

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO COLOMBIA
Birding's Final Frontier

23 November – 08 December 2013



Leaders: Colin Bushell and Juan Carlos Luna

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A Personal Diary

This was my fifth tour to Colombia and the second using this itinerary of western Andes, Caribbean coast and Santa Marta Mountains. It's a tour designed around finding those 'special' birds of this relatively new (in birding tour terms) country. We concentrated on endemics; not just species found only in Colombia, but regional endemics such as those restricted to the Choco (and harder to find in neighbouring Ecuador for instance).

With this 'mission' in mind I would have to say we were reasonably successful this year. Many of the birds played hard to get this time though but the 'pluses' far outweighed the 'minuses': the 'in your face' views of Santa Marta Screech-Owl springs to mind!

A nice selection of good accommodation, easy walking on most trails and tracks and a variety of birding styles from forest and desert to coastal lagoons makes this Colombia tour very diverse – something for everyone.

23 – 24 November

I am one of the early arrivals in Frankfurt ready for our Lufthansa lunchtime flight to Bogota today after a short flight from Manchester. Patrick, Sue, Leon, Pat and Brian arrive before boarding time from Heathrow and Birmingham and we leave fairly promptly for Colombia. We are well cared for by Lufthansa but we are all very pleased indeed to arrive in the capital. It's late evening local time on arrival and with immigration and baggage collection completed we are soon on our way to the hotel with a fistful of Pesos. Our guide for the tour, Juan Carlos Luna is waiting at the hotel and with an early start scheduled for the next morning we are keen to get to bed after a very long day indeed.

Sunday morning arrives all too quickly but the promise of our first Colombian birds drags us from our beds and we head out to the Parque La Florida on the edge of the city, not too far from the airport. The drainage of the marshes on the Bogota plateau has resulted in declining populations of many of Colombia's endemic bird species, some of which we'll be searching for this morning. Our first target is the rare Bogota Rail and Juan takes us to a small patch of marshland where an associate has seen this bird recently.

First impressions are not too good though but despite quite a bit of disturbance from nearby houses we still see many Cattle Egrets, Southern Lapwings and Yellow-hooded Blackbirds but alas no sign of any rails. A small group of dogs on the marsh does not bode well for success so we move to a more peaceful area of the park, seeing Eared Doves, Great Thrushes and Eastern Wood-Pewees en route. A small flock of birds in the Eucalyptus trees bordering the lakes takes our attention and we are pleased to find they are Rufous-browed Conebills, one of our target species for the morning. White-sided and Glossy Flowerpiercer, Summer Tanagers, Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers and a single Northern Waterthrush are added to our day's tally before reaching the peace of the reserve, away from passing vehicles and joggers.

The Bogota Rail is our main quarry here but it's difficult to ignore our first Colombian waterfowl of the tour – Blue-winged Teals and Andean Ruddy Ducks on the lake. Two pale-mantled birds attract some attention and indeed they are both drake Lesser Scaups, a rare visitor from North America to Colombia with just a handful of records for the Bogota area apparently.

Nearing the hide the margins of the marsh are the focus for us with Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Spot-flanked Gallinule and Green Heron on show and Least and Pied-billed Grebes further out. It's not too long before the first Bogota Rail starts calling and eventually one is lured into view with some limited playback. Indeed this rare bird, extremely similar in appearance to our Water Rail, shows well and only the nearby Subtropical Doradito diverts our attention momentarily.

Pleased with this success we are still short of a few other Bogota specialities and set off in search of Silvery-throated Spinetail (that proves quite easy) and then the tricky Apolinar's Wren. Unfortunately the early morning sunshine, rapidly warming the air becomes a bit of a hurdle here and by the time we reach a suitable patch of marsh for the wren it's silence that fills the air. Osprey, White-tailed Kite and even a Merlin are seen before we have to leave the capital for our next site in the Andes.

For the second consecutive year we visit Chicaque where once again we take lunch (maybe the best of the whole trip!) and watch the hummingbird feeders. The conditions are typically cloud forest with a thick mist enshrouding the whole area and birds disappearing as fast as they appear!

Green Violetears sing their monotonous 'song' from exposed perches in the borders and suddenly a wave of birds appear at the edge near the path. Our first mixed bird flock: Don't panic Mr. Mainwaring!!!! Common Bush-Tanagers, Pearled Treerunners, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Streaked Xenops, Montane Woodcreepers, White-throated Tyrannulets (many), Cinnamon Flycatchers, Black-capped and Superciliaried Hemispingus, Blue-capped Tanagers, Capped Conebill and many Blackburnian Warblers flit through the misty trees before merging with the dark, dank mossy vegetation and disappearing into the depths of the forest below us. A single Rufous-breasted Flycatcher is a most noteworthy addition to our day's tally in this flock.

Thankfully the bird activity at the feeders is rather easier to observe with a variety of Andean hummingbirds visiting frequently. Tourmaline Sunangel, Glowing Puffleg, Collared Inca, Mountain Velvetbreast, Booted Racket-tail, White-bellied Woodstar and the star bird – Golden-bellied Starfrontlet all attend from time to time. The starfrontlet is a recent discovery at these feeders (it had just been found prior to our visit in 2012) and previously it had been a very difficult species to observe in the cloud forests near Bogota.

Eventually it's time to conclude the day's birding and head back to Bogota and the airport for our late afternoon flight to Medellin. The airport is very busy and thanks to some uncharacteristic incompetence by Avianca staff we nearly mislay some luggage before even taking the flight! All's well that ends well though and Medellin, in all its Xmas decorative glory, welcomes us after a smooth transfer from the airport. Our hotel is a nice colonial style building but with our arrival a little delayed we head straight for dinner. Tired and just a little relieved, we're glad to be here and it's high fives (or even sixes!) as we sit down to dine in superb surroundings after a great first full day's birding in Colombia.

25 November

We have a rare opportunity for breakfast in the hotel this morning, as our birding site is close to Medellin. The forested slopes of La Romera are the home of some endemic species that we hope to see this morning and we stroll along the road with Colombian Chachalacas calling in the distance. Spotted Barbtail appears only briefly, allowing very few members of the group to see it as we search the dark recesses of the forest for Yellow-headed Manakin, one of the important species of La Romera. Noisy Golden-crowned Flycatchers call from the canopy when a rather unfamiliar noise is identified as the 'contact call' of our driver, Giovanni. He's found the Yellow-headed Manakin in a bird flock right over the bus! Fortunately we haven't wandered too far from the vehicle and we easily relocate the manakin, a fine specimen indeed. Andean Solitaire shows typically briefly but Black-capped Tanager, Metallic-green Tanager and the superb Yellow-throated Brush-Finch are more sympathetic to frustrated birders before the second of our target birds – Red-bellied Grackle – appears. Our two desired endemics (the manakin and the grackle) safely under the belt we can relax but unfortunately the area flatters to deceive. Our only Highland Motmot flies across the road as we are about to leave, expertly relocated once again by Giovanni, before we have to leave for the hotel to collect our luggage.

Bags packed, bills paid we're on the road once again. This time we're making our way to the Choco cloud forests of Las Tangaras reserve. On the way we stop in the drier Cauca Valley, hoping to repeat last year's success of seeing the recently described Antioquia Wren. Western Slaty-Antshrikes, Scarlet-fronted Parakeets, Sooty-headed Tyrannulets and Golden-crowned Warblers are quickly found but no wrens. A second site is slightly better (with fewer mosquitoes too!) and yields three quality birds in the shape of a superb Moustached Puffbird, the endemic Apical Flycatcher and a Greyish Piculet, but still no wren.

It's time to concede defeat with the wren as we need to make tracks. The journey to Las Tangaras seems to take an age with the windy roads and endless road works with associated heavy traffic. At last we reach the lodge, looking forward to our first day in the Choco the next morning.

26 November

Today sees us birding in the Las Tangaras Reserve, from the trail in the morning, hoping for some road birding in the afternoon. We arrive in the reserve after an early departure from the lodge, but a little late to entice Lyre-tailed Nightjars out as Juan had originally hoped. Indeed many passerines are already active as we arrive and the reserve's flagship species like Black-and-Gold Tanager, Glistening-green Tanager and Toucan Barbets are already out of slumber as we take breakfast. Purplish-mantled Tanager, Yellow-collared Chlorophonias, Silver-throated and Rufous-throated Tanagers all appear at the forest edge before we head onto the trail for the rest of the morning.

The cleared area before the start of the trail produces the leader's only new bird of the whole tour as a small group of garrulous White-headed Wrens appear in the tops of the palms and there's plenty of avian action in this open area. Black-chinned and Blue-winged Mountain-Tanagers, Golden-collared Honeycreepers and Orange-bellied Euphonias feed on the big fig tree before we enter the forest proper where Chestnut-bellied Wren sings its mournful ditty from the depths of the damp, moss-laden forest. Birds typical of these wet Choco forests like Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Olivaceous Piha and Beautiful Jay appear in the murky conditions. A shout for the rare Choco Vireo sounds promising but not quite confirmed, a species that tantalised us with teasing views on last year's tour in the canopy high above us. We begin our climb to the ridge in search of Gold-ringed Tanager and once in the open, a quick scan reveals one of these Choc tanagers atop a bare tree. A result indeed – I knew that scope and tripod would be handy eventually!

Our return journey is predictably quieter for birds but eating our packed lunches by the hummingbird feeders pays dividends with Velvet-purple Coronet, Empress Brilliant, White-tailed Hillstar, Gorgeted Woodstar and Brown Inca all on offer in addition to many species already recorded this tour.

In the afternoon the rain sets in but birding around the lodge is fruitful with the endemic Crested Ant-Tanager on the low slopes surrounding the cabins and even a male Andean Cock-of-the-Rock appears. Andean Emeralds and Rufous-tailed and Steely-vented Hummingbirds attend the feeders with Flame-rumped and Golden Tanagers feeding on the fruit and Red-crowned Woodpeckers on the spindly trees nearby. The Sickle-winged Guans leave it late but appear at dusk, showing well in the clearing.

27 November

We have another early start, making our way to the temperate zone in the reserve and yet another field breakfast. Band-tailed Pigeons rise from their roost as we arrive and the air fills with the sound of calling Barred Parakeets (why are they always invisible?) and Scaly-naped Parrots. Walking the road at these higher elevations produces a few new birds for us this morning, although once again activity seems at a low level compared with last year. Repeated attempts by Juan to locate Tanager Finch by using playback are unsuccessful although the recently described Munchique Wood-Wren breaks all the rules by showing wonderfully well for all to see. Chestnut-crested Cotinga is another temperate zone no-show today but we do see a handsome male Green-and-Black Fruiteater very well, so all is not lost on the cotinga-front.

At last we locate a feeding flock with a couple of plushcaps appearing in a rush of birds including Black-capped Tyrannulet, Handsome Flycatchers, Barred Becard, Rufous Wrens and Hooded Mountain-Tanagers. Time is spent in search of Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant and Grey-browed Brush-Finch before bird activity dies and we head back to the lodge for lunch.

Despite some heavy rain we head back up to the reserve for the afternoon where we are surprisingly successful in finding birds in the mist and murk. Scaly-throated and Montane Foliage-gleaners blend in with their mossy surroundings but the same cannot be said of the splendid Masked Trogons, resplendent in their reds, browns and greens. Bird of the afternoon is undoubtedly the Olive Finch seen as dusk fell. Luckily it is close at hand and although rapidly disappearing, it gives very acceptable views indeed.

28 November

An interesting morning with our vehicles delayed due to local landslides so after breakfast we take an opportunity to watch the Crested Ant-Tanagers in the lodge grounds among the more common species. Once the vehicles arrive we drive up to the reserve once again with Violet-tailed Sylph, Greenish Puffleg, Red-headed Barbet, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Uniform Treehunter, Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant, Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant, Dusky Bush-Tanager and Three-striped Warblers seen during a busy morning on the trails and roads of Las Tangaras. No sign of the hoped-for Black Solitaire this year though. Sooty-headed Wrens are new for the tour and certainly take some seeing in the dense undergrowth!

Returning to the lodge (after negotiating a landslide on foot) we pack our bags and head out of Las Tangaras, leaving the Choco for Jardin by way of the Cauca Valley. Another attempt for Antioquia Wren is unsuccessful although we do add a few widespread Neotropical birds to the checklist such as Red-rumped Woodpecker.

29 November

Another early start as it's essential to be in place to watch for the Yellow-eared Parrots leaving their roost this morning. Another lengthy drive in 4x4's (as at Las Tangaras) takes us up a hill in the dark, through forest to the tree line where some squawking heralds the parrot's presence in thick mist. We've made it in the nick of time as the parrots are preparing to leave, jostling for position on the palms before taking to the wing and disappearing in the gloomy sky.

We take breakfast at a local home where coffee is provided while we watch Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrants and Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant in the garden and best of all our only Sword-billed Hummingbird of the tour. Walking back down the road and into the taller cloud forest we encounter some interesting birds, although once again the elusive Tanager Finch eludes us. Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager, Golden-fronted Whitestart, Powerful Woodpeckers, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Tyrannine Woodcreeper, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, White-banded Tyrannulet, Pale-edged Flycatchers, Brown-capped Vireos and Black-chested Jays are all encountered in classic cloud-forest conditions as we descend.

Unfortunately the weather deteriorates; our chances of White-capped Tanager are totally scuppered! Lower as the rain comes and goes and it's in one of these rare rain-free periods we hear some more parrots. Several Yellow-eared Parrots feed in a nearby patch of Cecropia dominated trees, showing well, then not at all, as the mist rolls in!

We take lunch in the old colonial square of Jardin, followed by a good coffee before heading out once again. This afternoon we visit the lekking grounds of the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. A small patch of forest in a deep ravine is the display arena for these spectacular cotingas and proceeding are in full flow when we arrive. Males are strutting posing and squealing the whole afternoon, but not once did I see a single female! Other birds seen this afternoon include Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch and Emerald Toucanet near the lek (where a large falling branch miraculously misses members of the group by inches!) and Western Emerald in the scrappy habitat at the top of the valley on the edge of town.

30 November

Today is very much a travel day and it's 'all change' as we head for the Caribbean coast. Yet another stop in the Cauca Valley fails with Antioquia Wren, although our field breakfast stop produces a few nice extras in the form of Greyish Piculet, Red-rumped Woodpecker and Greenish Elaenia but only the migrant Yellow Warbler and Great Crested Flycatcher are new for the tour.

Warm weather awaits us at Santa Marta where we take lunch overlooking the Caribbean accompanied by Bicolored Wrens and Great-tailed Grackles. Brown Pelicans ride the waves as a group of Sanderling with a few Semipalmated Plovers and the odd Willet avoid the incoming tide, seeking refuge on rocky islets or distant sandbars.

Our late afternoon excursion takes us to El Valle in search of the rare Chestnut-winged Chachalaca. The arid conditions here are ideal for Russet-throated Puffbirds, many of which are calling as we arrive. A Hook-billed Kite is a surprise here with expected species like Rufous-tailed Jacamars, Streak-headed Woodcreepers and White-tipped Doves all logged.

Finally the chachalacas appear and show well for such a shy species. Satisfied with a good selection of birds for a travel day, we retire to our hotel on the coast at Rodadero.

01 December

The new month sees us in a new environment; the second week of the tour will be very different from the first. The western Andean theme has gone and we will now be in search of endemic birds on an isolated massif, far away from the main Andean chain. But first we'll enjoy some birding on Colombia's Caribbean coast, in arid habitats – no more neck wrenching birding – for the time being at least.

Wetland birds feature heavily in our morning in the marshes near Barranquilla. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Blue-winged Teals and a host of long-legged birds from Black-crowned Night-Herons, Great Egrets, Cocoi Herons, Tricolored Herons and White Ibis to the 'not-so-long-legged-long-legged birds' (if you see what I mean) like Greater Yellowlegs, Collared Plovers and the diminutive Least Sandpipers.

But the surrounding habitat of reeds, arid scrub and dead trees is not ignored as we note a nice variety of birds from Brown-throated Parakeets, Lesser Nighthawk (perched – well spotted Sue!), Scaled Dove, Common Ground-Dove, Ringed, Green and Amazon Kingfishers and Spot-breasted Woodpeckers to tricky flycatchers (Social and the similar Rusty-margined are present) and retiring Yellow-chinned Spinetails. Flocks of Grey Kingbirds perch on the dead trees in the middle of the swamp where the odd Snail Kite surveys its territory as calling Large-billed Terns, with their pied wing pattern, pass overhead. It is indeed a very busy environment with plenty of scope for everyone to find their own birds.

A visit to the nearby mangroves proves difficult for birding as the day warms up and just a few lucky observers get acceptable looks at the Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird there. Other birds include Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Golden-green Woodpecker and as many Prothonotary Warblers you could shake a stick at!

By late morning it's time to move onto the Santa Marta foothills with a lunch stop at Minca. A quick look at the hummingbird feeders here produces White-vented Plumeleteers as well as a few species seen previously during the tour during a very pleasant lunch hour, before switching our gear from the bus to the 4x4's for the bumpy journey up to El Dorado in the Santa Marta Mountains.

The rough road (oh how we suffer for our hobby) is worth it though. We're on our way to the superb El Dorado Lodge in the heart of the cloud forests of the Santa Marta Mountains, an area with a high density of endemism. White-lored Warblers and the Santa Marta Brush-Finch are the first of these special regional specialities seen amongst more widespread, but no less welcome birds like Collared Aracaris and Keel-billed Toucans. A calling Laughing Falcon 'laughs' at us, sitting out of view until we have the last laugh, finding this handsome raptor sitting on an exposed Cecropia branch. Respite from yet another stretch of this bumpy section sees us watching distant Bat Falcons, a (too) briefly seen Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner and a nice Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush singing in the open for once with a Rusty-breasted Antpitta bucking the normal skulking trend too, before we have to make tracks up the hill to the lodge.

02 December

Waking to the sound of yelping Band-tailed Guans is just one of the many delights of El Dorado. It's birding from the first minutes of daylight up here with Sierra Nevada Brush-Finches around the lodge, Blue-naped Chlorophonias on the bird tables and Lazuline Sabrewing alongside the endemic White-tailed Hillstar on the hummingbird feeders. And we get breakfast at the lodge!

Today we spend the full day at elevations just below the lodge or on trails starting from the lodge. Results are a little mixed with some very quiet periods ("NORTHIN'!" as Leon would exclaim) but some good times are to be had with perseverance. Below the lodge we locate Blossomcrown (a hummingbird hard to find away from these mountains in Colombia) with a brief Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle (rare here) seen, a Barred Forest-Falcon (widespread but rarely seen), Lined Quail-Doves (repeatedly flushed from the road), Emerald Toucanets, Golden-olive Woodpeckers and Strong-billed Woodcreepers.

Range-restricted species around the lodge include some very confiding Black-fronted Wood-Quails at feeders outside the kitchen, Streak-capped Spinetails and a Yellow-crowned Whitestart with Santa Marta Mountain-Tanagers a pleasant surprise as I normally find these on the San Lorenzo Ridge above the lodge. Although the trail near the lodge proves rather quiet it does produce a Grey-throated Leaf-tosser in a typical dark recess favoured by this species.

We take dinner early tonight in order to allow time for owling. Our first attempt at finding the Santa Marta Screech-Owl is unsuccessful but the second is spectacular with very close views of this rare owl indeed. Well done Juan!

03 December

This morning we must leave early in order to reach the tree line of the San Lorenzo Ridge and watch the Santa Marta Parakeets leaving their roost. We arrive in time to take our field breakfast as the parakeets fly overhead and perch in nearby palms. Scopes give us great views in the early morning sunshine with the spectacular Sierra Nevada backdrop.

The plan is to work fast in an attempt to find as many of the Santa Marta endemics frequenting this area as possible. Unfortunately the birds play a tough game this morning and apart from the Santa Marta Brush-Finches feeding from the driver's hands, they remain very elusive.

A lengthy walk along the tree-lined ridge produces quite a few birds – White-tipped Quetzal, Scaly-naped Parrots, Yellow-crowned Whitestarts, Santa Marta Mountain-Tanagers and Emerald Toucanets but no sign of the Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant. The Rusty-headed Spinetail is very vocal but extremely shy! Surprisingly the Santa Marta Warbler shows well (tricky to see in my experience on previous tours) but hopes of a change in fortune are short lived indeed. We try birding at lower elevations but retreat to the lodge for lunch.

A few opt out of the afternoon's excursion after so much time in the vehicles this morning. It is indeed very quiet still but on a wide trail we do find a very nice male Golden-breasted Fruiteater, although a Santa Marta Antpitta remains typically elusive.

04 December

We're leaving El Dorado today but we do have a final morning to try and catch up with a few of our missing species. Golden-breasted Fruiteaters are particularly tricky to see this year with many calling from the canopy but not showing well. We hear many this morning and finally see some sufficiently well together with a group of Groove-billed Toucanets and other frugivores like White-tipped Quetzals and Masked Trogons. We eventually see a Santa Marta Tapaculo before having to head back to the lodge for lunch and after another tough morning in the field we have time to eat and relax before packing for the trip back down to Minca. With the vehicles packed and the bills paid we are ready for the 4x4's for the last time. The birding on the way down to the foothills is a little slow in the mist, but a Santa Marta Antbird stop makes a welcome break from the bumpy road.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak is amongst the new migrants seen this afternoon and additions to the tour list include Lineated Woodpecker on the stretches above Minca and a devious female White-lined Tanager pretending to be a Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner. Thankfully a Golden-winged Sparrow has no such plans, although it would be hard to mistake it for anything else!

As the Black-and-White Owl is not in its usual bamboo roost site this year and with the mist thickening we settle for an early finish at the Minca Hotel.

05 December

As we have no vehicle support this morning, we visit the trails close to the hotel. One trail to a viewpoint traverses some nice semi-humid forest and some good birding opportunities can be had there. Red-billed Parrots and Orange-chinned Parakeets fill the early morning air with raucous calls with colour supplied by cracking male Baltimore Orioles. The forest along the trail produces some good birds including Scaled Piculet, Black-backed Antshrike, White-bearded Manakin, Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant and Rufous-breasted Wren. Masked Tityra is seen from the viewpoint and a surprisingly only a Double-toothed Kite soars in the clear blue cloudless sky.

Returning for an early lunch and a quick look at the feeders (adding Rufous-breasted Hermit to the list) we soon find ourselves on the road again heading for La Guajira and the coastal desert.

After about three hours driving we arrive and Juan takes us to a track where he's had recent success with some of our most wanted birds in the area. We start well with Chestnut Piculet and White-whiskered Spinetail but apart from a Savannah Hawk the track is rather quiet for birds and particularly good for wasps and mosquitoes this afternoon.

With daylight fading we head to Los Flamencos reserve for a quick look at the bays where a few shorebirds are seen in the rapidly fading daylight, including Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs (side-by-side for comparison), Whimbrel and Semipalmated Plover. The hotel at Riohacha is a short drive away and we head for the air-conditioning after a very hot afternoon.

06 December

We work hard and fast this morning in hope of securing views of some of the desert birds before the sun gets too high. The desert scrub in Los Flamencos is quite productive this morning with Bare-eyed Pigeons, Tropical Mockingbird and best of all both male and female Vermilion Cardinals perched up in the early morning sun. Black-crested Antshrikes and White-fringed Antwrens emerge from the cover of the dense thorny bushes and we even locate one of those tricky flycatchers – the White-tipped Tyrannulet in this habitat. No sign of Glaucous Tanager or Tocuyo Sparrow this morning but as the morning warms up we take to the shore again scanning through a gathering of gulls and terns in the shallows.

A flock of birds near the shore comprises of several species and is a fine sight. Black Skimmers, Laughing Gulls, Royal Terns, Gull-billed Terns, a few Caspian Terns and a single each of American Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull (the latter a new species for Juan) scatter every so often with the passing of an Osprey or fisherman. Scarlet and White Ibis and Reddish Egret feed at the water's edge but we must leave these birds and head back to the capital with our final internal flight of the tour.

After a quick break at the hotel to pack and freshen up we board the bus one last time from Riohacha to the airport for our flight to Bogota where arrival is a little late for any birding and dictates a relaxing free afternoon.

07 December

Our last excursion of the tour is another early start with Tabacal, our birding destination, over an hour's drive from Bogota. Tabacal proves a very difficult site to see birds this year, although many are recorded by voice. Rosy Thrush-Tanagers sing strongly near the entrance to the park but fail to show, a pattern we are to become very familiar with until Grey-throated Warbler (incidentally one of the site's key birds) appears at the forest edge. Black-headed Brush-Finch is another exception, performing very nicely on a fallen bamboo stalk but pride of place must go to the splendid Red-billed Scythebill found by Patrick as Juan says it's his first record for the site.

We spend the latter part of the morning at the 'Enchanted Garden' in La Vega watching the buzzing throng of hummingbirds coming to the feeders there. This year's show is even better than last year's with the endemic Indigo-capped Hummingbird being joined by Short-tailed Emerald, Shining-green Hummingbird and a male Ruby Topaz Hummingbird alongside the more regular Gorgeted and White-bellied Woodstars and commoner species.

After a last lunch in Colombia it's back to the hotel to prepare for our flight home. We arrive at international departures with a smooth check-in and boarding and prompt departure with Lufthansa.

08 December

We arrive in Frankfurt ahead of schedule today. Unfortunately I miss many of the group owing to being detained at security but I trust everyone made their respective transfers to London and Birmingham.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Juan Carlos Luna who worked hard at finding some of the marvellous Colombian endemics we had the privilege to see this year. We had some tough times trying to see skulking species this year but Juan was very patient and his tactics for finding the Santa Marta Screech-Owl were perfect. Well done! I would also like to mention our ground agents for their help this year as the tour ran pretty smoothly with comfortable accommodation and good vehicles.

Our drivers were both considerate and courteous once again and I must make a special mention for Giovanni, who drove from Medellin to Las Tangaras who also located the Yellow-headed Manakin. There's a good bird guide in there somewhere!

Of course it goes without saying that the group play a big part in any success of a tour. The good humour, enthusiasm, patience and easy-going nature of Sue, Leon (even when we were seeing "NORTHIN"!), Brian, Pat and Patrick were essential ingredients for this trip and I thank you all for making my job a pleasure and a very simple task.

A final mention for Lufthansa, our international carrier again this year. A very good service indeed – punctual and efficient. But then who would expect anything else?!

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December 2013

Itinerary and weather

We were fairly fortunate with the weather this year. We experienced heavy rain and mist in the western Andes of Las Tangaras and Jardin, although it wasn't prohibitive to our birding opportunities. As expected the coastal section of the tour was very warm indeed.

- 23 November We meet in Frankfurt for our Lufthansa flight to Bogota where we are met by the ground agents. Transfer to hotel in the city for the night where we meet Juan.
- 24 November Parque La Florida, Bogota 2600m with a misty start on the Bogota plateau as usual. Afternoon at Chicaque 2530m. Dry, hot and sunny but cloudy at Chicaque. Afternoon flight to Medellin. Max. 20°C.
- 25 November La Romera 1870m early morning. Transfer to Las Tangaras via the Cauca Valley 1500m. Overnight Las Tangaras 1475m. Dry, cloudy with sunny spells. Max 25°C.
- 26 November Las Tangaras 1475m. Misty start, overcast with rain late morning and afternoon. Max 22°C.
- 27 November Las Tangaras 1475 – 2550m Lodge – El Alto – La 'M'. Clear with sunny spells and showers. Max 24°C.
- 28 November Las Tangaras 1475 – 1675m (roads / trails) in the morning. Post lunch departure for Jardin via Cauca Valley. Overnight Jardin 2000m. Max 25°C.
- 29 November Yellow-eared Parrot Reserve 2770m – 2400m. Early morning fog/mist with rain later, becoming heavy. Afternoon at Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek near Jardin 1960m. Max 20°C.
- 30 November Cauca Valley en route to Medellin for flight to Santa Marta. Afternoon birding at El Valle (sea-level). Overnight in Rodadero. Max 28°C.
- 01 December Barranquilla (sea-level) before heading to Minca 655m for lunch in the Santa Marta foothills. Transfer to 4x4's for journey to El Dorado 1920m. Fine and sunny, more overcast at El Dorado. Max 30°C.
- 02 December El Dorado all day 1920m. Dry, overcast with sunny spells. Max 20°C.
- 03 December San Lorenzo Ridge 2500m. Rain at lunchtime. Afternoon birding El Dorado. Max 20°C.
- 04 December El Dorado – Minca. Misty near Minca. Max 22°C.
- 05 December Minca early with lunchtime transfer to La Guajira (sea-level). Overnight at Riohacha. Max 26°C.
- 06 December Los Flamencos early morning. Hot and sunny. Max 24°C (hotter after we left, no doubt!). Flight Riohacha – Bogota. Free afternoon in city.
- 07 December Morning at Tabacal 1300m and Jardin Encantando (La Vega) 1700m. Rather overcast, 22°C. Evening flight to Frankfurt.
- 08 December Frankfurt – London / Birmingham / Manchester.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

No. of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	B = Chicaque, La Florida, Tabacal, Jardin Encantando. W = La Romera, Las Tangaras, Jardin, Cauca valley N = Santa Marta & La Guajira. > Seen en route / near site	1 = 1-4 individual 2 = 5-9 3 = 10-99 4 = 100-999 5 = 1,000- 9,999 6 = 10,000+

The sequence and nomenclature of this list follow *Field Guide to the Birds of Colombia* by McMullan et al

SPECIES	No. of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
TINAMIDAE				
Little Tinamou	- 2h	B	N 1	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>
ANATIDAE				
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	2		N 3	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
Blue-winged Teal	2	B	N 3	<i>Anas discors</i>
Lesser Scaup	1	B	2	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
Ruddy Duck	1	B	3	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>
CRACIDAE				
Sickle-winged Guan	4	W	N 2	<i>Chamaepetes goudotii</i>
Band-tailed Guan	3		N 3	<i>Penelope argyrotis</i>
Andean Guan	1	W	1	<i>Penelope montagnii</i>
Chestnut-winged Chachalaca	1		N 2	<i>Ortalis garrula</i>
Rufous-vented Chachalaca	1		N 1	<i>Ortalis ruficauda</i>
Colombian Chachalaca	- 1h		N 1	<i>Ortalis columbiana</i>
ODONTOPHORIDAE				
Black-fronted Wood-Quail	2		N 2	<i>Odontophorus atrifrons</i>
PODICIPEDIDAE				
Least Grebe	2	B	1	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	2	B	N 1	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
PELECANIDAE				
Brown Pelican	3		N 3	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
PHALACROCORACIDAE				
Neotropical Cormorant	3		N 3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
FREGATIDAE				
Magnificent Frigatebird	4		N 3	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
ARDEIDAE				
Black-crowned Night-Heron	3	B	N 2	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Green Heron	2	B	N 1	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
Striated Heron	1	B	1	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Cattle Egret	10	B	N W 4	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Great Egret	3		N 3	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Great Blue Heron	1		N 1	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Cocoi Heron	1		N 1	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Tricolored Heron	1		N 1	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Reddish Egret	1		N 1	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>
Snowy Egret	2		N 1	<i>Egretta thula</i>
THRESKIORNITHIDAE				
White Ibis	3		N 3	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>
Scarlet Ibis	1		N 2	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>
CICONIIDAE				
Bare-faced Ibis	2		N 3	<i>Phimosus infuscatus</i>
Roseate Spoonbill	2		N 3	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
CATHARTIDAE				
Turkey Vulture	11	B W	N 4	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
(American) Black Vulture	11	B W	N 4	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
PANDIONIDAE				
Osprey	3	B	N 1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>

ACCIPITRIDAE						
White-tailed Kite	3	B		N	1	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>
Snail Kite	2			N	1	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>
Double-toothed Kite	1			N	1	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>
Hook-billed Kite	1			N	1	<i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i>
Savanna Hawk	1			N	1	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>
Roadside Hawk	4	B	W	N	1	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>
Broad-winged Hawk	5	B	W	N	1	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>
Short-tailed Hawk	1			N	1	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>
Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle	1			N	1	<i>Spizaetus melanoleucus</i>
FALCONIDAE						
Laughing Falcon	1			N	1	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>
Barred Forest-Falcon	2			N	1	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>
Crested Caracara	4		W	N	1	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	4		W	N	1	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
American Kestrel	2		W		1	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Merlin	1	B			1	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Bat Falcon	1			N	1	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>
ARAMIDAE						
Limpkin	1	1h		N	1	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
RALLIDAE						
Bogotá Rail	1	B			1	<i>Rallus semiplumbeus</i>
White-throated Crake	1	B			1	<i>Porzana carolina</i>
Common Gallinule	2	B		N	2	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>
Spot-flanked Gallinule	1	B			3	<i>Gallinula melanops</i>
American Coot	1			N	3	<i>Fulica americana</i>
CHARADRIIDAE						
Southern Lapwing	7	B	W	N	3	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
Black-bellied Plover	1			N	1	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Semipalmated Plover	3			N	3	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Collared Plover						<i>Charadrius collaris</i>
SCOLOPACIDAE						
Whimbrel	2			N	1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	4	B	W	N	1	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	2			N	1	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	1			N	1	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Solitary Sandpiper	3	B		N	1	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
Willet	3			N	3	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	1			N	2	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Sanderling	2			N	3	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Least Sandpiper	1			N	1	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
JACANIDAE						
Wattled Jacana	1			N	2	<i>Jacana jacana</i>
LARIDAE						
Laughing Gull	2			N	4	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1			N	1	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Herring Gull	1			N	1	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Least Tern	1			N	2	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>
Yellow-billed Tern						<i>Sternula superciliaris</i>
Large-billed Tern	1			N	2	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>
Gull-billed Tern	1			N	1	<i>Gelocheidon nilotica</i>
Caspian Tern	1			N	1	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
RYNCHOPIDAE						
Black Skimmer	2			N	3	<i>Rynchops niger</i>
Cabot's Tern	1			N	3	<i>Thalasseus acutiflavides</i>
Royal Tern	2			N	3	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>
COLUMBIDAE						
Common Ground-Dove	3			N	1	<i>Columbina passerina</i>
Ruddy Ground-Dove	6		W	N	2	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>
Scaled Dove	1			N	1	<i>Columbina squammata</i>
Rock Pigeon	9	B	W	N	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Band-tailed Pigeon	2		W		3	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>
Bare-eyed Pigeon	1			N	3	<i>Patagioenas corensis</i>

Ruddy Pigeon	1			W		1	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>
Eared Dove	4		B	W	N	2	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
White-tipped Dove	5		B		N	1	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Lined Quail-Dove	2				N	1	<i>Geotrygon linearis</i>
PSITTACIDAE							
Yellow-eared Parrot	1			W		3	<i>Ognorhynchus icterotis</i>
Scarlet-fronted Parakeet	3	3h		W	N	3	<i>Aratinga wagleri</i>
Brown-throated Parakeet	4				N	3	<i>Aratinga pertinax</i>
Santa Marta Parakeet	2				N	3	<i>Pyrrhura viridicata</i>
Green-rumped Parrotlet	1				N	2	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>
Spectacled Parrotlet	1			W		1	<i>Forpus conspicillatus</i>
Barred Parakeet	-	1H		W		1	<i>Bolborhynchus lineola</i>
Orange-chinned Parakeet	3				N	2	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>
Blue-headed Parrot	3			W		2	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
Red-billed Parrot	1	2h			N	2	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>
Scaly-naped Parrot	2			W	N	3	<i>Amazona mercenaria</i>
CUCULIDAE							
Squirrel Cuckoo	6	3h	B	W	N	1	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
Greater Ani	1		B			1	<i>Crotophaga major</i>
Smooth-billed Ani	5			W	N	2	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
Groove-billed Ani	4				N	2	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>
Striped Cuckoo	-	1h			N	1	<i>Tapera naevia</i>
STRIGIDAE							
Santa Marta Screech-Owl	1	2h			N	1	<i>Megascops sp nov</i>
Mottled Owl	-	1h			N	1	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>
CAPRIMULGIDAE							
Lesser Nighthawk	1				N	1	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>
Common Pauraque	3			W		1	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
APODIDAE							
White-collared Swift	4				N	3	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Band-rumped Swift	2			W		3	<i>Chaetura spinicauda</i>
TROCHILIDAE							
White-necked Jacobin	4				N	2	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>
Rufous-breasted Hermit	1				N	1	<i>Glaucis hirsutus</i>
Tawny-bellied Hermit	3			W		1	<i>Phaethornis syrmatophorus</i>
Long-billed Hermit	1				N	1	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>
Brown Violetear	2			W		2	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>
Green Violetear	5		B		N	3	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>
Sparkling Violetear	6		B	W	N	2	<i>Colibri coruscans</i>
Ruby-topaz Hummingbird	1		B			1	<i>Chrysolampis mosquitos</i>
Black-throated Mango	1		B			2	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>
Tourmaline Sunangel	3		B	W		2	<i>Helianthus exortis</i>
Blossomcrown	1				N	1	<i>Anthocephala floriceps</i>
Violet-tailed Sylph	3			W		2	<i>Agelaiocercus coelestis</i>
Tyrian Metaltail	3			W	N	1	<i>Metallura tyrianthina</i>
Greenish Puffleg	3			W		2	<i>Haplophaedia aureliae</i>
Glowing Puffleg	1			W		1	<i>Eriocnemis vestita</i>
Bronzy Inca	1			W		1	<i>Coeligena coeligena</i>
Brown Inca	3			W		1	<i>Coeligena wilsoni</i>
Collared Inca	3		B	W		1	<i>Coeligena torquata</i>
White-tailed Starfrontlet	2				N	1	<i>Coeligena phalerata</i>
Mountain Velvetbreast	3		B	W		1	<i>Lafresnaya lafresnayi</i>
Sword-billed Hummingbird	1			W		1	<i>Ensifera ensifera</i>
Buff-tailed Coronet	1			W		1	<i>Boissonneaua flavescens</i>
Velvet-purple Coronet	2			W		2	<i>Boissonneaua jardini</i>
Booted Racket-tail	4		B	W		3	<i>Ocreatus underwoodii</i>
White-tailed Hillstar	1			W		1	<i>Urochroa bougueri</i>
Purple-bibbed Whitetip	1			W		1	<i>Urostitte benjamini</i>
Empress Brilliant	3			W		2	<i>Heliodoxa imperatrix</i>
White-bellied Woodstar	2		B			1	<i>Chaetocercus mulsant</i>
Gorgeted Woodstar	4		B	W		1	<i>Chaetocercus heliodor</i>
Western Emerald	1			W		1	<i>Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus</i>
Red-billed Emerald	1			W		1	<i>Chlorostilbon gibsoni</i>

Short-tailed Emerald	1		B		1	<i>Chlorostilbon poortmani</i>	
Lazuline Sabrewing	2			N	1	<i>Campylopterus falcatus</i>	
White-vented Plumeleteer	3		B		N	2	<i>Chalybura buffonii</i>
Violet-crowned Woodnymph	4				N	2	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>
Green-crowned Woodnymph	2			W		2	<i>Thalurania fannyi</i>
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	7			W	N	2	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>
Andean Emerald	3			W		2	<i>Amazilia franciae</i>
Steely-vented Hummingbird	5		B		N	3	<i>Amazilia saucerrottei</i>
Indigo-capped Hummingbird	1		B			3	<i>Amazilia cyanifrons</i>
Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird	1				N	1	<i>Lepidopyga lilliae</i>
Shining-green Hummingbird	1		B			1	<i>Lepidopyga goudoti</i>
TROGONIDAE							
Golden-headed Quetzal	-	1h		W		1	<i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>
White-tipped Quetzal	2				N	1	<i>Pharomachrus fulgidus</i>
Masked Trogon	4			W	N	1	<i>Trogon personatus</i>
ALCEDINIDAE							
Ringed Kingfisher	2		B		N	1	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>
American Pygmy Kingfisher	1				N	1	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>
Amazon Kingfisher	1				N	1	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>
Green Kingfisher	1		B		N	1	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
Whooping Motmot	1				N	1	<i>Momotus subrufescens</i>
Highland Motmot	3			W		1	<i>Momotus aequatorialis</i>
GALBULIDAE							
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	3				N	1	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>
BUCCONIDAE							
Russet-throated Puffbird	2	2h			N	1	<i>Hypnelus ruficollis</i>
Moustached Puffbird	1			W		1	<i>Malacoptila mystacalis</i>
CAPITONIDAE							
Red-headed Barbet	1			W		1	<i>Eubucco bourcierii</i>
SEMNORNITHIDAE							
Toucan Barbet	1			W		1	<i>Semnornis ramphastinus</i>
RAMPHASTIDAE							
Keel-billed Toucan	3				N	1	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>
Emerald Toucanet	4			W	N	2	<i>Aulacorhynchus prasinus</i>
Groove-billed Toucanet	1				N	2	<i>Aulacorhynchus sulcatus</i>
PICIDAE							
Collared Araçari	2				N	2	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>
Scaled Piculet	1				N	1	<i>Picumnus squamulatus</i>
Olivaceous Piculet	-	1h	B			1	<i>Picumnus olivaceus</i>
Grayish Piculet	2			W		1	<i>Picumnus granadensis</i>
Chestnut Piculet	1				N	1	<i>Picumnus cinnamomeus</i>
Acorn Woodpecker	1			W		1	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>
Red-crowned Woodpecker	5			W		1	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	3		B	W		1	<i>Picoides fumigatus</i>
Red-rumped Woodpecker	3			W		1	<i>Veniliornis kirkii</i>
Yellow-vented Woodpecker	2			W		1	<i>Veniliornis dignus</i>
Golden-green Woodpecker	1				N	1	<i>Piculus chrysochloros</i>
Golden-olive Woodpecker	6			W		1	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker	-	1h	B			1	<i>Colaptes rivoli</i>
Lineated Woodpecker	1				N	1	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
Powerful Woodpecker	1			W		1	<i>Campephilus pollens</i>
FURNARIIDAE							
Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser	-	1H		W		1	<i>Sclerurus mexicanus</i>
Gray-throated Leaf-tosser	2				N	1	<i>Sclerurus albigularis</i>
Pale-legged Hornero	2				N	2	<i>Furnarius leucopus</i>
Silvery-throated Spinetail	1		B			1	<i>Synallaxis subpudica</i>
Azara's Spinetail	3			W		1	<i>Synallaxis azarae</i>
Rufous Spinetail	2			W		1	<i>Synallaxis unirufa</i>
Rusty-headed Spinetail	-	1h			N	1	<i>Synallaxis fuscorufa</i>
White-whiskered Spinetail	2				N	1	<i>Synallaxis candei</i>
Red-faced Spinetail	3			W		1	<i>Cranioleuca erythropus</i>
Streak-capped Spinetail	2				N	1	<i>Cranioleuca hellmayri</i>
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	2				N	1	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus</i>

Spotted Barbtail	1		W	1	<i>Premnoplex brunnescens</i>	
Pearled Treerunner	2	B	W	2	<i>Margarornis squamiger</i>	
Buffy Tuftedcheek	2		W	1	<i>Pseudocolaptes lawrencii</i>	
Streaked Tuftedcheek	1	B		1	<i>Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii</i>	
Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner	2		W	1	<i>Anabacerthia variegaticeps</i>	
Montane Foliage-gleaner	3	B	N	1	<i>Anabacerthia striaticollis</i>	
Lineated Foliage-gleaner	-	1h	W	1	<i>Syndactyla subalaris</i>	
Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner	1		W	1	<i>Philydor rufum</i>	
Uniform Treehunter	2		W	1	<i>Thripadectes ignobilis</i>	
Flammulated Treehunter	-	1h		N	1	<i>Thripadectes flammulatus</i>
Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner	-	2h		N	1	<i>Automolus rufipectus</i>
Plain Xenops	1	B		1	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	
Streaked Xenops	1	B		1	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>	
Tyrannine Woodcreeper	1		W	1	<i>Dendrocincla tyrannina</i>	
Strong-billed Woodcreeper	2	2h		N	1	<i>Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus</i>
Straight-billed Woodcreeper	4			N	1	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>
Olive-backed Woodcreeper	2		W	1	<i>Xiphorhynchus triangularis</i>	
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	3		W	N	1	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>
Montane Woodcreeper	6	B	W	N	2	<i>Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger</i>
Red-billed Scythebill	1	B		1	<i>Campylorhamphus trochilostriis</i>	
THAMNOPHILIDAE						
Black-crested Antshrike	2			N	1	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>
Barred Antshrike	-	1H	B		1	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>
Bar-crested Antshrike	1		W	1	<i>Thamnophilus multistriatus</i>	
Western Slaty-Antshrike	1		W	1	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>	
Uniform Antshrike	1	1h	W	1	<i>Thamnophilus unicolor</i>	
Black-backed Antshrike	1			N	1	<i>Thamnophilus melanonotus</i>
White-fringed Antwren	1			N	1	<i>Formicivora grisea</i>
Santa Marta Antbird	1			N	1	<i>Drymophila hellmayri</i>
GRALLARIIDAE						
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	-	1h	B		1	<i>Grallaria ruficapilla</i>
Santa Marta Antpitta	-	2H		N	1	<i>Grallaria bangsi</i>
Chestnut-naped Antpitta	-	2H	W	1	<i>Grallaria nuchalis</i>	
Yellow-breasted Antpitta	-	2H	W	1	<i>Grallaria flavotincta</i>	
Rufous Antpitta	-	3H	W	N	1	<i>Grallaria rufula</i>
Rusty-breasted Antpitta	2			N	1	<i>Grallaricula ferrugineipectus</i>
Slate-crowned Antpitta	-	1H	W	1	<i>Grallaricula nana</i>	
RHINOCRYPTIDAE						
Blackish Tapaculo	-	2h	B	W	1	<i>Scytalopus latrans</i>
Ocellated Tapaculo	-	1h		W	1	<i>Acropternis orthonyx</i>
Santa Marta Tapaculo	1			N	1	<i>Scytalopus sanctaemartae</i>
Tapaculo (Alto de Pisones)	-	2h		W	1	<i>Scytalopus sp.</i>
Nariño Tapaculo	1	1h		W	1	<i>Scytalopus viciniior</i>
Brown-rumped Tapaculo	-	1h		N	1	<i>Scytalopus latebricola</i>
Spillmann's Tapaculo	-	2h		W	1	<i>Scytalopus spillmanni</i>
Stiles's Tapaculo	-	1h		W	1	<i>Scytalopus stilesi</i>
TYRANNIDAE						
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet	1		W	1	<i>Phyllomyias griseiceps</i>	
Black-capped Tyrannulet	4	B	W	N	1	<i>Phyllomyias nigrocapillus</i>
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	-	1H		N	1	<i>Tyrannulus elatus</i>
Greenish Elaenia	2		W	1	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	4		W	N	1	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>
Mountain Elaenia	1	B		1	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>	
White-banded Tyrannulet	1		W	1	<i>Mecocerculus stictopterus</i>	
White-throated Tyrannulet	2	B		N	2	<i>Mecocerculus leucophrys</i>
Mouse-colored Tyrannulet	1			N	1	<i>Phaeomyias murina</i>
Subtropical Doradito	1	B		1	<i>Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis</i>	
Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant	1		W	1	<i>Pseudotriccus pelzelni</i>	
Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant	1		W	1	<i>Pseudotriccus ruficeps</i>	
Golden-faced Tyrannulet	4		W	1	<i>Zimmerius chrysops</i>	
Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant	1		W	1	<i>Phylloscartes ophthalmicus</i>	
Streak-necked Flycatcher	1		W	1	<i>Mionectes striaticollis</i>	
Olive-striped Flycatcher	2			N	1	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	2		W	N	1	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	1		W		1	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	2			N	1	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>
Rufous-breasted Flycatcher	1	B			1	<i>Leptopogon rufipectus</i>
Northern Scrub-Flycatcher	3			N	1	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i>
Pale-tipped Tyrannulet	1			N	1	<i>Inezia caudata</i>
Ornate Flycatcher	2		W		1	<i>Myiotriccus ornatus</i>
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	1	1H	W		1	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>
Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant	1			N	1	<i>Atalotriccus pilaris</i>
Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant	1			N	1	<i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer</i>
Black-throated Tody-Tyrant	-	2h		N	1	<i>Hemitriccus granadensis</i>
Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher	-	1h	B		1	<i>Poecilotriccus sylvia</i>
Common Tody-Flycatcher	4		W	N	1	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher	-	1h	W		1	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>
Handsome Flycatcher	2		W		2	<i>Nephelomyias pulcher</i>
Cinnamon Flycatcher	8	B	W	N	2	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	B			2	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Tropical Pewee	1			N	1	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2			N	1	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>
Smoke-colored Pewee	3	B	W		1	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>
Black Phoebe	5		W		1	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Vermilion Flycatcher	3		W	N	1	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant	1		W		1	<i>Myiotheretes striaticollis</i>
Pied Water-Tyrant	1			N	1	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>
Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant	2		W		1	<i>Ochthoeca diadema</i>
Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant	-	1h	W		1	<i>Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris</i>
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	1		W		1	<i>Ochthoeca rufipectoralis</i>
Cattle Tyrant	4		W		1	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	3	B	W	N	1	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
Social Flycatcher	3	B		N	1	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Great Kiskadee	6		W	N	2	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	4		W	N	1	<i>Myiodynastes chrysocephalus</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	3		W		1	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	3			N	1	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
Tropical Kingbird	11	B	W	N	2	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Gray Kingbird	3			N	2	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1	1h	W	N	2	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Apical Flycatcher	1		W		1	<i>Myiarchus apicalis</i>
Pale-edged Flycatcher	2		W		1	<i>Myiarchus cephalotes</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	2h	W	N	1	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	2			N	1	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
Bright-rumped Attila	-	1h		N	1	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>
Green-and-black Fruiteater	3	1h	W		1	<i>Pipreola riefferii</i>
Golden-breasted Fruiteater	2	1h		N	1	<i>Pipreola aureopectus</i>
Orange-breasted Fruiteater	1	1h	W		1	<i>Pipreola jucunda</i>
COTINGIDAE						
Andean Cock-of-the-rock	2		W		2	<i>Rupicola peruvianus</i>
Olivaceous Piha	2		W		1	<i>Snowornis cryptolophus</i>
PIPRIDAE						
Golden-winged Manakin	1		W		1	<i>Masius chrysopterus</i>
White-bearded Manakin	2			N	1	<i>Manacus manacus</i>
Yellow-headed Manakin	1		W		1	<i>Xenopipo flavicapilla</i>
TITYRIDAE						
Black-crowned Tityra	1			N	1	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>
Masked Tityra	1			N	1	<i>Tityra semifasciata</i>
Barred Becard	1		W		1	<i>Pachyramphus versicolor</i>
VIREONIDAE						
Brown-capped Vireo	4		W	N	1	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>
Red-eyed Vireo	3		W		1	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo	1		W		1	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>
Rufous-naped Greenlet	1		W		1	<i>Hylophilus semibrunneus</i>
Golden-fronted Greenlet	1			N	1	<i>Hylophilus aurantiifrons</i>
Scrub Greenlet	1	1h	B	N	1	<i>Hylophilus flavipes</i>

CORVIDAE

Beautiful Jay	1		W		1	<i>Cyanolyca pulchra</i>
Black-chested Jay	5		W	N	2	<i>Cyanocorax affinis</i>

HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow	5		W		2	<i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i>
Brown-bellied Swallow	1	B			2	<i>Orochelidon murina</i>
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	6		W	N	2	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>

TROGLODYTIDAE

House Wren	8	B	W	N	1	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
White-headed Wren	1		W		1	<i>Campylorhynchus albobrunneus</i>
Stripe-backed Wren	1			N	2	<i>Campylorhynchus nuchalis</i>
Bicolored Wren	4			N	2	<i>Campylorhynchus griseus</i>
Sooty-headed Wren	1		W		1	<i>Pheugopedius spadix</i>
Rufous-breasted Wren	3			N	1	<i>Pheugopedius rutilus</i>
Speckle-breasted Wren	-	1h	B		1	<i>Pheugopedius sclateri</i>
Bay Wren	-	3h	W		1	<i>Cantorchilus nigricapillus</i>
Buff-breasted Wren	-	1h		N	1	<i>Cantorchilus leucotis</i>
Rufous-and-white Wren	-	2h		N	1	<i>Thryophilus rufalbus</i>
Rufous Wren	2		W		2	<i>Cinnycerthia unirufa</i>
Sharpe's Wren	2		W		1	<i>Cinnycerthia olivascens</i>
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	8	B	W	N	1	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>
Munchique Wood-Wren	1		W		1	<i>Henicorhina negreti</i>
Chestnut-breasted Wren	1	1H	W		1	<i>Cyphorhinus thoracicus</i>

POLIOPTILIDAE

Long-billed Gnatwren	1			N	1	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>
Tropical Gnatcatcher	2			N	2	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>

CINCLIDAE

White-capped Dipper	1		W		1	<i>Cinclus leucocephalus</i>
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TURDIDAE

Andean Solitaire	2		W		1	<i>Myadestes ralloides</i>
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush	1	2h		N	1	<i>Catharus aurantiirostris</i>
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	-	2h		N	1	<i>Catharus fuscater</i>
Swainson's Thrush	3	B	W	N	3	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
Yellow-legged Thrush	1			N	1	<i>Turdus flavipes</i>
Pale-breasted Thrush	3	B	W	N	2	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>
Black-billed Thrush	3		W	N	1	<i>Turdus ignobilis</i>
Black-hooded Thrush	2			N	1	<i>Turdus olivater</i>
Great Thrush	6	B	W	N	3	<i>Turdus fuscater</i>

MIMIDAE

Tropical Mockingbird	1			N	1	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>
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THRAUPIDAE

Black-capped Hemispingus	3	B	W		1	<i>Hemispingus atropileus</i>
Superciliaried Hemispingus	1	B			2	<i>Hemispingus superciliaris</i>
Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager	1		W		3	<i>Cnemoscopus rubrirostris</i>
Gray-headed Tanager	1	B			1	<i>Eucometis penicillata</i>
White-lined Tanager	2			N	1	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>
Crimson-backed Tanager	4			N	2	<i>Ramphocelus dimidiatus</i>
Flame-rumped Tanager	5		W		3	<i>Ramphocelus flammigerus</i>
Blue-gray Tanager	10		W	N	2	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
Palm Tanager	5		W	N	1	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Blue-capped Tanager	6	B	W	N	2	<i>Thraupis cyanocephala</i>
Black-and-gold Tanager	3		W		1	<i>Bangsia melanochlamys</i>
Gold-ringed Tanager	1		W		1	<i>Bangsia aureocincta</i>
Hooded Mountain-Tanager	2		W		2	<i>Buthraupis montana</i>
Santa Marta Mountain-Tanager	2			N	2	<i>Anisognathus melanogenys</i>
Lachrymose Mountain-Tanager	2		W		1	<i>Anisognathus lacrymosus</i>
Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager	4		W		2	<i>Anisognathus somptuosus</i>
Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager	3		W		2	<i>Anisognathus notabilis</i>
Grass-green Tanager	2		W		1	<i>Chlorornis riefferii</i>
Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager	1		W		1	<i>Dubusia taeniata</i>
Purplish-mantled Tanager	3		W		1	<i>Iridosornis porphyrocephalus</i>
Glistening-green Tanager	3		W		1	<i>Chlorochrysa phoenicotis</i>
Black-headed Tanager	2			N	2	<i>Tangara cyanoptera</i>

Black-capped Tanager	4		W	N	2	<i>Tangara heinei</i>
Scrub Tanager	4		W		1	<i>Tangara vitriolina</i>
Rufous-throated Tanager	3		W		1	<i>Tangara rufigula</i>
Blue-and-black Tanager	1		W		1	<i>Tangara vassorii</i>
Beryl-spangled Tanager	3		W		2	<i>Tangara nigroviridis</i>
Metallic-green Tanager	2		W		1	<i>Tangara labradorides</i>
Bay-headed Tanager	4		W	N	2	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>
Saffron-crowned Tanager	2		W		1	<i>Tangara xanthocephala</i>
Blue-necked Tanager	1	B			1	<i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>
Golden Tanager	4		W		2	<i>Tangara arthus</i>
Silver-throated Tanager	1		W		1	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>
Blue Dacnis	1		W		1	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Green Honeycreeper	1	B			1	<i>Chloriophanes spiza</i>
Golden-collared Honeycreeper	2		W		1	<i>Iridophanes pulcherrimus</i>
Bicolored Conebill	1			N	1	<i>Conirostrum bicolor</i>
Blue-backed Conebill	1		W		1	<i>Conirostrum sitticolor</i>
Capped Conebill	2	B	W		1	<i>Conirostrum albifrons</i>
Rufous-browed Conebill	1	B			3	<i>Conirostrum rufum</i>
Rusty Flowerpiercer	1			N	1	<i>Diglossa sittoides</i>
Black Flowerpiercer	1		W		1	<i>Diglossa humeralis</i>
Glossy Flowerpiercer	1	B			1	<i>Diglossa lafresnayii</i>
Indigo Flowerpiercer	2		W		1	<i>Diglossa indigotica</i>
Bluish Flowerpiercer	1		W		1	<i>Diglossa caeruleascens</i>
White-sided Flowerpiercer	7	B	W	N	2	<i>Diglossa albilatera</i>
Masked Flowerpiercer	1		W		1	<i>Diglossa cyanea</i>
Plushcap	1		W		1	<i>Catamblyrhynchus diadema</i>
Rosy Thrush-Tanager	-	2h	B	N	1	<i>Rhodinocichla rosea</i>
Bananaquit	7		W	N	1	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
Yellow-faced Grassquit	3		W		2	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>
Sooty Grassquit	1			N	1	<i>Tiaris fuliginosus</i>
Buff-throated Saltator	4		W	N	1	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Black-winged Saltator	1		W		1	<i>Saltator atripennis</i>
Grayish Saltator	2			N	1	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>
Streaked Saltator	3			N	2	<i>Saltator striatipectus</i>
Orinocan Saltator	1			N	1	<i>Saltator orenocensis</i>
Black-faced Grassquit	1			N	1	<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>
EMBERIZIDAE						
Rufous-collared Sparrow	8	B	W	N	3	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Saffron Finch	3	B	W	N	2	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
Blue-black Grassquit	1			N	1	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Black-and-white Seedeater	1		W		1	<i>Sporophila luctuosa</i>
Yellow-bellied Seedeater	1	B			1	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	1			N	1	<i>Sporophila minuta</i>
Sierra Nevada Brush-Finch	2			N	1	<i>Arremon basilicus</i>
Black-striped Sparrow	1		W		1	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>
Golden-winged Sparrow	2			N	1	<i>Arremon schlegeli</i>
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch	1		W		1	<i>Arremon brunneinucha</i>
Gray-browed Brush-Finch	2		W		1	<i>Arremon torquatus</i>
Olive Finch	1		W		1	<i>Arremon castaneiceps</i>
Black-headed Brush-Finch	1	B			1	<i>Arremon atricapillus</i>
Moustached Brush-Finch	1	B			1	<i>Atlapetes albofrenatus</i>
White-naped Brush-Finch	3		W		2	<i>Atlapetes albinucha</i>
Santa Marta Brush-Finch	4			N	2	<i>Atlapetes melanocephalus</i>
Tricolored Brush-Finch	2		W		1	<i>Atlapetes tricolor</i>
Dusky Bush-Tanager	2		W		1	<i>Chlorospingus semifuscus</i>
Slaty Brush-Finch	2		W		1	<i>Atlapetes schistaceus</i>
Pileated Finch	1			N	1	<i>Coryphospingus pileatus</i>
CARDINALIDAE						
Hepatic Tanager	4		W	N	1	<i>Piranga flava</i>
Summer Tanager	6		W	N	2	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
Golden-bellied Grosbeak	2			N	1	<i>Pheucticus chrysogaster</i>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1			N	1	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
Crested Ant-Tanager	2		W		1	<i>Habia cristata</i>

Vermilion Cardinal	1			N	1	<i>Cardinalis phoeniceus</i>
PARULIDAE						
Tennessee Warbler	7	B	W	N	2	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>
Tropical Parula	1		W		1	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>
Yellow Warbler	3		W	N	1	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
Blackpoll Warbler	1			N	1	<i>Dendroica striata</i>
Blackburnian Warbler	12	B	W	N	3	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>
American Redstart	3			N	1	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
Black-and-white Warbler	4		W	N	2	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
Prothonotary Warbler	2			N	3	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
Northern Waterthrush	3	B		N	1	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>
Mourning Warbler	1		W		1	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>
Wilson's Warbler	1	B			1	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>
Canada Warbler	2		W		1	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>
Slate-throated Whitestart	7		W	N	3	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
Golden-fronted Whitestart	2		W		1	<i>Myioborus ornatus</i>
Yellow-crowned Whitestart	2			N	1	<i>Myioborus flavivertex</i>
Citrine Warbler	2		W		1	<i>Basileuterus luteoviridis</i>
Black-crested Warbler	1	B			1	<i>Basileuterus nigrocristatus</i>
Grey-throated Warbler	1	B			1	<i>Basileuterus cinereicollis</i>
White-lored Warbler	2			N	2	<i>Basileuterus conspicillatus</i>
Russet-crowned Warbler	1		W		1	<i>Basileuterus coronatus</i>
Golden-crowned Warbler	2		W		1	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
Rufous-capped Warbler	4			N	1	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>
Three-striped Warbler	4		W		2	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>
Santa Marta Warbler	1			N	1	<i>Basileuterus basilicus</i>
ICTERIDAE						
Russet-backed Oropendola	5			W	2	<i>Psarocolius angustifrons</i>
Crested Oropendola	4			N	1	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
Mountain Cacique	1		W		2	<i>Cacicus chrysonotus</i>
Yellow-backed Oriole	1	1H	B	N	1	<i>Icterus chrysater</i>
Baltimore Oriole	1			N	1	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
Yellow Oriole	3		W	N	1	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>
Red-bellied Grackle	1		W		2	<i>Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster</i>
Yellow-hooded Blackbird	2	B		N	3	<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus</i>
Shiny Cowbird	1	B			1	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
Carib Grackle	1			N	1	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>
Great-tailed Grackle	4			N	3	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>
FRINGILLIDAE						
Andean Siskin	1	B			2	<i>Carduelis spinescens</i>
Yellow-bellied Siskin	1		W		1	<i>Carduelis xanthogastra</i>
Lesser Goldfinch	1			N	1	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>
Trinidad Euphonia	-	1H		N	1	<i>Euphonia trinitatis</i>
Thick-billed Euphonia	4	B	W	N	1	<i>Euphonia laniirostris</i>
Orange-bellied Euphonia	3		W		2	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
Blue-naped Chlorophonia	4			N	3	<i>Chlorophonia cyanea</i>
Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia	2		W		2	<i>Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys</i>
Yellow-collared Chlorophonia	3		W		2	<i>Chlorophonia flavirostris</i>

Mammals

Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous* was seen well at El Dorado

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis* seen at El Dorado

Red Howler Monkey *Alouatta seniculus* seen above Minca

A sloth sp. Seen at Chicaque was thought to have been moved there as it was well above the normal elevation range for any sloth.

This list represents those birds and other animals as seen by party members of this tour.

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Black-crested Warbler



Red-bellied Grackle



Beautiful Jay



Red-crowned Woodpecker



Stripe-headed Brush-Finch



Green-and-black Fruiteater



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock



Russet-throated Puffbird



Lesser Nighthawk



Black-fronted Wood-Quail



Santa Marta Screech-Owl



Santa Marta Parakeets



White-tipped Quetzal



Santa Marta Brush-Finch



Vermilion Cardinal



Golden-collared Honeycreeper

Front cover: Bogotá Rail

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