

Trip Report: Colombia, November 2008

After several years of hoping to visit Colombia, we finally found an opportunity to arrange a two week trip towards the end of the 2008 rainy-season. In making our short-notice preparations we were impressed by the responsiveness of the guides we contacted and within a few days we had a schedule in place: the weekends enjoying Bogotá with friends Carolina and Miguel and their family; David birding in the vicinity of Bogotá (Eastern Andes and Magdalena Valley) with Diego Calderón-Franco (www.colombiabirding.com) for four days during the first week and Emma training at Carolina's boot camp during this period; and finally both of us travelling to Santa Marta for 5 days of hiking and birding in the coastal mountains with guide Walberto (Waly) Naranjo (www.dunanzhe.com).



Tody Motmot (La Victoria)

In short, we loved Colombia! Bogotá, on a high savannah at 2600m and surrounded by higher hills, has an attractive colonial central district, great museums, excellent shopping and restaurants, plus safe, door step access to activities such as hiking and road biking (literally from the front of Carolina and Miguel's apartment!); and it was not nearly as cold in Bogotá as I had feared (daily maximums were in the 15-18 °C range). Our birding experiences were also fantastic (just as anticipated in a country with over 1850 species and 70+ endemics), with Diego and Waly proving to be both professional and good company, making the trip highly enjoyable as well as successful. Habitat visited included wonderful páramo and mid to high altitude forest containing an interesting mix of species that nicely complements species we are familiar with from Venezuela. Given the profound improvements in the security situation across much of the country and the recent proliferation of reserves, lodging and guiding alternatives, our impression is that Colombia is well and truly 'open for business' as a birding destination and is deservedly set for a considerable expansion in tourism. We certainly look forward to being back in the near future! My only caveat would be that the geographical complexity of three separate Andean ranges which has directly contributed to Colombia's biodiversity endowment means that travel can be challenging and time-consuming (with Diego, for example, I travelled some 1200 km between sites over a cumulative total of about 24 hours driving, making for an average speed of only 50km/h). My advice would be to accept that travel times between sites or regions will inevitably be a not insignificant component of any Colombian trip and accordingly plan for relaxed afternoon - rather than evening - travel, thereby avoiding undue stress (for you and your guide) resulting from a too ambitious trip schedule. Also note that Colombian guides generally use the Latin names for birds (not Spanish ones, since the same bird often has different names in different parts of the country) so this provides a good incentive to pre-invest in learning as many family and species names as possible!



Botero Museum (Bogotá); Cycling in countryside near to Bogotá



Underground Salt Mine Cathedral (Zipaquirá, near to Bogotá); Downtown Colonial District (Bogotá)



Colourful Moss (Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta); Flowering Bush (PNN Chingaza)

My first birding with Diego was a day trip to the high altitude, tree-line forest and páramo near to the Parque Nacional Natural (PNN) Chingaza at an altitude of some 3200 - 3500m, about 1 hours drive from Bogotá. This area in the Eastern Andes contains several species that are also found in the Venezuelan border areas of Táchira State and the Perijá mountains of Zulia State. Having never visited those parts of Venezuela I was keen to see these regional endemics and very quickly we had good views of specialties such as Rufous-browed Conebill, Golden-fronted Redstart (both quite common) and a male Glowing Puffleg. Flowerpiercers were common-place (Glossy, Black and Masked) and one memorable mixed flock included attractive Black-chested Mountain-Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, plus Black-headed and Superciliaried Hemispingus, whilst a confiding Crowned Chat-Tyrant was a nice surprise amongst the more common Brown-backed Chat-Tyrants. After failing to entice various tapaculos and antpittas into view we finally got lucky with close-up views of a Rufous Antpitta calling from a tangled thicket.



Black-chested Mountain-Tanager (PNN Chingaza); Black-headed Hemispingus (PNN Chingaza)



Rufous-browed Conebill (PNN Chingaza); Silvery-throated Spinetail (Parque La Florida, Bogotá)

Next morning Diego and I spent the dawn hours at Parque La Florida, near to Bogotá airport, searching for the three endemics commonly found there. We secured fleeting views through the morning mist of several Bogotá Rails - my first Colombian endemic - as they scurried between the reeds and excellent views of a pair of Silvery-throated Spinetails (the Apolinar's Wrens appeared to be far too out into the reed beds to respond to playback) before heading off on a four hour drive to La Victoria on the far, western side of the Magdalena Valley. Above this small town lies a ridge of primary forest at between 850 and 1150m altitude, bisected by a

quiet road and several trails. In the couple of remaining hours of daylight we added one new endemic (Yellow-tufted Dacnis) and one of the birds of the trip - a Tody Motmot - that responded vigorously to play-back and then sat quietly next to a Swainson's Thrush. One as yet unresolved mystery bird was a piculet with a red-spotted crown and brownish breast encountered in a tree in open farmland below the ridge. On our return to the ridge at dawn we had a very productive morning, despite the ever present threat of drizzle. Striped Manakins put on a great show, a family group of endemic Beautiful Woodpeckers (a recent split from Golden-naped Woodpecker) entertained us, and an endemic Velvet-fronted Euphonia called from - and was eventually located - high in the trail-side trees. Our pre-breakfast birding concluded in great style when a White-bibbed Manakin flew in, sat motionless for a minute and then disappeared just as quickly as it arrived (a lifer for Diego also), followed by several minutes admiring and photographing a very cooperative Tody Motmot as it perched just above eye level in a tree only a couple of meters in front of us!



Striped Manakin (La Victoria); White-bibbed Manakin (La Victoria);



Forested ridge above La Victoria town square; Páramo en route to Soatá

Highlights of the remainder of our morning's birding included finally tracking down endemic Sooty Ant-Tanagers (after hearing them calling regularly we had repeatedly struggled to actually see any until they finally arrived in large groups!), a strikingly coloured Orange-billed Sparrow and Buff-rumped Warblers foraging through the leaf-litter and under-story. Clearly La Victoria would justify more time birding - maybe two nights giving two full mornings? - but with a seven hour drive ahead of us on our way to Rogitama via Bogotá we reluctantly had to leave, grab lunch (2 large roast chicken meals for about US\$6 at the best restaurant in town), check out of the hotel (2 simple but clean rooms for a total of about US\$12) and head off in a steady rain that continued all afternoon and evening.



Dawn view across Magdalena Valley from La Victoria ridge

Reserva Natural Rogitama is a small country farm located at 2500m altitude in the Eastern Andes, complete with cows, ducks, chickens and a garden full of flowering trees and bushes that attract a wide variety of hummingbirds and masses of White-sided Flowerpiercers. It also offers simple but clean accommodation and a great breakfast with coarse-grained maize *arepas* accompanying a hearty plate of eggs (from the farm), *café con leche* (with milk from the farm) and *mora* juice (with blackberries from the surrounding fields). We spent the morning waiting impatiently for the star visitor - the endemic Black Inca - to make an appearance and although Short-tailed Emeralds, Tyrian Metaltails, Green and Sparking Violetears, Lazuline Sabrewings and White-bellied Woodstars were in relative abundance feeding from the bushes, the Inca was more elusive. Although eventually well seen, it never really presented the desired photographic opportunity in good light.

A three hour drive across high altitude terrain on winding country roads took us to Soatá, a small town perched at 2000m altitude on the mid-slope of a deep valley. The outskirts of the town are one of the most reliable locations for three endemics - Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird, Apical Flycatcher and Niceforo's Wren - plus Indigo-capped Hummingbird, a potential endemic split. Unfortunately our late-afternoon arrival in town coincided with steady rainfall and once we had walked to the area where the hummingbirds are regularly found, we discovered that the trees were no longer in bloom. Having almost given up on finding ANY birds we stumbled across a field where several trees' flowers were in the very early stages of opening and hummingbirds - including the Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird and one Indigo-capped Hummingbird - were fiercely defending the few flowers available. An added bonus was an endemic Apical flycatcher, with its light tail tips, working the field edge. The following day, during a brief return visit in sunny conditions, the same birds were seen in this area, plus a pair of near-endemic Bar-crested Antshrikes, the female being strikingly distinct from the more common Barred Antshrike.

Diego and I spent our final morning birding Alto de Onzaga, a wonderful *roble* (oak) forest located immediately above Soatá at between 2800 and 3050m altitude. This forest is home to the endemic Mountain Grackle and we were treated to wonderful views of their discrete chestnut wing-tufts as a large flock of 20+ individuals moved noisily up the valley and then fed in the trees close to our vantage point. Our excellent morning continued with Red-crested Cotinga, a glamorous male Longuemare's Sunangel and several mixed flocks full of woodcreepers, woodpeckers and tanagers - including stunning Red-hooded Tanagers that perched up in the trees to give us a wonderful view of this uncommon bright red, yellow and green species. Not bad for the final new bird on this short but highly productive trip with Diego! Of the sites we visited together my favourites were the Alto de Onzaga *roble* forest above Soatá and the forested ridge above La Victoria, both of which offer access to interesting endemics in a spectacular setting.



Black Inca (Rogitama); Butterfly (Soatá)

After spending the weekend in Bogotá, including an 82km (fortunately flat!) bike ride, a visit to the amazing underground cathedral built into the various chambers of the Zipaquirá salt mine and an enjoyable dinner in Chia hosted by friends of Carolina and Miguel, we flew to the historic coastal town of Santa Marta. Waly then drove us 38km up the very, very rough road along the Cuchilla de San Lorenzo, a ridge in the foothills of the 5700m high Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta – the world's highest coastal range. This road absolutely requires a high clearance 4WD - and even our tough Landcruiser needed a tow to help us across a couple of old landslides we encountered on the way-up, with the climb taking over 4 hours to complete! Not for the last time we were grateful for Waly's good humour and local knowledge as we climbed up the mountain.

Our plan was to spend two days hiking this road in search of the multiple high-elevation endemics found on this isolated mountain whilst based out of the San Lorenzo ranger station (at ca. 2100m altitude), then travel to lower altitudes in search of other species. Unfortunately, our first day started with drizzle and after reaching the top of the ridge at ca. 2500m altitude we had only seen a few of the key endemic species (Yellow-crowned Redstart [very common], Santa Marta Brush-Finch [very common], Rusty-headed Spinetail [common], Santa Marta Mountain-Tanager [less common] and Santa Marta Warbler [only one seen]) before the rain became so intense that we were forced to retreat, saturated, back down to the ranger station. To our dismay both lenses of Emma's binoculars and one of mine became fogged up with water (despite being waterproof and N2 purged), so we were left with my camera, a 'monocular' and Waly's binoculars between the three of us. Given the persistent rain, we resorted to short-distance birding through the lodge's open windows (and actually managed to see four endemic species that way!) whilst attempting to dry our clothes in front of a log fire, before a brief period of late afternoon respite from the rain allowed for a short walk down the road. However, most of the day was lost and worrying phone reports from Santa Marta indicated that the

heavy rains had caused considerable flooding at the base of the mountain, with roads accessing La Guajira, where we had planned to end our trip, closed by landslides and flooding.

On our second day, the weather was more cooperative (nothing more than intermittent drizzle!) and we spent the morning hiking up the road to ca. 2500m and then back down to the ranger station. In addition to the endemic species previously seen we added Santa Marta Emerald Toucanet [seen several times], Santa Marta Parakeet [heard occasionally and only seen flying], Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant [at upper elevations only], Santa Marta Tapaculo [heard frequently and seen once] and - just to break the nomenclature trend - a Brown-rumped Tapaculo [heard frequently and seen once]. Apart from the ubiquitous white-throated Tyrannulet, almost everything we saw was endemic! Mid-morning, Emma discovered another endemic hummingbird - the glamorous White-tailed Starfrontlet - that we were able to photograph in reasonable light, plus a male Tyrian Metaltail that we initially miss-identified (to our excitement) as an endemic and uncommon Black-backed Thornbill.



White-tailed Starfrontlet (Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta)



Tyrian Metaltail; Immature Mountain Velvetbreast (both Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta)

On the road we met another group of birders and their guides who were based in the ProAves lodge at their El Dorado reserve, some 5km down the road from the ranger station at ca. 1800m altitude. We all noted that

there had been zero traffic on the road that morning (usually there are a couple of vehicles taking supplies to the military base and communications towers at the top of the ridge) and speculated that maybe access to our road had also been affected by the heavy rains. This proved to be all too true, because as we made our way down the mountain road to our next planned hotel at the base of the mountain, a motorcyclist informed us that a huge landslide had blocked the only exit road and that it was unlikely to be opened 'for a day or two'! Since we had already descended some considerable distance but could not reach our planned hotel below the landslide, the ProAves staff was kind enough to invite us to stay at their very comfortable lodge and even provided the three of us with dinner and breakfast. Many thanks are due to Waly for arranging this and to ProAves for being so accommodating under these exceptional circumstances.



Yellow-crowned Redstart; Santa Marta Brush-Finch (both Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta)

Although we would no longer be able to visit La Guajira, the upside was a chance to enjoy the flock of 10+ Chlorophonias visiting the feeding table at the El Dorado lodge and an additional morning of birding at the mid-elevations of the San Lorenzo ridge. Within a few minutes of dawn we had seen White-tipped Quetzals, Masked Trogons and Golden-breasted Fruiteaters and as we descended down the mountain we added endemic Blossomcrown and White-lored Warbler, plus a responsive Rusty-breasted Antpitta. Santa Marta Antpittas continued their habit of taunting us without ever appearing into view, meaning that our list of Santa Marta endemics seen was stuck on unlucky 13.



Blue-naped Chlorophonia; Santa Marta Mountain-Tanager (both Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta)

On arrival at the landslide we saw how serious the situation was, further exacerbated when a second landslide and a huge tree fell across the road whilst we were waiting to find out if the first landslide could be cleared!

With the road apparently impassable for days, we carried our luggage across the landslide to a vehicle on the other side, whilst Waly made arrangements to leave his 4WD safely 'stranded' on the uphill side. Fortunately, everyone crossed the landslide safely and was able to make their way back down to Santa Marta.



View from San Lorenzo towards Caribbean (Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta); Minor landslide (near Minca)

Our final days of birding should have been in search of xerophytic specialities in La Guajira, but given the road conditions we instead returned with Waly to bird around Minca on the lower slopes of the Cuchilla de San Lorenzo. With Waly's Landcruiser still stuck up the mountain, we caught a pre-dawn taxi to Minca and spent the morning slowly walking up and down the quiet road to Pozo Azul that covers an altitude ranging from 600m to 750m. Although there are no endemics in this altitude range there are a lot of birds, several of which were new to us. Key targets were the Golden-winged Sparrow (which were seen regularly and well as they foraged in roadside vegetation) and Rosy Thrush-Tanager (which were heard calling several times but proved frustratingly difficult to see until a male was finally tracked down after a scramble up a steep slope). We had fun enticing Southern Nightingale Wrens, Rufous-and-white Wrens and Buff-breasted Wrens into view and admired Emma's first Blue-crowned Motmot, whilst one mixed flock that had been agitated by an Andean Pygmy-Owl provided some head-twisting excitement. Whilst the upper elevations of the Cuchilla de San Lorenzo provide the unique thrill of seeing a large number of very range restricted endemics, these lower elevations are certainly worth a morning's birding for those interested in plugging gaps in their neotropic list.



Rufous-and-white Wren (Minca); Golden-winged Sparrow (Minca)

The birding concluded with a personal total for the entire trip of some 247 confirmed species, including 61 “first time ever” species. Of these, 25 are Colombian endemics and several others are found only in Colombia plus Venezuelan border regions.



Orange-chinned Parakeet (Minca); Rufous-crowned Warbler (Minca); Pale-Eyed Pygmy Tyrant (Minca)

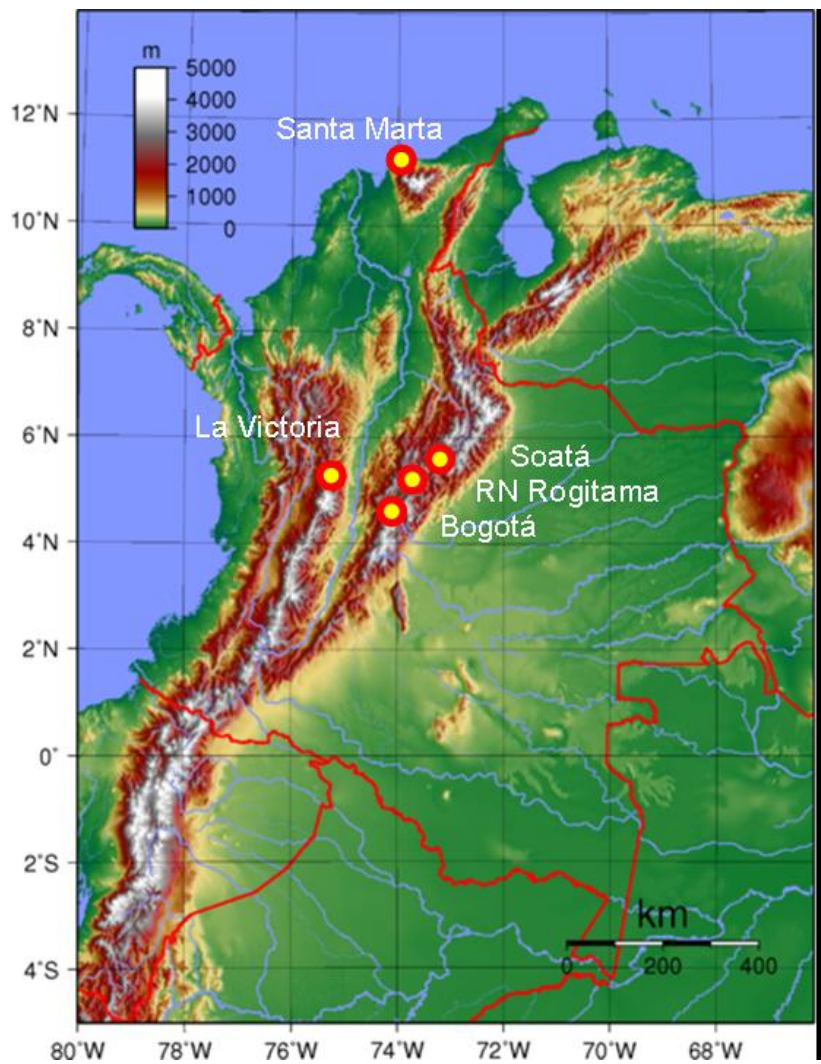


Blue-crowned Motmot (Minca); Collared Araçari (above Minca)

Rather exhausted, we spent our final afternoon relaxing in the beautifully restored, three room hotel Casa Santa Marta in the colonial heart of Santa Marta, before exploring the historical city centre and flying back the following day to Bogotá for a final dose of “boot camp” with Carolina and Miguel (this time involving cycling only 45km but with multiple, long hills!).



With Diego in Soatá; With Waly in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta



1. Trip Bird List^{1, 2}

(Confirmed personal sightings only for DJS – excludes birds heard only unless otherwise indicated; in order of appearance on the plates of Restall et al's Birds of Northern South America)

Locations where species seen: In order of travel: C= PNN Chingaza (ca. 3200-3500m alt.); B= Bogotá city & Parque La Florida (ca. 2600m alt.); V= Magdalena Valley & La Victoria (ca. 850-1140m alt.); R=Reserva Natural Rogitama (ca. 2500m alt.); S= Soatá town (ca. 2000m alt.); O= Oak forest at Alto de Onzaga above Soatá (ca. 2800-3050m alt); SM= Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (ca. 1600-2500m alt.); M=Minca (ca. 600-1000m) .

Little Tinamou (heard only) (V; M)

Blue-winged Teal (B)

Speckled (Colombian) Chachalaca **E** (heard only) (V)

Band-tailed Guan (SM)

Pied-billed Grebe (B)

Great Egret (B; M)

Cattle Egret (B)

Striated Heron (B)

Black Vulture (B; R; S; O; M)

Turkey Vulture (V; O)

Roadside Hawk (heard only) (C; V)

Broad-winged Hawk (C; B; SM) *

White-rumped Hawk (SM) *

Swainson's Hawk (B; SM)

Grey-lined (Gray) Hawk (M)

Bogotá Rail **E** (B)

American Coot (B)

Common Moorhen (heard only) (B)

Pale-vented Pigeon (V)

Band-tailed Pigeon (C; S; SM)

Eared Dove (B)

Ruddy Ground-Dove (V)

Blue Ground-Dove (heard only) (V)

White-tipped Dove (M)

Scarlet-fronted Parakeet (V)

Santa Marta Parakeet **E** (SM)

Orange-chinned Parakeet (V; M) *

Blue-headed Parrot (V)

Scaly-naped Parrot (SM)

Squirrel Cuckoo (V; SM; M)

Stripped Cuckoo (V; S) *

Smooth-billed Ani (V; S)

Andean Pygmy-Owl (M)

Chestnut-collared Swift (V)

White-tipped Swift (S)

Lazuline Sabrewing (R)

Green Violetear (C; B; R; O; SM)*

Sparkling Violetear (C; B; R; S; O)

Short-tailed Emerald (R; S)

Coppery Emerald (M)

Violet-crowned Woodnymph (SM) *

Indigo-capped Hummingbird (S) *

Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird **E** (S) *

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (V)

White-vented Plumeleteer (M) *

Speckled Hummingbird (R)

Blossomcrown **E** (SM)

Mountain Velvetbreast (SM) *

Collared-Inca (O)

Black Inca **E** (R) *

White-tailed Starfrontlet **E** (SM) *

Longuemare's Sunangel (O)

Glowing Puffleg (C)

Tyrian Metaltail (C; R; O; SM) *

White-bellied Woodstar (R) *

Booted Racket-tail (heard only) (R)

Gartered (Northern Violaceous) Trogon (M)

Masked Trogon (SM)

Collared Trogon (O)

White-tipped Quetzal (SM) *

Tody Motmot (V) *

Whooping (Blue-crowned) Motmot (M) *

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (M)

Emerald Toucanet (O)

Santa Marta Emerald Toucanet **E** (SM)

Yellow-billed Toucanet (SM) *

Black-billed Mountain-Toucan (heard only) (C)

Collared Araçari (V; SM) *

Citron-throated Toucan (heard only) (V)

Piculet sp. (V) *

Red-crowned Woodpecker (V; M)

Beautiful (Golden-naped) Woodpecker **E** (V) *

¹ **First sighting ever for DJS**; * = photo available from trip

² **E** = Colombian Endemic

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (M)
 Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (C; O) *
 Lineated Woodpecker (V)
 Rusty-headed Spinetail **E** (SM) *
 Silvery-throated Spinetail **E** (B) *
 Pale-breasted Spinetail (heard only) (V)
 Azara's Spinetail (C; R) *
 Pearled Treerunner (C)
 Streaked Tuftedcheek (O)
 Streaked Xenops (SM)
 Plain Xenops (V)
 Streak-capped Spinetail (SM)
 Montane Foliage-Gleaner (SM) *
 Plain-brown Woodcreeper (V)
 Olivaceous Woodcreeper (SM)
 Strong-billed Woodcreeper (O; SM)
 Straight-billed Woodcreeper (V; M)
 Streak-headed Woodcreeper (M) *
 Montane Woodcreeper (O; SM)
 Barred Antshrike (M) *
 Bar-crested Antshrike (S) *
 White-fringed Antwren (V)
 Chestnut-backed Antbird (heard only) (V)
 Santa Marta Antpitta **E** (heard only) (SM)
 Bicolored Antpitta (heard only) (C)
 Chestnut-naped Antpitta (heard only) (C)
 Rufous Antpitta (C)
 Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (heard only) (O)
 Rusty-breasted Antpitta (SM)
 Santa Marta Tapaculo **E** (SM)
 Pale-bellied (Matorral) Tapaculo (heard only) (C)
 Brown-rumped Tapaculo **E** (SM) *
 Olive-striped Flycatcher (O; M) *
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (V)
 Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher (V)
 Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant (M) *
 Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (V) *
 Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (V; M)
 Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (heard only) (V)
 White-throated Tyrannulet (C; B; R; O; SM) *
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia (V; M) *
 Small-billed Elaenia (SM) *
 Mountain Elaenia (M)
 Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant (M) *
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher (M) *
 Cinnamon Flycatcher (O; SM) *
 Vermilion Flycatcher (V)
Empidonax sp. (V)
 Tropical Pewee (M)
 Black Phoebe (M) *
 Crowned Chat-Tyrant (C) *
 Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (C; O)
 Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant **E** (SM) *
 Cattle Tyrant (S)
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (V)
 Pale-edged Flycatcher (C)
 Apical Flycatcher **E** (S)
 Tropical Kingbird (V; S; M)
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher (V)
 Piratic Flycatcher (V)
 Streaked Flycatcher (M)
 Boat-billed Flycatcher (V; M)
 Great Kiskadee (V; M)
 Rusty-margined Flycatcher (V)
 Lesser Kiskadee (M)
 Golden-breasted Fruiteater (SM)
 Red-crested Cotinga (O)
 White-bibbed Manakin (V) *
 White-bearded Manakin (V; M) *
 Striped Manakin (V) *
 Cinnamon Becard (M) *
 Masked Tityra (V)
 Brown-capped Vireo (R; O; M)
 Red-eyed Vireo (V)
 Golden-fronted Greenlet (M) *
 Black-chested Jay (V; SM; M)
 Green (Inca) Jay (C; O)
 Brown-bellied Swallow (B)
 Barn Swallow (B)
 Southern Rough-winged Swallow (M)
 Bicolored Wren (S; M) *
 Band-backed Wren (V)
 Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (R; O; SM) *
 White-breasted Wood-Wren (V)
 (Southern) House Wren (B; V; R; S; M)
 Sedge Wren (heard only) (C)
 Rufous-and-white Wren (M) *
 Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren (V; M)
 Buff-breasted Wren (M) *
 Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (heard only) (SM)
 Swainson's Thrush (V; R; O) *
 Great Thrush (C; B; R; O; SM) *
 Black-billed Thrush (V)
 Pale-breasted Thrush (M)
 Tropical Mockingbird (V; R)
 Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager (O)
 Superciliaried Hemispingus (C) *
 Black-headed Hemispingus (C) *
 Yellow-backed Tanager (V)
 Rosy Thrush-Tanager (M)
 Gray-headed Tanager (V)

Sooty Ant-Tanager **E** (V)
 White-shouldered Tanager (V)
 Summer Tanager (V)
 Red-hooded Tanager (O) *
 Highland Hepatic Tanager (S)
 Crimson-backed Tanager (V; SM; M)
 Blue-gray Tanager (V; M)
 Blue-capped Tanager (O)
 Palm Tanager (V)
 Black-chested Mountain-Tanager (C) *
 Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (C)
 Black-cheeked (Santa M.) Mountain-Tanager **E** (SM) *
 Fawn-breasted Tanager (C)
 Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager (C; SM)
 Plain-colored Tanager (V)
 Bay-headed Tanager (V; SM)
 Scrub Tanager (S)
 Blue-necked Tanager (V)
 Golden-hooded Tanager (V)
 Black-capped Tanager (R)
 Black-headed Tanager (R)
 Black-faced (Yellow-tufted) Dacnis **E** (V) *
 Bananaquit (V)
 Purple Honeycreeper (V)

Capped Conebill (O)
 Rufous-browed Conebill (C) *
 Blue-backed Conebill (C)

White-sided Flowerpiercer (R; SM) *
 Glossy Flowerpiercer (C)
 Black Flowerpiercer (C; O)
 Masked Flowerpiercer (C)

Rufous-collared Sparrow (C; B; R; O; SM)
 Saffron Finch (V)
 Gray Seedeater (M) *
 Orange-billed Sparrow (V)
 Golden-winged Sparrow (M) *

Pale-napped Brush-Finch (C; en route to S)
 Slaty Brush-Finch (C) *
 Santa Marta Brush-Finch **E** (SM) *
 Moustached Brush-Finch (R) *

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (SM; M)

Buff-throated Saltator (V; M) *

Streaked Saltator (V; M)

Blue-black Grassquit (V)

Tennessee Warbler (R; SM; M)
 Tropical Parula (O)
 Blackburnian Warbler (R; S; O; SM) *
 Yellow Warbler (V)
 Prothonotary Warbler (M)
 Bay-breasted Warbler (V)
 Black-and-white Warbler (SM; M) *
 American Redstart (V; M)
 Northern Waterthrush (R; M)
 Canada Warbler (V)
 Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart) (O; SM)
 Golden-fronted Redstart (Whitestart) (C; O) *
 Yellow-crowned Redstart (Whitestart) **E** (SM) *
 Santa Marta Warbler **E** (SM)
 White-lored Warbler **E** (SM)
 Black-crested Warbler (C)
 Rufous-capped Warbler (V; SM; M) *
 Buff-rumped Warbler (V)

Crested Oropendola (SM; M)
 Mountain Cacique (O)
 Yellow-backed Oriole (R; O)
 Yellow Oriole (M)
 Baltimore Oriole (V)
 Yellow-hooded Blackbird (B) *
 Mountain Grackle **E** (O) *
 Shiny Cowbird (V)
 Eastern Meadowlark (C)

Andean Siskin (B)
 Lesser Goldfinch (V)

Velvet-fronted Euphonia **E** (V)
 Trinidad Euphonia (M)
 Blue-naped Chlorophonia (SM) *

Combined total: 247 confirmed species for trip (230 seen; 17 heard only), including 61 “first time ever” species for DJS (53 seen; 8 heard only) ...