

Journey to the Galápagos | Species List

November 5 – 12, 2017 | Compiled by Bob Meinke



Hosts Carol Simon & Howard Topoff, with National Park Naturalists & 18 participants

316 Total Bird Species (Galápagos & Mainland Ecuador Combined)

Bird List — Galápagos:

57 Species Seen, with 21 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 most of the group on Santa Cruz Is. (in saline lagoons just in from the sandy beach at Las Bachas), as well as in the Santa Cruz highlands on a pond at the tortoise farm (Poza El Chato) we visited.

Phoenicopteridae: Flamingos (1)

American Flamingo (*Phoenicopiterus ruber*) Six beautiful, bright pink birds were wading and filter feeding in the Las Bachas lagoons on Santa Cruz Is.—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*).

Spheniscidae: Penguins (1)

Galápagos Penguin (E) (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) Adults and juveniles (estimated 20 to 30) were observed up close on two days, first on shoreline rocks on Fernandina Is., then during our mangrove estuary excursion at Elizabeth Bay and near Tagus Cove (both on Isabela Is.).

Procellariidae: Petrels and Shearwaters (1)

Galápagos Shearwater (E breeder) (*Puffinus subalaris*) Frequently observed, mainly from the ship, this common seabird was present most days flying singly or in small groups over open water, especially near cliffs.

Hydrobatidae: Storm-petrels (3)

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*).

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) Very similar in appearance to Elliot’s, this shearwater was less frequent near the islands—we saw them mostly during transit on the ship (*also known as Madeiran Storm-Petrel*).

Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tethys*) A large, well-documented colony is known from Genovesa Is., yet we saw fewer than 100 birds while on shore, possibly explaining the absence during our visit of their main predator, the Short-eared Owl (*formerly called Galápagos Storm-Petrel*).

Phaethontidae: Tropicbirds (1)

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Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) This impossibly graceful species was first observed soaring over the sea cliffs at Genovesa Is. (two birds)—a few others were seen later as we transited between Fernandina and Isabela Is.

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.

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) Most of us were able to compare this species and the former at Genovesa Is., where Great Frigatebird is a common breeding species; also seen perched on Fernandina and Isabela among the mangroves—the young birds have distinctive, tawny-colored heads.

Sulidae: Gannets and Boobies (3)

Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*) First encountered at Genovesa Is., this species was seen up close several times after that, most notably on Fernandina and Isabela Is. (*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 Tagus Cove (Isabela Is.).

Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) A common breeder on Genovesa and Isabela, the Red-footed is the only tree-nesting booby—birds can be white (rare) or brown (we saw both morphs); we were able to closely observe a boisterous crowd of several hundred sub-adult birds as we walked the beach at Elizabeth Bay (Isabela Is.).

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Flightless Cormorant (E) (*Phalacrocorax harrisi*) The only cormorant that has lost the ability to fly, it is also the heaviest, perhaps an adaption that facilitates diving as it chases marine prey—Flightless Cormorants are endemic on Fernandina and the west side of Isabela Is., and we saw birds closely at both locations.

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.

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (5)

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) Recorded at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on our first day, with several birds subsequently seen on other islands in appropriate habitat (Galápagos birds are an endemic subspecies, *A. h. cognata*).

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

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) Near the pond at the Giant Tortoise farm (Poza El Chato) on 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 atop a light pole on San Cristóbal, also encountered several times later on other islands.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) Typically crepuscular, the species will also forage for crabs in broad daylight—we observed individuals on the sand at Elizabeth Bay, and saw another lurking by the “Darwin’s Toilet” water feature on Rabida Is.

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, and Eagles (1)

Galápagos Hawk (E) (*Buteo galapagoensis*) An impressive raptor (and an endemic to boot), we initially ran across

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birds on Fernandina Is.; we also saw an adult carrying a Galápagos Snake and a juvenile (sitting trailside) on Rabida.

Rallidae: Rails, Coots, and Allies (1)

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) Several lawn birds at the Giant Tortoise farm (Poza El Chato) on Santa Cruz Is.

Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (1)

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) Best views were had by the group in the ponds (with the flamingos and pintails) in the Las Bachas lagoons, just in from the beach on Santa Cruz Is.

Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers (1)

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) Oystercatchers occurred within the intertidal zone on Fernandina Is.—the distinctly patterned population in the Galápagos represent an endemic subspecies (*galapagensis*).

Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (2)

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) Never seen in large flocks, this Northern Hemisphere migrant was observed a few times, generally foraging in the sandy interstices along rocky shorelines.

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) One shoreline bird seen on Santa Cruz Is. (same location as Sanderling, below).

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (7) (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 (especially Santa Cruz).

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

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) One very active bird in sand pockets, along the rocky beach on the north end of Santa Cruz Is.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) Group of six birds, same location as Sanderling (above).

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) A single bird was found skulking by a tidal pool among boulders (same location as Sanderling, above).

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 (4)

Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrus furcatus*) We had several encounters with this unique species, including a bird that temporarily blocked our ascent up Prince Philip's Steps on Genovesa Is.—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 a single Franklin's Gull (a migrant species common in parts of the U.S.) among the mangroves near Elizabeth Bay (Isabela Is.)—this is evidently early for the species to arrive in the Galápagos.

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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, starting with the first day during our walk on San Cristóbal Is. **Brown Noddy** (*Anous stolidus*) A type of tern, commonly seen while on board the *Letty* and from shore at several stops—the only all dark seabird we saw while on the water.

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, easily observed in detail during our stops on Genovesa, Isabela, and Rabida Is.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Allies (1)

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) We first saw this conspicuous, all black species during our walk on Santa Cruz Is., up beyond the flamingo ponds—introduced from the mainland, it is now especially common in agricultural settings.

Tytonidae: Barn Owls (1)

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) A single bird was roosting just inside the lava tube at Poza El Chato—Barn Owls in the Galápagos belong to an endemic subspecies (*punctatissima*).

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 good looks off the beach during our stop at Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Is.

Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers

Galápagos Mockingbird (E) (*Mimus parvulus*) Seen daily while walking the trails of the various islands (except for San Cristóbal)—a typically vocal mockingbird.

San Cristóbal Mockingbird (E) (*Mimus melanotis*) We saw this common San Cristóbal Is. endemic in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on both our first and last days in the Galápagos—not dramatically different in appearance from the much more widespread Galápagos Mockingbird.

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 (17)

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

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be exasperatingly difficult to sort out to species level in the field. While some subgroups (the woodpecker and 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 Navarette⁴ 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.

Green Warbler-Finch (E) (*Certhidea olivacea*) One of the last new birds we picked up, seen and heard by a few of us near the pond at the Giant Tortoise farm (Poza El Chato).

Gray Warbler-Finch (E) (*Certhidea fusca*) A small group (males and females) were observed on Genovesa, where they followed us along the trail as we moved inland from the sea cliffs.

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

Woodpecker Finch (E) (*Camarhynchus pallidus*) A single individual was observed carrying a small stick along the trail that extended inland above Darwin Lake (Isabela Is.).

Large Tree-Finch (E) (*Camarhynchus psittacula*) Several birds were seen in shrubbery along a fenceline near the entrance to the lava tube at Poza El Chato.

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

Small Tree-Finch (E) (*Camarhynchus parvulus*) Seen most clearly on Fernandina Is., but also on Santa Cruz and Rabida.

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

Genovesa Ground-Finch (E) (*Geospiza acutirostris*) Locally common on Genovesa Is.—previously considered a subspecies under Sharp-beaked Ground-Finch.

Small Ground-Finch (E) (*Geospiza fuliginosa*) Very common throughout, often in mixed flocks with Medium- and sometimes Large Ground-Finch.

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.

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. ...)

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*) Half a dozen or so seen on *Opuntia* blossoms along the trail—when Large Cactus-Finch was split (that name is no longer recognized), the birds on Genovesa Is. became this species, while those on Española Is. are now called the Española Cactus-Finch.

Española Cactus-Finch (E) (*Geospiza conirostris*) Not seen (endemic to Española Is.).

Common Cactus-Finch (E) (*Geospiza scandens*) Scattered sightings by the group on several islands—feeding on cactus flowers along the trail near the flamingo ponds and Poza El Chato (both Santa Cruz Is.), as well as on Rabida and Isabela.

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

Animal List — Galápagos:

14 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 few sightings of this

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Endangered species (IUCN Red List⁵) were near Santiago and Fernandina Is. (the species is essentially a Galápagos endemic, although there are reports of a colony in Peru).

Alcedo Giant Tortoise (E) (*Chelonoidis vandenburghi*) The taxonomy of Galápagos tortoises is in a state of flux, similar to the finches, with one or more species recognized for most major islands—we saw an individual of this species ambling along the trail at Urbina Bay (on Isabela Is.), where it graciously posed for pictures (*Vulnerable* on the IUCN Red List).

Western Santa Cruz Giant Tortoise (E) (*Chelonoidis porteri*) This tortoise species is considered *Critically Endangered* on the IUCN Red List—we saw at least 50 in and around the farm we visited on Santa Cruz Is. (Poza El Chato).

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 in the mangrove estuary off Elizabeth Bay (Isabela Is.).

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 watched closely as two enormous males suspiciously confronted each other along the trail at Urbina Bay (Isabela Is.)—this is the most common of three species of land iguana in the Galápagos, and also a *Vulnerable* species (IUCN Red List)

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, even the airport grounds (considered *Near Threatened* on the IUCN Red List).

Galápagos Racer or Fernandina Snake (E) (*Pseudalsophis dorsalis*) There may be one species of snake in the Galápagos, or there may be several (taxonomic studies are still ongoing)—in any case, we came across a nice one on Fernandina Is. hiding in rocks among the Marine Iguanas—a few of us later spotted another dangling in the talons of a Galápagos Hawk!

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 generally spotted in schools 100 feet or more from the ship.

Whale (based on the time of year we visited, probably **Bryde's** [*Balaenoptera brydei*], but possibly **Blue** [*Balaenoptera musculus*] or **Humpback** [*Megaptera novaeangliae*]) Bryde's Whale is a year-round resident in the Galápagos, and is the species most likely to be seen when we were there, while Blue and Humpback are generally May to October visitors that clear out by November (in any case, we mostly saw only spouting, highlighted by an impromptu trip out into the Bolivar Channel—between Isabela and Fernandina Is.—when our naturalist guide took a group of us on a spine-tingling, hell-bent for leather panga ride in an unsuccessful attempt to get a closer look!).

Galápagos Giant Centipede (E) (*Scolopendra galapagoensis*) Keeping track of the arthropods we saw on the trip was beyond the scope of this list, but this enormous species (one of the two largest centipedes in the world), which mesmerized us as it gamely battled a Galápagos Mockingbird, had to be mentioned—its fight with the bird ended poorly.

⁵ <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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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 Renata Golden (*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 Renata.

Moorish Idol (*Zanclus cornutus*)
King Angelfish (*Holocanthus passer*)
White-spotted Eagle Ray (*Aetobatus narinari*)
Giant Oceanic Manta Ray (*Manta birostris*)
Rainbow Wrasse (*Coris* sp.)
Golden Wrasse (*Halichoeres chrysus*)
Harlequin Wrasse (*Halichoeres* sp.)
Striped Bonito (*Scomber japonicus*)
Concentric Pufferfish (*Sphoeroides annulatus*)
Whitetip Reef Shark (*Triaenodon obesus*)
Yellowtail Damsel (*Chrysiptera parasema*)
Galápagos Ringtail Damsel (*Stegastes beebei*)
(near Galápagos endemic)
Bluechin Parrotfish (*Scarus ghobban*)
Mexican Hogfish (*Bodianus diplotaenia*)

Whitespot Chromis (*Chromis atrilobata*)
Sergeant Major (*Abudefduf saxatilis*)
Guineafowl Puffer (*Arothron meleagris*)
Golden Cownose Ray (*Rhinoptera steindachneri*)
Salema (possibly *Xenichthys agassizii* or *Xenocys jessiae*) (**both Galápagos endemics**)
Striped Mullet (*Mugil rammelsbergi*)
Pink (or) Blacktip Cardinalfish (*Apogon pacificus* or *A. atradorsatus*)
Hieroglyphic Hawkfish (*Cirrhitus rivulatus*)
Galápagos Seabream (*Archosargus pourtalesii*)
(Galápagos endemic)
Chocolate Chip Sea Star (*Nidorellia armata*)
Green Sea Urchin (*Lytechinus semituberculatus*)
Variable Sea Star (*Linckia columbiae*)

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Bird List — Antisana Ecological Reserve & Northwest Ecuador: 259 Species Seen, Combined

Just before Galápagos, the majority of our group arrived in Quito for a day-long trip (on Nov. 4) to the Antisana Ecological Reserve in the high Andes, to sight-see and look for wildlife. After Galápagos, four participants stayed on in Ecuador (November 12 – 16) 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 4 day trip to Antisana, or at the Puembo Birding Garden (and some of these were then also seen again later, during the Mindo extension).

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

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (3)

Yellow-billed Pintail (*Anas georgica*) Observed in reservoirs along the way to Antisana and at Laguna de la Mica; also present at the Quito Airport treatment pond.

Andean Teal (*Anas andium*) Seen at Antisana (above) and the Quito Airport treatment pond.

Andean Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) Small groups of these colorful relatives of our own Ruddy Duck were at Antisana (Laguna de la Mica) and the airport pond (see above).

Cracidae: Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows (1)

Andean Guan (*Penelope montagnii*) Fantastic views of two males and a female were had along the main trail heading south from the Yanacocha Reserve visitor area—beautiful birds!

Podicipedidae: Grebes (2)

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) Several of these well-known birds were at the Quito Airport treatment pond on our way out to Mindo after Galápagos.

Silvery Grebe (*Podiceps occipitalis*) A small flock of this tiny Andean grebe were present at Antisana at Laguna de la

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Mica, swimming and diving near the western shoreline.

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (2)

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

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) In pastures and fields near Mindo and elsewhere.

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (1)

Black-faced Ibis (*Theristicus melanopis*) After missing this species earlier, three birds were finally found mingling with large numbers of Andean gulls on the open páramo as we departed the Antisana area on our Nov. 4 day trip.

Cathartidae: New World Vultures (3)

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.

Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*) After striking out as we scoped cliffs heading up to Antisana, we finally saw three soaring birds (male and female) as they flew directly overhead in clear skies, above the páramo below Antisana Volcano.

Accipitridae: Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (6)

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) An apparent family (five birds) of these comparatively scarce raptors was sitting in an open-branched tree near the road in to Rio Silanche—great opportunity to compare adults and juveniles.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) Soaring near the road to Antisana (below Restaurante Tambo Condor)—also seen well later, in canyons on our approach to the Yanacocha Reserve

Grey-backed Hawk (*Pseudastur occidentalis*) A single bird seen soaring then diving on prey, as we drove into Rio Silanche—a seldom seen species.

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

Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) A pair of birds were soaring over Puembo after returning from Antisana.

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).

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*) A pair of these exquisite shorebirds were found consorting with Cattle Egrets in a high-elevation Andean pasture, shortly after we moved west from Yanacocha.

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (1)

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) A single individual of this Northern Hemisphere migrant was seen bobbing along the edge of the Quito Airport water treatment lagoon.

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Laridae: Gulls and Terns (1)

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

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (8)

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

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) A flock rocketed by while we were stopped in the Tandayapa Valley on the way to Sachatamia Lodge (in the Mindo area).

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*) A small group was perched in the trees near the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan nest at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*) Three birds came and went, briefly stopping in a densely-foliaged tree by the canopy tower at Rio Silanche.

Dusky Pigeon (*Patagioenas goodsoni*) A couple birds had perched not far from the observation tower at Rio Silanche—difficult to get good views, however, as they largely stayed within the canopy (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Black-winged Ground-Dove (*Metriopelia melanoptera*) Seen perched on a fence post on a grassy hillside on the drive up to Antisana—larger and more rotund than the ground-doves we see in the U.S. or Central America.

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) Never abundant, but individuals were seen walking trails and roadsides in lightly shaded forest at several of our stops (e.g., Milpe, Rio Silanche).

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) Very abundant at Puembo Birding Garden at the feeders and also around Quito.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis (2)

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

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) A crisply plumaged adult flew within feet of the canopy tower at Rio Silanche, and then perched for several minutes in a nearby *Cecropia*—the only example on the trip of this typically common species.

Strigidae: Owls (1)

Black-and-white Owl (*Ciccaba nigrolineata*) Two birds were present and vocal at Sachatamia Lodge each evening we stayed there—we had very good views and watched them call (which they continued doing ... all night. ...).

Apodidae: Swifts (2)

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) We saw flocks of these large, easy-to-recognize swifts at Antisana, and later on the post-Galápagos trip to the western Andes (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 and White-collared Swift (above) were seen feeding above the canopy along the ridgeline road that runs through the Bellavista Reserve.

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (35)

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

White-whiskered Hermit (*Phaethornis yaruqui*) A single individual observed visiting flowers in dappled sunlight while we walked understory trails at Rio Silanche (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Tawny-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis syrmatophorus*) One bird seen flitting nervously for several minutes at an isolated feeder by the pond at Sachatamia Lodge—stood out due to its bright buffy tail with long, white central

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retrices.

Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*) Observed several times at feeders at Sachatamia and Bellavista lodges—a curiously plumaged hummingbird.

Sparkling Violetear (*Colibri coruscans*) The first hummingbird the group saw, at Puembo Birding Garden, and a colored beauty—also common at stops up to Antisana, and later in the Mindo area (especially Sachatamia Lodge).

Lesser Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*) One bird observed on feeders adjacent to the pond at Sachatamia Lodge.

Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) On flowering shrubs at forest margins at Rio Silanche, seen near the parking area.

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*) Several birds observed visiting flowers along the old Nono-Mindo Road, as well as 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 most of us on feeders at Puembo Birding Garden—an amazing hummingbird, unlike any in North America.

Green-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia nuna*) Spotted by some from the observation deck at Restaurante Tambo Condor where we stopped for a late lunch on our return from Antisana.

Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*) 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 stunningly iridescent hummingbird, with several males and a nesting female seen clearly near Restaurante Tambo Condor (on the way back from Antisana), and again at the Yanacocha Reserve.

Brown Inca (*Coeligena wilsoni*) Observed briefly at Sachatamia Lodge feeders while eating dinner, and then at length at the Bellavista Lodge on our last day (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

White-collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*) A large, stunning hummingbird with a clean white breast shield and flashing white tail—seen twice for a few seconds at the feeders during our visit to Bellavista Lodge.

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*) 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*) Reportedly an aggressive hummingbird at the feeders, only two were seen during the trip, both near the pond at Sachatamia Lodge.

Velvet-purple Coronet (*Boissonneaua jardini*) Very common at the Sachatamia Lodge feeders, a dark, richly-colored hummingbird (**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.

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Purple-bibbed Whitetip (*Urosticte benjamini*) A sporadic visitor at Sachatamia Lodge, it generally kept to the background as more aggressive species dominated the feeders (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*) Observed all three days at the Sachatamia feeders, its tawny underside was immediately recognizable.

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) Seen at the Alambi feeders, and perched on a twig at Rio Silanche Sanctuary.

Empress Brilliant (*Heliodoxa imperatrix*) Two individual birds were observed at Sachatamia Lodge—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 birds at the Restaurante Tambo Condor feeders on our way to Antisana—unbelievable size, the largest hummingbird species, flies a bit like a swallow!

Purple-throated Woodstar (*Calliphlox mitchellii*) A tiny hummingbird (commonly seen at Sachatamia and Alambi Lodges) that seemed to hover at times with its tail seemingly cocked back—has been said to have “bee-like” flight.

White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*) Both males and females present at the Puembo Birding Garden.

Western Emerald (*Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus*) Occasional at Puembo Birding Garden—an especially iridescent green hummingbird known to favor cultivated areas and landscaped yards.

Andean Emerald (*Amazilia franciae*) Very common hummingbird at the Sachatamia Lodge feeding stations.

Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) Occasional birds were observed at Rio Silanche and at the feeders at Sachatamia Lodge—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*.

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 both the Puembo and Mindo areas).

Trogonidae: Trogons (3)

Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*) We had an unsatisfactory glimpse across a ravine at Refugio Paz de las Aves, then later had an excellent scope view of a close-in bird, right in the parking lot at Sachatamia Lodge!

White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon chionurus*) After two brief looks at this species while hiking, a colorful male sat near the canopy tower at Rio Silanche for what seemed like an hour or more—the most photographed bird of the day.

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).

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (1)

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) A fly-over by a noisy individual near Puembo Birding Garden—evidently attracted to the neighborhood by water features within the walled yards of several nearby estates.

Momotidae: Motmots (2)

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) Several seen well at Rio Silanche Sanctuary, with one perched no more than 10 feet above the trail on an overhanging branch, its racquet-tail nicely silhouetted.

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) A beautiful, smaller species, we had a pair sitting on and above a residential gate as we drove the road to the Rio Silanche Sanctuary.

Capitonidae: New World Barbets (2)

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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*) Also at Rio Silanche (see above), we had a perfect opportunity to study the differences between Orange-fronted and Red-headed barbets while on the canopy tower.

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 while walking trails at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Ramphastidae: Toucans (5)

Crimson-rumped Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*) No doubt the most spectacular bird on our last day of birding in Ecuador—we had very close views of this beautiful species at Las Cotingas Bird Reserve near Sachatamia.

Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena laminirostris*) Another of our primary target birds, we finally got detailed views (including scope) of a bird using a nest hole in a dead tree—this is the species featured on the cover of the *Birds of Ecuador* field guide (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

Pale-mandibled Aracari (*Pteroglossus erythropygius*) Readily seen on the road into Rio Silanche Sanctuary, as well as in the forest surrounding the canopy observation tower (considered a subspecies of Collared Aracari by some authorities).

Yellow-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) Occurring with the following species at Rio Silanche, and observed flying overhead and in trees near Mindo (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 at Rio Silanche, at least two close up 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**).

Picidae: Woodpeckers (7)

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

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Picoides fumigatus*) We had prolonged scope views of a single male diligently working a tree by the front feeders at Sachatamia Lodge.

Red-rumped Woodpecker (*Veniliornis kirkii*) The diagnostic red rump (often obscured) was seen well in the scope from the top deck of the canopy tower 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.

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (*Colaptes rivolii*) A close-up flyover by this spectacular woodpecker (red-backed with lime-green underside) near Puembo Birding Garden—also seen later in the forest in the Bellavista area.

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.

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.

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (2)

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) Seen hunting in an avocado orchard in Puembo; also on a fence at the Quito Airport water treatment lagoon.

Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) Perched on a dead tree in a pasture as we drove the road in to Milpe Sanctuary.

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Carunculated Caracara (*Phalcoboenus carunculatus*) Several birds seen coursing over grasslands at Antisana.

Psittacidae: Parrots (3)

Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*) We had several sightings of this species, including excellent scoped views from the seating area (by the feeders) that overlooked the Mindo Valley in front of the Sachatamia Lodge.

Bronze-winged Parrot (*Pionus chalcopterus*) Excellent views of a flock perched in trees across the road from Sachatamia Lodge and also in the forest at Rio Silanche; our most commonly seen parrot.

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 (1)

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*) Common at Milpe and Rio Silanche, yet still hard to get a decent look at—we saw a couple birds just off-trail in heavy brush (hard to believe we couldn't get any more antbirds!).

Grallariidae: Antpittas (7)

Undulated Antpitta (HO) (*Grallaria squamigera*) Heard calling below the trail at Yanacocha in *Gunnera* thickets.

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 allenii*) 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**).

Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*) Comparatively easier to spot than most antpittas, a single bird was located perched in the open below the overflow parking lot at the Antisana visitor area (our only antpitta *not* at Refugio Paz de las Aves!).

Ochre-breasted Antpitta (*Grallarica 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 (1)

Blackish Tapaculo (*Scytalopus latrans*) Heard calling repeatedly as we hiked the trails at Yanacocha, eventually a single bird was observed skulking under the *Gunnera* near a trickling seep—a very good (if a bit obscured) sighting!

Furnariidae: Ovenbirds, Woodcreepers, and Allies (16)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) Several of this species were feeding along heavy, bryophyte-laden branches in the understory at Rio Silanche (has the smallest bill of the woodcreepers).

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) The common woodcreeper at Milpe, seen multiple times.

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 Milpe while walking the understory.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) Last new bird sighted at Rio Silanche on our way out, in high trees as we approached the end of the trail near the gravel parking area.

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*) A robust, beautifully-patterned species observed working low in the trees during our stop for coffee at the Bellavista Lodge—an unexpected final woodcreeper to add to our tally.

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Scythebill (*Campyloramphus* sp.) While hiking in the forest at Milpe and scanning the canopy, we suddenly saw the unmistakable profile of a scythebill against the sky, maybe 40 feet overhead—almost certainly a Brown-billed, based on position in the tree (high) and geographic range, yet still *just a silhouette* (but too good a bird not to include!).

Pale-legged Hornero (*Furnarius leucopus*) Several birds were lounging around a scruffy lawn area along the highway, just outside the entrance to Las Cotingas Bird Reserve.

Chestnut-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes albidiventris*) Seen feeding along the rocky trail to Laguna de la Mica at Antisana Ecological Reserve—they were fairly skittish.

Stout-billed Cinclodes (*Cinclodes excelsior*) Several were observed in a mixed flock among ericaceous shrubs on the hillside below Restaurante Tambo Condor on our way up to Antisana.

Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*) A single bird hurtled across the road when we stopped to track down a pair of dippers—a fleeting backwards glance, but enough to see the pale cheeks (confirmed by our guide Irma).

Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*) Watched a single bird briefly along a forested trail at the Milpe Sanctuary—it soon vanished in the rain and mist into a woody debris pile on the forest floor.

Striped Treehunter (*Thripadectes holostictus*) A single bird was clearly observed foraging among epiphytes on an open branch, in forest behind the Sachatamia Lodge—the best find on an otherwise unproductive (pre-caffeine) morning walk!

Andean Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura andicola*) A single bird was perched in roadside scrub, approaching Antisana.

Many-striped Canastero (*Asthenes flammulata*) We heard the fast trill of this species repeatedly along the trail to Laguna de la Mica at Antisana—the birds remained largely hidden, but we did finally see one in the open.

Rufous Spinetail (*Synallaxis unirufa*) Almost wren-like, this uniformly reddish-brown spinetail is arboreal and relatively easy to spot—ours were in a mixed feeding flock during a hike in the rain at the Milpe Sanctuary.

Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*) Seen leaving Milpe, the characteristic chickadee-like clambering and dangling mode of foraging gave the xenops away, even at a distance—a scoped view confirmed the streaking (to rule out Plain Xenops).

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (27)

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseiceps*) This tiny, unassuming species was picked up flitting between trees as we birded the canopy tower at Rio Salanche.

Ashy-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias cinereiceps*) Seen moving around the feeders while we had our breakfast at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) A tiny blur, but mercifully easy to identify even with a glimpse, due to its small size, plain gray visage, and crest—spied in the rain during a forest hike at Milpe.

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*) A couple birds were briefly active in the foliage near feeders at the Bellavista Lodge.

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

Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) An unusual bird for our *very last species of the trip*—a nearly white tyrannulet that acts like a dipper! We found this one leap-frogging across rocks through whitewater in the Rio Alambi, on the grounds of the Alambi guesthouse.

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 in the canopy at Rio Silanche (**Choco ecoregion endemic**).

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Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) Seen at Rio Silanche, this is also called the Yellow-margined Flatbill—a notoriously complex group, *Tolmomyias* species are equally as challenging as the *Empidonax* flycatchers many of us struggle with in the U.S.

White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*) Perched and singing trailside at the Yanacocha Reserve.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes parulus*) A single bird seen well from the truck window as it hawked insects from a low cutbank along the road up to Antisana.

Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant (*Phylloscartes ophthalmicus*) Seen perched quietly in the understory during our rainy forest hike at Milpe (we tried, but could not see its bristles ...).

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 near Bellavista Lodge

Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*) A small, richly-colored and attractive flycatcher of forest margins and gaps—observed in feeding mode from the wooden walkways at Bellavista Lodge.

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*) A very common (and attractive) understory species at Milpe Sanctuary, several were observed the day we walked the trails in a steady rain.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) Seen in the Tandayapa Valley, and also fly-catching by the pond at Sachatamia Lodge.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) Familiar, yet always a treat to see, a number of resident birds were viewed in the Puembo area.

Páramo Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola alpinus*) A classic flycatcher of the high Ecuadorian Andes, this species was abundant in grassy scrub near the gravel overflow parking area for the Antisana visitor center.

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant (*Agriornis montanus*) Several birds fly-catching from low vegetation in the pasture areas below Restaurante Tambo Condor (on the Antisana day trip).

Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant (*Myiotheretes striaticollis*) Seen on properties adjacent to Puembo Birding Garden, suggestive of a *Turdus* thrush.

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca fumicolor*) Along the trail to Laguna de la Mica at Antisana—several vocalizing while sitting exposed on shrub tops.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) A few birds seen along the road and forest edge at Rio Silanche.

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) This large species, closely related to the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher that frequents southeast Arizona, was seen hunting from utility poles on the grounds of Sachatamia Lodge.

Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*) Another Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher relative, the characteristically squeaky sputter these species tend to make gave away its perch at Las Cotingas Bird Reserve.

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

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) An old friend from the states, a Dusky-capped was sitting outside next to the shop at Refugio Paz de las Aves while we bought t-shirts.

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 near the feeders at Bellavista Lodge.

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)

Green-and-black Fruiteater (*Pipreola riefferii*) Excellent close view of a male and female in the low canopy as we walked the trails at Refugio Paz de las Aves—a very interesting species, strikingly patterned.

Red-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*) Two spotted from the vehicle as we approached Yanacocha Reserve.

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Andean Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*) Angel Paz delivered for us(!), and we saw 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.

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 to escape the temporary “birding frenzy” that, with the arrival of a large tour group, had overtaken the canopy tower.

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*) Moving about the foliage above the parking area at Rio Silanche, with an active mixed-species flock.

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 during a wet hike at Milpe.

Vireonidae: Vireos (3)

Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtata*) Reminiscent of a Tennessee Warbler, a group of these small, ultra-plain vireos was found in pasture scrub along the road as we left Milpe one afternoon.

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) Seen in the brush in the Tandayapa Valley, Rio Silanche, and at Bellavista Lodge.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) We had a nice chance to contrast this species with Brown-capped Vireo (above) from the canopy tower at the Rio Silanche Sanctuary.

Corvidae: Crows and Jays (1)

Turquoise Jay (HO) (*Cyanolyca turcosa*) Several birds were distinctly heard calling across a ravine when we stopped along a road in the Tandayapa Valley, but we could never get a clear look through the foliage.

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (5)

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) Seen flying over Puembo Birding Garden, and locally common near both Antisana and Mindo.

Brown-bellied Swallow (*Orochelidon murina*) Several small flocks swirling above the páramo below the Antisana Volcano.

White-thighed Swallow (*Atticora tibialis*) A series of perched individuals sitting on utility lines with Blue-and-whites provided a chance to see the differences between the two species.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) Common in the valleys around Mindo, as well as above the ridges leading up to Refugio Paz de las Aves.

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

Troglodytidae: Wrens (5)

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House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) A single bird was nosing around the breakfast patio at Refugio Paz de las Aves

Grass Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) A highly secretive species heard several times, then finally seen in wet sedge meadow along the roadside heading up to Antisana—similar in appearance and habitat to the Sedge and Marsh Wrens of the U.S.

Bay Wren (*Cantorchilus nigricapillus*) Several birds shot by, one by one, over a section of trail we'd just passed (at Rio Silanche), and we got adequate (if not great) views as we looked back—their explosive calls were heard well.

Rufous Wren (*Cinnycerthia unirufa*) Family groups of this cinnamon-colored wren were active along the main trail leading south from the Yanacocha Reserve parking lot.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) A single bird was seen clearly in tangles along the old Nono-Mindo Road in the Tandayapa Valley—otherwise the species was heard well at several locations.

Poliophtidae: Gnatcatchers (2)

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila plumbea*) Two birds recorded at Rio Silanche, where observed from the canopy tower in an active mixed flock.

Slate-throated Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila schistaceigula*) We'd seen the previous species other places (a typical looking gnatcatcher), but the distinctive Slate-throated—largely jet-black, with prominent, broken white eye-rings—immediately stood out in a mixed species flock at Rio Silanche.

Cinclididae: Dippers (1)

White-capped Dipper (*Cinclus leucocephalus*) A pair of birds were initially spotted from the van (in a rushing stream in the Tandayapa Valley), only to be immediately lost when we stepped out—one of our major target species, they fortunately reappeared shortly thereafter and we all got a good look!

Turdidae: Thrushes (5)

Spotted Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus dryas*) Heard earlier at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary and Rio Silanche, finally seen (in the shade, unfortunately) at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) This familiar North American breeder (a migrant in Ecuador) was just arriving at area feeders during our visit.

Pale-vented Thrush (*Turdus obsoletus*) Hopping along a hedgerow as we left the Milpe Bird Sanctuary for the main highway—much more skittish than their American Robin cousins.

Ecuadorian Thrush (*Turdus maculirostris*) Observed near gravel roads and trails at the Milpe and Rio Silanche 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 Puembo and on towards 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 seen strutting confidently atop a manure pile in the pasture habitat below Restaurante Tambo Condor (during our day trip to Antisana).

Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers (1)

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) Two birds perched along a residential road outside Puembo Birding Garden—this widespread species is reportedly expanding its range in Ecuador to include higher elevations.

Parulidae: New World Warblers (10)

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Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*) Observed several times darting around the dining room window feeders at Sachatamia Lodge.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) A fairly common winter resident in Ecuador, seen in the Tandayapa Valley and at Bellavista Lodge.

Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) A particularly beautiful, well-marked bird (considering it must have just flown in from North America) was observed sulking under fern leaves during a downpour while we walked the trails at Milpe.

Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*) A single bird was briefly seen along the trail at Milpe Sanctuary.

Golden-bellied Warbler (*Myiothlypis chrysogaster*) A furtive understory species (at least when not breeding), this species was seen at several points along the trail at Milpe (our birds are subspecies *chlorophrys*, a regional endemic).

Buff-rumped Warbler (*Myiothlypis fulvicauda*) A pair of birds were lurking in the understory near a creek at the Milpe Sanctuary—the light was limited, but the buffy underside and tail-pumping (reminiscent of Palm Warbler) were distinctive.

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Myiothlypis coronata*) In low-growing riparian habitat along the old Nono-Mindo Road in the Tandayapa Valley.

Black-crested Warbler (*Myiothlypis nigrocristata*) Briefly seen (mostly just glimpses) several times in low scrub, on slopes above the Tandayapa Valley east of Mindo.

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) Reasonably common at both Sachatamia (near the lodge) and at Yanacocha.

Spectacled Redstart (*Myioborus melanocephalus*) Seen in mixed flocks feeding in the mid-canopy along the trails at Yanacocha Preserve.

Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (48)

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) Several birds were active in the canopy above forest trails at the Rio Silanche Sanctuary.

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*) Both males and females appeared at the Sachatamia Lodge fruit feeders.

Tawny-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus delatrii*) Had a scope on it once or twice, but the bird was restless and stayed just out of view on the crown of a nearby tree, about 50 feet from the top deck of the canopy tower at Rio Silanche.

Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) One of the tanagers with the distinctive silvery beaks, it was common along the lower flanks of the western Andes, especially at Rio Silanche (this is the subspecies *icteronotus*, which is called “Lemon-rumped,” and is considered a separate species in some guidebooks).

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

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) Quite common at lower elevation sites, especially well-represented in the canopy surrounding the observation tower at Rio Silanche.

Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*) Several birds seen frequenting forest edge habitat along the old Nono-Mindo Road as we traveled from Yanacocha to Sachatamia Lodge.

Black-chested Mountain-Tanager (*Cnemathraupis eximia*) Not a common species, however several birds were seen in the lower canopy during our hike at the Yanacocha Reserve.

Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus notabilis*) Several birds were traveling with a mixed flock of very active canopy species during one of our walks at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

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 Yanacocha, in mixed feeding flocks that included mostly wrens, tyrannulets, and redstarts.

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Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*) A large tanager that was seen twice at Sachatamia Lodge and several times in the canopy during a hike at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*) Three or four birds were perched in roadside secondary growth just as we were exiting the vehicle at Refugio Paz de las Aves to look for an antpitta—they quickly flew, but at least some of us had very good looks at the diagnostic pale brown underside and red eyes.

Blue-and-yellow Tanager (*Pipraeidea bonariensis*) Not seen anywhere but the Puembo Birding Garden, where it struggled to slip into the banana feeders among the throngs of Scrub Tanagers (formerly placed in the genus *Thraupis*).

Glistening-green Tanager (*Chlorochrysa phoenicotis*) A stunning male bird surprised two of us at the end of the day at Sachatamia, suddenly appearing just before dusk at the fruit feeders in front of the lodge.

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, with Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager and Toucan Barbet.

Scrub Tanager (*Tangara vitriolina*) An Andean intermontane valley specialty, Scrub Tanager was one of the most common birds seen at the Puembo Birding Garden.

Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*) A colorful species active in scrub and forest margin habitat, seen well along the roadside heading into the Rio Silanche Sanctuary.

Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*) Probably the most common tanager during our visit to Refugio Paz de las Aves, with singular plumage—also observed several times at Sachatamia Lodge at the banana feeders.

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) A beautiful species, seen close-up at Rio Silanche (from the tower), as well as at the Sachatamia Lodge feeders.

Flame-faced Tanager (*Tangara parzudakii*) Another of the gaudily-patterned *Tangara* species, we saw birds at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary, as well as at the feeders at Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Golden-naped Tanager (*Tangara ruficervix*) Yet another beautifully colored tanager, largely turquoise and gold, a pair seen along the road into Refugio Paz de las Aves.

Rufous-throated Tanager (*Ixothraupis rufigula*) A single bird at the feeders at the Milpe sanctuary—an unusually patterned species, even for this genus.

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 finally Las Cotingas Bird Reserve (on our last day).

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) Several birds seen at the Milpe Sanctuary feeders, as well as in brush along the Rio Silanche Road.

Swallow Tanager (*Tersina viridis*) A nice surprise, a bright green female was watched briefly at the front fruit feeders at Sachatamia Lodge.

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).

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (*Dacnis venusta*) Several birds were seen scattered in the canopy at the Rio Silanche Sanctuary—the most common *Dacnis* species at the site that day.

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) A single greenish female was recorded in low canopy 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*) A lone male was seen in a tree at a distance, off the road leading out of the Milpe Bird Sanctuary—a hurried glimpse in the scope confirmed the yellow legs.

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) A beautiful male sat completely still for several minutes while we

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watched, just feet away from the canopy observation tower at Rio Silanche—lots of photos. ...

Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*) A small, near warbler-sized tanager, several birds were seen from the tower at Rio Silanche, and also once at the Sachatamia Lodge banana feeders.

Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*) Luckily observed by a few of us during a stop on the way up to Antisana.

Cinereous Conebill (*Conirostrum cinereum*) A furtive species, but nonetheless common in hillside scrub at several stops along road to Antisana, especially down the hill below Restaurante Tambo Condor.

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 Restaurante Tambo Condor and then later at various overlooks on the way up to Antisana—this species also occurred (in fewer numbers) at Yanacocha.

White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*) A single female skittered from a patch of flowering shrubs as we stopped along the old Nono-Mindo Road on our way back down to Quito (diagnostic white wing tuft was briefly visible).

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.

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) Superficially canary-like, hordes of these birds were seen at various Puembo feeders.

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) Single male in a grassy waste area near junction with road into Rio Silanche.

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*) Several seen balancing unsteadily on tall weeds in overgrown pastures, especially along the road into the Milpe Sanctuary.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*) Two male birds were seen up close, feeding and perching in an overgrown field by a residential area near the Puembo Birding Garden.

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.

Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Sporophila funerea*) Seen along the gravel road as we left the Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary (has also been called Lesser Seed-Finch in the western Andes).

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) A very noisy individual was battling the hummingbirds at the Alambi Reserve feeders.

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) A pair of birds were in the canopy at Rio Silanche, as well as a single at the feeding station at Sachatamia Lodge (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).

Mitrospingidae: Mitrospingid Tanagers (1)

Dusky-faced Tanager (*Mitrospingus cassinii*) Excellent (but brief) views from the Rio Silanche observation tower in a mixed flock with Palm Tanager—also 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).

Emberizidae: New World Sparrows (6)

Yellow-throated Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*) A few birds were scattered in the canopy near the Rio

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Silanche Sanctuary parking area.

Dusky Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*) A single bird was feeding on bananas below the outdoor seating overlook in front of Sachatamia Lodge.

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) First seen at Puembo, common throughout most of mainland Ecuador.

Tricolored Brushfinch (*Atlapetes tricolor*) An apparently resident bird was available for us to watch at the feeders as we had lunch at Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve.

Yellow-breasted Brushfinch (*Atlapetes latinuchus*) A single bird crept in briefly to the fruit at the Yanacocha feeders.

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.

Cardinalidae: Cardinals and Grosbeaks (5)

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) We saw an early arriving migrant male of this familiar North American breeder along a trail at Rio Silanche.

White-winged Tanager (*Piranga leucoptera*) A brilliant red species, closely related to Arizona's Summer and Hepatic Tanagers—we had good looks at a bright male in the canopy at the Milpe Sanctuary.

Ochre-breasted Tanager (*Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*) Rather drab and lacking in distinct field marks, a small group of this species was picking through the lower canopy and tangles along wooded trails at the Milpe Sanctuary.

Golden Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*) Seen at Puembo and throughout the southern suburbs of Quito on the way to Antisana—also known as the Southern Yellow Grosbeak.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) A single bird was seen at Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve.

Icteridae: New World Blackbirds (3)

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

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) Common and encountered daily by everyone at the Puembo Birding Garden

Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*) Along the brushy roadside as we drove into Rio Silanche Sanctuary—a brief look.

Fringillidae: Finches and Euphonias (6)

Orange-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia saturata*) A near-endemic for Ecuador and considered rare, we saw a pair of birds while on the observation tower at Rio Silanche.

Golden-rumped Euphonia (*Euphonia cyanocephala*) A pair of birds seen in the landscaping at the Puembo Birding Garden.

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*) We had very good close-up views at the Las Cotingas Bird Reserve, down the road from Sachatamia Lodge.

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

Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Spinus xanthogastrus*) A friendly dispute arose between our guide (Iris) and another one, regarding the ID of this bird at the Rio Silanche canopy tower—the standoff was broken in favor of Iris, by Paul Greenfield (author of *The Birds of Ecuador*) who happened to be sitting close by.

Hooded Siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*) Several birds perched in trees along the road outside of Puembo Birding Garden.

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