

EASTERN ANDES & MID-MAGDALENA'S VALLEY

3rd March – 8th March 2018



Sword-billed Hummingbird (*Ensifera ensifera*) is characterized by its unusually long bill size; it is the only bird to have a beak longer than the length of its body. As all the pictures in this report, this picture was taken during this trip, in the Hummingbird Observatory Reserve - Bogotá.

Nature Colombia Tour Leader: Roger Rodriguez Ardila

Colombia is famed for its extraordinary diversity of birds. Thanks to its wide variety of landscapes and climates, Colombia is a megadiverse country with some of the highest biodiversity on the planet. Regardless of size, Colombia holds almost 20% of all birds in the planet (1,944 species, with new species still being discovered).

Robert Holt, Lynne and I traveled together for 5 days, visiting some birding sites in the Eastern Andes and the Mid-Magdalena's Valley looking for some endemic and special birds of these areas. In overall the trip was fast paced, designed to visit as much birding sites as we could of these two very different kind of environments. That also forced us to be in the car for long hours most of the days. We recorded 235 species (47 families), including 11 endemic bird species and 7 near-endemics. This was in spite of the complicated conditions mentioned before.

Day	Date	Morning	Afternoon	Overnight
1	03/03/18	Chingaza National Park	Hummingbirds Observatory	Blue Suites Hotel - Bogotá
2	04/03/18	La Florida Park and El Tabacal Lagoon	Enchanted Garden and transfer to Rio Claro	Rio Claro Reserve
3	05/03/18	Full day birding at Rio Claro Reserve		Rio Claro Reserve
4	06/03/18	Rio Claro Reserve	El Paujil Reserve	El Paujil Reserve
5	07/03/18	El Paujil Reserve	Transfer to Bogotá	Blue Suites Hotel - Bogotá

TOUR SUMMARY:

Day 1. Chingaza National Park and Hummingbirds Observatory.

We left the hotel at 0430 to be in the Chingaza National Park as soon as we could (1.5 hours far from the Hotel). We went straight for the highest elevations, to the Paramo of the park, our first bird of the day there was the White-chinned Thistletail, followed by Buff-breasted Mountain-tanager, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Paramo Seedeater, and the near-endemics **Rufous-browed Conebill** and **Bronze-tailed Thornbill**. We also got a brief look of the uncommon Crowned Chat-tyrant.

We followed the road searching for the endemic **Brown-breasted Parakeet**, while looking for it we saw Andean Pygmy-Owl, Black-crested Warbler, Black-capped and Oleaginous Hemispingus, among other commoner species. At the end, we didn't see the Parakeet, so we start the way back and did another stops on the way. One of those stops was to try the endemic **Silvery-throated Spinetail**, which we heard as soon we jump out the car and saw quite easily. We also heard Pale-bellied Tapaculo and Tawny Antpitta.

We had time for the last mix flock in Chingaza before go to have Lunch, that one was composed by Scarlet-bellied Mountain-tanager, Black and Masked Flowerpiercers, Pale-naped Brushfinch, Golden-fronted Redstart and Andean Siskin and other ones.

After lunch, we head to a very nice place located in “La Calera” a in between Chingaza National Park and Bogotá. This place is known as “Hummingbirds Observatory” have a nice setup of feeders that facilitate the viewing and the photography of some good species as the near-endemic **Blue-throated Starfrontlet**, Green-tailed Trainbearer (Picture right), Black-tailed Trainbearer, Tyrian Metaltail, Glowing puffleg, Sword-billed Hummingbird (Picture in the first page), Great Sapphirewing and White-bellied Woodstar.



While we were leaving the Hummingbirds Observatory we managed to an Eastern Meadowlark from the car.

Day 2. La Florida Park, El Tabacal Lagoon and the Enchanted Garden.

We started again early in the morning to go to La Florida Park, a wetland area located in the northwestern part of Bogotá at 2600 meters above sea level. Although it has been heavily impacted by development, the area still contains small remaining natural areas which are an excellent place to find the secretive and endemic **Bogota Rail**. We had the endemic **Apolinar's Wren** in the same marshes where we heard the Also endemic Bogota Rail, plus Ruddy Duck,

Least Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night-heron, Purple Gallinule, American Coot, Southern Lapwing, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Wattle Jacana and Yellow-hooded Blackbird among others.

Afterwards, we went to El Tabacal Lagoon, where we saw the endemic **Velvet-fronted Euphonia** and the near-endemic **Bar-crested Antshrike**, beside Barred Antshrike, Blue-lored Antbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rufous-naped Greenlet and Scrub Greenlet. Also some good new tanager as Gray-headed, Crimson-backed, Blue-gray and Blue-necked. In the Lagoon we had Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Neotropic Cormorant, Striated Heron and others.

We postponed our lunch for a bit to visit another incredible site with hummingbird feeders, the place is called "Enchanted Garden" located northwest of Bogotá. They have placed 35 hummingbird feeders, the activity there is incomparable and the number of individuals is incredible. Our main target there, the endemic **Indigo-capped Hummingbird** (Picture below) happens to be one of the most common ones, also we had the amazing Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Gorgeted Woodstar, White-necked Jacobin, , Black-throated Mango, White-vented Plumeleteer and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird.

Finally, after lunch we started our way to Rio Claro Reserve, we only did one stop along the road where we saw Cicoi heron, Great-blue Heron, Crested caracara, Yellow-crowned Parrot among others.



Day 3. Full day birding at Rio Claro Reserve

Rio Claro is one of the most notable birding hotspots in Colombia. Thanks to its interesting geography and geographical history. In its tropical rain forests the vegetation and the fauna are adapted to a very unique ecosystem niche, characterized by limestone and marble soil, and rich in calcium and other minerals. The high degree of biological endemism is due precisely to the uniqueness of these ecosystems.



We spent a full day in Rio Claro looking for the endemic and some specialties. We started in the early morning trying to find owls while it was dark still, we didn't have any owl but we had an odd and mysterious **Oilbird** instead! Roosting in a branch in front of our cabins. We were supposed to look for them at night that same day in the cave where they usually roost, but clearly this was not necessary.

We birded along the main road and explored two trails. This resulted an exciting day with lots of birds. We added to our list new species that were very common there as Dusky-faced Tanager and Chestnut-backed Antbird. Plus some really good looks of the endemics **White-mantled Barbet** (Picture below), **Sooty Ant-Tanager**, **Magdalena Antbird** (Picture above) and **Antioquia Bristle-Tyrant**. Other highlights included: Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Greater Ani, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Black-throated Trogon, Rufous Motmot, Collared Aracari, Yellow-throated Toucan, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Black-crowned Antshrike, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, Long-tailed Tyrant, Tawny-crested Tanager and Orange-billed Sparrow.



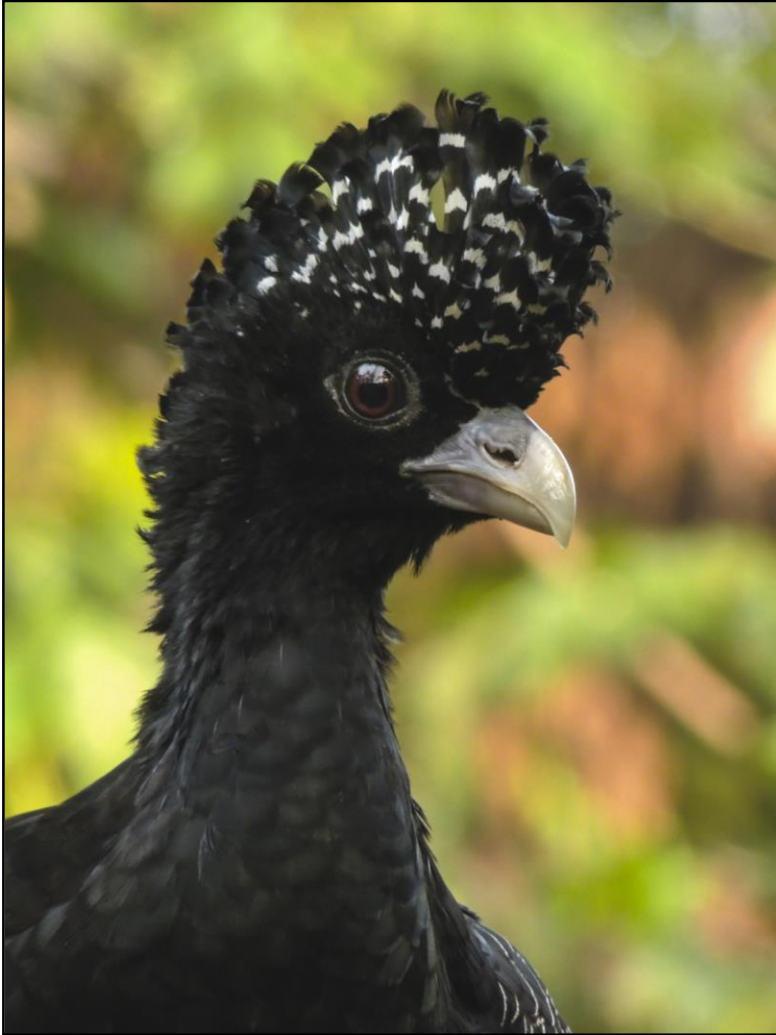
Day 4. Rio Claro Reserve and El Paujil Reserve.

We went out again in Rio Claro for the last two hours before head to El Paujil Reserve, our main target this last two hours was the endemic **Beautiful Woodpecker**. We saw some other good birds but we missed the woodpecker, although we still had our last chance in the next reserve.

One of the better-known birding destinations in the Mid-Magdalena Valley is El Paujil. This protected area is located in the Sierra de las Quinchas (150 to 1.200 m.s.n.m.), in the departments of Boyacá and Santander, more precisely, between the towns of Puerto Boyacá, Bolívar and Scimitara respectively. The reserve is named after the enigmatic and endemic Blue-billed Curassow (El Paujil), which we saw as soon as we arrived to the reserve.

Before arrive to the reserve we made a couple stops on the way. In those stops we saw the near-endemic **Northern Screamer** right from the car, and when we pull over to see it better, we saw other nice species: Pale-legged Hornero, Pied Water-Tyrant, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, and Long-tailed Tyrant, among others.

Once in the reserve, the first bird that we saw was the endemic and critically endangered **Blue-billed Curassow** (Picture below) followed by the near-endemic **Black-billed Flycatcher**. After lunch we went out mainly to look for the endemic **beautiful Woodpecker** (that we missed in Rio



Claro) and the Striped Manakin. First, we went to an observation tower, where we finally had the endemic woodpecker, plus White-necked Jacobin, Black-throated Mango, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Barred Puffbird (heard), Golden-hooded Tanager, Masked Tityra, Yellow Oriole and a Black Hawk-Eagle soaring around. Afterwards we head to a little stream that were almost dry for that season to look for the Manakin, we heard them, but because of the vegetation, they were really hard to spot and only had a couple of brief looks at it. Heading back to the reserve, we stopped in a little lagoon where we saw Wattle Jacana and the Russet-crowned Crake. While we were there we also saw a couple of Blue-and-yellow Macaw flying, Buff-rumped Warbler, and Cocoa Woodcreeper among others.

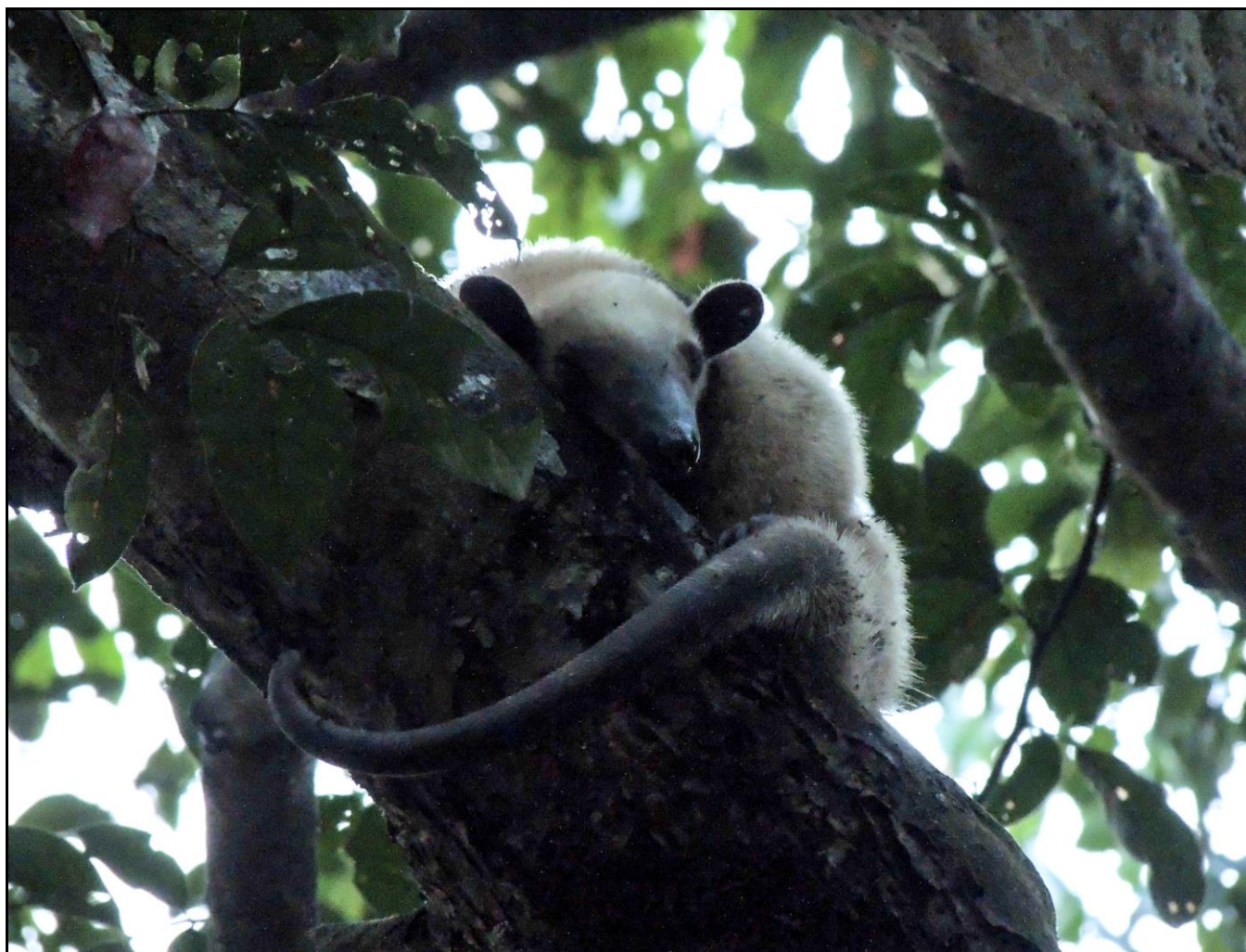
Day 5. El Paujil Reserve and transfer to Bogotá

We spent our last morning in El Paujil Reserve. It was a very productive morning. We started in the main road beyond the reserve's gate and walked the way back to the lodge. The highlights of this last morning were the endemic **Colombian Chachalaca**, an spectacular show of a couple of the fairly uncommon White-fronted Nunbird, the near-endemic **Southern Bentbill**, Little Tinamou (heard), Marbled Wood-Quail (heard), King Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, White-tailed Trogon (**Picture right**), Broad-billed Motmot, Collared Aracari, Red-lored, Yellow-crowned and Mealy Parrots, Plain Xenops and White-bearded Manakin.



SPECIES LIST

Mammals:



**Silvery-brown Bare-face
Tamarin -**

Saguinus leucopus

Rio Claro Reserve

Red Howler Monkey

Alouatta seniculus

Rio Claro Reserve and El
Paujil Reserve

Red-tailed Squirrel

Sciurus granatensis

Rio Claro Reserve and
Enchanted Garden

**Northern tamandua (Picture
above)**

Tamandua mexicana

El Paujil Reserve

White-fronted capuchin

Cebus albifrons

El Paujil Reserve

Birds:

● Endemic species

● Near-endemic species

COMMON NAMES	SCIENTIFIC NAMES
Tinamous	Tinamidae
Little Tinamou	Crypturellus soui
Anhimidae	Screamer
Northern Screamer	Chauna chavaria
Ducks & Teals	Anatidae
Blue-winged teal	Spatula discors
Masked duck	Nomonyx dominicus
Black-bellied Whistling-duck	Dendrocygna autumnalis
Ruddy Duck	Oxyura jamaicensis
Guans & Currasows	Cracidae
Colombian Chachalaca	Ortalis columbiana
Blue-billed Currasow	Crax alberti
New world Quail	Odonthophoridae
Marbled Wood-Quail	Odontophorus gujanensis
Grebes	Podicipedidae
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps
Least Grebe	Tachybaptus dominicus
Cormorants	Phalacrocoracidae
Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus
Hérons and alies	Ardeidae
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	Tigrisoma flineatum
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis
Striated Heron	Butorides striata
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias
Cocoi Heron	Ardea Cocoi
Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea
Snowy Egret	Egretta thula
Ibis	Threskiornithinae
Bare-faced Ibis	Phimosus infuscatus
Vultures	Cathartidae
Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura
King Vulture	Sarcoramphus papa
Kites, Hawks and Eagles	Accipitridae
Swallow-tailed Kite	Elanoides forficatus

Black Hawk-Eagle

Savanna Hawk

Roadside Hawk

Crakes, Rails and Gallinules

Bogota Rail

Gray-necked Wood-rail

Russet-crowned Crake

Purple Gallinule

American Coot

Plovers & lapwings

Southern Lapwing

Snipes, Sandpipers and allies

Spotted Sandpiper

Greater Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs

Jacana

Wattled Jacana

Terns

Large-billed Tern

Doves & Pigeons

Pale-vented Pigeon

Common Ground-Dove

Rock Pigeon

Ruddy Ground-Dove

White-tipped Dove

Eared Dove

Cuckoos and allies

Greater Ani

Smooth-billed Ani

Groove-billed Ani

Striped Cuckoo

Owls

Spectacled Owl

Andean Pygmy-owl

Nightjars and allies

Common Pauraque

Band-winged Nightjar

Oilbird

Oilbird

Swifts

White-collared Swift

Gray-rumped Swift

Hummingbirds

Spizaetus tyrannus

Buteogallus meridionalis

Rupornis magnirostris

Rallidae

Rallus semiplumbeus

Aramidea cajanea

Anurolimnas viridis

Porphyrio martinica

Fulica americana

Charadriidae

Vanellus chilensis

Scolopacidae

Actitis macularius

Tringa melanoleuca

Tringa falpupes

Jacanidae

Jacana jacana

Laridae

Phaetusa simplex

Columbidae

Patagioenas cayennensis

Columbina passerina

Columba livia

Columbina talpacoti

Leptotila verreauxi

Zenaida auriculata

Cuculidae

Crotophaga major

Crotophaga ani

Crotophaga sulcirostris

Tapera naevia

Strigidae

Pulsatrix perspicillata

Glaucidium jardinii

Caprimulgidae

Nyctidromus albicollis

Caprimulgus longirostris

Steatornithidae

Steatornis caripensis

Apodidae

Streptoprocne zonaris

Chaetura cinereiventris

Trochilidae

White-necked Jacobin	Florisuga mellivora
Band-tailed Barbthroat	Threnetes ruckeri
Tawny-bellied Hermit	Phaethornis syrmatophorus
Green Hermit	Phaethornis guy
Long-billed Hermit	Phaethornis longirostris
Pale-bellied Hermit	Phaethornis anthophilus
Sparkling Violetear	Colibri coruscans
Indigo-capped Hummingbird	Amazilia cyanifrons
Ruby-topaz Hummingbird	Chrysolampis mosquitos
Black-throated Mango	Anthracothonax nigricollis
Amethyst-throated sunangel	Heliangelus amethysticollis
Black-tailed trainbearer	Lesbia victoriae
Green-tailed Trainbearer	Lesbia nuna
Bronze-tailed Thornbill	Chalcostigma heteropogon
Tyrian Metaltail	Metallura tyrianthina
Glowing Puffleg	Eriocnemis vestita
Shining Sunbeam	Aglaeactis cupripennis
Blue-throated Starfrontlet	Coeligena helianthea
Sword-billed hummingbird	Ensifera ensifera
Great Sapphirewing	Pterophanes cyanopterus
White-bellied Woodstar	Chaetocercus mulsant
Crowned Woodnymph	Thalurania colombica
White-vented Plumeleteer	Chalybura buffonii
Blue-chested Hummingbird	Amazilia amabilis
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	Amazilia tzacatl
Trogon	Trogonidae
Black-tailed Trogon	Trogon melanurus
White-tailed Trogon	Trogon chionurus
Black-throated Trogon	Trogon rufus
Motmots	Momotidae
Rufous Motmot	Baryphthengus martii
Broad-billed Motmot	Electron platyrhynchum
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae
Green Kingfisher	Chloroceryle americana
Jacamar & Puffbirds	Galbulidae
Barred Puffbird	Nystalus radiatus
White-fronted Nunbird	Monasa morphoeus
Barbets	Capitonidae
White-mantled Barbet	Capito hypoleucus
Toucans and allies	Ramphastidae
Collared Aracari	Pteroglossus torquatus
Yellow-throated Toucan	Ramphastos ambiguus
Keel-billed Toucan	Ramphastos sulfuratus

Channel-billed Toucan

Woodpeckers and allies

Beautiful Woodpecker

Red-crowned Woodpecker

Cinnamon Woodpecker

Crimson-crested Woodpecker

Falcons & Caracaras

Crested Caracara

Yellow-headed Caracara

Laughing Falcon

American Kestrel

Parrots, parakeets and Macaws

Orange-chinned Parakeet

Blue-headed Parrot

Red-lored Parrot

Speckle-faced Parrot

Yellow-crowned Parrot

Mealy Parrot

Spectacled Parrotlet

Blue-and-yellow Macaw

Antshrikes, Antbirds and allies

Barred Antshrike

Bar-crested Antshrike

Black-crowned Antshrike

Checker-throated Antwren

White-flanked Antwren

Chestnut-backed Antbird

Magdalena Antbird

Blue-lored Antbird

Bicolored Antbird

Woodcreepers and allies

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper

Cocoa Woodcreeper

Straight-billed Woodcreeper

Streak-headed Woodcreeper

Plain Xenops

Pale-legged Hornero

Silvery-throated Spinetail

Pale-breasted Spinetail

Flycatchers and allies

Brown-capped Tyrannulet

Yellow-bellied Elaenia

Mountain Elaenia

Ramphastos vitellinus

Picidae

Melanerpes pulcher

Melanerpes rubricapillus

Celeus loricatus

Campephilus melanoleucos

Falconidae

Caracara cheriway

Milvago chimachima

Herpetotheres cachinnans

Falco sparverius

Psittacidae

Brotoyeris jugularis

Pionus menstruus

Amazona autumnalis

Pionus tumultuosus

Amazona ochrocephala

Amazona farinosa

Forpus conspicillatus

Ara ararauna

Thamnophilidae

Thamnophilus doliatus

Thamnophilus multistriatus

Thamnophilus atrinucha

Epinecrophyllos fulviventris

Myrmotherula axillaris

Poliocrania exsul

Sipia palliata

Hafferia immaculata

Gymnopathys bicolor

Furnariidae

Glyphorhynchus spirurus

Xiphorhynchus susurrans

Dendroplex picus

Lepidocolaptes souleyetii

Xenops minutus

Furnarius leucopus

Synallaxis subpudica

Synallaxis albescens

Tyrannidae

Ornithion brunneicapillus

Elaenia flavogaster

Elaenia frantzii

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher

Antioquia Bristle-Tyrant

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet

Golden-faced Tyrannulet

Streak-necked Tyrannulet

Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant

Southern Bentbill

Common Tody-Flycatcher

Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher

Olivaceous Flatbill

Yellow-olive Flycatcher

Black-billed Flycatcher

Black Phoebe

Vermilion Flycatcher

Long-tailed Tyrant

Bright-rumped Attila

Brown-crested Flycatcher

Great Kiskadee

Boat-billed Flycatcher

Rusty-margined Flycatcher

Social Flycatcher

Streaked Flycatcher

Piratic Flycatcher

Tropical Kingbird

Manakin

White-bearded Manakin

Striped Manakin

Golden-headed Manakin

Tityras and allies

Masked Tityra

Cinnamon Becard

One-colored Becard

Vireos and allies

Rufous-naped Greenlet

Scrub Greenlet

Jays

Black-collared Jay

Black-chested Jay

Swallows

Blue-and-white Swallow

Brown-bellied Swallow

Southern Rough-winged Swallow

Wrens

Mionectes oleagineus

Phylloscartes lanyoni

Phyllomyias griseiceps

Zimmerius chrysops

Mionectes striaticolis

Myiornis atricapillus

Oncostoma olivaceum

Todirostrum cinereum

Poecilotriccus sylvia

Rhynchocyclus olivaceus

Tolmomyias sulphurescens

Aphanotriccus audax

Sayornis nigricans

Pyrocephalus rubinus

Colonia colonus

Attila spadiceus

Myiarchus tyrannulus

Pitangus sulphuratus

Megarynchus pitangua

Myiozetetes cayanensis

Myiozetetes similis

Myiodynastes maculatus

Legatus leucophaeus

Tyrannus melancholicus

Pipridae

Manacus manacus

Machaeropterus regulus

Pipra erythrocephala

Tityridae

Tityra semifasciata

Pachyramphus cinnamomeus

Pachyramphus homochrous

Vireonidae

Hylophilus semibrunneus

Hylophilus flavipes

Corvidae

Cyanolyca armillata

Cyanocorax affinis

Hirundinidae

Notiochelidon cyanoleuca

Notiochelidon murina

Stelgidopteryx ruficollis

Troglodytidae

Apolinar's Wren

Scaly-breasted Wren

House Wren

Band-backed Wren

Black-bellied Wren

Bay Wren

Gnatcatchers and allies

Long-billed Gnatwren

Thrushes

Swainson's Thrush

Pale-breasted Thrush

Black-billed Thrush

Great Thrush

Mockingbird

Tropical Mockingbird

Rosy Thrush-Tanager

Rosy Thrush-Tanager

Warblers and allies

Northern Waterthrush

Bay-breasted Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Rufous-capped Warbler

Buff-rumped Warbler

Black-crested Warbler

Golden-fronted Redstart

Canada Warbler

Tanagers and allies

Black-capped Hemispingus

Oleaginous Hemispingus

Gray-headed Tanager

Tawny-crested Tanager

Crimson-backed Tanager

Blue-gray Tanager

Palm Tanager

Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager

Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager

Golden-hooded Tanager

Blue-necked Tanager

Plain-colored Tanager

Bay-headed Tanager

Green Honeycreeper

Cistothorus apolinari

Microcerculus marginatus

Troglodytes aedon

Campylorhynchus zonatus

Pheugopedius fasciatoventris

Cantorchilus nigricapillus

Poliopitidae

Ramphocaenus melanurus

Turdidae

Catharus ustulatus

Turdus leucomelas

Turdus ignobilis

Turdus fuscater

Mimidae

Mimus gilvus

Rhodinocichlidae

Rhodinocichla rosea

Parulidae

Parkesia noveboracensis

Setophaga castanea

Setophaga fusca

Dendroica striata

Setophaga petechia

Basileuterus rufifrons

Myiothlypis fulvicauda

Myiothlypis nigrocristata

Myioborus ornatus

ardellina canadensis

Thraupidae

Hemispingus atropileus

Hemispingus frontalis

Eucometis penicillata

Tachyphonus delatrii

Ramphocelus dimidiatus

Thraupis episcopus

Thraupis palmarum

Anisognathus igniventris

Dubusia taeniata

Tangara larvata

Tangara cyanicollis

Tangara inornata

Tangara gyrola

Chlorophanes spiza

Rufous-browed Conebill

Black Flowerpiercer
 Masked Flowerpiercer
 Saffron Finch
 Ruddy-breasted Seedeater
 Yellow-bellied Seedeater
 Bananaquit
 Buff-throated Saltator
 Streaked Saltator
 Rufous-collared Sparrow
 Plumbeous Sierra-Finch
 Paramo Seedeater
 Pale-naped Brush-finch
 Orange-billed Sparrow
 Dusky-faced Tanager

Cardinals, Grosbeaks and allies**Sooty Ant-Tanager**

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Oropendolas and allies

Chestnut-headed Oropendola
 Yellow Oriole
 Shiny Cowbird
 Yellow-hooded Blackbird
 Red-breasted Meadowlark
 Eastern Meadowlark

Siskins, Euphonias and allies

Andean Siskin
 Velvet-fronted Euphonia
 Thick-billed Euphonia
 Fulvous-vented Euphonia

Conirostrum rufum

Diglossa humeralis
 Diglossa cyanea
 Sicalis flaveola
 Sporophila minuta
 Sporophila nigricollis
 Coereba flaveola
 Saltator maximus
 Saltator striatipectus
 Zonotrichia capensis
 Phrygilus unicolor
 Catamenia homochroa
 Atlapetes pallidinucha
 Arremon aurantirostris
 Mitrospingus cassinii

Cardinalidae**Habia gutturalis**

Pheucticus ludovicianus

Icteridae

Psarocolius wagleri
 Icterus nigrogularis
 Molothrus bonariensis
 Chrysomus icterocephalus
 Sturnella militaris
 Sturnella magna

Fringillidae

Carduelis spinescens
 Euphonia concinna
 Euphonia lanirostris
 Euphonia fulvicrissa