

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS

COLOMBIA

9 – 30 October 2012

TOUR REPORT

LEADERS: Chris Doughty

Contrary to popular belief Colombia is a peaceful, well run Andean country. It is a tremendous birding destination, with a staggering number of endemic and near-endemic birds and our tour amply demonstrated this. We were very fortunate with the weather, losing almost no birding time to bad weather and we enjoyed a trouble-free tour from beginning to end. We observed no fewer than 39 endemic birds which included Cauca Guan, Chestnut-winged and Colombian Chachalacas, Chestnut Wood-Quail, Yellow-eared Parrot, Santa Marta Screech-Owl, Blossomcrown, White-tailed Starfrontlet, Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, Santa Marta Woodstar, Indigo-capped Hummingbird, Santa Marta Toucanet, Grayish Piculet, Rusty-headed, Streak-capped and Silvery-throated Spinetails, Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner, Parker's Antbird, Brown-banded Antpitta, Santa Marta and Alto Pisones Tapaculos, Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant, Apical Flycatcher, Munchique Wood-Wren, Yellow-crowned Whitestart, White-lored and Santa Marta Warblers, Flame-rumped, Black-and-gold, Gold-ringed and Multicolored Tanagers, Santa Marta Mountain-Tanager, Crested Ant-Tanager, Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer, Santa Marta and Colombian Brush-Finches and Red-bellied Grackle. In addition, we also observed 40 or so near-endemics. Plus several rarely reported species in Colombia, which included Mississippi Kite, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Solitary Eagle, Wilson's Phalarope, Colombian Screech-Owl, Shining-green Hummingbird and Bicolored Antvireo. We also enjoyed a good number of North American migrants wintering or passing through the country, which added further interest to the tour. We also saw the three most emblematic species of the high Andes, Torrent Duck, Oilbird and Andean Cock-of-the-rock. One of the great highlights of the tour was to visit the antpitta feeding-stations at the Rio Blanco Reserve, where we were able to enjoy observing several species of antpittas at point blank range! During the tour we saw 8 different species of antpittas and seven different species of tapaculos.

Following a long and tiring flight from Australia we arrived into Bogota airport after dark. We then met up with our local guide Pablo and our driver and in no time at all, we were all tucked up in bed at a nearby hotel, which rather ironically, was called the Platypus Hotel!

The following morning we rose early and drove back to the airport, observing lots of Feral Pigeons along the way. We then flew due north to Santa Marta. Here we piled our luggage and ourselves into two 4-wheel drive vehicles and headed up a very rough road into the heart of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, observing both Turkey and Black Vultures on the outskirts of Santa Marta. Our first birding stop was in a patch of rainforest a little below the town of Minca. Here we saw a White-tipped Dove in flight, a couple of obliging White-vented Plumeleeters, the attractive Rufous-tailed Jacamar, one or two Plain Xenops, a large Cocoa Woodcreeper, a female Western Slaty-Antshrike, a female Lance-tailed Manakin, a Venezuelan Flycatcher, a rather furtive Rufous-and-white Wren, a single Red-eyed Vireo, we enjoyed good close looks at a Golden-fronted Greenlet, a

stunning Crimson-backed Tanager, several Blue-gray Tanagers and a couple of Palm Tanagers. We also found a couple of species of North American birds, which spend the winter months in South America, the stunning Prothonotary Warbler and the equally impressive Baltimore Oriole. We had lunch at a small restaurant in Minca, where we added Neotropic Cormorant, White-necked Jacobin, Rufous-tailed and Steely-vented Hummingbirds, Black Phoebe and Pale-breasted Thrush. Following lunch we continued up the mountain and a little roadside birding produced a splendid Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Tropical Kingbird, the very beautiful Slate-throated Whitestart, Russet-crowned Warbler and White-lined and Bay-headed Tanagers. We also saw another North American migrant, an Olive-sided Flycatcher. Our next birding stop was at the Cafe del Bruja, where hummingbird feeders and flowering shrubs attracted Long-billed Hermit, Green Violetear, Purple-crowned Woodnymph, the much sought-after Blossomcrown and a very active pair of Rusty Flowerpiercers.

We then drove to the El Derado Lodge, where we spent the remainder of the afternoon birding in the grounds of the lodge. The hummingbird feeder produced Brown and Sparkling Violetears and the stunning Colombian endemic White-tailed Starfrontlet. Other new birds included Band-tailed Guan, Rufous-collared Sparrow, the endemic Santa Marta Brush-Finch and best of all, we were shown the recently described Santa Marta Screech-Owl, at its daytime roost.

The following morning we arrived at the San Lorenzo Ridge shortly after dawn and began our search for new birds amongst the bamboo choked slopes on either side of the ridge. New birds for the tour included fine looks at a Peregrine Falcon in flight, small flocks of noisy Scarlet-fronted Parakeets, several Tyrian Metaltails, a Santa Marta Toucanet, good numbers of endemic Streak-capped Spinetails and a solitary Rusty-headed Spinetail. The White-throated Tyrannulet put in an appearance, we enjoyed super close looks at the range-restricted Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, a large flock of Blue-and-white Swallows, the highland form of Grey-breasted Wood-Wren, a small flock of Andean Siskins, the beautiful and endemic Yellow-crowned Whitestart, the endemic Santa Marta Warbler, the stunning endemic Santa Marta Mountain-Tanager, a White-sided Flowerpiercer, beautiful Blue-naped Chlorophonias and the very attractive Golden-bellied Grosbeak. We even saw the elusive and endemic Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant. We returned for a late lunch at our lodge and then spent the remainder of the afternoon birding around the grounds of the lodge.

This proved rather productive and new birds here included the endemic Santa Marta Woodstar, White-tipped Quetzel, Montane Foliage-Gleaner, Great Thrush, a family party of noisy Black-chested Jays, the endemic White-lored Warbler and two more species of North American migrants, the attractive Blackburnian Warbler and the superb Golden-winged Warbler. We also added two species of mammals, Pat saw a pair of Crab-eating Foxes and we all enjoyed good looks at several Red-tailed Squirrels.

Up early the following morning, for half a days birding in the montane forest around the San Lorenzo Research Station. Here we added Band-tailed Pigeon, noisy flocks of both Red-billed and Scaly-naped Parrots, a pair of uncommon Spotted Barbtails, the huge Strong-billed Woodcreeper, the more delicate Montane Woodcreeper, the stunning Golden-breasted Fruiteater and an Olive-striped Flycatcher. Back to El Derado Lodge for lunch, where we did a little more birding, adding Golden-crowned Flycatcher and the Black-capped Tanager. However, the best sighting was of a family party of seven Black-fronted Wood-Quail. Following lunch we birded an outstanding area of rainforest above Minca. Here we added three very elusive birds, Grey-throated Leaf-tosser, the endemic Santa Marta Tapaculo and the endemic Colombian Brush-Finch. We also added two more North American migrants to our ever growing list, a female American Redstart and a female Summer Tanager.

We spent the following morning birding in foothill forest a little above Minca. New birds came thick and fast and they included large, noisy flocks of Orange-chinned Parakeets, a very handsome Squirrel Cuckoo, a Rufous-breasted Hermit, the rarely observed Coppery Emerald, the very uncommon Indigo-capped Hummingbird, a stunning Blue-crowned Motmot, a pair of Red-crowned Woodpeckers, the extremely range-restricted and endemic Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner, a fine male Barred Antshrike, the very uncommon and range-restricted Black-backed Antshrike, a pair of diminutive White-bearded Manikins, a couple of Sepia-capped Flycatchers, several Ochre-bellied Flycatchers, a good number of range-restricted Venezuelan Tyrannulets, a Tropical Pewee, a very obliging Streaked Flycatcher, the very large Boat-billed Flycatcher, a few Dusky-capped Flycatchers, a pair of Southern Roughwing Swallows, a Rufous-breasted Wren, a splendid Long-billed Gnatwren, a rather plain Brown-capped Vireo, a pair of Lesser Goldfinches, lots of attractive Rufous-capped Warblers, a few Thick-billed Euphonias, Buff-throated Saltator, the range-restricted Golden-winged Sparrow, a male Yellow-bellied Seedeater, the range-restricted and uncommon Large-billed Seed-Finch and the attractive Crested Oropendola, plus another North American migrant the very attractive Black-and-white Warbler. In the afternoon we drove to Rio Hacha, breaking the long drive with a birding stop close to Campana. It was the middle of the afternoon and little at all, was moving around in the heat. However, we did manage to enjoy good looks at the very handsome White-bellied Antbird. A little further down the road, we stopped for a toilet break and of course, we did some birding as well and new birds here included Great and Cattle Egrets, a fine and very large flock of diminutive Green-rumped Parrotlets, a Spot-breasted Woodpecker, a family party of Bicolored Wrens, a Shiny Cowbird and a flock of Carib Grackles. Close to the town of Tigras, we spent a very productive couple of hours birding a fine area of flooded scrubland. Here new birds included the rare Rufous-vented Chachalaca, a couple of Groove-billed Anis, several sightings of White-collared Swifts, a Ringed Kingfisher, the very uncommon and range-restricted Chestnut Piculet, the very beautiful and range-restricted White-whiskered Spinetail, the handsome Black-crested Antshrike, a pair of White-fringed Antwrens, a couple of Great Kiskadees, several Tropical Gnatcatchers, one or two Scrub Greenlets, Tropical Parula, Yellow Warbler, Bananaquit, Blue-black Grassquit and the uncommon Lesson's Seedeater. We also saw a few Venezuelan Red Howler Monkeys.

The following morning was spent birding in Los Flamencos National Park, on the arid Guajira Peninsula, which juts out into the Caribbean Sea. It shares an avifauna with the deserts of Falcon in adjacent areas of Venezuela. First of all, we drove to a large area of tidal lagoons, where we enjoyed a picnic breakfast. The tidal lagoons and a nearby sandy spit produced a whole range of predominantly wetland species, which were new for the tour, they included Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, Great Blue and Tricolored Herons, Snowy and Reddish Egrets, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White and Scarlet Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, American Flamingo, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Osprey, Savanna Hawk, Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras, Limpkin, Grey-necked Wood-Rail, Wattled Jacana, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, Southern Lapwing, Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, Spotted, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Laughing Gull, Gull-billed, Yellow-billed, Caspian, Sandwich, Royal and Common Terns and Black Skimmer.

We also made a methodical search of the adjacent arid scrub where new birds included Crested Bobwhite, Bare-eyed Pigeon, Plain-breasted and Ruddy Ground-Doves, Scaled Dove, Brown-throated Parakeet, the stunning Ruby Topaz Hummingbird, Red-billed Emerald, the beautiful Russet-throated Puffbird, Pale-legged Hornero, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Northern Scrub, Yellow-breasted and Vermilion Flycatchers, Cattle Tyrant, Gray Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher,

Tropical Mockingbird, the stunning Vermilion Cardinal, Grayish and Orinocan Saltators, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Yellow Oriole, Great-tailed Grackle and Red-breasted Blackbird.

We then drove towards Santa Marta, where we were to spend the night. We stopped at an area of forest close to Tigras, an area where we saw three new birds, Social Flycatcher, Buff-breasted Wren and a delightful Orange-crowned Oriole. A final birding stop at an area of forest close to Santa Marta, enabled us to add the Shining-green Hummingbird, to our ever growing list.

The following morning we travelled to the Bale Road, not far out of Santa Marta, to try for the very uncommon and endemic Chestnut-winged Chachalaca. In no time at all they duly obliged and we saw them very well. We also found several new birds for the tour in this forested area, these included a couple of immature Plumbeous Kites, a Gray Hawk, a squawking Yellow-crowned Parrot, a small flock of Sick's Swifts and a male Lineated Woodpecker.

We then headed for the causeway of the Isla de Salamanka National Park, on both sides of the road there were large ponds of water, which contained a large and varied assortment of wetland birds. New birds for the tour included Cocoli Heron, Wood Stork, a few White-cheeked Pintails, half a dozen Northern Shovelers, an uncommon winter visitor from North America, a good number of Short-billed Dowitchers, a couple of delightful Wilson's Phalaropes a rare passage migrant in Colombia and a solitary Large-billed Tern. We then walked a very fine mangrove board walk, where our main target bird was the critically endangered Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, which feeds on flowering mangroves. We quickly found a single bird, which performed very well for us, giving a glittering display of its beautiful plumage. Other new birds in the mangroves, included Striated Heron, two superb Rufescent Tiger-Herons, a Roadside Hawk, a few iridescent Greater Anis, a pair of Pauriques at their daytime roost, an immature Red-rumped Woodpecker, a Yellow-chinned Spinetail, a delightful Pied Water-Tyrant, several Northern Water-Thrushes, a North American migrant and a Bicolored Conebill. We then drove to Santa Marta airport, where we ate a very fine lunch, before flying to Medellin. From here we drove to the Rio Claro Reserve, arriving after dark.

The Rio Claro Reserve, lies in the Magdalena Valley and is an extensive area of lowland hill forest. We spent the morning birding on one of the somewhat muddy trails leading up into the mountains. We saw a steady stream of new birds throughout the morning. As well as two species of monkeys. We found a troop of White-fronted Capuchins and moving with them was a superb Double-toothed Kite, ready to pounce on small birds disturbed by the monkeys. We also watched a good number of Silvery-brown Bare-faced Tamarins, a small species of monkey that is endemic to Colombia, which we were able to watch at very close quarters. We found a perched Blue-headed Parrot, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a migrant from North America, both Pale-bellied and Striped-throated Hermits, an obliging Blue-chested Hummingbird, an equally obliging Bronze-tailed Plumelateer, the very beautiful Purple-crowned Fairy, a male White-tailed Trogon and a female Black-throated Trogon. Two species of splendid puffbirds, the Barred and the White-whiskered, both were very much appreciated, we saw both the Channel-billed and Black-mandibled Toucans, the diminutive Pacific Antwren, the attractive Chestnut-backed Antbird, a stunning male Blue-crowned Manikin, the uncommon Wing-barred Piprites, the rather dull Olivaceous Flatbill, lots of Eastern Wood-Pewees, a migrant from North America and a Great-crested Flycatcher, yet another North American migrant. We also saw Band-backed and Bay Wrens, lots of Swainson's Thrushes, another North American migrant, the attractive Buff-rumped Warbler, the range-restricted Black-faced Dacnis, Tawny-crested, Yellow-backed and Dusky-faced Tanagers and a fine looking Slate-colored Grosbeak.

Following lunch we headed off for Gruta del Condor, a large cave, which is home to the Oilbird, a

mono family, which is endemic to South America. On the way, a small area of farmland produced Capped Heron, Green Kingfisher, Collared Aracari, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Lesser Kiskadee, Cinnamon Becard, the uncommon White-thighed Swallow, Southern House Wren, Black-billed Thrush, Saffron Finch and Yellow-rumped Cacique. A patch of rainforest close to the cave produced Rufous Motmot, Euler's Flycatcher and Canada Warbler, another migrant from North America. We very much enjoyed observing several Oilbirds inside the cave.

While walking to the dining room before dawn the following morning, some of the group were lucky enough to spotlight a family party of Lemurine Night Monkeys. Following breakfast a spot of early morning birding in the Rio Claro Reserve, provided us with excellent looks at the star bird of the reserve, the Magdalena Antbird, which as the name would suggest, is endemic to the Magdalena Valley. Where unfortunately, most of the rainforest has been cleared, making the Magdalena Antbird a particularly endangered species. We then visited a private area of rainforest at a nearby limestone quarry. The birding was excellent here and new birds constantly popped into view, these included a couple of Least Grebes, a very close flock of range-restricted Spectacled Parrotlets, large numbers of Smooth-billed Anis, the attractive Gartered Trogon, the diminutive Olivaceous Piculet, the very uncommon Western Striped Manakin, Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, both Slate-headed and Black-headed Tody-Flycatchers, the stunning Long-tailed Tyrant, Piratic and Rusty-margined Flycatchers, a pair of Masked Tityras, the very attractive White-winged Swallow, both Gray-breasted and Brown-chested Martins, the range-restricted Black-bellied Wren and the Plain-colored and Golden-hooded Tanagers. The rest of the day was taken up by a very long drive to Anori, for a two nights stay at the recently created, Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve. We broke the long drive at a small wetland often referred to as the 'Screamer Marsh'. One of only a handful of places in the world where the huge Northern Screamer can be found. In addition to 15 screamers, other new birds included Bare-faced Ibis, an immature Mississippi Kite, a rare passage migrant in Colombia, from its breeding grounds in North America, we also saw a Laughing Falcon, a Purple Gallinule and a couple of Common Gallinules. A second birding stop at an even smaller swamp produced a pair of Aplamado Falcons, a Pale-vented Pigeon and an uncommon Gray Seedeater.

The Chestnut-capped Piha reserve was set up to protect the piha and the forest it depends on. It provided us with an excellent days birding despite constant rain in the morning, new birds here included Greenish Puffleg, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-rumped Antwren, the delightful White-crowned Manikin, Golden-faced Tyrannulet, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee another North American migrant, the range-restrictive Sooty-headed Wren, the very attractive Green Jay, Three-striped Warbler, Lemon-rumped Tanager, Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager, and the attractive Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch. Back for lunch at the lodge and a short break as we watched the hummingbird feeders and several ripe bananas, which attracted many colourful tanagers. Here we added Colombian Chachalaca, Green-crowned Woodnymph, Andean and Western Emerald, Green-crowned Brilliant, the stunning Purple-throated Woodstar, Tennessee Warbler yet another North American migrant, Golden, Silver-throated, Scrub and Blue-necked Tanagers, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, another North American migrant, Black-winged Saltator and Black-striped Sparrow.

We then headed back into the forest where we continued to find new birds which included Broad-winged Hawk, a migrant from North America, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Slaty Spinetail, Liniated Foliage-gleaner, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Plain Antwren, the spectacular Golden-winged Manakin, the aptly named Ornate Flycatcher, Scale-crested Pgymy-Tyrant, the breathtaking Purplish-mantled Tanager, Speckled Tanager and Beryl-spangled Tanager. We also saw two of the very special birds of this area, Parker's Antbird and the Stiles's Tapaculo. We also saw a new species of mammal here, the Western Dwarf Squirrel.

The following morning we spent a couple of hours birding in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, following breakfast. We added a further dozen or so new birds to our trip list, they included the very timid Chestnut Wood-Quail, the attractive Striped Cuckoo, a Masked Trogon, Highland Motmot, a pair of Red-headed Barbets, Yellow-bellied Siskin, the beautiful Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, a pair of Green Honeycreepers, a female Guira Tanager, Streaked Saltator, Russet-backed Oreopendola and best of all, the endemic and very uncommon Red-bellied Grackle. We also added more North American migrants, which included Gray-cheeked Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo and a stunning male Cerulean Warbler, in full breeding plumage. This is a particularly uncommon North American bird. We then spent the rest of the day on a long and winding drive to the colonial town of Jardin, high in the Andes Mountains.

High above Jardin the following morning, we were treated to a bright and sunny day. We saw a pair of Sickie-winged Guans on the track on the way up to the cloudforest. We soon found our main target bird, the Yellow-eared Parrot, we watched several small flocks flying overhead, giving particularly good looks on one occasion. We spent the whole morning birding in the cloudforest and were rewarded with many new birds. A family of farmers invited us to check out their hummingbird feeders, here we enjoyed super close looks at the superb Mountain Velvetbreast, the brilliantly coloured Collared Inca and the exquisite Tourmaline Sunangel. The rest of the mornings birding was not quite so easy, as we slowly prized each new species out of the cloudforest. We added Speckled Hummingbird, three species of spinetails, Azara's, Rufous and White-browed, the Pearled Treerunner showed well, as did a couple of Streaked Tuftedcheeks, we glimpsed a Striped Treehunter and enjoyed a pair of Green-and-black Fruiteaters. A White-tailed Tyrannulet popped into view, as did a Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, we also enjoyed super close looks at a very obliging Rufous-breasted Flycatcher. A Rufous-crowned Tody-Tyrant was much admired, as were no less than three species of Chat-Tyrants, Yellow-bellied, Slaty-backed and Rufous-breasted. A Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant posed for us on the top of a large bush, we saw a female Barred Becard, a delightful Rufous Wren and the range-restrictive Golden-fronted Whitestart. We also saw both Black-capped and Superciliaired Hemispingus, several Blue-capped Tanagers and the stunning Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager. A couple of Capped Conebills proved elusive, we fared better with White-naped and Slaty Brush-Finch and the Mountain Cacique.

Following a hard-earned siesta, we visited a nearby Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek, where the splendid males put on a breathtaking display for us. Other new birds for the tour seen here were Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Flame-rumped Tanager, Yellow-faced Grassquit and Yellow-backed Oriole.

The following morning we birded in a mix of rainforest and scrub, a little above Jardin. An hour or so of birding produced several new birds which included Bronzy Inca, Torrent Tyrannulet, Andean Solitaire, Golden-crowned Warbler and three species of stunning tanagers, Saffron-crowned, Metallic-green and Highland-hepatic. We then drove towards Manizales, where we would spend the night. It was a long drive, so we broke the drive with a birding stop at the Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo. This proved very rewarding new birds here included the endemic Grayish Piculet, Sooty-headed and Mouse-colored Tyrannulets, Greenish Elaenia, Streak-necked and Yellow-olive Flycatchers, the endemic Apical Flycatcher, the uncommon Rufous-naped Greenlet and the beautiful Purple Honeycreeper.

The next morning found us at over 4,000 metres on the paramo below the smouldering Nevado del Ruiz. During the course of the day we became increasingly wet and cold, but not before we had enjoyed a good number of new birds. High on the paramo we added Andean Teal, Ruddy Duck,

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Stout-billed Cinclodes, Andean Tit-Spinetail, Sedge Wren, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch and Plain-colored Seedeater. We also watched three very special birds, the very striking Bearded Helmetcrest, Tawny Antpitta and Stillman's Tapaculo. Lower down in dense cloudforest, we added Sharp-shinned Hawk, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Great Sapphirewing, the rarely observed Black-thighed Puffleg, Viridian Metaltail, Black-capped and White-banded Tyrannulets, both Crowned and Brown-backed Chat-Tyrants, Black-crested Warbler, Masked Flowerpiercer, Black-backed Bush-Tanager and Pale-naped Brush-Finch. The rain finally proved too much, so we drove to the splendid Rio Blanco Reserve, where we dried out and watched the hummingbird feeders. New birds from the verandah of the reserve's headquarters included Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Buff-tailed Coronet, Long-tailed Sylph, Brown-bellied Swallow and Gray-browed Brush-Finch. We were then taken into the forest, where we could scarcely believe our eyes as we were taken to an antpitta feeding-station where the stunning Chestnut-crowned Antpitta and the endemic and little-known Brown-banded Antpitta both came into be fed with earthworms. A fitting climax to a wonderful days birding in the high Andes.

We enjoyed a full mornings, birding in the splendid Rio Blanco Reserve, once again the antpitta feeding stations stole the show. As well as the two species seen yesterday we also saw the gigantic Undulated Antpitta, a truly remarkable bird, the beautiful Chestnut-naped Antpitta and the diminutive Slate-crowned Antpitta. All just a few metres away, simply breathtaking! One of the other highlights was the Masked Saltator, a little known species, which was only recently found to occur in Colombia. Yet another highlight of today's birding was the sighting of a superb Plushcap, a truly remarkable bird. There was also a supporting cast of other new birds, which included Eared Dove, the very uncommon Golden-plumed Parakeet, Bronze-winged Parrot, the uncommon White-bellied Woodstar, the magnificent Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Striated Xenops, Tyrannine Woodcreeper, Long-tailed Antbird, the beautiful but very uncommon Ocellated Tapaculo, Blackish Tapaculo, Mountain Elaenia, Flavescent, Cinnamon and Pale-edged Flycatchers, the very uncommon Black-and-white Becard, Sharpe's and Mountain Wrens, the range-restricted Black-collared Jay, Black-eared Hemispingus, Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager, the very attractive Grass-green Tanager, the delightful Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager and Blue-and-black Tanager. In the afternoon we drove high into the mountains, for a three nights stay at the splendid Tatama National Park.

Unfortunately the following day was marred by steady rain throughout the whole day. Undaunted, we still went birding and as the morning progressed we became more and more miserable and wet. However, we did find some splendid new birds, which included Blackish Rail, Gray-rumped Swift, the range-restricted Bicolored Antvireo, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, a pair of very attractive Chestnut-bellied Chlorophonias, the very uncommon Olive Finch, Variable Seedeater and best of all, the rare and endemic Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer. Back at the lodge for lunch, where the hummingbird feeders attracted new birds for us, which included Empress Brilliant, White-tailed Hillstar, Velvet-purple Coronet and Violet-tailed Sylph, all simply stunning species of hummers. A foray in the rain in the afternoon, netted three new species for us, Olive-backed Woodcreeper, the endemic Black-and-gold Tanager and the endemic Crested Ant-Tanager.

Following 24 hours of non-stop rain, the following morning dawned bright and sunny, with no rain. We were determined to take full advantage of it. We spent the whole day birding in the cloudforest of Tatama National Park. New birds for the tour, popped into view at regular intervals, many of them in mixed species feeding flocks. The main target species was the endemic Munchique Wood-Wren, which only occurs at two known sites. Fortunately it responded well to tape playback and we saw it particularly well. Other much sought after species included the very uncommon Chestnut-breasted Wren, the rare Black Solitaire, the stunning Gold-ringed Tanager, the uncommon Black-

chinned Mountain-Tanager, the superb Glistening-green Tanager, the beautiful Flame-faced Tanager and the delightful Yellow-collared Chlorophonia. Other new birds included Tawny-bellied Hermit, Yellow-vented Woodpecker, Red-faced Spinetail, Fulvous-dotted and Uniform Treehunters, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Scale-throated Foliage-Gleaner, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Olivaceous Piha, Choco Tyrannulet, Bronze-olive Pgymy-Tyrant, Handsome Flycatcher, Smoke-colored Pewee, Dusky Bush-Tanager and Tricolored Brush-Finch.

Our last morning at Tatama National Park dawned sunny and bright and we birded at various altitudes, picking up a good number of new birds throughout the morning. These included the very uncommon Solitary Eagle, which circled above us calling loudly. We enjoyed great looks at a Brown Inca feeding on flowers in the forest, we admired a male Golden-headed Quetzal and three fantastic Toucan Barbets. We managed to prize two more tapaculos out of the forest, Narino and the very recently discovered Alto Pisones Tapaculo. We taped in a couple of Rufous-browed Tyrannulets, a Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant put in a brief appearance, I glimpsed a White-capped Dipper and we had great looks at the range restricted White-headed Wren. We greatly admired the aptly named, Beautiful Jay and we added two more species of flowerpiercers, the Indigo and the Bluish. In the afternoon we drove directly to Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

We spent the following morning birding along the main track in the Outun-Quimbaya National Park. Very quickly we found the two main target birds of this area, the endemic Cauca Guan and the striking Red-ruffed Fruitcrow. We also saw a male Uniform Antshrike and a stunning male White-winged Tanager. We then went off the track and into the rainforest, in the hope of calling into view the rarely observed Moustached Antpitta, one of the more difficult of all the antpittas. After much coaxing a bird perched on a small branch one foot above the ground, no more than a few metres away from us, for quite some time. The birding then got a little more hectic as the mixed-species flocks gathered for their morning wanderings. A Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet was observed in the canopy and eventually it came down low enough to be seen well, an impressive Rusty-winged Barbtail slowly worked its way up a moss-encrusted branch and a Variegated Bristle-Tyrant flitted around overhead. Both Common and Ashy-throated Bush-Tanagers hunted together within the flock and finally a fitting end to the morning birding occurred when we saw the uncommon and endemic Multicolored Tanager for a prolonged period of time.

In the afternoon we saw a Central American Aguti, sat in the middle of the track as we walked down to a fast flowing mountain stream, where we enjoyed a great spectacle from a pair of Torrent Ducks. On the way back we found a Golden-olive Woodpecker in the grounds of our lodge. Following dinner we did a little spotlighting and had tremendously close views of a pair of White-winged Nightjars and super close looks at the endemic Colombian Screech-Owl.

A final morning in Otun-Quimbaya National Park produced yet more new birds; a pair of Booted Racket-tails performed nicely for us, a female Collared Trogon popped up in front of us, there was a quick sighting of a pair of Acorn Woodpeckers, an Ashy-headed Tyrannulet was picked out amongst one of the mixed-species feeding flocks, a male Blackpoll Warbler, a migrant from North America, was seen well and a Giant Cowbird was observed begging for food from its foster parents. We then drove to Pereira Airport and flew to Bogata, Colombia's capital city. We then drove to Laguna Sieche to do some birding for a couple of hours. During the drive a White-tailed Kite was observed flying close to the side of the road. Once at the lagoon we found several pairs of American Coots a very obliging and endemic Silvery-throated Spinetail, enormous numbers of wintering Collared Sand Martins, which included a few wintering Barn and Cliff Swallows. We enjoyed watching several very attractive Yellow-hooded Blackbirds and at dusk we were surrounded by a large number of wintering Common Nighthawks. This was a fitting end to the birding on this

magnificent tour to the wonderful and bird- rich country of Colombia.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

GREBES *PODICIPEIDAE*

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* We were fortunate to find a pair of birds in farmland close to the limestone quarry near Rio Claro.

PELICANS *PELECANIDAE*

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Large numbers observed along the Caribbean coast.

CORMORANTS *PHALACROCORACIDAE*

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Small numbers encountered throughout the whole tour.

FRIGATEBIRDS *FREGATIDAE*

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Small numbers observed during our time along the Caribbean coast.

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNES *ARDEIDAE*

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* An uncommon non-breeding migrant to Colombia, we saw half a dozen or so birds along the Caribbean coast.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* Several birds observed along the Caribbean coast and at the `Screamer Marsh` close to Porto Berrio.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Regularly encountered in small numbers throughout the tour.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Regularly encountered throughout the tour. The Latin word `thula` is an Amur Indian name for the Black-necked Swan, erroneously given to the Snowy Egret!

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* Small numbers present along the Caribbean coast.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* A small number were present along the Caribbean coast. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International, its population is estimated to be between 10,000 and 20,000 and declining. It has recently been listed as near threatened because, despite its large range, it occupies a restricted habitat and is patchily distributed.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Common and widespread throughout Colombia.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Small numbers observed at a number of wetlands.

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus* We observed one of these uncommon herons in farmland close to Gruta del Condor, in the Magdalena Valley.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* Small numbers observed along the Caribbean coast.

Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum* We observed two birds along the mangrove board-walk in the Isla de Salamanca National Park and a few birds at the `Screamer Marsh` close to Porto Berrio.

STORKS *CICONIIDAE*

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* We observed a couple of birds along the Caribbean coast and a few birds at the `Screamer Marsh` close to Porto Berrio.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS *THRESKIORNITIDAE*

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* We observed small numbers along the Caribbean coast.

Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber* Once again, we observed small numbers along the Caribbean coast.
Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus* Large flocks regularly encountered throughout the tour. This species is also known as Whispering Ibis.
Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* This stunning looking species was observed in small numbers in several wetland areas.

FLAMINGOS *PHOENICOPTERIDAE*

American Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* Small numbers observed along the Caribbean coast, this species is also known as Caribbean Flamingo.

SCREAMERS *ANHIMIDAE*

Northern Screamer *Chauna chavaria* Great looks at up to 18 of this prehistoric but magnificent looking creature, at the `Screamer Marsh` close to Porto Berrio. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International, the world population is estimated to be fewer than 10,000 individuals and declining. It is restricted to northern Colombia and the Maracaibo basin in Northwest Venezuela.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS *ANATIDAE*

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Small numbers present in the Los Flamencos National Park, on the Caribbean coast.

Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata* We enjoyed super close looks at a pair of these delightful birds in a fast flowing mountain stream close to the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* Good numbers of this North American migrant were observed throughout the tour.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Half a dozen or so birds of this uncommon northern hemisphere migrant were observed in the Isla de Salamanca National Park, on the Caribbean coast.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* A dozen or so of this uncommon species were observed very well in the Isla de Salamanca National Park, on the Caribbean coast.

Andean Teal *Anas andium* We observed a pair of birds extremely well on a small lake in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* We saw a few birds on the same lake as the Andean Teal, in Nevado del Ruiz National Park and we also saw small numbers on the last day of the tour at the Laguna Sieche, at Bogota.

NEW WORLD VULTURES *CATHARTIDAE*

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* Commonly encountered everywhere, except at the very highest altitudes in the high Andes.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* A very common bird throughout Colombia.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* A single bird was observed very well in the Los Flamencos National Park, along the Caribbean coast and a second individual was observed at close quarters at the `Screamer Marsh` close to Porto Berrio.

OSPREY *PANDIONIDAE*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* We observed a single bird in the Los Flamencos National Park, along the Caribbean coast and we saw a second bird in farmland near the limestone quarry, close to Rio Claro.

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES *ACCIPITRIDAE*

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* We observed a single bird along the roadside, as we drove through Bogota and then we saw a few more at Laguna Sieche, on the outskirts of Bogota.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* While birding in the Rio Claro Reserve we were able to watch a troop of White-fronted Capuchins moving through the canopy and with them was a superb Double-toothed Kite, ready to pounce on small birds disturbed by the monkeys. This enabled us to see this very uncommon species extremely well.

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* We were very fortunate to observe an immature of this rare passage migrant to Colombia, at the 'Screamer Marsh' near Porto Berrio. It is even a very uncommon bird in North America.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* We observed a scattered flock along the Bale Road, near Santa Marta.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* This species is a rare bird in Colombia, we were very fortunate to enjoy good close looks at a bird in flight, during our time in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* Our first sighting of a bird in flight occurred in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park, this was followed by a second sighting, also of a bird in flight, in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis* We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Solitary Eagle *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius* We were very fortunate during our time in the Tatama National Park to enjoy good close looks at a soaring Solitary Eagle. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. It is estimated that the population is between 1,000 and 2,500 individuals. The main threats are deforestation, disturbance at the nest site and illegal shooting.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris* Numerous and widespread, in small numbers, throughout the tour.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* We enjoyed regular encounters with this migrant from North America.

Gray Hawk *Buteo nitidus* We enjoyed good close looks at a single bird early one morning along the Bale Road, near Santa Marta.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS *FALCONIDAE*

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* Regular encounters throughout the tour, they were particularly numerous along the Caribbean coast.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* A widespread open country falcon, which we saw regularly, in small numbers.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* Only seen on one occasion, when we found a single bird perched in a tree, close to the 'Screamer Marsh' near Porto Berrio.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis* We had distant views of a pair perched in a tree while birding at the small swamp close to Amalfi, in the Magdalena Valley.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* We enjoyed three sightings of this beautiful bird, all were of migrants from North America.

GUANS, CHACHALACAS AND CURRASSOWS *CRACIDAE*

Chestnut-winged Chachalaca *Ortalis garrula* We enjoyed good looks at half a dozen or so birds, which perched up in trees, early one morning along the Bale Road, near Santa Marta. This species is endemic to Colombia.

Rufous-vented Chachalaca *Ortalis ruficauda* A pair seen briefly in dry scrub close to Tigras, on the Caribbean coast.

Colombian Chachalaca *Ortalis columbiana* We enjoyed splendid views of several of these birds

at the bird feeders in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori. This species has recently been split off from the Speckled Chachalaca and is endemic to Colombia.

Band-tailed Guan *Penelope argyrotis* Seen well perched in trees at the El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Cauca Guan *Penelope perspicax* This species was thought to be extinct but was rediscovered in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park in 1994. We saw up to half a dozen individuals very well during our time birding in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International. It is estimated that the population is between 1,000 - 2,500 individuals and declining. It has a small range which is highly fragmented. Therefore, its population is not only small but also divided into small populations. The main threat to this species is deforestation, with much of its former range being completely cleared. It is also hunted for food. This species is endemic to Colombia.

Sickle-winged Guan *Chamaepetes goudotii* We saw this species well in cloudforest above Jardin and we also observed it well in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

NEW WORLD QUAIL *ODONTOPHORIDAE*

Crested Bobwhite *Colinus cristatus* A fairly common open country quail of northern Colombia. We saw an individual very well in the Los Flamencos National Park.

Black-fronted Wood-Quail *Odontophorus atrifrons* We enjoyed excellent views of a large family party feeding on the compost heap at the El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International, the population is estimated to be between 2,500 – 10,000 and declining. The birds range is very small and fragmented, it has three separate populations, two in Colombia and one on the Colombia-Venezuela border. The Colombian East Andes have been subject to four centuries of extensive deforestation, which is still the main threat to this species. Some of its range was used for the illegal growing of marijuana in the 1980's and was subsequently sprayed with herbicides by the government in the early 1990's. It is also hunted for food.

Chestnut Wood-Quail *Odontophorus hyperythrus* We were very fortunate to see this species very well on three separate occasions. The first occurred in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and the others occurred in the Tatama National Park. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. The world population is estimated to be fewer than 10,000 individuals and declining.

LIMPKIN *ARAMIDAE*

Limpkin *Aramus guarana* One observed in a flooded field, in the Los Flamencos National Park.

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS *RALLIDAE*

Gray-necked Wood-Rail *Aramides cajanea* We enjoyed two very good sightings of this large species of rail; the first occurred in the Los Flamencos National Park and the second took place in the Rio Claro Reserve.

Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans* We were very fortunate that a family party were living at a small pond right next to our lodge in the Tatama National Park. We enjoyed many excellent sightings.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* We saw a few birds very well at the 'Screamer Marsh', close to Porto Berrio.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* Once again, we saw a few birds at the 'Screamer Marsh', close to Porto Berrio.

American Coot *Fulica americana* We saw large numbers at Laguna Sieche, on the outskirts of Bogota.

JACANAS *JACANIDAE*

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* Seen well in a number of wetland areas throughout the tour.

OYSTERCATCHERS *HAEMATOPODIDAE*

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* We enjoyed good looks at this uncommon species along one of the beaches in the Los Flamencos National Park.

AVOCETS AND STILTS *RECURVIROSTRIDAE*

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* Small numbers were present in the Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS *CHARADRIIDAE*

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* Widespread and common throughout the tour.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* Small numbers of this North American migrant were present in the Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES *SCOLOPACIDAE*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Small numbers of this North American migrant were present in both the Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Small numbers of this North American migrant were also present in the Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* Small numbers of this North American migrant were also present in the Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Small numbers of this North American migrant were also present in the Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* Small numbers of this North American migrant were also present in the Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Small numbers of this North American migrant were present in the Los Flamencos National Park.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Small numbers of this North American migrant were present along the beach in Los Flamencos National Park.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Small numbers of this North American migrant were present along the beach in Los Flamencos National Park.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* Over 100 individuals of this North American migrant were present in both Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* Small numbers of this North American migrant were present in both Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* Half a dozen or so of these North American migrants were observed feeding in the Isla de Salamanca National Park.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* This North American migrant is an uncommon passage migrant through Colombia, most birds winter on high Andean lakes in Peru and Bolivia. We saw a few individuals feeding in one of the lakes in the Isla de Salamanca National Park. Alexander Wilson (1766-1813) was a pioneering American ornithologist, and the first to study American birds in their native habitats. As such he is often called the Father of American Ornithology. Born in Scotland, Wilson was imprisoned for libel and following his release in 1794 he emigrated to the United States. From 1808-1813 he published seven volumes of his *American Ornithology*.

GULLS *LARIDAE*

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* Good numbers of this North American migrant were present

in both the Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

TERNs *STERNIDAE*

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris* Up to a dozen or so birds of this diminutive species of tern were observed very well in the Los Flamencos National Park.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* A single bird was observed on one of the tidal mudflats in the Isla de Salamanca National Park.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* This species is a non-breeding visitor to Colombia, the majority probably originate from North America, although there could be some birds present from breeding colonies in Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina. We saw small numbers in both Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* Small numbers of Caspian Terns winter on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, the only place where they regularly winter in South America. We saw them in both Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* This migrant from North American is an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to Colombia. We saw small numbers along the beach in Los Flamencos National Park.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* We observed small numbers of this North American migrant in both Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* This species is a non-breeding visitor to Colombia, the majority probably originate from North America, although there could be some birds present from breeding colonies elsewhere in South America. We saw a couple of birds along the beach in Los Flamencos National Park.

SKIMMERS *RYNCHOPIDAE*

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* We enjoyed watching a small number of this species 'skimming' over one of the coastal lagoons in the Los Flamencos National Park.

PIGEONS AND DOVES *COLUMBIDAE*

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* This introduced species was often encountered in the towns and villages of Colombia, where it has become very much a domesticated species.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* Seen in flight at a small swamp close to Amalfi and then we saw small numbers close to Jardin.

Bare-eyed Pigeon *Patagioenas corensis* Small numbers of this range restricted species were observed in dry scrub in the Los Flamencos National Park. This species is named after the Venezuelan town of Coro.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* One of the most widespread New World birds, ranging from Alaska to Argentina. We saw it mainly in flight on several occasions during our time in the rainforest.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* A common bird of open areas, which we saw well on several occasions.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina* We saw small numbers in open scrub in the Los Flamencos National Park.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti* Small numbers of this widespread species were observed throughout the tour.

Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata* We observed a pair of birds in dry scrub in the Los Flamencos National Park.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* A common species which we saw and heard regularly throughout the tour.

PARROTS *PSITTACIDAE*

- Golden-plumed Parakeet** *Leptosittaca branickii* We were very fortunate to enjoy two good sightings of this very uncommon bird. We saw them first in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales and then we saw a large flock at point blank range in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International. Its total population is estimated to be between 2,500 -10,000 and declining rapidly. The main threat to this species is the disappearance of wax palms, which it needs for nesting. It has never been a common species.
- Scarlet-fronted Parakeet** *Aratinga wagleri* Good sized flocks seen well on a few occasions during our time in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Brown-throated Parakeet** *Aratinga pertinax* Small flocks were seen well in both the Los Flamencos and Isla de Salamanca National Parks.
- Yellow-eared Parrot** *Ognorhynchus icterotis* We saw a large number of birds high in the mountains above Jardin. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International. The world population is estimated at approximately 600 individuals but is increasing. This species is endangered because the known range, especially the nesting areas, are extremely small. Suitable habitat is severely fragmented throughout its historical range and continues to be lost and degraded. Conservation action is addressing some of the key issues but the future of this species remains extremely uncertain. Endemic to Colombia, where sadly 90-93% of montane forest has been cleared throughout its range. However, several sizeable areas of habitat remain within its historical range, suggesting additional causes of decline. Wax Palm mortality is accelerating and they suffer poor recruitment because cattle browse young trees and logging in adjacent areas increases their susceptibility to disease. Wax Palms are incredibly long-lived and slow-growing mature individuals are over 500 years old. Unfortunately, thousands of palm fronds from the Wax Palm are used by people throughout the world in Palm Sunday Church services.
- Green-rumped Parrotlet** *Forpus passerinus* We saw this very small species of parrot extremely well close to Campana and in open dry forest in the Los Flamencos National Park.
- Spectacled Parrotlet** *Forpus conspicillatus* A near-endemic, we saw a small flock very well in private rainforest at a limestone quarry close to Rio Claro.
- Orange-chinned Parakeet** *Brotogeris jugularis* We observed small numbers close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and we also saw a small flock at Gruta del Condor, close to Rio Claro.
- Blue-headed Parrot** *Pionus menstruus* We enjoyed good looks at this species on more than one occasion in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.
- Red-billed Parrot** *Pionus sordidus* We observed a large flock at San Lorenzo, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Bronze-winged Parrot** *Pionus chalcopterus* We observed a good sized flock in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales and we saw a few small flocks in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.
- Scaly-naped Parrot** *Amazona mercenaria* We saw a fairly large flock of this rather uncommon species of parrot, at San Lorenzo, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and we saw a few small flocks in the Tatama National Park.
- Yellow-crowned Parrot** *Amazona ochrocephala* We observed one of these large species of parrot, along the Bale Road, close to Santa Marta.

CUCKOOS *CUCULIDAE*

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* Seen well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* An uncommon migrant from North America, which we saw very well on one occasion, while birding in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* We only saw this bird on one occasion, however, we did see it well, during our time in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major* Another bird we only saw once, we saw a small flock while walking along the mangrove board-walk in the Isla de Salamanca National Park.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* Common and widespread throughout Colombia, we saw it very well on many occasions.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Seen well at Tigras and also in the Los Flamencos National Park.

OWLS *STRIGIDAE*

Colombian Screech-Owl *Megascops colombianus* Following a great deal of persistence, we enjoyed super looks at this little beauty, in the rainforest at Otun-Quimbaya National Park. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International, it is estimated that there are 10,000 individuals and the population is declining. The main threat to this species is deforestation, which unfortunately, is accelerating within its range, primarily owing to intensive logging. Other threats include human settlement, cattle-grazing, coca cultivation and gold-mining.

Santa Marta Screech-Owl *Megascops santa* We were very fortunate to be shown this recently described species at its daytime roost, in the grounds of the El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This new species is in the process of being formally described. It is currently known from a tiny area on the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains from 1,700 – 2,600 metres in elevation. It is likely to prove more widespread in the mountain range once more surveys have been completed. This species is in the process of being described as Critically Endangered by Birdlife International, mainly because of its incredibly small range.

OILBIRD *STEATORNITHIDAE*

Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* Our excursion to the Gruta del Condor, at Rio Claro, in the Magdalena Valley, produced fabulous views of a few of these very unique birds.

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES *CAPRIMULGIDAE*

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* At dusk at Laguna Sieche, in Bogota, we were surrounded by an enormous flock of this species which were in the process of migrating southwards, to wintering grounds elsewhere in South America. It is a fairly common passage migrant through Colombia during the autumn (southwards) migration but on the return leg, it is a rare passage migrant through Colombia, mainly migrating northwards further to the east.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* We disturbed a pair at their daytime roost in the Isla de Salamanca National Park, however, they soon returned to their roost on the branches of a large tree, where we were able to see them very well indeed.

White-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus cayennensis* We enjoyed point blank looks in the spotlight at a pair of birds sat on the lawn of our lodge in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

SWIFTS *APODIDAE*

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* We saw several small flocks of this common and

widespread species.

Sick's Swift *Chaetura meridionalis* A small flock of this Austral migrant from further south in South America, were observed flying over the Bale Road, near Santa Marta. Helmut Sick (1910-1991) was a German-born Brazilian ornithologist who worked for the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, for many year. He is particularly famed for being the man who rediscovered, in 1978, one of the few surviving populations of the critically endangered Lear's Macaw *Anodorhynchus leari*. His particular interest was macaws and he was also responsible for the re-ordering of some genera in the taxonomic sequence. It has been said that he was one of the most dedicated and active ornithologist ever to work in South America. He wrote *Ornitologia Brasileira uma Introducao* in 1984. This great work was translated into English, in 1993 as *Birds in Brazil – A Natural History*.

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* We saw a few small flocks of this species during our time in the Tatama National Park.

HUMMINGBIRDS TROCHILIDAE

Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsutus* Seen well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* Seen well on one occasion in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Tawny-bellied Hermit *Phaethornis syrmatophorus* Observed feeding in the rainforest during our time in the Tatama National Park.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris* We observed this species feeding in rainforest close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Pale-bellied Hermit *Phaethornis anthophilus* Once again we observed this species feeding in rainforest in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis* Yet again, we observed this uncommon species feeding in rainforest, in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* Proved to be very numerous at some of the hummingbird feeders, in the earlier part of the tour.

Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* Fairly common at the hummingbird feeders in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Green Violetear *Colibri thalassinus* Once again, this species was very common at the hummingbird feeders in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. `Thalassinus` is Latin for `sea green`.

Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans* This species was also common at the hummingbird feeders in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliophryx barroti* Seen well on one occasion, in the rainforest of the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Ruby-topaz Hummingbird *Chrysolampis mosquitus* We were very fortunate to observe this uncommon but very striking species of hummingbird, in the dry open forest of the Los Flamencos National Park.

Tourmaline Sunangel *Heliangelus exortis* We saw this species well at the hummingbird feeders at the farmhouse in the cloudforest above Jardin and we also saw it well at the hummingbird feeders in the Rio Blanco Reserve.

Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys* A fairly common and widespread species, which we saw well on several occasions.

- Blossomcrown** *Anthocephala floriceps* We saw a male and a couple of females of this uncommon Colombian endemic feeding on flowering shrubs, close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International. There is insufficient data on this bird and the current population is unknown. The main threat to this species is loss of habitat to coca and marijuana plantations. In the past, the Colombian authorities have sought to combat these plantations by spraying the slopes with herbicide, simply creating a new problem for the Blossomcrown. It is also threatened by human immigration to the area, which began in the 1950s, this has caused the expansion of agriculture areas, for produce such as coffee and livestock, logging, burning, and the planting of exotic trees, such as pine. As a result of these activities, only 15% of the original rainforest remains in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Long-tailed Sylph** *Agelaiocercus kingi* We enjoyed super close looks at this beautiful species at the hummingbird feeders in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.
- Violet-tailed Sylph** *Agelaiocercus coelestis* We enjoyed many fantastic views of both males and females of this superb Choco endemic at the hummingbird feeders in the Tatama National Park .
- Bearded Helmetcrest** *Oxygogon guerinii* This brilliantly spectacular species was seen well feeding on *Espeletia* shrubs in the high Paramo of Nevado del Ruiz National Park.
- Tyrian Metaltail** *Metallura tyrianthina* We enjoyed many good sightings of this widespread and common species.
- Viridian Metaltail** *Metallura williami* We saw this far less common species feeding on shrubs in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.
- Greenish Puffleg** *Haplophaedia aureliae* Seen well at the hummingbird feeders in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and again at the hummingbird feeders in the Tatama National Park.
- Black-thighed Puffleg** *Eriocnemis derbyi* We enjoyed very good looks at this particularly uncommon bird, feeding on shrubs in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. Is it insufficiently known to have any idea of its total population. The main threat to this species is habitat loss. Within the birds very patchy distribution, the area has been severely deforested over several centuries, to the extent that most, if not all forest, has been cleared, primarily for agricultural expansion.
- Bronzy Inca** *Coeligena coeligena* Seen well on a couple of occasions feeding in the forest close to Jardin and again in the Otun-Quinbaya National Park.
- Brown Inca** *Coeligena wilsoni* We enjoyed good looks at this Choco speciality at the hummingbird feeders in Tatama National Park.
- Collared Inca** *Coeligena torquata* A common but very attractive cloudforest inhabiting hummingbird, which we saw well on several occasions.
- White-tailed Starfrontlet** *Coeligena phalerata* We observed this Colombian endemic on many occasions at the hummingbird feeders at the El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Buff-winged Starfrontlet** *Coeligena lutetiae* We saw this uncommon species very well on the day we visited the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.
- Mountain Velvetbreast** *Lafresnaya lafresnayi* This species was seen well at hummingbird feeders at the farm in the cloudforest above Jardin and in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.
- Great Sapphirewing** *Pterophanes cyanopterus* This large species of hummingbird is an uncommon bird of the high Paramo, we saw it very well on one occasion in the Nevado del

Ruiz National Park.

Buff-tailed Coronet *Boissonneaua flavescens* Common and conspicuous around the feeders at the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Velvet-purple Coronet *Boissonneaua jardini* Seen on many occasions at the hummingbird feeders in the Tatama National Park.

Booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii* We observed a pair of this spectacular hummingbird on one occasion, in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

White-tailed Hillstar *Urochroa bougueri* Observed regularly at the hummingbird feeders in the Tatama National Park.

Fawn-breasted Brilliant *Heliodoxa rubinoides* Seen well on a couple of occasions at the hummingbird feeders in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula* Commonly encountered throughout much of the tour.

Empress Brilliant *Heliodoxa imperatrix* This uncommon species is one of the many Choco specialities that we saw at the excellent Tatama National Park.

White-bellied Woodstar *Chaetocercus mulsant* An uncommon visitor to the hummingbird feeders at the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Santa Marta Woodstar *Chaetocercus astreans* This Colombian endemic was a very occasional visitor to the hummingbird feeders at the El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, however, we did see it very well.

Purple-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox mitchellii* This beautiful species was observed well at the hummingbird feeders in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve and again at the feeders in the Tatama National Park.

Western Emerald *Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus* Regularly encountered at hummingbird feeders throughout the tour.

Red-billed Emerald *Chlorostilbon gibsoni* Small numbers seen well in dry open forest along the Caribbean coast.

Coppery Emerald *Chlorostilbon russatus* This uncommon species was observed well on one occasion in forest close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

White-vented Plumeleteer *Chalybura buffonii* Seen well on a few occasions during the early part of the tour.

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysia* We observed this uncommon species of hummingbird, on one occasion, feeding in rainforest in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Violet-crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica* Proved to be very common in the Santa Marta area.

Green-crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania fannyi* Seen well on a couple of occasions, feeding in the rainforest in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Andean Emerald *Amazilia franciae* Observed very well feeding on the hummingbird feeders in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis* We observed this uncommon species on one occasion, feeding in rainforest in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Steely-vented Hummingbird *Amazilia saucerrottei* Commonly encountered at various hummingbird feeders throughout the tour.

Indigo-capped Hummingbird *Amazilia cyanifrons* Another Colombian endemic which we saw well at hummingbird feeders at Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* This common and widespread species was regularly encountered but only in small numbers.

Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird *Lepidopyga lilliae* We were indeed fortunate to observe this very uncommon Colombian endemic, which we found feeding on flowering mangroves in the Isla de Salamanca National Park. This species is classified as Critically Endangered by Birdlife International. The population is estimated to be between 50 – 250 individuals and declining. This species only occurs in a small area of mangroves in the Santa Marta area of Colombia. Construction of a pipeline and road through the wetlands of the Isla de Salamanca in the mid 1970's obstructed tidal flow, resulting in extensive mangrove die-back, and continuing at least until 1992, fortunately, the mangroves are now regenerating in some areas. The main threats to this species is the expansion of urbanisation into the mangroves resulting in domestic pollution and contamination by sewage.

Shining-green Hummingbird *Lepidopyga goudoti* Seen well on one occasion in a small patch of forest close to Santa Marta.

TROGONS AND QUETZALS *TROGONIDAE*

White-tailed Trogon *Trogon chitinous* Proved to be fairly common in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus* We enjoyed great looks at a pair of birds in private rainforest at a limestone quarry, close to Rio Claro.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus* A male seen well in rainforest, in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* Seen well on a couple of occasions in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus* Scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Golden-headed Quetzal *Pharomachrus auriceps* Seen very well on a couple of occasions during our time in the Tatama National Park.

White-tipped Quetzal *Pharomachrus fulgidus* This range restricted species was observed very well, close to El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

KINGFISHERS *ALCEDINIDAE*

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* Small numbers observed throughout the tour; this is the largest species of kingfisher in the Americas, and the world's second largest species.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* A pair was observed well along a small stream in farmland as we were walking to Gruta del Condor, in the Magdalena Valley. A second bird was observed the following day at a small pond where we had lunch, close to Rio Claro.

MOTMOTS *MOMOTIDAE*

Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota* Seen well in rainforest close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Andean Motmot *Momotus aequatorialis* Up until very recently the common name of this species was Highland Motmot, it is now known as Andean Motmot. We enjoyed many sightings throughout the latter half of the tour.

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii* Seen well on one occasion, in rainforest at the entrance to the cave where we saw the Oilbirds at Gruta del Condor, in the Magdalena Valley.

JACAMARS *GALBULIDAE*

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* Regularly encountered in the Santa Marta area.

PUFFBIRDS *BUCCONIDAE*

Barred Puffbird *Nystalus radiatus* We saw an individual very well in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Russet-throated Puffbird *Hypnelus ruficollis* We enjoyed great looks at a couple of individuals in dry open forest along the Caribbean coast.

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis* We saw this quiet and inconspicuous species perched in rainforest in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

BARBETS *CAPITONIDAE*

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii* Seen well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Toucan Barbet *Semnornis ramphastinus* We saw this large and very beautiful species of barbet very well on one occasion, during our time in the Tatama National Park. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. The main threat to this species is destruction of its rainforest habitat.

TOUCANS *RAMPHASTIDAE*

Santa Marta Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus lautus* This Colombian endemic was observed by myself on one occasion, while birding the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Andean Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus albivitta* Seen well on a few occasions.

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus* Seen well at Gruta del Condor and at a private rainforest at a limestone quarry, both sightings occurred near Rio Claro, in the Magdalena Valley.

Black-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus* Seen well on a couple of occasions in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* This species was also seen well on a couple of occasions in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

WOODPECKIERS AND ALLIES *PICIDAE*

Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus* We observed a pair very well in private rainforest at a limestone quarry near Rio Claro.

Grayish Piculet *Picumnus granadensis* We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at this Colombian endemic while birding in forest at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo.

Chestnut Piculet *Picumnus cinnamomeus* We were fortunate to enjoy a couple of good sightings of this range-restricted species in dry open forest at Tigras, along the Caribbean coast.

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* A pair of birds was observed briefly by myself in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus* Common and conspicuous throughout the whole tour.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Picoides fumigatus* Our first sighting occurred in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and later, we observed a second bird in the Tatama National Park.

Red-rumped Woodpecker *Veniliornis kirkii* An immature bird was observed well in mangroves, from the mangrove board-walk in the Isla de Salamanca National Park.

Yellow-vented Woodpecker *Veniliornis dignus* We enjoyed good looks at this highly localised species on a couple of occasions, during our time in the Tatama National Park.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus* We enjoyed a good look at one of these birds in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker *Colaptes rivolii* This stunning species of woodpecker was observed very well in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula* First recorded in open forest at Campana, along the Caribbean coast and observed a second time in rainforest at Gruta del Condor, near Rio Claro, in the Magdalena Valley.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* Observed at close quarters on one occasion, along the Bale Road, near Santa Marta.

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS *FURNARIIDAE*

Gray-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus albigularis* We were indeed fortunate to see one of these uncommon and difficult to see birds, feeding on the ground in rainforest close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Stout-billed Cinclodes *Cinclodes excelsior* We saw a few birds very well on the day we visited the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus* A couple seen well in open dry forest in the Los Flamencos National Park.

Andean Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura andicola* We saw a couple of birds very well during our time in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Silvery-throated Spinetail *Synallaxis subpudica* We enjoyed good looks at this Colombian endemic along the edge of the Laguna Sieche, on the outskirts of Bogota.

Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae* We saw it well in cloudforest above Jardin and then again in the Rio Blanco Reserve near Manizales. Felix Manuel de Azara (1746-1811) was born at Barbunales in Aragon, Spain. He was a military officer, naturalist and engineer, who distinguished himself in various expeditions. He was appointed a member of the Spanish Commission and was sent to South America in 1781, to settle the question of borders between the Portuguese and Spanish colonies. He attained the rank of Brigadier General when in command of the Paraguayan frontier from 1781 to 1801.

Rufous Spinetail *Synallaxis unirufa* A bird of dense undergrowth, which we saw surprisingly well in cloudforest above Jardin.

Rusty-headed Spinetail *Synallaxis fusciorufa* We saw this attractive Santa Marta endemic in and around the El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International, its world population is estimated to be between 2,500 – 10,000 individuals and decreasing. The main threats to this species are agricultural expansion, logging and burning. Only 15% of the rainforest on the Sierra Nevada Mountains now remains intact.

Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura* Seen well on a couple of occasions in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

White-whiskered Spinetail *Synallaxis candei* This stunningly attractive species of spinetail was seen well on a few occasions in dry open forest along the Caribbean coast. This species has a relatively small range in north-eastern Colombia and north-western Venezuela.

White-browed Spinetail *Hellmayrea gularis* Seen well on one occasion, in cloudforest above Jardin, in the Andes Mountains.

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythrops* This species of spinetail of foothill forests was seen well in both Tatama and Otum-Quimbaya National Parks.

Streak-capped Spinetail *Cranioleuca hellmayri* We observed several pairs very well in mixed-species feeding flocks along the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* Observed very well in the Isla de Salamanca National Park and again at a small pond where we had lunch, near Rio Claro.

Rusty-winged Barbtail *Premnornis guttuligera* We saw this uncommon species very well on more than one occasion in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens* Observed very well on a few occasions throughout the

tour.

- Fulvous-dotted Treerunner** *Margarornis stellatus* We saw this species very well on a couple of occasions in the Tatama National Park, in mixed-species feeding flocks. It is another Choco speciality. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. The current population is unknown and the main threat is deforestation.
- Pearled Treerunner** *Margarornis squamiger* We saw this handsome bird very well in some of the mixed-species flocks we encountered.
- Buffy Tuftedcheek** *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii* Seen well in one of the mixed-species feeding flocks we encountered in the Tatama National Park.
- Streaked Tuftedcheek** *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii* We saw this species very well in mixed-species feeding flocks in both the cloudforest above Jardin and in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.
- Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia variegaticeps* We saw this bird very well in mixed-species feeding flocks in the Tatama National Park.
- Montane Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia striaticollis* Proved to be common at El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and in the rainforest close to Minca.
- Lineated Foliage-gleaner** *Syndactyla subalaris* A shy species which we saw particularly well in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.
- Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner** *Philydor rufum* A rather uncommon and difficult to see species of the rainforest undergrowth. We were very fortunate to see it very well on one occasion in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.
- Uniform Treehunter** *Thripadectes ignobilis* We were very fortunate to observe this uncommon species on a couple of occasions during our time in the Tatama National Park.
- Striped Treehunter** *Thripadectes holostictus* A bird of forest undergrowth, which we saw well in the cloudforest above Jardin and in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.
- Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus rufipectus* We enjoyed good looks at this uncommon Colombian endemic in rainforest above Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Plain Xenops** *Xenops minutus* A few were seen well in rainforest at Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.
- Streaked Xenops** *Xenops rutilans* We saw this species very well on one occasion in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.
- Tyrannine Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla tyrannina* Seen well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.
- Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus* Observed well in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and in the Tatama National Park.
- Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* Seen on one occasion in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.
- Strong-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus* We observed this uncommon species very well at San Lorenzo, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.
- Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex picus* Commonly encountered in drier woodland and in wetland areas throughout the tour.
- Cocoa Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* Commonly encountered during the first half of the tour.
- Olive-backed Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus triangularis* Seen in one of the mixed-species feeding flocks we observed in the Tatama National Park.
- Montane Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* This attractive and well-marked species of

woodcreeper was observed very well at San Lorenzo, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

TYPICAL ANTBIRDS *THAMNOPHILIDAE*

Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphorus canadensis* Commonly encountered in the dry open forest along the Caribbean coast.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* A couple observed close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Western Slaty-Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* Seen well on one occasion close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and again at Rio Sinifana, near Bolonbolo.

Uniform Antshrike *Thamnophilus unicolor* Great looks at a nice male in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Black-backed Antshrike *Thamnophilus melanonotus* A pair of this range-restricted species were observed very well in rainforest close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains .

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis* Seen well on a couple of occasions during our time in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Bicolored Antvireo *Dysithamnus occidentalis* We were indeed fortunate to observe this uncommon and range-restricted species extremely well on one occasion, in the Tatama National Park. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International. The current population is estimated to be between 2,500 – 10,000 individuals and declining. The main threat to this species is deforestation, mining and agricultural expansion.

Pacific Antwren *Myrmotherula pacifica* We saw a couple of pairs very well during our time in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

White-fringed Antwren *Formicivora grisea* Seen well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Long-tailed Antbird *Drymophila caudata* A pair observed very well in a large stand of dense bamboo in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Rufous-rumped Antwren *Terenura callinota* Seen well in the canopy, in a mixed-species feeding flock, in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Parker's Antbird *Cercomacra parkeri* We enjoyed really good looks at this recently described Colombian endemic, on a couple of occasions in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori. Theodor (Ted) A Parker III (1953-1993) was a professional American ornithologist and a former member of the Cornell Laboratory's Administrative Board. He has been described as a 'great Neotropical conservationist and the 'world's leading authority on Neotropical bird identification and distribution'. He was the single largest contributor to the Library of Natural Sounds at Cornell University providing more than 10,000 recordings of bird sounds. He revolutionised bird surveying methods by employing a tape recorder in the field. There was a less serious side to Ted: in 1971, at the age of 18, he set a then record of 626 species seen in one year in the United States. Parker died tragically in a plane crash in Ecuador in 1993. The book *A Parrot Without A Name: The Search for the Last Unknown Birds on Earth* by Don Stap, was written about Parkers discoveries, and those of John O'Neill, of new bird species in Peru. Davis and O'Neill described the antbird in 1986 but it was not split from Willis's Antbird until 1997 with the name honouring Parker as a memorial to him.

White-bellied Antbird *Myrmeciza longipes* Seen well on one occasion in dry open forest at Campana, on the Caribbean coast.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul* This secretive species of the forest understorey came in to tape very well on once occasion in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Magdalena Antbird *Myrmeciza palliata* This near endemic also came into tape very well on one occasion and also in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

ANTTHRUSHES AND ANTPITTAS *FORMICARIDAE*

Undulated Antpitta *Grallaria squamigera* One of the five species of antpittas that we saw at the antpitta feeding stations in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales. This is a particularly large species of antpitta.

Moustached Antpitta *Grallaria alleni* We were indeed fortunate to observe this uncommon and highly localised species particularly well during our time in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International. The population is estimated to be between 2,500 – 10,000 individuals and declining. Since the 17th century, most if not all, of the cloudforest in the upper Magdalena Valley and the central Andes of Colombia, has been logged, settled and converted to agriculture. Deforestation is still the main threat to this species and the growing of opium is also a lesser threat.

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta *Grallaria ruficapilla* This extremely attractive species of antpitta was seen amazingly well at the antpitta feeding stations in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales, where they boldly dominated the smaller species of antpittas.

Chestnut-naped Antpitta *Grallaria nuchalis* Once again we enjoyed super close looks at this large species of antpitta, at the antpitta feeding stations in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Tawny Antpitta *Grallaria quitensis* We enjoyed spectacular looks at this high Andean speciality during our time in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Brown-banded Antpitta *Grallaria milleri* Once again, this Colombian endemic was seen exceptionally well at the antpitta feeding stations in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International, the world population is estimated to be between 250 – 1,000 individuals and decreasing. The main threat to this species is once again, deforestation. 85% of rainforest below 3,300 in the central Andes of Colombia has long been converted to agricultural land-use and this figure is increasing.

Rusty-breasted Antpitta *Grallaricula ferrugineipectus* We enjoyed super looks at this little gem in dense undergrowth close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Slate-crowned Antpitta *Grallaricula nana* Once again, seen incredibly well on one occasion at one of the antpitta feeding stations in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

TAPACULOS *RHINOCRYPTIDAE*

Ocellated Tapaculo *Acropternis orthonyx* This stunningly beautiful species is notoriously shy and difficult to see. Following a great deal of effort we managed to see this species very well in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Blackish Tapaculo *Scytalopus latrans* A bird responded well to tape playback in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales, giving us good looks at this skulking species.

Santa Marta Tapaculo *Scytalopus sanctaemartae* Once again, a bird responded well to tape playback in the rainforest close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, providing us with good looks at this shy and secretive species.

Alto Pisones Tapaculo *Scytolopus alto* Once again a bird responded very well to take playback in the cloudforest of Tatama National Park. This species is endemic to Colombia and we saw it very well indeed.

Stiles's Tapaculo *Scytalopus stilesi* Once again a bird responded well to tape playback near Anori, giving us a really good look. This species is also endemic to Colombia. The species was named in honour of Gary Stiles, who was a professor of ornithology at Colombia's National University. He played a prominent role in research into Neotropical birds in the 1980s and 1990s. He is also the author of *The Birds of Costa Rica* and was an influential member of

the South American Conservation Committee.

Nariño Tapaculo *Scytalopus vicini* Yet another species of tapaculo that responded well to tape playback, enabling us to see it very well, on more than one occasion, in Tatama National Park.

Spillmann's Tapaculo *Scytalopus spillmanni* We saw this species very well on a couple of occasions in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park. Professor Dr Franz Spillmann was an Austrian zoologist who lived in Ecuador. His collection of fossils and other specimens was donated to the National Polytechnic School in Quito, Ecuador around 1946. He became a curator at the Upper Austria Federal Museum in 1946, staying in that post until 1948.

COTINGAS COTINGIDAE

Green-and-black Fruiteater *Pipreola riefferii* This beautiful species was observed well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Golden-breasted Fruiteater *Pipreola aureopectus* Another beautiful but rare species, which we saw very well at San Lorenzo, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Orange-breasted Fruiteater *Pipreola jucunda* We enjoyed super looks at a pair of this very uncommon species, in the rainforest of Tatama National Park.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola peruvianus* We enjoyed over a dozen males displaying at a lek close to Jardin. It was also seen along the Rio Sinifana and in the Tatama National Park. This incredibly beautiful species was voted 'Bird of the Tour' by tour participants.

Olivaceous Piha *Snowornis cryptolophus* We observed one of these unobtrusive birds during our time in the Tatama National Park.

Red-ruffed Fruitcrow *Pyroderus scutatus* A near-endemic which proved to be quite common in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

MANAKINS PIPRIDAE

Golden-winged Manakin *Masius chrysopterus* We saw both males and females of this very attractive species in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Striped Manakin *Machaeropterus regulus* We saw a pair of these uncommon birds extremely well in private rainforest at a limestone quarry close to Rio Claro.

Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata* We saw up to six male birds at a lek along a mountain ridge in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus* Another beautiful species which we saw well in rainforest close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and we also saw it well in rainforest at Gruta del Condor, on our way to see the Oilbirds.

Lance-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia lanceolata* We saw a couple of females very well close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

White-crowned Manakin *Pipra pipra* We observed both males and females of this stunning species in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* We were fortunate to enjoy good looks at this uncommon species in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS TYRANNIDAE

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum* We observed a bird very well in scrubland above Jardin.

White-tailed Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus poecilocercus* This uncommon species was observed very well on a couple of occasions in cloudforest above Jardin.

White-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus stictopectus* Seen particularly well on one occasion in

the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys* A common and widespread montane flycatcher, which we saw well on many occasions.

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina* Seen particularly well on one occasion at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo.

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus* Performed very well for us in an area of private rainforest, at a limestone quarry, close to Rio Claro.

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata* A single bird was seen well at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* We enjoyed a few good sightings during our time in Tatama National Park.

Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii* We saw one of these birds very well in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales. This species was named after Alexander von Frantzius (1821-1877), a 19th century German ornithologist, who collected bird specimens in Costa Rica and Brazil. An extinct volcano in Costa Rica is also named after him.

Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea* A bird of fast flowing mountain streams, which we saw well near Jardin and in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Streak-necked Flycatcher *Mionectes striaticollis* Seen well in mixed-species feeding flocks at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo and again in Tatama National Park.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus* We saw this species well on one occasion, at San Lorenzo, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* A common bird of forest understorey, which we saw well at Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and in the Rio Claro Reserve.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* We saw this species very well on one occasion, close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris* A common bird of the foothill forests of Colombia.

Rufous-breasted Flycatcher *Leptopogon rufipectus* A fairly common but inconspicuous member of Andean rainforest, mixed-species feeding flocks.

Variiegated Bristle-Tyrant *Phylloscartes poecilotis* Another inconspicuous member of mixed-species feeding flocks, which we saw well during our time in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant *Phylloscartes ophthalmicus* A fairly common bird of the mixed-species feeding flocks in the Tatama National Park.

Rufous-browed Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes superciliaris* A highly localised and little known inhabitant of the forest canopy, which we saw very well on one occasion, while birding in the Tatama National Park.

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseiceps* We saw this species very well on one occasion in foothill forest at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo.

Black-capped Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus* Seen well high in the canopy on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Ashy-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias cinereiceps* Proved to be not uncommon in the mixed-species feeding flocks, in the montane forest of the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias plumbeiceps* We enjoyed a few excellent looks at this canopy inhabiting species, in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Venezuelan Tyrannulet *Zimmerius improbus* Somewhat surprisingly, we found a flock of half a dozen or so of these birds above Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Choco Tyrannulet *Zimmerius albigularis* An uncommon bird of foothill forest, which we saw well on a couple of occasions, during our time in the Tatama National Park.

Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Zimmerius chrysops* The commonest forest tyrannid in the Andes

Mountains of Colombia.

- Northern Scrub-Flycatcher** *Sblegatus arenarum* We saw this species well in dry open forest along the Caribbean coast, in the Los Flamencos National Park.
- Ornate Flycatcher** *Myiotriccus ornatus* This very attractive species of flycatcher is particularly confiding and we saw it well on several occasions throughout the tour.
- Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant** *Pseudotriccus pelzelni* A bird of the undergrowth in foothill forest, which we saw well on a couple of occasions, while birding in the Tatama National Park.
- Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant** *Pseudotriccus ruficeps* This bird is particularly fond of dense stands of bamboo, we saw it close to the ground, on a couple of occasions, firstly, in cloudforest above Jardin and secondly, in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.
- Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant** *Lophotriccus pileatus* This attractive species was seen well in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and again in Tatama National Park.
- Black-throated Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus granadensis* This beautiful little bird of forest undergrowth was observed very well on a couple of occasions along the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Rufous-crowned Tody-Tyrant** *Poecilotriccus ruficeps* Another attractive species of the forest undergrowth, which we saw well in cloudforest above Jardin and again, in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.
- Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Poecilotriccus sylvia* A common bird of thick tangly undergrowth, which we saw well in private rainforest at a limestone quarry near Rio Claro and again at the Rio Sinifana near Bolombolo.
- Common Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* Small numbers of this widespread and common flycatcher were seen at various locations throughout the tour.
- Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher** *Todirostrum nigriceps* A fairly common bird which we saw on one occasion in the canopy of a private rainforest, at a limestone quarry near Rio Claro.
- Olivaceous Flatbill** *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus* We were fortunate to enjoy good looks at this uncommon species, on more than one occasion in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.
- Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* A not uncommon species, which we saw well on one occasion at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo.
- Yellow-breasted Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias flaviventris* A bird of dry open forest, which we saw well on a couple of occasions while birding in the Los Flamencos National Park.
- Cinnamon Flycatcher** *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus* Regularly encountered during our time in the rainforest of the Andes Mountains.
- Handsome Flycatcher** *Nephelomyias pulcher* This aptly named flycatcher, proved to be fairly common and conspicuous in the Tatama National Park.
- Flavescent Flycatcher** *Myiophobus flavicans* Seen very well on a couple of occasions in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales. The genus name *Myiophobus*, is derived from ancient Greek and means 'the one who terrorises the flies'.
- Euler's Flycatcher** *Lathrotriccus euleri* This species is a rather uncommon bird in Colombia, we saw it very well on one occasion, in rainforest at the entrance to the Oilbird cave, at Gruta del Condor, in the Magdalena Valley. Carl Hieronymus Euler 1834-1901, was the Swiss consul in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1897 until his death. The ornithologist Jean Louis Cabanis first described the flycatcher from a specimen which Euler had sent him. Euler's collection of 369 species of birds, most of which were collected on his farm are housed in the Berlin Museum. Unfortunately, today only 40% of this number can now be found in the valley which Euler farmed.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi* An uncommon migrant from North America, we saw it well close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Smoke-colored Pewee** *Contopus fumigatus* A rather uncommon species in Colombia, however,

we did see it well on a few occasions in Tatama National Park.

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* A fairly common migrant from North America, which we identified by call in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* A common migrant from North America, which we saw well on a couple of occasions in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley and again at Laguna Sieche, in Bogota.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus* A fairly common bird of the forest edge, we saw it very well on one occasion, above Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* A bird of fast flowing mountain streams and rivers which we saw on most days of the tour.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* Small numbers of this very attractive species were observed throughout the tour.

Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis* An uncommon bird of the highlands, which we saw well in cloudforest above Jardin.

Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant *Myiotheretes pernix* We enjoyed super looks at a couple of this Colombian endemic, along the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International. The world population is estimated to be between 1,000 – 2,500 individuals and decreasing. The main threat to this species is deforestation, only 15% of the original forest in the Sierra Nevada Mountains now remains. Much of the forest has been cleared in order to grow illegal marijuana and coca plantations. This problem is further compounded by the government who continues to spray herbicides along the slopes in order to deter this illegal action. Lesser threats include agricultural expansion, logging, burning and reforestation with exotic trees, such as pines.

Pied Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola pica* A common bird of the lowlands which is always associated with water. We saw it very well in the Isla de Salamanca National Park.

Crowned Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca frontalis* A bird of forest undergrowth which we saw well on a few occasions in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca diadema* A bird of the undergrowth which we saw well on a couple of occasions in cloudforest above Jardin.

Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris* A fairly common bird which is normally associated with water. We saw it very well on a few occasions in the cloudforest above Jardin.

Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis* A bird of dense stands of bamboo, we were fortunate to see it very well in cloudforest above Jardin.

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca fumicolor* A bird of highland forest, which we saw very well on a few occasions in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* This stunningly attractive species of New World flycatcher, was observed perched on telegraph wires in a private rainforest at a limestone quarry near Rio Claro.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa* As the name would suggest this species often associates with cattle, we observed it very well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* A common species which somewhat surprisingly we only saw on a couple of occasions at Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Venezuelan Flycatcher *Myiarchus venezuelensis* A bird of clearings and dry scrub, which we saw well at Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and again at Tigeras.

Apical Flycatcher *Myiarchus apicalis* We saw this Colombian endemic very well on one occasion, at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo.

Pale-edged Flycatcher *Myiarchus cephalotes* A common bird of foothill forest which we saw well in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales and again in the Otun-Quimbaya National

Park.

- Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* An uncommon migrant from North America, we saw an individual very well during our time in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.
- Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* A bird of open dry country which we saw well on one occasion in Los Flamencos National Park.
- Lesser Kiskadee** *Pitangus lictor* A bird which is found along the edge of water, which was the exact habitat where we saw this species on one occasion, at Gruta del Condor, in the Magdalena Valley, close to the Oilbird Cave.
- Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* Commonly observed throughout lowland areas of disturbed forest, throughout the tour.
- Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* A common bird of the forest edge, which we saw well at Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and again in the Rio Claro Reserve.
- Rusty-margined Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes cayanensis* Commonly encountered throughout the whole tour.
- Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* A common bird of open areas, we saw it very well on a couple of occasions, close to Tigras.
- Golden-crowned Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus* A common bird of montane forest, which we regularly encountered throughout the tour.
- Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* A common species which proved to be particularly common around Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and again at Rio Sinifana near Bolombolo.
- Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* We saw a couple of birds very well in a private rainforest at a limestone quarry near Rio Claro. It gets its name from its habit of appropriating the nests of caciques, for its own reproductive purposes.
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* Abundant, seen on almost every day of the tour.
- Gray Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis* A fairly common North American migrant to dry open country of northern Colombia. We saw a few individuals very well in the Los Flamencos National Park.
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana* A common migrant from North America, which we saw well in the Los Flamencos National Park and again at the 'Screamer Marsh' near Porto Berrio.
- Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* We saw this attractive species on one occasion, in private rainforest at a limestone quarry near Rio Claro.
- Barred Becard** *Pachyramphus versicolor* A fairly common bird of the forest sub-canopy, which we saw well in cloudforest above Jardin.
- Cinnamon Becard** *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus* Seen well at Gruta del Condor and again in private rainforest at a limestone quarry near Rio Claro, both sightings occurred in the Magdalena Valley.
- Black-and-white Becard** *Pachyramphus albogriseus* Rather surprisingly, we observed this uncommon species on a few occasions throughout the tour.

SWALLOWS HIRUNINIDAE

- Blue-and-white Swallow** *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca* Widespread in small numbers throughout the tour.
- Brown-bellied Swallow** *Orochelidon murina* We enjoyed good looks at this species in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales and again at Laguna Sieche at Bogota. The scientific name *murina*, means mouse-coloured.

White-thighed Swallow *Atticora tibialis* A common bird of the lowlands, which we saw well in farmland at Gruta del Condor, in the Magdalena Valley and again in Tatama National Park.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Small flocks commonly encountered throughout the tour.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* A common bird of open areas, we saw a small flock together with the following species in farmland at Rio Claro.

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera* We saw small numbers mixed in amongst a larger flock of Gray-breasted Martins, in farmland at Rio Claro. We also saw good numbers at Laguna Sieche at Bogota.

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer* A bird of lowland wetlands, we saw it very well on one occasion, while having lunch beside a small pond at Rio Claro.

Collared Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* A common migrant from North America, we observed large numbers hawking insects above Laguna Sieche, at Bogota.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* A very common migrant from North America, once again we observed large numbers flying above Laguna Sieche, at Bogota.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* An uncommon North American passage migrant which passes through Colombia in Spring and Autumn. We saw up to half a dozen birds mixed in amongst the other, much larger flocks of martins and swallows at Laguna Sieche, at Bogota.

DIPPERS CINLIDAE

White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus* Observed briefly by myself on one occasion in Tatama National Park.

WRENS TROGLODYTIDAE

White-headed Wren *Campylorhynchus albobrunneus* We enjoyed great looks at a family party in the Tatama National Park.

Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus* A common wren of open areas of northern Colombia, which we saw well on several occasions.

Bicolored Wren *Campylorhynchus griseus* This handsome and conspicuous wren is a bird of dry country, which we saw well on many occasions in northern Colombia.

Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa* A species of montane forest, which we saw well on a couple of occasions in cloudforest above Jardin.

Sharpe's Wren *Cinnycerthia olivascens* A low altitude representative of the above species, we saw it well in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales and again in Tatama National Park. Richard Bowdler Sharpe (1847-1909) was a British zoologist. He was the Assistant Keeper of the Vertebrate Section of the British Museum's, Zoology Department from 1895 until his death from pneumonia in 1909. He had a particular interest in classification and phylogeny and its relation to evolution. He wrote descriptions of over 200 species of birds. He was co-author of the series *Birds of Europe*. While working for the British Museum in the Department of Zoology, he commenced his massive *Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum*, which appeared in 27 volumes between 1874 and 1898. Sharpe founded the British Ornithologists' Club in 1892 and edited its Bulletin for many years. The Western Negrofinch *Nigrita (canicapilla) emiliae* was originally named after his wife Emily. They had many children, judging by the title of C.E. Jackson's book, published in 1994, *Richard Bowdler Sharpe and His Ten Daughters!*

Sooty-headed Wren *Pheugopedius spadix* We enjoyed excellent views of a pair in a thick tangle in the foothills of the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Black-bellied Wren *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris* This beautiful species of bird was observed very well in private rainforest at a limestone quarry, near Rio Claro.

Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus* We observed a pair of these unobtrusive birds, surprisingly well, close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryophilus rufalbus* A magnificent songster, which we saw well at Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and again at Tigras, along the Caribbean coast.

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus* This beautiful species of wren was observed in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley and also in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus leucotis* A bird of thick waterside undergrowth, which was exactly the habitat where we saw it in at Tigras, along the Caribbean coast.

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus* Common and widespread throughout Colombia.

Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis* A bird of temperate forest, which we saw very well on a couple of occasions in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis* A bird of open, grassy undergrowth, in the high paramo. We saw it very well on a couple of occasions in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys* A very common bird of montane forest, which we saw well along the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and again in the Tatama National Park.

Munchique Wood-Wren *Henicorhina negreti* A bird responded well to tape playback in the Tatama National Park, where we managed to see it very well. This species is endemic to the western Andes of Colombia and is classified as Critically Endangered by Birdlife International. It is estimated that the population is between 250 – 600 individuals and declining. The main threat to this species is deforestation, until very recently the birds small range was essentially pristine but now deforestation is a serious issue and has escalated at an alarming rate. Climate change is contributing to the increase in the severity of dry seasons in the region that have facilitated many human-induced fires in otherwise extremely wet forests.

Chestnut-breasted Wren *Cyphorhinus thoracicus* We enjoyed good looks at this rather shy species in both Tatama and Otum-Quimbaya National Parks.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS *MIMIDAE*

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* An open country species which was particularly common along the Caribbean coast.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES *TURDIDAE*

Andean Solitaire *Myadestes raloides* A wonderful songster which we saw well near Jardin and again in the Otum-Quimbaya National Park.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* A fairly common migrant from North America which normally occurs in drier forest than the following species. We saw it well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* A common migrant from North America, which we saw very well on many occasions. William Swainson (1789-1855) was a naturalist and bird illustrator. He was born in Liverpool, the son of a collector of customs duty. He served for 8 years from 1807-1815 with the army commissariat and amassed a very large collection of zoological specimens. At the end of the Napoleonic war he retired on half-pay. From 1816-1818 he travelled and collected extensively throughout Brazil. In 1840 he travelled to New Zealand and became the countries first Attorney General. Unfortunately, most of his collections of specimens were lost on the voyage to New Zealand, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Black Solitaire *Entomodestes coracinus* An uncommon and inconspicuous bird of Pacific foothill

forests, we were very fortunate to enjoy a few very good looks of unusually obliging birds, during our time in the Tatama National Park.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas* A fairly common bird of open woodland, which we saw well on several occasions.

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis* A common thrush of open woodland, which we saw well on several occasions.

Great Thrush *Turdus fuscater* Abundant and conspicuous throughout the high Andes.

GNATCATCHERS *POLIOPTILIDAE*

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* We saw a pair of birds very well in tangly vines in rainforest close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila plumbea* A common bird of open woodland, which we saw particularly well at Tigras and again in the Los Flamencos National Park.

CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES *CORVIDAE*

Beautiful Jay *Cyanolyca pulchra* As the name would suggest, this is indeed a very beautiful species, unfortunately, it is a rare and highly localised inhabitant of the Pacific slope of the high Andes of Colombia and northern Ecuador, it is particularly shy and retiring for a jay. We enjoyed watching a family party during our time in the Tatama National Park. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. This species is particularly sensitive to human disturbance and appears almost exclusively dependent upon undisturbed forest. Since 1960, over 40% of Chocó forests have been cleared or degraded, and deforestation continues to accelerate. Unplanned colonisation, following the completion of roads, and massive logging concessions are major threats to its habitat, with cattle-grazing, mining and coca and palm cultivation, also posing further problems.

Black-collared Jay *Cyanolyca armillata* A bird of montane forest which we saw very well in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Black-chested Jay *Cyanocorax affinis* Small flocks seen well at El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* A truly handsome species, which we saw well on many occasions throughout the tour.

VIREOS AND ALLIES *VIREONIDAE*

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* A fairly common migrant from North America, we saw one very well during our time in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* A common inhabitant of the sub-canopy, which we regularly encountered throughout the tour.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* This species is both a resident and a North American migrant, we saw it frequently throughout the tour.

Rufous-naped Greenlet *Hylophilus semibrunneus* A range-restricted species which we saw very well at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo.

Scrub Greenlet *Hylophilus flavipes* A fairly common bird of open woodland, which we saw well on several occasions along the Caribbean coast.

Golden-fronted Greenlet *Hylophilus aurantiifrons* A common inhabitant of the mixed-species feeding flocks in and around Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES *FRINGILLIDAE*

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris* The commonest euphonia of open country and suburban areas, which we saw well on several occasions.

- Orange-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia xanthogaster* The commonest mid-elevation euphonia, which we saw well on several occasions. The birds we saw were of the race *oreassinoma*, which have yellow bellies.
- Blue-naped Chlorophonia** *Chlorophonia cyanea* An uncommon bird of montane forest, which we saw particularly well along the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia** *Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys* This very beautiful but uncommon species, performed very well for us on a couple of occasions, while birding in the Tatama National Park.
- Yellow-collared Chlorophonia** *Chlorophonia flavirostris* A bird of the Pacific slope of the Andes mountains, we saw a couple of family groups in the Tatama National Park.
- Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria* Small numbers were observed at various localities throughout the tour.
- Andean Siskin** *Spinus spinescens* Seen well on a couple of occasions along the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Yellow-bellied Siskin** *Spinus xanthogastrus* A locally fairly common bird which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS *PARULIDAE*

- Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera* An uncommon migrant from North America, I saw one at El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and we observed a second bird at Tigras, on the Caribbean coast.
- Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrina* A common migrant from North America which we only saw on one occasion, we saw it very well during our time in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.
- Tropical Parula** *Parula pitaiyumi* A common resident, it is a very beautiful bird and we saw it very well on several occasions throughout the tour.
- Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia* At this time of year all of the sightings of Yellow Warblers outside of the mangroves, are of migrant birds from North America, of which we saw quite a few. There is a resident race which is confined to the mangroves of the Caribbean coast and we saw this race very well in the Isal de Salamanca National Park.
- Blackburnian Warbler** *Dendroica fusca* By far the commonest North American migrant at higher elevations of the tour. We enjoyed a great many sightings, many of males in full breeding plumage.
- Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata* An uncommon passage migrant throughout much of Colombia. We were fortunate to observe an adult male on one occasion, while birding in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.
- Cerulean Warbler** *Dendroica cerulea* This species is a very uncommon North American migrant to Colombia. So we were very fortunate to observe a beautiful male in full breeding plumage, in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International, the world population is estimated to be 560,000 individuals and decreasing. Its population is estimated to have undergone a rapid decline in the last 100 years, caused by continuing habitat loss and fragmentation of habitat, on both its breeding and wintering grounds.
- Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* The creeper-like habits of this North American migrant are diagnostic, and we watched them very well on several occasions throughout the tour.
- American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* Another very beautiful North American migrant, we saw both males and females on several occasions throughout the tour.
- Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* A common and very beautiful migrant from North America, which likes open wooded areas near to water. It was particularly numerous along the mangrove board-walk in the Isla Salamanca National Park.

- Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* Yet another common North American migrant, which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.
- Connecticut Warbler** *Oporornis agilis* An uncommon migrant from North America, which we saw in the Tatama National Park and at Laguna Sieche, at Bogota.
- Canada Warbler** *Wilsonia canadensis* A common migrant from North America, the males are particularly beautiful and we enjoyed watching several, during the course of the tour.
- Slate-throated Whitestart** *Myioborus miniatus* A common, widespread and delightful resident of the montane forests.
- Golden-fronted Whitestart** *Myioborus ornatus* Another very attractive warbler, this one inhabits cloudforest, we often found it in the mixed-species feeding flocks.
- Yellow-fronted Whitestart** *Myioborus flavivertex* This species proved to be very common along the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, it is one of the Santa Marta endemics.
- Black-crested Warbler** *Basileuterus nigrocristatus* We saw this species very well on a couple of occasions while birding in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.
- White-lored Warbler** *Basileuterus conspicillatus* Commonly encountered at El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, it is another of the Santa Marta endemics. It is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. The current population is unknown. The main threat to this species is loss of habitat. All remaining forest in the Santa Marta mountains is seriously threatened by agricultural expansion, logging and burning. Only 15% of the sierra's vegetation is unaltered, with the south-east slope extensively deforested, and the west slope, between 800 and 1,600 metres largely cleared for coffee and illegal marijuana plantations and subsequently sprayed with herbicide by the Colombian government.
- Russet-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus coronatus* An attractive warbler of mid-elevation forest, it sings well and is much easier to hear, than it is to see. We saw it close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and again in the cloudforest above Jardin.
- Golden-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus culicivorus* A widespread species which occurs throughout much of South America. We only saw this species on one occasion, in degraded forest close to Jardin, at the Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek.
- Rufous-capped Warbler** *Basileuterus rufifrons* A bird of the forest edge, which we saw well on a couple of occasions, close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Three-striped Warbler** *Basileuterus tristriatus* We regularly encountered this species in mid-elevation forests throughout the tour.
- Santa Marta Warbler** *Basileuterus basilicus* Another warbler which is endemic to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in Santa Marta Province. We encountered it quite frequently along the San Lorenzo Ridge. This species is listed as Vulnerable by Birdlife International. Its population is estimated to be between 600 – 1,700 individuals and decreasing. Despite possibly tolerating some habitat degradation, it is threatened by extensive deforestation, and has already lost 21% of its habitat. The principal causes of deforestation are the development of cattle ranches and pine plantations. Illegal agricultural expansion, logging and burning have altered all but 15% of the sierra's original vegetation. The north slope of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is the most degraded area, and this area corresponds to where the majority of birds are found. Although this species is only found in two protected areas, this has not prevented extensive and continuing deforestation. Populations may also persist above the treeline in scrubby habitats, suggesting that the species may show a degree of resilience to deforestation.
- Buff-rumped Warbler** *Phaeothlypis fulvicauda* A bird which occurs right at the waters edge of larger streams and rivers. We saw it well on several occasions, non more so than at our lodge in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

BANANAQUIT *COEREBIDAE*

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* Common and widespread throughout the whole tour.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES *THRAUPIDAE*

Black-capped Hemispingus *Hemispingus atropileus* This well-marked species was first observed in cloudforest above Jardin and then in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Superciliaried Hemispingus *Hemispingus superciliaris* A bird of dense understorey, we saw it well on one occasion in cloudforest above Jardin.

Black-eared Hemispingus *Hemispingus melanotis* This species is particularly fond of dense thickets of bamboo and this was exactly the habitat where we enjoyed our only sighting of this species, in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Gray-hooded Bush Tanager *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris* We found this species in the mixed-species feeding flocks in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Bicolored Conebill *Conirostrum bicolor* In northern Colombia this species only occurs in the mangroves along the Caribbean coast. We saw it well in the Isla de Salamanca National Park.

Capped Conebill *Conirostrum albifrons* A fairly common bird of mixed-species canopy flocks in the forests of the high Andes, where we saw it well on a few occasions.

Plushcap *Catamblyrhynchus diadema* This bird is yet another species that likes dense thickets of bamboo and this is exactly the habitat where we found it, in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Black-backed Bush Tanager *Urothraupis stolzmanni* An uncommon species which moves around in small active groups close to the ground. We saw a couple of parties very well, high in the Andes Mountains of the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus* A common inhabitant of montane forest understorey, we saw it well on a couple of occasions in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Dusky Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus semifuscus* We saw this species in the mixed-species feeding flocks in the Tatama National Park.

Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus flavigularis* A common bird of montane forests, we saw it well on a few occasions, while birding in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus canigularis* This species was not uncommon amongst the mixed-species feeding flocks in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira* We saw this attractive species amongst the mixed-species feeding flocks in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis* We saw this canopy dwelling species very well on one occasion, during our time in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii* A bird of the forest understorey, which we saw well on a couple of occasions, while birding in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatrii* This species moves around in family groups and gives its presence away, by making a lot of noise. We saw a few flocks very well during our time in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* A bird of the forest edge, which rarely if ever goes inside the forest. We saw a couple of pairs close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Crimson-backed Tanager *Ramphocelus dimidiatus* A widespread tanager of the lowlands, which occurs mainly in disturbed habitat. It is a very beautiful bird which we saw on most days of the tour.

Flame-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus flammigerus* Another handsome species of tanager, which we saw well on many occasions in disturbed habitat close to Jardin.

Lemon-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus icteronotus* Another attractive and common species,

which once again we saw well in disturbed habitat, throughout the tour.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* Common and widespread, we saw this beautiful species on most days of the tour.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* Another common and widespread species, which we saw well on many occasions.

Blue-capped Tanager *Thraupis cyanocephala* A bird of high Andes forests, which we saw well on several occasions.

Black-and-gold Tanager *Bangsia melanochlamys* We saw this stunningly attractive Colombian endemic on a few occasions in Tatama National Park. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International. It is estimated that the world population is between 600 – 1,700 individuals and decreasing. The main threats to this species are those that increase fragmentation and destruction of its habitat, which include deforestation, cattle ranching, mining, small-scale agriculture and road building. The slopes of Cerro Tatamá have been severely deforested and primary forest, on which the species is dependent, is disappearing in many areas, particularly below 1,500 metres. The species occurs in effectively intact habitat above 1,500 metres in the Mistrató area, and in a large forest block at 800-1,000 metres upwards to above 2,000 metres around Alto de Pisiones. However, the species displays altitudinal movements when breeding, and in none of the protected areas where it is found is the full altitudinal variation represented. A proposed highway in the Alto de Pisiones area, will undoubtedly open up the area to logging, mining and human settlement. Although the region is already inhabited by Embera Indians, their impact on the forest is minimal, however, further colonisation by Europeans, will inevitably lead to deforestation. Rebel separatist activity within its range has prevented recent survey work, and renders government action and research difficult.

Gold-ringed Tanager *Bangsia aureocincta* We enjoyed a couple of good sightings of this beautiful Colombian endemic, in Tatama National Park, where it is much more difficult to find than the previous species. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International and it is estimated that the world population is between 600 – 1,700 individuals and decreasing. As usual, the main threat to this species is deforestation, which has been severe on Cerro Tatamá. On the Caramanta massif, the species occurs in a large forest block, which is effectively intact from 800-1,000 metres up to 2,000+ metres. However, a proposed highway will run within 5-7 km of Alto de Pisiones, opening the area up to logging, mining and human settlement. Although the region is inhabited by Embera Indians, further colonisation by Europeans will inevitably lead to deforestation, through small-scale agriculture and subsistence activities. The presence of rebel guerrillas in the area renders government action and research difficult.

Santa Marta Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus melanogenys* Another of the Santa Marta endemics, we saw it very well on many occasions, along the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus lacrymosus* Another beautiful species of tanager which we saw well in cloudforest above Jardin and in cloudforest in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus somptuosus* The most common mountain-tanager throughout Colombia, which we saw well on many occasions.

Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus notabilis* We saw several pairs during our time birding in the Tatama National Park.

Grass-green Tanager *Chlorornis riefferii* We saw this spectacular looking species on a couple of occasions during our time in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.

Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager *Dubusia taeniata* A skulking and solitary bird of thick understorey, we were very fortunate to see it well on one occasion, in the Rio Blanco

Reserve, near Manizales.

- Purplish-mantled Tanager** *Iridoprocne porphyrocephala* A stunningly plumaged, localised and uncommon species of subtropical forest. Which fortunately, we saw very well on a few occasions. It is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. The population numbers are not known. The main threat to this species is rapid and ongoing deforestation, largely the result of intensive logging, human settlement, cattle-grazing and mining.
- Glistening-green Tanager** *Chlorochrysa phoenicotis* A highly localised species, which proved however, to be rather common in Tatama National Park, where we saw it very well on several occasions.
- Multicolored Tanager** *Chlorochrysa nitidissima* We were very pleased to enjoy great looks at this stunningly attractive and uncommon Colombian endemic, in Otun-Quimbaya National Park. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International and the current population is estimated to be between 600 – 1,700 individuals and decreasing. The main threat to this species is deforestation, which has been severe in many parts of its range. However, large blocks of primary forest still remain in some parts of the birds range. The rapid expansion of the road network is opening up more remote parts of the specie's range to logging, mining and human settlement.
- Plain-colored Tanager** *Tangara inornata* A rather plain species of tanager which occurs along the forest edge and in plantations. We saw it very well in a small area of private rainforest at a limestone quarry close to Rio Claro.
- Golden Tanager** *Tangara arthus* A common but incredibly beautiful species of tanager, which we saw well at all the cloudforest birding sites throughout the tour.
- Silver-throated Tanager** *Tangara icterocephala* A fairly common bird of the high Andes forests, we saw it very well in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and again in the Tatama National Park.
- Saffron-crowned Tanager** *Tangara xanthocephala* Another very attractive species of tanager, which we saw very well in the sub-tropical forests around Jardin and in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.
- Flame-faced Tanager** *Tangara parzudakii* A spectacularly plumaged species of tanager, which we saw very well in the Tatama National Park.
- Speckled Tanager** *Tangara guttata* Another bird of the forest edge, which we saw very well on a couple of occasions, along the border of the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.
- Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola* A common and conspicuous inhabitant of the forests throughout Colombia.
- Scrub Tanager** *Tangara vitriolina* Another tanager of the forest edge and secondary growth, we saw it well in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and again, close to Jardin.
- Metallic-green Tanager** *Tangara labradorides* Commonly found within the mixed-species feeding flocks at Jardin and again in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.
- Blue-necked Tanager** *Tangara cyanicollis* A common bird of foothill forests, which we saw well in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and again in the Tatama National Park.
- Golden-hooded Tanager** *Tangara larvata* Another spectacular species of tanager, which somewhat surprisingly, we only saw on one occasion, in a small area of private rainforest at a limestone quarry near Rio Claro.
- Beryl-spangled Tanager** *Tangara nigroviridis* Another common, widespread and attractive inhabitant of montane forests, which we saw on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Blue-and-black Tanager** *Tangara vassorii* A bird of the forest canopy, we saw it in the mixed-species flocks in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.
- Black-capped Tanager** *Tangara heinei* We enjoyed a number of good sightings of this striking

sexually dimorphic tanager, at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Black-headed Tanager *Tangara cyanoptera* A bird of montane forest which we saw on one occasion at Minca.

Highland Hepatic Tanager *Piranga lutea* A bird of disturbed forest which we only found around the colonial Andean town of Jardin.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* An abundant migrant from North America which we saw very well, on many occasions throughout the tour.

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera* We were very fortunate to observe a couple of males amongst a large mixed-species feeding flock, while birding in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park.

Crested Ant-Tanager *Habia cristata* This Colombian endemic is a bird of montane forest understorey, it is normally very shy and can often be very difficult to see. So we very pleased to enjoy good looks at a family party during our time in the Tatama National Park.

Black-faced Dacnis *Dacnis lineata* An uncommon species which we saw well on one occasion, in a mixed-species feeding flock in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley .

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* Another bird of the forest edge, which we saw well on a few occasions in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus* Somewhat surprisingly, we only saw this species on one occasion. We saw a pair very well in forest at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo.

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS SEEDEATER AND ALLIES *EMBERIZIDAE*

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus* Another forest edge species, which we saw well in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.

Masked Saltator *Saltator cinctus* A very uncommon and difficult to observe species, which we saw particularly well in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International, the current world population is unknown. The main threat to this species is deforestation. The only known localities for this species in Colombia are on the most deforested of the Andean Mountain cordilleras. The little remaining undisturbed montane forest is under intense threat from agriculture, cattle grazing, mining and logging.

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* Proved to be common in the dry open forest along the Caribbean coast.

Orinocan Saltator *Saltator orenocensis* We were very pleased to see this uncommon and inconspicuous species of saltator, very well, while birding in the Los Flamencos National Park.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* A common and widespread species of disturbed forest, which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Black-winged Saltator *Saltator atripennis* Another fairly common species of disturbed areas of the western and central Andes. We saw it well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Slate-colored Grosbeak *Saltator grossus* An uncommon bird of the sub-canopy, we saw it very well on one occasion, in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus unicolor* A bird of the grassy paramo of the high Andes. We saw it well on a few occasions, during our time in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* Not particularly common, with only a small number observed, at widely scattered sites.

Gray Seedeater *Sporophila intermedia* A fairly common inhabitant of grassland which we saw on one occasion, at a small swamp near Amalfi.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina* A common bird of grassy woodland, we saw a couple of small flocks along the edge of the road in Tatama National Park.

- Lesson's Seedeater** *Sporophila bouvronides* An uncommon bird of grassland pasture, this is the only bird that is known to breed along the north coast of South America from Colombia to the Guianas and following breeding, migrates to spend the non-breeding season in Amazonia. We were very fortunate to observe a couple of birds in farmland at Tigras, along the Caribbean coast. Rene Primevere Lesson (1794-1849) was a French ornithologist and naturalist of enormous influence and importance. Whilst he was best known as a zoologist he was also a skilled botanist and Professor of Botany at Rochefort. He was employed on board the Coquille, in 1822 as a botanist and then on the Astrolabe, between 1826 and 1829 as a naturalist collector.
- Black-and-white Seedeater** *Sporophila luctuosa* We saw this altitude migrant on one occasion, in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.
- Yellow-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila nigricollis* A very common bird of grassland pasture, we saw a few flocks at scattered locations throughout the tour.
- Ruddy-breasted Seedeater** *Sporophila minuta* A common bird of grassy pasture, which we saw well in a number of locations throughout the tour.
- Large-billed Seed-Finch** *Oryzoborus crassirostris* An uncommon bird of swamps and farmland, which usually stays close to water. We were very fortunate to observe this uncommon species for a prolonged period of time, when a male perched out in the open, on the edge of farmland, close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Plain-colored Seedeater** *Catamenia inornata* A fairly common bird of scrubby mountain pasture, we saw a few birds well during our time in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.
- Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivaceus* A common bird of grassy and lightly wooded areas, which we saw well at Jardin and again in Tatama National Park.
- Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa gloriosissima* This scarce and highly localised species only occurs at the timberline and only within a 90 square kilometre area, in the West Andes of Colombia. We saw it incredibly well on one occasion, at very high altitude in Tatama National Park. This bird is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International. It is estimated that the world population is between 1,000 – 2,500 individuals and declining. The main threat to this species is human settlement and the associated deforestation that comes with it. A communication facility, and associated military activity, near the top of Cerro Munchique and its timberline may also be having a detrimental impact.
- White-sided Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa albilatera* The most common and widespread flowerpiercer in Colombia, which we saw well on many occasion.
- Indigo Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa indigotica* We observed this rather uncommon species of flowerpiercer very well, on a few occasions, while birding in Tatama National Park. It is endemic to the Choco, of Colombia and northern Ecuador. It is now very difficult to find in Ecuador, making Colombia by far the easiest place to see this species.
- Rusty Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa sittoides* A localised and rather uncommon flowerpiercer, of drier, bushy montane habitat, which we saw well on one occasion, close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Bluish Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa caerulescens* Seen well on a couple of occasions within mixed-species feeding flocks in Tatama National Park.
- Masked Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa cyanea* A common species of humid forest, which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.
- Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* A common bird of open areas particularly areas of pasture. We saw a small flock in farmland at Gruta del Condor, on our way to the Oilbird cave. We saw another flock in farmland at the limestone quarry at Rio Claro, both sightings occurred in the

Magdalena Valley.

- Olive Finch** *Arremon castaneiceps* An uncommon and highly localised species, which we saw well on a few occasions, during our time in the Tatama National Park.
- Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch** *Arremon brunneinucha* A locally common inhabitant of forest bamboo understorey, we first saw it in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and then we saw it again in Tatama National Park.
- Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris* This ground frequenting sparrow was observed on one occasion, in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.
- Golden-winged Sparrow** *Arremon schlegeli* An uncommon bird of dry open country, we saw a couple of birds below Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Colombian Brush-Finch** *Arremon basilicus* Another Santa Marta endemic, we saw it in the understorey of forest at Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Gray-browed Brush-Finch** *Arremon assimillis* A common, though very skulking bird, which we saw very well on a couple of occasions in the Rio Blanco Reserve, near Manizales.
- Black-striped Sparrow** *Arremonops conirostris* A fairly common but skulking bird of bushy borders and thickets. We saw it very well on several occasions around our lodge in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.
- White-naped Brush-Finch** *Atlapetes albinucha* A fairly common inhabitant of shrubby montane forest, which we saw well in a few scattered localities.
- Santa Marta Brush-Finch** *Atlapetes melanocephalus* Another Santa Marta endemic which proved to be fairly common in the montane forest around El Derado Lodge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Pale-naped Brush-Finch** *Atlapetes pallidinucha* We enjoyed good looks at this common species in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.
- Tricolored Brush-Finch** *Atlapetes tricolor* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this fairly common species, during our time in the Tatama National Park.
- Slaty Brush-Finch** *Atlapetes schistaceus* We saw this common species of brush-finch very well in cloudforest above Jardin and again in the Nevado del Ruiz National Park.
- Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* Numerous and widespread at all higher elevations.
- Vermilion Cardinal** *Cardinalis phoeniceus* A common bird of dry thornscrub, which we saw well in the Los Flamencos National Park.
- Golden-bellied Grosbeak** *Pheucticus chrysogaster* We saw this highly localised species very well along the San Lorenzo Ridge, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* A common migrant from North America, which we saw well on a few occasions throughout the tour. The scientific name refers to the Louisiana Territory or Colony, the Mississippi Basin, claimed by France and named after King Louis XIV 'Ludovicus'; covering a much larger area than the present day state of Louisiana, it was a Spanish possession from 1763 before being repossessed by the French and sold by Napoleon to the USA in 1803.

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES *ICTERIDAE*

- Red-breasted Blackbird** *Sturnella militaris* A bird of open grassland and usually near water. We saw a small flock in the Los Flamencos National Park and we saw a second flock at the 'Screamer Marsh' at Porto Berrio.
- Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* A common bird of coastal Colombia, which we saw well on many occasion along the Caribbean coast.
- Carib Grackle** *Quiscalus lugubris* This species is also a common bird but only along the Caribbean coast and in the Amazonian section of Colombia. We enjoyed many good looks during our time along the Caribbean coast.

- Red-bellied Grackle** *Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster* We were very fortunate to have a quick look at a small flock of this Colombian endemic as they moved quickly through the forest in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International, it is estimated that the world population is between 2,500 – 10,000 individuals and declining. The main threat to this species is as usual, deforestation. This species requires the presence of mature forest, and much of its preferred inter-montane subtropical forest habitat has been lost (possibly over 90%) in the Andes, and continues to decrease. The forest has been cleared principally for timber extraction and agricultural development. The remaining forest fragments are subject to continuing human pressure, including opium production.
- Yellow-hooded Blackbird** *Chrysomus icterocephalus* A common bird of reedy marshes, we saw large numbers of this attractive species at Laguna Sieche, at Bogota.
- Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* Common and widespread in open areas, we saw small flocks at various locations throughout the tour. This species is a brood parasite, whose numbers must have undoubtedly gone up with the increase in deforested country. It is named after Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina.
- Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* This uncommon species was seen well on one occasion in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park. Like other cowbirds, it is a brood parasite, laying its eggs in the nests of oropendolas and caciques.
- Yellow-backed Oriole** *Icterus chrysater* A fairly common species of open wooded areas, which we saw well in a number of locations.
- Orange-crowned Oriole** *Icterus auricapillus* Another fairly common species of open wooded areas, we saw it well at Tigras and again in a small patch of private rainforest at a limestone quarry at Rio Claro.
- Yellow Oriole** *Icterus nigrogularis* A common bird of dry open forest, we enjoyed many good sightings along the Caribbean coast.
- Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* This species is an uncommon migrant from North America, we were very fortunate to see one particularly well, close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Mountain Cacique** *Cacicus chrysonotus* We enjoyed good looks at a large flock of this species, in cloudforest above Jardin.
- Yellow-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus cela* We saw a few of these beautiful birds in disturbed forest at Gruta del Condor, on our way to the Oilbird cave, in the Magdalena Valley and we also saw a small flock in Tatama National Park.
- Scarlet-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus uropygialis* A bird of the forest canopy, which we saw briefly in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori.
- Russet-backed Oropendola** *Psarocolius angustifrons* A bird of montane forest, we saw it well in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve, near Anori and also at Rio Sinifana, near Bolombolo.
- Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* A common and conspicuous bird, which we saw well close to Minca, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and also along the Bale Road, close to Santa Marta.

MAMMALS

- Red-tailed Squirrel** *Sciurus granatensis* This species is a very common inhabitant of all forested areas throughout Colombia.
- Western Dwarf Squirrel** *Microsciurus minus* Far less common than the previous species, however, we saw small numbers in the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve and Tatama and Otun-Quimbaya National Parks.
- Central American Aguti** *Dasyprocto punctata* One sat in the middle of the road in the Otun-Quimbaya National Park, it is a large species of rodent.
- Crab-eating Fox** *Cerdocyon thous* Pat saw a pair of these fine animals at the El Derado Lodge, in the sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Silvery-brown Bare-faced Tamarin** *Saguinus leucopus* This small species of monkey is endemic to Colombia. On a couple of occasions we watched large troops of this species at close quarters, in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.
- White-fronted Capuchin** *Cebus albifrons* We also watched a large troop of these monkeys, foraging in the canopy, in the Rio Claro Reserve, in the Magdalena Valley.
- Lemurine Night Monkey** *Aotus lemurinus* While walking to the Rio Claro Lodge for breakfast pre-dawn one morning, some members of the group stumbled across a troop of this species and we were able to observe this nocturnal monkey, very well in the spotlight.
- Venezuelan Red Howler Monkey** *Alouatta seniculus* Some members of the group saw a small troop of this species at Tigeras, in dry open country, along the Caribbean coast.