Grosbeaks (1)

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) We saw this species only once but for a long period of time while visiting the feeders at the restaurant in Nanegalito.

Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (45)

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) Several birds including a male and female were seen on our walk in the Mindo area, our only sighting.

Tawny-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus delatrii*) Nice looks at this good looking tanager on our walk at Milpe Road.

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*) Both males and females appeared at the Sachatamia Lodge fruit feeders and at many other locations that we visited.

Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) One of the tanagers with the distinctive silvery beaks, it was the most common tanager we saw along the lower flanks of the western Andes (this is the subspecies *icteronotus*, which is called "Lemon-rumped," and is considered a separate species in some guidebooks).

Black-chested Mountain-Tanager (*Cnemathraupis eximia*) Not a common species, however several birds were seen during our drive from Yanacochoa Reserve to the Nanegalito restaurant.

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus igniventris*) A classic species of Andean cloud forest, several of these brilliantly colored tanagers were in the trees along the trail at Yanacochoa, in mixed feeding flocks that included mostly wrens, tyrannulets, and redstarts.

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*) A large tanager that was seen on our hike at Refugio Paz de las Aves, at the San Tadeo feeders, and at the lodge feeders during lunch.

Golden-crowned Tanager (*Iridosornis rufivertex*) We had great looks at this tanager coming to the banana feeders at Yanocochoa.

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*) We were lucky to have our only sighting of this species in clear view from the hide at the lodge.

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) A well-known and widespread neotropical species, common at feeders and in the areas surrounding Mindo and Rio Silanche.

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- Palm Tanager** (*Thraupis palmarum*) Quite common at lower elevation sites, especially well-represented in the canopy surrounding the observation tower at Rio Silanche and at feeders we visited.
- Blue-capped Tanager** (*Thraupis cyanocephala*) Several birds seen on our walk at the Bellavista Reserve.
- Golden-naped Tanager** (*Tangara ruficervix*) Yet another beautifully colored tanager, largely turquoise and gold, a pair seen along the road and near the feeders in Refugio Paz de las Aves.
- Black-capped Tanager** (*Tangara heinei*) Included in the mixed flocks of active canopy birds seen as we walked the trails at Refugio Paz de las Aves and seen again at the feeders at San Tadeo.
- Gray-and-gold Tanager** (*Tangara palmeri*) Nice looks at this beauty from the canopy tower at Silanche.
- Golden-hooded Tanager** (*Tangara larvata*) Two perched close and showed themselves often around the canopy tower at Silanche.
- Blue-necked Tanager** (*Tangara cyanicollis*) A colorful species active in scrub and forest margin habitat, seen well on our walk near the river in the Mindo area.
- Blue-and-black Tanager** (*Tangara vassorii*) Seen twice, on our walks in the Mindo area and at Bellavista.
- Beryl-spangled Tanager** (*Tangara nigroviridis*) Seen at close range from the hide at our lodge and at the Bellavista Reserve.
- Metallic-green Tanager** (*Tangara labradorides*) We had quick looks at this species feeding with a mixed flock at Bellavista Reserve.
- Bay-headed Tanager** (*Tangara gyrola*) Always a group favorite, this beautiful species was seen close-up from the canopy tower at Rio Silanche.
- Flame-faced Tanager** (*Tangara parzudakii*) Another of the gaudily-patterned *Tangara* species, only seen once, but well, coming to the feeders at San Tadeo.
- Golden Tanager** (*Tangara arthus*) A striking, boldly-plumaged species, seen several times in the canopy and at feeders at Refugio Paz de las Aves, Sachatamia Lodge, and Nanegalito.
- Silver-throated Tanager** (*Tangara icterocephala*) Seen on our walk in the Mindo area and Milpe, but great looks on our visit to the Alambi Reserve at the banana feeders.
- Swallow Tanager** (*Tersina viridis*) A nice surprise, a male was perched at the top of a tree when we visited the restaurant feeders in Nanegalito, our only sighting on the trip.
- Black-faced Dacnis** (*Dacnis lineata*) Observed perched on a *Cecropia* tree at the canopy tower of Rio Silanche—in western Ecuador where we were, we were seeing subspecies *egregia*, which some books list as a separate species (i.e., Yellow-tufted Dacnis—we're going with the Clements Checklist and eBird for now, and sticking with Black-faced).
- Blue Dacnis** (*Dacnis cayana*) Two were seen feeding with a mixed flock from the canopy tower at Rio Silanche.
- Scarlet-breasted Dacnis** (*Dacnis berlepschi*) A gorgeous, colorful male of this species created a stir among the guides at the canopy tower at Rio Silanche (a narrow **Choco ecoregion endemic**, Rio Silanche is nearly out of range for this species).
- Purple Honeycreeper** (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*) Males and females were seen in a tree with a mixed flock from the canopy tower at Silanche.
- Green Honeycreeper** (*Chlorophanes spiza*) A beautiful male sat still for several minutes while we watched, just feet away from the canopy observation tower at Rio Silanche.
- Guira Tanager** (*Hemithraupis guira*) A small, near warbler-sized tanager, several birds were seen on our walk in the Mindo area and in Milpe.
- Capped Conebill** (*Conirostrum albifrons*) Close looks as we walked the road at Refugio de las Aves and again at Bellavista.
- Cinereous Conebill** (*Conirostrum cinereum*) A furtive species, we had a pair when we stopped at the lookout on the road to Antisana.

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Glossy Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa lafresnayii*) The most common flowerpiercer up at Yanacocha, very active at the feeders.

Black Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa humeralis*) We had close-up views of several birds feeding on ericaceous flowers during an early morning stop at the overlook on the way up to Antisana—this species also occurred (in fewer numbers) at Yanacocha.

Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa cyanea*) The second-most common flowerpiercer species at the Yanacocha feeders.

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch (*Geospizopsis unicolor*) Seen fly-catching on the páramo as we approached the Antisana Reserve and additional looks as we drove the road.

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) We had a flock of Yellow-bellied Seedeaters with a few of this species in the grasses as we drove at Refugio de las Aves. We also had sightings of this species as we drove the road to Silanche.

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) Good looks at this species during lunch in the grasses at our lodge and during our walk in the Mindo area.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*) We had a flock of this species so we stopped the car and watched them feeding in the grasses on our drive at Refugio de las Aves.

Plain-colored Seedeater (*Catamenia inornata*) Several birds were feeding in the horse pasture and adjacent field below Restaurante Tambo Condor along the road to Antisana.

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) We first heard, and then saw, this species at the feeders at San Tadeo and another noisy individual was battling the hummingbirds at the Alambi Reserve feeders.

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) A pair of birds were seen under the feeders at our restaurant stop at Nanegalito, during lunch at the feeding station at Sachatamia Lodge, and from the tower at Silanche (we follow the Clements Checklist and eBird by keeping the saltators in the tanager family [Thraupidae]—some authors prefer Cardinalidae, others simply say “we don’t know” at this point).

Black-winged Saltator (*Saltator atripennis*) We had close looks at this species during lunch at the feeders at the

lodge with a Buff-throated for nice comparisons.

Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*) Pointed out by our local guide Xavier, we got quick looks at this dark species in a shaded tree on our walk at Silanche.

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Fish & Marine Invertebrates of Note List — Galápagos:

23 Species Seen, with 9 Species-level Endemics; (E) = endemic

Some of us donned masks and wetsuits during the trip, and some did not. But by all accounts, the swimming was invigorating and the sea life amazing. The list of observed species below was contributed by Beverley Matthews (*thanks!*), one of the avid snorkelers in the group (the rest of you know who you are). With little expertise in fish, I'm unable to annotate this list as I've done with the terrestrial species. So here it is as presented by Beverley.

Moorish Idol
King Angelfish
White-spotted Eagle Ray
Rainbow Wrasse
Blue-chinned Parrotfish

Five shark species:
White-tipped Reef Shark
Hammerhead Shark
Black-tipped Shark
Galápagos Shark

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Azure parrotfish
Mexican hogfish
Bumphead parrotfish
Panamic Sargeant Major
Concentric Pufferfish(Bull-eyed)
Black Triggerfish
Black-striped Salema
Cardinalfish
Hieroglyphic Hawkfish
Tigel Snake Eel
Diamond Stingray
Galápagos mullet
Chocolate Chip Starfish

Tiger Shark

Sea Cucumber
Octopus
Yellowtail Surgeonfish
Sabertooth blenny
Bravo Clinid
Galápagos triple fin blenny
Mexican goatfish
Grunts
Manta Ray
Sally Lightfoot Crab