

COLOMBIA: BOGOTA, EASTERN ANDES AND THE MAGDALENA VALLEY

FEBRUARY 25–MARCH 11, 2020



Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant. Photo: S. Hilty

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By Steve Hilty



Sumapaz National Park, Colombia. Photo S. Hilty

With all the traffic in Bogotá, a bustling city of more than eight million people, it may have seemed initially that birding in Colombia was as much about how to get in and out of the city as birding, but our days afield soon dispelled that notion. Despite the traffic and immense number of trucks and buses, Leonardo, our driver, was one of the best and most efficient I've ever had in negotiating Colombian roads and traffic. We began birding at Laguna Tabacal, a quiet (during weekdays) rural lake and wooded area about an hour and a half west of Bogotá and at considerably lower elevation. This is an excellent place for an introduction to commoner Colombia birds of lower montane elevations. Among these were flycatchers, wrens, and several kinds of tanagers, as well as such specialties as Moustached Puffbird and Speckle-breasted Wren, and later a blizzard of hummingbirds at the Jardín Encantado, 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 all or mostly above treeline, and in many ways so otherworldly as to be beyond description. There are, of course, far fewer birds here, but the ones present generally occur nowhere else except in this region known as “páramo,” a Spanish word that broadly is a high elevation tropical latitude grassland. Here, montane forests become smaller, elfin-like, and finally give way to a mostly open region characterized by rosette-shaped *Espeletia* spp. plants—essentially fuzzy-leaved sunflowers (Asteraceae) that are adapted for life in an environment where winter comes every night and summer every day (although sometimes in brief doses). It is often cold, rainy, and generally not a very agreeable climate for humans—but hummingbirds love it because most plants here depend on hummers rather than insects for pollination. A few other bird families thrive here as well, mainly furnariids, tanagers, and passerulids (formerly Emberizids) along with a few flycatchers. Highlights for us in these sites were the endemic Green-bearded Helmetcrest; a beautiful (and very local) Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant; Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager; endemic Rufous-fronted Conebill; and even a pair of Plushcaps (formerly Plush-capped Finch).

Two of our best birding days, for total number of birds, were lower on the eastern slope of the Andes, near the village of Santa María. Here we added such exciting species as White-tipped Sicklebill, a lively Sooty-capped Hermit, Band-bellied and Black-and-white owls, Gray-headed Kite, and a long list of flycatchers, wrens, and tanagers, along with a visit to a small group of displaying Andean Cocks-of-the-rock before returning to Bogotá. We were also joined for two days here by a young local birder (13 years-old) and an older university student serving as chaperone*.

For the second half of the trip we focused our efforts on both slopes of the Andes above the middle Magdalena Valley: first at a lovely cloud forest not far from Bogotá, then the next day in spectacular lowland tropical dry forest (what a morning we had here!) before crossing to the Central Andes and back into humid montane highland forest above the city of Ibagué. Here we embarked on a predawn hike up to a lovely picturesque private reserve where we huddled behind a camouflage screen at dawn to await the appearance of the endemic Tolima Dove (we saw four), as well as a parade of woodpeckers, jays, tanagers, and brushfinches at fruit and grain feeders and later a variety of hummingbirds at feeders. The hospitality we received and the home-cooked breakfast alone were more than worth the walk (and the early rise), and the almost continuous serenade of bird song in the valley was heavenly—orioles, wrens, saltators, and thrushes all mixed with excited chipping of tanagers and hummers. It was difficult to leave. Later that afternoon we made a brief visit to ranchland in the floor of the Magdalena Valley before continuing to the tiny city of La Victoria.

La Victoria sits in the foothills—the entire town seems to slope downhill (or uphill depending on your orientation) and is perhaps most noteworthy for the immense *Ceiba pentandra* tree in the town plaza. That tree is a sight to behold, and a reminder, perhaps, of what the area once must have looked like before human settlement. From La Victor we visited a small but important reserve nearby where we found three endemic birds—Beautiful Woodpecker, White-mantled Barbet, and Sooty Ant-Tanager. Early afternoon then found us in open ranchland and marshland a couple of hours to the north, adding new species at a record rate including four spectacular Northern Screamers. From here it was a short drive to our air-conditioned hotel where we would base for the next three nights, visiting nearby Río Claro Reserve and adjacent areas. This is a rich and diverse lowland forest area with a near full complement of species ranging from tinamous (voices) to toucans, trogons, motmots, antbirds, woodcreepers, and more than enough confusing flycatchers and other miscellaneous species to satisfy almost any birder. It is also hot and humid, not unexpected in a lowland region like this.

Among the trip highlights were 50 species of hummingbirds; 58 flycatchers; 16 wrens (a few only heard); and 51 tanagers (current taxonomy) plus 5 others formerly in Thraupidae but now transferred to Mitrospingidae (1) and Cardinalidae (4 species). Boreal migrant numbers seemed lower than in the past, but we did see at least 12 Cerulean Warblers one morning on the east slope of the Andes, and Blackburnian Warblers were relatively numerous in the mountains (Colombia is their main wintering area, so thank shade-coffee growers for doing their part); we saw few Yellow Warblers (winter in lowlands), and Bay-breasted Warblers (another lowland and foothill wintering species) seemed numerous only at one site.

During the mid-1980s through 1990s Colombia was mired in civil unrest, and foreign visitors were rare, flocking instead to neighboring Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, and other countries for birding and ecotourism. When birders finally were able to return to Colombia beginning about 2009, an explosion of interest followed. In the late 1980s I often said that security was so bad in Colombia I might never be able to return. Little did I imagine the transformation that would occur!

Colombia also is a busy country. Everywhere we traveled there were 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. 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 one day a week; an odd-even license plate number system for alternate day driving; and Sunday closing of many 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. For a country that has struggled to rid itself of crippling political and social problems, the transformation is remarkable. The statistics are undeniable—about 1,950 species of birds are now known here including over 70 endemics and many more near-endemics. It is biologically and geographically the most biodiverse country on the planet. And, there also are numerous cultural sights around Bogotá. 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 hired a young local guide on our visit to Sumapaz NP and, during our afternoon return for a late lunch at a small reserve (Reserva Chiguaza) outside Bogotá, were greeted by several local birding enthusiasts, a number of local kids interested in birds (who had even brought their art work), and a small media entourage (www.USME.com.co) that arrived to conduct an interview with me, as well as Diego Cueva. Later, at Santa María, I had been told there was a young (13 year old) birder who was eager to meet me and wanted to go with us for the two days we were in the area. Indeed he did come, along with an older university student as chaperon, and we also were joined at different times by two other slightly younger birders and a local teacher, all of them with good binoculars, cameras, and an abundance of enthusiasm. This is just so remarkable and so gratifying that there are kids in this country that are really eager to get out into the 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, and I traveled and learned birds here alone during those years. Times have changed. My original Colombian book clearly sparked interest and enthusiasm for the magnificent avifauna of this country, and more recently a couple of others; all seem to have really made a difference. There is a new young generation of local birders now out roaming Colombia's mountains and forests, and I couldn't be more pleased. They are the future.*

BIRDS:

blue = boreal migrants

red – rare or unusual

*heard

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

Tinamous, Tinamidae

*Little Tinamou, *Crypturellus soui*, lowland sites; heard Mana Dulce; also Río Claro

Screamers, Anhimidae

Northern Screamer, *Chauna chavaria*, near Pto. Triunfo; total 4

Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl, Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*, several near Pto. Triunfo

Blue-winged Teal, *Spatula discors*, 1 male at Parque Nacional Sumapaz

Andean Teal, *Anas andium*, 25+ on lakes at Parque Nacional Sumapaz

Andean Duck, *Oxyura ferruginea*, 25-30 at Parque Nacional Sumapaz

Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows, Cracidae

Colombian Chachalaca (E), *Ortalis columbiana*, Laguna Tabacal (1); Mana Dulce (1); Agualinda Hotel (1)

Speckled Chachalaca, *Ortalis guttata*, 3 at Santa María

New World Quail, Odontophoridae

Crested Bobwhite, *Colinus cristatus*, covey of 10-12 seen Laguna El Hato

Grebes, Podicipedidae

Least Grebe, *Tachybaptus dominicus*, Laguna Tabacal (10+); Pto. Triunfo (3)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*, Laguna Tabacal (1)

Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae

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

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*, Laguna el Hato (brief in flight)

Band-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas fasciata*, PN Chingaza (4); Chicaque Reserve

Plumbeous Pigeon, *Patagioenas plumbea*, near Santa María (white eyes)

*Ruddy Pigeon, *Patagioenas subvinacea*, heard near Santa María and above Ibagué

Common Ground-Dove, *Columbina passerina*, pair at Mana Dulce Reserve

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*, all open areas at lower elevations

Scaled Dove, *Columbina squammata*, Santa María

*Blue Ground-Dove, *Claravis pretiosa*, heard at Mana Dulce

*Ruddy Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon montana*, heard 1st morning at Santa María

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, heard at numerous lowland sites; seen at Mana Dulce (waterhole)

Tolima Dove *Leptotila conoveri* (E), fine study of 4 above Ibagué (1900 m)

*Gray-fronted Dove, *Leptotila rufaxilla*, heard; Bavaria forest; below Santa María

Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, open highlands areas including Bogotá

Cuckoos, Cuculidae

Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*, 1 near Pto. Triunfo

Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*, in humid lower elevation areas

Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, Mana Dulce; near Pto. Triunfo

***Pavonine Cuckoo**, *Tapera naevia*, heard near Santa María (Almanara); 1200 m; singing extensively

Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, numerous lower and mid-elevation sites

Oilbird, Steatornithidae

Oilbird, *Steatornis caripensis*, Río Claro (est. 100-150+), exiting a cave after dark; spectacular (and noisy)

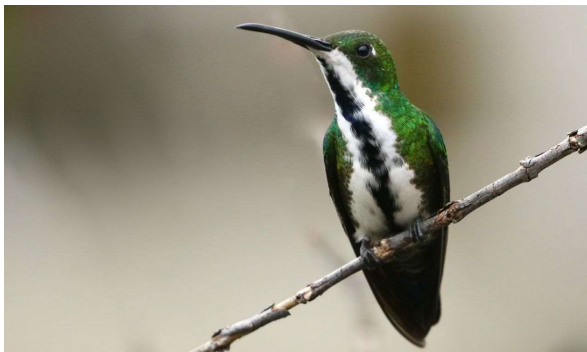
Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Common Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*, calling on two evenings at Hotel Agualinda (near Río Claro)

Swifts, Apodidae

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*, Magdalena River at Pto. Triunfo; dipping down to drink

Band-tailed Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus*, Río Claro (15+)



Black-throated Mango female. Photo S. Hilty

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

White-tipped Sicklebill, *Eutoxeres aquila*, WOW!

1 seen (twice) at point blank range at flowering Heliconia near Santa María; we watched it feed from several flowers

Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsutus*, last morning at Hotel Agualinda

Green Hermit, *Phaethornis guy*, above Ibagué

Long-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis longirostris*, Río Claro (1 at *Costus* flower)

Pale-bellied Hermit, *Phaethornis anthophilus*,

Mana Dulce (1 brief)

Stripe-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis striigularis*, Laguna Tabacal
 Gray-chinned Hermit, *Phaethornis griseogularis*, Bavaria; Santa María
 Sooty-capped Hermit, *Phaethornis augusti*, Santa María (Heliconia at hotel) very cute hummer
 Green-fronted Lancebill, *Doryfera ludovicae* above Ibague (Ukuku)
 Geoffroy's Daggerbill (formerly Wedge-billed Hummingbird), *Schistes geoffroyi*, Santa María but unfortunately only by SH and one or two others
 Brown Violetear, *Colibri delphinae*, Jardín Encantado on 1st day
 Lesser Violetear, *Colibri cyanotus*, Chicaque; above Ibague
 Sparkling Violetear, *Colibri coruscans*, Jardín Encantada; Chingaza
 Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliothryx barroti*, Río Claro
 Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*, mainly Jardín Encantado
 Amethyst-throated Sunangel, *Heliangelus amethysticollis*, 1 above Bogotá
 Tourmaline Sunangel, *Heliangelus exortis*, Chicaque
 Speckled Hummingbird, *Adelomyia melanogenys*, 1 near Santa María
 Long-tailed Sylph, *Agelaiocercus kingii*, Santa María (near waterfall); Chicaque (2 females)
 Black-tailed Trainbearer, *Lesbia victoriae*, above Bogotá
 Green-tailed Trainbearer, *Lesbia nuna*, above Bogotá
 Purple-backed Thornbill, *Ramphotrigon microrhynchum*, Chingaza (1 female briefly by some of us)
 Bronze-tailed Thornbill, *Chalcostigma heteropogon*, Sumapaz
 Green-bearded Helmetcrest, *Oxypogon guerini* (E), Sumapaz
 Tyrian Metaltail, *Metallura tyrianthina*, Chingaza and Observatorio de Colibris
 Glowing Puffleg, *Eriocnemis vestita*, Chingaza and Observatorio
 Coppery-bellied Puffleg, *Eriocnemis cupreovertris* (E) Observatorio
 Collared Inca, *Coeligena torquata* Chicaque
 Blue-throated Starfrontlet, *Coeligena helianthea*, Observatorio
 Sword-billed Hummingbird, *Ensifera ensifera*, female with super long bill; Observatorio



Sword-billed Hummingbird. Photo S. Hilty

Great Sapphirewing, *Pterophanes cyanopterus*
 Observatorio
 Buff-tailed Coronet, *Boissonneaua flavescens*,
 Chicaque; above Ibague
 Booted Racket-tail, *Ocreatus underwoodii*, Santa
 María; Chicaque
 Fawn-breasted Brilliant, *Heliodoxa rubinoides*,
 Ukuku above Ibague
 White-bellied Woodstar, *Chaetocercus mulsant*,
 Jardín Encantado; Observatorio

 Gorgeted Woodstar, *Chaetocercus heliodor*, Jardín
 Encantada (2, adult male; subadult male
 Purple-throated Woodstar, *Calliphlox mitchellii*, 1
 male above Ibague (at Ukuku)
 Red-billed Emerald, *Chlorostilbon gibsoni*, male
 above Ibague (Ukuku)
 Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*, below
 Santa María; male; not common in Colombia
 Tolima Blossomcrown, *Anthocephala berlepschi*
 (E), outstanding observations of this endemic at two

sites above Ibague

White-vented Plumeleteer, *Chalybura buffonii*, Jardín Encantado; near Ibague; Río Claro
 Crowned Woodnymph, *Thalurania colombica*, near Ibague; Buenavista
 Fork-tailed Woodnymph, *Thalurania furcata*, female at Bavaria Forest
 Andean Emerald, *Amazilia franciae*, Jardín Encantado; above Ibague (restaurant during lunch)
 Blue-chested Hummingbird, *Amazilia amabilis*, Río Claro (male)

Glittering-throated Hummingbird, *Amazilia fimbriata*, left off list; seen in lower zone of Santa María
Indigo-capped Hummingbird (E), *Amazilia cyanifrons*, several sites near Bogotá
Green-bellied Hummingbird, *Amazilia viridigaster*, Villavicencio; Santa María
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia tzacatl*, Mana Dulce; Buenavista; Doradal; Río Claro
Golden-tailed Sapphire, *Chrysuronia oenone*, Santa María (1 or 2 males)

Rails, Gallinules & Coots, Rallidae

Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, *Aramides cajaneus*, Santa María; Mana Dulce; Doradal (lunch restaurant)
American Coot, *Fulica americana*, PN Sumapaz (1); probably residents
Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*, above Bogotá

Plovers & Lapwings, Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis*, several mostly lower elevation sites

Jacanas, Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*, Pto. Triunfo (Antioquia) black race

Sandpipers & Allies, Scolopacidae

Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*, 1 briefly dropping into marsh near Pto. Triunfo
Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*, PN Sumapaz (6+)

Cormorants & Shags, Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, Laguna Tabacal; Río Magdalena

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns, Ardeidae

Fasciated Tiger-Heron, *Tigrisoma fasciatum*, Río Bara at Santa María
Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*, Río Magdalena (Pto. Triunfo)
Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, several lower elevation sites
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, lowlands
Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*, Santa María; Pto. Triunfo
Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*, almost daily
Striped Heron, *Butorides striata*, several sites
Whistling heron, *Syrigma sibilatrix* 2 below Santa María (perched in tree)
Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*, 1 flushed from small pond at Mana Dulce

Ibises & Spoonbills, Threskiornithidae

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, Santa María (along Río Bata)
Bare-faced Ibis, *Phimosus infuscatus*, widespread and common; lower elevations

New World Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, daily
Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, almost daily except highest elevations; all resident forms
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes burrovianus*, several near Pto. Triunfo and Doradal

Hawks, Eagles & Kites, Accipitridae

White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus*, near Bogotá; 1 in lowlands north of Villavicencio
Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*, 1 below Santa María
Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, several highland sites; 8 on Aquitania Road in flock
Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus*, Santa María; Mana Dulce
Savanna Hawk, *Buteogallus meridionalis*, llanos near Villavicencio; Pto. Triunfo
Roadside Hawk, *Rupornis magnirostris*, commonest raptor; lowlands and mid-elevations
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*, Chingaza; PN Sumapaz (pair close)
Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, Santa María; Ibagué; heard at Buenavista
Short-tailed Hawk, *Buteo brachyurus*, Santa María
Zone-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albonotatus*, soaring with two Turkey Vultures above Aquitania road

Owls, Strigidae

*Tropical Screech-Owl, *Megascops choliba*, heard around hotel in Villavicencio

Band-bellied Owl, *Lophotrix melanota*, 2 seen below Santa María; scarce (recent range extension)

Andean Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium jardinii*, 2 (or 1 seen twice) at PN Chingaza

Rufous-banded Owl, *Ciccaba albitarsis*, heard in predawn darkness near Ukuku (above Ibagué)

Black-and-white Owl, *Ciccaba nigrolineata*, great study of 2 below Santa María

Trogon, Trogonidae

White-tailed Trogon, *Trogon chionurus*, Río Claro

Green-backed Trogon, *Trogon viridis*, near Villavicencio

Gartered Trogon, *Trogon caligatus*, Río Claro (female)

Motmots, Momotidae

Andean (Highland) Motmot, *Momotus aequatorialis*, beautiful close study above Ibagué

*Amazonian Motmot, *Momotus momota*, Bavaria Forest

Whooping Motmot, *Momotus subrufescens*, Mana Dulce

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher, *Megaceryle torquata*, Mana Dulce (in flight)

Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazona*, Río Bata (Santa María)

Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*, Río Bata (Santa María)

Puffbirds, Bucconidae

Barred Puffbird, *Nystalus radiatus*, Mana Dulce (pair); also at Río Claro a very ferruginous bird with white throat; heard at Aigualinda hotel



Russet-throated Puffbird, *Hypnelus ruficollis*, Laguna El Hato (near Mariquita)

White-whiskered Puffbird, *Malacoptila panamensis*, Río Claro (2)

Moustached Puffbird, *Malacoptila mystacalis*, Laguna Tabacal; also one heard by young boys with us the 1st morning at Santa María (Almenara area)

Jacamars, Galbulidae

Rufous-tailed Jacamar, *Galbula ruficauda*, Mana Dulce; heard along Aquitania road

White-chinned Jacamar, *Galbula tombacea*, near Villavicencio

Barred Puffbird. Photo S. Hilty

New World Barbets, Capitonidae

White-mantled Barbet, *Capito hypoleuca* (E), Buenavista (3); pair near Río Claro (Aquitania road)

Gilded Barbet, *Capito auratus*, near Villavicencio

Toucans, Ramphastidae

Southern Emerald-Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus albivitta*, Santa María; Chicaque

Collared Araçari, *Pteroglossus torquatus*, Río Claro

Chestnut-eared Araçari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*, Villavicencio area; Santa María

Yellow-throated Toucan, *Ramphastos ambiguus*, seen well at Río Claro

(Chestnut-mandibled Toucan), (*R. ambiguus swainsonii*)=formerly distinct from Black-mandibled Toucan, both now merged under the name Yellow-throated Toucan

Channel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus*, seen near Villavicencio; also the Citron-throated form seen at Río Claro

Woodpeckers, Picidae

Scaled Piculet, *Picumnus squamulatus*, Santa María (2)

Olivaceous Piculet, *Picumnus olivaceus*, Mana Dulce (1 by Ian)

Acorn Woodpecker, *Melanerpes formicivorus*, above Ibagué (at feeders)

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cruentatus*, Santa María area (common)

Beautiful Woodpecker, *Melanerpes pulcher*, La Victoria area; Río Claro (singles both places)



Beautiful Woodpecker. Photo S. Hilty.

Red-crowned Woodpecker, *Melanerpes rubricapillus*, Magdalena Valley lowlands

Smoky-brown Woodpecker, *Picoides fumigatus*, Chicaque (1)

Red-rumped Woodpecker, *Veniliornis kirkii*, Mana Dulce (1 near main building)

Little Woodpecker, *Veniliornis passerines*, Santa María area

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*, Río Claro (1F)

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, heard at Santa María; seen at Laguna El Hato and Río Claro

Cinnamon Woodpecker, *Celeus loricatus*, Río Claro

Golden-olive Woodpecker, *Colaptes rubiginosus*, above Ibagué (Ukuku)

Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes (Chrysoptilus) punctigula*, Doradal (at “Nebraska” lunch stop)

Falcons & Caracaras, Falconidae

Crested Caracara, *Caracara cheriway*, open areas between Villavicencio and Santa María (scarce this trip)

Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*, open areas in lowlands and foothills (common)

Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*, heard at seen near Santa María

[Merlin](#), *Falco columbarius*, 1 in flight (ca. 3400 m) near PN Chingaza

New World and African Parrots, Psittacidae

Orange-chinned Parakeet, *Brotogeris jugularis*, Mana Dulce (several trios in flight); Río Claro

Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanopectus*, Villavicencio area (Bavaria)

Saffron-headed Parrot, *Pyrilia pyrrhula*, (near endemic), pair seen well in scope at Río Claro; second pair in flight by SH

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*, singletons and pairs at various mostly lower elevation sites

Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala*, great scope study of pair at Mana Dulce

Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica*, pair in flight at dawn over La Victoria (SH and some of group)

Spectacled Parrotlet, *Forpus conspicillatus* (E), common at many lower elevation sites

Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna*, pair in flight over trees behind “Nebraska” restaurant (lunch) but seen only by SH and DC; these are doubtless wild birds as the species still occurs in this area
 Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severus*, pair in flight over Agualinda hotel (near Río Claro); genus recently changed

Typical Antbirds, *Thamnophilidae*

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*, Santa María

*Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, heard at Mana Dulce

Bar-crested Antshrike, *Thamnophilus multistriatus* (NE), Laguna Tabacal (both male and female); also Santa María; heard above Ibagué (Ukuku, 1950 m el)

Black-crowned Antshrike, *Thamnophilus atrinucha*, Mana Dulce; Buenavista (at army ant swarm)

[Plain Antwren, *Dysithamnus mentalis*, Laguna Tabacal (DC)]

*Pacific Antwren, *Myrmotherula pacifica*, heard at Agualinda Hotel

White-fringed Antwren, *Formicivora grisea*, seen well at Mana Dulce

*Dusky Antbird, *Cercomacroides tyrannina*, heard at Tabacal; Santa María; Aquitania Road

*Jet Antbird, *Cercomacra nigricans*, Mana Dulce

*White-browed Antbird, *Myrmoborus leucophrys*, Santa María

White-bellied Antbird, *Myrmeciza longipes*, seen very well at Mana Dulce; heard at Tabacal



White-bellied Antbird female (endemic subsp). Photo S. Hilty

Chestnut-backed Antbird, *Poliocrania exsul*, Río Claro (common voice also)

Magdalena Antbird, *Sipia palliata* (E), Río Claro

Blue-lored Antbird, *Hafferia immaculate*, seen by most of group at Laguna Tabacal

Antpittas, *Grallariidae*

*Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, *Grallaria ruficapilla*, Chicaque (proved to be too difficult)

*Rufous Antpitta, *Grallaria rufula*, heard at Chingaza

Tawny Antpitta, *Grallaria quitensis*, 2 at PN Sumapaz; heard at Chingaza

Tapaculos, *Rhinocryptidae*

*Blackish Tapaculo, *Scytalopus latrans*, heard 3 at Chicaque (little black bird)

*White-crowned Tapaculo, *Scytalopus atratus*, heard near Santa María (voice differs from others)

*Pale-bellied (Mattoral) Tapaculo, *Scytalopus griseicollis* (NE), heard at Chingaza (another little “black” bird)

Antthrushes, *Formicariidae*

Short-tailed Antthrush, *Chamaeza campanisoma*, heard at length near Santa María; approached somewhat but never close enough to see)

Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers, *Furnariidae*

Plain-brown Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*, Río Claro

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*, Río Claro (several)

Cocoa Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*, Mana Dulce; Río Claro

*Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*, east slope of Andes

Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*, Mana Dulce (brief view at dawn)

Red-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus trochilrostris*, 1 seen well (in bamboo) at Mana Dulce

Streak-headed Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*, Santa María area
 Montane Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*, Chicaque (with huge mixed species flock)
 Chestnut-winged Cinclodes, *Cinclodes albidiventris*, PN Sumapaz (2 seen)
 [Pearled Treerunner, *Margarornis squamiger*, Chicaque (1 seen by SH)]an
 Andean Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura andicola*, Sumapaz
 Many-striped Canastero, *Asthenes flammulata*, Sumapaz
 Montane Foliage-gleaner, *Anabacerthia striaticollis*, Chicaque
 Chestnut-crowned Foliage-gleaner, *Automolus rufipileatus*, 1 near Santa María (reddish eyes; our 1st rec. of this Amazonian species here); this year seen by everyone!!
 Many-striped Canastero, *Asthenes flammulata*, PN Sumapaz
 Yellow-chinned Spinetail, *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*, Pto. Triunfo
 *Plain-crowned Spinetail, *Synallaxis gujanensis*, Santa María (a difficult bird)
 *Silvery-throated Spinetail (E), *Synallaxis subpudica*, above Bogotá; heard well but unresponsive
 [*Pale-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albescens*, 1 heard by Diego Cruz just as we were leaving Aquitania road; not seen by anyone]
 *Stripe-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis cinnamomea*, heard Laguna Tabacal (another skulking Spinetail)
 Rufous-fronted Thornbird, *Phacellodomus rufifrons*, Santa María (lower zone)

Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, Santa María (1)
 White-throated Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus leucophrys*, high elevations
 Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, *Phaeomyias murina*, Mana Dulce
 Yellow Tyrannulet, *Capsiempis flaveola*, pair duetting at Mana Dulce
 Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannulus elatus*, common voice in lowlands; perhaps best seen above Río Claro
 Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*, Río Claro (1)
 Greenish Elaenia, *Myiopagis viridicata*, Mana Dulce
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia, *Elaenia flavogaster*, widespread at lower elevations
 Mountain Elaenia, *Elaenia frantzii*, Chicaque*; seen above Ibagué at Ukuku
 Torrent Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga cinerea*, Santa María; river above Ibagué
 [Olive-striped Flycatcher, *Mionectes olivaceus*, Santa María (seen by SH)]
 Sepia-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*, Mana Dulce
 Slaty-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon superciliaris*, Santa María (ca. 900 m)
 Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, *Leptopogon rufipectus*, Chicaque (2)
 Antioquia Bristle-Tyrant, *Pogonotriccus (Phylloscartes) lanyoni* (2 seen) Río Claro
 *Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias griseiceps*, Río Claro (snappy voice heard along Matraca trail)
 Black-capped Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*, Chingaza; Chicaque
 Golden-faced Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius chrysops*, widespread at mid-elevations
 Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, *Myiornis atricapillus*, Río Claro (1); one of smallest passerines
 *Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus pileatus*, heard
 Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer septentrionalis*, Mana Dulce (1); this race more streaked on upper underparts and sides than northern desert birds
 Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, *Poecilatriccus sylvia*, Laguna Tabacal
 Common Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum cinereum*, various lower elevations; common
 *Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum nigriceps*, Río Claro (heard both days but not seen)
 Olivaceous Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*, Río Claro (first morning)
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphureus*, Santa María; Mana Dulce; Río Claro
 Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, *Terentotriccus erythrurus*, Río Claro (1 high in forest, late pm; SH only?)
 Cinnamon Flycatcher, *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*, Chicaque; above Ibagué
 Cliff Flycatcher, *Hirundinea ferruginea*, pair above Villavicencio
 Flavescent Flycatcher, *Myiophobus flavicans*, Chicaque
 Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Contopus cooperi*, Santa María (lower area 850 m)
 *Smoke-colored Pewee, *Contopus fumigatus*, one heard above Ibagué (Ukuku)
 Western Wood Pewee, *Contopus sordidulus*, Santa María (lower area); studied for some time and photographed; did not vocalize but believed this species based primarily on dark underparts
 Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*, Laguna Tabacal; Río Claro (common boreal winter resident)

Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans*, Laguna Tabacal; Santa María; above Ibagué; Río Claro
 Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, Mana Dulce; Laguna El Hato
Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, *Cnemarchus erythropygius*, Sumapaz; Wow! Stunningly close and extended
 study of this magnificent highland flycatcher
 Pied Water-Tyrant, *Fluvicola pica*, Pto. Triunfo
 White-headed Marsh Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*, Pto. Triunfo
 Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, *Ochthoeca fumicolor*, PN Chingaza



Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant. Photo S. Hilty

Long-tailed Tyrant, *Colonia colonus*, Santa María; Río Claro
 Cattle Tyrant, *Machetornis rixosa*, seen by some at Doradal
 *Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*, heard at dawn at Bavaria forest but typically unresponsive
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*, Bavaria forest; Río Claro; Aquitania Road
 Panama Flycatcher, *Myiarchus panamensis*, Aquitania Road (good response to playback)
 [*Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*, heard in lower zone of Santa María by SH]
Apical Flycatcher, *Myiarchus apicalis* (E), Mana Dulce (fine views)
 Pale-edged Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cephalotes*, above Ibagué (Ukuku); photographed by Linda
 Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus* common at Río Claro and especially Aquitania Road
 Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus lektor*, Pto. Triunfo
 Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*, Laguna Tabacal; Santa María*; Mana Dulce
 Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*, scattered individuals throughout
 Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*, widespread and common at all lower and mid-elevations
Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*, only 2 individuals (1 below Santa María; 1 at Pto. Triunfo), seasonal or regional distribution of this species needs study; why so few? And also one of most frequently misidentified birds in Colombia. Note dusky (not black) cheeks; olive tinged back (not brownish); weak wing bars (stronger on Pto. Triunfo bird); and vocalizations
 Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*, Mana Dulce; Río Claro
Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*, east Andean slope; Río Claro (**where one twice flushed from a Yellow-olive Flycatcher nest again this year, same as in 2019**; I had not previously seen this bird pirate small flycatcher nests); this bird heard at almost all lower elevations sites (to c. 1500 m)
 Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, widespread
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana*, Laguna El Hato; a few at Pto. Triunfo

Cotingas, Cotingidae

Green-and-black Fruiteater, *Pipreola riefferii*, 1 male seen at Chicaque

Andean Cock-of-the-rock, *Rupicola peruvianus*, at least 3MM and 3FF near Santa María

Manakins, Pipridae

Blue-crowned Manakin, *Lepidothrix coronata*, La Victoria; Río Claro

White-bearded Manakin, *Manacus manacus* Laguna Tabacal; Bavaria; Mana Dulce; Río Claro

Striolated (formerly Striped) Manakin, *Machaeropterus regulus* Villavicencio (eastern form) seen in scope; Aquitania road*

White-crowned Manakin, *Dixiphia pipra*, near Santa María (male)

Golden-headed Manakin, *Ceratopipra erythrocephala*, Santa María (2 males at lek); 1 female at Buenavista reserve

Tityras & Allies, Tityridae

Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*, Santa María (female); Río Claro (males)

Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*, Santa María (1 male)

Cinnamon Becard, *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*, Santa María; Buenavista; Río Claro

*One-colored Becard, *Pachyramphus homochrous*, we were shown a nest being built but during two visits we did not see either the male or female

[also where were the rest of the becards on this trip?]

Vireos, Shrike-Babblers etc., Vireonidae

Rufous-browed Peppershrike, *Cyclarhis gujanensis*, Santa María (close); Laguna Tabacal*; Mana Dulce*

Scrub Greenlet, *Hylophilus flavipes*, Laguna Tabacal; Santa María*; Mana Dulce; hotel Agualinda near Río Claro*

[*Rufous-naped Greenlet, *Pachysylvia semibrunnea*, 1 or more heard at Buenavista Reserve by SH]

Brown-capped Vireo, *Vireo leucophrys*, Chicaque

Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, Bavaria forest (1 very white underparts probably boreal migrant); (many heard at Río Claro entrance the first morning at dawn; these singing birds were Chivi Vireos (below Chivi Vireo, *Vireo chivi*, singing at Río Claro

Crows, Jays & Magpies, Corvidae

Black-chested Jay, *Cyanocorax affinis*, Río Claro (3 near entrance)

Green (Inca) Jay, *Cyanocorax yncas*, Santa María (both days); above Ibague (Ukuku)

Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*, Santa María (lower zone)

Swallows, Hirundinidae

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*, several mid-elevation sites (generally not lowlands)

Brown-bellied Swallow, *Orochelidon murina*, rather scarce this year; pair at cliff nest site in Sumapaz;

White-thighed Swallow, *Atticora tibialis*, big surprise here; pair perching on roots projecting from of a very small low borrow pit along the main entrance road into Buenavista Reserve; sallying out low over road like bats, then returning. Nesting here, or nest searching? Is this a normal nest site location?

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, a few in lowlands; singles or pairs

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*, pair over Río Claro entrance

White-winged Swallow, *Tachycineta albiventer*, lowland Magdalena Valley (mainly Pto. Triunfo)

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, a dozen or more near Pto. Triunfo

Wrens, Troglodytidae

*Scaly-breasted Wren, *Microcerculus marginatus*, heard at Bavaria forest; Santa María; and Río Claro

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, amazing little bird; everywhere from lowlands to páramo

Grass (Sedge) Wren, *Cistothorus platensis*, PN Chingaza; look for future taxonomic rearrangements here

Apolinar's Wren *Cistothorus apolinari* (E), PN Sumapaz

*Band-backed Wren, *Campylorhynchus zonatus* heard near Río Claro entrance; curiously AWOL this year

Bicolored Wren, *Campylorhynchus griseus*, Pto. Triunfo area (and lunch stop at Doradal)

Sooty-headed Wren, *Pheugopedius spadix*, well seen at Buenavista Reserve; not so common

Black-bellied Wren, *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris*, Laguna Tabacal*; Mana Dulce (seen well); Río Claro*

*Whiskered Wren, *Pheugopedius mystacalis*, heard above Ibague (Ukuku); a skulker

*Rufous-breasted Wren, *Pheugopedius rutilus*, Santa María (only heard this time)

Speckle-breasted Wren, *Pheugopedius sclateri*, Laguna Tabacal (best study yet of this skulker; one sat up in open for scope views; this form likely endemic to Colombia)
 Rufous-and-white Wren, *Thryophilus rufalbus*, nice views of singing pair at lower end of Bavaria Forest
 Bay Wren, *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*, Río Claro (most energetic songster of them all; a bit difficult to see)
 Sharpe's Wren, *Cinnycerthia olivascens*, nice pair heard and seen with big mixed flock at Chicaque
 White-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucosticta*, mostly heard; one briefly seen at small army ant swarm at Buenavista; also Río Claro*
 *Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucophrys*, Chicaque (upper zone); above Ibagué*

Gnatcatchers, Polioptilidae

Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila plumbea*, Mana Dulce (just one)

Donacobius, Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius, *Donacobius atricapilla*, Pto. Triunfo; Doradal (lunch stop)

Thrushes & Allies, Turdidae

*Andean Solitaire, *Myadestes ralloides*, heard at Chicaque

*Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, *Catharus aurantiirostris*, heard several times at Santa María but unresponsive to playback

Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*, 1 at Buenavista Reserve (possibly attracted to an army ant swarm); boreal migrant

Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*, several mid-elevation sites; common boreal migrant wintering here

Pale-breasted Thrush, *Turdus leucomelas*, most areas from Bavaria Forest onward; common in lower Magdalena Valley; carrying nest material on Aquitania Road; feeding young in Río Claro

Spectacled (Bare-eyed) Thrush, *Turdus nudigenis*, Santa María (lower zone)

Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, Laguna Tabacal; Santa María; above Ibagué; Río Claro

Great Thrush, *Turdus fuscater*, common in highlands; mainly above ca. 2500 m

Mockingbirds & Thrashers, Mimidae

Tropical Mockingbird, *Mimus gilvus*, Laguna Tabacal*; at Reserva near ; Santa María; Pto. Triunfo etc.

Finches, Euphonias & Allies, Fringillidae

Velvet-fronted Euphonia (E), *Euphonia concinna* (E), finally pair nicely at Laguna El Hato; briefly by SH at Mana Dulce

Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia lanirostris*, widespread all lower and mid-elevations to ca. 1500 m

Fulvous-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia fulvicrissa*, pair last morning along Aquitania Road

Golden-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*, Villavicencio (1 male)

White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*, 1 at Río Claro (seen by DC and 1 or 2 people)

Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*, Santa María (pair in conflict with their reflected images in a window at edge of town)



Velvet-fronted Euphonia. Photo S. Hilty

Thrush-Tanager, Rhodinocichlidae

*Rosy Thrush-Tanager, *Rhodinocichla rosea*, 2-4 heard at Laguna Tabacal (no longer seem to respond much to playback because they have already heard it so often)

New World Sparrows, Passerellidae

Common Chlorospingus, *Chlorospingus flavopectus*, Chicaque (upper zone with large mixed flock)

*Orange-billed Sparrow, *Arremon aurantirostris*, Buenavista*

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, *Arremon brunneinucha*, above Ibague (Ukuku); 1 at fruit feeder

Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*, everywhere in highlands (above ca. 2000 m)

White-naped Brushfinch, *Atlapetes albinucha*, above Ibague (Ukuku) but seen only by part of group

Moustached Brushfinch, *Atlapetes albofrenatus*, Chicaque (2) with huge mixed species flock

Yellow-headed Brushfinch, *Atlapetes flaviceps* (E), one Ibague (Ukuku) but only in open briefly

Slaty Brushfinch, *Atlapetes schistaceus*, 1 briefly (only SH?) at upper end of Chingaza

Pale-naped Brushfinch, *Atlapetes pallidinucha*, Sumapaz (pair along roadside)

Troupials & Allies, Icteridae

Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*, Sumapaz (3500 m)

Red-breasted Meadowlark, *Leistes militaris*, Laguna El Hato; Pto. Triunfo (numerous); possible generic change

Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*, east slope Andes near Villavicencio; Santa María area (very common)

Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*, seen near roadside stop above Villavicencio)

Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*, Santa María area (common); 1 on Aquitania road

*Yellow-backed Oriole, *Icterus chrysater*, heard at Reserva Chiguaza (en route to Sumapaz); heard above Ibague (Ukuku)*

Orange-crowned Oriole, *Icterus auricapillus*, pair along Río Bata at Santa María (beautiful scope study)

Yellow Oriole, *Icterus nigrogularis*, drier lowlands, e.g. Mana Dulce; Pto. Triunfo/Doradal area

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, widespread in lowlands and mid-elevations (unfortunately)

Carib Grackle, *Quiscalus lugubris*, near Villavicencio; Laguna El Hato; Doradal (near restaurant); Pto.

Triunfo area

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*, marshes near Pto. Triunfo

New World Warblers, Parulidae

Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*, 1 at Buenavista Reserve (by Michael; others?)

Tennessee Warbler, *Oreothlypis peregrina*, Santa María (lower area); Aquitania Road

American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*, Bavaria Forest (ca. 650 m); Santa María (lower area, 800 m); about 10 total; overall in foothills

Cerulean Warbler, *Setophaga cerulea*, near Santa María; 1 at upper zone (1200 m); c.12 in lower zone (800 m+ including 5-6 in one loose pre-migratory flock)

Tropical Parula, *Setophaga pitiayumi*, Above Ibague (Ukuku)

Bay-breasted Warbler, *Setophaga castanea*, Buenavista Reserve (1); and Río Claro (3-4); Aquitania Road (12+ the last morning at 750 m el); in general lowlands and foothill

Blackburnian Warbler, *Setophaga fusca*, Santa María (1 female); Chicaque (6+ mostly males); above Ibague at Ukuku (5-6); in general mid-montane elevations or higher with males higher than females

Yellow Warbler, *Setophaga petechia*, Pto. Triunfo area (lowlands)

Blackpoll Warbler, *Setophaga striata*, a few near Villavicencio and Santa María (total c. 5)

Rufous-capped Warbler, *Basileuterus rufifrons*, Laguna Tabacal; Mana Dulce (cute pair)

Black-crested Warbler, *Basileuterus nigrocristata*, Chicaque

Buff-rumped Warbler, *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*, the darlings of Río Claro; 1 heard at Laguna Tabacal

Canada Warbler, *Cardellina canadensis*, widespread in foothills and mid-montane regions on both slopes of Eastern Andes; Laguna Tabacal (2; male and female); Santa María (3); above Ibague (Ukuku, 7-8 including 5-6 females); 1 male at Buenavista

Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart), *Myioborus miniatus*, Santa María; Chicaque (lower end)

Golden-fronted Redstart (Whitestart), *Myioborus ornatus*, Chingaza; Chicaque (upper end; 2200 m)

Mitrospingidae Tanagers, Mitrospingidae

Dusky-faced Tanager, *Mitrospingus cassinii*, Río Claro (noisy); one group with Tawny-crested Tanagers; another group at a small army ant swarm (*Echiton* sp.)

Cardinals & Allies, Cardinalidae

Hepatic Tanager, *Piranga flava*, 1 above Ibagué (Ukuku); 1 male; 1 female; also sometimes split as Highland Hepatic-Tanager), (*lutea* Group); resident

Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*, widespread in lowlands and mid-elevations (to ca. 1800 m); some mixed red-yellow molting males

Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*, 1 adult male at Bavaria Forest foothills (600m)

Sooty Ant-Tanager *Habia gutturalis* (E), Wow! Hot pink crest; 3-4 briefly at Buenavista; 1 male repeatedly along Aquitania Road

Black-backed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus aureoventris*, 1 above La Calera (Observatorio del Colibris)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Laguna Tabacal (1 molting male; 3-4 females)

Tanagers & Allies, Thraupidae

Magpie Tanager, *Cissopis leverianus*, Santa María (800 m); 1 at 1440 m (=high)

Black-eared Hemispingus, *Sphenopsis melanotis*, Chicaque (2-3 in huge mixed species flock)

Superciliaried Hemispingus, *Thlypopsis superciliaris*, Chicaque (1 with huge mixed species flocks)

Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*, various places; Laguna Tabacal (3-4 following *Echiton* army ants); Buenavista Reserve (2-3 following small black *Labidus* army ant swarm); yet another group at Río Claro also following army ants (*Echiton* sp. again)

White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus*, Santa María (lower area with up to 10); Mana Dulce (1 male); Buenavista Reserve (several at *Labidus* sp. army ant swarm)

Tawny-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus delatrii*, great study of group including several males and 2 or more females at Río Claro

White-lined Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufus*, male and female at Santa María (lower zone)

Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*, Villavicencio and Santa María

Crimson-backed Tanager, *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*, widespread in Magdalena Valley; possibly also Santa María (?)

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, *Anisognathus igniventris*, half dozen or more at PN Chingaza

Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager, *Dubusia taeniata*, heard at Chingaza*; 1 seen briefly with large mixed species flock at Chicaque (upper zone at 2200-2300 m)

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 (upper zone)

Speckled Tanager, *Ixothrupis guttata*, Santa María (1 seen by DC; possibly others?)

Burnished-buff Tanager, *Tangara cayana*, Santa María

Scrub Tanager, *Tangara vitriolina*, Laguna Tabacal; above Ibagué

Golden-hooded Tanager, *Tangara larvata*, Río Claro (entrance); Aquitania Road

Blue-necked Tanager, *Tangara cyanicollis*, most lower els.; including Laguna Tabacal; Santa María etc.

Blue-and-black Tanager, *Tangara vassorii*, Chicaque (with huge mixed flock, upper zone, 2300 m)

Beryl-spangled Tanager, *Tangara nigroviridis*, Chicaque (2 with mixed flock, upper zone, 2300 m)

Plain-colored Tanager, *Tangara inornata*, Laguna Tabacal (just 1)

Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola*, Laguna Tabacal; Santa María; above Ibagué (Ukuku);

Saffron-crowned Tanager, *Tangara xanthocephala*, above Ibagué (Ukuku)

Golden Tanager, *Tangara arthus* 1 above Ibagué (Ukuku)

Swallow Tanager, *Tersina viridis*, Santa María; Río Claro (pair appeared to be searching ford next hole low along road bank)

Purple Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*, Bavaria Reserve; Santa María (daily); Buenavista Reserve

Guira Tanager, *Hemithraupis guira*, Santa María (pair twice)

Chestnut-vented Conebill, *Conirostrum speciosum*, Santa María (perhaps 12 seen; mostly lower zone)

White-eared Conebill, *Conirostrum leucogenys*, Mana Dulce (1 male)

Capped Conebill, *Conirostrum albifrons*, Chicaque (1M, blue cap; and female); above Ibagué (Ukuku, male with white cap)

Rufous-browed Conebill, *Conirostrum rufum* (NE), Chingaza; Sumapaz

Glossy Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa lafresnayii*, Chingaza; Sumapaz
 Black Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa humeralis*, Chingaza; Sumapaz
 White-sided Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa albilatera*, Chicaque (1 male close)
 Bluish Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa caerulea*, Chicaque (1 stealing nectar from base of long-corolla tube
Passiflora high in canopy and with huge mixed species flocks)
 Masked Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa cyanea*, Chingaza, Chicaque (several with mixed species flock; upper end)
 Plushcap (Plush-capped Finch), *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*, 2 at edge of páramo in PN Chingaza; scarce;
 and now classified as a tanager (not a finch)
 Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, *Geospizopsis unicolor*, Chingaza (6); PN Sumapaz (3-4)
 Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*, widespread (many last morning in Santa María)
 Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, Pto. Triunfo
 Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, *Sporophila minuta*, Doradal (lunch stop at “Nebraska” restaurant)
 Thick-billed Seed-Finch, *Sporophila funereus*, Aquitania Road
 Yellow-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila nigricollis*, Laguna Tabacal; Santa María (hotel); Mana Dulce
 Pileated Finch, *Coryphospingus pileatus*, Mana Dulce (1 male; 2 females)
 Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, widespread; ridiculously common (too many) at Jardín Encantado
 Black-faced Grassquit, *Tiaris bicolor*, Giradot (1 male seen by some on hotel grounds)
 Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*, many heard and seen in lowland and foothill sites; singing nicely
 at Laguna Tabacal; also last morning on Aquitania road
 Black-winged Saltator, *Saltator atripennis*, above Ibagué (Ukuku); singing descending song all morning
 Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*, Santa María
 Streaked Saltator, *Saltator striatipectus*, drier foothills; Laguna Tabacal; Mana Dulce; Buenavista

Marmosets & Tamarins, Callitrichidae

White-footed Tamarin, *Saguinus leucopus*, Aquitania road [apparently this species and not Geoffroy’s
 Marmoset as we mentioned in field; they seemed quite wary and difficult to observe]

New World Monkeys, Cebidae

White-fronted Capuchin, *Cebus albifrons*, 1 individual near Santa María (Almenara road); c. 1200 m
 Common Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri sciureus*, distantly seen along lower end of Bavaria Forest

Squirrels, Sciuridae

Red-tailed Squirrel, *Sciurus granatensis*, a few seen; Santa María; Chicaque; Buenavista; Aquitania road
 Central Am Dwarf Squirrel, *Microsciurus alfari* (?), possible this or related species seen by Michael in
 Chicaque Reserve; small and fast-moving

Agoutis, Dasyproctidae

Central American Agouti, *Dasyprocta punctata*, one seen by SH (others?) at Mana Dulce

Bulldog Bats, Noctilionidae

Fishing bat, *Noctilio* sp.; flying low up Río Claro at dusk; seen while waiting for Oilbirds to appear

Reptiles and Amphibians

Red-footed Tortoise, *Chelonoidis carbonarius* (or something like this), Mana Dulce; Hotel Agualinda (in
 captivity); really quite striking creatures with those big red spots on their legs
 Central American Iguana, Río Claro
 Geckos
 Various lizards

Just for fun, a few of the plants we saw, most of which I recall pointing out at one time or another (doubtless there were others we discussed); certainly not a comprehensive list but it might help you track down some of the plants in your photos.

Aibertia patinoi, Rubiaceae, the plant called “Borojó” that our driver Leonardo identified for us the last morning on the Aquitania road; 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 it the tree is native) but did not recognize it here in a plantation setting.

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 Agualinda Hotel

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 at upper end of Chicaque; also Ukuku.

Anacardium sp. Anacardiaceae. The huge Wild Cashew trees along the stream (mostly) at Mana Dulce; these were the largest trees in the reserve, impressive in size for such a dry area

Annona muricata, Soursop; Annonaceae. We didn't see one of this trip but 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.

Aphelandra sp. Acanthaceae, woody shrub; red flower spikes; along roadside inside Río Claro

Arbutilón 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

Anthurium spp; Araceae, all elevations; many species and some in related genera

Apeiba sp. the seed pods that looked like "sea urchins"; Río Claro

Begonia sp., Begoniaceae, mostly with seeds; near Río Claro

Bactris sp. Arecaceae; 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

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)

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

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

Brownia spp. (the large orange flowers on trunk of tree at Bavaria Forest; others with smaller pink "powder puffs", e.g. Río Claro

Brugmansia sp. Angel's Trumpet; Solanaceae. 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

Calathea sp. (possibly *crotalifera*), family Marantaceae. Called Rattlesnake Plant or Bijagua; I mistakenly thought these were *Heliconia* until I checked; we saw them at Río Claro; broad flattened yellowish 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*

Callistemon lanceolatus, Bottle Brush. Myrtaceae; originally from Australia; we watched hummingbirds at one along the trail from Ukuku back to our bus on main road (above Ibagué); attractive to hummingbirds

Caesalpinia pulcherrima, Fabaceae (subfamily *Caesalpinioidea*), Dwarf Poinciana (or Malinche); this was the pretty orange flowering shrub growing where we parked the bus in Pto. Triunfo and walked down the concret ramp to the Magdalena River; Carol asked what these pretty flowers were and I couldn't remember them at the time.

Carludovica sp. Cyclanthaceae; often called Panama Hat Palms although not true palms (they look more like the palmettos found in Florida etc); these were common at Río Claro, especially along the roadbanks; fan-shaped leaves usually divided into four parts and with no trunk; 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

Cecropia sp. Cecropiaceae. Common; many species

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

Calliandra spp. pinkish “powder-puff” flowers; near entrance to Hotel Agualinda; also on plaza at Santa María and elsewhere; attractive to small hummingbirds, especially coquettes.

Cassia sp. (“Nebraska” lunch stop); these with yellow flowers

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; Carol asked about these

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

Clusia spp., *Clusiaceae*, the tree with star-shaped aril fruits (when open); we examined several of these that had fallen on ground; several different sizes; common tree; thick leathery leaves

Cochlospermum vitifolia (Yellow silk seed Tree; or various other names); large yellow flowers noticed by David at Río Claro; common in dry forests of western slopes of Central America; more local in humid forest

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

Cordia spp. Boraginaceae; widespread and often planted around hotels and in towns;

Costus spp. Costaceae; related to true gingers, often called “Spiral Gingers” because the stems grows in upward spiral; 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

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

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

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 July to late September but a few can almost always be found flowering out-of-season

Ficus sp. large trees with whitish bark, smooth limbs and trunks; leathery leaves; widespread in lowlands

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 cannot recognize.

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

Gunnera sp. Gunneraceae, along trail to Ukuku (probably also Chingaza and Sumapaz)

Gliricidia sp. Fabaceae, smallish trees planted in rows (forms living fence rows) along roads; pink flowers; very common along many roads

Heliconia spp. (many kinds); Heliconiaceae; the species of *Heliconia* the sicklebill hummingbird was visiting is closest to *H. latispatha* although I am unsure if this is the exact species.

Hamelia spp. Rubiaceae; short tubular orange-red corollas; flower grow in panicles; hummingbird pollinated; seen many places, especially trail to/from Ukuku (above Ibagué)

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; attractive to hummingbirds

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

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

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

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.)

Miconia spp. large genus, Melastomataceae; mostly trees that bear small edible sugary berries; manakin and tanagers love these

Mussaenda sp. Rubiaceae; another common cultivated plant in gardens and around homes; covered with creamy orange-pink bracts and tiny white flowers; I saw several from bus as we traveled; not sure if this one is native

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

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; one in parking lot at Agualinda (opposite the Tropical Almond tree)

Passiflora spp. Passifloraceae, several different kinds; long tubular corollas in highlands; red spreading ones in lowlands; all of them attractive to hummingbirds

Poinciana sp. Fabaceae (subfamily Caesalpinia), a beautiful legume known as Dwarf Poinciana (although not a true Poinciana, although a close relative; we saw some in Pto. Triunfo where bus parked at edge of Río Magdalena; Carol asked about this one and I couldn't recall name at the time; 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 that was seen on our walk down to river in Santa María last morning (same place where the two euphonias were struggling to understand their reflections in a window); a fruit commonly seen in markets

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

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; had panicles of pinkish flowers (I pointed this one out somewhere, maybe Chicaque); many species in this genus, some with purple or other colored floral displays, all used by hummingbirds

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

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 Chicaque

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

Spatodea 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 many of you drank

Stachytarpheta sp. Verbenaceae; the purple-flowering shrub we watched at Ukuku, waiting for Blossomcrown to appear but alas, it did not; only Red-billed Emerald and a couple other hummers; 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*); Michael has a photo of one from the garden at Ukuku that looks like *Strelitzia reginae* (?) with orange flowers; all *Strelitzia* were originally native only to South Africa

Streptosolen jamesonii, Marmalade Bush; Solanaceae, the bush at Ukuku with yellow and orange (older) flowers; a favorite nectar source of many hummingbirds and flowerpiercers however we did not see much of anything visiting it when we were there; alas no Blossomcrowns.

Tabebuia spp. Bignoniaceae, known as Lignum Vitae; also Pink Poui; several in full flower along upper drier roadsides on our return to Bogotá from Santa María; there also is a yellow species and a white species; 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 at Hotel Agualinda; also most small town, plazas and elsewhere; widely planted but most common along beaches

Thalictrum spp. Meadow Rue, Ranunculaceae (=Buttercup family); some large ones (much larger than in North America) along road down to lodge at Chicaque

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

Tibuchina 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; Carol asked about this one; called Ant Tree or other unprintable names because it harbors stinging ants

Vismia sp. Guttiferae; mostly second growth and edge habitats; bright orange sap used medicinally; specifically pointed out along Aquitania road but widespread in American tropics

Warszewiczia coccinea, Rubiaceae. Called Chaconia or Wild Poinsettia; large red bracts look like flowers; very showy; on many hillsides including Laguna Tabacal and Río Claro (the side trail)

Xanthoxylum sp. (?) the trees at Mana Dulce with obvious pointed woody spikelike thorns on trunk and 2 pairs of entire leaflets per leaf; I photographed another similar tree with large woody thorns on its trunk near the “Nebraska restaurant” but that one 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

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.



Bomarea sp. (vine). Photo S. Hilty

And because we talked about Wade Davis (Ethnobotanist):

- 1) Davis, Wade. 2004. *The Lost Amazon: The Photographic Journey of Richard Schultes*. Chronicle Books, San Francisco. The black-and-white photography (all with a 2 ¼ x 2 ¼ Rolleiflex) is absolutely priceless as is the text, which weaves together the life and travels of Richard Schultes, widely regarded as the most renowned ethnobotanist of the twentieth century. Most of his many years of work (including one uninterrupted 12 year stay) was in eastern Colombia!
- 2) *El Sendero de la Anaconda*. A film currently on Netflix narrated by and featuring Wade Davis. Filmed in eastern Colombia featuring the life of Davis's professor Richard Schultes.
- 3) Laman, 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.