COLOMBIA: ENDEMICS OF THE CHOCÓ-PACIFIC LOWLANDS

JULY 7–17, 2019

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Colombia: Endemics of the Chocó-Pacific Lowlands
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By Steve Hilty

Figure 1. Sunset on beach near El Valle, Chocó. Photo S. Hilty 2019

This was our second trip dedicated entirely to the famously wet Pacific coast region of western Colombia and northwestern Ecuador. Known for high endemism, as well as unbelievably high rainfall (a sign at our first hotel indicated 8,000mm or c. 315” annually), this region of Colombia has few points of access, and facilities suitable for ecotourism are limited. Access to all three sites we visited is only by air or boat. Not surprisingly, it is infrequently visited by birders and naturalists. The endemism as well as the lack of accessibility, however, are part of the allure of this fascinating and still largely pristine region. And, I will say it right now—with little doubt, the highlight was the Harpy Eagle (next page) that perched for thirty minutes or more, for all to see, right at the edge of the clearing at our El Cantil Lodge, a testament to the wildness of this beautiful region.

As on our 2018 visit, our first day coincided with a previous night of torrential rain that continued during the morning at a gradually decreasing rate. Rivers were bank full, and flat open areas were flooded. We spent some time at the hotel watching birds at the feeder but soon summoned our four tuk-tuk drivers and their 3-wheeled mototaxis for a trip afield in the afternoon. And it was a good afternoon—with species ranging from Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and an Osprey to Pied Puffbirds, Golden-hooded Tanagers, and even a distant Baudó Guan. Over the next week we would add many more species to our lists including Dusky Pigeon, Pied Puffbird (almost every day), Black-breasted Puffbird, Choco Toucan, a half-dozen woodpeckers, Rose-faced Parrot, One-colored Becard, and a closer study of Baudo Guan.
Over the next several days we explored areas on foot south of the village of El Valle, the road east of town, and a trail along the Río Trundó that required some “tightrope” walking across narrow concrete girders that spanned several small ravines. Remarkably, not a single person demurred; everyone negotiated these little bridges perfectly and without a single misstep, and for our efforts we were rewarded with some remarkable photographic opportunities of a normally elusive Bay Wren, as well as White-tailed Trogon and Blue Cotinga.
We had been notified a month ago or more that we would be unable to stay overnight at our second destination, Utría National Park, located about an hour by boat south of the village of El Valle, because it was closed pending a new administrative contract. Nevertheless, we departed El Valle by small boat in the dark and in light rain at 0530 hours by powering over an incoming wave at low tide (to get our boat over the reef). It was an exciting and spectacular start to a terrific day. After our packed breakfast at the Utría park headquarters, we headed straight for the long boardwalk that winds through a kilometer or more of mangroves. We quickly added several Black-tipped Cotingas, a male Humboldt’s Sapphire (for some), Blue Cotinga, and a remarkably cooperative Brown Wood-Rail, which put on a noisy show as it paced back and forth under the boardwalk. Later we spent quality time with a Stub-tailed Antbird, a species seen by few birders, and a surprisingly bold male Spotted Antbird.

Our final destination southward along the coast involved a midafternoon boat trip from Utría National Park to the village of Nuquí, where we transferred to another boat for a final 30-minute trip to the El Cantil Lodge. It is difficult to imagine a more beautiful series of beaches anywhere than the coast in the vicinity of the El Cantil Lodge, and we enjoyed some fine birds right around the lodge. The first morning we mounted a successful search for the rare Sooty-capped Puffbird, a Chocó endemic species that has been seen by only a handful of birders. But that was only the beginning. Later in the morning, back at the lodge, a Harpy Eagle was spotted by our local guide “Negro,” and everyone came scrambling to get a view. But the rush was unnecessary. The eagle perched in full view at the edge of the forest immediately above the lodge. Holding a partly eaten Mantled Howler Monkey in its talons, it calmly watched the excited human observers below with apparent disinterest. It remained in full view for nearly thirty minutes before flying a short distance away, where it again remained in view and finished the last of the hapless monkey. No more howling from that monkey, although another one nearby did protest feebly with howling as it watched its companion being eaten. Interestingly, the next afternoon Christian spotted the eagle just inside the forest and less than 50 yards from where we had seen it the previous day. Apparently the Mantled (Black) Howler Monkeys in the area were too much of a temptation.

Our second day at El Cantil began with rain that continued until late morning, so we watched some fruit trees (Trema micrantha) next to one of the cabins where Scarlet-thighed Dacnises, Olive-striped Flycatchers, Red-capped Manakins, and Rufous-winged and Golden-hooded tanagers provided opportunities for study and photography. We attempted the single long forest trail at El Cantil in the afternoon, but following so much rain it was slippery and muddy and proved so difficult that most of us decided it was not worth the effort and returned to the clearing to watch fruit trees again. However, a couple of intrepid observers continued on with Christian and were rewarded with more views of Spotted Antbirds and a few other species.
This was a trip into an infrequently visited area, and we came away with some exciting birds and a surprisingly good list of mammals, a few snakes, and some other critters along the way. If bragging rights are important, all of you can now claim that you’ve birded in the wettest and one of the least visited (and also most coveted) regions in the American Tropics. This is a fascinating region and, not surprisingly, there is still a great deal to learn about this important ecosystem.

KEY:
- *heard only (asterisk*)
- [ ] seen only by leaders, e.g. SH or CD
- **Blue color** = boreal migrant (few at this time of year)
- **Red color** = Chocó-Pacific endemic or near endemic; also rare or of interest

BIRDS:

**Tinamous, Tinamidae**
*Great Tinamou, *Tinamus major* heard at El Cantil
Little Tinamou, *Crypturellus soui*, heard close, El Valle area

**Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl, Anatidae**
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*, El Valle (4)

**Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows, Cracidae**
Gray-headed Chachalaca, *Ortalis cinereiceps*, El Valle (several)

**New World Quail, Odontophoridae**
*Tawny-faced Quail, Rhynchortyx cinctus*, heard (close) in the forest at El Cantil Lodge by those that persisted on the muddy forest trail

**Pigeons & Doves, Columbidae**
Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*, El Valle
Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*, all areas; large flocks (up to 50+) flying to roost (in mangroves?) near El Valle
Dusky Pigeon, *Patagioenas goodsoni* several seen; calling all day long in all areas
Blue Ground-Dove, *Claravis pretiosa* 3-5 daily in El Valle area; much calling by males on at least two days
Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti* El Valle; Medellín
Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*, Medellín
*Olive-backed Quail-Dove, Leptotrygon veraguensis*, heard close east of El Valle (Río Trundó trail)
White-tipped Dove, Leptotila verreauxi, several in El Valle area; some calling in mornings
Cuckoos, Cuculidae
Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*, daily around El Valle

Swifts, Apodidae
White-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne zonaris*, flock of a dozen near El Valle
Band-rumped Swift, *Chaetura spinicaudus*, pairs or small flocks (one group of a dozen at PN Utría); El Valle and PN Utría; 2 unidentified swifts near El Cantil

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae
White-necked Jacobin, *Florisuga mellivora*, twice near El Valle
Band-tailed Barbthroat, *Threnetes ruckeri*, east of El Valle (twice)
White-whiskered Hermit, *Phaethornis yaruqui* (NE), several at El Cantil
Long-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis longirostris*, 3 at El Valle

*Figure 3. Blue-chested Hummingbird, Utría National Park, Chocó. Photo S. Hilty 2019*

Tooth-billed Hummingbird, *Androdon aequatorialis* (NE), 1 in forest at El Cantil
Purple-crowned Fairy, *Heliothyris barroti*, El Valle; El Cantil Lodge
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, *Chalybura urochrysia*, 1+ at feeders at El Cantil
Crowned Woodnymph, *Thalurania colombica*, all areas; numerous in mangroves at PN Utría
Blue-chested Hummingbird, *Amazilia amabilis*, near El Valle; PN Utría (male photographed)
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia tzacatl*, all areas; feeders and flowers
Humboldt’s Sapphire, *Hylocharis humboldtii*, 2 FF and 1M in mangroves at PN Utría

Rails, Gallinules & Coots, Rallidae
*White-throated Crane, Laterallus albigularis*, one heard by CD in wet pasture east of El Valle
Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica* 2 in marshes near El Valle
Brown Wood-Rail, *Aramides wolfi*, excellent views, PN Utría (photo, next pg.)
Plovers & Lapwings, Charadriidae
Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis*, El Valle

Jacanas, Jacanidae
Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana hypomelaena* (black-backed form), marshes at El Valle; this may be a recent range expansion

Gulls & Terns, Laridae
Royal Tern (probably), *Thalasseus maximus* or sp.? 1 distant tern over ocean near Nuquí

Frigatebirds, Fregatidae
Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens*, huge numbers following fishing boats or over schools of fish, mostly seen well out from shore

Boobies & Gannets, Sulidae
Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster*, 25-30 seen during boat trips and a few even from shore at El Cantil Lodge; surprisingly numerous

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae
Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* a few at El Valle

Pelecans, Pelecanidae
Brown Pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis*, daily groups of 8-30 commuting along the shore

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns, Ardeidae
Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, singles at all sites
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, a few scattered birds around El Valle
Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*, a few around El Valle
Striated Heron, *Butorides striata*, 1-4 almost daily around El Valle
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, several daily at all areas
New World Vultures, Cathartidae
King Vulture, *Sarcoramphus papa*, 2 seen including one perched close the first afternoon
Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, daily at all sites
Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, all sites; apparently 2 races at El Valle (1 with white neck band; others with all red head); only solid red headed birds at Utría and Nuquí (El Cantil area) same as last year; subspecific distribution and/or age related head color changes need documentation

Osprey, Pandionidae
*Osprey, Pandion haliaetus*, 1 east of El Valle

Hawks, Eagles & Kites, Accipitridae
Harpy Eagle, *Harpia harpyja*, one male (presumed) with Mantled Howler Monkey in its talons; perched for extended period of time in full view at edge of El Cantil Lodge clearing; also seen (flushed) the following day by Christian Daza just inside forest

Figure 5. Harpy Eagle with Mantled Howler Monkey, El Cantil Lodge, Chocó. Photo S. Hilty 2019
Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus*, 2 seen on el Valle-Utría trail
Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*, daily at El Valle including several adult pairs
with streaked immatures nearby; up to 6-8 on some days
Tiny Hawk, *Accipiter superciliosus*, 1 distant bird on day 3; then a closer bird
perched in canopy of isolated tree on El Valle-Utría trail
Common Black Hawk, *Buteogallus anthracinus subtilis*, beachside bird at El
Cantil; perched high in open tree; this is the mangrove subsp. sometimes split
as separate species
Roadside Hawk, *Rupornis magnirostris*, daily at El Valle

**Trogons, Trogonidae**
Slaty-tailed Trogon, *Trogon massena*, 1 at forest edge at El Cantil
Blue-tailed Trogon, *Trogon comptus*, 1 female; forest trail at El Cantil
White-tailed Trogon, *Trogon chionurus*, all areas; the commonest trogon in this
Chocó-Pacific area

**Motmots, Momotidae**
Rufous Motmot, *Baryphthengus martii*, 1 by dining area at El Almejal hotel

**Kingfishers, Alcedinidae**
Ringed Kingfisher, *Megaceryle torquata*, almost daily in all areas
Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazona*, almost daily
Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*, 1 near El Valle; another at Utría; and
a third near El Cantil (creek area)
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle inda*, 1 brief fly-by seen by CD
(others?) at PN Utría

**Puffbirds, Buccoideidae**
Black-breasted Puffbird, *Notharchus pectoralis*, 1 high on open branch on El
Valle-Utría trail
Pied Puffbird, *Notharchus tectus*, we saw 2 together east of El Valle the first
afternoon and singles on 5 other days (all areas); remarkably common
Sooty-capped Puffbird, *Buco noanamae*, 1 along Río Turco near El Cantil
Lodge (local endemic of Chocó-Pacific)

**Jacamars, Galbulidae**
Rufous-tailed Jacamar, *Galbula rufigauda*, El Valle

**New World Barbets, Capitonidae**
Spot-crowned Barbet, *Capito*
**Toucans, Ramphastidae**
Collared Araçari, *Pteroglossus torquatus*, El Valle (on 4 days); then several at PN Utría (in mangroves)
Yellow-throated Toucan, *Ramphastos ambiguous*, seen on 5 days and in all areas although not as numerous as Chocó Toucan
Choco Toucan, *Ramphastos brevis*, daily in all areas (common)

**Woodpeckers, Picidae**
Black-cheeked Woodpecker, *Melanerpes pucherani*, daily in all areas; THE common woodpecker in this region
Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes punctigula*, beautiful bird seen first afternoon; another on 3rd day briefly
Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucus*, El Valle (2 females together east of El Valle)
Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, El Valle (several on 4 days)
Cinnamon Woodpecker, *Celeus loricatus*, almost daily at El Valle and El Cantil

**Falcons & Caracaras, Falconidae**
Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*, El Valle (only 2 seen); another recent range expansion into this area now that there are pastures and clearings
Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*, 1 seen well along road east of El Valle; others heard
Bat Falcon, *Falco rufuralis*, pair east of El Valle studied in scope and believed to be this species (but not 100% confirmed)
Bat Falcon, *Falco rufuralis*, 1 bird (male?) on treetop branch east of El Valle; another (female?) on high stub over mangroves at PN Utría

**New World & African Parrots, Psittacidae**
Rose-faced Parrot, *Pyrilia pulchra*, east of El Valle (ca. 4 or 5 including 3 seen very well in scopes; heard on 3 days
Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*, El Valle (in scope) and seen and heard in flight at all areas; The commonest parrot in this region.
Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*, El Valle (a dozen or more in great morning chorus); El Cantil Lodge (several in flight)
Red-lored Parrot, *Amazona autumnalis*, several on El Valle-Utría trail south of El Valle; also east of El Valle; and in flight over El Cantil (much more in evidence this year as we saw none last year)
Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*, several in morning of 4 days near El Valle

**Typical Antbirds, Thamnophilidae**
*Great Antshrike Taraba major* heard on El Valle-Utría trail
Black-crowned Antshrike, *Thamnophilus atrinucha*, El Valle-Utría trail; El Cantil Lodge forests trail
Pacific Antwren, *Myrmotherula pacifica*, all areas (especially common around El Valle)
*Dusky Antbird, *Cercomacroides tyrannina*, heard on El Valle-Utría trail & at PN Utría

Chestnut-backed Antbird, *Poliocrania exsul*, El Valle (seen especially well on El Valle-Utría trail; also heard in all other areas all days)

*Stub-tailed Antbird, Sapia berlepschi*, 1 female seen well at PN Utría (Chocó-Pacific endemic); local

*Spotted Antbird, Hylophylax naevioides*, 1 seen close and photographed by everyone at PN Utría; another at El Cantil (seen in forest by a few who walked much of the muddy trail)

![Spotted Antbird](image)

**Antpittas, Grallariidae**

*Streak-chested Antpitta, Hylopezus perspicillatus*, PN Utría (calling from back end of boardwalk; heard by CD; others (?)

*Thicket Antpitta, Hylopezus dives*, heard at two sites east of El Valle (distant)

**Anthrushes, Formicariidae**

*Black-headed Anthrush, Formicarius nigricapillus*, Hd on El Valle-Utría trail (distant) by CD

**Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers, Furnariidae**

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, *Glyphorhynchus spurius*, El Cantil (1 seen by the group that walked the muddy trail)

![Wedge-billed Woodcreepers](image)

Black-striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*, several seen in all areas near El Valle; surprisingly numerous

*Slaty Spinetail, Synallaxis brachyura*, El Valle (seen briefly in a couple places; uncooperative birds)

![Slaty Spinetail](image)
Tyant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae
Brown-capped Tyrannulet, *Ornithion brunneicapillus*, El Valle (1 seen well at head of trail east of El Valle)
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannulus elatus*, all areas; often heard (little “wolf whistle”)
Olive-striped Flycatcher, *Mionectes olivaceus*, El Valle; El Cantil (at fruiting *Trema* trees)
Black-caped Pygmy-Tyrant, *Myiornis atricapillus*, El Valle; one close on El Valle-Utría trail
Common Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum cinereum*, El Valle
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps*, a couple seen near El Valle
Yellow-olive Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*, El Valle (edge of disturbed 2nd growth woodland); 1 also at El Cantil Lodge
[Yellow-margined Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias assimilis flavotectus*, El Cantil; high in mature forest; SH & CD]
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, *Terenotriccus erythrurus*, East of El Valle
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius barbatus*, 1 on El Cantil trail (by CD and the muddy trail walkers)
*Bright-rumped Attila, Attila spadiceus*, heard El Valle areas
Choco Sirystes, *Sirystes albogriseus*, hd 2; 1 responded but stayed very high; it was seen by a few people (in flight by almost everyone); east of El Valle; a disappointment that we did not get good views; Chocó-Pacific endemic
Long-tailed Tyrant, *Colonia colonus*, several in El Valle area; also PN Utría
Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*, common around El Valle; heard at PN Utría; none at El Cantil
Gray-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*, El Valle (several areas)
White-ringed Flycatcher, *Conopias albovittatus*, great views thanks to CD’s playback that brought one down from a treetop perch; also seen at El Cantil
Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*, El Valle (several places)
Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, all areas (but only 1 bird at El Cantil)

Cotingas, Cotingidae
Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*, seen daily at El Valle in pairs or small groups; also a pair at PN Utría
Blue Cotinga, *Cotinga nattereri*, at least 4 at El Valle (but only 1 male); another female at PN Utría
Black-tipped (White) Cotinga, *Carpodectes hopkei*, several east of Valle including 1 female flycatching termites from treetop at dusk; great views of male and female at PN Utría

Manakins, Pipridae
White-ruffed Manakin, *Corapipo altera*, 3 (all female-plumaged birds) high in forest above El Almejal Hotel
Blue-crowned Manakin, *Lepidothrix coronate*, El Cantil (forest); males and females
Golden-collared Manakin, *Manacus vitellinus*, several areas near El Valle
Red-capped Manakin, *Ceratopipra mentalis*, fruiting *Trema micrantha* trees near cab El Cantil cabin; males and females

**Tityras & Allies, Tityridae**
Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*, several near el Valle (mostly females)
Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*, daily at El Valle (more females than males)
Cinnamon Beard, *Pachyramphus cinnamonomeus*, El Valle (daily; many)
One-colored Becard, *Pachyramphus homochrous*, pair east of El Valle

**Vireos and Greenlets, Vireonidae**
Chivi Vireo, *Vireo (olivaceus) chivi*, El Valle (1 seen by Brad; surprising that no others were heard or seen); definitely no song; may or may not be a species distinct from Red-eyed Vireo but considered distinct by most authors

**Jays etc., Corvidae**
Black-chested Jay, *Cyanocorax affinis*, El Valle (mostly) but heard/seen in all areas
Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, El Valle (open areas but only a couple pairs; surprisingly scarce)
Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*, 1 in flight over the airport at Bahía Solano

**Wrens, Troglodytidae**
Scaly-breasted Wren, *Microcerculus marginatus*, 1 seen south of El Valle; others heard including 1 at el Cantil
House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, mostly around El Almejal Hotel I and village of El Valle
Stripe-throated Wren, *Cantorchilus leucopogon*, seen well east of El Valle; another near El Cantil by the muddy trail walkers
Bay Wren, *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*, common in all areas but can be hard to see well; seen super well along the Río Trundó trail
*White-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucosticta*, 1 heard south of El Valle

**Gnatcatchers, Polioptilidae**
Tawny-faced Gnatwren, *Microbates cinereiventris*, 1 (but it was difficult to see and so very quick); thick undergrowth along trail east of El Valle

**Thrushes, Turdidae**
Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*, Medellín downtown airport; and Movich hotel

**Finches, Euphonias & Allies, Fringillidae**
Fulvous-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia fulvicrissa*, males and females at fruit feeders and in fruiting trees (esp. *Trema*); all areas
White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*, 1 female south of El Valle
Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris*, quite numerous in El Valle area

**New World Sparrows, Passerellidae**

*Orange-billed Sparrow, *Arremon aurantirostris*, hear around El Almejal hotel

**Blackbirds, Orioles & Allies, Icteridae**

Chestnut-headed Oropendola, *Psarocolius wagleri*, a dozen or more both days at El Valle; 1 group of 6 at El Cantil

**Baudó Oropendola, *Psarocolius cassini***, 1 seen very well near El Valle; a second one distantly

Scarlet-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus uropygialis*, El Valle; 3 or more also at PN Utría

Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela vitellinus* (western/Central American form) like a separate species from eastern birds; does not mimic and has a warbling semi-musical song; El Valle

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*, El Valle (only a single bird perched high in tree in semi-open area)

Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*, El Valle (also only a single bird perched high in tree)

Great-tailed Grackle, Quiscalus mexicanus, all areas; 1 male singing and displaying alone (perched low) along boardwalk at PN Utría same as last year

**New World Warblers, Parulidae**

Buff-rumped Warbler, *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*, heard and seen all around El Valle; also El Cantil (creekside vegetation near beach)

**Mitrospingus Tanagers, Mitrospingidae**

Dusky-faced Tanager, *Mitrospingus cassini*, common at El Valle; none at PN Utría; pair at El Cantil

**Cardinals & Allies, Cardinalidae**

*Blue-black Grosbeak, *Cyanoloxia cyanoides*, heard 2-3x around El Valle but we never could see it

**Tanagers, Thraupidae**

Tawny-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus delatrii*, big flock above El Almejal hotel; also east of El Valle


Crimson-backed Tanager, *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*, a few around El Almejal hotel and El Valle; much less common than Lemon-rumped Tanager

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*, all areas (but few at el Cantil)

Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*, all areas

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Gray-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara palmeri*, pair east of El Valle
Golden-headed Tanager, *Tangara larvata*, many around El Valle and El Cantil
Plain-colored Tanager, *Tangara inornata*, all areas (common)
Rufous-winged Tanager, *Tangara lavinia*, 2 at El Cantil (adult and juvenile)
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, *Dacnis venusta*, pairs or multiples; common but none at PN Utría
Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*, El Valle (1-2); also *Trema* trees at El Cantil
Purple Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*, only at El Cantil (*Trema* trees)
Red-legged Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes cyaneus*, common feeder bird at Hotel El Almejal; also numerous in mangroves at Utría; a few also at El Cantil
Green Honeycreeper, *Chlorophanes spiza*, male and female only at El Cantil
Scarlet-browed Tanager, *Heterospingus xanthopygius*, great views of males east of El Valle (twice); a female at El Cantil
Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, El Valle (pastures)
Thick-billed Seed-finch, *Sporophila funerea*, several in semi-open areas around El Valle
Variable Seedeater, *Sporophila corvina*, common in semi-open/open areas around El Valle
Slate-colored Seedeater, *Sporophila schistacea* 1 male singing from bare small trees on burned slope east of El Valle; later a second male was present here; a day later we saw 2 males and a female in a similar burned areas with a steep bare road cut; and finally at least 1 other male was heard in a more forested slope just off the road east of El Valle; all records were in hilly areas; much singing by all males so likely breeding; this bird is rare or local and erratic and may follow or seek burned areas to breed. Note heavy bill.

![Figure 9. Slate-colored Seedeater near El Valle, Chocó. Photo S. Hilty 20](image-url)
Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*, only El Valle area
Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*, El Valle
*Slate-colored Grosbeak, Saltator grossus*, heard at PN Utría

**MAMMALS:**
Central American Woolly Opossum, *Caluromys derbianus*, 1 killed by a Tayra at El Cantil lodge
Common Opossum, *Didelphis marsupialis*, 1 seen near El Cantil Lodge (actually it was in the dining room on rafters)
Geoffroy’s Marmoset, *Callithrix jaccus geoffroyi*, seen in all 3 areas
Mantled Howler Monkey, *Alouatta palliata*, seen and heard at El Cantil (and obviously the Harpy Eagle knew where they were too!); rather small howlers compared to the large red ones over most of South America
Red-tailed Squirrel, *Sciurus granatensis*, at El Almejal hotel; south of El Valle
Central American Agouti, *Dasyprocta punctata*, 1 (or 2) at El Almejal hotel (seen only by Christine)
Bat sp., several at dusk around the El Cantil Lodge; one was possibly a tent-making bat
Tayra, *Eira barbara*, 3 seen near El Cantil Lodge including 1 which scrambled down a trunk carrying a Caluromys opossum; possibly a den nearby; two others were having a spat and one chased another away from the lodge
Humpback Whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, one seen breaching well out to sea off beach at El Almejal hotel

**REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS:**
Basilisk Lizard, *Basilicus* sp (prob. *basilicus*), quite common at PN Utría
Spectacled (or White) Caiman, *Caiman crocodilus*, a smallish caiman in marshy pasture just east of El Valle
Tropical Rat Snake, *Spilotes pullatus* (Colubridae); the bold “black-and-yellow” snake on trail east of El Valle; it was held immobile under my foot; small but with a striking black and yellow head pattern. Not a venomous snake but the bold pattern was certainly attention-grabbing.
Shopshire Puffing Snake, *Phryunonox shopshyrrey*, large carmel-colored snake with red belly; estimated 6 feet long; El Valle-Utría trail.
Green Anole (*Anolis* sp.), several, some were green, others brown or striped
Poison dart frog, *Phyllobates* sp., one photographed by several people above the El Almejal Hotel (gold and black reticulated pattern)
Various other small dark frogs, including one or two leaf-mimic frogs (small)

**FISH:**
Pufferfish sp. we saw one during low tide in the shallow pools and drainage channels within the mangroves at PN Utría; brownish with concentric buffy
rings, the smallest encircling the dorsal fin area, then each succeeding ring larger and wrapping around the body front to back

Needlefish, PN Utría
Unidentified school of slender-shaped fish (somewhat like small streamlined gar) in Río Turco creek near El Cantil
Also, we ate quite a variety of fish including for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and prepared in a multitude of ways. Oddest was the presumed Sea Bass (with rather long narrow head?)

**TREES:** (a few)
*Poutria* sp. (Sapotaceae) the tree near upper cabin at El Cantil that had large almost avocado-sized fruits and really large long leaves
*Balsa, Ochroma pyramidale*
*Cecropia* sp.
*Ceiba pentandra* Kapok or Silk-cotton tree (very large)
*Miconia* spp. *Melastomataceae*; tiny berries attractive to tanagers and manakins
*Ficus* sp. *Moraceae*
*Piper* spp. many kinds, *Piperaceae*. Mostly shrubs; small white candle-like upstanding flowering spikes
Monkey comb, *Apeiba tibourbou* sp., *Malvaceae*, I some of the fruits of this tree on forest floor along trail above the El Almejal hotel. They look like rather flattened round black brushes
*Calliandra* sp. *Fabaceae* (Mimosoideae). Pink shaving-brush flowers of trees at end of the long bridge south of El Valle (where we started our walk the first morning); very attractive to hummingbirds.
*Bauhinia* sp., *Fabaceae* (Caesalpinioideae), at midday restaurant in Medellin

Figure 10. El Cantil Lodge, Nuquí, Chocó. Photo S. Hilty 2019.