

# Chupaflor Nature Tours

E. and SE Venezuela tour February 11 – 25 2006

By James M. Black

This list follows taxonomic order of J. Clements 5<sup>th</sup> edition world list. Revised 2005.

Chupaflor Nature Tours and James Black wish to cast a special thanks to participants of this magnificent tour. Charles Black, Carol Davis, Bruce Eilerts, Tim Jenkins, Robin Leong, Phyllis Mansfield and Steve Petrakis. Such a great list was only possible with the quick eyes & participation of you all.

Tour leader and principle guide: James Black. Driver: Carlos Sanchez. Local Guides: Daniel Muller (Finca Vuelta Larga), Javier Torres (Reservas Santa Fe & Imitaca), Henry Cleve (Barquilla de Fresa) and of course the ever present Snethlage.

During our 14-days of birding / traveling through beautiful Eastern & S. Eastern Venezuela, we were greeted by, waved to & smiled at by the many friendly and helpful people who make up this large country. Despite a somewhat negative portrait of this country put forth by the U.S. media and the ominous Bush administration, we all agreed nothing could be further from the truth. Never before on any tour I have led, have my guests and myself been treated so kindly by the local people. I would strongly encourage all bird watchers to include wonderful & diverse Venezuela in their future travel plans. The avifauna of this country is world class to be certain.

Sites birded during tour: Caribbean coast - Catia la Mar (Caracas). El Avila National Park (11, Feb.). Cachamay Park falls – Pto. Ordaz. Ferry ride across Rio Orinoco. Rio Cuyuni bridge and Corazon Road south of El Dorado. El Palmar & Reservas Santa Fe & Imitaca. Villa Lola Ponds and wetlands / fields of Las Mureas. Km. 67 - Guyana Trail. Km. 88 - Cappuchinbird Road. Barquilla de Fresa Lodge @ Las Claritas. Escalera Road through Sierra de Lema & Gran Sabana to ??? falls. Lowlands from Cd. Guyana N and E to Carupano, lagoons near Carupano. Finca Vuelta Larga (VLR), mangroves near VL ranch and Cerro Humo in Paria Nat. Park.

As this list becomes published on the web, I would like to offer a review of our lodging during the tour.

**David Ascanio** (look for his name online) arranged our transfers, accommodations and driver for this tour. David did an excellent and very thorough job. Every service was on time and carried out by excellent representatives. Our driver Carlos Sanchez, was fantastic and helpful as well.

\*\*\*\*\***Henry Cleve's Barquilla de Fresa Lodge** hosted us for five nights. All hotels and lodges in this area are the base from which birders launch their excursions to the famous Escalera road, Gran Sabana, Km. 88 road and the Km. 67 Guyana trail. The towns of Las Claritas and San Isidro, offer a few cheap, very rustic hotels i.e. Hotel Pilonera - I advise packing up & taking your belongings each day you leave, if you want to see them again. These hotels are ok at best for the budget traveler. The only other lodge is the Campamento Anaconda, which sits right smack dab in the middle of dirty, noisy and not-so-safe Las Claritas. Then there is Henry's on the outskirts of Las Claritas. Henry's is a bit pricy (\$80 U.S.D) per day, but consider that it is

like coming home to your own house at the end of a long, day of birding. Henry and wife, Magaly, cook delicious, healthy meals and ice-cold beer is brought to you with a smile. The rooms are simple, but clean & quiet at night and grounds are safe to walk and bird on. Now consider that Henry's is one of the few places in all of Venezuela that has hummingbird feeders with up to 8 species & Crimson-Topaz visting them to boot! All meals are included and laundry service is available. One large bonus is that Henry knows *all* the birding sites and specialties in the area and he may even accompany you in the field for an afternoon. Henry runs his birding lodge as one should be. They accommodate any schedule, any time, and do it with a smile. No worries here, only good times. Hats off to Henry, Magaly and the Barquilla de Fresa – FIVE stars!!!!

**\*\*\*Parador Taguapire in El Palmar** – 3 nights. The nice, elderly Levis Stokfim and his wife, run this fairly run-down hotel near the famous and wonderful Imitaca reserve and the Rio Grande Forest. This huge reserve hosts up to 60 pair of Harpy Eagles and local guides are available to take birders there for day-trips. I would highly recommend Javier, a small, thin man who is a wonderfully, successful guide, but a bit difficult to understand. There are no other places to stay in El Palmar. The rooms are air conditioned, quiet, fairly clean and Levis includes all meals with price (about \$45) per day and the food is pretty good. I give the Parador Taguapire a narrow 3-stars, but considering it's the only place to stay next to such incredibly amazing & rich birding... I'd say it' one of the best birding deals around!

**\*\*Finca Vuelta Larga near Carupano** – 3 nights. The rooms here were the nicest of our tour. The food was quite good. However, this lodge needs to get rid of all *eight* dogs that constantly run around the place, in dining room while guests are eating, up on table tops, barking at night and regularly crapping in front of the rooms. Dogs should be penned up and *not* in everyone's face. Communication as far as when meals were served and what the plan was each day was like having teeth pulled. Daniel Muller, the lodge manager and guide, is a bit tough to get anything out of, but he does know the birds well and boy does this ranch have plenty of good ones. No laundry service here was another real bummer for dirty, stinky guests. With some simple improvements & some real management, this lodge could eventually become a "*must-see place*". I give the Vuelta Larga 3 stars minus one for all the dog crap and another for lack of communication & laundry service.

**\*\*Hotel Puerto Viejo** - 2 nights in Catia La Mar as Caracas was closed due to collapse of bridge. We were set up at this over-priced and way under serviced hotel. The service here was the worst I've ever received in my life. The fat, bitchy manager woman at reception was Zero help & she didn't give a dam about it to boot. Although the rooms were clean and air-conditioned, the elevators in this highrise hotel were broken 90 percent of the time. The restaurant's prices were off the charts to put it mildly: \$7 U.S.D for a liter of water, \$5 for an 8 oz. beer, and a Cuba Libre came in at a whopping \$9!!! I would suggest staying at another "5-star" hotel in the area. I give this place 2-stars... what a bummer!

**(H)** – a species that was heard only. **(ET)** – endemic to the Tepui region of the SE. **(V)** – a Venezuelan endemic **MSF** – Mixed Species Flock. **PSM** – Pioneer Soldier's Monument. **VLR** – Finca Vuelta Larga.

**TINAMIFORMES: Tinamidae**

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major* – (H) near Piedra del Vigin on lower Escalera and Km. 88 road.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* - (H) forest at Rio Cuyuni bridge and Reserva Santa Fe.

Variegated Tinamou *Crypturellus variegatus* - Seen very briefly by Bruce only imm. following bird singing from same site at Imitaca. Heard also near R. Santa Fe.

**PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* – Single bird seen at water hole Las Mureas.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* – 1 at Villa Lola Ponds and 1 at Las Mureas.

**PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae**

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* – Common along coast.

**PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* – Common in lowlands around ponds & rivers

**PELECANIFORMES: Anhingidae**

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* - Indvs seen at Villa Lola, Las Mureas and Orinoco.

**PELECANIFORMES: Fregatidae**

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* Common along coast.

**CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus* – Our first were a fly-over pair at the Imitaca. Later we enjoyed great scope views at Cachamay Park. What a hunk!

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi* - Indvs. At Villa Lola, Las Mureas and VLR.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* – Abundant in wet areas.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* – Our last new bird of the tour! Several white and on dark plumage birds In VLR mangroves.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* - Only from Villa Lola area.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* – Common in fields with ponds & livestock.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* – Indvs. seen at Villa Lola, Las mureas and VLR.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* – Only one seen at Villa Lola ponds.

Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix* - One of our great surprises, was to find two of these gorgeous birds in Las Mureas and a single at VLR. A bonus bird for sure!

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* – Indvs. seen at VLR.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* – Indvs. seen at VLR.

Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum* – Robin found one of these gorgeous herons beyond where everyone else was looking in Villa Lola ponds.

Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus* – Duuuuuude you nailed it! Steve spotted a pair of these very illusive herons with only heads poking through dense grass at a roadside swale near Las Blanquillas. Way to go Dawg! Snethlage would be proud.

#### **CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* – Seen a few times over wet areas along roads and at Las Mureas & VLR.

#### **CICONIIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**

Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus* – Another “Bonus Bird” for group. One of these stunning Ibises was a little out of season & scoped at Villa Lola ponds.

Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis* – Always a nice bird anywhere. This usually solitary Ibis gave great views for all.

Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber* – A runner up for “bird-of-the-trip”? I think so! We enjoyed this striking species in all it’s glory as a flock of near 70 indvs. most of which were bright adults, circled in sunlight before alighting atop open limbs in canopy for us to scope. WOW !!! - one of nature’s great eye treats for sure.

#### **PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae**

American Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* – An amazingly beautiful bird seen in good numbers in lagoon near Carupano. Far better in the wild, than poking out of a cocktail glass!

#### **Anseriformes: Anatidae**

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* – Jim searched Villa Lola Ponds high and low for one of these gorgeous ducks, but came up empty. Then Carlos turned off at Las Mureas, and yyyyyyyes! Great views of over 150 of these Caribbean specialties in a flooded field.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* – A few of these were mixed in with the above. Always a great bird to see again.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* – Nice, but distant views of these odd looking ducks during our mangrove boat ride at VLR.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* – Another bonus bird for us. An unexpected pair of these handsome Caribbean specialties seen at close range in Carupano lagoon.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* – Only 2 or 3 seen far across Carupano lagoon.

### **FALCONIFORMES: Cathartidae**

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* – All day every day.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* – Abundant throughout trip, yet this unique White-naped race was worth a look for everyone.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* – Phyllis finally got to see one as we passed through this birds narrow range band between Cd. Guyana and Carupano.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus* – Great scope views of this common, large lowland vulture.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa* – Seen from at least a dozen locations during tour. A magnificent and very, endangered bird!

### **FALCONIFORMES: Pandionidae**

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* – Regular at Cachmay park and Villa Lola Ponds.

### **FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Gray-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis* – Seen along Guyana Trail and later a perched bird at Reserva Santa Fe.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* – Always a delight to see these elegant raptors. Common throughout our tour.

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii* – Indvs. Seen between Upata and Rio Cuyuni. Also a single perched near Carupano. One of these cute little raptors joined our picnic at the Rio Cuyuni Bridge for great scope views.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* – Seen several times while driving along our route and one hovering over Parador Taguapire and VLR.

Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* – This tiny raptor seen by most of group at bridge harassing Red-rumped Cacique colony in Imitaca. Confusing at first, until Jim dispelled what most believed to be a Lined Forest-Falcon. This tiny raptor was more likely searching for roosting bats in bromeliads than to snack on the equal-sized Caciques.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* – A handsome, but ubiquitous species through out the lowland areas. Indvs. seen daily.

Crane Hawk *Geranospiza caerulescens* – Two gorgeous birds soared across our view while on R. Cuyuni bridge while one perched for scope views... NICE! Another seen hanging upside down searching for bat-snacks in bromeliads in Reserva Santa Fe.

Black-faced Hawk *Leucopternis melanops* – Jim scoped a distant indiv. first believed to be a White Hawk for group. A very uncommon raptor in the lowlands.

White Hawk *Leucopternis albicollis* – Our first, a pair of these gorgeous raptors who gave all present stunning views of their every mark in the power-line cut along the Corazon Road. Later seen by all in R. Santa Fe and Imitaca.

Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* – The first was quick fly-over at R. Cuyuni and several seen on last afternoon of tour in mangroves.

Great Black-Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* – a generous indiv. soaring over the group while on the skinny, slippery Cerro Humo trail gave great views and song too.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis* – A fairly common raptor along drier portions of our route between Pto. Ordaz and Las Claritas. Another of the regions unique and beautiful raptors. If there is a fire burning nearby, you can bet one of these opportunistic hunters will be near by.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis* - Several of these bizarre “fishing-raptors” were seen during the tour. The Villa Lola ponds produced 4, Las mureas 1 and 1 along mangroves near VLR.

Gray Hawk *Asturina nitida* – Only two of these gorgeous little hawks seen during the tour. First was R. Santa Fe and second near VLR. Sometimes called Shining Hawk.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris* – A common small raptor of open country and forest edge though out our tour.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* – Two seen. 1 at El Avila another along lower Escalera. Neotropical Migrants on their wintering grounds.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus* – A single dark-phase bird made it onto our list from the final morning. Soaring over our boat in the mangroves near VLR.

White-tailed Hawk *Buteo albicaudatus* – Several birds seen while en route south from Upata and later a few along the Gran Sabana. The birds in SE Venezuela are very different looking than those from Central Am. And Mexico. Much brighter and cleaner!

Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja* – Superb views of a one-year old, free-flying bird perched on an open limb in the R. Santa Fe. This youngster showed magnificent plumage with slate-gray wings, a broad, gray chest band, lovely long crest feathers, the enormous beak and WOW... those huge tarsus' and rear talus views – OUCH! It would suck to be a sloth in those woods! Unfortunately this young bird had been fed the evening before leaving almost no chance at viewing an adult. Oh well no complaints were heard except from Charlie who wanted it all.

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle *Spizastur melanoleucus* – Had our views of a pair of these magnificent eagles not been so brief, this would have been in the running for “Bird-of-the-trip”. Between all of us, all field marks came together, but esp. the huge, broad wings as one of the birds took to flight and banked before disappearing. Fantastic!

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* – Heard by everyone, seen only by a few this most common of the tropical eagles soared high above the trail at Cerro Humo.

#### **FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* – Seen only by Bruce along drive to Caupano. A bird of open forest edge and river banks.

Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus* A spectacular large, loud denizen of the primary forest. This raptor's calls, are often mistaken for macaws. Charley spotted four of these great birds perched just inside the forest edge along the bank of the R. Cuyuni. When they flew, they came across us allowing fantastic views for all.

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* – A handsome raptor of the open, dry country seen several times while driving.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* – A very common raptor in the lowlands / foothills seen daily.

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* – Ahhhh the handsome, “Panda Bear-like” noise-maker of the lowlands. Always great to see one every trip. This time, Steve spotted the first one en route to Henry's and another was seen near El Palmar.

Lined Forest-Falcon *Micrastur gilvicollis* – **(H)** Heard calling from forest at Imitaca.

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* – **(H)** A calling bird in background along Guyana trail was added after tape review. Don't know how I missed such an obvious song before???

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* – Several seen en route south from Pto. Ordaz, then a lovely pale-phase indiv. seen along R. Choroni with much white on wings and back.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis* – WOW!!! What a drop-dead gorgeous little raptor. A delightful pair perched in open branches over forest near Cuyuni bridge for great close, scope views. Another was seen at Imitaca and a fourth at Paria Nat. Park.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – A fly-over bird near the Imitaca.

### **GALLIFORMES: Cracidae**

Rufous-vented Chachalaca *Ortalis ruficauda* – **(H)** Several heard around the VLR, but none seen.

Little Chachalaca *Ortalis motmot* – **(H)** Heard each morning at Henry's, as we entered the Guyana Trail and near El Palmar. Never did spot one though.

Spix's Guan *Penelope jacquacu* – Several of us had great, close views of a confused bird that exploded from the jungle and landed in a close, open Cecropia tree. Eventually everyone saw this bird later as two flew across the road on upper Escalera.

### **GALLIFORMES: Odontophoridae**

Crested Bobwhite *Colinus cristatus* – Brief views by a few as two of these quail ran across road and disappeared into vegetation. A common, but illusive bird of open fields near El Palmar.

Marbled Wood-Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis* **(H)** On evening of 15<sup>th</sup> a covey of these illusive birds were heard dueting along lower Escalera.

### **GRUIFORMES: Aramidae**

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* – **(H)** Never did spot one of the crazy herons, but heard them at VLR a few times.

### **GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

Russet-crowned Crake *Anurolimnas viridis* **(H)** - We tried at PSM to flush one of these super illusive rails, but had to settle for hearing them sing instead.

Ash-throated Crake *Porzana albicollis* - Seen immediately as we exited the bus only by Steve and Bruce at Villa Lola Ponds.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* – A few seen here and there in wet areas of Villa Lola, Las Mureas and VLR.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* – As above species.

### **CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana* – Seen regularly around small ponds throughout tour.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* – A few seen at great distance in Carupano lagoon.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus* – Another nice Las Mureas surprise, as a pair of these weird birds walked within 3 meters of the bus for tremendous views of their huge, lazy eyes.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* – Seen regularly during the tour with the first ones spotted in canal next to our hotel in Caracas. Several great views esp. at Villa Lola Ponds.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Wilson's (Common) Snipe *Gallinago delicata* - Bruce flushed one at PSM and later the group flushed it again with hopes of it being a Giant Snipe... no such luck. Nice find Bruce!

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* - Thanks to Carol and Phyllis who went into the mangroves to the 'Ladies Room', they flushed a single bird out for the rest of us.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* - Seen regularly around small ponds in the Villa Lola area.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* – As species above, but more regular along creeks & rivers.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* – A few seen around Caracas coastline.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Sternidae**

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* - One nice adult seen perched in Carupano lagoon.

Yellow-billed Tern *Sterna superciliaris* - An attractive small tern of inland waterways in S. Am. Several birds seen over R. Choroní and R. Orinoco.

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* - Magnificent, large terns wheeling about over the R. Orinoco and R. Choroní confluence.

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* - Always around trash, gas-pumps and leaky toilets.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa* – A very handsome bird scoped for group along the Guyana Trail and even better views along Corazon Road.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* - A few fly bys along upper Escalera.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis* – Abundant in lowlands throughout our tour.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* – **(H)** Heard along Km.88, & Corazon Roads. A bird of the deep primary forest.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* – Mostly heard at Km.88 and Corazon roads with one seen along Km.88 road.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerine* – Indvs seen at entrance of Km 88 road, Rio Cuyuni, El Palmar and Las Mureas.

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove *Columbina minuta* – Thanks to Charlie & his homework, we almost over-looked a few of these similar-looking little guys in and amongst all of the Commons we were watching at Las Mureas. Good work Chuckmeister!

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti* – Abundant & seen daily during tour.

Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata* – First spotted at Cachamay Park and later a few here and there along our route North to VLR.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* – One seen well on 13<sup>th</sup> along Km. 88 road and heard from many other sites during tour.

Gray-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla* – Heard daily in lowland areas. First found by Charlie in Henry's garden. Later seen a few times along trails & forest edge in lowlands.

### **PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae**

Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloroptera* Seen several times during tour. Perhaps the best, were the pair who perched in bare tree on upper Escalera. WOW, what great scope views. Also nice views of birds flying over R. Santa Fe.

Red-shouldered Macaw *Diopsittaca nobilis* – Steve and I were only ones to see these lovely small macaws in scope at P. Taguapire Hotel. The driver from Imitaca stayed too far behind us and the birds had flown when rest of group arrived. However, Bruce spotted some from bus just N. of Cd. Guyana.

White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalmus* – A few fly bys at VLR on first morning. The birds showed their bright red-orange wing patches to all.

Brown-throated Parakeet *Aratinga pertinax* – Same story as with RS Macaws. Steve and I had a close flock feeding inside hotel grounds before everyone arrived. Fortunately we saw a few of these birds feeding at VLR around lake.

Painted Parakeet *Pyrrhura picta* – Oooooohh-lah-lah - what a gorgeous parakeet! Pair scoped along Km. 88 road on 15<sup>th</sup>.

Venezuelan Parakeet *Pyrrhura emma* – (V) Only so-so views for most of group at Paria Nat. Park. This endemic recently split from *Maroon-faced Parakeet* in Western Brazil.

Fiery-shouldered Parakeet *Pyrrhura egregia* – (ET) Four or five of these endemic parakeets were seen flushing from forest edge, high along Escalera. The “fiery-shoulders” were, seen well as they disappeared into the forest below.

Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus* – A common parrotlet of the dry gallery-forest regions around El palmar & Villa Lola Ponds.

Black-headed Parrot *Pionites melanocephala* – Only one of these small, handsome forest-dwelling parrots seen along the Corazon Road. Decent scope views of the bird feeding.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus* - The most common *non-Amazonas* parrot in the lowlands throughout our tour. Seen almost daily.

Dusky Parrot *Pionus fuscus* – A tricky bird to find! We had one scoped at the parking area in R. Santa Fe. A Guinian shield specialty.

Yellow-crowned Parrot *Amazona ochrocephala* – Only a few seen during tour. Scoped views at Km. 94 at sunset was our best. Later seen flying over VLR.

Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica* – By far the most abundant *Amazonas* parrot during tour with good numbers seen almost daily. A pair seen copulating as we departed R. Santa Fe, put on quite a show. Also, the evening fly-in on our last day at the VLR lake, was quite a sight as over 300 birds slowly streamed over us for what seemed like all of eternity. Moments like this are what bring us back to the tropics!

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa* – Seen only twice, these large *Amazons* were lower in number than I remember before. VLR and Ititaca.

Red-fan Parrot *Deroptyus accipitrinus* – Very nice scope views of a copulating pair along the Km. 88 road and later a single at the Ititaca.

### **CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana* – Common. Seen every other day during tour.

Little Cuckoo *Piaya minuta* – The last new bird for our tour on 24th. A single, diminutive bird responded to pygmy-owl whistles upon our return to dock in mangroves. Seen well by all.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major* – Seen well a couple of times around the VLR lake. This huge, ani inhabits varzea forest and lake edges. It is often, found together with Hoatzins, but not this time.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* – Common in lowlands along roads and fields. Seen daily.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* – Seen only during our first day near coast and en route to El Avila.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* – Very common song in open, scrubby country and disturbed foothills. Near Villa Lola, we had great views of a bird teed up on a bush at the road's edge. Heard almost daily.

### **STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* – A single bird responded at Henry's on our final morning. Seen very briefly in spot light.

### **CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* – A single bird seen flying over Parador Taguapire in El Palmar.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* – First heard at Parador Taguapire. Later seen along road into R. Santa Fe and at VLR.

Blackish Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigrescens* – A beautiful little nightjar seen as well as if we had them in hand. First seen in failing spotlight along Km.88 Road on 13th. On 15<sup>th</sup>, a pair roosting along the Guyana Trail, provided great views for all. A few moments later, Charley found another female roosting on ground, only to discover she was actually sitting on her egg as we accidentally flushed her. She soon returned to her earthen nest. Finally, that same evening two more, (males this time & again in broad daylight) were observed displaying. What a treat!

### **APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

Tepui Swift *Cypseloides nelsoni* – (ET) On an otherwise lackluster day, these endemic swifts were very welcome. All marks were, seen well as 6-8 birds fed high over the forest in front of us at the Km. 112 BIG ROCK site.

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* – seen by everyone except Jim along the lower Escalera. This normally common species, was absent during most of our tour.

Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus* - Seen a couple of times well enough to id along the Km. 88 Road. A common small swift in the lowlands.

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* – Same as above species, but perhaps slightly more common.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyuran* – Seen well feeding low over R. Cuyuni bridge and around VLR.

Neotropical Palm-Swift *Tachornis squamata* – Seen in lowlands around Km. 88 and Villa Lola ponds and finally by everyone on our first morning at VLR.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis* – Seen flying along & above bus N. of Cd. Guyana by Bruce only.

### **TROCHILIFORMES: Trochilidae**

Rufous-breasted Hermit *Glaucis hirsuta* – 1 Present at Henry's feeders. Later seen along Guyana Trail, around cabins at VLR and an excellent scoped bird at VLR Lake.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy* – Seen briefly in *heleconias* along Cerro Humo Trail.

Eastern Long-tailed Hermit *Phaethornis superciliosus* - Brief views at Henry's feeders, decent views along lower Escalera and good views along Guyana Trail. A common in-forest hummer at most lowland sites.

Sooty-capped Hermit *Phaethornis augusti*- Seen only by a lucky few. A fast bird whipped around most of group and stopped in view for a few to see on our first day near El Avila Nat. Park.

Little Hermit *Phaethornis longuemareus* – Several seen along Guyana Trail.

Reddish Hermit *Phaethornis ruber* – Seen first on our trudge into the Capuchinbird lek by Charlie only. On 15<sup>th</sup>, we had a couple of decent views of this tiny, fast hummer along the Guyana Trail. Another was seen in the Imitaca by... I can't remember.

Gray-breasted Sabrewing *Campylopterus largipennis* – A feeder bird at Henry's

Rufous-breasted Sabrewing *Campylopterus hyperythrus* – (ET) Thanks to Henry, we were able to post a stake out at Km. 131 flowers and BINGO! The bird came in twice for everyone to see.

White-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus ensipennis* – (V) Seen only by Bruce on our disappointing morning at Cerro Humo.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* – A feeder bird at Henry's & also seen at a few flowering trees during tour.

Brown Violet-ear *Colibri delphinae* – Several territorial birds along upper Escalera and 1 at Cerro Humo.

Sparkling Violet-ear *Colibri coruscans* – A single territorial male – upper El Avila Nat. Park.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis* – Common at flowering trees and Henry's feeders during trip.

Crimson Topaz *Topaza pella* – Feeder bird at Henrys – two males, one female. A spectacular and very local large hummer.

Ruby-topaz Hummingbird *Chrysolampis mosquitus* – Several seen at VLR, but very hard to get all those colors to come out. Perhaps the best views, were of close females with their banded, rufous tails.

Tufted Coquette *Lophornis ornatus* – Another one for only lucky Bruce at Cerro Humo.

Peacock Coquette *Lophornis pavoninus* – (ET)A very cooperative female perched for almost five minutes high in tree over Escalera for all to see. On 16<sup>th</sup>, Charlie had a second female along upper escalera.

Blue-tailed Emerald *Chlorostilbon mellisugus* – Several sightings of this tiny hummer at flowering trees during tour.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata* – Perhaps our most common hummer and a feeder bird at Henry's. Seen daily in forests in lowlands and Cerro Humo.

White-chinned Sapphire *Hylocharis cyanus* – Only one bird seen at parking site in R. Santa Fe.

Golden-tailed Sapphire *Chrysuronia oenone* – Indvs. Seen at flowering tree in Guasipati (while filling gas tank), near Carupano and Cerro Humo.

White-tailed Goldenthrout *Polytmus guainumbi* – Yessssss, finally a cooperative bird at the VLR Lake. A single female perched low in shrub, was scoped for group.

Buffy Hummingbird *Leucippus fallax* – A nice surprise for group as Roger found one of these common, but local hummers trap-lining near the Carupano lagoons.

Versicolored Emerald *Agyrtria versicolor* – A seasonal hummer along the Escalera. The first was a perched male in forest around Km. 118. Second was a female along upper Escalera, both on 14<sup>th</sup>.

White-chested Emerald *Agyrtria brevirostris* – This normally common hummer, gave us some trouble. Seen by a few, an uncooperative bird at R. Cuyuni bridge. Later seen by a few more at VLR.

Glittering-throated Emerald *Polyerata fimbriata* – A common hummer at flowering trees all during the tour.

Copper-tailed Hummingbird *Saucerottia cupreicauda* – (V) Distant, but good views of the unique color on birds tail near top of Escalera. Later seen very well at waterfall on Gran Sabana by Charlie, Jim and Bruce. This bird recently split from Green-bellied Hummer (Andes and W. Venezuela) and placed in genus of *Amazilia*.

Copper-rumped Hummingbird *Saucerottia tobaci* – Seen very well our first morning en route to El Avila. Others were seen feeding at flowering trees during tour.

White-vented Plumeleteer *Chalybura buffonii* – A single bird seen en route to El Avila by most of group. The large, white vent and upper tail, make this hummer a snap to id.

Velvet-browed Brilliant *Heliodoxa xanthogonys* – (ET) Only a single bird found along trail on upper Escalera. A male sat & preened for several minutes showing his colors.

Scissor-tailed Hummingbird *Hylonympha macrocerca* – (V - Paria) Seen by only half the group. What a huge disappointment we didn't all see it as this is the only place to observe this endemic hummer. It has one of the smallest ranges of any in the world.

Long-tailed Sylph *Agelaiocercus kingi* – A few indivs seen during our day in El Avila Nat. Park.

Black-eared Fairy *Heliothryx aurita* – This flashy hummer danced above us on the lower Escalera for almost a full minute allowing excellent views for everyone. What a treat! Another was seen briefly in the Imitaca.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* – A feeder bird at Henry's. Another was seen along the middle Escalera and one at VLR.

### **TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**

White-tailed Trogon *Trogon viridis* – Seen flying from Henry's yard across highway.

Violaceous Trogon *Trogon violaceus* – A pair seen foraging high in canopy along Guyana Trail.

Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris* – two Lovely females seen in El Avila Nat. Park.

Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus* – A male seen along upper Escalera was our only one.

Black-tailed Trogon *Trogon melanurus* – A male of this primary-forest inhabitant was foraging in the dense canopy & gave bits-and-pieces views for most in group in the Imitaca. Definitely could have been seen better.

### **CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Ringed Kingfisher *Ceryle torquatus* – Seen well several times around Villa Lola Ponds.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* – 1 seen at Villa Lola Ponds and later from bridge in Imitaca over Rio Grande.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle Americana* – Only one seen from Rio Cuyuni Bridge.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda* – WOW... always a treat, but a lifer for at least half the group. We enjoyed magnificent, close views of female along the mangrove boat ride near VLR. This species is often the missing link in birder's N. Hemisphere list for kingfishers.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* – Another beauty. A female was studied at 4 meters from the edge of our boat! WOW!

### **PICIFORMES: Galbulidae**

Brown Jacamar *Brachygalba lugubris* – A very distant pair was eventually seen by all across highway from PSM. We all laughed the next morning as we found a family group of four at point-blank range at road edge of Rio Cuyuni bridge.

Yellow-billed Jacamar *Galbula albirostris* – Wonderful scope views for all of this handsome, primary-forest dwelling jacamar along the Guyana Trail. A lifer for Jim!

Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda* – Several birds hanging out around the VLR.

Paradise Jacamar *Galbula dea* – Finnnnnnnnaly we found one of these lovely birds. The Corazon Road produced a pair high in canopy. From there on, we saw plenty of them in the Reservas Santa Fe and Imitaca.

Great Jacamar *Jacamerops aureus* – After following up on a nearby bird that was answering Jim's tape, we slowly clambered our way through the forest, when suddenly sharp-eyed Ol' Bruce spotted a beautiful female perched on an open vine. Probably the best views of this species anyone will ever have. Good spot Bruce!

### **PICIFORMES: Bucconidae**

Russet-throated Puffbird *Hypnelus ruficollis* – First seen at Villa Lola Pond #1. Sharp-eyed Phyllis spotted it and we put it in the scope for everyone. Great spot Phyllis! A second bird was seen even closer sitting quietly along the VLR Lake. What a handsome puffbird!

Black Nunbird *Monasa atra* - A small group of these noisy birds passed through the mid-story of forest at our Harpy-site. Good views of three birds for everyone. Later a single bird was with a MSF that passed over us again. Heard the next day at R. Imitaca as well.

Swallow-wing *Chelidoptera tenebrosa* – Common in the lowlands. Perches high & conspicuously and hawks insects.

### **PICIFORMES: Capitonidae**

Black-spotted Barbet *Capito niger* – Two males with MSF seen just before we emerged from Guyana trail.

### **PICIFORMES: Ramphastidae**

Groove-billed Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus sulcatus* – (V) Seen twice, our first were a couple of not-too-cooperative indivs. in El Avila. Later seen a bit better in Paria Nat. Park. Endemic to Venezuela's coastal cordilleras.

Green Aracari *Pteroglossus viridis* – A very handsome local, aracari of the Guianan shield region. A pair seen along the Km. 88 road., afforded everyone great scope views. Again along the Corazon Road, a few were scoped.

Black-necked Aracari *Pteroglossus aracari* – Seen frequently in Henry's garden and along forest breaks and edges though out lowlands during tour.

Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus* – The more common of the two toucan species we encountered during tour. Some spectacular views were had of scoped birds along Guyana trail.

White-throated (Red-billed) Toucan *Ramphastos tucanus* – Formerly called *Red-billed Toucan*. This species was seen only 3 or 4 times during the trip. Km. 88 road & Imitaca. This is the toucan that makes the "yelping" noise in morning and evening.

### **PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Golden-spangled Piculet *Picumnus exilis* (V) Great views of a pair along the lower Escalera during the 2.5-hour flock we had on 14<sup>th</sup>. Later a second pair seen accompanying flock in the Imitaca.

Black-dotted Piculet *Picumnus nigropunctatus*- (V) Endemic to the Paria area. A pair of these diminutive woodpeckers observed building a nest at VLR on our first morning there.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus* – A common woodpecker of the lowland regions. Several scoped birds along our route.

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus* – A very common woodpecker seen regularly in disturbed areas during tour.

Red-rumped Woodpecker *Veniliornis kirkii* – Bruce spotted one of these small woodpeckers at the head of our enormous MSF on 14<sup>th</sup>.

Golden-collared Woodpecker *Veniliornis cassini* – A definite score for us! It took us a while to figure out this small woodpecker due to the great distance at which it was perched & feeding. Eventually, we all saw the golden tint around the base of neck. Another Guianan Shield specialty.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker *Piculus flavigula* – A lovely female was seen well for about 80% of group during a MSF in the Imitaca.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Piculus rubiginosus* – Seen with regularity along Km. 88 road, lower Escalera, Gran Sabana and Imitaca.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula* – A pair of these attractive woodpeckers was seen well by every one as they fed along an old tree trunk near corrals in VLR.

Cream-colored Woodpecker *Celeus flavus* – Only brief views of a pair of these unique woodpeckers seen at their nest tree during our boat ride through VLR mangroves.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* – Seen regulary – almost daily during tour. This large, handsome woodpecker is welcome to fly across our path any time!

Red-necked Woodpecker *Campephilus rubricollis* – Seen by everyone, but Jim – Boo-Hoo! Although at a distance, The Chuckmeister scoped-up a pair of these lovely, large denizens of the primary forest for views for group.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos* – The only one I can recall, was a gorgeous female that appeared in open for all to enjoy over Henry's garden. She sat on an open limb for almost a full minute.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Furnariidae**

Black-throated Spinetail *Synallaxis castanea* – **(V)-(H)** Unfortunately, our only bird, put the brakes on as it began to call from deep in the bamboo at El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens* – **(H)** – Heard along the upper Escalera from road edge and hedges around VLR Lake.

Stripe-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis cinnamomea* – A skulky bird eventually seen by all along the narrow, muddy Cerro Humo.

Tepui Spinetail *Cranioleuca demissa* – **(ET)** I believe only a few folks got on this bird as it quickly passed us by during the frenzy of our huge MSF on Lower Escalera on 14th. Carol also spotted on a single with a Roraiman Warbler along upper Escalera on 16<sup>th</sup>.

Crested Spinetail *Cranioleuca subcristata* – An inquisitive indiv. that responded to tape in El Avila. On 11<sup>th</sup>.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomea* – Common around pond edges at Villa Lola, near El Palmar and at VLR Lake.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus* – Two of these dainty, small furnariids seen at beginning of our huge MSF on 14<sup>th</sup>.

Plain Thornbird *Phacellodomus inoratus* – A very “rufousy” bird seen low in tree at Las Mureas.

Montane Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia striaticollis* – Nice views of two of these handsome birds accompanying a MSF in El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Dendrocolaptidae**

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* – Seen by Bruce and Jim at R. Santa Fe and the next day in with msf at Imitaca.

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus* – Seen several times during tour. One was with MSF on lower escalera on 14<sup>th</sup>. One was along Guyana trail on 15<sup>th</sup> and a few were seen in the Imitaca reserve on 19<sup>th</sup>. A fairly common small, woodcreeper.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* – Seen almost daily during our tour. A small, common woodcreeper of the forest understory. Esp. along Km. 88, Guyana, and Imitaca trails.

Black-banded Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* – An attractive, large woodcreeper seen along the Guyana Trail. This species sports a large, reddish bill that always makes me jump to the thought of the possible, rare & local *Red-billed Woodcreeper*. No dice though, as this bird showed its cleanly barred belly and streaking on crown and throat.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* – It seems as though I have never heard more of these woodcreepers singing at any place in my many years of leading tours in tropics than here, in SE Venezuela. Abundant in lowland forest through out our tour.

Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus* – Two pairs showed nicely during our huge MSF on 14<sup>th</sup>. A second bird spotted by Carol along the upper Escalera on 16<sup>th</sup>. A guianan shield specialty seen only along the Escalera.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* – This split from *Buff-throated* was seen briefly along the edges of mangroves near VLR during boat ride on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* – ahhhh the ever common voice of this lovely, small woodcreeper greeted us in dawn chorus at VLR. Seen well a few times around ranch.

Montane Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger* – Beautiful, close views of the black-outlined white ovals along neck, flanks and chest of this small woodcreeper make it a memorable one at El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Curve-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus procurvoides* – Two of these range-restricted species seen in large MSF at the Imitaca. One had to be quick to stay with them as they joined in the panicked frenzy of antwrens and others leaping and diving in – and –out of the foliage.

## **PASSERIFORMES: Thamnophilidae**

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus* – **(H)** A pair circled us at the beginning of the huge MSF on 14<sup>th</sup>. I attempted to call them in, but with no luck. Besides everyone was plenty busy with the flock.

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* – A male seen at parking area R. Santa Fe by a few. Later Bruce found a female near the Harpy site.

Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphorus Canadensis* – Great views for all of this stunning bird. Two gorgeous males from Rio Cuyuni bridge and a single male from Villa Lola Pond #1.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* – A single male seen at road edge near El Palmar and Bruce had a female in garden at P. Taguapire. Several heard singing from thickets along our route as well.

Mouse-colored Antshrike *Thamnophilus murinus* – Good views of a responsive bird along the Guyana trail and later along the Corazon road.

Guianan Slaty-Antshrike *Thamnophilus punctatus* – Our first bird of the day at Guyana Trail. Responded nicely for good views.

Streak-backed Antshrike *Thamnophilus insignis* – **(ET)** Whew!!! Almost missed this one. A family group of four seen at very close range at the Km. 131 site as we tried for one last time in the stunted *Melastome* forest. A very handsome antshrike indeed!

Cinereous Antshrike *Thamnomanes caesius* – Heard regularly along Guyana trail, but unresponsive. Eventually seen well in the Imitaca while attending MSF. A male remained on open perch for entire group to get on, while a sheepish, but gorgeous female darted in-and-out of flock for about half of group to see. A bird of the deep, primary rain forest.

Brown-bellied Antwren *Myrmotherula gutturalis* – first seen along Guyana Trail on 15<sup>th</sup> by Jim and Bruce only. Then at the Imitaca by everyone as several joined in a large antwren-dominated flock. A guianan shield specialty.

White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris* – As above, seen with a large MSF in Imitaca.

Long-winged Antwren *Myrmotherula longipennis* – The Chuckmeister plucked a couple of these handsome antwrens out of the big, swirling mess of antwren pandemonium at Imitaca.

Gray Antwren *Myrmotherula menetriesii* – One of the common antwrens along the Guyana Trail and Imitaca.

Todd's Antwren *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus* – A pair of these handsome antwrens seen quietly attempting to slip by us as all hell broke loose at beginning of our 2.5 hour long MSF on 14<sup>th</sup> along lower Escalera. Another Guianan shield specialty.

Roraiman Antwren *Herpsilochmus roraimae* – (ET) as with species above. As a single bird silently passed over us, I spotted it thinking briefly, “a becard?” then the white brow, spotted tail and of course it’s large size gave it away. Yesssssss – another endemic!

Long-tailed Antbird *Drymophila caudata* – Actually more like a large antwren than antbird. Always a welcome addition to our list as this handsome antbird of montane regions showed nicely for entire group at Cerro Humo.

Ash-winged Antwren *Terenura spodioptila* – A pair of these handsome birds worked along side of us in the huge MSF on 14<sup>th</sup> along lower escalera.

Gray Antbird *Cercomacra cinerascens* – Easily detected, but very tough to spot. Along the Guyana Trail, R. Santa Fe and Imitaca, these birds called constantly from the mid to upper canopy. Seen only once by Bruce.

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina* – This species was very skulky along the Corazon road. Eventually Carol, Jim and Phyllis spotted a female working the thick vine tangles. The birds from this area are far more rufous than those from Cen. America.

White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys* – What a smashing antbird!!! It took several tries for group, but eventually everyone got on them for great views. Always worth the effort.

Warbling Antbird *Hypocnemis cantator* – Another gorgeous antbird that is heard far more than seen. It took us some while before we got one to come out for all to see along the Guyana Trail.

Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia* - (H) calling from inside mangroves at VLR & wouldn’t come out to play. The birds from this region have no streaking in breast and can be very confusing.

White-plumed Antbird *Pithys albifrons* – (H) Bummmmer. Always hurts to miss this beauty! A few were heard along Guyana trail and in imitaca. As we tried to approach, they flew. They were Indiscriminately feeding and not attending an antswarm. One really needs to have army ants present to see this otherwise wary bird.

Rufous-throated Antbird *Gymnopithys rufigula* – Same story as above. Although Jim glimpsed one along Guyana trail. In the Imitaca forest, Jim, Steve, Charley, Tim and Bruce had a few good views as they fled us.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Formicariidae**

Black-faced Anthrush *Formicarius analis* – (H) Usually the easiest of the anthrushes to see, but a pair of singing birds at Cerro Humo, wouldn’t budge.

Plain-backed Antpitta *Grallaria haplonota* – (H) A very difficult antpitta to see. Heard singing from deep in forest and with no intention of moving towards us at El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta *Grallaria ruficapilla* – A pair of these gorgeous birds eventually responded for all to get great views of. Definitely a tough one, but so worth the effort. They were simply delectable!

Tepui Antpitta *Myrmothera simplex* (ET) – Another really tough one, but 30 minutes later, everyone had superb views within 3 meters of a very responsive bird. # 12 for Jim's antpitta list!

### **PASSERIFORMES: Rhinocryptidae**

Caracas Tapaculo *Scytalopus caracae* – This bird came in far closer than Jim expected so folks were looking beyond where the mouse-like bird arrived. Seen only by Phyllis and Jim – Good spot Phyllis.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Cotingidae**

Golden-breasted Fruiteater *Pipreola aureopectus* – After our second singing bird (that would not move / respond), finally one a male of this lovely bird moved with it's flock into view as it gorged on berries at El Avila on 11th.

Handsome Fruiteater *Pipreola formosa* (V) – A beautiful male seen feeding with flock at Cerro Humo. A nice consolation prize for an otherwise, lackluster morning. This race with its large red bib is the nominate race *Pariae*.

Red-banded Fruiteater *Pipreola whitelyi* (ET) – After hearing a male singing we ran for the woods. Within a minute, Charlie spotted a gorgeous male perched on an open limb & facing us for incredible scope views for all!!! This is definitely one of the endemics one does NOT want to miss!

Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans* – Finally on our last chance, Robin spotted a perched bird emphatically singing for all to see. Good spot Turdus!  
Heard along Guyana Trail and at R. Santa Fe too.

Pompadour Cotinga *Xipholena punicea* – Charlie, Bruce and Robin spotted a female perched on the Km. 112 rock dome. Sure-as-#\$@%@ the bird had to fly away just as the rest of us got there.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata* – Jim whistled in a pair of these handsome birds while at the Harpy site. They showed their glistening throats very nicely. Also heard along the Corazon road.

Capuchinbird *Perissocephalus tricolor* – After trudging through the vine-tangled undergrowth, we eventually found their lek for GREAT scope views of these bizarre birds. Two dualing males perched in full view as we watched their “Cocoa Puffs” at the top of their tails and then their throats inflate as they belted out their mooing cow-like songs. Definitely one of our funner birds of the tour and yes, another Guianan shield specialty.

White Bellbird *Procnias alba* (ET) – Good, but distant views of perched birds singing their incredible, loud songs. Robin had one bird come in fairly, close, but it left before we got scope on it. Never-the-less, we nailed this often tough endemic.

Bearded Bellbird *Procnias averano* – Ay, ay, ay!!! Would we ever see one of the many singing males around us? As we continued our search, Henry sang out, “bring the group”. He had spotted a lovely close male for everyone to see in scope. Then at lunch, we had “walk-away” views of another male on open limb with his spaghetti-like wattles hanging out. Another great bird for our tour.

Guianan Cock-of-the-rock *Rupicola rupicola* – These guys gave us a real work out as we tried to get just one bird in scope. Eventually, everyone had good views of a couple of males out in open. But it was far from easy.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Pipridae**

Olive Manakin *Chloropipo uniformis* (ET) – A single indiv. seen at fruiting tree at Km. 131 forest site. Normally more common than this???

Crimson-hooded Manakin *Pipra aureola* – Only a single male appeared briefly at a fruiting tree on our first morning at VLR. Missed by Charlie and Phyllis and unfortunately, the lek was unresponsive.

White-crowned Manakin *Dixiphia pipra* – Charlie spotted a territorial male perched as we exited the Capuchinbird lek on 13<sup>th</sup>. We were able to scope it with great views for all.

Golden-headed Manakin *Pipra erythrocephala* – Surprisingly uncommon during this tour. Everyone had nice, close views of a male along Corazon Road and then a second male feeding in/out of view at the Imitaca seen by most of group.

Scarlet-horned Manakin *Pipra cornuta* (ET) – Another frustrating bird for group. I believe everyone eventually saw this gaudy, little bird as they foraged near their Km. 134 Lek. On 14<sup>th</sup> most of group got on the first male and on 16<sup>th</sup>, we had another male and a female from road at same site.

Tepui Manakin *Lepidothrix suavisissima* – RATS – we never spotted a male! A few females were present in the huge MSF along lower Escalera on 14<sup>th</sup> and another on upper Escalera, but none were at fruiting Melastome trees this time.

Tiny Tyrant-Manakin *Tyrannetes virescens* – Heard from Km. 88 road and then Charlie spotted a territorial bird on it's perch as we exited the R. Santa Fe. Often a difficult bird to spot. Good work Chuckmeister! Charley's bird of the trip! Several heard from R. Imitaca the next day.

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris* (H) - Heard from lower escalera and in the Imitaca, but always a difficult species to spot.

## **PASSERIFORMES: Tyrannidae**

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*- A small non-descript tyrannulet of open, dry country. Seen at El Palmar, Villa Lola and VLR.

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina* – As above, in dry gallery forest edge and gardens. El Palmar (Parador Taguapire) and VLR.

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus* – Around Henry's garden and in lower Paria Nat. Park.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster* – Common around Villa Lola ponds, El Palmar and in Caracas in hotel garden.

Great Elaenia *Elaenia dayi* **(ET)** – Rare and local along the Gran Sabana. We were fortunate to spot one of these large, uncommon elaenias across highway from PSM just before departing.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* – Bruce only along Paria trail.

MacConnell's Flycatcher *Mionectes macconnelli* – Seen just below the Capuchinbird lek. This very local flycatcher was seen only by a few in group.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* – Yessssssss - Finally!!! After all these years, Jim scores on this jinx bird for himself. Seen well tagging along with the huge MSF on lower Escalera on 14<sup>th</sup>.

Black-fronted Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes nigrifrons* **(ET)** – A single bird in a small MSF along upper Escalera.

Slender-footed Tyrannulet *Zimmerius gracilipes* – A fairly common bird of lowland forest seen in Henry's garden, Guyana Trail, Imitaca and VLR.

Northern Scrub-Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum* – Jim spotted and scoped one of the mangrove specialists near the Carupano lagoon, They always appear as a miniature *Myiarchus* type flycatcher.

White-throated Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus leucophrys* – A pair of these handsome & confiding little flycatchers seen with MSF in El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>. A tyrannulet of higher elevations.

Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus galeatus* – Heard frequently along lower Escalera and Km. 88 road & finally seen well in scope along Corazon Road.

Slate-headed Tody-Tyrant *Poecilatriccus sylvia* **(H)** A bird singing near beginning of Guyana Trail would not respond.

*Sneathlage's Tody-Tyrant Hemitriccus minor* – Mythical? Invisible? Who knows??? Yet a constant presence near the group esp. during evening listing sessions - ??? Will we ever see the real Sneathlage?

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer* - A pair seen inside forest at parking area for Capuchinbird lek on 15<sup>th</sup>.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* – Seen at several sites during tour esp. in lodge gardens where it was building nest at VLR. A common species, but always an enjoyable bird to watch.

Gray-crowned Flatbill *Tolmomyias poliocephalus* – A pair seen foraging at Harpy site. Fairly common in humid, lowland forest.

Cinnamon Flycatcher *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea* – Nice views of a pair of these gorgeous little flycatchers at Paria Nat. Park.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea* – Our first pair seen on their nest at the usual spot – Piedra de la Virgen at base of Escalera. Another pair seen also with nest at mirador near Km. 129

Smoke-colored Pewee *Contopus fumigatus* – 2 or 3 birds seen at Km. 132 trail upper Escalera.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus* – Only a single bird seen along Cerro Humo trail.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* – Only two seen at Cahamay park, flycatching over rapids.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* – A few seen in Las Mureas.

Pied Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola pica* – A couple seen at Villa Lola ponds and 1 at Las Mureas.

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant *Arundinicola leucocephala* – Our first were very distant at Cachamay Park on 12<sup>th</sup>. Later seen fairly well at Villa Loala Ponds and at Las Mureas.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosus* – First seen at Hotel in Caracas. A common bird of the dry, open country. Appears to have a hunched back and lots of attitude.

Cinnamon Attila *Attila cinnamomeus* – a pair of these handsome birds seen at VLR on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Cinereous Mourner *Laniocera hypopyrra* – Several indivs around us at Harpy site. A few seen quite well. A bird of primary forest seen often in MSF.

Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox* – Woo Hoo! Good looks at one in fruiting tree at VLR.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* – a single bird at Villa Lola pond #1.

Lesser Kiskadee *Philohydor lictor* – This diminutive “kiskadee” seen around wet areas at Villa Lola ponds and VLR. Perhaps our best views were of a close bird along our mangrove boat trip on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* – One of my favorites... Reee-reeee... Re-ra-reeeee = “welcome to the tropics” it says. Seen frequently during our tour.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua* – Seen in El Avila, Henry’s garden, Guyana trail and near R. Santa Fe.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis* – A common flycatcher in gardens, and the like throughout our tour.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis* – This normally common flycatcher was replaced in most areas by the more common Rusty-margined. Present in El Palmar and around VLR.

Yellow-throated Flycatcher *Conopias parva* – one bird seen along Km. 88 road. This species recently split from *White-ringed Flycatcher* in Cen. America.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus* – Common and seen daily during tour.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* – I noticed this Austral migrant becoming more and more common as our tour progressed. We never were able to spot the one at Henry’s, but had excellent Views of a few at VLR.

Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius* - Great views of a couple of these Austral migrants at fruiting tree in VLR. Unless one is in S. Am. During the late spring / summer, these migrants can be hard to find. It was so nice to have one of these scoped for group to compare the fieldmarks to the far more common *Piratic*.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* – Scattered sightings in most areas during tour.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana* – Seen en route between Pto. Ordaz and Las Claritas. Excellent views of perched birds on fence at Las Mureas.

Black-and-white Becard *Pachyramphus albogriseus* – Jim spotted a male along the Guyana trail.

Pink-throated Becard *Pachyramphus minor* – Seen along Corazon Road, Rs. Santa Fe and Imitaca and one at VLR. Mostly females.

Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana* – Common in humid lowlands at Km. 88 Road, Guyana Trail, Rs. Santa Fe (where we had a flock of four birds) and Imitaca. Also present at VLR.

## **PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera* – A few seen over Rio Orinoco with one scoped on ships mast.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea* – Common throughout tour.

White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer* – The common swallow around water.

Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* – Seen around El Avila. A swallow of higher elevations and mountains.

Black-collared Swallow *Atticora melanoleuca* – We really worked hard for this rare & local swallow, but had to settle for distant views of a single bird feeding over Rio Orinoco before our ferry crossing. One also seen over Cachamay Falls by Robin and Jim at a GREAT distance, was barely identifiable.

Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopochelidon fucata* – A few of these local swallows came over us at PSM with ok views.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* – Seen over R. Cuyuni and flooded fields & rivers in Imitaca area.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae**

Bicolored Wren *Campylorhynchus griseus* – A few of these large, handsome wrens seen around lagoon at VLR.

Stripe-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus nuchalis* – Common at La Blanquilla stop, and abundant at VLR.

Coraya Wren *Thryothorus coraya* – Seen a few times along the Escalera where it was heard singing frequently.

Rufous-breasted Wren *Thryothorus rutilus* – **(H)** The sweet song of this *Thryothorus* wren heard along trail to Cerro Humo and en route up to El Avila.

Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryothorus rufalbus* – Seen only by Jim at Paria Nat. Park. The birds from this region have a very different & beautiful song.

Buff-breasted Wren *Thryothorus leucotis* - Seen only by a few at R. Cuyuni bridge. Another was heard from roadside brush at R. Imitaca.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* – Abundant at most locations during tour. My god - I've never heard so many singing all at once as at the R. Cuyuni bridge at sun up.

Flutist Wren *Microcerculus ustulatus* – **(ET)** This is a really tough wren to spot as they don't leave the dank-dark of the forest too often. A few responded, but stayed mostly out-of-sight. Seen only by Jim and others as a small, dark blurr.

Musician Wren *Cyphorhinus aradus* – WOO-HOO-HOOOOO!!! After our third attempt to call these very illusive birds into view, we all had great views of this fast little dweller of the deep, dark primary forest. Another candidate for best-bird-of-the-tour, simply because of how tough they were to see.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Mimidae**

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* – Seen frequently in open, dry country.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

Rufous-brown Solitaire *Cichlopsis leucogenys* – A few of these uncommon, handsome birds seen at fruiting tree on 16<sup>th</sup> along upper Escalera.

Glossy-black Thrush *Turdus serranus* – Several seen at El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas* – A few seen around El Palmar and Villa Lola ponds.

Black-billed Thrush *Turdus ignobilis* – Several seen along Escalera.

Cocoa Thrush *Turdus fumigatus* – A few seen at Villa Lola ponds and around VLR.

Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus nudigenis* – Only one seen at Villa Lola Pond #1. This race is far lighter in color than pictured in field guide. I was a bit surprised that we did not come across a few more of these normally more common birds.

White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis* – Seen only by Charlie and in forest at R. Imitaca.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Polioptilidae**

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus* – Seen well with huge MSF along lower Escalera and at R. Santa Fe.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea* – Seen along coast near Carupano in desert scrub.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

Inca Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* – Several of these gorgeously gaudy jays seen en route to El Avila on 11th.

Cayenne Jay *Cyanocorax cayanus* – A feeder bird at Henry's and one with nest at edge of kitchen. Also seen along Km.88 and Corazon roads.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae**

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys* – Seen in El Avila and along trail in Paria Nat. Park.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* – two seen at R. Cuyuni bridge and one below Paria Nat. Park.

Tepui Greenlet *Hylophilus sclateri*(ET) – Usually fairly common. We saw only one along the upper Escalera.

Golden-fronted Greenlet *Hylophilus aurantiifrons* – One seen well as we exited the Cerro Humo Trail at Paria NP.

Scrub Greenlet *Hylophilus flaviceps* – This bird responded to Jim's tape of *Rose-breasted Chat* at the R. Cuyuni Bridge. It was no wonder we saw no color, rather a small, drab bird in the sub-canopy on West side of road as it responded. Also heard in back of P. Taguapire. Jim mistakenly listed this bird as *Rose-breasted Chat* on group list – oops, sorry!

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius leucotis* – Seen by about half of group as one passed by at eye-level near beginning of huge MSF on lower escalera on 14<sup>th</sup>. Jim discovered its presence by its constant song.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis* – Ahhhh the ubiquitous sweet song of the foothills throughout our tour. We did not see one of these common, but illusive birds until the 23<sup>rd</sup> near base of Paria Nat. Park.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Parulidae**

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina* – A single bird seen in small MSF at Paria Nat. Park.

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi* – One seen in El Palmar and far better views of one in MSF at Paria Nat. Park by Robin, Tim, Carol, Phyllis and Jim on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Charlie also had a solo bird near old ranger's headquarter bldg. at Paria NP.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* – Seen almost daily during tour.

Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca* – A few indivs. Seen at El Avila Nat. Park on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* – Seen several times during tour in lowland areas. A fairly common neotropical migrant in Venezuela.

Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea* – A pair seen only by Charley along upper Escalera.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* – A single seen at El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup> and a female at Paria Nat. Park on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* – A common neotropical migrant at higher elevations during tour.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* – Mostly heard, but seen at a few locations during tour i.e. Rio Cuyuni, mangroves near VLR and lagoon at VLR.

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus* – Common along upper Escalera, El Avila and at least one at Cerro Humo.

Tepui Redstart *Myioborus castaneicapillus* (ET) – Not seen as well as we would have liked, but everyone got onto these “flitty” warblers as they popped in and out of brush along upper Escalera.

Paria Redstart *Myioborus pariae* (E) – As above, a few came in, but stayed far away enough to make seeing the “spectacle” around eye difficult. This species restricted to Paria peninsula.

Roraiman Warbler *Basileuterus roraimae* (ET) – Seen twice. First one spotted by Charlie and seen by only about half of group. Second found by Carol about 2 Kms. Further up Escalera and seen only by her and Jim.

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus* – Abundant with MSF at El Avila and also along the upper Escalera.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Coerebidae**

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* – Abundant at fruiting trees and gardens throughout tour. Noteworthy were the birds along Escalera with their very different song.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Thraupidae**

Bicolored Conebill *Conirostrum bicolor* – A small flock seen in mangroves on 24<sup>th</sup>. Mostly dull imm. birds and females.

Black-faced Tanager *Schistochlamys melanopis* – Common along Gran Sabana with our first birds at PSM on 16<sup>th</sup>.

Magpie Tanager *Cissopis leveriana* – Usually more common, but we managed good scope views of a few at R. Santa Fe for all, of these attractive birds.

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus* – Abundant along El Avila route.

Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira* – A pair of these delightful small tanagers of disturbed second growth were seen quite well just before we entered Carupano on 21<sup>st</sup>.

Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis* – Our first was a very scruffy imm. at Km. 88 road on 15<sup>th</sup> which took us awhile to id. On 20<sup>th</sup>, we had great views of a male in small flock at the R. Imitaca.

Olive-backed Tanager *Mitrospingus oleagineus* – (ET) Seen a few times from middle to upper Escalera as low flocks pushed by us.

Fulvous Shrike-Tanager *Lanio fulvus* – A pair of these handsome tanagers led the band at beginning of our huge MSF on lower Escalera on 14<sup>th</sup>.

Flame-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus cristatus* – Seen briefly along the lower Escalera.

Fulvous-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus surinamus* - A couple of these birds along the Km. 88 road were our only ones seen during the tour on 13<sup>th</sup>. Some pishing really brought out the fulvous crest in one of them!

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus* – First seen as a small flock pushed by us as we returned to highway from Guyana trail. Later another flock encountered at R. Imitaca.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* – Absolutely abundant in all lowland and foothill areas during our tour.

Red-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus phoenicius* – A flock of four birds seen only at PSM on 16<sup>th</sup>.

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* – Two males and a female seen at Paria Nat. Park on 23<sup>rd</sup>. This race is nearly as bright as a Summer, but still has a “dirty face and back” and the dark bill.

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera* – A brilliant male appeared in our huge MSF on 14<sup>th</sup> and another bird seen higher along Escalera. Easily the most handsome of the *Piranga* Tanagers.

Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* – Abundant in disturbed areas & gardens throughout our tour. A couple building nest in Henry’s front yard.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus* – Ubiquitous in lowland areas.

Glaucous Tanager *Thraupis glaucocolpa* – Another nice surprise was a pair of these local tanagers at edge of lagoon near Carupano that perched in the open for superb scope views.

Blue-capped Tanager *Thraupis cyanocephala* – *T.c. olivicyanea* of costal cordilleras was a common bird in MSF at El Avila. The race *subcinerea* seen from Paria Nat. Park was very distinctive with its slaty facial patch.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* – Seen regularly in disturbed areas in lowlands.

Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica* – Our first were a pair building nest along upper Escalera. Others seen at points along Escalera.

Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea* – Several seen around Henry’s and at sites in lowlands.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris* – Seen by Charley and Robin along Lake at VLR.

Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster* – A few along escalera.

Turquoise Tanager *Tangara mexicana* – First seen in Henry's garden and later along Guyana Trail. A few seen around VLR.

Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis* – This amazing tanager seen sporadically along upper Escalera hanging out with other *Tangara* genus birds. Then one came by at very close range as we departed the Gran Sabana. In fact, it almost flew into our bus!

Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus* – This montane *Tangara* species seen well with MSF at El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Yellow-bellied Tanager *Tangara xanthogastra* – A few seen along upper Escalera. Yet another of the stunning *Tangara* genus.

Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata* – Very common along the Escalera down to Km. 88 where we may have overlooked *Spotted Tanager* in place of this species.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola* – A very common tanager of all elevations during our tour. Never-the-less, always a lovely bird to look at.

Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana* – A unique *Tangara* genus bird of the Gran Sabana, dry country i.e. Villa Lola and areas to the north. We all enjoyed several great views of these handsome birds.

Black-capped Tanager *Tangara heinei* – Seen a few times with MSF at El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Black-headed Tanager *Tangara cyanoptera* – Seen a various sites all along Escalera and in Henry's garden.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana* – Seen in foothill / lowland locations almost daily during tour. A few indivs. At waterfall on Gran Sabana seemed particularly bright – almost confusing! Esp. females of this region, display a far brighter colored head than Cen. Am. Birds.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza* – Seen well with MSF along lower Escalera and in R. Santa Fe and Imitaca. A unique race seen at Paria Nat. Park.

Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus* – Common. Seen daily throughout tour.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus* – Seen a few times along lower Escalera including the one that briefly fooled us at the Piedra de la Virgin on eve. Of 13<sup>th</sup>. Due to the distance and failing light, we lost size perception and thought we were on to a male cotinga for a few minutes. Also seen in with regularity in gallery forest along Gran Sabana at at flowering trees along our route.

Swallow-Tanager *Tersina viridis* – Seen by Bruce only at El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae**

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina* – A few seen around Las Claritas, El Palmar and near VLR.

Gray Seedeater *Sporophila intermedia* – Seemingly way-less common than before. Seen by everyone around El Palmar. Later a single seen well at VLR.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* – A few seen along Gran Sabana at waterfall stop.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta* – A wonderful & cooperative flock of these bright, attractive seedeaters seen well at VLR on 22nd.

Lesser Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis* – Our first was a singing male at R. Cuyuni bridge. Others were seen around Villa Lola and El Palmar & environs.

Black-faced Grassquit *Tiaris bicolor* – Another bonus bird as we all gazed at a pair of Glaucous Tanagers, one of these local, Caribbean birds popped into view giving all great views.

Greater Flowerpiercer *Diglossa major* – I figured we had missed this one for sure, until we stopped at the “El poopy” mirador along upper Escalera. While everyone searched the famous W. Bellbird tree perch, I noticed a dark, tanager-sized bird in a low tree near base of TV antennas. As I got the scope on it, I was shocked to see a Greater Flower-piercer staring back at me. This bird must have been moving around area looking for food, as they are normally higher around Km. 131 curve. Almost everyone made it to the scope in time to see the bird’s odd-shaped bill and black mask before it took off into forest below. Definitely the “greatest” flower-piercer we’ve ever seen.

Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch *Sicalis citrine* – Seen only by Tim, Robin and Bruce around the huts at waterfall on Gran Sabana.

Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch *Sicalis columbiana* – Seen only at Villa Lola Ponds.

Saffron Finch *sicalis flaveola* – Seen around hotel in Caracas, El Palmar and Las Mureas. A fairly common bird of dry country.

Ochre-breasted Brush-Finch *Atlapetes semirufus* – Beautiful views of this beautiful brush-finch at El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>. A responsive pair came in high through bamboo giving perfect views to group.

Tepui Brush-Finch *Atlapetes personatus* – Rather a bit of a disappointment. A few came across road with a small MSF along upper Escalera were the only ones seen & only about half of group got on them. Normally a common bird in this area and not too difficult to see well. Oh well, not this time.

Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis* – Always a nice bird to get a decent look at, but as with most *Ammodramus* sparrows, one must be quick to spot them. Seen by about half of group as a pair worked in-and-out of tall grassy hedge at Las Mureas.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* – A few seen along upper Escalera. Always nice to see this handsome, cheerful sparrow of montane regions in the N. tropics.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Cardinalidae**

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus* – Seen only by a few as a pair of these handsome birds worked the brush at VLR.

Grayish Saltator *Saltator coerulescens* – Seen around disturbed areas throughout tour.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus* – A very territorial bird at Guyana trail, had Jim fooled for a minute as it responded to tape of a *Yellow-green Grosbeak*. A few seen around Henry's garden, R. Imitaca and at VLR.

Slate-colored Grosbeak *Saltator grossus* – The slow, sweet song of this forest bird was heard frequently in lowland areas during tour. However, they were not too responsive at all with the only ones coming in at lower Escalera for good views and 1 with a small MSF at Harpy site in R. Santa Fe.

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocopsa cyanooides* – A so-so response from a shy male at beginning of day on Guyana trail. Another male in full song at R. Cuyuni bridge did not respond.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* Accidental! Bruce and Daniel Muller believe they spotted a possible molting male of this species along the VLR Lake. This would be a new record from this region and no details were submitted. This shall remain an “un-solved” bird for this list.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Icteridae**

Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* – Seen frequently around Villa Lola Ponds and at Las Mureas. A single near El Palmar on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Red-breasted (Meadowlark) Blackbird *Sturnella militaris* – Not seen until Las Mureas. A few of these stunning birds posed well for us upon fence posts next to bus.

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* – A few seen en route South to Henry's and vet well around Villa Lola Ponds and at Las Mureas.

Carib Grackle *Quiscalus lugubris* – These small, attractive grackles were fairly common around Caracas, Pto. Ordaz, Upata and at VLR.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* – Seen only once around lake at VLR. Probably overlooked during tour.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus* – A few fly-bys were at Guyana trail following *Green Oropenolas* and at VLR.

Yellow Oriole *Icterus nigrogularis* – Common. Several around hotel in Caracas and in disturbed areas during tour.

Orange-crowned Oriole *Icterus auricapillus* – A few seen during tour. In garden at H. Puerto Viejo, Parador Taguapire and at VLR.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela* – Abundant. Seen daily in lowland areas

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous* – This species can be quite difficult and local in lowland areas. Henry had several of these handsome birds visiting a fruiting tree in his garden. We also had a few mixed in with above spp. at Rio Grande bridge on morning of 19<sup>th</sup>.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* – The common oropendola throughout our tour.

Green Oropendola *Psarocolius viridis* – Nice views of these forest dwelling birds along Guyana Trail, fly-overs along Corazon Road and esp. the scope views at parking area in R. Santa Fe.

Oriole Blackbird *Gymnomystax mexicanus* – The only ones were around our hotel in Catia La Mar – Caracas.

Velvet-fronted Grackle *Lampropsar tanagrinus* – A small flock of these habitat-restricted birds were seen fairly well during our boat ride in mangroves on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Golden-tufted Grackle *Macroagelaius imthurni* (ET) – A few small flocks of these noisy, interesting birds seen well along upper Escalera. A few were scoped while feeding in fruiting Melastome tree near Km. 132.

## **TOTAL BIRD SPECIES: 436**

### **MAMALIA seen during tour:**

Red Howler Monkey *Alouatta seniculus* – The best views were upon our return to bus on Corazon Road on 17<sup>th</sup>. Phyllis, Carol, Steve, Tim and Jim had superb views of a large adult male and a year-old male at road's edge. Seen well in scope from Villa Lola pond #1 for rest of group.

Wedge-capped Capuchin *Cebus olivaceus* – Seen in Cachamay Park on 20<sup>th</sup>. Hard to say if those animals are actually wild as they are always present there. Our best sighting was of two in mangroves during our boat ride on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Pale-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus tridactylus* – Seen only by Thomas's group on return from El Avila on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Guianan Squirrel *Sciurus aestuans* – Seen a few times in trees along the Escalera including one who was directly above us while searching for *Flutist Wren* on 13<sup>th</sup>.