

FIELD REPORT

A BIRDING ADVENTURE IN THE LLANOS OF COLOMBIA: HATO LA AURORA

JANUARY 2–9, 2022



Sunbittern. *Eurypyga helias*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

**LEADER: DAVID ASCANIO
& ALEJANDRO NAGY (CHINGAZA NATIONAL PARK)
LIST COMPILED BY: DAVID ASCANIO**

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A Birding Adventure in the Llanos of Colombia: Juan Solito Lodge & Hato La Aurora (Includes a full day near Bogota)

January 2-9, 2022

By David Ascanio

Photo album:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72177720296037812>

eBird Trip Report:

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/32353>



Orinoco Goose. *Neochen jubata*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

I think the best way to summarize this weeklong tour is with three words. The first is "Priceless," which best describes the opportunity to visit a natural area with abundant wildlife, and with nights orchestrated by crickets, frogs, nightjars, and owls in times when the Omicron variant of COVID was spreading fast and again locking down parts of the world. The second word, "Privileged," represents my feelings when I wake up every day, see you all, have a coffee, and carry on looking for birds. "Gratitude," my third word, is for all of those who signed up for this tour, which visits an area where the scents, sounds, and images are reminiscent of my early days of guiding in the Venezuelan Llanos.

The tour started with a full day of birding in the mountains near Bogotá, the capital city of Colombia. An early morning in the Chingaza National Park offered great views of Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager and Tyrian Metaltail. Further along the road, we were astonished by views of a male Red-crested Cotinga spreading its crest feathers forward to impress a female that had arrived next to him. We also observed a family group of Rufous Wrens and the beauty of the day, the Golden-fronted Redstart. Boreal migrants were represented by a well-dressed

Blackburnian Warbler. After lunch, we paid a visit to the Observatorio de Colibries (The Hummingbird Observatory) where 10 species of these beauties bedazzled us, from the huge Great Sapphirewing to the diminutive White-bellied Woodstar.



Blackburnian Warbler. *Setophaga fusca*. Photo: D. Ascanio.



Tropical Screech-Owl. *Megascops choliba*.
Photo: D. Ascanio.

The trip continued to a completely different biome and the main destination of our tour, the Llanos of the Orinoco. This area is said to be one of the youngest lands in South America, and given its rich number of rivers and wetlands, it represents a paradise for waterbirds. Along the drive to the ranch, we noticed that the dry season had been quite strong this year, since borrow pits and wetlands were drier in comparison with other years. Black-bellied and White-faced whistling-ducks were observed in marshes, as well as a White-tailed Goldenthrroat visiting a Salado tree. We also saw a Jabiru stork nest with four chicks along the road to the ranch.

Three full days in the Juan Solito Lodge (as part of the Reserva Casanare) and the contiguous Hato La Aurora allowed us to visit riverine forest, marshes, rivers, savannas, grasslands, and sand dunes. The wildlife and the beauty of the landscape were equally astonishing. Upon arrival,

we were welcomed by a small family of Pale-headed Jacamars. Later, the birding around the lodge proved to be extremely good, with views of tyrant-flycatchers, parrots, and macaws. In the evening, we bid the day farewell with the orange and yellow sunset accompanied by a cacophony of macaws and Sharp-tailed Ibis flying to their roosts.



Blue-winged Teal. *Spatula discors*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

One morning we took a walk inside the riverine forest. It proved to be slow, probably due to the low insect productivity related to the severe drought. Nevertheless, we enjoyed seeing Pale-tipped Tyrannulet and experienced a lek display of the unique Wire-tailed Manakin. We also took a short but interesting boat trip, where we added the Green Ibis to our list and observed Horned Screammers at very close distance. A long afternoon ride took us to the opposite side of the ranch. In a small wetland we appreciated Crestless Curassow (4 individuals) and about 11 Gray-cowled Wood-Rails. In addition to the spectacular wildlife, meals were superb, and dinners were accompanied by *llanero* music consisting of harp, cuatro (like a small guitar), and maracas (plus the singers and dancers!).

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Black-and-white Owl. *Ciccaba nigrolineata*.
Photo: D. Ascanio.

Our llanos tour ended with an afternoon outing to a sand dune that several pairs of Burrowing Owls called home (various nest sites), and in the contiguous wetland we observed Yellow-chinned Spinetail and Red-breasted Meadowlark. But I believe that everyone was moved by the sunset. The years 2019 and 2020 have been packed with fear, emotion, expectation of a vaccine, and sudden peaks of Covid variants. It was all left behind when we observed the gigantic orange bowl disappearing while packs of Bare-faced Ibises and small groups of parrots were commuting to their roosts. The mix of colors and sounds was magical—an experience that will be hard to forget.

Now that you have enjoyed the wonderful Llanos of the Orinoco, please consider joining me in other destinations hosting a unique flora and fauna. Some of these tours are:

Cuba, Birds & Culture: Supporting the Cuban People Program.

Photo album of the 2019 tour:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157706744663161>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylRHvB1jzdl>

The Amazon River Cruise

Photo album of the 2020 tour:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157713511166666>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b3xYG0cPS0>

Colombia: Magdalena River Valley & Western Andes.

Photo album of the 2019 tour:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157709903582576>

I look forward to seeing you again!



White-bellied Woodstar. *Chaetocercus mulsant*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

A BIRDING ADVENTURE IN THE LLANOS OF COLOMBIA: JUAN SOLITO LODGE & HATO LA AURORA

Map of locations



ITINERARY:

- 2 January 2020. Arrival.
- 3 January 2020. Chingaza National Park. Observatorio de Colibríes, La Calera, near Bogotá.
- 4 January 2020. Flight to El Yopal. Transfer to Juan Solito.
- 5-7 January 2020. Hato La Aurora and surrounding areas.
- 8 January 2020. Transfer to El Yopal. Flight to Bogotá.
- 9 January 2020. Departure.

BIRDS:

BOGOTA AREA

Pigeons & Doves / Columbidae

Rock Pigeon. *Columba livia*. Urban areas.

Eared Dove. *Zenaida auriculata*. Common in Bogotá and bird observatory.

Hummingbirds / Trochilidae

Lesser Violetear. *Colibri cyanotus*. Observatorio de Colibríes.

Sparkling Violetear. *Colibri coruscans*. Observatorio de Colibríes.

Lesser Violetear. *Colibri cyanotus*. Observatorio de Colibríes.

Amethyst-throated Sunangel. *Helianthus amethystivollis*. Observatorio de Colibríes.

Black-tailed Trainbearer. *Lesbia victoriae*. Observatorio de Colibríes.

Green-tailed Trainbearer. *Lesbia nuna*. Observatorio de Colibríes.

Tyrian Metaltail. *Metallura tyrianthina*. Common. Chingaza and Observatorio de Colibríes.

Glowing Puffleg. *Eriocnemis vestita*. Chingaza and Observatorio de Colibríes.

Blue-throated Starfrontlet. *Coeligena helianthea*. Without a doubt, one of the group favorites. An amazing arrangement of colored feathers. Observatorio de Colibríes.

Great Sapphirewing. *Pterophanes cyanopterus*. The weightlifter of the hummingbirds. We appreciated the slow-motion speed of its wing beats. Observatorio de Colibríes.

White-bellied Woodstar. *Chaetocercus mulsant*. Wonderful views of male and female plumages. Observatorio de Colibríes.

Plovers & Lapwings / Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing. *Vanellus chilensis*. Road to Observatorio de Colibríes.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns / Ardeidae

Great Egret. *Ardea alba*. Road to Observatorio de Colibríes.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. Road to Observatorio de Colibríes.

New World Vultures / Cathartidae

Black Vulture. *Coragyps atratus*. La Calera.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites / Accipitridae

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle. *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*. Chingaza.

Antpittas / Grallariidae

Muisca Antpitta. *Grallaria rufus*. Heard only, Chingaza.

Tapaculos / Rhinocryptidae

Pale-bellied Tapaculo (Matorral Tapaculo). *Scytalopus griseicollis*. Only seen briefly, or as we would call it: a flash view!

Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers / Furnariidae

White-chinned Thistletail. *Asthenes fuliginosa*. Flash views. Chingaza.

Cotingas / Cotingidae

Red-crested Cotinga. *Ampelion rubrocristatus*. Superb views. Chingaza.

Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae

White-throated Tyrannulet. *Mecocerculus leucophrys*.

Martins & Swallows / Hirundinidae

Brown-bellied Swallow. *Orochelidon murina*. Road to Observatorio de Colibries.

Wrens / Troglodytidae

Grass Wren *Cistothorus platensis*. Heard only.

Rufous Wren. *Cynnicerthia unirufa*. Superb views. Chingaza.

Thrushes & Allies / Turdidae

Great Thrush. *Turdus fuscater*. Common and widespread in open areas.

New World Sparrows / Passerellidae

Rufous-collared Sparrow. *Zonotrichia capensis*. Common in open areas.

Pale-naped Brushfinch. *Atlapetes pallidinucha*. A common (and vocal) species in Chingaza.

New World Warblers / Parulidae

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*. Wonderful views. Chingaza.

Black-crested Warbler *Myiothlypis nifrocristata*. Chingaza.

Golden-fronted Redstart (Whitestart). *Myioborus ornatus*. We enjoyed wonderful views of a pair. Chingaza.

Tanagers & Allies / Thraupidae

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager. *Anisognathus igniventris*. This was one of the most beautiful birds of the day. We never got tired to see this one. Chingaza.

Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager. *Dubusia taeniata*. Heard only. Chingaza.

Rufous-browed Conebill *Conirostrum rufum*. Chingaza.

Glossy Flowerpiercer *Diglossa lafresnayii*. Chingaza.

Black Flowerpiercer. *Diglossa humeralis*. Observatorio de Colibries.

White-sided Flowerpiercer *Diglossa albilatera*. Chingaza.

Masked Flowerpiercer. *Diglossa cyanea*. Seen about three times. Chingaza.

BIRDS

LLANOS OF THE ORINOCO: HATO LA AURORA & JUAN SOLITO LODGE

Tinamous / Tinamidae

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui*. Heard only.

Screamers / Anhimidae

Horned Screamer. *Anhima cornuta*. We enjoyed astonishing views, at close distance! This region hosts a good population of screamers.

Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl / Anatidae

White-faced Whistling-Duck. *Dendrocygna viduata*. Fairly common in wetlands.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. Common in wetlands.

Orinoco Goose. *Neochen jubata*. We enjoyed nice views of pairs and family groups, with goslings as well as pairs in display prior to breeding.
Brazilian Teal. *Amazonetta brasiliensis*. A pair was seen in the large wetland of the ranch.
Muscovy Duck. *Cairina moschata*. Pair along the river.
Blue-winged Teal. *Spatula discors*. About 30+ individuals in Mata de Caña wetland.

Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows / Cracidae

Rufous-vented Chachalaca. *Ortalis ruficauda*. Fairly common in the gallery forest.
Crestless Curassow. *Mitu tomentosum*. Four individuals coming to a remaining of a wetland contiguous to gallery forest.

New World Quail / Odontophoridae

Crested Bobwhite. *Colinus cristatus*. A small group was seen walking along the road to the sand dunes.

Pigeons & Doves / Columbidae

Rock Pigeon (I). *Columba livia*. El Yopal.
Pale-vented Pigeon. *Patagioenas cayennensis*. The commonest pigeon in the ranch.
Ruddy Ground-Dove. *Columbina talpacoti*. Common in open areas and scrubby vegetation. Also seen in the gallery forest.
Scaled Dove. *Columbina squammata*. We enjoyed views of various individuals around the lodge.
White-tipped Dove. *Leptotila verreauxi*. Several individuals were observed in the gallery forest.
Eared Dove. *Zenaida auriculata*. This common dove was frequently seen in open areas.

Cuckoos / Cuculidae

Greater Ani. *Crotophaga major*. A pair in the Eriporo gallery forest.
Smooth-billed Ani. *Crotophaga ani*. Found fairly common in open and semi-open areas.
Groove-billed Ani. *Crotophaga sulcirostris*. The least common of the three anis. Seen in the far north boundary of the ranch and near the entrance of the lodge.
Squirrel Cuckoo. *Piaya cayana*. A single individual in the Rio Ariporo gallery forest.

Nightjars & Allies / Caprimulgidae

Band-tailed Nighthawk. *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*. About eight individuals were observed at dusk near the lodge.
Common Pauraque. *Nyctidromus albicollis*. Observed during a night drive.
White-tailed Nightjar. *Hydropsalis cayennensis*. A pair was seen distantly along the night drive.

Hummingbirds / Trochilidae

Rufous-breasted Hermit. *Glaucis hirsutus*. Pair inside the forest.
White-bearded Hermit. *Phaethornis hispidus*. Seen near the lodge.
Pale-bellied Hermit. *Phaethornis anthophilus*. A individual troosting photographed by David H.
White-tailed Goldenthrroat. *Polytmus guainumbi*. Seen twice. In the first and the last day of the tour.
Blue-tailed Emerald. *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*. Observed near forested areas.
Glittering-throated Emerald. *Amazilia fimbriata*. One of the commonest hummingbirds in the Colombian Llanos. It was seen four times.

Hoatzin / Opisthocomidae

Hoatzin. *Opisthocomus hoazin*. There has been an endless debate about the taxonomy of the hoatzin. Originally, it was believed to be related with tinamous and gamebirds. Also, with rails, seriemas, doves, turacos and cuckoos. A genetic study published in 2015 revealed that the hoatzin is the very last surviving members of a lineage that branched out some 64 million years ago, shortly after the event that killed the large dinosaurs, about 66 million years ago. We enjoyed good views of this species!

Rails, Gallinules & Coots / Rallidae

Gray-cowled Wood-Rail. *Aramides cajaneus*. Seen repeated times. Up to 13 individuals in a single location!

Limpkin / Aramididae

Limkin. *Aramus guarauna*. Seen in three different locations.

Thick-knees / Burhinidae

Double-striped Thick-knee. *Burhinus bistriatus*. Superb views of various pairs, including one nesting.

Stilts & Avocets / Recurvirostridae

Black-necked Stilt. *Himantopus mexicanus*. Several pairs were seen in wetlands.

Plovers & Lapwings / Charadriidae

Pied Lapwing. *Vanellus cayanus*. This nice and well-dressed lapwing (sometimes called plover) was observed near the main wetland of the ranch.

Southern Lapwing. *Vanellus chilensis*. Seen in open habitats.

Collared Plover. *Charadrius collaris*. Observed only once near a small wetlands.

Jacanas / Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana. *Jacana jacana*. Seen every day. Usually associated with water vegetation.

Sandpipers & Allies / Scolopacidae

Least Sandpiper. *Calidris minutilla*. About 12 individuals were observed foraging in the muddy bank of a large wetland.

Paraguayan (South American) Snipe. *Gallinago paraguaiiae*. Flushed in the vicinity of the large wetland.

Spotted Sandpiper. *Actitis macularius*. Single individuals observed.

Solitary Sandpiper. *Tringa solitaria*. Found near a wetland.

Lesser Yellowlegs. *Tringa flavipes*. Seven individuals were observed in a shallow wetland.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers / Laridae

Yellow-billed Tern. *Sternula superciliaris*. Msta de Caña wetland.

Large-billed Tern. *Phaetusa simplex*. This is the most common and widespread tern in the Colombian Llanos.

Black Skimmer. *Rynchops niger*. Pairs were observed in wetlands and the river of the ranch.

Sunbittern / Eurypygididae

Sunbittern. *Eurypyga helias*. Seen repeated times. An absolutely gorgeous species!

Storks / Ciconiidae

Maguari Stork. *Ciconia maguari*. Seen along the road back to Yopal.

Jabiru. *Jabiru mycteria*. Nice studies of the largest stork of the continent. A pair nesting with four chicks was observed along the main road.

Wood Stork. *Mycteria americana*. Fairly common around wetlands.

Anhingas / Anhingidae

Anhinga. *Anhinga anhinga*. A pair was seen in the main wetland.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns / Ardeidae

Pinnated Bittern. *Botaurus pinnatus*. Flushed along the road back to Yopal.

Rufescent Tiger-Heron. *Tigrisoma lineatum*. A common species observed in most wetlands.

Cocoi Heron. *Ardea cocoi*. Seen daily. We noticed its resemblance with the Great Blue Heron.

Great Egret. *Ardea (Egretta) alba*. This species was common everywhere, especially in shallow wetlands.

Snowy Egret. *Egretta thula*. Common in wetlands and at sides of rivers as well.

Little Blue Heron. *Egretta caerulea*. Mostly seen at side of rivers.

Cattle Egret. *Bubulcus ibis*. Common in dry grassland and pastures.

Striated Heron. *Butorides striata*. A common species in shallow wetlands.

Whistling Heron. *Syrigma sibilatrix*. Pairs and small groups were observed in dry grassland and areas distant from wetlands.

Ibises & Spoonbills / Threskiornithidae

White Ibis. *Eudocimus albus*. Only a pair observed.

Scarlet Ibis. *Eudocimus ruber*. Regarded as the most beautiful ibis in the world. Seen daily.

Glossy Ibis. *Plegadis falcinellus*. A single one was observed along the road to the ranch.

Sharp-tailed Ibis. *Cercibis oxycerca*. We observed several pairs. This is the species whose voice sounds like a French ambulance.

Green Ibis. *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*. Seen once. We noticed its short legs.

Bare-faced (Whispering) Ibis. *Phimosus infuscatus*. A fairly common species. Seen every day.

Buff-necked Ibis. *Theisticus caudatus*. Pairs or small groups were observed poking the mud with their bill in search of arthropods.

Roseate Spoonbill. *Platalea ajaja*. Few pairs were observed.

New World Vultures / Cathartidae

Black Vulture. *Coragyps atratus*. Common.

Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura*. Common.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture. *Cathartes burrovianus*. Seen in fairly short and seasonally flooded grassland.

Osprey / Pandionidae

Osprey. *Pandion haliaetus*. Observed along the road back to Yopal.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites / Accipitridae

Long-winged Harrier. *Circus buffoni*. Seen along the road to Yopal.

White-tailed Kite. *Elanus leucurus*. Seen along the road to Yopal.

Black-collared Hawk. *Busarellus nigricollis*. A common species found along rivers and in wetlands. Feeds almost exclusively on fish although it has been reported to feed on reptiles and apple snails (*Pomacea sp.*).

Plumbeous Kite. *Ictinia plumbea*. This species might well be a local migrant in the Llanos of Colombia. We observed a single but distant individual in flight and later, a pair.

Savanna Hawk. *Buteogallus meridionalis*. A common species found in grassland and scrubby vegetation.

Roadside Hawk. *Rupornis magnirostris*. I keep telling in my tours that this bird should be called Riverside Hawk. It occurs at forest edge and usually along rivers. We saw it several times.

Short-tailed Hawk. *Buteo brachyurus*. Observed only once.

Owls / Strigidae

Tropical Screech-Owl. *Megascops choliba*. Great views of a pair.

Burrowing Owl. *Athene cunicularia*. Seen nesting on dunes near the ranch. A total of 12 individuals were reported in the last afternoon.

Black-and-white Owl. *Ciccaba nigrolineata*. Seen by the two David's!

Kingfishers / Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher. *Megaceryle torquata*. Seen three times.

Jacamars / Galbulidae

Pale-headed Jacamar. *Brachygalba goeringi*. Superb views of pairs near the lodge.

Rufous-tailed Jacamar. *Galbula ruficauda*. A pair was seen in the gallery forest trail.

Toucans / Ramphastidae

Chestnut-eared Aracari. *Pteroglossus castanotis*. Seen repeated times.

Woodpeckers / Picidae

Scaled Piculet. *Picumnus squamulatus*. This tiny woodpecker was observed once.

Red-crowned Woodpecker. *Melanerpes rubricapillus*. A regular visitor to the bird feeder at the ranch.

Little Woodpecker. *Veniliornis passerinus*. A single individual was observed in the last morning.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker. *Campephilus melanoleucos*. A single individual was observed during the boat trip, along the Ariporo river.

Lineated Woodpecker. *Dryocopus lineatus*. Various pairs were observed in forested and forest-edge habitat.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker. *Colaptes (Chrysoptilus) punctigula*. A pair of this open-country species was observed near the lodge.

Falcons & Caracaras / Falconidae

Crested Caracara. *Caracara cheriway*. A common species in the Llanos of Colombia. It was seen every day.

Yellow-headed Caracara. *Milvago chimachima*. This was another common species in the Llanos of Colombia seen daily.

Laughing Falcon. *Herpetotheres cachinnans*. Seen twice.

American Kestrel. *Falco sparverius*. Several individuals were seen along the road between El Yopal to the ranch.

Aplomado Falcon. *Falco femoralis*. Seen twice.

Bat Falcon. *Falco ruficularis*. A pair was observed near the lodge.
Merlin. *Falco columbarius*. An unexpected sight record. Seen once.

New World and African Parrots / Psittacidae

Yellow-crowned Parrot. *Amazona ochrocephala*. Few pairs reported.
Orange-winged Parrot. *Amazona amazonica*. The commonest species in the Llanos of Colombia.
It was seen every day of the tour.
Spectacled Parrotlet. *Forpus conspicillatus*. Seen in flight near the headquarters of the ranch.
Brown-throated Parakeet. *Eupsittula pertinax*. Pairs were seen in fairly open habitat.
Chestnut-fronted Macaw. *Ara severus*. A single individual was observed moving along with a group of Scarlet Macaw.
Scarlet Macaw. *Ara macao*. Up to 6 pairs were seen.
Blue-crowned Parakeet. *Thectocercus acuticaudatus*. Large flocks (60+ individuals) were observed along the road crossing the ranch.

Typical Antbirds / Thamnophilidae

Black-crested Antshrike. *Sakesphorus canadensis*. A pair was observed in gallery forest.
Barred Antshrike. *Thamnophilus doliatus*. A pair was observed in gallery forest.
White-fringed Antwren. *Formicivora grisea*. We enjoyed an encounter with a pair of this species that is sometimes treated as Northern White-fringed Antwren, *Formicivora (grisea) intermedia*.

Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers / Furnariidae

Striped Woodcreeper. *Xyphorhynchus obsoletus*. Seen briefly inside the gallery forest trail.
Straight-billed Woodcreeper. *Dendroplex picus*. A pair was observed inside the gallery forest trail.
Rufous-fronted Thornbird. *Phacellodomus rufifrons*. Several nests were seen in the ranch.
Sometimes called Plain Thornbird, *P. rufifrons inornatus*.
Rusty-backed Spinetail. *Cranioleuca vulpina*. A pair was observed in the gallery forest trail.
Yellow-chinned Spinetail. *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*. Seen twice in floating vegetation in large wetlands.
Pale-breasted Spinetail. *Synallaxis albescens*. Seen by some in the large wetland contiguous to a sand dune.

Manakins / Pipridae

Wire-tailed Manakin. *Pipra filicauda*. We nailed this species very well when seeing three males displaying!

Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae

Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant. *Atalotriccus pilaris*. A common species usually found in scrubby vegetation.
Common Tody-Flycatcher. *Todirostrum cinereum*. A common species.
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher. *Tolmomyias flaviventris*. Seen briefly along the gallery forest trail.
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet. *Camptostoma obsoletum*. This species was common in open areas.
Forest Elaenia. *Myiopoagis gaimardii*. Seen in the last morning walk.
Yellow-bellied Elaenia. *Elaenia flavogaster*. Seen in the last morning walk.

Pale-tipped Tyrannulet. *Inezia caudata*. Surprisingly hard to see but eventually found in the gallery forest trail.

White-headed Marsh Tyrant. *Arundinicola leucocephala*. Seen in floating vegetation in a wetland along the road to the ranch.

Pied Water-Tyrant. *Fluvicola pica*. Seen several times in floating vegetation in shallow areas of wetlands and along channels.

Venezuelan Flycatcher. *Myiarchus venezuelensis*. Heard at dawn near the lodge.

Short-crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus ferox*. Pair observed near the lodge area.

Brown-crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus tyrannulus*. Observed in scrubby vegetation.

Cattle Tyrant. *Machetornis rixosa*. Common in open areas.

Lesser Kiskadee. *Pitangus lictor*. A pair was observed at side of the Ariporo river. We noticed its longish thin bill and distinctive voice.

Great Kiskadee. *Pitangus sulphuratus*. One of the most common and widespread tyrant-flycatcher in the ranch.

Boat-billed Flycatcher. *Megarynchus pitangua*. A pair was observed near the lodge.

White-bearded Flycatcher (RE). *Phelpsia inornata*. A pair was observed displaying.

Streaked Flycatcher. *Myiodynastes maculatus*. Seen near the lodge.

Tropical Kingbird. *Tyrannus melancholicus*. This is probably the commonest tyrant-flycatcher in open areas. Seen every day.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna*. A pair was seen near the ranch. A resident subspecies?

Crows, Jays & Magpies / Corvidae

Violaceous Jay. *Cyanocorax violaceus*. A pair was a frequent visitor to the bananas hanging from a mango tree, in front of the dining room. Also observed in the vicinity of the lodge.

Donacobius / Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius. *Donacobius atricapilla*. A species associated with wetlands. We enjoyed seeing a pair giving their unique choreography.

Swallows / Hirundinidae

Gray-breasted Martin. *Progne chalybea*. Seen at Yopal airport.

White-winged Swallow. *Tachycineta albiventer*. Few individuals were observed along the river and in wetlands.

Barn Swallow. *Hirundo rustica*. 12+ individuals were observed in Mata de Cana wetland.

Wrens / Troglodytidae

House Wren. *Troglodytes aedon*. A fairly common species in the Colombian Llanos.

Bicolored Wren. *Campylorhynchus griseus*. Several pairs were seen near palm trees and in scrubby vegetation.

Buff-breasted Wren. *Cantorchilus leucotis*. Great views of an individual from the Ariporo river.

Mockingbirds & Thrashers / Mimidae

Tropical Mockingbird. *Mimus gilvus*. This common species was seen in every day of the tour.

Thrushes & Allies / Turdidae

Pale-breasted Thrush. *Turdus leucomelas*. Observed in the northern boundary of the ranch.

Black-billed Thrush. *Turdus ignobilis*. Observed only once.

Finches, Euphonias & Allies / Fringillidae

Purple-throated Euphonia. *Euphonia chlorotica*. Pairs were observed in forested areas.

Thick-billed Euphonia. *Euphonia lanirostris*. This one was seen in “edge” habitat.

New World Sparrows / Passerelliidae

Yellow-browed Sparrow. *Ammodramus aurifrons*. Observed in short grasses and bushy areas.

Troupials & Allies / Icteridae

Eastern Meadowlark. *Sturnella magna*. Found in open grasslands.

Red-breasted Meadowlark. *Leistes militaris*. Observed along the road at side of the sand dune.

Crested Oropendola. *Psarocolius decumanus*. Pairs were seen daily.

Yellow-rumped Cacique. *Cacicus cela*. Large flocks (80+ individuals) were observed.

Venezuelan Troupial. *Icterus icterus*. Great views of this species, the national bird of Venezuela!

Shiny Cowbird. *Molothrus bonariensis*. Only a female was observed.

Giant Cowbird. *Molothrus oryzivorus*. Pairs and single individuals were observed at various locations.

Carib Grackle. *Quiscalus lugubris*. This species was common along the road back to Yopal.

Oriole Blackbird. *Gymnomystax mexicanus*. Pairs or family groups were found associated with wetlands and scrubby vegetation.

Warblers / Parulidae

Blackpoll Warbler. *Setophaga striata*. This boreal migrant can reach lowlands in South America and the Llanos are no exception. We enjoyed seeing one in the ranch.

Tanagers & Allies / Thraupidae

Masked Cardinal. *Paroaria nigrogenis*. A pair was observed near the river.

Black-faced Tanager. *Schistochlamys melanopis*. A single individual was seen.

Silver-beaked Tanager. *Ramphocelus carbo*. Small groups were observed in open habitats.

Blue-gray Tanager. *Thraupis episcopus*. This common species was seen every day.

Palm Tanager. *Thraupis palmarum*. This was another common species seen every day.

Burnished-buff Tanager. *Tangara cayana*. Observed briefly once.

Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch. *Sicalis columbiana*. A fairly common species only observed in open areas with short (seasonally flooded) grasses.

Saffron Finch. *Sicalis flaveola*. A fairly common species observed in open areas with scrubby vegetation.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater. *Sporophila minuta*. Pairs were seen in tall grasses.

Large-billed Seed-Finch. *Sporophila crassirostris*. A male was seen in scrubby vegetation.

Gray Seedeater. *Sporophila intermedia*. Males of the ringed-necked form were observed.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater. *Sporophila nigricollis*. A pair was seen in the last morning.

Bananaquit. *Coereba flaveola*. A common species found in the Colombian Llanos. It was frequently seen.

Olivaceous Saltator. *Saltator olivascens*. Seen in scrubby vegetation.

OTHER SPECIES:

LLANOS OF THE ORINOCO: HATO LA AURORA & JUAN SOLITO LODGE

Giant Anteater. *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*. Brief views of a single individual.

Red Howler Monkey. *Alouatta seniculus*. We saw a group of this primate along the gallery forest trail.

Capybara. *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*. This is the largest rodent in the world. It was seen in most wetlands visited.

White-tailed Deer. *Odocoileus virginianus*. This species apparently colonized South America when the land bridge at the Panama isthmus was uplifted. It was fairly common in the ranch.

Prehensile-tailed Porcupine. *Coendou prehensilis*. Seen at night near the dinning room.

Green Iguana. *Iguana iguana*.

Tegu Lizard. *Tupinambis teguixin*.

Spectacled Caiman. *Caiman crocodilus*.

Spotted Whiptail Lizard. *Cnemidophorus sp.*

Llanos Sidenecked Turtle. *Podocnemis vogli*. Common in wetlands.

Common House Gecko. *Hemidactylus frenatus*.

Leaf cutter Ants. *Atta* or *Acronymex sp.*

Fire Ants. *Solenopsis sp.*