# Colombia - Multicoloured Tanager Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 January - 9 February 2019





Multicoloured Tanager

Red-headed Barbet



Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager



Green Thorntail

Report compiled by Phil Dargue, assisted by Nathaniel Dargue and Pete Forrest Checklist by Pete Forrest and Images courtesy of Nathaniel Dargue



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Tour participants: Fabio Aru (Bird Guide), Ferney Selgado (Tour Manager), Hector (Driver)

With eight Naturetrek clients

# **Summary**

This report attempts to give some sense of the multi-sensory overload provided from dawn until dusk most days as we toured the Cauca Valley and the Western and Central Andes.

#### Day 1

# Wednesday 30th January

Heathrow

The majority of our party departed from Heathrow on the overnight Avianca flight for Bogota.

#### Day 2

# **Thursday 31st January**

#### Cali and Finca Lolita

We arrived into Bogota on time and the six of us off the Heathrow flight met up with Nigel who had travelled from Australia via a stopover in Chile. Unfortunately our connection to Cali was delayed at Bogota by early morning fog and we were kept waiting on the tarmac waiting for the sun to burn it off. We eventually arrived at Cali over an hour late, all slightly frustrated as we knew the birds awaited us and there is nothing quite like the first few hours in a new country where so much is new and exciting.

We drove through heavy traffic to a city centre hotel to pick up Graham who had been working in Cali for the previous week, so was well acclimatised compared to the rest of us. Our minibus proved to be very comfortable with the added bonus of wi-fi, which came in handy a few times during the longer transfers. We were soon at our first birding location, Club Campestre de Cali, where we got our first glimpse of brilliant colour with Vermillion Flycatcher as we waited to sign in at the gate, along with Spotted Sandpiper and an Agouti. After our breakfast surrounded by Saffron Finches and Southern Lapwing we headed out for a walk and it was obvious this is a place full of birds in amongst the golf course and polo fields. We also got the first glimpse of the humour and camaraderie that would hold throughout the trip. John shouted out as a bird shot overhead "large parrot with blue head and green body just gone over" to which someone dryly responded, "so that will be a Blue-headed Parrot then!".



Blue-headed Parrot - Nathaniel Dargue



Lineated Woodpecker - Nathaniel Dargue

We hadn't even got across the car park before a Lineated Woodpecker called from a tree and gave us great views. To add to the early excitement, Fabio found a roosting Common Potoo in the same tree. The next two hours were punctuated by new species every few yards, as we slowly headed for an area of dry forest. Birds included Rusty Margined Flycatcher, Yellow-headed Caracara, Yellow-olive Flatbill and the only Guira and Swallow Tanagers of the trip. As we approached the forest area a raptor flew in and perched in the open – it turned out to be an Aplomado Falcon, a very unexpected treat. Suddenly birds were everywhere with Greynecked Wood Rail wandering round in the open quickly followed by our first endemic, Colombian Chachalaca. In the forest we found Red-crowned woodpecker, Slaty-headed Tody Flycatcher and a female Golden-collared Manakin. As we headed back for lunch, we had fabulous views of another endemic, Apical Flycatcher, which turned out to be Nigel's 5,000th species so it was handshakes all round.

Lunch was followed by a quick final check of the lake area which yielded Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Great and Snowy Egrets, Bare-faced Ibis, Tri-coloured and Little Blue Herons and a Cattle Tyrant before it was time to

head off to our first overnight stay. We were quickly climbing into the Western Andes, initially through heavily deforested areas before reaching the greener areas as we neared 2,000 metres ABSL and arrived at the beautiful Finca Lolita, set in lovely grounds with its own hummer and fruit feeders - and the best thing is we had it entirely to ourselves!

A walk in the local area failed to deliver much as it was quite windy but the garden feeders and area around the house was much more fruitful. Hummers included pretty common species but our first of the such as White-necked Jacobin, Steely-vented Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Western and Andean Emeralds and Black Throated Mango. The fruit feeders brought in Green Honeycreeper, Blue-grey, Palm, Flame-rumped, Scrub and Black-capped Tanagers and Acorn Woodpeckers. The final treat of the day was a singing Whiskered Wren right by the house before dinner and a celebratory bottle of wine for Nigel on the veranda of the Finca. Not bad for our first day!

2



Apical Flycatcher - Nathaniel Darque

## Day 3

# Friday 1st February

#### Anchicaya Forest - The Buenaventura Old Road

A pre-dawn coffee saw us on the road early as we headed down the pacific slope of the Western Andes on the old road to Buenaventura, into an area known as Anchicaya Forest. After picking up our compulsory local guide we drove further down the road before we got off the mini bus to start walking down the road just as dawn



Lyre-tailed Nightjar - Nathaniel Dargue

broke onto a misty scene and the true beauty of the area became apparent to us. After a quiet start we quickly logged up a ridiculous number of pre-breakfast species including Orange-bellied Euphonias, Slate-throated Redstart, Dusky-faced Tanager, Goldenhooded Tanager, Ornate Flycatcher, Buffrumped Warbler, Masked Trogan, Scalecrested Pygmy Tyrant and the stunning Toucan Barbet. We were also treated to a roosting Lyre-tailed Nightjar right by the side of the road.

Our breakfast stop was at the renowned El Descanso restaurant, otherwise known as Dona Dora's. The owner

has created a fabulous environment for birds with a mixture of hummer and fruit feeders that are constantly busy. It is also perched on the side of a hill giving great views into tree tops which gives a great opportunity to spot canopy feeding birds, all whilst eating your breakfast. It seems almost churlish to pick out highlights, but having dipped on them elsewhere Redheaded Barbet was a longed for species for your author, and here they were just a few feet away! Tanagers were in abundance with Blue-winged Mountain, Rufous-throated, Silver-throated and Golden Tanagers especially numerous and other



Tri-coloured Brush Finch - Nathaniel Dargue

visitors such as Tri-coloured Brushfinch. Hummers were seemingly everywhere including Rufous-gaped Hillstar, Empress Brilliant, White-whiskered Hermits and Violet-tailed Sylphs. The aforementioned view down the hill yielded more canopy top views of Toucan Barbets and our only sighting of Golden-collared Honeycreeper.

Fabio had to literally drag us away from the restaurant with the promise of much more to come and it didn't take



Stripe-billed Aracari - Nathaniel Dargue

long. On the road outside we found three Crimson-rumped Toucanets and a female Andean Cock-of-the-Rock before continuing our drive down the mountain. As the altitude dropped the species cast would change throughout the day, with the biggest problem keeping up as they were found. Highlights included Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo (a lifer for Fabio), Stripe-billed Aracari, Long-tailed Tyrant, Bright-rumped Attila, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Squirrel Cuckoo, Spot-crowned Barbet and the near

endemic Choco Toucan. We also were treated to an explosion of tanagers with Green-and-Gold, Rufous-winged, Bay-headed and Blue-necked all vying for our attention. To add icing to the morning tanager cake we got superb views of the endemic Crested Ant Tanager alongside Dusky-faced Tanager, followed by treetop views of Blue

Dacnis. A particular treat for Nathaniel was watching a male Club-winged Manakin doing its famed mating ritual just a few feet in front of us.

Lunch was taken in a roadside garage, with hot rice, chicken and beans produced from somewhere, delicious and quirky in one go, before we headed even further down the road. The new species continued to appear with a real highlight being Plumbeous Hawk in amongst a truly epic number of Swallow-tailed Kites majestically flying over the valley. Our tanager list continued to grow with great views of both Tawny-

crested and Scarlet-browed Tanager. A stop to



Scarlet-browed Tanager - Nathaniel Dargue

look for Masked Tityra also delivered great views of Black-cheeked Woodpecker before our guides picked up a calling Pacific Antwren, which turned out to be a pair that eventually granted fantastic views of this stunning bird.

Eventually it was time to turn back up the road towards home, but not before another stop at Dona Dora's for a beer and more time at the feeders. This time we had great views of Black-chinned Mountain-Tanagers alongside the previous cast but as the light was now much better the photographers were able to get better shots than during the morning. A last couple of stops delivered Bare-throated Tiger Heron and Green Kingfisher before we finally called it a day and headed back to Finca Lolita. Our first full day delivered an impressive 126 species and a very happy group sat down to dinner together with many stories to tell.

## Day 4

# Saturday 2nd February

#### KM18 and Laguna de Sonso

Most of us were up at dawn to see what turned up around Finca Lolita before breakfast. Early visitors to the feeders included Colombian Chachalaca and Andean Motmot alongside the commoner tanagers and hummers from day one. After breakfast our main target duly arrived with three Inca Jays coming to the feeders and then a real treat with an Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush singing loudly and giving tantalising views by the front steps to the lodge.



Golden-naped Tanager - Nathaniel Dargue

Sad to say goodbye to Finca Lolita we headed off to the nearby fabled KM18 birding area, a somewhat loosely defined location situated at well over 2,000 metres ABSL. We were soon out of the bus walking the old track and instantly picking up new ticks for the trip with the highlight being Chestnut-breasted Wren before arriving at Finca Alejandria. I can honestly say I have never been anywhere quite like it for the sheer volume of hummer and fruit feeders. In places there were so many hummingbirds the noise was like being in the middle of a swarm of bees!

It was difficult at first to know where to focus your attention. The fruit feeders brought in an astonishing number of tanagers, including ones seen before but also Saffron-crowned, Golden-naped and to everyone's delight the tour headline bird, Multicoloured Tanager – a range restricted endemic. We were clearly here on a good day because we had numerous views of more than one stunning male throughout our visit. Other visitors included Red-headed Barbet, Streaked Saltator and a solitary Swainson's Thrush. Away from the feeders we had



Green Hermit - Nathaniel Darque

really close up views of a male Barred Becard and a Golden-crowned Flycatcher perched nearby.

The hummer feeders brought in a number of new species including the dainty Booted Racket-tail, Green Hermit, Long-tailed Sylph and the stunning Blue-headed Sapphire (a real local speciality). But it was just the sheer volume of birds coming through that was the real delight and it really is difficult to do justice to the sheer brilliance of this spot.

Before lunch we set off for a walk to explore the nearby forest on foot. The sun was now out and with the altitude it felt like a pleasant spring day back at home. The birding was a challenge but we picked up a new tanager, Metallic-green and found Tawny-bellied Hermit before sighting our first furnariid of the trip, a Streak-capped Treehunter (it had plenty to find!). Further on we seemed to have more success in setting off the local dogs for a while, before we suddenly hit a purple patch with some great new

ticks. We found a couple of Russet-crowned Warblers deep in the understorey along with a Slaty Antwren,



Blue-headed Sapphire - Nathaniel Dargue

before Nathaniel called us over to check another bird he had just photographed – which turned out to be a Spotted Barbtail. Unfortunately, no-one else saw it but we did all see the scarcer Rusty-winged Barbtail which was keeping it company instead! This was quickly followed by a Golden-headed Quetzal perched high in the canopy. However, it flew just as we managed to all get a fix on its location. A Crested Quetzal was calling nearby but sadly never revealed itself.

Back at Finca Alejandria we enjoyed a fresh BBQ lunch cooked by our proprietor. This gave us a chance to explore the property all over again and just enjoy the sheer spectacle whilst eating a fabulous steak washed down with a cold beer.

Ferney and Fabio dragged us away and we reluctantly boarded the minibus and headed to our next location, a complete contrast, Laguna de Sonso. This is sited on an ox-bow lake alongside the Rio Cauca in the valley bottom. Suddenly it was hot and humid

and it really felt like we were close to the equator. We got out of the minibus at the start of the entrance road and immediately had new birds around us. Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs were in a roadside pond and more distantly we could see Black-necked Stilts and many ibis, herons and egrets. The grasslands held Red-breasted Blackbird and on a nearby bush a Savanna Hawk gave everyone fantastic scope views.

As we walked towards the centre we passed through a small village with music blaring out, right in front of a roosting Common Potoo that seemed completely unfazed. This was the first of an incredible seven we found that afternoon! This was closely followed by three Common Nighthawks also quietly roosting nearby and then John found three gorgeous Oriole Blackbirds by a small stream. The huge riverside trees seemed full of life including a flock of Greater Ani's which we admired before re-boarding the minibus to drive down to the visitor centre. Back on foot once more we found a Limpkin on a nearby pool along with Cinnamon Teal and a solitary Green Heron. A flyover by an Osprey suddenly brought our attention towards the main lake. Here we added Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule and Pied-billed Grebe as well as lots of Spectacled Parrotlets around the centre itself.

We walked down towards a viewing platform alongside the



Common Potoo - Nathaniel Dargue

lake on the edge of the trees. On the water we got a stunning view of a male Snail Kite, whilst in the forest a Streaked Flycatcher gave great views. Once at the



Jet Antbird - Nathaniel Dargue

platform we were able to look out over the flat grasslands where huge flocks of Barn and Blue-and-white Swallows were hunting and perching. Elsewhere, a Yellow Oriole was building a nest, a stunning Fork-tailed flycatcher was perched on a distant bush and a Horned Screamer was feeding in the long grass. By now the sun was nearing the horizon but there was still time to pick up a Jet Antbird near the foot of the tower, as the insects started to take an unhealthy interest in us!

As we arrived back at the visitors centre John pointed out a young cow in up to its neck in the mud on the edge of the lake to our local guide. At which point he ran to fetch a rope which he managed to put around its neck before virtually the entire tour group managed to drag it back on to dry land! A slightly unexpected end to the day with sadly no photographs to record it.

By this point we had recorded an incredible 141 species in the day, the highest daily total of the trip, reflecting the variety of habitats visited, and the trip total was now over 200 after only three days birding.

We arrived at our hotel in Buga somewhat hot and sticky bedecked in khaki to be confronted with an incredibly glamorous wedding underway. To say we stood out like sore thumbs was the understatement of the year and trying to chat over dinner and do our daily list was almost impossible over the succession of live bands that belted out non-stop. Colombians sure know how to party!



Snail Kite - Nathaniel Dargue

Sunday 3rd February

#### Day 5

#### Buga to Montezuma

Breakfast the following morning by the hotel pool was at first light and unsurprisingly there was no sign of any revellers from last night. Dawn did reveal a couple of new species from our breakfast table however. A Buffnecked Ibis was roosting in one of the poolside palms and the flocks of parrots flying around contained Yellow-crowned Amazons in amongst the Blue-headed Parrots.

We were soon on the road heading towards Montezuma with very light traffic as it was Sunday morning, apart



from lots of cyclists, an incredibly popular sport in Colombia. Our first stop was on a hillside approaching the town of Apia to search for swifts. Sadly we didn't find any but we did pick up Pale-breasted Spinetail, Golden-rumped Euphonia and Yellow-bellied Siskin. By now we were back in the foothills of the Western Andes and climbing again out of the Valle del Cauca and we stopped again to check out a roadside tree clinging to the hillside. Immediately we had sightings of the endemic Turquoise Dacnis quickly followed by Black-and-white Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler and Cerulean Warbler all in the same tree as well as Green Honeycreepers, Summer Tanagers and Yellow Orioles. As we stood watching the tree a male Bar-crested Antshrike called and treated us to fantastic views for the next five minutes.

Back on the road we were soon in Pueblo Rico where we transferred from our minibus into two Toyota 4x4s. Leaving Hector behind we arrived at Montezuma Lodge less than an hour later and were soon enjoying lunch in this superb

location. The hummer feeders by the restaurant area attracted two new species, Green-crowned Brilliant and Bar-crested Antshrike - Nathaniel Dargue Brown Inca, as well as old favourites from previous locations such as Black-throated Mango. A post-lunch exploration of the grounds delivered a stunning male Andean

Cock-of-the-Rock in a fruiting tree near the lodge, Bronze-winged Parrot and a stunning group of Black-chested Jays on a nearby hillside.

With the weather beginning to look a little threatening we set off purposefully uphill to bird the lower slopes above the lodge. We hit the jackpot very quickly with an endemic Greyish Piculet showing really well only a couple of hundred metres above the lodge before we were into the cloud forest. Unfortunately, at this point it started to live up to its name as the rain started and became gradually heavier. We managed some birds such as Acadian Flycatcher, but the visibility gradually reduced making many of the views challenging and only our guides seemed able to distinguish features in the gloom, There was one real treat however - a magnificent juvenile Ornate Hawk Eagle perched right above the road. By now it was pouring down, so we decided to head back to the lodge to enjoy a coffee or a beer and to watch the feeders from the shelter of the lodge.

As we enjoyed dinner that evening we were treated to an invasion of moths of an incredible size and variety. Sadly, none of us had any great expertise in being able to name them all, but the sheer

8



Greyish Piculet - Nathaniel Dargue

beauty and variety would be a treat for any serious lepidopterist.

# Day 6

# **Monday 4th February**

#### Montezuma Road

A very early start saw us drinking tea and coffee at 0500, before we set off up the mountain road in our 4x4 trucks (which proved surprisingly comfortable given the journey ahead). The only bad news was that Marcus wasn't well and had to stay back at the lodge. The loading of shovels and picks into the vehicle gave a hint of the

After retracing our steps of yesterday, we started to climb up the mountain in the mist and darkness on a very bumpy track before realising why we had the shovels! The heavy rain of yesterday had caused a landslip, so all of our drivers and guides set to restoring the road (walking over it later we realised just how big a drop was below the frequently repaired area) and we were soon on our way up again. We reached the top just as first light started to emerge in the by now heavy mist at over 2,500 metres ABSL.



Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager - Nathaniel Dargue

Expecting the mist to reduce our chances of any sightings we walked towards the edge of the mountain where some hummer feeders have been set up. Were we wrong! Birds started to emerge very quickly, with first up a Smoky Bush Tyrant just six feet away. This was quickly followed by an even closer pair of Lacrimose Mountain Tanagers and two Grass-green Tanagers. The feeders brought our first sighting of the endemic Chestnut-bellied



Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer - Nathaniel Dargue

Flowerpiecer as well as new hummers including Collared Inca and Tourmaline Sunangels. Whilst all this activity happened around us the mist suddenly cleared and the sun came out revealing an astonishing vista across to Cerro Tatama (4,063 metres) standing way above us – breathtaking! The birds just kept coming with Blue-capped Tanager, our first Purplish-mantled Tanager of the day, Great Thrushes everywhere and Brown-bellied Swallows hunting on the edge. We almost had to be literally dragged back to the truck for a hot breakfast and very welcome coffee or hot chocolate.



Ocellated Tapaculo - Nathaniel Dargue

After breakfast we started the long walk down the mountain, jumping in the trucks at various intervals to ensure we got to bird at various altitudes on the way down. There is literally no traffic here apart from odd vehicles visiting the army post at the top and our lunch being delivered! The sheer variety of species we saw was astonishing and certainly too many to list all but the highlights here. Almost immediately we picked up Bluish Flowerpiecer, Rufous Spinetail and Dusky Hemispingus followed by Plushcap and the endemic Munchique Wood Wren and a pair of Blackthroated Tody-Tyrants. A little further on we found a pair of stunning Hooded Mountain-Tanagers and a pair of White-sided Flowerpiercers before our guides suddenly got excited when they picked up a new bird calling in the dense forest above us. Fabio set about trying to call it down whilst trying to play down any expectations. Suddenly it appeared in front of us, Ocellated Tapaculo, number one target for several of us and the cover bird on the Birds of Northern South America (vol 2)! It proceeded to give everyone good views (for a Tapaculo) as it continued to call.

Fabio had to drag us away to continue our walk so we reluctantly left it singing by the side of the road.

We were soon rewarded with a small mixed flock including Fulvous-dotted Treerunner, Green-and- black Fruiteater and Beryl-spangled Tanager before our first sighting of one of our major targets for the day – a couple of gorgeous endemic Gold-ringed Tanagers, quickly followed by a Golden-olive Woodpecker in the same group of trees. The nearby feeders then produced a couple of new hummers, Greenish Puffleg and the handsome Velvet-purple Coronet.

As it became quieter we stopped for lunch, which was delivered by motorbike fresh from the lodge. As a result, we were able to enjoy a hot meal washed down with fruit juices just sat by the side of the road. Post lunch we continued our walk picking up new species as we went. We saw our second endemic Bangsia tanager of the day near the landslip site from this morning, a Black-and-Gold Tanager giving good views. The landslip site also yielded an Indigo Flowerpiercer adding to the impressive tally of this genus for the day. We picked up a mixed flock, including the aptly named



Gold-ringed Tanager - Nathaniel Dargue

Beautiful Jay, Handsome Flycatcher and a couple of Glistening-green Tanagers that lived up to their billing, as well as various tyrant flycatchers in the high canopy.



Lanceoloted Monklet - Nathaniel Dargue

As we continued, we heard the recently named Tatama Tapaculo calling nearby. Some of the group managed to see it but others, me included, just couldn't pick it up even though it was only a few feet away. As we made our way further down the mountain the scale of activity was definitely lower but we still got an excellent sighting of a Moustached Puffbird, a Masked Trogon and a couple of Toucan Barbets feeding near the road. At one of the bridges we again stopped and our local guide put out some rice to entice an Olive Finch. which came too close for most of the photographers!

We still had time for one final new hummer – Green-fronted Lancebill feeding from a perch by the river and a chance for Fabio to show off his spotting skills, by somehow finding a Lanceoloted Monklet perched in the forest from a moving 4X4! Back at the lodge we just had time to see a Tropical Screech Owl in a tree before darkness descended.

All in all a fabulous day that will live with us all for the rest of our lives -I can honestly say it was the best days birding I have ever had!!

# Day 7

# and Otivia Ovijeshavia

# Montezuma and Otun Quimbaya

We began our final morning at Montezuma with a relatively leisurely start. It was a final chance to bird the immediate vicinity of the lodge and we managed to get good views of a Blackish Rail on the nearby ponds, as well as sightings of the more usual inhabitants of the feeders and nearby fruiting trees such as Crimson-backed Tanager.

We set off back to Pueblo Rico to be reunited with Hector and the mini bus and then turned our backs on the Western Andes and retraced our route back towards Perreira and onwards to Otun Quimbaya on the edge of the Central



Crimson-backed Tanager - Nathaniel Dargue

**Tuesday 5th February** 

Andes. As we began to follow the Otun River towards the reserve we started to look for Torrent Duck, but despite much effort we sadly dipped on this charismatic creature. We arrived at Otun Quimbaya in time for lunch and we were quickly transported back to school days in the Sixties, as the dinner ladies served us in what can only be described as the canteen!

As we couldn't check in yet we set off walking up the entrance track and quickly picked up the two local specialities, Cauca Guan and Red-ruffed Fruitcrow (the second largest passerine in South America) nearby. In



Red-ruffed Fruitcrow - Nathaniel Dargue

reality both appear to be very common for reasons no one seems to understand since the forest is actually an old plantation. We also saw a troop of Red Howler Monkeys moving through the canopy, one of very few mammal sightings of note on the trip. A stroll in the opposite direction on the road revealed a few other reasonable species including Azaras Spinetail, Pale-edged Flycatcher and great views of a Collared Trogon but the river still failed to yield any ducks.

We quickly checked in and then headed off via a very cramped jeep. It became even more so as

the rain chose that point to start and more people climbed inside, leaving just John and Ferney on their own standing on the back as it poured down. The last laugh was John's though, as he was the only one to see a Moustached Antpitta shoot across the road!

On arrival at the top of the road we went looking for a real challenge – Hooded Antpitta. We quickly heard one calling and it started to come towards us but unfortunately in the dense undergrowth your author was the only one to get an unmistakeable view of it. This was through a window in the undergrowth singing quite close by. Despite my best efforts no one else got to my vantage point before it disappeared for good.

As the sporadic rain continued we headed back towards the lodge with the light fading quite quickly. On arrival back some of the guys found the only Rose-breasted Grosbeak of the trip whilst some of us had chosen the first really hot shower since Buga in preference! After Dinner we went out looking for Mottled Owl but despite one responding it never came close enough to see, so we left it to the forest and headed for bed knowing we had a very early start tomorrow.



Chestnut-crowned Antpitta- Nathaniel Dargue

Wednesday 6th February

#### Day 8

#### Rio Blanco

We were up very early to leave Otun Quimbaya, being on the road by 0400 heading towards Manizales where we picked up our local guide for the day at the superb reserve at Rio Blanco. We were immediately watching the hummer feeders at first light and picked up our first Lesser and Sparkling Violetears of the trip. We had just sat down for breakfast when we were hurried out to the nearby feeding station where Bicoloured Antpitta normally arrive – however despite calling it failed to appear because, apparently, it had rained a lot the previous day, so it would have found plenty of worms for itself. Given that this is one of the wettest places in the world, this was

right up there with the best excuses ever offered! It's not a zoo and nothing is guaranteed would have done – no apology necessary.



Rufous-crowned Tody-Tyrant - Nathaniel Dargue

After finishing a now cold breakfast we then embarked on a fantastic day at a location that all of us will long remember and would happily have spent more time visiting. The number of highlights could fill a report on their own, but we did successfully get two Antpitta species at other feeders, the stunning Chestnut-crowned and the endemic Brown-banded. We also had two Grey-browed Brushfinch at one of the feeding stations, a superb bonus. As we walked up the hill a pair of very noisy Flammulated Treehunters alerted us to their presence and a little further

up we got superb views of a Rufous-crowned Tody-Tyrant. Tanager flocks were everywhere keeping us entertained before we picked up a Black-billed Mountain Toucan calling which eventually gave us great views.

What then followed was one of the true highlights of the trip. We suddenly realised we were in the middle of a fabled mixed flock with different species all around us. Over the next 15 minutes we were treated to an unbelievable succession of new and familiar birds all around us with the biggest challenge (particularly for our guides) being to ensure we all saw and identified everything. The flock included Streaked Xenops, Capped Conebill, Montane Woodcreeper, Metallic-green Tanager, Grey-hooded Bush Tanager, Superciliaried Hemispingus (what name!), Russet-crowned Warbler, Sharpe's



White-capped Dipper - Nathaniel Dargue

Wren, Streak-headed Woodcreeper and Pearled Treerunner amongst others. As they finally passed through we almost breathed a sigh of relief as we all mentally processed what we had seen and compared notes. Words can't do it justice. However, just to prove that there is always more to see in this fantastic country we were then treated to fabulous views of a Crimson-mantled Woodpecker – surely a contender for the most beautiful woodpecker in the world. All this before lunch!

Back at the visitor centre over lunch we got great views of Speckled Hummingbird feeding on the flowers in the garden, before the heavens opened for a very impressive thunderstorm. The afternoon continued to produce yet

more new species after the storm passed, with good sightings of Slaty-backed and Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrants with other smaller mixed flocks to keep up our interest. As we walked along we suddenly heard Antpitta calls and at one stage had three different species calling. We only managed to get sightings of one, the very difficult to see Slaty-crowned Antpitta which turned out to be Marcus's 5,000th bird on his list. Not bad!



Wedge-billed Hummingbird - Nathaniel Dargue

We ended our visit down by the main gate to the reserve where White-capped Tanager had been seen recently. Sadly we didn't find any. but we finally got fabulous views of White-capped Dipper near the water plant and great views of another new hummer, Wedge-billed Hummingbird that seemed to particularly enjoy teasing a group of Chinese photographers.

We headed back through Manizales to our new hotel, Paraiso Verde just as it got dark for a well-earned beer, an interesting dinner (which we all thought was the starter!) and to give Marcus the chance to

drink a celebratory red wine (provided by Nigel) in honour of hitting 5,000 species.

#### Day 9

# Thursday 7th February

Hacienda del Bosque, Los Nevados, Termales del Ruiz and the old road to Manizales

Our last full day of the trip was once again to be a full-on test of the senses. This was the day we really upped the altitude, reaching 4,138 metres at the visitor centre in the Los Nevados national park. It was also the day that the weather intervened for the first time on our trip in any significant way.



Rufous Antpitta- Nathaniel Darque

As ever we left early before breakfast in the dark, although some of the group were treated to the bizarre spectacle of a juvenile Purple Gallinule landing in a hanging basket two feet away from us. On checking the hotel bird list we were delighted to discover this was a new species to add to the 216 they already had!

Our first stop was an unscheduled one suggested by Ferney and Fabio, both experts in the birds of the Manizales area. Hacienda del Bosque has been open to birders for less than a year but is home to some superb species. It is actually a working dairy farm where we started with a great breakfast in the farmhouse. This was really welcome at over 3,200 metres with a distinct chill in the air. We then set off up the mountain (slowly!) under glorious blue skies to visit our first antpitta station. On the way we picked up new species including Andean Guan and Red-crested Cotinga before settling down to await a Rufous Antpitta, which obliged with great views despite being nearly upstaged by a pair of White-browed Spintetails.

As we were about to leave the feeding station we suddenly heard a bird we were all desperate to see. On cue two Grey-breasted Mountain Toucans duly appeared in a tree right in front of us. They proceeded to give absolutely stunning views coming even closer with a third bird appearing – for many they instantly became the number one species of the whole trip and if ever a name failed to describe what an absolute beauty it really is, this must be it. Our final port of call was to another antpitta feeding station, but this time we only managed to hear the Crescent-faced Antpitta but did get superb point-blank views of a Barred Fruiteater.

It was now time to head further up the Central Andes towards Los Nevados National Park. As we did so the weather began to close in slowly. We stopped frequently as we drove up the quiet road towards the top, with a seemingly never-ending succession of new birds. New sightings included Paramo Seedeater, Blackbacked Bush Tanager, White-sided Flowerpiercer, Glossy Flowerpiercer, the superb Rainbow-bearded Thornbill and a very obliging Pale-naped Brushfinch (rapidly becoming a real favourite family of mine). We stopped at a high-altitude lake called Laguna Negra, which briefly appeared from the mist to reveal Andean Teal and the local black faced subspecies of Ruddy Duck, as well as Stout-billed Cinclodes and a very noisy flypast by an Andean Lapwing. As we continued up beyond 4,000 metres the mist became ever thicker before a cry came from the front of the bus of "Tawny Antpitta" as the brakes went on - sure enough an unbelievably tame bird gave views that surely meant it broke the genus code of behaviour!



Pale-naped Brush Finch-Nathaniel Dargue

The national park gates were our final stopping point on our ascent by which time it was pouring with rain with visibility of only a few metres – not much chance of a Condor today and the sunshine of only an hour ago



Buffy Helmetcrest - Nathaniel Dargue

seemed like a distant memory. Somewhat pessimistically we set off looking for our major target in from the shelter of the visitor centre viewing platform. Unbelievably there it was only a few metres away – the astonishing Buffy Helmetcrest! It gave us all great views as it fed on the flowers in front of us before eventually disappearing in the mist. We also picked up Andean Tit-Spinetail before deciding to head lower down in the hope of finding better weather.

Our lunchtime stop was at Termales del Ruiz, a hotel on the old road from Los Nevados down into Manizales, built on a volcanic thermal spa and offering

a very smelly swimming pool for those so inclined. We all opted for the hummingbird garden either side of lunch

instead. Unfortunately, the weather was still poor so the feeders were not as busy and we had to fight our way under the shelter with our Chinese photographer friends from Rio Blanco to avoid being soaked. There were still some superb new birds though with Shining Sunbeams, Mountain Velvetbreast, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Golden-breasted Puffleg and the stunning Great Sapphirewing amongst the cast. The fruit feeders yielded Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager and several stunning Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers and we also picked up Hooded Mountain-Tanagers in the forest as we ate lunch.

After lunch and another visit to the feeders we set off initially walking down the old road past steaming volcanic streams dodging the rain. We quickly found Black-thighed Puffleg in amongst the hummers buzzing around the open bushes in this area before Ferney excitedly called our attention to three Golden-crowned Tanagers. John so eloquently described them as "yet another example of someone tipping up the paint pots" – breath-taking birds. The plan now was to drive down the road towards Manizales stopping off in different areas of forest as the altitude decreased to look for mixed flocks. By this point of the trip we had seen well over 380 species as a group and we were hoping to push beyond 400. Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas and it was at times difficult

to bird in the heavy rain. Even so we still picked up several new species, particularly as we reached lower elevations and the weather improved slightly. These included Paramo Tapaculo, Dusky Piha and great views of a flock of Golden-plumed Parakeets.

As we hit tarmac again the forest petered out and we were once again in the outskirts of Manizales. By this point it was starting to get dark. We went for dinner in a lively city centre restaurant on the 12th floor of a building near the cathedral. It was full of immaculately dressed Colombians on a Thursday night out confronted by a group of dishevelled birders just descended from a very soggy mountain top! Special mention goes to Fabio who never once put a raincoat on during the day up the mountain and then sat through dinner wearing it! It was great though to see what a vibrant city Manizales is and sample its social scene (I am sure that the fact they had the local football team playing in the South American equivalent of the Champions League on TV had nothing to do with the choice of restaurant?!).



Yellow-headed Blackbird - Nathaniel Darque

Friday 8th February

# **Day 10**

#### Paraiso Verde and Embalse de Cameguadua

Our last day together had sadly arrived and we had planned a more leisurely start so we could enjoy the hotel grounds and prepare for the long journey home or transfer back to Bogota for those lucky enough to be heading to Santa Marta.

Dawn (well some of us couldn't break the habit!) saw our first daylight sighting of the grounds of Paraiso Verde and wow are they terrific! A deep green valley descending away from the hotel with a mixture of gardens and forest promising many species. The dawn chorus included Common Paraque and distant Lineated Woodpeckers before birds started to appear. Sightings included five Acorn Woodpeckers. Swainson's Thrush and Mourning

Warbler alongside common tanagers which by now just seemed like the norm. A proper session birding the grounds would be bound to turn up more birds but sadly time was short and we had final packing to do.



Pied Water-Tyrant - Nathaniel Dargue

After breakfast we headed away from Manizales and stopped at a reservoir called Cameguadua on the outskirts of the small coffee town of Chinchina. Our last birding site proved to be just as fruitful as the others we had visited and duly delivered not only a serious number of new species but great views as well – and boy was it hot having been at high altitude for the previous few days.

We picked up Grey-breasted Martins over the water in amongst the more familiar Barn Swallows before finding both Thick-billed and Large-billed Seedeaters, a pair of beautiful Golden-rumped Euphonias and a Greyish Saltator (and the instantly forgettable Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet!). As we walked further along we picked up Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters, a Northern Waterthrush and a female Great Ant-Shrike, before arriving at the second reservoir that was covered in waders (Mainly Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers plus Greater Yellowlegs) large numbers of Bluewinged Teal, various herons and egrets and our first American

Coot.

We still had our final treats of the trip to come though. A pair of Spot-breasted Woodpeckers were followed by a Yellow-headed Blackbird sitting on top of a post in case we should miss it and a Pied Water Tyrant giving point blank views at the edge of the water. A pair of Olive-crowned Yellowthroats were pretty much our last new species of the trip but to the end one of my personal favourites – Vermillion Flycatcher – continued to give amazing views even as we boarded the bus to leave for lunch. It may be common but I will never tire of seeing them.



Vermillion Flycatcher - Nathaniel Dargue

Lunch was at a local roadside restaurant with enormous plates of food all round and a chance for us to thank Fabio, Ferney and Hector for looking after us so well before heading to the airport and the usual hurried goodbyes to Ferney and Hector as we all headed off to Bogota with just Fabio for company. On arrival in Bogota those of us heading back to the UK said our goodbyes to Fabio, Nigel, Marcus and John as they headed off to their hotel for the night before starting the Santa Marta tour. The rest of us then headed for the nearest bar to prepare for the flight home and reflect on what a superb trip we had enjoyed and begin planning another trip to the incomparable birding mecca that is Colombia.

# **Species Lists**

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

In total the group saw 408 species, although no one saw every single species. We recorded a further 18 heard only in the list below.



Nathaniel, Nigel, Graham, Mike, Fernando, Pete, Fabio, Ferney and John at the top of Montezuma Road

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Horned Screamer	Anhima cornuta	Two at Laguna de Sonso
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna autumnalis	Small numbers at Cali Country Club and Laguna de Sonso.
Cinnamon Teal	Spatula cyanoptera	Three at Laguna de Sonso
Blue-winged Teal	Spatula discors	Two at Laguna de Sonso and common at Cameguadua Reservoir
Andean Teal	Anas andium	Seven at Laguna Negra
Andean Duck	Oxyura ferruginea	One at Laguna Negra and one at Cameguadua Reservoir
Colombian Chachalaca	Ortalis columbiana	Up to five daily on three dates. (Cali, Finca Lolita and Paraiso Verde)
Andean Guan	Penelope montagnii	Two at Hacienda del Bosque
Cauca Guan	Penelope perspicax	Four at Otun Quimbaya
Sickle-winged Guan	Chamaepetes goudotii	Seen at Anchicaya and Rio Blanco
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	Seen at Laguna de Sonso and Cameguadua Reservoir
Buff-necked Ibis	Theristicus caudatus	One in the hotel grounds at Buga
Bare-faced Ibis	Phimosus infuscatus	Seen on five dates

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	One at Laguna de Sonso
Fasciated Tiger Heron	Tigrisoma fasciatum	One on the Anchicaya excursion
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	Two at Laguna de Sonso and one at Cameguadua Reservoir
Green heron	Butorides virescens	One at Laguna de Sonso
Striated Heron	Butorides striata	Seen on three dates
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	Seen most days
Cocoi Heron	Ardea cocoi	Seen on three dates
Great Egret	Ardea alba	Seen on three dates
Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea	One at Cali Country Club and two at Cameguadua Reservoir
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	Seen on four dates
Neotropical Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus	Seen on four dates
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	Seen on three dates
Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus	Seen most days
Western Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Singles on three dates
White-tailed Kite	Elanus leucurus	Singles on two dates
Hook-billed Kite	Chondrohierax uncinatus	One at Rio Blanco
Swallow-tailed Kite	Elanoides forficatus	At least 20 soaring over the forest at Anchicaya
Ornate Hawk Eagle	Spizaetus ornatus	One perched close to the track at Montezuma
Snail Kite	Rostrhamus sociabilis	Seen at Laguna de Sonso
Plumbeous Hawk	Cryptoleucopteryx plumbea	One on the Anchicaya excursion
Savanna Hawk	Buteogallus meridionalis	One at Laguna de Sonso and one on the drive to Montezuma
Roadside Hawk	Rupornis magnirostris	Seen most days
Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo platypterus	Seen on four dates
Short-tailed Hawk	Buteo brachyurus	One on the Anchicaya excursion
Grey-necked Wood Rail	Aramides cajaneus	Three at Cali Country Club
Blackish Rail	Pardirallus nigricans	Seen at Montezuma and Cameguadua Reservoir
Purple Gallinule	Porphyrio martinica	Seen on three dates
Common Gallinule	Gallinula galeata	Seen on three dates
American Coot	Fulica americana	A single at Cameguadua Reservoir
Limpkin	Aramus guarauna	Three at Laguna de Sonso
Black-necked Stilt	Himantopus mexicanus	Seen at Laguna de Sonso and Cameguadua Reservoir
Southern Lapwing	Vanellus chilensis	Seen most days
Andean Lapwing	Vanellus respledens	A single near Laguna Negra
Wattled Jacana	Jacana jacana	Seen on three dates
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularius	Seen at Cali Country Club and Cameguadua Reservoir
Solitary Sandpiper	Tringa solitaria	Seen on three dates
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes	Seen at Laguna de Sonso and Cameguadua Reservoir
Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa melanoleuca	Seen at Laguna de Sonso and Cameguadua Reservoir

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Band-tailed Pigeon	Patagioenas fasciata	Seen on three dates
Pale-vented Pigeon	Patagioenas cayannensis	Three at Laguna de Sonso
Plumbeous Pigeon	Patagioenas plumbea	Four on the Anchicaya excursion
Ruddy Ground Dove	Columbina talpacoti	Seen most days
White-tipped Dove	Leptotila verreauxi	Seen at Laguna de Sonso and Cameguadua Reservoir
Eared Dove	Zenaida auriculata	Seen most days
Greater Ani	Crotophaga major	A flock of four seen at Laguna de Sonso
Smooth-billed Ani	Crotophaga ani	Seen most days
Squirrel Cuckoo	Piaya cayana	Seen on four dates
Tropical Screech Owl	Megascops choliba	A roosting bird both days at Montezuma
Andean Pygmy Owl	Glaucidium jardinii	Heard only
Common Potoo	Nyctibius griseus	A single at Cali Country Club and an amazing seven at Laguna de Sonso!
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor	Three at Laguna de Sonso
Pauraque	Nyctidromus albicollis	Heard only at Paraiso Verde
Band-winged Nightjar	Systellura longirostris	Seen by some of the group at Anchicaya and Montezuma
Lyre-tailed Nightjar	Uropsalis lyra	A roosting bird gave close views on the Anchicaya excursion
Chestnut-collared Swift	Streptoprocne rutila	Seen at Rio Blanco
White-collared Swift	Streptoprocne zonaris	Seen on five dates
Band-rumped Swift	Chaetura spinicaudus	One on the Anchicaya excursion
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	Panyptila cayennensis	Singles at Rio Blanco and Cameguadua Reservoir
White-whiskered Hermit	Phaethornis yaruqui	At least two at Dona Dora's.
Green Hermit	Phaethornis guy	Singles at Finca Lolita and Finca Alejandria.
Tawny-bellied Hermit	Phaethornis syrmatophorus	Up to two seen daily on three dates.
Green-fronted Lancebill	Doryfera Iudovicae	Recorded on two dates near Montezuma Lodge
White-necked Jacobin	Florisuga mellivora	Widespread.
Brown Violetear	Colibri delphinae	Recorded daily at Finca Lolita
Lesser Violetear	Colibri cyanotus	Rio Blanco only
Sparkling Violetear	Colibri coruscans	Rio Blanco only
Black-throated Mango	Anthracothorax nigricolis	Widespread
Green Thorntail	Discosura conversii	Seen at Anchicaya and Montezuma
Western Emerald	Chlorostilbon melanorhynchus	Widespread
Crowned Woodnymph	Thalurania colombica	Widespread
Blue-headed Sapphire	Hylocharis grayi	Finca Alejandria only
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	Amazilia tzacatl	Widespread
Andean Emerald	Amazilia franciae	Widespread
Steely-vented Hummingbird	Amazilia saucerottei	Widespread
Speckled Hummingbird	Adelomyia melanogenys	Rio Blanco only
Fawn-breasted Brilliant	Heliodoxa rubinoides	Finca Alejandria and Rio Blanco
Green-crowned Brilliant	Heliodoxa jacula	Montezuma only
Empress Brilliant	Heliodoxa imperatrix	Dona Dora's and Montezuma only

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Rufous-gaped Hillstar	Urochroa bougueri	Dona Dora's and Montezuma only
Buff-tailed Coronet	Boissonneaua flavescens	Recorded on three dates
Velvet-purple Coronet	Boissonneaua jardini	Montezuma only
Shining Sunbeam	Aglaeactis cupripennis	Termales del Ruiz only
Mountain Velvetbreast	Lafresnaya lasfresnayi	Termales del Ruiz only
Bronzy Inca	Coeligena coeligena	Finca Alejandria and Rio Blanco
Brown Inca	Coeligena wilsoni	Montezuma only
Collared Inca	Coeligena torquata	Montezuma, Rio Blanco and Los Nevados
Buff-winged Starfrontlet	Coeligena lutetiae	Termales del Ruiz only
Great Sapphirewing	Pterophanes cyanopterus	Termales del Ruiz only
Tourmaline Sunangel	Heliangelus exortis	Montezuma, Rio Blanco and Los Nevados
Black-thighed Puffleg	Eriocnemis derbyi	Termales del Ruiz only
Golden-breasted Puffleg	Eriocnemis mosquera	Termales del Ruiz only
Greenish Puffleg	Haplophaedia aureliae	Montezuma only
White-booted Racket-tail	Ocreatus underwoodii	Widespread
Purple-backed Thornbill	Ramphomicron microrhynchum	Single seen by some of the group near Termales del Ruiz
Buffy Helmetcrest	Oxypogon stuebelii	Los Nevados only
Tyrian Metaltail	Metallura tyrianthina	Montezuma and Los Nevados
Viridian Metaltail	Metallura williami	Los Nevados only
Rainbow-bearded Thornbill	Chalcostigma herrani	Los Nevados only
Long-tailed Sylph	Aglaiocercus kingii	Finca Alejandria and Rio Blanco
Violet-tailed Sylph	Aglaiocercus coelestis	Widespread
White-throated Wedgebill	Schistes albogularis	Rio Blanco only
Purple-throated Woodstar	Calliphlox mitchellii	Widespread
White-bellied Woodstar	Chaetocercus mulsant	Rio Blanco only
Golden-headed Quetzal	Pharomachrus auriceps	Seen by most of the group near Finca Alejandria
Crested Quetzal	Pharomachrus antisianus	Heard only
Collared Trogon	Trogon collaris	One at Finca Alejandria and two at Otun Quimbaya
Masked Trogon	Trogon personatus	Seen on three dates
Green Kingfisher	Chloroceryle americana	Seen on three dates
Ringed Kingfisher	Megaceryle torquata	Seen on four dates
Andean Motmot	Momotus aequatorialis	A garden bird at Finca Lolita and seen on three other dates
Moustached Puffbird	Malacoptila mystacalis	Seen both days at Montezuma
Lanceolated Monklet	Micromonacha lanceolata	One at Montezuma
Spot-crowned Barbet	Capito maculicoronatus	One on the Anchicaya excursion
Red-headed Barbet	Eubocco bourcierii	Up to five daily on four dates
Toucan Barbet	Semnornus ramphastinus	Seen well at Anchicaya and Montezuma
White-throated Toucanet	Aulacorhynchus albivitta	Seen at Montezuma and Rio Blanco
Crimson-rumped Toucanet	Aulacorhynchus haematopygus	Seen on three dates
Stripe-billed Aracari	Pteroglossus sanguineus	Three seen on the Anchicaya excursion

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan	Andigena hypoglauca	Heard at Rio Blanco, then finally great views of three at Hacienda del Bosque
Black-billed Mountain Toucan	Andigena nigrirostris	Three seen well at Rio Blanco
Choco Toucan	Ramphastos brevis	One on the Anchicaya excursion
Greyish Piculet	Picumnus granadensis	Seen on three dates, best sighting near Montezuma Lodge
Acorn Woodpecker	Melanerpes formicivorus	Seen on three dates
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	Melanerpes pucherani	A single on the Anchicaya excursion
Red-crowned Woodpecker	Melanerpes rubricapillus	The commonest woodpecker, seen on five dates
Yellow-vented Woodpecker	Veniliornis dignus	A single at Montezuma
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	Leuconotopicus fumigatus	A single on the Anchicaya excursion
Golden-olive Woodpecker	Colaptes rubiginosus	A single at Montezuma
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker	Colaptes rivolii	Great views of one at Rio Blanco, two others seen
Spot-breasted Woodpecker	Colaptes punctigula	Two at Cameguadua Reservoir
Lineated Woodpecker	Dryocopus lineatus	Seen or heard on three dates
Northern Crested Caracara	Caracara cheriway	Several at Laguna de Sonso
Yellow-headed Caracara	Milvago chimango	Seen most days
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis	One at Cali Country Club
Blue-headed Parrot	Pionus menstruus	Seen most days
Bronze-winged Parrot	Pionus chalcopterus	Good views of three at Montezuma
Yellow-crowned Amazon	Amazona ochrocephala	Two flying around the hotel grounds at Buga
Spectacled Parrotlet	Forpus conspicillatus	Seen on three dates
Golden-plumed Parakeet	Leptosittaca branickii	Eight seen from the road below Termales del Ruiz
Tyrannine Woodcreeper	Dendrocincla tyrannina	One showed well at Rio Blanco
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	Glyphorynchus spirurus	Singles at Anchicaya and Montezuma
Strong-billed Woodcreeper	Xiphocolaptes promeropirhychus	One at Montezuma
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	Lepidocolaptes souleyetii	One at Finca Lolita
Montane Woodcreeper	Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger	Up to four daily at three sites
Streaked Xenops	Xenops rutilans	Two at Rio Blanco and a single on the road down from Temales del Ruiz
Rusty-winged Barbtail	Premnornis guttuliger	One at Finca Alejandria
Stout-billed Cinclodes	Cinclodes excelsior	One showed well at Los Nevados
Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner	Anabacerthia variegaticeps	Brief views of one at Montezuma
Flammulated Treehunter	Thripadectes flammulatus	Good views of a pair near their nest at Rio Blanco
Streak-capped Treehunter	Thripadectes virgaticeps	One at Finca Alejandria
Spotted Barbtail	Premnoplex brunnescens	One at Finca Alejandria
Star-chested Treerunner	Margarornis stellata	One at Montezuma
Pearled Treerunner	Margarornis squamiger	Singles at Rio Blanco and Hacienda del Bosque
Andean Tit-Spinetail	Leptasthenura andicola	Brief views of one at Los Nevados
White-browed Spinetail	Hellmayrea gularis	Two at Hacienda del Bosque
Red-faced Spinetail	Cranioleuca erythrops	Widespread
Slaty Spinetail	Synallaxis brachyura	One at Paraiso Verde
Pale-breasted Spinetail	Synallaxis albescens	A pair seen well at a roadside stop on the way to

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
		Montezuma
Azara's Spinetail	Synallaxis azarae	One seen well at Otun Quimbaya
Rufous Spinetail	Synallaxis unirufa	Three seen well at Montezuma
Russet Antshrike	Thamnistes anabatinus	Two showed well along the Anchicaya road
Pacific Antwren	Myrmotherula pacifica	A pair showed well along the Anchicaya road
Slaty Antwren	Myrmotherula schisticola	Brief views of one at Finca Alejandria
Yellow-breasted Antwren	Herpsilochmus axillaris	Heard only
Plain Antvireo	Dysithamnus mentalis	Singles at Finca Alejandria and Montezuma
Bar-crested Antshrike	Thamnophilus multistriatus	Seen on 3 dates, the pair at Cameguadua Reservoir showing particularly well
Uniform Antshrike	Thamnophilus unicolor	Heard only
Great Antshrike	Taraba major	Great views of a pair at Cameguadua Reservoir
Streak-headed Antbird	Drymophila striaticeps	Two seen at Rio Blanco
Parker's Antbird	Cercomacroides parkeri	A pair along the Anchicaya road
Jet Antbird	Cercomacra nigricans	One at Laguna de Sonso
Zeledon's Antbird	Hafferia zeledoni	A pair along the Anchicaya road
Moustached Antpitta	Grallaria alleni	Recorded at Otun Quimbaya but only seen by one of the group
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	Grallaria ruficapilla	Two showed very well at Rio Blanco
Bicoloured Antpitta	Grallaria rufocinerea	Heard only
Chestnut-naped Antpitta	Grallaria nuchalis	Heard only
Rufous Antpitta	Grallaria rufula	Recorded at Montezuma then better views at Hacienda del Bosque
Tawny Antpitta	Grallaria quitensis	Great view of one by the roadside near Laguna Negra
Brown-banded Antpitta	Grallaria milleri	Three seen at Rio Blanco
Hooded Antpitta	Grallaricula cucullata	Recorded at Otun Quimbaya but only seen by one of the group
Slaty-crowned Antpitta	Grallaricula nana	One seen at Rio Blanco
Crescent-faced Antpitta	Grallaricula lineifrons	Heard only
Ocellated Tapaculo	Acropternis orthonyx	A single showed well at Montezuma
Ash-coloured Tapaculo	Myornis senilis	Recorded at Rio Blanco but only seen by one of the group
Narino Tapaculo	Scytalopus vicinior	Heard only
Tatama Tapaculo	Scytalopus alvarezlopezi	Brief views for most of the group at Montezuma
Choco Tapaculo	Scytalopus chocoensis	Heard only
Spillmann's Tapaculo	Scytalopus spilmanni	Heard only
Paramo Tapaculo	Scytalopus opacus	One showed well at Los Nevados
Blackish Tapaculo	Scytalopus latrans	Heard only
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet	Phyllomyias griseiceps	Seen at Cali Country Club
Black-capped Tyrannulet	Phyllomyias nigrocapillus	Two at Montezuma and one at Rio Blanco
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	Tyrannulus elatus	Seen at Finca Lolita and Finca Alejandria
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	Elaenia flavogaster	Recorded in small numbers on three dates
Mountain Elaenia	Elaenia frantzii	A single at Rio Blanco

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	Camptostoma obsoletum	Singles on two dates
White-throated Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus leucophyrs	Two at Rio Blanco
White-tailed Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus poecilocercus	A single at Montezuma
White-banded Tyrannulet	Mecocerculus stictopterus	Two at Rio Blanco
Torrent Tyrannulet	Serpophage cinerea	Two at Montezuma
Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet	Phaeomyias murina	A single at Cameguadua Reservoir
Golden-faced Tyrannulet	Zimmerius chrysops	Widespread
Variegated Bristle Tyrant	Pogonotriccus poecilotis	Singles at Finca Alejandria and Otun Quimbaya
Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant	Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus	A single along the Anchicaya road
Streak-necked Flycatcher	Mionectes striaticollis	One at Otun Quimbaya
Olive-striped Flycatcher	Mionectes olivaceous	A single along the Anchicaya road
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	Leptopogon superciliaris	Singles at Anchicaya and Finca Alejandria
Flavescent Flycatcher	Myiophobus flavicans	One at Rio Blanco
Handsome Flycatcher	Nephelomyias pulcher	Two at Montezuma
Ornate Flycatcher	Myiotriccus ornatus	Recorded in small numbers on three dates
Black-throated Tody Tyrant	Hemitriccus granadensis	Two at Montezuma
Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant	Lophotriccus pileatus	Two along the Anchicaya road
Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher	Poecilotriccus ruficeps	Great views of one at Rio Blanco
Slaty-headed Tody-flycatcher	Poecilotriccus sylvia	A single at Cali Country Club
Common Tody-Flycatcher	Todirostrum cinereum	Seen or heard most days
Yellow-olive Flatbill	Tolmomyias sulphurescens	A single at Cali Country Club
Cinnamon Flycatcher	Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus	Up to five daily on four dates
Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans	Seen on seven of the days
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi	Singles at Anchicaya and Rio Blanco
Smoke-coloured Pewee	Contopus fumigatus	Three at Montezuma
Eastern Wood Pewee	Contopus virens	A single at Cameguadua Reservoir
Acadian Flycatcher	Empidonax virescens	Two at Montezuma
Vermilion Flycatcher	Pyrocephalus obscurus	Up to five daily on three dates
Smoky Bush Tyrant	Myiotheretes fumigatus	A single at Montezuma
Pied Water Tyrant	Fluvicola pica	A single at Cameguadua Reservoir
Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant	Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris	Two at Rio Blanco
Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant	Ochthoeca rufipectoralis	Two at Rio Blanco
Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant	Ochthoeca fumicolor	Two at Hacienda del Bosque
Long-tailed Tyrant	Colonia colonus	A single along the Anchicaya road
Cattle Tyrant	Machetornis rixosa	Seen in small numbers on four dates
Piratic Flycatcher	Legatus leucophaius	Two on the Anchicaya day
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	Myiozetetes cayanensis	Seen almost daily
Great Kiskadee	Pitangus sulphuratus	Seen almost daily
Golden-crowned Flycatcher	Myiodynastes chrsyocephalus	A single at Finca Alejandria
Streaked Flycatcher	Myiodynastes maculatus	Seen in small numbers on two dates
Tropical Kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus	Seen daily
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Tyrannus savana	Seen in small numbers on two dates

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Myiarchus tuberculifer	Brief views of a single at Montezuma
Apical Flycatcher	Myiarchus apicalis	Showed well at Cali Country Club
Pale-edged Flycatcher	Myiarchus cephalotes	Seen well at Otun Quimbaya and Rio Blanco
Bright-rumped Attila	Attila spadiceus	One showed well on the Anchicaya excursion
Red-crested Cotinga	Ampelion rubrocristatus	Four seen at Hacienda del Bosque
Green-and-black Fruiteater	Pipreola reifferii	Three at Finca Alejandria and one at Montezuma
Barred Fruiteater	Pipreola arcuata	Singles at Montezuma and Hacienda del Bosque
Orange-breasted Fruiteater	Pipreola jucunda	A single at Montezuma
Andean Cock-of-the-rock	Rupicola peruvianus	Singles on four dates
Dusky Piha	Lipaugus fuscocinereus	One showed well by the road below Termales del Ruiz
Red-ruffed Fruitcrow	Pyroderus scutatus	At least four seen at Otun Quimbaya
Golden-collared Manakin	Manacus vitellinus	Seen on two dates
Club-winged Manakin	Machaeropterus deliciosus	Seen or heard on three dates
Masked Tityra	Tityra semifasciata	One seen well on the Anchicaya excursion
Barred Becard	Pachyramphus veriscolor	Singles on three dates
Cinnamon Becard	Pachyramphus cinnamomeus	Brief views of one on the Anchicaya excursion
White-winged Becard	Pachyramphus polychopterus	Heard only
Black-billed Peppershrike	Cyclarhis nigrirostris	Brief views of one at Montezuma
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo	Vireolanius leucotis	Brief views of one on the Anchicaya excursion
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	A single at Montezuma
Rufous-naped Greenlet	Hylophilus semibrunneus	Heard only
Black-collared Jay	Cyanolyca armillata	Brief view of one at Rio Blanco
Beautiful Jay	Cyanolyca pulchra	Two seen well at Montezuma
Black-chested Jay	Cyanocorax affinis	Three seen well at Montezuma
Inca Jay	Cyanocorax yncas	Three seen well at Finca Lolita
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	Several in the large 'hirundine' flock at Laguna de Sonso
Grey-breasted Martin	Progne chalybea	Three at Cameguadua Reservoir
Blue-and-white Swallow	Notiochelidon cyanoleuca	Seen almost daily
Brown-bellied Swallow	Notiochelidon murina	Seen on three dates
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx ruficollis	Seen almost daily
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Seen on three dates
Rufous Wren	Cinnycerthia unirufa	Four seen from the road below Termales del Ruiz
Sepia-brown Wren	Cinnycerthia olivascens	Singles at Montezuma and Rio Blanco
Sedge Wren	Cistothorus platensis	One near Laguna Negra
Whiskered Wren	Pheugopedius mystacalis	One seen well at Finca Lolita
Bay Wren	Cantorchilus nigricapillus	One on the Anchicaya excursion
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	Seen almost daily
Mountain Wren	Troglodytes solstitialis	Singles on four dates
Grey-breasted Wood Wren	Henicorhina leucophrys	Seen or heard on five dates
Munchique Wood Wren	Henicorhina negreti	Good views of one at Montezuma
Chestnut-breasted Wren	Cyphorhinus thoracicus	Brief views of a pair on road to Finca Alejandria

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Andean Solitaire	Myadestes ralloides	Heard only
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush	Catharus aurantiirostris	Great views of one at Finca Lolita
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus	Singles on three dates
Great Thrush	Turdus fuscater	Seen on three dates
Glossy-black Thrush	Turdus serranus	Singles at Finca Alejandria and Montezuma
Black-billed Thrush	Turdus ignobilis	Seen almost daily
White-capped Dipper	Cinclus leucocephalus	Two showed well at Rio Blanco
Lesser Goldfinch	Spinus psaltria	Singles on three dates
Yellow-bellied Siskin	Spinus xanthogastrus	Seen at Rio Blanco and from the road to Montezuma
Hooded Siskin	Spinus magellanicus	One at Rio Blanco
Thick-billed Euphonia	Euphonia laniirostris	Seen in small numbers on five dates
Golden-rumped Euphonia	Euphonia cyanocephala	Three at Cameguadua Reservoir and two from the road to Montezuma
Orange-bellied Euphonia	Euphonia xanthogaster	Seen in small numbers on three dates
Yellow-collared Chlorophonia	Chlorophonia flavirostris	Seen at Montezuma
Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia	Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys	Seen at Montezuma
Rufous-collared Sparrow	Zonotrichia capensis	Seen almost daily
Orange-billed Sparrow	Arremon aurantiirostris	Brief views of one on the Anchicaya excursion
Chestnut-capped Brushfinch	Arremon brunneinucha	A single seen well at Montezuma
Black-headed Brushfinch	Arremon atricapillus	One seen on the Anchicaya excursion
Grey-browed Brushfinch	Arremon assimilis	Seen very well at Rio Blanco
Olive Finch	Arremon castaneiceps	One at Montezuma
White-naped Brushfinch	Atlapetes albinucha	Seen on two dates
Pale-naped Brushfinch	Atlapetes pallidinucha	Great views of one on the way to Los Nevados
Tricoloured Brushfinch	Atlapetes tricolor	Seen on two dates
Slaty Brushfinch	Atlapetes schistaceus	At least four seen at Hacienda del Bosque
Dusky Bush Tanager	Chlorospingus semifuscus	Seen at Montezuma
Red-breasted Blackbird	Sturnella militaris	One at Laguna de Sonso
Yellow-billed Cacique	Amblycercus holosericeus	Heard only
Chestnut-headed Oropendola	Psarocolius wagleri	Seen on four dates
Russet-backed Oropendola	Psarocolius angustifrons	Two at Montezuma
Scarlet-rumped Cacique	Cacicus microrhynchus	One seen on the Anchicaya excursion
Yellow-backed Oriole	Icterus chrysater	Seen in small numbers on four dates
Yellow Oriole	Icterus nigrogularis	Seen at Laguna de Sonso and Cameguadua Reservoir
Giant Cowbird	Molothrus oryzivorus	Brief views of one from the road to Otun Quimbaya
Shiny Cowbird	Molothrus bonariensis	Seen almost daily
Carib Grackle	Quiscalus lugubris	One seen on the first morning
Oriole Blackbird	Gymnomystax mexicanus	Three at Laguna de Sonso
Yellow-hooded Blackbird	Chrysomus icterocephalus	One at Cameguadua Reservoir
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	Singles on four dates
Mourning Warbler	Geothlypis philadelphia	Singles at Paraiso Verde and Camegadua Reservoir

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat	Geothlypis semiflava	Two at Cameguadua Reservoir
Cerulean Warbler	Setophaga cerulea	A single on the way to Montezuma
Tropical Parula	Setophaga pitiayumi	Seen almost daily
Bay-breasted Warbler	Setophaga castanea	A single on the way to Montezuma
Blackburnian Warbler	Setophaga fusca	Seen every day
American Yellow Warbler	Setophaga aestiva	Singles on three dates
Blackpoll Warbler	Setophaga striata	A single at Montezuma
Black-crested Warbler	Myiothlypis nigrocristata	Two at Rio Blanco
Buff-rumped Warbler	Myiothlypis fulvicauda	Up to three daily on two dates
Russet-crowned Warbler	Myiothlypis coronata	Seen on two dates
Three-striped Warbler	Basileuterus tristriatus	Singles on four dates
Canada Warbler	Cardellina canadensis	Up to three daily on three dates
Slate-throated Whitestart	Myioborus miniatus	Up to four daily on five dates
Golden-fronted Whitestart	Myioborus ornatus	Seen on three dates
Dusky-faced Tanager	Mitrospingus cassinii	Two on the Anchicaya excursion
Summer Tanager	Piranga rubra	Seen almost daily
Crested Ant Tanager	Habia cristata	Two on the Anchicaya excursion
Ochre-breasted Tanager	Chlorothraupis stolzmanni	One on the Anchicaya excursion
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus Iudovicianus	One at Otun Quimbaya
Black-capped Hemispingus	Hemispingus atropileus	Seen on three dates
Superciliaried Hemispingus	Hemispingus superciliaris	Seen at Rio Blanco
Oleaginous Hemispingus	Hemispingus frontalis	Seen at Rio Blanco
Black-eared Hemispingus	Hemispingus melanotis	Seen at Rio Blanco
Grey-hooded Bush Tanager	Cmemoscopus rubrirostris	Seen at Rio Blanco
Tawny-crested Tanager	Tachyphonus delatrii	Two on the Anchicaya excursion
White-lined Tanager	Tachyphonus rufus	Seen on two dates
Crimson-backed Tanager	Ramphocelus dimidiatus	Seen on four dates
Flame-rumped Tanager	Ramphocelus flammigerus	Seen almost daily
Lemon-rumped Tanager	Ramphocelus icteronotus	Anchicaya but hybridisation with flame rumped an ID problem
Blue-grey Tanager	Thraupis episcopus	Seen almost daily
Palm Tanager	Thraupis palmarum	Seen on five dates
Blue-capped Tanager	Thraupis cyanocephala	At least 3 seen on the Montezuma walk
Black-and-gold Tanager	Bangsia melanochlamys	At least 4 seen on the Montezuma walk
Gold-ringed Tanager	Bangsia aureocincta	At least 4 seen on the Montezuma walk
Hooded Mountain Tanager	Buthraupis montana	Two seen at Montezuma plus three at Termales del Ruiz
Lacrimose Mountain Tanager	Anisognathus lacrymosus	Seen on three dates
Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager	Anisognathus igniventris	Seen at Termales del Ruiz
Blue-winged Mountain Tanager	Anisognathus somptuosus	Seen on three dates
Black-chinned Mountain Tanager	Anisognathus notabilis	Two at Dona Dora's
Grass-green Tanager	Chlorornis reifferii	At least 5 on the Montezuma walk
Purplish-mantled Tanager	Iridosornis poryhyrocephalus	Three at Montezuma

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Golden-crowned Tanager	Iridosornis rufivertex	Three at Rio Blanco
Glistening-green Tanager	Chlorochrysa phoenicotis	At least 4 on the Montezuma walk
Multicoloured Tanager	Chlorochrysa nitidissima	Good views at Finca Alejandria
Grey-and-gold Tanager	Tangara palmeri	Three on the Anchicaya excursion
Golden Tanager	Tangara arthus	Seen on five dates
Silver-throated Tanager	Tangara icterocephala	Seen on three dates
Saffron-crowned Tanager	Tangara xanthocephala	Seen at Finca Alejandria
Rufous-throated Tanager	Tangara rufigula	Seen at Anchicaya and Montezuma
Bay-headed Tanager	Tangara gyrola	Seen at Anchicaya and Montezuma
Rufous-winged Tanager	Tangara lavinia	Seen on the Anchicaya excursion
Scrub Tanager	Tangara vitriolina	Seen almost daily
Golden-naped Tanager	Tangara ruficervix	Seen at Finca Alejandria
Metallic Green Tanager	Tangara labradorides	Seen at Finca Alejandria and Rio Blanco
Blue-necked Tanager	Tangara cyanicolis	Seen on the Anchicaya excursion
Golden-hooded Tanager	Tangara larvata	Seen on the Anchicaya excursion
Beryl-spangled Tanager	Tangara nigroviridis	Seen on three dates
Blue-and-black Tanager	Tangara vassorii	Seen on three dates
Black-capped Tanager	Tangara heinei	Seen on four dates
Swallow Tanager	Tersina viridis	Seen at Cali Country Club
Turquoise Dacnis	Dacnis hartlaubi	Two seen in a roadside tree on the way to Montezuma
Blue Dacnis	Dacnis cayana	Three on the Anchicaya excursion
Green Honeycreeper	Chlorophanes spiza	Seen on five dates
Golden-collared Honeycreeper	Iridophanes pulcherrimus	One seen at Dona Dora's
Scarlet-browed Tanager	Heterospingus xanthopygius	One seen on the Anchicaya excursion
Guira Tanager	Hemithraupis guira	Seen at Cali Country Club
Blue-backed Conebill	Conirostrum sitticolor	A single at Montezuma
Capped Conebill	Conirostrum albifrons	Two seen at Rio Blanco
Rusty Flowerpiercer	Diglossa sittoides	Two near Finca Lolita
Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer	Diglossa gloriosissima	At least 4 seen on the Montezuma walk
Glossy Flowerpiercer	Diglossa lafresnayii	Several seen at Los Nevados
Black Flowerpiercer	Diglossa humeralis	Heard only
White-sided Flowerpiercer	Diglossa albilatera	Seen at Montezuma and Rio Blanco
Indigo Flowerpiercer	Diglossa indigotica	One at Montezuma
Bluish Flowerpiercer	Diglossa caerulescens	Two at Montezuma
Masked Flowerpiercer	Diglossa cyanea	Seen on four dates
Black-backed Bush Tanager	Urothraupis stolzmanni	A flock of 4 on the way to Los Nevados
Plumbeous Sierra Finch	Phrygilus unicolor	Two at Los Nevados
Saffron Finch	Sicalis flaveola	Seen on five dates
Buff-throated Saltator	Saltator maximus	Two at Cali Country Club
Black-winged Saltator	Saltator atripennis	Up to five daily on four dates
Greyish Saltator	Saltator coerulescens	A single at Cameguadua Reservoir
Streaked Saltator	Saltator striatipectus	Seen on three dates

28

Common name	Scientific name	Comments
Blue-black Grassquit	Volatinia jacarina	Seen on four dates
Slate-coloured Seedeater	Sporophila schistacea	Seen at Cameguadua Reservoir
Variable Seedeater	Sporophila corvina	A single on the Anchicaya excursion
Yellow-bellied Seedeater	Sporophila nigricollis	Seen on four dates
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	Sporophila minuta	Seen at Cameguadua Reservoir
Thick-billed Seed Finch	Oryzoborus funereus	Seen at Cameguadua Reservoir
Large-billed Seed Finch	Oryzoborus crassirostris	Seen at Cameguadua Reservoir
Plain-coloured Seedeater	Catamenia inornata	Seen at Los Nevados
Paramo Seedeater	Catamenia homochroa	Seen at Los Nevados
Bananaquit	Coereba flaviola	Seen most days
Yellow-faced Grassquit	Tiaris olivaceus	Seen on three dates
Plushcap	Catamblyrhynchus diadema	Good views of one at Montezuma

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Olive Finch