

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO VENEZUELA
Tepuis & Angel Falls

06 – 21 February 2010



Leader: Colin Bushell

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A Personal Diary

There is no guarantee in birding, after all that's what makes our hobby so intriguing. But if you do want to see the most powerful raptor in the Neotropics, Venezuela has to be the place to visit. The Harpy Eagle is arguably one of Tropical America's most charismatic birds and probably more birdwatchers have seen their first (and maybe only) Harpy Eagle in the forests of the Sierra de Imataca near El Palmar. Visiting Eastern Venezuela is not exclusively about seeing this magnificent beast though: there are many endemics in the mountains of the coastal north-east, the Oilbirds of Caripe and of course the endemic species of the Tepui mountains. With our skilful local guides we were able to see many of our target species such as White-tailed Sabrewing, Scissor-tailed Hummingbird, White-tipped Quetzal, Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, Handsome Fruiteater, Capuchinbird, Scarlet-horned Manakin and even a few surprises like the Greater Flowerpiercer (a rarely seen bird of the Guianan Shield mountains).

Birding in Eastern Venezuela involves early starts (generally breakfasts were from 5.00 am) to avoid the intense midday heat. We also avoided excessive daytime travelling by taking packed lunches and a water supply with us, resting nearby to our birding locality over lunch. However our efforts were well rewarded with a good selection of endemic bird species, a few mammals and some spectacular scenery,

6 February

Today is a little more eventful than hoped for! Bridget, Peter, Sue and Brian meet me at London Heathrow this morning ready for our TAP flight to Lisbon. After a smooth check-in it's quite obvious that we're going to be delayed departing for Lisbon as our gate number fails to materialise at the expected time. Finally our call is made and we leave for Portugal where we are collected by TAP ground staff and taken by bus to our departure gate for our plane bound for Caracas. Ann is waiting there but poor Anders only just makes it thanks to a horrendous journey from Oslo, full of delays and cancellations.

Thankfully our flight to Caracas is rather relaxing and TAP treats us well, but on arrival in Caracas Anders's luggage hasn't arrived! Anders and I spend some time completing forms at the missing baggage desk while the rest of the group wait outside with Alejandro Nagy (our local guide). Anders is as ever quite philosophical about the whole affair expressing his relief at having completed the connection from Lisbon, even if his belongings haven't. Many wouldn't be so calm and understanding, I'm sure. It's good to make a re-acquaintance with Alejandro once again, as I worked with him on my last visit here and he knows Venezuela and its birds very well indeed. Our long journey ends in Mojuto on the outskirts of Caracas, where most are keen to get straight to bed after a lengthy day travelling across the Atlantic. A few of us join Alejandro for some food and drink and discuss plans for the following day.

7 February

We have a reasonably early transfer to the airport this morning to check in for our flight from Caracas to Cumana in the east. Carib Grackles congregate in the parking area as we pull into departures and then it's a quick breakfast before our short flight.

Frankie, a driver I know well from a previous tour, is waiting for us at Cumana and once everyone has their luggage we head out of town en route to the Araya Peninsula for a spot of impromptu birding. A wetland on the edge of town is just too tempting to pass with Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Tricolored Herons, Scarlet Ibises, Roseate Spoonbills and Wood Storks feeding in the shallows. There's a flock of Black-necked Stilts, a Greater Yellowlegs and several Willets wading around too – just enough to whet our appetites for things to come!

Moving on we see lots of widespread species from the bus like Red-crowned Woodpeckers and Tropical Mockingbirds. Admittedly midday is not the best time to be in a desert on an arid peninsula but the rearranged itinerary dictates that we can see a few birds here on an unexpected stop. Of course activity at this time of day is suppressed but two arid country species – Buffy Hummingbird and Black-faced Grassquit – make the effort worthwhile. A diversion to the lagoons and coast adds a variety of species including a fine drake Blue-winged Teal, Pied-billed and Least Grebes, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Boobies and a few Laughing Gulls that appear briefly before flying out to sea. Pearl Kites, Scaled Doves, Burrowing Owls, Pied Water-Tyrant, White-headed Marsh-Tyrants and a nice Laughing Falcon keep our spirits up as we head back inland.

We finish our day by birding a few lagoons close to Carupano where we top-up our Greater Flamingo total to approximately five hundred and see Short-tailed and White-tailed Hawks soaring over nearby forests before arriving at Vuelta Larga for dinner.

8 February

Today we make another pre-breakfast start although we are only taking the short trip to the lagoons and semi-humid forest of Vuelta Larga. Daniel assists Alejandro today and it's soon evident he knows his patch well as we make our first excursion along the forest track bordering the lagoon. The clearing is certainly not bereft of interesting birds though with White-eyed and Brown-throated Parakeets overhead; Black-throated Mangos, Blue-chinned Sapphire, White-chested and Glittering-throated Emeralds perched or feeding on flowering trees and Lineated and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers, Streaked Flycatcher, Bare-eyed Thrush and Yellow Orioles perched on dead trees or exposed branches.

Garrulous Stripe-backed Wrens squabble in the treetops as we make our way along the forest track where we find some of our most wanted birds very quickly. A Black-dotted Piculet (a Venezuelan endemic) is almost the first bird encountered as it hammers away on a spindly branch, flying off to with a beak full of grubs every so often. Russet-throated Puffbird is next and performs superbly. The eastern subspecies present here has a buff throat and an "extra" chest band, provoking some authorities to suggest full species status. Birds in the arid west of Venezuela and Colombia do indeed possess a russet throat but just a single band across the chest.

Concentrating on the forest edge and swampy margins of the lagoon we see an interesting selection of birds including Green Ibis, Slender-billed Kite, Black-collared Hawk, a White-tailed Goldenthrout, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Cream-coloured and Spot-breasted Woodpeckers, Pale-breasted and Yellow-chinned Spinetails, Streak-headed Woodcreeper and Masked Yellowthroat. The ever-popular Hoatzin is spotted on a large Mauritia Palm on an island in the lagoon but even this cannot distract us from the noisy rumblings of the leader's stomach indicating that breakfast should be next on our list!

Our post-breakfast stroll takes us into the forest where we watch several Little Hermits at their lek and an absolutely stunning male Crimson-hooded Manakin that poses nicely for photographers. Back in the clearing we see Barred Antshrike, a male Ruby-Topaz and Common and Slate-headed Tody-Flycatchers side-by-side. Re-visiting the forest Black-crested Antshrikes show well but activity is naturally subdued by the warm and rather humid conditions by now. A quick scan across the open pastures produces Red-breasted Blackbird and the strange Horned Screamer, a robust goose-like bird of South American wetlands.

Our post lunch excursion is predictably less productive than the morning outing but Savanna Hawks and Striped Cuckoo are seen as well as many other birds featured in our morning outing. The pre-roost gathering of hundred of Orange-winged Parrots is indeed spectacular. Finally we make our way back to our lodge for dinner (invariably involving a buffalo recipe here), a cold beer and bird list before retiring for the night.

9 February

We have a very early breakfast this morning as we gather at 04.15 am. Our destination this morning is Cerro Humo ("Smoke Mountain"), where the cloud forests are the home of several rare endemic birds, some only found on the mountains of north-eastern Venezuela. My previous visit to Cerro Humo was a sad affair indeed. Unfavourable weather prevented Alejandro and I from finding hardly any of the desired species but we battled on despite the wind and rain. This morning's conditions look good though, with clear skies over

the peaks, as we approach Cerro Humo but the only bird of note as we drive through the cleared lower slopes is Grey Kingbird.

There's a "sooty" theme to "Smoke Mountain" on arrival at the guardhouse where a Sooty-capped Hermit is nesting in one of the rooms and several Sooty-headed Tyrannulets are feeding in the clearing borders. Venezuelan Parakeets can be heard but remain elusive. After a field breakfast we begin our hike onto the lower slopes of the mountain. Daniel takes us on a side trail favoured by White-tailed Sabrewing (a species virtually endemic to eastern Venezuela with a population on nearby Tobago). He knows the mountain trails well and shows us a nice male perched. There are two or three of these spectacular hummers in this small patch of forest, the first part free of any shade-grown coffee. Croaking in the canopy betrays the presence of Groove-billed Toucanets, another range-restricted species high on our wish lists. These take a bit of time to locate but everyone eventually sees one well; indeed there must be plenty of fruit available in his patch of forest as Golden-headed Manakins and a pair of Handsome Fruiteater are singing. The manakins lek frantically as the fruiteaters pluck fruits nearby. The male Handsome Fruiteater could not be more appropriately named with his stunning black hooded appearance and orange-red chest patch on yellow underparts. Absolutely stunning!

Our attention then switches from the canopy to the forest floor as a Black-faced Antthrush is attracted by playback and struts past the group like a little clockwork rail. Climbing further uphill we find Golden-faced Tyrannulet and Paria Whitestart, another of our target endemic species for these mountains of the northeast. Daniel suggests we try for Slate-crowned Antpitta, a tiny tennis ball-like member of the *Grarallicula* genus (one of the small ones). This small antpitta performs really well once spotted on a nearby slope, perching on sapling stems and eventually a small stump at close range. Antpittas: difficult? No way!

The endemic White-throated Barbtail eludes us but a pair of Ornate Hawk-Eagles in display soon dispels any sense of disappointment. Our positive aura is enhanced further by a Scissor-tailed Hummingbird but only a few see this rare endemic. A pair of White-tipped Quetzals (another bird restricted to the coastal mountains of Venezuela and northern Colombia) show after a period of searching and Alejandro points out the interesting endemic subspecies of Blue-capped Tanager that exhibits a pale malar stripe here in the northeast.

It's now time to descend and as we make our way down the trail we pick up quite a few new birds like Slaty Antwren, Golden-olive Woodpecker and best of all a male Scissor-tailed Hummingbird perched at close range for all to see. It's been a tiring morning but well worth the effort and the bus journey back to the lodge for a late lunch gives us a while to relax and reflect on the rare birds we've seen this morning.

Our afternoon excursion is to the wetlands and pastures close to Vuelta Larga where it's a bit of a relief to be on flat ground again. Little Cuckoo is found in the roadside vegetation and Striped Cuckoo (on the road!). Our return journey to the lodge is timed to look for nightbirds but apart from a few Pauraques all we see is a Short-tailed Nighthawk very briefly.

10 February

The mangrove delta at Cano Ajies is only accessible by boat so we board after another early breakfast this morning. This morning's schedule is largely dictated by tides and we decide to head out into the open stretches of the delta in the hope of seeing the scarce Rufous Crab-Hawk here. Daniel explains that these birds often sit out to sun themselves once the heat of the sun heats the mangrove forest and takes us to an area favoured by this raptor. We're not stopping for too much on the way out but we do see our first Rufous-headed Chachalacas (after hearing many), Grey-necked Wood-Rails, Lesser Kiskadees and a Black-tailed Tityra.

Muscovy Ducks fly across the wider river channels as Daniel expertly locates the Rufous Crab-Hawk after a few "false dawns" caused by semi-concealed Common Black Hawks. Scarlet Ibis and Little Blue Herons frequent the muddy shores and a small flock of waders deserve closer attention and prove to be Semipalmated Sandpipers accompanied by some Semipalmated Plovers. The Whimbrels of the race *hudsonius* here lack the white rump of the birds familiar to us in Europe and may represent a full species in their own right. Pulling up close to the mangroves we try to attract some of the smaller birds of this habitat and soon find Black-chinned Antbird, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher and Bicolored Conebill with limited use of playback.

By now it's getting hot and we do have a journey to the Oilbird Caves to complete later this afternoon. Heading back to the dock we make a few stops for Lesser Kiskadees (when the "flycatcher ID workshop" begins), Amazonian White-tailed Trogon and Black-dotted Piculet. A Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher shows briefly as we try to locate the extremely rare Black-chested Tyrant without luck. Sue finds a young Silvered Antbird so close that it's impossible to focus binoculars on it and a Wing-barred Seedeater perches momentarily for all to see. Two Bat Falcons use the high perches over the forest, the female appreciably larger than the male and a super male Long-winged Harrier coasts across the tops of the trees.

On returning to Vuelta Larga we pack our belongings before lunch before our long journey to Caripe. Inca Jays are seen briefly en route to Caripe where we arrive in good time to check in at our hotel where we are greeted by Red-billed Parrots and a fine White-tailed Kite. We time our visit to La Coeval de los Guacharos for a brief look outside the cave where hundreds of Scarlet-fronted Parakeets are gathering. Vine tangles on the cliff face provide good perches for Venezuelan Parakeets as well and sharp-eyed Peter finds us some with his telescope. White-tipped Swifts flock overhead as dusk approaches but the real show starts as darkness falls. The eerie calls of Oilbirds increases in volume until a cacophony of sound heralds the spectacular exit of hundreds of this strange nocturnal frugivore from the depths of the cave. Apparently Oilbirds can travel many kilometres in search of fruit during the hours of darkness, some do not make it back to their traditional roosting site by daybreak and these "stop-outs" probably account for most of the records away from their known roosting areas. This cave is the type locality for Oilbirds; hence the scientific name *Steatornis caripensis*. Fascinating birds indeed.

11 February

Today we visit Cerro Negro after another early breakfast. It's another clear morning – perfect for cloud forest birding as we set off on our hike with guide Govinda. The lower slopes are mainly shade-grown coffee plantations but some species survive here including two important ones: Stripe-breasted Spinetail and Ochre-breasted Brush-Finch. A Black Hawk-Eagle calls as it circles over the canopy and as we climb higher and the coffee starts to disappear we find Slate-throated Whitestarts, Speckled Tanager and a few White-tailed Sabrewings. Once again we fail to see the rare endemic Grey-headed Warbler, a species virtually restricted to this mountain. Really suitable habitat is difficult to reach on this mountain with no clear-cut trails so we decide to descend seeing some Venezuelan Parakeets really well.

After a guided walk of the Oilbird Cave and a picnic lunch we set off for Puerto Ordaz. It's a long journey and there's no time to stop for birding apart from garages where some Bicolored Wrens are seen. Eared Doves become more frequently encountered, mainly flying over the road in front of the bus and quite a few Fork-tailed Flycatchers are seen too. Finally we reach Puerto Ordaz where we call in at the airport before reaching the hotel. At last we are introduced to a long-lost member of the party – Anders's luggage! It's a pleasant change to spend the night in a four star hotel with hot showers and some top-quality cuisine too.

12 February

Today lived up to its billing as "mainly a non-birding day". We gather for a late breakfast (6 am) before making our way to the airport for our flight to Canaima National Park. It's not surprising that our flight is delayed a little but we do enjoy fantastic views of Tepui Mountains and miles of savannah once we crossed the huge reservoir and head south towards Canaima. The main attraction today is our flight past Angel Falls, the highest in the world, but that's reserved for the return journey. On landing on the airstrip at Canaima we are taken to Waku Lodge where refreshments are available before a short boat trip across the nearby lake. Black-collared Swallows can be seen from the lodge, skimming over the water and resting on the rocks from time to time. The tour takes us beneath some waterfalls for a while before we get the chance to look for a few birds in some nearby white sand forest. By now it's rather hot of course but in the shade Alejandro works hard to show us a few birds characteristic of this habitat where birds are not exactly at a high density to say the least. In the heat of the day the birds are reluctant to do very much but Black Manakin, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Plumbeous Euphonia and Ochre-ored Flatbill do give us a bit of a challenge. A Tayra foraging around in the forested gully was a nice sight but he soon ran off once he detected us. Back near the lodge some smart Moriche Orioles are showing well but lunch is even better received by the group after so much time in the hot sun.

In no time at all we are called for our flight without much warning and once we are all rounded up by the guides we take off for our “tour” around Angel Falls. Impressive Guianan Shield rock formations keep photographers busy but the falls themselves are a disappointment as, due to the drought, they are reduced to barely a trickle!

Landing in Puerto Ordaz I happen to glance back on the grassy strips and spot a bird with a long neck. Sue had independently seen this bird from the aircraft as we landed and despite concerns from the pilot we just have to check out this wader with the long neck. It turns out to be an Upland Sandpiper, not a particularly rare bird in Venezuela but Alejandro is convinced it’s rare in the state of Bolivar at this time of year. Frankie meets us and we share our photos with him before boarding the bus for the short journey to the hotel. Over dinner we discuss the day and it transpires that according to the latest “Birds of Venezuela” we may have a documented record for the earliest northbound Upland Sandpiper in Venezuela (they usually pass through here in April). More wine than anyone?

13 February

It’s another travel day today and we say goodbye to our luxury hotel as we head south of the Orinoco by road this time. Birding is hard work even in the small pools where just a few Spotted Sandpipers and a solitary Solitary Sandpiper are seen (I usually see the latter in pairs!).

Travelling further south still the weather becomes hotter and hotter. Swallow-tailed and Plumbeous Kites soar around in the thermals and we are certainly pleased to see our home for the next few nights at Las Claritas. Barquilla de Fresa is a small lodge; simple but very nice surrounded by a small patch of forest. The clearing is excellent for midday birding though as we settle in and sip a cool beer whilst watching birds outside the lodge. The hummingbird feeders are the main attraction with Rufous-breasted Hermit, Grey-breasted Sabrewing, Fork-tailed Woodnymph and Long-billed Starthroat all regular visitors. The Crimson Topaz is the main attraction here though and there’s at least one fine adult male visiting as well as two or three females and an immature. We spend most of the afternoon just watching the forest edge near the clearing, letting the birds do the work in the heat of the afternoon. Black-necked Aracaris, Channel-billed and White-throated Toucans come into the garden. Scanning the trees produces Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers, Piratic Flycatchers and Black Nunbird. A passing party of Turquoise Tanagers are the first of the tour and a Piratic Flycatcher plays “hide ‘n’ seek” as it sings from the canopy. Our day ends, as so many Neotropical ones do, with a calling Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl keeping us from our showers.

14 February

The lowland forests in the Las Claritas area are renowned as a good place to see the bizarre Calfbird, or Capuchinbird as it is better known. This strange cotinga forms leks in the tall trees where the almost mechanical “song” can be heard in the early mornings and late afternoons. We take another early breakfast this morning so we can be at the display ground early and on arrival the weird chainsaw-like song of a Capuchinbird can be heard. However a few other good birds like Black-faced Hawks and Black-headed Parrot delay us a little, and no song can be heard by the time we reach the trail. All is not lost however as we locate a Rufous-throated Antbird on the trail and outside the forest the clearing is very productive indeed. White-necked Puffbird and Paradise Jacamars give us an excuse to use the telescopes, whereas close by Chestnut Woodpeckers, Dusky Antbirds and Greyish Mourners can be found in the forest borders.

It’s time to head up onto La Escalera; the road climbing onto the Serra de Lema that eventually crosses the Gran Sabana and onto the Brazilian border. Good forest remains intact on the slopes of this Tepui and our first stops on the lower slopes produce some good birds like King Vulture, White Hawk, Cliff Flycatcher and Fulvous-crested Tanager but the hoped-for Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock is only seen briefly. It’s obviously not going to be a good day for cotingas

La Escalera is one of the most famous birding roads in South America with some traditional “hotspots”, particularly good for endemic birds. Fruit-seeking species such as Olive Manakin and Orange-bellied (Tepui) Manakin are found relatively easy, but we encounter hardly any understory birds, and no flocks at all. The favoured “Alcabala” (check post) area is relatively quiet as well with only a Tepui Brush-Finch of note seen. By now it’s very hot indeed and birding becomes difficult so it’s time to relax for a while before climbing higher on the road. As the sun begins to set a few birds become more active but it’s quite some time before we get acceptable views of Tepui Mountain-Grackle. The fruiting trees on the higher stretches of the road

appear good for Scarlet-horned Manakin (I saw one here on my last trip) and a splendid male performs admirably. Roadside Coraya Wrens eventually give themselves up to playback as a party of five or six Fiery-shouldered Parakeets whiz past us at canopy level. It's been a long and testing day (we've even seen our first Rufous-collared Sparrows of the tour), but we stay just that little bit longer near the Alcabala on the way back and are rewarded with a party of Tepui Swifts overhead. We've seen many endemic species today, not only particular to Venezuela but also confined to this Guianan Shield region. However, maybe one of the highlights of the whole day was the appearance of a Southern Naked-tailed Armadillo by the roadside. This strange creature keeps us amused for a long time before we head back to Las Claritas, dinner, list and bed!

15 February

This morning we book breakfast for 04.30 in the hope we can get to La Escalera early. Our plans are dashed by a singing spectacled Owl in the lodge ground though, but worse still we don't see it! Alejandro tries very hard indeed to attract the owl into view but unfortunately it stops singing and we have to hit the road. Our first stop on La Escalera is the "old" (the kilometre markers have changed) Km 110, a reliable patch of forest for one of our target birds over the past. A Masked Trogon calling on arrival attracts our attention, but only momentarily once Anders spots a stunning male Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (our target bird). This bright orange cotinga flies across the road, perching briefly before disappearing into the depths of the forested slopes above us. Black-eared Fairy, Straight-billed Hermit, Yellow-bellied Tanagers and Speckled Tanagers add variety to the quality of the morning's proceedings thus far. A profound justification for early starts if ever there was one!

Our next stop is the Alcabala once again. Arriving here before the sun gets too high pays dividends once again as Black-headed, Olive-backed and Red-shouldered Tanagers appear. Peter once again finds the star bird, and what a star this one is! The rarely seen (at least on La Escalera) Greater Flowerpiercer appears in the tops of some tall spindly trees just across the road but passes through quite quickly. Nearly everybody sees this rare Tepui endemic before a pair of Rufous-breasted Sabrewings appear feeding on nearby flowers. Our fine start to the day continues as a pair of Streak-backed Antshrikes respond to playback and show really well, quivering their tails as the call back and in no time at all a pair of Velvet-browed Brilliants chase each other at the forest edge. Another walk down a side trail produces the goods once again as we find our only White Bellbird of the tour. It's a relief as we haven't heard one during our stay here; perhaps the dry weather is affecting the breeding cycle of some species? Seeing Tepui Whitestart here is another bonus as well, as they seem scarce this year.

Continuing above the tree line and onto the Gran Sabana we search the open grasslands for various open country birds like Black-faced Tanager, Plain-crested Elaenia and Tawny-headed Swallow before descending back through the forested slopes in the afternoon, passing an overturned petrol tanker on the way back. We spend some time with several Scarlet-horned and Tepui Manakins and flocks of Paradise Tanagers but still fail to locate any spinetails or foliage-gleaners in the undergrowth.

We end our day on a rocky outcrop with a fine view over the forest canopy where Red-and-Green Macaws can be seen coasting over the treetops as dusk approaches. Darkness falls as we turn back to the bus and, as planned, Blackish Nightjars can be found as our last bird of another enthralling day's birding on La Escalera.

16 February

This morning's plans involve a return to the forest close to the lodge for Capuchinbird. Taking no chances we breakfast early once again and head out to the Capuchinbird lek where this time, we are extremely lucky. A singing bird is spotted just above us and everybody gets a good look at this strange bird as it looks down upon us. Delaying our departure for La Escalera we find some good birds in the form of Double-toothed Kite, Eastern Long-tailed Hermit and a few Paradise Jacamars in the clearing. Sue spots a Black-faced Hawk as we make our way back to the main road and a photo opportunity is appreciated by all. We've been very lucky with this raptor this year, a bird described as "truly rare" in "The Birds of Venezuela", but perhaps its scarcity is not aided by its reluctance to soar like other members of its genus *Leucopternis*.

On reaching the main road it's distressing to find a queue of traffic and very little happening! Alejandro discovers that the tanker we saw the previous day has still not been cleared and the road remains closed. Despite explaining that we do not want to venture as far as the scene of the accident we are refused access so retrace our steps to the forest. A pair of Black Curassows is a pleasant surprise for those lucky enough to see

them on the way back to the trails. Walking in the forest we locate Mouse-coloured Antshrike, Scale-backed Antbird and White-crowned Manakins before returning to the lodge for a lunchtime siesta for a change.

The afternoon is predictably slow for birding in the heat but later in the afternoon we find a party of Yellow-throated Flycatchers at the roadside. Yellow-backed Tanagers appear soon after and a trail nearby produces a Screaming Piha and a group of Dusky-throated Antshrikes. A Buff-throated Woodcreeper starts to sing as dusk approaches and Alejandro makes considerable effort assuring we all see the bird.

17 February

This morning we visit the famous “Guyana Trail”. Well, actually it’s not the original trail I visited nearly twenty years ago and birders have used various forest trails in the area over the years as the clearings have encroached into the forest. After a quick “reconnaissance” Alejandro beckons us into the thicket after locating the trailhead. Our first bird is a perched White-chinned Sapphire singing in the dense vine tangles near the start of the trail. After scope views of this small hummingbird we move on, but not too far before a male White-browed Antbird stops us in our tracks. After a little enticement from playback this slate-blue antbird with a white brow appears in the undergrowth. It’s quite some time before we arrive in any forest with tall trees, but a canopy flock is waiting for us. Todd’s Antwren is the most frustrating member of this flock (showing only briefly), but more cooperative birds include Yellow-throated and Golden-collared Woodpeckers, Plain Xenops, and a pair of Pink-throated Becards, Zimmer’s Flatbill and Buff-cheeked Greenlets. A pair of Red-necked Woodpeckers move into view after hearing their calls for a little while and attention slips to the undergrowth as a Cinereous Antshrike passes by. Making our way into a clearing for a while we finally obtain decent views of Golden-spangled Piculets and a Blackpoll Warbler. North American migrant passerines appear to be quite scarce this winter compared to my last visit, although it may be a case of timing rather than scarcity of birds. Exploring a new patch of forest we see a few Cayenne Jays in the higher parts of the trees and then a few Rufous-bellied Antwrens divert our attention lower down as they move through the forest floor vegetation. We are now in the spot where Alejandro and I found the rare Black-throated Antshrike two years previously so we play the song in hope. We are in luck today as a male responds and teases us with brief views as he moves around the forest just out of view, calling infrequently. Finally a few of us see him, but it’s tough going for sure. We need to return to the lodge for lunch before departure to El Palmar, so we reluctantly make our way back along the trail.

We pack our belongings and take one last look at the Crimson Topaz on the feeder before leaving Barquilla de Fresa to drive north once again. We stop at the Rio Cuyuni again in search of Black-collared Swallow (we did so on the way), but this time we have some success with a pair of these dainty swallows seen. Several Black Skimmers are a real bonus too and as we speed north Fork-tailed Flycatchers are common in the open areas once again. Nearing our destination at El Palmar we stop at a lake where a pair of Whistling Herons are seen briefly in flight and Brian, who is in his element with a scope at hand, spots a fine pair of Buff-necked Ibis on a distant slope.

On arrival at El Palmar we are greeted by our host at the “Birder’s Rest” of Hotel Taguapire and Alejandro makes plans with our drivers for arguably the most important day of the tour.

18 February

Today is “THE” day. With over three thousand species available in this continent it seems inappropriate to say that the success of any tour to South America rests on a single species. However with Harpy Eagle billed as one of the highlights it would be unfortunate to return home without seeing the most impressive raptor the Americas have to offer to say the least! Today has been planned almost to perfection (nothing is perfect in birding) and our drivers pick us up in two 4x4’s to take us to a forest patch near Santa Fe with our local guide Javier. For once an Ornitholidays group is fairly “blinkered” as we take the short hike through the forest. There’s plenty of bird vocalisation as we walk the trail towards a clearing, but we are totally focussed as we arrive near a platform to scan the tall trees. Unfortunately the platform is unusable (it is in fact a BBC construction, used for filming Harpy Eagles), but from the forest floor we can see more of the surrounding emergent trees anyway. We can hear a Harpy Eagle begging for food as Green Aracaris, Cayenne Jays, Ruddy Pigeons and Dusky Parrots almost go unnoticed as we search hard for the most wanted bird of the tour. Suddenly we find the Harpy! A juvenile bird of around nine months perched in a big Ceiba tree across the clearing. We all enjoy fine scope views of this majestic bird of prey and a sense of relief prevails (often

surpassing a sense of elation at these “Harpy moments” in my experience), having secured views of such a rare bird. Suddenly, the Red-rumped Caciques scream and a real commotion is caused by the presence of the adult Harpy Eagle! Unfortunately only a few of our group see the adult and only briefly, as it attempts to approach the tall Ceiba where the nest is situated. It has dropped the monkey it was carrying in its talons too – if only it had landed with this in the nearby tree then surely we would have marvellous views! We console ourselves with the fact that the juvenile is showing even better now and hope that the adult may reappear. A group of Purple-throated Fruitcrows are attracted to a nearby Cecropia by limited playback but after a while we need to stretch our legs and decide to take a stroll. We return to the property owner’s house for a coffee seeing Great Jacamar in the forest and Pied Puffbirds, Paradise Jacamars, White-lored Euphonias and a soaring White Hawk in the clearing. A party of Painted Parakeets fly into the trees as we sip coffee and tea; all very civilised.

Birding the clearing and forest edge during the middle of the day is surprisingly productive with Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, White-tailed Trogons and Great Antshrikes performing well for us. In the afternoon we make another sortie into the forest where a Rufous-throated Antbird is seen and a pair of White-breasted Wood-Wren show after considerable effort by the group. One surprise comes in the form of a Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, apparently rare in eastern Venezuela and a new bird for Alejandro no less. So, Harpy Eagles, new bird for the local guide and pressure off the shoulders of the leader, all means that it’s been a rather good day once again for everyone. The birds won’t let us rest though and as we board the 4x4’s a pair of Marail Guans have us scampering out once again as dusk falls. Drizzle on the windscreen is the rarity of the day (it’s been dry all trip so far) and on return to the Taguapire, the Harpy Eagle is toasted just a few times.

19 February

Today we bird the Camamento Rio Grange area of the Imataca Forest Reserve. Exploring the logging tracks and adjacent clearings we start well with perched King Vulture, a feeding party of Black-spotted Barbets and fly-by Golden-winged Parakeets. Guianan Streaked Antwrens show well in the roadside scrub but a Waved Woodpecker only appears briefly at the forest edge. At first the trails are quiet but venturing down towards the river pays dividends with Green and Green-and-Rufous Kingfishers seen as well as a Fasciated Antshrike in the tangled forest edge. Our best period is late morning though when Alejandro finds a Black-throated Antshrike right next to the track! Of course it disappears quickly but we venture into the forest and by keeping quiet we all get good views of this rarely seen species (we’ve seen two in a trip!). This bird is restricted to north-eastern South America and its soft vocalisations make it hard to detect as well as its retiring habits. Painted Tody-Flycatchers, Rose-breasted Chat, Slate-coloured Grosbeak and a superb Ferruginous Antbird finishes our morning in fine style. Spending the whole day in the forest certainly takes its toll on the group but refreshed after a picnic lunch and “forest siesta” we take to the trails once again finding some Yellow-green Grosbeaks immediately and we then encounter some quality birds by walking the trails for the rest of the afternoon. We chance upon a feeding flock in the understory (one of the only ones of the tour) including Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper, Curve-billed Scythebill and a host of confusing antbirds. Brown-bellied, Grey and Long-winged Antwrens make life difficult for the leaders as the light begins to fail and eventually we have to capitulate to the conditions and head back to El Palmar.

20 February

It’s our final morning in the field with just enough time for some birding local to El Palmar. Close to town the habitat is just open damp pasture but we find Horned Screamers, Black-collared Hawks, Eastern Meadowlarks and Red-breasted Blackbirds here. The palms attract Yellow-crowned Parrots and a pair of Red-shouldered Macaws while a Laughing Falcon looks on from a tall perch. There’s many common and widespread Neotropical birds around too but we must be disciplined with our limited time this morning and head for a side road with forest edges. Even in this rather degraded habitat we hear Screaming Pihas here and improve on yesterday’s views of Yellow-green Grosbeak too, with some at lower levels in the nearby trees. Our last birds of the outing are Green-tailed Jacamar, a species surprisingly missed so far this trip. Then it’s back to the Taguapire to pack, shower and settle our bills but still have time to see Venezuelan Troupial in the garden!

Our journey to Puerto Ordaz Airport is by the 4x4’s and even Frankie (who left us once the 4x4 vehicles were used) is there at Caracas to meet us from our short flight as he’s picking up another group today. We say goodbye to Alejandro and Frankie (again) once we arrive at check-in for our TAP flight home.

21 February

Happy Birthday Anders! Our flight to Lisbon touches down in Madeira briefly, the site of a devastating floods and rockfalls over the last few days. Despite the terrible tragedy the airport now appears to be fully functional and we are back on our flight heading for Lisbon in no time. On arrival in Lisbon we say goodbye to Ann and Anders who leave us for Andorra and Oslo respectively. The rest of the group arrive in London fairly punctually and retrieve our luggage without delay, saying our goodbyes and even discussing future tours as we go.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to my friends in Venezuela – Alejandro and Frankie who were once again excellent throughout the tour in every respect. Their skills, enthusiasm and personalities were very much appreciated by everyone. Our tour would not have been as successful without local guidance of course so a special mention for Daniel Muller (Vuelta Larga), Govinda Galindo (Cerro Negro and Oilbird Caves) and Javier Contreras (Imataca).

And finally of course thanks to all the group for their patience, enthusiasm, humour and good spirits throughout the tour. I hope you'll all be back for an Ornitholidays tour somewhere in the world soon!

Colin Bushell
Ornitholidays
29 Straight Mile
Romsey
Hampshire
SO51 9BB

April 2010

Itinerary and Weather

The weather during this tour was very consistent indeed. Most days were hot and sunny with virtually cloudless skies. Daytime temperatures often reached 32 – 33 degrees Celsius. The exceptions were 18 and 19 February at Imataca where we experienced overcast conditions and light drizzle in the morning and evening. This did not affect our birding schedule however.

- 6 February** Group rendezvous at London Heathrow for TAP flight to Caracas via Lisbon (where we meet Ann and Anders). Evening arrival in Caracas and transfer to Mojuto and our hotel.
- 7 February** Early departure from Mojuto for Caracas for our flight to Cumana. Birding Araya Peninsula before heading to Carupano and Vuelta Larga.
- 8 February** Birding all day at Vuelta Larga in the pastures and forests near the lodge.
- 9 February** Cerro Humo (1200m) in the Paria Peninsula NP in the morning. Afternoon birding near Vuelta Larga.
- 10 February** Boat trip in the mangroves at Cano Ajies in the morning. Afternoon journey to Caripe and the Oilbird Cave nearby.
- 11 February** Cerro Negro (1200 – 1400m) and Oilbird Cave. Afternoon travelling to Puerto Ordaz. Overnight in Puerto Ordaz.
- 12 February** Day trip to the Canaima NP and Waku Camp. Return flight via Angel Falls.
- 13 February** Travel day from Puerto Ordaz to Las Claritas. Birding local to lodge in afternoon. Overnight Barquilla de Fresa.
- 14 February** Birding near Las Claritas and on La Escalera (300 – 1200m).
- 15 February** La Escalera and La Gran Sabana (1440m) all day.
- 16 February** Birding the forests near KM88 and Las Claritas.
- 17 February** Guyana Trail in the morning before departing for El Palmar. Overnight at Parador Taguapire.
- 18 February** Santa Fe for Harpy Eagle.
- 19 February** Imataca Forest Reserve.
- 20 February** Birding close to El Palmar before leaving for Puerto Ordaz. Flight from Puerto Ordaz to Caracas with connections to Europe.
- 21 February** TAP flight to London via Madeira and Lisbon.

CHECKLIST OF SPECIES SEEN DURING THE TOUR

Number of days recorded	Major locations where species were seen		Abundance Scale (max on one day)	
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	I =	Imataca Forest (Rio Grande & El Palmar)	1 =	1 – 4
	E =	Canaima, Las Claritas, Escalera, Gran Sabana.	2 =	5 – 9
	P =	Paria NP (Cerro Humo)	3 =	10 – 99
	C =	Caripe, Cerro Negro, Oilbird Cave.	4 =	100 – 999
	A =	Araya Peninsula, Cano Ajies & Vuelta Larga	5 =	1,000+

Species	No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance scale	Scientific Name
Great Tinamou	- 1h	E	1	<i>Tinamus major</i>
Little Tinamou	- 1h	A	1	<i>Crypturellus soui</i>
Variiegated Tinamou	- 2h	E I	1	<i>Crypturellus variegatus</i>
Least Grebe	2	A E	2	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	1	A	1	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Brown Booby	1	A	3	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Brown Pelican	1	A	3	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
Neotropic Cormorant	7	A I	3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Anhinga	5	A E	1	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
Magnificent Frigatebird	4	A	3	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
Horned Screamer	2 1h	A E	1	<i>Anhima cornuta</i>
Muscovy Duck	1	A	2	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
Blue-winged Teal	1	A	1	<i>Anas discors</i>
American Flamingo	2	A C	4	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
Cocoi Heron	5	A C E	1	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Great Egret	10	A C E I	3	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Snowy Egret	6	A E I	3	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Little Blue Heron	3	A I	3	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Tricoloured Heron	1	A	2	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Cattle Egret	8	A C E I	3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Striated Heron	7	A E I	2	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
Whistling Heron	1	I	1	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
Capped Heron	3	A I	2	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	2	A	3	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	A	3	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>
Buff-necked Ibis	1	I	1	<i>Theristicu scaudatus</i>
Green Ibis	2	A	1	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>
Scarlet Ibis	2	A	3	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>
Roseate Spoonbill	1	A	1	<i>Ajaja ajaja</i>
Wood Stork	2	A I	3	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
Maguari Stork	1	A	1	<i>Ciconia maguari</i>
King Vulture	3	E I	1	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>
Black Vulture	13	A C P E I	4	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Turkey Vulture	12	A C P E I	3	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	2	A E	1	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	6	A E I	2	<i>Cathartes melambrotus</i>
Osprey	5	A E I	1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Swallow-tailed Kite	7	E I	2	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>
Pearl Kite	3	A C	3	<i>Gampsonyx swainsonii</i>
White-tailed Kite	4	A C E	1	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>
Snail Kite	1	A	1	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>
Slender-billed Kite	1	A	1	<i>Rostrhamus hamatus</i>
Double-toothed Kite	2	E	1	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>
Plumbeous Kite	7	E I	3	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>
Long-winged Harrier	1	A	1	<i>Circus buffoni</i>
White Hawk	3	E I	1	<i>Leucopternis albicollis</i>
Black-faced Hawk	2	E	1	<i>Leucopternis melanops</i>
Savanna Hawk	6	A E I	2	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>
Rufous Crab-Hawk	1	A	1	<i>Buteogallus aequinoctialis</i>

Common Black Hawk	2		A						2	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>
Great Black Hawk	2		A	E					1	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>
Harris's Hawk	1		A						1	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>
Black-collared Hawk	5		A	I					1	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>
Roadside Hawk	7		A	E	I				1	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>
Short-tailed Hawk	3		A	E	I				1	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>
White-tailed Hawk	1		A						1	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>
Harpy Eagle	1		I						1	<i>Harpia harpyja</i>
Black Hawk-Eagle	2		C	I					1	<i>Spizaetus tyrannus</i>
Ornate Hawk-Eagle	1		P						1	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>
Black Caracara	1		A						1	<i>Daptrius ater</i>
Red-throated Caracara	1	2h	E	I					1	<i>Ibycter americanus</i>
Crested Caracara	5		A	E	I				3	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara	8		A	P	C	E	I		2	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
Laughing Falcon	3	4h	A	E	I				1	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>
American Kestrel	5		A	C	E	I			2	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Bat Falcon	1		A						1	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>
Rufous-vented Chachalaca	1	2h	A						1	<i>Ortalis ruficauda</i>
Marail Guan	1		I						1	<i>Penelope marail</i>
Black Curassow	1		I						1	<i>Crax alector</i>
Marbled Wood-Quail	-	1h	E						1	<i>Odontophorus gujanensis</i>
Grey-necked Wood-Rail	1	1h	A						1	<i>Aramides cajanea</i>
Purple Gallinule	1		E						1	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>
Common Moorhen	3		A	E	I				3	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Caribbean Coot	1		A						1	<i>Fulica caribaea</i>
Limpkin	2	1h	A						1	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>
Southern Lapwing	4	1h	A	E	I				2	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
Semipalmated Plover	1		A						1	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Black-necked Stilt	1		A						3	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
Wattled Jacana	4		A	E	I				3	<i>Jacana jacana</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	1		A						1	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Solitary Sandpiper	1		E						1	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	5		A	E					1	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
Whimbrel	2		A						1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Upland Sandpiper	1		C						1	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1		A						2	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
Laughing Gull	1		A						2	<i>Larus atricilla</i>
Royal Tern	1		A						3	<i>Sterna maxima</i>
Black Skimmer	1		E						2	<i>Rynchops niger</i>
Feral Pigeon	11		A	C	P	E	I		3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Pale-vented Pigeon	7		A	C	P	E	I		4	<i>Columba cayennensis</i>
Ruddy Pigeon	3	2h	A	E	I				1	<i>Columba subvinacea</i>
Plumbeous Pigeon	2	2h	E	I					1	<i>Columba plumbea</i>
Eared Dove	3		E						3	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>
Scaled Dove	3		A	E					3	<i>Scardafella squammata</i>
Common Ground-Dove	3		A	I					3	<i>Columbina passerina</i>
Ruddy Ground-Dove	6		A	P	E	I			3	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>
White-tipped Dove	6		A	E	I				1	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Grey-fronted Dove	3	1h	A	E	I				1	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>
Red-and-green Macaw	4	1h	E	I					2	<i>Ara chloroptera</i>
Red-shouldered Macaw	1		I						1	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i>
Scarlet-fronted Parakeet	2		C						4	<i>Aratinga wagleri</i>
White-eyed Parakeet	2	2h	A	I					3	<i>Aratinga leucophthalmus</i>
Brown-throated Parakeet	5	1h	A	C	E				3	<i>Aratinga pertinax</i>
Painted Parakeet	1	1h	I						2	<i>Pyrrhura picta</i>
Venezuelan Parakeet	2	1h	P	C					3	<i>Pyrrhura emma</i>
Fiery-shouldered Parakeet	1		E						2	<i>Pyrrhura egregia</i>
Green-rumped Parrotlet	1		I						1	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>
Golden-winged Parakeet	1		I						1	<i>Brotogeris chrysopterus</i>
Black-headed Parrot	1	1h	E						1	<i>Pionites melanocephala</i>
Caica Parrot	-	1h	I						1	<i>Pionopsitta caica</i>
Blue-headed Parrot	7		E	I					2	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
Red-billed Parrot	2		P	C					3	<i>Pionus sordidus</i>

Dusky Parrot	1		I				1	<i>Pionus fuscus</i>	
Yellow-crowned Parrot	3		A	I			1	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>	
Orange-winged Parrot	9		A	E	I		4	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	
Mealy Parrot	5	1h	E	I			1	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	
Red-fan Parrot	-	1h	I				1	<i>Deropterus accipitrinus</i>	
Squirrel Cuckoo	5	1h	A	C	I		1	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	
Little Cuckoo	2		A				1	<i>Piaya minuta</i>	
Greater Ani	1		A				2	<i>Crotophaga major</i>	
Smooth-billed Ani	11		A	C	P	I	E	3	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
Groove-billed Ani	1		E					1	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>
Striped Cuckoo	2		A					1	<i>Tapera naevia</i>
Hoatzin	1	1h	A					1	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	1	3h	E	I				1	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>
Burrowing Owl	1		A					1	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Spectacled Owl	-	2h	E					1	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>
Oilbird	2		C					4	<i>Steatornis caripensis</i>
Short-tailed Nighthawk	1		A					1	<i>Lurocalis semitorquatus</i>
Pauraque	2		A					1	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
Blackish Nightjar	1		E					1	<i>Caprimulgus nigrescens</i>
White-collared Swift	2	1h	C	E				2	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Tepui Swift	1		E					3	<i>Cypseloides phelpsi</i>
Short-tailed Swift	12		A	E	I			3	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>
Band-rumped Swift	4		E	I				3	<i>Chaetura spinicauda</i>
White-tipped Swift	1	1h	C					3	<i>Aeronautes montivagus</i>
Neotropical Palm-Swift	4		A	I				2	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>
Rufous-breasted Hermit	4		A	E	I			1	<i>Glaucis hirsuta</i>
Eastern Long-tailed Hermit	4		E	I				1	<i>Phaethornis superciliosus</i>
Straight-billed Hermit	2		E					1	<i>Phaethornis bourcierii</i>
Sooty-capped Hermit	2		P	C				1	<i>Phaethornis augusti</i>
Reddish Hermit	2		E	I				1	<i>Phaethornis ruber</i>
Little Hermit	1		A					1	<i>Phaethornis longuemareus</i>
Grey-breasted Sabrewing	4		A	I				1	<i>Campylopterus largipennis</i>
Rufous-breasted Sabrewing	1		E					1	<i>Campylopterus hypertythrus</i>
White-tailed Sabrewing	2		P	C				2	<i>Campylopterus hispanus</i>
White-necked Jacobin	4		E	I				1	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>
Brown Violetear	1		E					1	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>
Green Violetear	1		C					1	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>
Black-throated Mango	6		A	E	I			3	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>
Ruby-topaz Hummingbird	1		A					1	<i>Chrysolampis mosquitus</i>
Crimson Topaz	4		E					1	<i>Topaza pella</i>
Blue-tailed Emerald	1		A					1	<i>Chlorostilbon mellisugus</i>
Fork-tailed Woodnymph	5		E	I				1	<i>Thalurania furcata</i>
White-chinned Sapphire	1		I					1	<i>Hylocharis cyanus</i>
White-tailed Goldenthrout	2		A	E				1	<i>Polytmus guainumbi</i>
Buffy Hummingbird	1		A					2	<i>Leucippus fallax</i>
White-chested Emerald	3		A	I				1	<i>Amazilia chionopectus</i>
Glittering-throated Emerald	5		A	E	I			1	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>
Velvet-browed Brilliant	1		E					1	<i>Heliodoxa xanthogonys</i>
Scissor-tailed Hummingbird	1		C					1	<i>Hylonympha macrocerca</i>
Black-eared Fairy	3		E	I				1	<i>Heliothryx aurita</i>
Long-billed Starthroat	4		E	I				1	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>
White-tipped Quetzal	1		P					1	<i>Pharomachrus fulgidus</i>
Amazonian White-tailed Trogon	3	3h	A	E	I			1	<i>Trogon viridis</i>
Collared Trogon	1		P					1	<i>Trogon collaris</i>
Masked Trogon	1		E					1	<i>Trogon personatus</i>
Amazonian Violaceous Trogon	1	2h	I					1	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>
Ringed Kingfisher	-	1h	A					1	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>
Amazon Kingfisher	1	1h	A	E				1	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>
Green Kingfisher	2		E	I				1	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher	2		A	I				1	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>
American Pygmy Kingfisher	3		A					1	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>
Yellow-billed Jacamar	1		I					1	<i>Galbula albirostris</i>
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	1	2h	A					1	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>

Green-tailed Jacamar	1		I			1	<i>Galbula galbula</i>
Paradise Jacamar	4		E	I		2	<i>Galbula dea</i>
Great Jacamar	2		E	I		1	<i>Jacamerops aurea</i>
White-necked Puffbird	2		E			1	<i>Notharchus macrorhynchos</i>
Pied Puffbird	1		I			1	<i>Notharchus tectus</i>
Russet-throated Puffbird	1	1h	A			1	<i>Hypnelus ruficollis</i>
Black Nunbird	2	1h	E	I		1	<i>Monasa atra</i>
Swallow-winged Puffbird	7		E	I		2	<i>Chelidoptera tenebrosa</i>
Black-spotted Barbet	1		I			1	<i>Capito niger</i>
Groove-billed Toucanet	2	1h	P	C		1	<i>Aulacorhynchus sulcatus</i>
Black-necked Araçari	5		E	I		3	<i>Pteroglossus aracari</i>
Green Araçari	1		I			1	<i>Pteroglossus viridis</i>
Channel-billed Toucan	2	1h	E			1	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>
White-throated Toucan	5	5h	A	E	I	2	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i>
Golden-spangled Piculet	1		E			1	<i>Picumnus exilis</i>
Black-dotted Piculet	2		A			1	<i>Picumnus nigropunctatus</i>
Spot-breasted Woodpecker	1		A			1	<i>Chrysoptilus punctigula</i>
Golden-olive Woodpecker	3		P	E		1	<i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	1	2h	E	I		1	<i>Piculus flavigula</i>
Chestnut Woodpecker	1		E			1	<i>Celeus elegans</i>
Waved Woodpecker	1	1h	E	I		1	<i>Celeus undatus</i>
Cream-coloured Woodpecker	1		A			1	<i>Celeus flavus</i>
Lineated Woodpecker	8	1h	A	E	I	1	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	5	1h	E	I		2	<i>Melanerpes cruentatus</i>
Red-crowned Woodpecker	6		A	E		1	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>
Golden-collared Woodpecker	3	2h	E	I		1	<i>Veniliornis cassini</i>
Crimson-crested Woodpecker	3		A	E		1	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>
Red-necked Woodpecker	1		E			1	<i>Campephilus rubricollis</i>
Pale-breasted Spinetail	1		A			1	<i>Synallaxis albescens</i>
Stripe-breasted Spinetail	2		P	C		1	<i>Synallaxis cinnamomea</i>
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	1	1h	A			1	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomea</i>
Eastern Striped Woodhaunter	-	1h	I			1	<i>Hyloctistes subulatus</i>
Olive-backed Foliage-gleaner	-	1h	I			1	<i>Automolus infuscatus</i>
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner	-	1h	E			1	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>
Plain Xenops	1		E			1	<i>Xenops minutus</i>
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	2		E	I		1	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	4		E	I		1	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>
Olivaceous Woodcreeper	-	1h	I			1	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>
Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper	1		I			1	<i>Dendrexetastes rufigula</i>
Straight-billed Woodcreeper	2		A			1	<i>Xiphorhynchus picus</i>
Olive-backed Woodcreeper	1		C			1	<i>Xiphorhynchus obsoletus</i>
Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper	1		I			1	<i>Xiphorhynchus pardalotus</i>
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	3	1h	E	I		1	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>
Cocoa Woodcreeper	-	2h	P	C		1	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	1		A			1	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>
Curve-billed Scythebill	1		I			1	<i>Campylorhamphus procurvoides</i>
Fasciated Antshrike	1		I			1	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>
Black-throated Antshrike	2		E	I		1	<i>Frederickena viridis</i>
Great Antshrike	1	1h	I			1	<i>Taraba major</i>
Black-crested Antshrike	2		A	E		1	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>
Barred Antshrike	1		A			1	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>
Mouse-coloured Antshrike	2		E	I		1	<i>Thamnophilus murinus</i>
Streak-backed Antshrike	1		E			1	<i>Thamnophilus insignis</i>
Plain Antwren	1		P			1	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>
Dusky-throated Antshrike	2		E	I		1	<i>Thamnomanes ardesiacus</i>
Cinereous Antshrike	1	1h	E	I		1	<i>Thamnomanes caesius</i>
Pygmy Antwren	2	2h	E	I		1	<i>Myrmotherula brachyura</i>
Guianan Streaked-Antwren	1		I			2	<i>Myrmotherula surinamensis</i>
Rufous-bellied Antwren	1		E			1	<i>Myrmotherula guttata</i>
Brown-bellied Antwren	1		I			1	<i>Myrmotherula gutturalis</i>
Slaty Antwren	1		P			1	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>
Long-winged Antwren	1		I			1	<i>Myrmotherula longipennis</i>
Grey Antwren	2		I			1	<i>Myrmotherula menetriesii</i>

Spot-tailed Antwren	-	1h	E					1	<i>Herpsilochmus sticturus</i>
Todd's Antwren	1	1h	E					1	<i>Herpsilochmus stictocephalus</i>
Grey Antbird	-	2h	I					1	<i>Cercomacra cinerascens</i>
Dusky Antbird	1	2h	E	I				1	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>
White-browed Antbird	1		E					1	<i>Myrmoborus leucophrys</i>
Warbling Antbird	1		E					1	<i>Hypocnemis cantator</i>
Black-chinned Antbird	1		A					1	<i>Hypocnemoides melanopogon</i>
Scale-backed Antbird	1	2h	E					1	<i>Hylophylax poecilinota</i>
Silvered Antbird	1	1h	A					1	<i>Sclateria naevia</i>
White-bellied Antbird	-	1h	A					1	<i>Myrmeciza longipes</i>
Ferruginous-backed Antbird	1		I					1	<i>Myrmeciza ferruginea</i>
White-plumed Antbird	-	1h	I					1	<i>Pithys albifrons</i>
Rufous-throated Antbird	2		E	I				1	<i>Gymnopithys rufigula</i>
Black-faced Antthrush	1		P					1	<i>Formicarius analis</i>
Slate-crowned Antpitta	1		P					1	<i>Grallaricula nana</i>
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet	1		P					2	<i>Phyllomyias griseiceps</i>
Golden-faced Tyrannulet	1		P					1	<i>Zimmerius chrysops</i>
White-lored Tyrannulet	1	1h	E					1	<i>Ornithion inerme</i>
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	1	1h	A	I				1	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	1	2h	A	I				1	<i>Tyrannulus elatus</i>
Forest Elaenia	2	4h	E	I				1	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i>
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	2	2h	A	E	I			1	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>
Lesser Elaenia	1		E					1	<i>Elaenia chiriquensis</i>
Plain-crested Elaenia	1		E					1	<i>Elaenia cristata</i>
Yellow Tyrannulet	1	1h	I					1	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	-	1h	I					1	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>
Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant	1	1h	E					1	<i>Myiornis ecaudatus</i>
Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant	2	4h	A	E	I			1	<i>Lophotriccus galeatus</i>
Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher	1	1h	A	I				1	<i>Poecilatriccus sylvia</i>
Spotted Tody-Flycatcher	1		A					1	<i>Todirostrum maculatum</i>
Common Tody-Flycatcher	2	1h	A	I				1	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Painted Tody-Flycatcher	1		I					1	<i>Todirostrum pictum</i>
Zimmer's Flatbill	1	2h	E	I				1	<i>Tolmomyias assimilis</i>
Grey-crowned Flatbill	1		E					1	<i>Tolmomyias poliocephalus</i>
Ochre-lored Flatbill	1	1h	A	E				1	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>
Bran-coloured Flycatcher	1		E					1	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
Cinnamon Flycatcher	-	1h	C					1	<i>Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea</i>
Smoke-coloured Pewee	1		E					1	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>
Cliff Flycatcher	1		E					1	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>
Cattle Tyrant	4		A	E				2	<i>Machetornis rixosus</i>
Pied Water-Tyrant	3		A					1	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	2		A					1	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
Bright-rumped Attila	-	2h	E	I				1	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>
Cinnamon Attila	-	1h	A					1	<i>Attila cinnamomeus</i>
Greyish Mourner	3		E	I				1	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1	1h	E	I				1	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Short-crested Flycatcher	2	1h	A	E	I			1	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	1		I					1	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
Great Kiskadee	11		A	P	C	I	E	1	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Lesser Kiskadee	2		A					1	<i>Philohydor lictor</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	1	3h	A	E	I			1	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
Social Flycatcher	5		A	E	I			2	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	6		A	E	I			3	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
Yellow-throated Flycatcher	2		E	I				1	<i>Conopias parva</i>
Streaked Flycatcher	2		A	E				1	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Piratic Flycatcher	3		E	I				1	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
Tropical Kingbird	14		A	E	I	P	C	3	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Grey Kingbird	1		P					1	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	5		A	E	I			3	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
Screaming Piha	1	3h	E	A				1	<i>Lipaugus vociferans</i>
Rose-collared Piha	1		E					1	<i>Lipaugus streptophorus</i>
Pink-throated Becard	1		E					1	<i>Platypsaris minor</i>
Black-crowned Tityra	1		A					1	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>

Black-tailed Tityra	2		E						1	<i>Tityra cayana</i>
Handsome Fruiteater	1		P						2	<i>Pipreola formosa</i>
White Bellbird	1		E						1	<i>Procnias alba</i>
Purple-throated Fruitcrow	1	1h	I						2	<i>Querula purpurata</i>
Capuchinbird	1	1h	E						1	<i>Perissocephalus tricolor</i>
Guianan Cock-of-the-rock	2		E						1	<i>Rupicola rupicola</i>
Olive Manakin	2		E						1	<i>Chloropipo uniformis</i>
Black Manakin	1		C						1	<i>Xenopipo atronitens</i>
Crimson-hooded Manakin	1		A						1	<i>Pipra aureola</i>
Scarlet-horned Manakin	2		E						2	<i>Pipra cornuta</i>
Golden-headed Manakin	5		P	E	I				3	<i>Pipra erythrocephala</i>
White-crowned Manakin	2		E						1	<i>Dixiphia pipra</i>
Orange-bellied Manakin	2		E						1	<i>Lepidothrix suavisissima</i>
Tiny Tyrant-Manakin	-	1h	I						1	<i>Tyrannetes virescens</i>
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	2	1h	C	E	I				1	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo	-	3h	E	I					1	<i>Vireolanius leucotis</i>
Red-eyed Vireo	1		E						1	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Brown-capped Vireo	1		P						1	<i>Vireo leucophrys</i>
Scrub Greenlet	1	1h	I						1	<i>Hylophilus flavipes</i>
Tepui Greenlet	-	1h							1	<i>Hylophilus sclateri</i>
Buff-cheeked Greenlet	2	2h	E	I					1	<i>Hylophilus muscicapinus</i>
Cayenne Jay	3		E	I					1	<i>Cyanocorax cayanus</i>
Inca Jay	2		C						2	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>
Brown-chested Martin	2		E						1	<i>Progne tapera</i>
Grey-breasted Martin	10		A	P	C	E	I		3	<i>Progne chalybea</i>
White-winged Swallow	9		A	E	I				3	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>
Black-collared Swallow	2		E						1	<i>Atticora melanoleuca</i>
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	5		A	E	I				1	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
Tawny-headed Swallow	1		E						1	<i>Alopochelidon fucata</i>
Barn Swallow	2		E						3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Black-capped Donacobius	1		A						3	<i>Donacobius atricapillus</i>
Bicoloured Wren	2	1h	A	E					1	<i>Campylorhynchus griseus</i>
Stripe-backed Wren	2	1h	A						2	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>
Coraya Wren	2	3h	E	I					1	<i>Thryothorus coraya</i>
House Wren	4	4h	A	P	C	I	E		1	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
White-breasted Wood-Wren	1		I						1	<i>Henicorhina leucosticta</i>
Musician Wren	-	1h	I						1	<i>Cyphorhinus arada</i>
Long-billed Gnatwren	-	2h	E						1	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>
Tropical Gnatcatcher	2		A	E					1	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>
Bare-eyed Thrush	2		A	C					3	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>
Black-billed Thrush	1		E						2	<i>Turdus ignobilis</i>
Pale-breasted Thrush	6		C	E	I				1	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>
White-necked Thrush	1		P						2	<i>Turdus albicollis</i>
Tropical Mockingbird	8		A	C	E	I			3	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>
Tropical Parula	1	2h	P	E					1	<i>Parula pitayumi</i>
Yellow Warbler	3		A	E					1	<i>Dendroica aestiva</i>
Blackpoll Warbler	1		E						1	<i>Dendroica striata</i>
American Redstart	1		E						1	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
Northern Waterthrush	3		A	I					1	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>
Masked Yellowthroat	1		A						1	<i>Geothlypis aequinoctialis</i>
Slate-throated Whitestart	3		C	E					1	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
Paria Whitestart	1		P						1	<i>Myioborus pariae</i>
Tepui Whitestart	1		E						1	<i>Myioborus castaneocapillus</i>
Three-striped Warbler	1		P						3	<i>Basileuterus tristriatus</i>
Rose-breasted Chat	1		I						1	<i>Granatellus pelzelni</i>
Bananaquit	11		A	P	C	E	I		2	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
Bicoloured Conebill	1		A						1	<i>Conirostrum bicolor</i>
Black-faced Tanager	1		E						1	<i>Schistochlamys melanopis</i>
Yellow-backed Tanager	1		E						2	<i>Hemithraupis flavicollis</i>
Olive-backed Tanager	2		E						1	<i>Mitrospingus oleagineus</i>
White-lined Tanager	2		A	I					1	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>
Fulvous-crested Tanager	3		E						1	<i>Tachyphonus surinamus</i>
Red-shouldered Tanager	1		E						1	<i>Tachyphonus phoenicius</i>

White-shouldered Tanager	1		E					1	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	-	1h	E					1	<i>Habia rubica</i>
Silver-beaked Tanager	11		A	E	I			3	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>
Blue-grey Tanager	13		A	C	P	E	I	3	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>
Palm Tanager	10		A	E	I			3	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
Blue-capped Tanager	1		P					1	<i>Thraupis cyanocephala</i>
Orange-bellied Euphonia	4		E	I				1	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>
White-vented Euphonia	2		E					1	<i>Euphonia minuta</i>
Purple-throated Euphonia	1		E					1	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>
Plumbeous Euphonia	1		E					1	<i>Euphonia plumbea</i>
White-lored Euphonia	1		I					1	<i>Euphonia chrysopasta</i>
Blue-naped Chlorophonia	1		P					1	<i>Chlorophonia cyanea</i>
Black-headed Tanager	2		E					2	<i>Tangara cyanoptera</i>
Turquoise Tanager	5		A	E	I			2	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>
Paradise Tanager	1		E					3	<i>Tangara chilensis</i>
Spotted Tanager	2		E					1	<i>Tangara punctata</i>
Speckled Tanager	3		E					3	<i>Tangara guttata</i>
Yellow-bellied Tanager	2		E					3	<i>Tangara xanthogastra</i>
Bay-headed Tanager	4		P	E	I			3	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>
Blue Dacnis	5		E	I				3	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Green Honeycreeper	2		E					1	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>
Short-billed Honeycreeper	1		I					1	<i>Cyanerpes nitidus</i>
Purple Honeycreeper	3		E	I				1	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>
Red-legged Honeycreeper	2		E	I				1	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>
Greater Flowerpiercer	1		E					1	<i>Diglossa major</i>
Greyish Saltator	3		A	I				3	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>
Buff-throated Saltator	1		I					1	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Slate-coloured Grosbeak	1		I					1	<i>Saltator grossus</i>
Blue-black Grosbeak	-	2h	I					1	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanoides</i>
Red-capped Cardinal	2		I					2	<i>Paroaria gularis</i>
Blue-black Grassquit	4		A	E	I			1	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Black-faced Grassquit	1		A					1	<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>
Lesser Seed-Finch	1	1h	E					1	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>
Grey Seedeater	1		A					3	<i>Sporophila intermedia</i>
Plumbeous Seedeater	1		E					2	<i>Sporophila plumbea</i>
Wing-barred Seedeater	1		A					1	<i>Sporophila americana</i>
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	2		E					2	<i>Sporophila minuta</i>
Saffron Finch	3		E					3	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
Ochre-breasted Brush-Finch	1		C					1	<i>Atlapetes semirufus</i>
Tepui Brush-Finch	1		E					1	<i>Atlapetes personatus</i>
Stripe-headed Brush-Finch	1		P					1	<i>Buarremon torquatus</i>
Pectoral Sparrow	-	1h	I					1	<i>Arremon taciturnus</i>
Rufous-collared Sparrow	2		E					2	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Eastern Meadowlark	3		E	I				2	<i>Sturnella magna</i>
Red-breasted Blackbird	3		A	I				3	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>
Tepui Mountain-Grackle	2		E					3	<i>Macroagelaius imthurni</i>
Carib Grackle	8		A	E	I			3	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>
Shiny Cowbird	4		A	I				3	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
Giant Cowbird	2		A					2	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
Moriche Oriole	2		E					1	<i>Icterus chryscephalus</i>
Venezuelan Troupial	1		I					1	<i>Icterus icterus</i>
Yellow Oriole	5		A	E	I			1	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>
Yellow-rumped Cacique	3		A	I				3	<i>Cacicus cela</i>
Red-rumped Cacique	3		E	I				3	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>
Crested Oropendola	13		A	P	C	E	I	2	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
Green Oropendola	2	1h	E	I				1	<i>Psarocolius viridis</i>

MAMMALS

Wedge-capped Capuchin Monkey	2	1h	A	E		1	<i>Cebus olivaceus</i>
Red Howler Monkey	5	4h	A	E	I	1	<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>
Red-tailed Squirrel	2		A			1	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>
Tayra	1		C			1	<i>Eita barbara</i>
Southern Naked-tailed Armadillo	1		E			1	<i>Cabassous unicinctus</i>

REPTILES

Marine Toad	1		I			1	<i>Buffo marinus</i>
Spectacled Caiman	2		A			1	<i>Caiman crocodilus</i>
Green Iguana	3		A	E		1	<i>Iguana iguana</i>

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



Crimson Topaz



Scissor-tailed Hummingbird



Crimson-hooded Manakin



Scarlet-horned Manakin



White-tailed Sabrewing



White-throated Toucan



Russet-throated Puffbird



Southern Naked-tailed Armadillo

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