

FIELD REPORT

**COLOMBIA: BOGOTÁ, EASTERN ANDES,
& THE MAGDALENA VALLEY**

FEBRUARY 26–MARCH 12, 2024



Black-tailed Trainbearer. Photo: S. Hilty

**LEADERS: STEVE HILTY & ALEJANDRO NAGY
LIST COMPILED BY: STEVE HILTY**

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

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February 26–March 12, 2024

By Steve Hilty



Ranchland and marshes north of Pto. Triunfo. Photo: S.Hilty

This tour was suspended during the 2020 covid pandemic, but has now been offered again since the summer of 2021. With all the traffic in Bogotá, a bustling city of more than eight million people, it may seem as if birding in Colombia was as much about how to get in and out of the city as reaching a birding destination, but our days afield soon dispelled that notion. Despite the traffic and immense number of trucks and buses, Jovani Florez, our driver—and owner of the Colombian transport company “*Solutions in Colombia*”—was as smooth as silk and as good as it gets in terms of negotiating Colombian roads and traffic. We began birding at a breakfast stop west of Bogotá and then moved downslope to Laguna Tabacal, a quiet rural lake and wooded area about an hour and a half west of Bogotá and at lower elevation. This is an excellent place for an introduction to commoner Colombia birds of lower montane elevations. Later in the day we experienced a chaos of hummingbirds at a private home, “Jardín Encantado,” in the little town of San Francisco before returning to Bogotá.

We followed this opening day with visits to two high elevation sites, first Chingaza National Park, and then to Sumapaz National Park. Both sites are floristically unique landscapes near or above treeline and in many ways otherworldly. There are fewer birds here, but the ones present often occur only in “páramo,” a Spanish word for a high elevation tropical latitude grassland. Here, montane forests are shorter in stature, elfin-like, and give way to a mostly open region characterized by rosette-shaped *Espeletia* spp. plants—essentially fuzzy-leaved sunflowers (Asteraceae) adapted for life in an environment where winter comes every night and summer every day (although often in brief doses but with high ultraviolet radiation). It is cold, rainy, and generally not an agreeable climate for humans—but hummingbirds love it, because most plants here

depend on hummingers rather than insects for pollination. However, on our visits it was surprisingly warm and dry at both sites—as it has been for several months more or less throughout Colombia, in part perhaps due to El Niño events. A few other bird families thrive here as well, mainly furnariids, tanagers, and passerualids (formerly Emberizids) along with a few flycatchers. Highlights on these two days were Andean Pygmy-Owl, Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, Apolinar's Wren, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, and Many-striped Canastero.

Lower elevations on the eastern slope of the Andes, near the village of Santa María, brought a completely different avifauna. Here we added such exciting species as Black-and-white Owl and numerous Andean Cocks-of-the-rock before returning to Bogotá.

For the second half of the trip we focused our efforts on both slopes of the Andes above the middle Magdalena Valley. Because of a lack of transport out of the reserve of Chicaque (the reserve vehicle was broken), we substituted a nearby reserve called Reserva Fute (2570m), which is small but similar in habitat to Chicaque. Here we added several cloud forest species, as well as seven species of hummingbirds. The next day found most of us in dry lowland tropical forest at Reserva Mana Dulce (530m; also sometimes written as Manadulce) with non-stop birding all morning. Unfortunately, one participant fell in predawn darkness at the hotel and dislocated a finger. Alejandro accompanied this couple to a local hospital where the finger was returned to its proper position (a two-minute procedure but preceded by a 7-hour wait at the hospital!). Morning at Mana Dulce provided non-stop birds, with Jet Antbirds, White-fringed Antwrens, Apical Flycatcher, and much more.

On March 7 we visited two highland areas—Retorno de los Colibris (1950m) and Reserva Loro Fuertesi (3260m), with an intermediate breakfast stop in a zone dominated by Wax Palms (see photo), where we watched pairs of Yellow-eared Parrots (near endemic) and Golden-plumed Parakeets entering nest cavities in the palms. Both sites are “relatively” near the town of Anaime. Following lunch at the “Retorno” coffee farm, we began a long drive down the Magdalena Valley to the town of Victoria.

La Victoria sits in the foothills—the entire town slopes downhill (or uphill depending on your orientation) and is perhaps most noteworthy for the immense *Ceiba pentandra* tree in the town plaza. That tree (rumored to be more than 250 years old) is a sight to behold (but we couldn't see it well because the entire plaza was cordoned off and under construction). This tree, however, is a reminder of what this area must once have looked like before human settlement.

Following morning birding above Victoria at Bellavista and the adjacent Canaveral area, we continued northward, stopping at an oxbow of the Magdalena River, with a relaxing introduction to birds associated with water, including two Northern Screamers. From there it was a relatively short drive to nearby Pto. Triunfo, Doradal and the Los Colores Hotel, where we would base for three nights while visiting the Río Claro Reserve and other nearby areas. Río Claro is a rich and diverse humid lowland forest (yes, hot and

sweaty) but with enough birds to satisfy almost any birder. We concluded our trip with a drive back to Bogotá the final day.

During the mid-1980s through 1990s Colombia was mired in civil unrest, and foreign visitors were rare, flocking instead to neighboring Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, and Ecuador for birding and ecotourism. In the 1990s, I began to wonder if I would ever be able to return to Colombia. Yet peace did return, and birders finally were able to return. In 2009, I operated four trips to Colombia for VENT, and an explosion of birding interest followed those four trips. The next year several major birding companies and hundreds of birders took the cue from our success and descended on Colombia. I could not have imagined the transformation that would occur.

In 2020 the covid-19 pandemic impacted Colombia, just as it did the rest of the world, but Colombia is a busy country. Everywhere we traveled people were masked, indoors and outdoors, walking, working, doing construction, driving trucks, riding motorcycles (virtually 100% in large cities), and bottles of hand sanitizer greeted us at the entrance to every hotel and restaurant (where masks were obligatory), and many other businesses as well. People embraced, or at least accepted, the inevitable sacrifices required to combat a pandemic of this magnitude—this in stark contrast to the United States, where we whined and argued and even fought tooth and nail against even the slightest inconveniences to our personal freedoms, regardless of the consequences. Not surprisingly, Colombia experienced initial difficulties obtaining vaccines, but in a shopping center I visited prior to a tour early the next year, I encountered long lines of people waiting to be vaccinated. It is to be remembered also that Colombians, unable to work because of the pandemic, generally, were not able to enjoy the generous “safety-nets” that so many people receive here in the United States. Many people, including my co-leader and driver, like most others, had not worked more than a day or two in the previous year! Yet, life was moving forward.

Everywhere we traveled then and now there are signs of heavy construction, people working, a country at work, a varied and booming economy, and a country that is generally clean and surprisingly cognizant of conservation issues. And there are plenty of entrepreneurial businesses, e.g. washing heavy trucks along major highways (very popular on some routes); selling food; jugglers, entertainers, and window-washers at stoplights; and so on. Bogotá suffers growing pains like any large metropolitan area (major traffic congestion) but is trying numerous novel ways to ameliorate congestion and smog—a private lane bus system; a proliferation of bicycle lanes; no automobiles on some streets one day a week; an odd-even license plate number system for alternate day driving; and Sunday closing of select streets to all but bicycles, skateboards, baby strollers, and foot traffic. Road signs throughout the country urge people to take care of the environment and keep the environment clean. There also is signage alerting drivers to all manner of wildlife that might be crossing roads! And even aerial bridges (e.g. at base of Eastern Andes) built to aid primates and other mammals in safely crossing busy highways! Just imagine trying to get something like this financed and built here in the USA!

For a country that has struggled to rid itself of crippling political and social problems, the transformation is remarkable. The statistics are undeniable—just over 1,950 species of birds are now known here including over seventy endemics and many more near-endemics. It is biologically and geographically one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet. And, there also are numerous cultural sights around Bogotá to enjoy as well. A popular slogan says . . . “Your only danger in Colombia is wanting to stay.” And now that just may be true. I hope it stays that way.

- *The number of young birders (as well as bird festivals) in Colombia is exploding, something that is, to me, extremely gratifying and surely bodes well for the future biodiversity of this remarkable country. We took our breakfast at a small reserve (Reserva Chiguaza) outside Bogotá that day, and elsewhere we often used local services and/or guides in as many other places as possible.*
- *This is all just so remarkable and so gratifying that there are young people in this country who are eager to get out into the fields and forests and learn about the birdlife of their country. And, I am encountering this kind of grass-roots enthusiasm by kids and young adults on almost every tour in Colombia now. In the 1970s and early 1980s there wasn't a birder to be found anywhere in the country when I traveled and was learning birds here alone. Times have changed.*
- *My original Colombian book sparked interest and enthusiasm for the magnificent avifauna of this country, and more recently a couple of other books have also helped. I only hope that my most recent book (Hilty 2.0 as some have been calling it) continues to further interest in the avifauna of this magnificent country. There is a new young generation of local birders now, and they are out roaming Colombia's mountains and forests, and I couldn't be more pleased. They are the future.*

I want to extend thanks to my co-leader, Alejandro Nagy, for his superb birding skills, which were on display throughout, in spotting birds and helping people see them (green lasers help!), and for an immense amount of logistical assistance on this trip including at meals, buying snacks, coordinating itinerary changes, and so much more. He is Venezuelan by birth, but he and his brother have settled in Colombia—Venezuela's loss and Colombia's gain!

BIRDS:

KEY:

Red (bold) – rare or unusual or of special interest; endemics also added in red

***heard (asterisk)**

[brackets] seen/heard only by one of the guides (SH, AN)

Locations: a total of about 25 different birding sites were visited on this trip with birding times of 30 minutes to nearly a full day at these locations. Elevations ranged from c. 350m (Magdalena Valley) to 3650 m (PN Sumapaz). Almost all of these locations are mentioned in the species accounts that follow. Three sites, including Reserva Fute (substituted when Chicaque could not be visited for lack of transportation out of the reserve) and two sites on March 9 (Retorno de los Colibris and Reserve Loro Fuertesi) were added in place of Ukuku Rural Lodge). Key places are mentioned in the itinerary, and elevations are included for most sites.

SITES:

1. Breakfast (Parador Antojitos del Vino, 2630m); Laguna Tabacal (1400m); Jardín Encantado (1700m); all in dept. of Cundinamarca
2. Parque Nacional Chingaza (3100-3400m; Observatorio de los Colibris (3300m); dept. of Cundinamarca
3. Reserva Chiguaza breakfast & lunch; 2770m); Parque Nacional Sumapaz (to 3650m); dept. of Cundinamarca
4. Reserva Bavaria (former Bavarian Beer property; 650m); near Río Guatiquía/Portugal road NE of Villavicencio airport (600m); near dept. of Cundinamarca/Meta border
5. Cachipay area (military bases) near Santa María (700-800m), dept. of Boyacá
6. Almenara Reserve (property of Hydroelectric de Boyacá; 1400m); and Río Bata (Andean cocks-of-the-rock lek) above Santa María in afternoon (c. 1000-1100m); dept. of Boyacá
7. Santa María (900m); Río Bata near Santa María (750m-800m); dept. of Boyacá; and late morning at Hotel Gironga (1820m) near town of Guateque
8. Reserva Natural Fute (2570m), dept. of Cundinamarca
9. Reserva Natural Mana Dulce (550m), Magd. Valley, dept. of Cundinamarca
10. Retorno de los Colibris (1950m); Reserva (ProAves) Loro Fuertesi (3280m), both near Anaimé and Cajamarca and in dept. of Tolima.
11. Cafeteria y Terrazas de Cañaveral Restaurant; and Bellavista Reserve (1100m) near Victoria; pm at Charca de Guarinocito (375m), dept. of Cundinamarca
12. Reserva Río Claro (500m), dept. of Antioquia
13. Aquitania Road (700m) and Pto Triunfo marshes and ranchland (400m), dept. of Antioquia
14. Early a.m. on grounds of Los Colores Hotel (500m), dept. of Antioquia' mid-morning to late p.m. drive back to Bogotá for conclusion of trip



Wax Palms, *Ceroxylon quindiuense*, 2700m; near Anaime, dept. of Tolima. Photo: S.Hilty

Tinamous, Tinamidae

*Gray Tinamou, *Tinamus tao*, heard, Cachipay area (750 m)

Screamers, Anhimidae

Northern Screamer, *Chauna chavaria*, Charca de Guarinocito (Magdalena River oxbow); also near Pto. Triunfo; total 3

Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl, Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*, several near Pto. Triunfo; Los Colores hotel

Andean Teal, *Anas andium*, 8-10 on lakes at Parque Nacional Sumapaz

Andean Duck, *Oxyura ferruginea*, 5-6, Sumapaz (formerly lumped with Ruddy Duck)

Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows, Cracidae

Colombian Chachalaca (Endemic), *Ortalis columbiana* (E), hd near breakfast stop the first day;

Bellavista Reserve; 2 on Aquitania road

Speckled Chachalaca, *Ortalis guttata*, Santa María (March 1 and 2)

Grebes, Podicipedidae

Least Grebe, *Tachybaptus dominicus*, Laguna Tabacal (5-6); Pto. Triunfo (3)

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

Rock Pigeon (I), *Columba livia*, urban areas everywhere

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*, Laguna Tabacal (in scope); vicinity of Río Claro; Pto.

Triunfo

Band-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas fasciata*, large flock at breakfast the first a.m.; Reserva Fute

Ruddy Pigeon, *Patagioenas subvinacea*, Santa Maria (Cachipay area); heard and 1-2 seen in flight

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*, scattered open areas at lower elevations
 Scaled Dove, *Columbina squammata*, Santa María (1 at hotel grounds)
 Ruddy Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon montana*, 1 flushed at Río Claro (maybe seen briefly by a few people)
 White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, Laguna Tabacal; Mana Dulce (several); hd Río Claro area
Tolima Dove *Leptotila conoveri* (Endemic) 1-2 at Retorno de los Colibris, and now so easy!
 *Gray-fronted Dove, *Leptotila rufaxilla*, heard; Bavaria forest
 Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, most open highlands areas including Bogotá

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*, many (30+) at Mana Dulce; doubtless a seasonal movement (but from where, lower Magdalena Valley?); also a few in marshes around Guarinocito
 Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*, in humid lower elevation areas
 Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, dry lowlands a Mana Dulce; near Pto. Triunfo
 [Little Cuckoo, *Coccyzus minima*, 1 seen crossing road by SH; Mana Dulce (530 m)
 Dwarf Cuckoo, *Coccyzus pumila*, late pm at marshes north of Pto. Triunfo (seen only by a few people)
 Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, Bavaria Reserve; Mana Dulce

Potoos, Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo, *Nyctibius grandis*, 1 spotted by our driver Jovani; sleeping on high branch almost over our bus at the “Portugal” llanos stop

Swifts, Apodidae

Chestnut-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne rutila*, breakfast stop our first morning
 White-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne zonaris*, several groups in vicinity of Río Claro/Aquitania
 Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*, over hotel at Santa María; also Río Claro area
 Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*, Santa María (Cachipay area), 2-3

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

White-necked Jacobin, *Florisuga mellivora*, Jardín Encantado (1st day)
 Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsutus*, nest and glimpse at Bellavista; another seen by some of us at the Los Colores hotel
 Tawny-bellied Hermit, *Phaethornis syrmatorphorus*, 1 at Retorno de los Colibris; flew through kitchen
 Long-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis longirostris*, Río Claro (1)
 Stripe-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis striigularis*, Aquitania Rd (1; well photographed by some)
 Green-fronted Lancebill, *Doryfera ludovicae*, Almenara Reserve (1340m) near Santa Maria
 Blue-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera johannae*, 1 b in Bavaria foothills (600 m)
 Sparkling Violetear, *Colibri coruscans*, Jardín Encantada; Chingaza; Reserva Fute; Retorno de los Colibri
 Lesser Violetear, *Colibri cyanotus*, first morning at breakfast; Jardín Encantado; Retorno de los Colibris
 Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothonax nigricollis*, Laguna Tabacal; Jardín Encantado; Retorno de los Colibris
 Longuemare’s (Amethyst-throated) Sunangel, *Heliangelus amethysticollis*, above Bogotá at Observatorio de los Colibris; taxonomy disputed; often merged with Longuemare’s, in which case it would be called Amethyst-throated Sunangel
 Tourmaline Sunangel, *Heliangelus exortis*, Reserva Fute; Reserva Loro Fuertesi (at 3250m el)
 Speckled Hummingbird, *Adelomyia melanogenys*, Reserva Fute
 Long-tailed Sylph, *Agelaiocercus kingii*, Reserva Fute (male and females)
Black-tailed Trainbearer, *Lesbia victoriae*, males above Bogotá (Observatorio de Colibris)
 Green-tailed Trainbearer, *Lesbia nuna*, males above Bogotá (Observatorio de Colibris)
Bronze-tailed Thornbill, *Chalcostigma heteropogon* (Near Endemic), Chingaza (3000m; came to torment the owl)
 Tyrian Metaltail, *Metallura tyrianthina*, Chingaza (Observatorio de Colibris); Reserva Loro Fuertesi (3250m)
 Glowing Puffleg, *Eriocnemis vestita*, PN Chingaza (2-3 at Observatorio de Colibris)



Black-tailed Trainbearer, male, Observatorio de Colibris. Photo: S.Hilty

Coppery-bellied Puffleg, *Eriocnemis cupreiventris* (Near Endemic), 1 at Observatorio de Colibris!

Shining Sunbeam, *Aglaeactis cupripennis*, 3 at Reserva Loro Fuertesi (3250m)

Collared Inca, *Coeligena torquata* Reserva Fute (several); Reserva Loro Fuertesi (1; 3250m)

Blue-throated Starfrontlet, *Coeligena helianthea* (Near Endemic), 2MM at Observatorio de Colibris

Golden-bellied Starfrontlet, *Coeligena bonapartei* (Endemic*), excellent study 2 (M & F) at Reserva Fute; Note: it is endemic if split from Perijá Starfrontlet, *C. consita*, which occurs also on the Venezuelan side of the Perijá Mts.; when merged *C. bonapartei* would only be Near Endemic in Colombia

Sword-billed Hummingbird, *Ensifera ensifera*, M & F (she has longer bill); Observatorio de Colibris; another at Reserva Loro Fuertesi (3250m)

Great Sapphirewing, *Pterophanes cyanopterus* Chingaza (1F) and Observatorio de Colibris (1M); largest hummer of all

Buff-tailed Coronet, *Boissonneaua flavescens*, Reserva Fute (several)

Booted Racket-tail, *Oreotus underwoodii*, Almenara Reserve (1400m) near Santa Maria

Fawn-breasted Brilliant, *Heliodoxa rubinoides*, Retorno de los Colibris (several)

White-bellied Woodstar, *Chaetocercus mulsant*, Jardín Encantado; Observatorio de Colibris; Reserva Fute; Retorno de los Colibris

Tolima Blossomcrown, *Anthocephala berlepschi* (Endemic), 4 individuals at Marmalade bushes (*Streptosolen jamesonii*) bushes

Andean Emerald, *Amazilia franciae*, Jardín Encantado; Retorno de los Colibris

Blue-chested Hummingbird, *Amazilia amabilis*, Río Claro

Indigo-capped Hummingbird (Endemic), *Amazilia cyanifrons*, Jardín Encantado; Retorno de los Colibris generally quite common

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia tzacatl*, Jardín Encantado; Santa Maria (Río Bata below town); Río Claro

Rails, Gallinules & Coots, Rallidae

***Bogota Rail, *Rallus semiplumbeus* (Endemic)**, PN Sumapaz (where we just barely heard it c. 3450 m el Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, *Aramides cajaneus*, Llanos site (Mar 1); Almenara (1300m); Charca de Guarinocito (Mar 8)

Common Gallinule, *Gallinula galeata*, marshy “humedal” last evening in Bogotá

American Coot, *Fulica americana*, PN Sumapaz (resident)

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*, Charca de Guarinocito; Pto. Triunfo marshes

Crake sp (?), heard in marshy area north of Pto. Triunfo

Limpkin, Aramididae

*Limpkin, *Aramus guarauna*, Charca de Guarinocito (hd)

Plovers & Lapwings, Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis*, common; various lower to mid- elevation sites

Jacanas, Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*, Mana Dulce (1 in pond); Charca de Guarinocito; Pto. Triunfo (Antioquia) black race

Sandpipers & Allies, Scolopacidae

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*, PN Sumapaz (1 bird; early returning N migrant); 1 in marshes north of Pto. Triunfo

Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*, 4 in marshes north of Pto. Triunfo (N migrants)

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers, Laridae

Yellow-billed Tern, *Sternula supercilialis*, 1 over small pond north of Pto. Triunfo

Large-billed Tern, *Phaetusa simplex*, 1 over oxbow at Charca de Guarinocito

Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*, 1 on river island sand bar of Río Magdalena near Pto. Triunfo

Cormorants & Shags, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, Laguna Tabacal (12-15); near Giradot; 3 at Charca de Guarinocito

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns, Ardeidae

Fasciated Tiger-Heron, *Tigrisoma fasciatum*, 1 on gravel wash in Río Guatiquia (600m; N of Villavicencio); 1 on Río Bata (800m) below Santa María; typically on foothill gravel bars or boulders in mountain streams

Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*, 1 subad. at Charca de Guarinocito; 1 adult at small pond N of Pto. Triunfo

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, several lower elevation sites

Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*, 1 N of Villavicencio (Río Guatiquia area)

Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*, almost daily; common in open areas everywhere

Striated Heron, *Butorides striata*, 1 at Laguna Tabacal; 2 in marshes N of Pto. Triunfo

Whistling Heron, *Syrigma sibilatrix* 1 in dry lowland pasture near Mana Dulce, el 530m (Cundinamarca); shown in red because it is scarce or seasonal in Magdalena Valley

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, 1 in llanos lowlands of “Portugal” north of Villavicencio; 1 at Hotel Los Colores (near Río Claro)

Ibises & Spoonbills, Threskiornithidae

Scarlet Ibis, *Eudocimus ruber*, flock of 6 in flight in llanos N of Paratebuena, c. 550m (Cundinamarca)

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, loose group of 12-15 along shores of Río Bata (Santa María), c. 800 m el

Bare-faced Ibis, *Phimosus infuscatus*, widespread and common; lower and mid-elevations elevations up to c. 2600m (Sabana de Bogotá)

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, daily; everywhere in settled areas

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, a few singles, mostly at lower els; all are resident forms

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes burrovianus*, 1 near restaurant outside Victoria, 800m el; several near Pto. Triunfo (400 m el)

Osprey, Pandionidae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 1 at Charca de Guarinocito

Hawks, Eagles & Kites, Accipitridae

White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus*, near Bogotá (Bogotá savanna; 1 at Cañaveral/Bellavista area (1100m)

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, 4 at Cachipay, 700m (Boyacá); Bellavista (1100m); Aquitania Road (700m)

Black Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*, 1 seen soaring over Laguna Tabacal (1400-1500m)

Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, 1 in marshes north of Pto. Triunfo

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*, 1 on nest and soaring (Bavaria, 650m); another at Almenara site (c. 1400m); 1 over Aquitania Road (700m); some populations of this species are migratory, breeding in C America, then returning to N South America

Savanna Hawk, *Buteogallus meridionalis*, 1 in pasture north of Pto. Triunfo

Roadside Hawk, *Rupornis magnirostris*, commonest raptor; lowlands and mid-elevations

Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, 1 imm. Cachipay area (700m) below Santa María

Owls, Strigidae

Andean Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium jandini*, 1 seen close and well at Chingaza National Park (3450m)

Black-and-white Owl, *Ciccaba nigrolineata*, great study of 1 below Santa María (700m el)

Trogon, Trogonidae

*White-tailed Trogon, *Trogon chionurus*, heard at Mana Dulce & Río Claro (2)

Green-backed Trogon, *Trogon viridis*, 3 seen at Bavaria reserve (near Villavicencio; c. 650m)

Black-throated Trogon, *Trogon rufus*, 1 hd at Río Claro; this species now split into five distinct species-level populations; this one becomes *Trogon cupreicauda* (I think the English name will now be Kerr's Black-tailed Trogon); Kerr, by the way, was an American woman living in Colombia and collecting birds more than a century ago, including the type specimen of this newly recognized species. The recent move to expunge eponyms would, of course, make it impossible to honor her.

Motmots, Momotidae

Amazonian Motmot, *Momotus momota* (formerly Blue-crowned Motmot); pair seen close at Bavaria Forest; 2-3 more heard

Andean (Highland) Motmot, *Momotus aequatorialis*, close study (Retorno de los Colibris)

Rufous Motmot, *Momotus subrufescens*, 1 seen and photographed at Río Claro (first a.m.)

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher, *Megaceryle torquata*, Charca de Guarinocito; Los Colores Hotel

Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazona*, 1 in marshes N of Pto. Triunfo (seen by SH; others ?)

Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*, Laguna Tabacal (2); Río Bata; Charca de Guarinocito; marshes north of Pto. Triunfo

Puffbirds, Bucconidae

*Pied Puffbird, *Notharchus tectus*, 1 heard in wooded area N of Pto. Triunfo (unresponsive to playback)

Barred Puffbird, *Nystalus radiatus*, Mana Dulce; also heard at Río Claro

Gray-cheeked Nunlet, *Nonnula frontalis*, 1 at Río Claro

Jacamars, Galbulidae

Rufous-tailed Jacamar, *Galbula ruficauda*, Mana Dulce (1 male)

White-chinned Jacamar, *Galbula tombacea*, 1 at Bavaria Reserve near Villavicencio

New World Barbets, Capitonidae

White-mantled Barbet, *Capito hypoleuca* (Endemic), 1M at Cañaveral area; scarce and local
Gilded Barbet, *Capito auratus*, 1 at Bavaria Reserve (near Villavicencio); in *Ficus* tree
Red-headed Barbet, *Eubucco bourcierii*, Almenara area near Santa María (2MM; 1F)

Toucans, Ramphastidae

Southern Emerald-Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus albivitta*, 1 at Retorno de los Colibris (at nest hole)
*Crimson-rumped Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*, Santa María (heard by AN)
Collared Araçari, *Pteroglossus torquatus*, Cañaveral/Bellavista Reserve (very close views); Río Claro
Chestnut-eared Araçari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*, Bavaria Reserve
Yellow-throated Toucan, *Ramphastos ambiguus*, 1 flying overhead (Río Claro)
Channel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos (vitellinus) citreolaemus*, (Citron-throated form, often regarded a separate species); 1 seen briefly at Aquitania Road (700m) by SH (others?)

Woodpeckers, Picidae

Scaled Piculet, *Picumnus squamulatus*, Santa María (Cachipay area; 700m)
Acorn Woodpecker, *Melanerpes Formicivorus*, Retorno de los Colibris
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cruentatus*, Santa María (Cachipay are, 700 m)
Beautiful Woodpecker, *Melanerpes pulcher* (Endemic), Victoria (Bellavista entrance, 1100m)
Red-crowned Woodpecker, *Melanerpes rubricapillus*, Magdalena Valley lowlands
Red-rumped Woodpecker, *Veniliornis kirkii*, Mana Dulce; Río Claro area)
Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, Tabacal (hd); Almenara track (hd); Cañaveral (seen well)
Golden-olive Woodpecker, *Colaptes rubiginosus*, Chicaque (near lodge)
Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes (Chrysophilus) punctigula*, Cañaveral area (1 very close!)

Falcons & Caracaras, Falconidae

Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*, 1 near Río Bata (Santa María area)
Crested Caracara, *Caracara cheriway*, above Retorno del los Colibris (2700m); Pto Triunfo area
Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*, scattered singles in lowland areas
American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, en route to PN Sumapaz (c. 3000m)
Bat Falcon, *Falco rufigularis*, listed for Feb 29 (location?)



Yellow-eared Parrots, dept. of Tolima, 2700m. Photo: S.Hilty

New World and African Parrots, Psittacidae

Orange-chinned Parakeet, *Brotogeris jugularis*, Laguna Tabacal; Mana Dulce (hd); Retorno de los Colibris (around main building); Pto. Triunfo

*Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanoptera*, hd.in or over Bavaria forest (Villavicencio area

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*, Cañaveral area (1100m); Hotel Los Colores; Río Claro; Pto. Triunfo

Bronze-winged Parrot, *Pionus chalcopterus*, pairs in wax palms (2700m) above Retorno de los Colibris

Red-lored Parrot, *Amazona autumnalis*, 1 in forest on Aquitania Road (700m); a surprise to see it here

Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala*, pair in flight at Mana Dulce

Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica*, pair over marshland/ranchland north of Pto. Triunfo

Spectacled Parrotlet, *Forpus **conspicillatus** (Endemic)*, common at many lower elevation sites; e.g. Laguna Tabacal; Cachipay; Mana Dulce; Cañaveral area; Los Colores; Pto. Triunfo etc.

Yellow-eared Parrot, *Ognorhynchus icterotis* (Near Endemic), Wax Palm area (2700m el) above Retorno de los Colibris (near Cajamarca, Tolima); quite local and threatened

Golden-plumed Parakeet, *Leptosittaca branickii*, Wax Palm area (2700m el) as above

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severus*, in flight over Hotel Los Colores (Río Claro area); Pto Triunfo (400m)

Typical Antbirds, Thamnophilidae

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*, pair at Santa María (2nd military base at Cachipay), 700m el

Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, Mana Dulce (1M)

Bar-crested Antshrike, *Thamnophilus multistriatus* (Near Endemic), Laguna Tabacal (pair); Ukuku (2)

Lined Antshrike, *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*, by 2nd military base at Cachipay area (700m el)

Black-crowned Antshrike, *Thamnophilus atrinucha*, Mana Dulce (4-5); Bellavista (1F in forest)

Checker-throated Stipplethroat (Antwren), *Epinecrophyllos fulviventeris*, 1 in Bellavista forest that was high and difficult to see (1100m el); this elevation also is close to the “normal” maximum for this species

(Northern) White-fringed Antwren, *Formicivora grisea*, 2-3 pairs at Mana Dulce (erroneously listed as White-flanked Antwren on my checklist; the birds we saw at Mana Dulce were this species

Jet Antbird, *Cercomacra nigricans*, pair seen (with some difficulty) at Mana Dulce

White-browed Antbird, *Myrmoborus leucophrys*, heard at entrance to Bavaria forest (600m); seen just above Río Bata in Santa María area; also heard several times in early a.m. at Cachipay (700m)

White-bellied Antbird, *Myrmeciza longipes*, Mana Dulce (1 glimpsed, mainly in flight, after much effort; bird was singing but did not strongly respond)

Chestnut-backed Antbird, *Poliocrania exsul*, Río Claro (minimal dawn song; we saw 1M)

Antpittas, Grallariidae

*Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, *Grallaria ruficapilla*, Reserva Fute (heard) at ca. 2600m el.

Tawny Antpitta, *Grallaria quitensis* (also recently proposed split as Northern Tawny Antpitta, *Grallaria alticola*), seen at PN Sumapaz (this E Andean form vocally quite distinct and now separated as a distinct species from the more western and southern populations); refer to ebird and Cornell's Birds of the World checklist for updates to taxonomy of this specie.

Tapaculos, Rhinocryptidae

*Pale-bellied (Matorral) Tapaculo, *Scytalopus griseicollis* (NE), heard at PN Sumapaz (another little “black” bird); refused to appear

Antthrushes, Formicariidae

*Short-tailed Antthrush, *Chamaeza campanisona*, heard at Almenara road site but despite considerable playback and a long wait, we failed to see this bird, although it did, for a while, approach.

Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers, Furnariidae

Plain-brown Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*, 1 seen by AN; seen by others (?)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*, Bavaria Reserve (1); Río Claro (1)

Strong-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*, 1 seen by AN and David; Río Claro

Cocoa Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*, Cachipay; Mana Dulce

Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*, Los Colores Hotel; Pto. Triunfo
 Red-billed Scythebill, *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*, 1 seen at Laguna Tabacal
 Streak-headed Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*, Laguna Tabacal; Santa María (Cachipay at 700 m and Río Bata)
 Montane Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*, Reserva Fute (2600-2700m)
 Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*, 2 at Mana Dulce; 1 at Río Claro
 Pale-legged Hornero, *Furnarius leucopus*, pair in marshland north of Pto. Triunfo; now often split as Caribbean Hornero, *Furnarius longirostris*. See ebird and Cornell's Clements Birds of the World list for details.
 Chestnut-winged Cinclodes, *Cinclodes albidiventris*, PN Sumapaz (5-6 seen, mostly very well); now split officially from former Bar-winged Cinclodes
Black-billed Treehunter, *Thripadectes melanorhynchus*, pair responded to playback at the Almenara forest track above Santa María but were difficult to see
Many-striped Canastero, *Asthenes flammulata*, PN Sumapaz (1 perched up atop an *Espeletia* plant)
 White-chinned Thistletail, *Asthenes fuliginosa*, PN Sumapaz (2 seen well)
 Crested Spinetail, *Cranioleuca subcristata*, seen at our stop at the Hotel Girona, 1820m el; and very near town of Guateque), Cundinamarca; March 4
 Yellow-chinned Spinetail, *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*, Charca de Guarinocito; and Pto. Triunfo (several in both areas)

*Azara's Spinetail, *Synallaxis azarae*, 1 heard at the Was Palm site above Retorno de los Colibris (SH only)
 Rufous-fronted Thornbird, *Phacellodomus rufifrons*, Santa María; taxonomy unsettled, often listed as Plain Thornbird, *P. inornatus*; see ebird and Cornell's Birds of the World website for latest updates.

Manakins, Pipridae

White-bibbed Manakin, *Corapipo leucorrhoa*, Bellavista Reserve (1 or 2 at entrance but difficult to see)
Lance-tailed Manakin, *Chiroxiphia lanceolata*, 2-3 including MM and subadults at Mana Dulce
 White-bearded Manakin, *Manacus manacus* (common) Bavaria (1 male seen); Mana Dulce; Bellavista (at least 1 female)
Striolated (formerly Striped) Manakin, *Machaeropterus regulus*, Aquitania road (1M, very cute!); this is a recent taxonomic split from Striped Manakin
 Golden-headed Manakin, *Ceratopipra erythrocephala*, 1 female at Bellavista Reserve

Cotingas, Cotingidae

Andean Cock-of-the-rock, *Rupicola peruvianus*, near Santa María (10-12 males and at least 1 female, c. 1250 m el); great afternoon with these spectacular birds

Tityras & Allies, Tityridae

Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*, Santa Maria (2MM in Cachipay area, 700 m el)
 Cinnamon Becard, *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*, 1 north of Pto. Triunfo in woodlot
One-colored Becard, *Pachyramphus homochrous*, 1 female at Río Claro

Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

Wing-barred Piprites, *Piprites chloris*, 1 seen high in forest in early p.m. at Río Claro; easily overlooked except for call
 Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, *Mionectes oleagineus*, *Laguna Tabacal (hd); 1 seen briefly at Río Claro
 Sepia-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*, 1 at Río Claro
 Slaty-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon superciliaris*, Santa María (ca. 1150-1300 m)
 *Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus*, 1 hd along Almenara road at the Black-billed Treehunter spot;
 Southern Bentbill, *Oncostoma olivaceum*, 1 along Aquitania road; seen well
 Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, *Poecilotriccus sylvia*, Mana Dulce
 Common Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum cinereum*, most lower elevations; common
 Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum nigriceps*, Río Claro (1, but not seen well by most persons)
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphureus*, Mana Dulce (1); Río Claro (1)

Cliff Flycatcher, *Hirundinea ferruginea*, along highway above Villavicencio

White-throated Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus leucophrys*, high elevations at PN Chingaza; PN Sumapaz; Reserva Fute; and Loro Fuertes

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, *Phaeomyias murina*, Mana Dulce (1 seen early in morning)

Yellow Tyrannulet, *Capsiempis flaveola*, pair seen well at Mana Dulce

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannulus elatus*, common voice (little “wolf whistle”) in lowlands; seen best the morning at Cañaveral (1100m)

Yellow-bellied Elaenia, *Elaenia flavogaster*, widespread (especially by voice) at lower elevations

Mountain Elaenia, *Elaenia frantzii*, seen mainly at Reserva Fute

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias griseiceps*, Laguna Tabacal parking lot area (snappy voice); also seen and heard at Mana Dulce

Golden-faced Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius chrysops*, common voice at mid-elevations; seen at Laguna Tabacal; Almenara; Río Bata; and Río Claro

Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*, apparently the puzzling flycatcher that was close and low but not vocalizing at Mana Dulce (we have lots of photos of it!)

Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans*, Laguna Tabacal; Santa María area (Río Bata)

Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, surprisingly, only seen at Cañaveral (from breakfast veranda)

Smoky Bush-Tyrant, *Myiotheretes fumigatus*, pair at Reserva Fute; an often overlooked bird, or possibly somewhat local

Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, *Cnemarchus erythropygius*, PN Sumapaz; Wow! Good views of this magnificent highland flycatcher perched on a post and sallying to ground; very local in Colombia

White-headed Marsh Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*, Charca de Guarinocito; Pto. Triunfo (1M)

Pied Water-Tyrant, *Fluvicola pica*, also Charca de Guarinocito and Pto. Triunfo (always near water)

Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, *Silvicultrix diadema*, 1 seen well at PN Chingaza (not rare but often overlooked because of quiet behavior and habit of staying hidden in thickets; a good find!)

Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, *Ochthoeca fumicolor*, PN Sumapaz

Long-tailed Tyrant, *Colonia colonus*, Santa María; (700 m); Río Claro (nesting pair at entrance parking lot)

Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*, 1 bird incubating eggs in a deep tree trunk cavity (c. 2 m up); Río Claro; well hidden, with only the bird's head visible

Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*, heard at Almenara (1100m); seen at Río Claro and on Aquitania Road (700m)

Panama Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cephalotes*, Aquitania Road (2-3); Hotel Los Colores (1)

Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*, 1 on the late morning llanos drive (Portugal area) north of Villavicencio

Apical Flycatcher, *Myiarchus apicalis* (Endemic), 1 seen well at Mana Dulce

Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*, 1 or more heard at Río Claro (N temperate breeding migrant)

Cattle Tyrant, *Machetornis rixosa*, at several lowland sites, especially in llanos and around Pto. Triunfo

Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus lektor*, 3-4 in marshland north of Pto. Triunfo

Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*, most lower elevations

Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*, scattered individuals throughout in lowlands

Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*, widespread and common at all lower and mid-elevations

Golden-bellied (formerly Golden-crowned) Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*, 1 along Almenara road above Santa María (1200-1300m); these northern populations now merged with birds in lower Central America (Costa Rica and western Panama) but split from south form south of Río Marañón in Peru. This latter retains the name Golden-crowned Flycatcher

Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*, Río Claro and Aquitania road (both sightings were of brownish residents; and not blackish-streaked austral migrants that are still breeding in Argentina)

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*, 1 on Aquitania Road (a N temperate breeding migrant that breeds north to Arizona)

Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*, numerous sites throughout (but not very vocal at this time of year)

Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, widespread; daily; up to at least 2600 m el

Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, a couple singles at Cañaveral; already moving northward; most will pass northward through Colombia a few weeks later and in large flocks

Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana*, Charca de Guarinocito; Pto. Triunfo marshlands, and possible a couple other areas; these may all be resident birds; the Central American race is breeding at this time of year to the north; a few austral migrants may have arrived but these keep mostly east of Andes



Common Tody-Flycatcher, Cañaveral. Photo: S.Hilty

Vireos, Shrike-Babblers etc., Vireonidae

Rufous-browed Peppershrike, *Cyclarhis gujanensis*, Laguna Tabacal*; Santa María (2 at Cachipay at 700 m el); also near Río Bata (Santa María) and at Mana Dulce
Scrub Greenlet, *Hylophilus flavipes*, Santa María (seen across on south side of Río Bata, 800 m)
Rufous-naped Greenlet, *Pachysylvia semibrunnea*, Laguna Tabacal (hd); Santa María (hd); Río Claro (hd); 1 seen at Parque Romera in Medellín
Brown-capped Vireo, *Vireo leucophrys*, 1 at Reserva Fute; formerly lumped with Warbling Warbling Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, a few seen at Río Claro and Aquitania Road that were very white below and probably north temperate breeding migrants

*Chivi Vireo, *Vireo chivi* (this is a resident), 1 heard in the llanos section (Portugal area) north of Villavicencio; a choppy 2-note song endlessly repeated, quite unlike the longer song of Red-eyed Vireo

Yellow-green Vireo, *Vireo flavoviridis*, 1 seen and studied well; Aquitania road (700m el); possibly a northern breeder already on the move north as most of these “winter” in the northwestern portion of the Amazon basin

Crows, Jays & Magpies, Corvidae

Black-chested Jay, *Cyanocorax affinis*, Mana Dulce (6+); Cañaveral and Bellavista area
Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*, Bavaria Reserve (8-10); also Cachipay area (700m) below Santa María

Donacobius, Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius, heard at Charca de Guarinocito

Swallows, Hirundinidae

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*, several mid-elevation sites (generally not lowlands)
Brown-bellied Swallow, *Orochelidon murina*, small groups at high els (Chingaza; Sumapaz; Bogotá; etc.)

White-thighed Swallow, *Atticora tibialis*, pair perching on wires and flying around at small military base below Santa María (700m); this race (*griseoventris*) much paler below than birds west of Andes; uncommon; Later we saw several of the darker western race at the entrance parking lot at Río Claro

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, a few in lowlands (Laguna Tabacal; Santa María area (700 m); Río Claro area; singles or pairs

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*, singles or pairs in settled areas throughout at lower to mid-elevations

White-winged Swallow, *Tachycineta albiventer*, Charca de Guarinocito; Pto Triunfo marshland

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, apparently 1 was seen somewhere in the Río Claro area

Gnatcatchers, Polioptilidae

Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila plumbea*; Mana Dulce

Wrens, Troglodytidae

*Scaly-breasted Wren, *Microcerculus marginatus*, heard at Bavaria forest

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, amazing little bird; everywhere from lowlands to páramo
 Mountain Wren, *Troglodytes solstitialis*, I show it listed on checklist for Chingaza (?) but I don't recall seeing this bird; maybe seen by AN or others (?)
 Grass (Sedge) Wren, *Cistothorus platensis*, Loro Fuertesi Reserve (3250m); look for future taxonomic rearrangements here
Apolinar's Wren *Cistothorus (apolinari) hernandezi* (E), PN Sumapaz; this form may eventually be separated as Sumapaz Wren
 Band-backed Wren, *Campylorhynchus zonatus*, Río Claro (surprisingly quiet)
 Bicolored Wren, *Campylorhynchus griseus*, Río Claro (parking lot) and Pto. Triunfo area
 Thrush-like Wren, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*, pair at Esmeraldas Hotel in Santa María (900 m)
 Black-bellied Wren, *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris*, Mana Dulce (a pair); Río Claro
 *Whiskered Wren, *Pheugopedius mystacalis*, heard along the Almenara road above Santa María (c. 1300 m); a skulker and we never really saw more than glimpses
 Rufous-breasted Wren, *Pheugopedius rutilus*, pair seen at Cachipay area below Santa María (c. 700 m el)
 Rufous-and-white Wren, *Thryophilus rufalbus*, seen briefly at Bavaria Forest; again along Río Bata below Santa María (700 m)
 *Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucophrys*, hd at Reserva Fute
 *White-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucosticta*, heard at Río Claro

Mockingbirds & Thrashers, Mimidae

Tropical Mockingbird, *Mimus gilvus*, seen at most lower elevation semi-open sites

Thrushes & Allies, Turdidae

Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*, apparently 1 seen in Cachipay area (700m) below Santa María (N migrant)
 Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*, a dozen or more in Cañaveral and Bellavista area (N migrant)
 Pale-breasted Thrush, *Turdus leucomelas*, almost all lower elevations
 Spectacled (formerly Bare-eyed) Thrush, *Turdus nudigenis*, Bavaria; and Santa María (lower zones)
 Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, very common at Laguna Tabacal and Río Claro; 2 birds below Santa María (700 m el) may have been the form *Turdus (ignobilis) debilis* (**Amazonian Thrush**), which is now often regarded a separate species; field ID is problematic but voice differs and bill is shorter, throat more extensively whitish.
 Great Thrush, *Turdus fuscater*, common in highlands; mainly above c. 2500 m

Finches, Euphonias & Allies, Fringillidae

*Blue-naped Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia cyanea*, hd by AN at Almenara area above Santa María (c. 1300-1300 m)
Velvet-fronted Euphonia (E), *Euphonia concinna* (Endemic), Laguna Tabacal; and Mana Dulce
 Golden-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*, near 2nd military base below Santa María (pair)
 Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris*, widespread at most lower and mid-elevations to ca. 1500 m but we saw it only in the Magdalena Valley area (not east slope of Andes_
 [Fulvous-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia fulvicrissa*, seen (and/or hd) by guide Arturo Parra at Bellavista]
 Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*, Santa María (several in lower zone around Cachipay; also Río Bata)
 Lesser Goldfinch, *Spinus psaltria*, Reserva Fute (only SH and possibly 1-2 others); also by everyone at Cañaveral (1100m)

New World Sparrows, Brushfinches etc., Passerellidae

Ashy-throated Chlorospingus (formerly Bush-Tanager), *Chlorospingus canigularis*, 15+ (Reserva Fute)
 Orange-billed Sparrow, *Arremon aurantirostris*, Río Claro (1 seen)
 Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*, everywhere in highlands (above ca. 2000 m)
 White-naped Brushfinch, *Atlapetes albinucha*, 2 seen at Reserva Fute (2650m); SH and 1-2 others
 Moustached Brushfinch, *Atlapetes albofrenatus*, Reserva Fute (2650m); pair
 Pale-naped Brushfinch, *Atlapetes pallidinucha*, PN Chingaza (2)

Troupials & Allies, Icteridae

Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*, grassland below Chingaza NP (c. 2900m); PN Sumapaz (3300 m)
Red-breasted Meadowlark, *Leistes militaris*, lowlands N of Pto. Triunfo (1M; 1F)
Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*, east slope Andes around Santa María (*P. angustifrons neglectus* race); 700-1400m
Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*, vicinity of Santa María (700 m)
Chestnut-headed Oropendola, *Psarocolius wagleri*, Río Claro
Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus c. cela*, various areas around Santa María (this is the eastern race)
Yellow-backed Oriole, *Icterus chrysater*, Santa María area; hotel near Guateque (1700m)
Orange-crowned Oriole, *Icterus auricapillus*, 1 at Río Claro
Yellow Oriole, *Icterus nigrogularis*, Mana Dulce; Charca de Guarinocito; near Pto. Triunfo
Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, widespread in lowlands and mid-elevations; many at feeders at Jardín Encantado (where it is fed, unfortunately)
Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*, 1M at Río Claro
Carib Grackle, *Quiscalus lugubris*, near Villavicencio; now a recent invader in Magdalena Valley and other areas west of Andes; numerous in settled areas around Pto. Triunfo and Los Colores Hotel
Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*, 1F at Charca de Guarinocito (Magd. Valley); formerly only coastal, this species is now (in last few years) rapidly spreading inland
Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, marshes at Charca de Guarinocito; also near Pto. Triunfo

New World Warblers, Parulidae

*Northern Waterthrush, *Parkesia noveboracensis*, heard along a creek at Mana Dulce
American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*, Bavaria; Santa María area; 1F at Río Claro
Cerulean Warbler, *Setophaga cerulea*, 1M at upper end of Cachipay area (800m; below Santa María)
Tropical Parula, *Setophaga pitiauyumi*, 1 along Almenara track (1400m) above Santa María
Bay-breasted Warbler, *Setophaga castanea*, abundant at almost all lower els. (below 1100m) W of Andes and especially numerous along Aquitania Road (700m el)
Blackburnian Warbler, *Setophaga fusca*, abundant through Colombian Andes, especially from c. 600-3000m; females mostly in lower half of this zone, males dominate at higher elevations; we may have seen at least 15 or more (mostly MM) at Reserva Fute at 2650m.

Rufous-capped Warbler, *Basileuterus rufifrons*, Laguna Tabacal (2); Mana Dulce (2 very cute pairs)
Golden-crowned Warbler, *Basileuterus culicivorus*, Santa María (1 at 1400 m)
Black-crested Warbler, *Basileuterus nigrocristata*, PN Chingaza (2; ca. 3300m)
Buff-rumped Warbler, *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*, Río Claro (we saw several of these “tail sweepers”)
Canada Warbler, *Cardellina canadensis*, Laguna Tabacal (1); Cachipay (1; 700m); Bellavista (1100m, a rather dull subad.)
Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart), *Myioborus miniatus*, Santa María area (800-1400m)
Golden-fronted Redstart (Whitestart), *Myioborus ornatus*, Reserva Fute (2650m)

Mitrospingidae Tanagers, Mitrospingidae

Dusky-faced Tanager, *Mitrospingus cassinii*, Río Claro (noisy); often in single-species flocks

Cardinals & Allies, Cardinalidae

(Highland) Hepatic Tanager, *Piranga flava*, pair below 1 at Bellavista (1100m); sometimes split as Highland Hepatic-Tanager, (*lutea* group); resident; this elevation seems a little low for this species
Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*, 1F at Laguna Tabacal (1400m); 2 in Cachipay area near Military bases (750-800m); 1 on south side of Río Bata (the “crazy dog” site; 800m); at least 4 in Río Claro/Aquitania area (500-700m el)
Sooty Ant-Tanager *Habia gutturalis* (E), Wow! Hot pink crest; 2 seen very well along the Aquitania road (700 m el)
Black-backed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus aureoventris*, 1 at Chinguaza Reserve (Usme area; 2700m)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, 1M seen at Laguna Tabacal (1400m); SH only
Blue-black Grosbeak, *Cyanoloxia cyanoides*, 1M seen at Río Claro; note that these “western” birds (W of Andes) now often regarded a distinct species from *C. c. rothschildii* of E of Andes.

Tanagers & Allies, Thraupidae

Magpie Tanager, *Cissopis leverianus*, Santa María (2 near second military base; 700 m)

Oleaginous Hemispingus, *Sphenopsis frontalis*, 3 w/mixed spp. flock at Reserva Fute (2650m); formerly in genus *Hemispingus*

Superciliaried Hemispingus, *Thlypopsis superciliaris*, 3 with a mixed spp. flock at Reserva Fute (2650m); formerly in genus *Hemispingus*

White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus*, Cachipay (pair; 700m); Mana Dulce (pair); Río Claro (1 female)

White-lined Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufus*, 1 at Cachipay (at 2nd military base)

Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*, Villavicencio and Santa María (Cachipay area)

Crimson-backed Tanager, *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*, widespread in Magdalena Valley (Tabacal; Retorno de los Colibris (1950m); Río Claro

Blue-capped Tanager, *Sporathraupis cyanocephala*, 2 at Reserva Fute (2650m)

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, *Anisognathus igniventris*, 3+ at PN Chingaza (c. 2900-3200m); 1 at Sumapaz at 3650m (this slightly above extreme upper end of elevational range)

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, widespread in mid- to lower elevations; white shoulders in east Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*, also widespread

Blue-capped Tanager, *Thraupis cyanocephala*, Chicaque (only 1; upper zone)

Burnished-buff Tanager, *Tangara cayana*, Santa María (1 at Cachipay, 700m)

Scrub Tanager, *Tangara vitriolina*, Laguna Tabacal (1400m); Cañaveral breakfast area (1100m)

Golden-hooded Tanager, *Stilpnia* (formerly genus *Tangara*) *larvata*, Río Claro

Blue-necked Tanager, *Stilpnia* (formerly genus *Tangara*) *cyanicollis*, several foothill locations in Andes including Laguna Tabacal; Santa María etc.

Plain-colored Tanager, *Tangara inornata*, Laguna Tabacal (2 at 1400m); Río Claro (3 at 500m)

Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*, 2 at Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl playback at Río Bata (c. 800m)

Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola*, Laguna Tabacal (1 at 1400m); 2 at Cañaveral/Bellavista area (1100m)

Swallow Tanager, *Tersina viridis*, 2 at Cachipay (near 2nd military base; 700m); 2 along Aquitania Road (700m)

Yellow-tufted (Black-faced) Dacnis, *Dacnis (lineata) aequatorialis*, Cañaveral (male briefly twice; this “yellow-tufted” race often regarded a separate species from birds east of Andes)

Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*, Santa María (1M, Cachipay; 700m); 2 (M&F) along Aquitania road (700m)

Purple Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*, Santa María (pair came to Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl playback near Río Bata; 800m)

Green Honeycreeper, *Chlorophanes spiza*, 1M at Laguna Tabacal

[Scarlet-browed Tanager, *Heterospingus xanthopygius*, 1 at Río Claro (apparently seen only by C. Daza)]

Yellow-backed Tanager, *Hemithraupis flavicollis*, Bellavista, 2 at 1100 m (pair high in forest); pair along Aquitania Road

Chestnut-vented Conebill, *Conirostrum speciosum*, Santa María (Cachipay area, 700m)

Rufous-browed Conebill, *Conirostrum rufum* (Near Endemic), PN Chingaza (3000m; pair seen well); Reserva Fute (another pair, 2650m)

Glossy Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa lafresnayii*, PN Chingaza (up to 15 seen); (Sumapaz?); commonest *Diglossa* above 3000m

Black Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa humeralis*, Chingaza (1-2); (much less common at high e. than allied Glossy Flowerpiercer but dominant at c. 2500 m (e.g. Bogotá Savanna)

White-sided Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa albilatera*, pair at 3600m at Chingaza (unusually high el); 4+ at Reserva Fute

Masked Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa cyanea*, 12+ at PN Chingaza (c. 3100m); Reserva Fute (at least 1; 2650m)

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, *Geospizopsis unicolor*, PN Sumapaz (1M near the military checkpoint))

Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*, widespread and common at almost all elevations up to at least 3000 m

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, 1M at Cañaveral (1100m); 2 along Aquitania road above Río Claro

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, *Sporophila minuta*, 1M (1-2FF) Aquitania Road (above Río Claro); 1 also at Laguna El Hato

Large-billed Seed-Finch, *Sporophila crassirostris*, pair at Cañaveral (1100m and close to upper elevational limit); uncommon and now quite local; male's whitish bill distinctive; I am not sure if anyone obtained a photo but this is a record worth documenting

Gray Seed-eater, *Sporophila intermedia*, group of 3-4 (including 1M) in Cañaveral area (1100m)

Yellow-bellied Seed-eater, *Sporophila nigricollis*, Laguna Tabacal; not marked on my list but I believe this species was also seen in a couple other areas including Cañaveral and Aquitania Road

Pileated Finch, *Coryphospingus pileatus*, Mana Dulce (1 male early in morning; prominent white eyering)

Plain-colored Seed-eater, *Catamenia inornata*, PN Sumapaz (2; c. 3500-3600 m el)

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, widespread; ridiculously common (too many) at Jardín Encantado

Black-faced Grassquit, *Melanospiza (Tiaris) bicolor*, Mana Dulce (1 female); Laguna El Hato (1M on

Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*, heard and seen at Hotel Los Colores; elsewhere (?)

Streaked Saltator, *Saltator striatipectus*, drier foothills; Laguna Tabacal; Mana Dulce (certainly heard): Cañaveral area (1100m); Aquitania Road (700m); and probably elsewhere in foothills

MAMMALS:

Marmosets & Tamarins, Callitrichidae

White-footed Tamarin, *Saguinus leucopus*, group of 4+ near entrance to Río Claro (cute and fast moving)

New World Monkeys, Cebidae

White-throated Capuchin, *Cebus capuchinus*, 2+ along lower part of Bavaria Road (traveling with a much larger group of Squirrel Monkeys; these Capuchins seemed to be leading, or were slightly ahead of the much more numerous Squirrel Monkeys)

Common Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri sciureus*, group of 12+ in Bavaria Forest (with Capuchin Monkeys)

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS:

Geckos (especially in our rooms at Hotel Los Colores)

Yellow-headed Gecko, *Gonatodes albigularis*, Pto. Triunfo area (quite a striking little creature)

Iguanas (greenish and smaller younger ones; older and grayer adults, especially Río Claro/Pto. Triunfo area and Hotel Los Colores)

PLANTS: A few of the plants we saw, many of which were pointed out at one time or mentioned at one time or another; definitely not a comprehensive list but it might help you track down some of the plants in your photos. This list is updated from an earlier tour plant list, and beware that, like birds, plant taxonomy is changing too, so some scientific names may not be up to date.

Acaema sp. (icylindristachya). Rosaceae. Small, easily-overlooked plants; common in PN Sumapaz, but you have to step out into the páramo and look down, as its fuzzy fern-like leaves spread out and grow close to the ground; tiny, almost microscopic red flowers grown from a cylindrical cob-like structure

Adenanthera sp. (possibly pavonina). Fabaceae; smallish (12-15m) tree at Río Claro with dark purplish-black seedpods (black lining) and ca. 6 bright red, roundish and very hard seeds per pod; very striking and attractive seed pods.

Aibertia patinoi, Rubiaceae, the plant called "Borjój"; a native plant now grown as a medicinal plant and for food; I had seen the fruit a few years ago in the Chocó region (where the tree is native); noted at a couple places including the Aquitania road.

Agapanthus sp. (prob. praecox). Amaryllidaceae. Also as Blue Lily or Lily of the Nile. Native to South Africa but cultivars planted in gardens worldwide. Many of these in gardens.

Aspidosperma ridigum, Apocyanaceae. One of two genera of trees with unusual "fluted" woody trunks that were used in construction of the entrance office at Río Claro; the other is *Lecointea amazonia* (Fabaceae) which is also present at Río Claro; Wikipedia photos of the trunk suggest that this latter is

the one we were seeing used in construction at Río Claro; these names came from a phone call by the owner of Río Claro Juan Rodriguez, to one of Colombia's most well-known botanists, Alvaro Cogollo. Juan then relayed the information to us (while we were on the bus). We did not see these on this 2024 trip.

- Ageratum* spp. Asteraceae, small weedy plant; tiny bluish flowers; roadsides; Santa María
- Allamanda* sp. Apocynaceae; one common name is Golden Trumpet; widespread ornamental with large beautiful yellow flowers with twisted corollas; all parts of plant are poisonous; several in garden at Los Colores Hotel and elsewhere
- Alnus* spp. Alder, Betulaceae (Birch) family, common pioneer plant on landslides, roadsides, throughout American tropics; mostly higher elevations; it is a nitrogen-fixing plant that improves fertility; I pointed out a couple near Chingaza and Observatorio de los Colibris
- Anacardium* sp. Anacardiaceae. The huge Wild Cashew trees along the stream (mostly) at and near Mana Dulce; these were the largest trees in the reserve, impressive in size for such a dry area
- Annona (cherimola) muricata*, Soursop; Annonaceae; *A. cherimola* is native to southern South America; other species? We saw one somewhere early in this trip and some of you had Soursop juice (Guanábana in Latin America) and the fruit is pretty amazing to see; like a huge medieval spiked ball used for torture.
- Anthurium* sp. many along forest roads and in cultivation. Some especially bright red ones in flower were planted in front of our rooms at the Extremadura hotel in Medellin. Also see under *Dieffenbachia*.
- Aphelandra* sp. Acanthaceae, woody shrub; red flower spikes; especially along roadside near entrance to Río Claro
- Arbutilon* sp. Malvaceae (Mallow family, or Hibiscus); not sure about common name; we saw these shrubs in numerous places, especially Ukuku and Santa María; widely planted ornamental, flower mostly orange-yellow with red veins; attracts hummingbirds
- Artocarpus altilis*, Moraceae. Bread Fruit. Large tree with large and distinctive, dissected leaves; widely planted in lowlands, especially in coastal Pacific area of Colombia, sparingly elsewhere in humid (usually not dry) regions; a few in the Río Claro area
- Apeiba* sp. Monkey Comb/Peine de Mono; (Malvaceae); the seed pods that looked like “sea urchins”; Río Claro (maybe not seen on this trip)
- Asclepias curassavica*, Tropical Milkweed (Apocynaceae); several along the Almenara track above Santa María; they look confusingly similar to Lantana, but the leaves are much longer and narrower (more lance-like) and the seed pods are long and pointed (like many milkweeds!); flowers are red and orange
- Begonia* sp., Begoniaceae, a few along track at Bavaria; others mostly with seeds; near Río Claro
- Bactris* sp. Palmae; Peach Palms; these are the palms with the incredibly spiny trunks; we saw them in several places including Mana Dulce and especially Río Claro; some of these palms are grown commercially for their fruit
- Bambusa* spp. Common Bamboo; this is the giant bamboo seen mostly in the lowlands; it is native to Asia but widely cultivated around the world in tropical areas; possibly other genera involved; also see *Guadua*
- Bauhinia* spp., often in Caesalpinioideae (or Cercidoideae). Huge genus of leguminous flowering plants; I mentioned these a couple times; leaves have distinctive incompletely divided 2-foliate shape. Some have beautiful flowers that are “orchid-like.”
- Bixa orellana*, Bixaceae; Achiote. One or two growing along the road near our breakfast stop at *Cañaveral*; the “Achiote Road” in Panama takes its name from this plant; useful for the red dye from covering of seeds
- Bracken Fern, *Pteridium* spp. Dennstaedtiaceae; most widely-distributed fern on the planet and also ancient lineage; pioneering fern that colonizes cleared areas, roadsides, burns etc.; extremely invasive, forming dense cover that prevents other plants from growing, partly by releasing allelopathic chemicals in roots.
- Bursera* sp. (probably *simaruba*), Burseraceae, the “gumbo-limbo” trees; Río Claro area
- Bignonia* sp., Bignoniaceae, bright yellow flowers (vines) at Mana Dulce
- Bomarea* spp. Alstroemeriaceae, the large flower clusters (vines) in cloud forest and high elevations; orange and red flowers; many of you photographed these at PN Chingaza (see photo at end); “long-billed” hummingbird, such as Incas and Starfrontlets (*Coeligena*), love them

Bocconia sp. Papaveraceae, small shrubby tree with really large toothed leaves and large hanging stalks with massive numbers of pale seed; common; many around Ukuku and elsewhere; leaves look somewhat like “breadfruit” leaves.

Bougainvillea spp. Nyctaginaceae (4’o’clock family), one of the commonest flowering shrubs or vines in gardens just about everywhere; colorful papery dark purple-red bracts and others with white bracts; tiny white flowers

Brownea spp. Fabaceae (the spectacular, large orange flowers on trunk of tree at Bavaria Forest)



Brownea sp. Fabaceae. Reserva Bavaria. Photo: S.Hilty

Brugmansia sp. Angel’s Trumpet; Solanaceae. Native to Brazil. Commonly planted in gardens and around homes; huge pendant white trumpetlike flowers (about 12 inches long); some growing at Ukuku and elsewhere; almost all parts of this plant contain a poisonous narcotic; formerly in genus *Datura*.

Brunfelsia sp., Solanaceae. [Yesterday, today & Tomorrow]. A popular yard and garden shrub with pinkish flowers than fade to white (so bush always looks multicolored). Seen along road beyond the bridge that crosses the Río Bata at Santa María; also numerous other sites. An ornamental

Bursera simaruba, Burseraceae; Gumbo Limbo; etc.; several noted growing along road north of Pto. Triunfo; noted for peeling reddish bark; occurs north to extreme south Florida

Calathea sp. (possibly *crotalifera*), family Marantaceae. Called Rattlesnake Plant or Bijagua; along road at Río Claro; these look very much like *Heliconia* but are in a different family; broad flattened yellow flowering bracts with small yellow to white flowers on sides; pollinated by euglossine bees, not hummingbirds; leaves look very much like *Heliconia* and grow in dense colonies like *Heliconia*

Calceolaria sp. Calceolariaceae. With a “ladies slipper shape” the flowers of this genus are easily mistaken for a small orchid. Fairly widespread but scattered at mid- to higher elevations (mostly above 4500 ft) in Andes. Many of them are orange or yellow in color. I noticed a few along the roadside in the forested section of Chingaza NP (2024) but probably forgot to point them out.

Callistemon lanceolatus, Bottle Brush. Myrtaceae; originally from Australia; some along trail to Ukuku (above Ibagué) and around a few hotels; attractive to hummingbirds

Caesalpinia pulcherrima, Fabaceae (subfamily *Caesalpinioidea*), Dwarf Poinciana (or Malinche); this is a pretty orange flowering shrub often planted around homes, gardens, hotels etc.

Calliandra spp. pinkish “powder-puff” flowers; Fabaceae (subfamily Leguminosae); plaza at Santa María and elsewhere and other areas; attractive to small hummingbirds, especially coquettes.

Carica papaya, Caricaceae; Papaya Native to New World (but exact location uncertain). Around homes etc.

Carludovica sp. Cyclanthaceae; often called Panama Hat Palms although not true palms (they look more like the palmettos found in Florida etc); these are common at Río Claro, especially along the road banks (and also many around Hotel Los Colores, including some flowering); fan-shaped leaves usually divided into four parts and with no trunk; The spadix or fruiting body elongates, and peels open to reveal a mass of red-orange seeds (one at the Hotel Los Colores, right by the four rooms, was doing this. Another common palm genera in the understory at Río Claro is *Geonoma*, which are true palms but have very short trunks and are a taxonomically complex group; their leaves are longer and variously divided

Cassia sp. borders of open areas; marshes etc; with yellow flowers

Cecropia sp. Cecropiaceae. Common; many species; every birder should learn these because they are a good reference plant for pointing out birds; *Cecropia telenitida* is one easily recognized species of mid-elevations (not below c. 1600m) with leaves that, at a distance, look whitish (this due to light-reflecting hairs on upper leaf surface

Centropogon sp., Campanulaceae, little shrubs with curved red flowers and protruding stamens; hummingbird-pollinated

Castilleja sp. paintbrush), Orobanchaceae (Broomrape family, most of which are parasitic). These plants, with mostly red flowers (yellow center) look much like familiar “paintbrush” in North America; commonly flowering at Sumapaz NP.

Ceiba pentandra (Silk cotton Tree; Kapok Tree), younger ones with woody spikelike thorns; older giant in center of plaza at La Victoria; seen also at Santa María, Mana Dulce, and Río Claro

Cespedezia spp. (possibly *macrophylla*) Ochnaceae; no English name; the large trees with the enormous leaves mostly growing tuft-like near ends of branches; several within first 200-300 m of entrance to Río Claro reserve; some old leaves (nearly 1 m in length) laying in road

Chusquea sp. Poaceae, the high elevation bamboo that is thin and curved; there are other genera, even smaller, in the lowlands

Cleome sp. Cleomaceae (formerly Capparaceae); noted for very long extruded stamens. Seen (photographed) along upper end of Reserva Natural Chicaque; also in many other highland areas including Chingaza

Clivia miniata, Amaryllidaceae. Showy orange flowers that are closely related to the Lilly family. Widely planted along walkways in gardens.

Clusia spp., *Clusiaceae*, trees with star-shaped orange or colorful aril fruits (when open); numerous species; several different sizes of aril fruits; common tree; thick leathery leaves; hummers often visit the flowers of *Clusia* and honeycreepers, tanagers and manakins eat the arils.

Cochlospermum vitifolia (Yellow silk seed Tree; or various other names); large yellow flowers in dry season at Río Claro; common in dry forests of western slopes of Central America; more local in humid forest; [not in flower in August 2020, Nov 2022, nor on this March 2024 trip]

Codiaeum variegatum, Euphorbiaceae. Croton. The shrubs with multicolored foliage that are planted around practically every gardens, country home, or property border in towns and in the country. Some beautiful ones at the Restaurante Clara Luna where we ate lunch just outside of Victoria. Also at Hotel Los Colores, etc.

Coffea arabica, Rubiaceae, coffee shrubs seen in several areas; one of Colombia’s most famous exports

Commelina erecta, Commelinaceae; known as “day-flowers in English, these small blue flowers are common along semi-wooded trails

Cordia spp. Boraginaceae; widespread and often planted around hotels and in towns; tree often has a scatter of reddish or orangish leaves among the green ones

Costus spp. Costaceae; related to true gingers, often called “Spiral Gingers” because the stems grows in upward spirals; herbaceous; red to yellow flower heads (sort of carrot-shaped) at top of plant; we saw them everywhere at lower elevations (to c. 1500 m); true gingers (*Zingiber*) are Asian and no longer exist in the wild state; they are all cultivars.

Crescentia spp. Bignoniaceae. Calabash or Gourd tree; I saw some at Mana Dulce but forgot to point them out; huge gourdlike fruits; common in pollen samples during the Pleistocene but then nearly extinct after the Panama land bridge connection; only reappearing commonly once Spanish introduced horses to the New World; horses break the fruit and eat the fruit and seeds, which greatly aids germination; original dispersers were presumed Gomphotheres and other Pleistocene megafauna

Cuphea ignea. Lythraceae; widely planed shrub in gardens (e.g. Finca Florida) that has hundreds of small and slender tubular red flowers with white tips that look like tiny “lady-finger” fire-crackers

Cupressus sp. Cupressaceae (Mexican Cypress); introduced into many areas of Colombia, often mixed with *Eucalyptus*

Cyathea sp. Cyatheaceae, Tree ferns; common in cloud forests; pantropical and ancient lineage

Delonix regia, *Poinciana* (or Royal Poinciana; or Flamboyant); I saw only one of these in the lowlands of the Magdalena Valley but we were driving and couldn't stop; from Madagascar originally but widely planted in towns for its spectacular orange red flowers; native of Australia; also see under genus *Poinciana* a related much smaller and more delicate flowering shrub.

Dieffenbachia spp. and *Monstera* spp. Araceae. These are the "Office Plants" so commonly seen business places and in homes. A large and complex group with at least a half dozen important genera. Many of them begin at the base of trees and climb, with little flat leaves that stick to the trunk of a tree, then once they are high enough to receive good light, then change form completely and look like the typical "office plants" that we all know. Greenhouses give them full light and force them to skip this early stage and grow immediately as "office plants." The one with swiss-cheese leaves is a *Monstera*.

Digitalis purpurea, Plantaginaceae; common and showy; introduced plant along roadsides, mostly at higher elevations, especially near Chingaza NP

Enterolobium sp. large legume tree in lower zone of Santa María; curled seed pods; known as "Monkey-ear Tree; Elephant-ear Tree, also Guanacaste Tree; large and grows rapidly

Erato sp. Asteraceae, common yellow sunflower-like plant of higher elevation roadsides etc; coarsely toothed leaves; formerly in genus *Senecio*.

Erythrina sp. Fabaceae (pea subfamily); known as Coral Tree and many other names; large trees with reddish-orange flowers; name translates as "red-nose"; provides nectar for many kinds of birds; along highway down toward Villavicencio; Santa María etc.

Epidendrum sp. Orchidaceae, small pink orchids along roadsides

Escallonia spp. small tree (2-6m) with dense foliage that forms a "pagoda-like shape"; found at high elevations; present at both PN Chingaza, and PN Sumapaz, and is probably in some of your photos

Espeletia spp. Asteraceae; as a group these are "indicator plants" of páramo (tropical alpine grasslands); in Spanish called "frailejones"; we saw a few tall ones at Chingaza; then miles and miles of them at Sumapaz; they flower mostly in rainy months of July to late September but a few can almost always be found flowering out-of-season. Flowers are predominantly white, yellow or purplish.

Eucalyptus spp. Eucalyptus; Myrtaceae; Australia; widely planted in highlands and in large plantations in the lowlands of llanos in vicinity of Paratebueno

Ficus sp. large trees with whitish bark, smooth limbs and trunks; leathery leaves; widespread in lowlands; we examined some at Bavaria; and saw a species of *Ficus* with much larger fruits at Cañaveral; note that you never see the flowers of a fig because they are internal (inside the fig) and are pollinated by tiny wasps

Fuchsia sp. Onagraceae, many kinds, mostly red and pendant; roadsides

Genoma spp. small understory palm with numerous trunks; common at Río Claro; widely used for thatched roofs; there are several other small understory palms at Río Claro of other genera that I have not identified

Gingers, several genera including especially Torch Ginger (*Phaeomeria*) with red flowering tops planted around hotels and in gardens

Gliricidia sp. Fabaceae, smallish trees planted in rows (forms living fence rows) along roads; pink flowers; very common along many roads; also known as "Mouse-poison" tree because seeds are toxic; not many were blooming during our visit

Guadua sp. bamboo (Poaceae); this is a large, thorny, green-stemmed native bamboo; present in various areas (e.g. middle Cauca Valley and locally in Amazonia where it grows quite tall); probably once much more widespread in Andes; most (all?) of the really tall bamboo that we saw on this trip is *Bambusa* (an exotic from Asia) that is now widespread

Guazuma sp. Malvaceae. Often called "Prickle-berry in English; typical of tropical dry forests; e.g. at Mana Dulce; fruit, like a large acorn is very hard with rough surface

Gunnera sp. Gunneraceae, along roadside at Chingaza and Sumapaz; very large (3 ft across), rough leaves

Heliconia spp. (many kinds); Heliconiaceae; the species of *Heliconia* the sicklebill hummingbird likes to visit is closest to *H. latispatha* although I am unsure if this is the exact species. We saw many of these along the Almenara track we walked the 2nd morning above Santa María. We saw many kinds of *Heliconia* on this trip but identification is complicated (the Rapid ID plates from FMNH in Chicago has photos of 80 species just from Peru!

Heliocarpus spp. Malvaceae (formerly Tiliaceae); masses of reddish seeds (each seed like a little “sun”, hence the name “Helio—carpus. Fairly large trees; some pointed out along Almenara track above Santa María; also several with reddish seeds at Laguna Tabacal

Hamelia spp. Rubiaceae; short tubular orange-red corollas; flower grow in panicles; hummingbird pollinated; seen many places, especially trail to/from Ukuku (above Ibagué); also a cultivar at Ukuku Rural Lodge was possibly *Hamelia patens* with a small but bright red tubular flower and black tip.

Hypericum sp. (*myricariifolium*). Hypericaceae. Common shrub at Paramo Sumapaz; masses of yellow flowers; tiny pointed scalelike leaves.

Impatiens sp. Balsaminaceae; Impatiens, common small herbaceous plants along higher elevation roadsides; pink to rose flowers

Inga spp. Fabaceae (legume subfamily), common tree; often planted as shade over coffee; white shaving brushlike flowers; long beanlike seed pods; white “shaving brush” flowers attractive to hummingbirds.

Ipomoea sp. Convolvulaceae (Mourning Glory); several rich purplish one along roadside leading up to first military base at Cachipay (700m)

Ixora sp. *prob. Icoccina*, Rubiaceae; the masses of bright red flowers (shaped a bit like an “X”) on this shrub can be seen growing along innumerable garden and rural hotel paths; several at Los Colores Hotel near Río Claro

Jacaranda sp. Bignoniaceae. Many of these trees were flowering at various places throughout this trip including at Laguna Tabacal (by “banos”); Río Claro area etc. Masses of blue-violet flowers. This tree is widely planted in towns and settled areas throughout South America and most notably, 1000s have been planted in Buenos Aires where they are quite striking in the spring

Kniphofia sp. “Red hot poker.” Asphodelaceae. At Ukuku Rural Lodge and Observatorio de Colibris (many here). Widely used by hummingbirds. Native to Africa.

Kohleria sp. small fuzzy tubular semi-shrub along trail at Chicaque; Gesneriaceae family

Lantana sp., Verbenaceae, native to tropical American (and Africa) but widespread elsewhere; small umbels of orange to yellow flowers; great for butterflies, some hummingbirds but nectar reward is low; some parts of plant a bit toxic; there is a milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, (Blood Flower) that is quite similar and we also saw it somewhere, I think at Santa María.

Malvaviscus sp. Turk’s Cap or Scotchman’s Purse; Malvaceae (Hibiscus family); shrub with bright red drooping flowers that never quite open (hence one name above); native to American tropics; hummingbirds love it.

Manihot spp. Yucca, or Manioc or Cassava (all the same), Euphorbiaceae, food plant and a staple in Amazonia; we looked at some plants growing in a garden somewhere; in Santa María are? Leaf looks a bit like marijuana leaf.

Mangifera sp. Mango; widespread throughout lower elevations; originally from Asia

Marcgravis sp. Alejandro asked about this on the morning we walked the Almenara track above Santa María but I couldn’t recall the name. It is a vine, and the buds (and flowers) all appear in a distinctive, cup-like circle at the tip of the vine. Often in the canopy, although this one was low.

Mauritia sp. Moriche Palm (Arecaceae); mostly llanos; important keystone palm for several kinds of birds (e.g. Red-bellied Macaws, Sulphury Flycatchers, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift; Point-tailed Palmcreeper etc.)

Megastephanos erythrochlamys, Acanthaceae, Brazilian Red Cloak, very common ornamental shrub along roadside near entrance to Río Claro Nature Reserve; also seen elsewhere in gardens etc. (very showy hedge-type plant to c.4 m tall); compare with some of the gingers, which are superficially similar.

Meriania sp. (*nobilis*); Melastomataceae. Frequent smallish melastome of higher elevations; has fairly large, deep red flowers; curved or hooked stamens like almost all melastomes) with whitish tips

Miconia spp. large genus, Melastomataceae; mostly trees that bear small edible sugary berries; manakin and tanagers love these; mentioned frequently; one in flower in Bellavista Reserve. There are several other melastome genera that are quite similar, e.g. *Clidemia*

Mimosa pudica, Fabaceae [subfamily Mimosoideae], Sensitive Plant; also as *Dormilona* or “Sleepy head” in Spanish. We saw these commonly along the Cachipay road below Santa María and when you touch the leaves they instantly fold up (as if going to sleep!). Flower is a small fuzzy pinkish “ball.” This plant has various medicinal compounds including anti-inflammatory and anti-spasmodic properties; also nor-epinephrine, and various alkaloids.

Mussaenda sp. Rubiaceae; another common cultivated plant in gardens and around homes; covered with creamy orange-pink bracts and tiny white (or yellow) flowers; I brought the flowers and bracts of one

of these back to the bus when we stopped at the little town of San Luis de Gaceno on March 1 (foothills of Andes); bracts are very soft; also seen near Pto. Triunfo and elsewhere; an Old World species.

Oncidium sp. Orchidaceae, long stems full of smallish golden-yellow flowers; one in Michael's photos from Ukuku; common in Colombian cloud forests although I don't recall seeing one during our birding hikes (e.g. at Chicaque)

Pachystachys spp. Acanthaceae, Golden Shrimp plant; widely planted as ornamental around hotels, gardens, etc; we stood right beside a group of them a hundred yards or so up the road from the entrance to Río Claro; also around hotel at Santa María; native to Peru; bright yellow bracts and little white flowers

Passiflora spp. Passifloraceae, several different kinds; long tubular corollas in highlands; red spreading ones in lowlands; all of them attractive to hummingbirds; the large ones a favorite of Sword-billed Hummingbirds; in the lowlands several kinds (that do not have tubular corollas) are often visited by hermit hummingbirds

Philodendron sp. Araceae. Many seen climbing trees in almost all areas. Typically they start small, climb trunks inconspicuously, then once then reach a height sufficient to get good sunlight, they abruptly change into the typical "office plants" that we recognize. Under greenhouse conditions, with sufficient light, they are "forced" to grow directly into "office plants". Also note the generic name (=Greek philo = love, and Dendron = tree.

Piper spp. Piperaceae (Black Pepper family) many different kinds along roadsides and trails; little thin white candle-like upright fruits; a few of these with large roundish leaves may be in a related genus

Pithecellobium sp. also called "Samán" trees; large with spreading limbs; slightly flaky bark; llanos areas; Santa María; Mana Dulce (in the cattle pastures)

Poinciana sp. Fabaceae (subfamily Caesalpinia), a beautiful legume known as Dwarf Poinciana (although not a true Poinciana, although a close relative; delicate airy orange-red to orange-yellow flowers with very long protruding stamens and pistil; a shrub or small tree; Royal Poinciana (*Delonix*) is rather similar but a large spreading tree

Pouteria sp. (probably *sapota*) called Sapote, Ebenaceae; tree flowering (yellow flowers) and also bearing fruit (but not in August) on our walk down to river in Santa María last morning; a fruit commonly seen in markets

Psammisia spp.; *Macleania* spp.; and other genera; Ericaceae; red and white, waxy-looking candy-like tubular flowers (a heath shrub or vine, very common in cloud forests or higher cooler elevations; there are several related genera that are very similar but I don't know how to separate them; hummingbird pollinated

Psidium guajava, Myrtaceae; this is the common Guava or Guayaba tree in gardens and farms; very smooth slightly reddish bark

Psychotria spp. (probably *elata*), Rubiaceae, the "hot-lips shrub

Psychotria spp. this one a woody shrub; panicles of pinkish flowers; many species in this genus, some with purple or other colored floral displays, all used by hummingbirds

Puya sp. Bromeliaceae, spiky plant (like base of a pineapple) but produces a tall flowering spike (2-10m) that bulges at the top when flowering; many species at high elevations in the Andes; we saw many at PN Sumapaz; but none in flower in Feb 2024

Pyrostegia spp. (probably *venusta*), Bignoniaceae; Flame Vine (among other names); the mass of orange flowering vines covering the wall of the garden below the outer hummingbird feeders at Jardín Encantado; we were so busy with hummers I forgot to mention this one. Also at several other sites.

Quercus humboldtii, Fabaceae. Humboldt's Oak. This is a common mature forest tree in many higher and especially in somewhat drier Andean areas in Colombia; but also found in high rainfall forests too; leaves are long and slender, almost lancelike (not dissected as in many northern oaks), leaves slightly wavy edged.

Ricinus communis, Euphorbiaceae; Caster Bean. These have escaped long roadside ditches and waste area in many highland areas; but I haven't noticed it in the lowlands.

Rubus spp. (*bogotensis* and others); Rosaceae; resembles a raspberry (widely known as "blackberry or Mora de Cerro, in Colombia). Common in highlands; we saw, and I photographed, some with remarkably large berries near Chingaza NP at nearly 10,000 ft elevation.

Ruellia sp. Acanthaceae; “wild petunias”; photographed in lower part of Bavaria Forest reserve; genus is correct but species uncertain (*tuberosa*?) as there are dozens (if not 100s) of species; 5 similar petals, each with distinct longitudinal crease and forming a funnel-form shape; all white except for one petal (lower?) pinkish-lilac in color; simple rather large leaves; base of plant somewhat woody; plants overall about 12-20” in height

Sambucus sp. Elderberry; white flowering shrubs widespread at higher elevations, especially above Bogotá, along road to and from Observatorio de Colibris etc.

Schefflera spp. common in upper elevations of Chicaquel Reeserva Fute etc.

Senecio spp. Asteraceae; common (recall sunflowers in appearance) in páramo but in pinkish-lilac and other colors

Siparuna sp. Siparunaceae. Plant we observed near lower end of Bavaria road; odd smallish rose-colored fruits that have a very unpleasant (to me) oily smell. There also were a few small isolated pinkish five- or six-part flowers on the slender woody branches. A few of you photographed this plant (small tree).

Sobralia sp. Orchidaceae, long slender (to 2 m) terrestrial orchid along trail to Ukuku; also Chicaque; pinkish and white

Spathodea sp. Bignoniaceae; African Tulip Tree; a few planted here and there; large clusters of orange flowers

Solanum quitoense, Solanaceae, also called Naranjillo; the “Lulo” juice (Colombian name for Naranjilla) many of you drank (or, well, at least tried before you switched back to Beer or Coca-Cola!)

Spondias sp. prob. *Mombin*. Anacardiaceae; tree along road between the two military bases at Cachipay that has dropped masses of orange fruits (size of small plums) into the road

Stachytarpheta sp. Verbenaceae; the purple-flowering shrub and a pinkish-flowered one; several at Ukuku and also Retosno de los Colibris; Tolima Blossomcrowns and Red-billed Emeralds like it; this shrub is very attractive to hummers and widely planted in gardens.

Strelitzia spp. Bird-of-Paradise, Strelitziaceae, often confused with *Heliconia* but in *Strelitzia* it is the flowers (not the bracts) that are colorful (just the opposite in *Heliconia*); there was a big patch of them below the hummingbird garden at Jardín Encantado; *Strelitzia reginae* (?) with orange flowers; all *Strelitzia* are originally native only to South Africa

Streptosolen jamesonii, Marmalade Bush; Solanaceae, the bush at Ukuku (and various other places) with yellow and orange (older) flowers; a favorite nectar source of many hummingbirds and flowerpiercers

Tabebuia spp. Bignoniaceae, known as Lignum Vitae; also Pink Poui; many in full flower; we saw brilliant yellow ones near Mana Dulce; and pink-flowering ones in many places; dazzling when in bloom; wood extremely dense and does not float; flowers in dry seasons

Tectona grandis, Teak tree; Lamiaceae; rows of them planted along roadbanks especially in middle Magdalena Valley around Pto. Triunfo; native of southeastern Asia; introduced to Colombia, perhaps for its valuable wood and soil erosion control

Terminalia catappa (Tropical Almond) tree in parking lot in front of Río Claro, and many other places; also most small town, plazas and elsewhere; widely planted but most common along beaches; nearly always has some orangish leaves mixed with the green ones; low very spreading crown

Thalictrum spp. Meadow Rue, Ranunculaceae (=Buttercup family); some large ones (much larger than in North America) along road down to lodge at Chicaque; maybe not seen on our 2024 trip

Theobroma cacao, Malvaceae (formerly Sterculiaceae), the “cacao” trees; chocolate is made from seeds; Buenavista Reserve pasture

Thunbergia alata (in Veneuela known as “Ojo de Pajarito” (or Little Bird’s eye) and often in English as Clockvine. Acanthaceae. This aggressive vine has masses of orange flowers with a black center spot and is now widespread in the Andes at lower and mid-elevations around homes, second growth areas, neglected places. It is not native and rather invasive.

Tibouchina spp. Melastomataceae, introduced in gardens; beautiful blue-purple flowers; world-wide distribution

Triplaris sp. Polygonaceae, trees with masses of reddish bract-like flowers) below Santa María; called Ant Tree or other unprintable names because it harbors stinging ants

Virola sp., Myristicaceae (Nutmeg family). One in flower in the Bellavista Reserve at the road junction close to where the caged rehab parrots were being held (seen in 20-23). Smallish flowers appeared to have 4 (5?) narrow white strap-like petals. Nutmeg trees from the Moluccas of Indonesia (*Myristica*) are cultivated for the spice flavor of the nut; and the red aril around the nut is the source of spice mace. Not noted on 2024 trip.

Vismia sp. Guttiferae; mostly second growth and edge habitats; bright orange sap used medicinally; widespread in American tropics; many along Aquitania road etc.

Warszewiczia coccinea, Rubiaceae. Called Chaconia or Wild Poinsettia (but not closely related to true Poinsettias, which are in the Euphorbiaceae family); large red bracts look like flowers (but its flowers are tiny and yellow); very showy; on many hillsides including Laguna Tabacal; lower Bavaria Reserve and many other places. Many in flower on our 2024 trip.

Xanthoxylum sp. (?) the trees at Mana Dulce with obvious pointed woody spikelike thorns on trunk and 2 pairs of entire leaflets per leaf; another similar tree with large woody thorns on its trunk had a dozen or more pinnately compound leaves that were acutely pointed, unlike the more rounded leaflets of the Mana Dulce plant; likely more than one genera involved here; we also saw one, probably this genus, north of Pto. Triunfo but ID not certain; cf. *Hura*, and young *Ceiba*, and *Pachira*, all also with spiky trunks

Some references of interest:

- 1) **Davis, Wade. 2004. *The Lost Amazon: The Photographic Journey of Richard Schultes*.** Chronicle Books, San Francisco. The black-and-white photography (all with 2 ¼ x 2 ¼ Rolleiflex) is priceless. Text, weaves together the life and travels of Richard Schultes, the most renowned ethnobotanist of the 20th century. Book features 12 of his years in eastern Colombia.
- 2) **Davis, Wade, 2020. *Magdalena, River of Dreams. A Story of Colombia*.** Alfred Knopf, New York etc. This reads like a history of Colombia, almost more than you might want to know.
- 3) Davis, Wade, One River. An ethnobotanical account, may also be of interest.
- 4) *El Sendero de la Anaconda*. A film current (2020) on Netflix, narrated by and featuring Wade Davis. Filmed in eastern Colombia; features the life of Davis's professor Richard Schultes.
- 5) **Leman, Tim, and Edwin Scholes. 2012. *Birds of Paradise: Revealing the World's most Extraordinary Birds*.** National Geographic and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Stunningly beautiful and informative book documenting all species of "birds of paradise" and the expeditions of these two young scientists. **This book might be of interest just because it is so beautiful!!!**
- 6) **Ridgway, Robert. 1912. *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*.** Published by the author [printed by A. Hoen & Co., Baltimore]. Washington D.C. Fifty-three Colored plates and 1115 named colors. Originals now sell for up to \$1250. In 2021 it was reprinted in softback form for c. \$15-\$35.



Cattleya orchid. Retorno de los Colibris, dept. of Tolima. Photo: S. Hilty