

**AMAZON RIVER CRUISE**  
**A BIRDING AND NATURAL HISTORY ODYSSEY**  
**ABOARD *LA ESTRELLA AMAZONICA***  
**[LIMA BIRD LIST INCLUDED AT END]**

**FEB. 19 – MARCH 1, 2015**



Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*. Photo: D. Ascanio

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Feb. 19 – March 1, 2015  
By David Ascanio**

**Photo album:**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157648767973783/>

**Cruise video:**

<https://youtu.be/zg-nC3dl9rA>



Our second-of-the-year Amazon Cruise was what I would call a magic trip. That means a nice mix of quality birding, great group dynamic and unparalleled ship's staff! Day by day, we learned about various topics, from sedimentary river islands and oxbow lake, to Moriche palm stands or terra firme and riverine forests types. We also discussed the differences between *Varzea* (riverine forest in white water rivers) and *Igapo* (riverine forest in black water rivers) and appreciated the birdlife in each one of these habitats.

The Amazon wasn't a show just to your eyes but to your ears as well. Do you remember the cacophony of macaws, parrots, parakeets and parrotlets every morning when commuting to the foraging grounds? Or the choreography of the Black-capped *Donacobius* when one met another?

Although it may be difficult to review in words the experiences of this weeklong cruise, I would describe it like reading a poem that needs no words. Each day was equal to a phrase containing a scent, a sound, or a special image to your eyes. We found the rhythm of this poem either in the voice of the parrots or in the song of the antbirds. There was no way to avoid strong emotions when floating on a tributary, to brush the floating vegetation with the skiffs and simultaneously seeing a Horned Screamer in flight or a pink dolphin expelling air through the blowhole. Like a good poem, the Amazon did invite for time of reflection or maybe for introspection. It was also the smile in the kids face, the mixing of black and white waters, the golden sunrises and fiery sunsets and the continuous struggling of every living creature of this impressive biome.

This amazing river was also a field classroom to learn about the parrot illegal trade, the early explorers, the discovery of it to the Westerns, the brutal rubber trade, boreal and austral bird migration and the life of the *ribereños*: A visit to a community allowed us to comprehend their life style and daily challenges.

We maximized time in the field and that is reflected in the number of birds seen. In fact, for the last morning we only had one hour and a half available before disembarkation and we took advantage of it. Using the skiffs we went on a bang-bang birding and you bet we nailed the target species. First, a pair of Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant came very close to us. Soon after, a Parker's Spinetail was seen (away of cane habitat!). Almost simultaneously Orange-headed Tanager and

Black-and-white Antbird called our attention and we finished this short morning outing with superb views of River Tyrannulet.

Once in Iquitos we took the plane back to Lima. After taking-off we left behind a great learning experience and yet, more mysteries to be resolved. That's the Amazon!

Remarks. A full day in Lima, Pantanos de Villa, Pucusana and Lurín river valley prior to the flight to Iquitos allowed views of birdlife not found in the Amazon, and some linked with it. This area encompasses one of the driest deserts in the world. Along with Humboldt Penguin, Surf Cinclodes and Many-colored Rush-Tyrant we experienced a huge flock of Guanay Cormorants (about 50 thousand individuals!) and hundreds of Black Skimmer giving a unique choreography in flight. Whilst the cormorant were probably commuting to the foraging grounds, the skimmers were local migrants from the Amazon that have crossed the Andes and over to the Peruvian coast due to the high waters of the river.

Now that you got the bite for the *Neotropical Birding* I would like to invite you to consider some of the tours I lead in this bird-rich continent, as follows:

*Cuba: Birds and people-to-people.*

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157643519265893/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLRHvB1jzDI>

*Venezuela: Casa Maria & Hato Piñero. A relaxed and easy tour.*

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157648429028713/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQlorO9P1eg>

*Costa Rica. A relaxed and easy tour.*

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157649285592572/>

*Birding the Panama's Canal. A relaxed and easy tour.*

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/sets/72157648765567967/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgnkUxwd5kw>

*Thank you for joining us!*



Black-tailed Antbird, *Myrmoborus melanurus*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

# MAP WITH LOCATIONS



**Itinerary:**

- 20 Feb. 2015. Lima area: Pantanos de Villa, Pucusana, Rio Lurín valley.
- 21 Feb. 2015. Flight to Iquitos. Birding the Amazon from the ship's upper deck.
- 22 Feb. 2015. Tahuayo creek, Lucero Pata and Morichal.
- 23 Feb. 2015. Sapuena creek and Flor de Castaña.
- 24 Feb. 2015. Yanallpa and Faucet (misspell of Fawcett).
- 25 Feb. 2015. Zapote and El Dorado.
- 26 Feb. 2015. Supay and Sapuena creeks.
- 27 Feb. 2015. Yarapa and Tamishiaco.
- 28 Feb. 2015. Itaia. Flight to Lima.

## THE BIRDLIST

### Screamers, *Anhimidae*

**Horned Screamer, *Anhima cornuta*.** A truly flying-unicorn! It was common in marshes and flooded plains.

### Ducks & Geese, *Anatidae*

Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata*. Pairs and small groups were seen mostly in the Ucayali river.

### Guans and Chachalacas, *Cracidae*

Speckled Chachalaca, *Ortalis guttata*. Once commoner, this species has become shy due to extensive hunting. We observed two pairs.

### Cormorants, *Phalacrocoracidae*

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*. Seen everyday. Numbers varied from 4 to about 20 individuals.

### Anhinga, *Anhingidae*

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*. A single individual was observed in Dorado creek.

### Hérons & Egrets, *Ardeidae*

Rufescent Tiger-Heron. *Tigrisoma lineatum*. A juvenile was observed on the nest in Dorado creek.

Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*. Seen almost daily. Not numerous.

Great Egret. *Ardea alba*. Seen almost daily. Not numerous.

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*. Found frequently along the river edge. Seen daily.

Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*. Uncommon species in the Amazonia although expanding rapidly due to deforestation. Only 3 pairs were seen along the river edge.

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*. A common species along the river bank.

**Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*.** This is one of the most beautiful herons in South America. We noticed its solitary behavior (unlike Pantanal, Brazil where they can roost in groups). It was seen repeated times at forest edge.

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*. Only scattered individuals were observed during the weeklong tour.

### **Ibises & Spoonbills, *Threskiornithidae***

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*. Heard infrequently. Seen only once.

### **New World Vultures, *Cathartidae***

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*. Daily views.

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*. This vulture was less common than the previous species. We saw the resident race *ruficollis*.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes burrovianus*. Common in marshes and river banks.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes melambrotus*. Very few were observed mostly in the Ucayali river.

### **Osprey, *Pandionidae***

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*. We saw about 1 to 3 per day. Boreal migrant. Several were seen.

### **Hawk & Eagles, *Accipitridae***

Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, 1 seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. (dark morph) and another reported by Andy on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*. Seen in 25<sup>th</sup> Feb in Dorado creek. We noticed its smaller head compared to the body size.

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*. Only 2 were seen on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. from the ship upper deck. A local migrant.

Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*. Several individuals were observed daily. This is the commonest raptor along riverine forest. It's diet consist almost exclusively on fish.

Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*. Seen around Iquitos on the flooded plains.

**Slender-billed Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis***. This raptor was remarkably more numerous compared with the sights during the January cruise. Various pairs were seen daily. One nesting pair reported.

Double-thooted Kite. *Harpagus bidentatus*. Reported by Andy on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*. Seen daily. This raptor is a local migrant in the Amazon basin. Seen daily.

Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*. Only seen a couple of times, in Zapote and El Dorado creeks. One photographed carrying a prey (*Hyla* tree frog).

Slate-colored Hawk, *Leucopternis schistaceus*. Surprisingly uncommon compared with the records during the January cruise. Only seen a couple of times.

Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*. We observed several juveniles and adults along the riverine forest.

Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*. Found in river islands and river edge. Seen daily. Andy highlighted its behavior to shake the tail once it land to a branch. Renaming it "Riverside Hawk" sounds be more appropriate.

Broad-winged Hawk. *Buteo platypterus*. Seen this raptor was a surprise for the tour. Spotted by Andy soaring on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Short-tailed Hawk, *Buteo brachyurus*. 1 was seen soaring on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Observed from the ship's upper deck.

**Pearl Kite, *Gampsonyx swainsonii***. We found an individual perched on the Iquitos airport antennas. An uncommon species in Amazonia.

### **Sunbittern, *Eurypygidae***

**Sunbittern, *Eurypyga helias*.** 1 individual was flushed by the ship as we moved close to the riverbank on the 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. Also heard on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

#### **Rails and Gallinules, *Rallidae***

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*. Bill, Laura and Andy saw one from the ship's upper deck. Also seen in Itaia River Island on the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Azure Gallinule, *Porphyrio flavirostris*.** This one turned more difficult than in January. It was seen only once on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

#### **Finfoots & Sungrebe, *Heliornithidae***

**Sungrebe, *Heliornis fulica*.** Heard daily. This delicate and beautiful finfoot was very vocal and quite active. All participants saw it after repeated effort.

#### **Plovers & Lapwings, *Charadriidae***

Pied Plover (Lapwing), *Vanellus cayanus*. We enjoyed superb studies of 4 individuals in the farmland near Supay. 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis*.** A rare species in the Amazon and a alarm sign due to its presence here. This species colonized deforested areas (grasslands and pastures). The race found here is the one east of the Andes and certainly a separate species from the ones found west and south of the Andes, across the coast of Chile and Argentina.

#### **Jacanas, *Jacanidae***

Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*. Scattered groups and loose pairs were seen almost daily.

#### **Sandpipers & allies, *Scolopacidae***

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*. Scattered individuals were observed along the river edge, mostly on flotsam and packed of floating vegetation.

#### **Gulls & Terns, *Laridae***

Yellow-billed Tern, *Sternula superciliaris*. Common species. Found mainly in shallow water and at the mouth of the river tributaries.

Large-billed Tern, *Phaetusa simplex*. This common tern was seen daily and was active at the flooded areas as well as in the main stem of the river.

#### **Pigeons & Doves, *Columbidae***

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*. Common in Iquitos. Andy suggested that we should call these individuals as "feral pigeons".

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*. It was fairly common in river islands and cleared areas.

Plumbeous Pigeon, *Patagioenas plumbea*. Seen by Andy on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Ruddy Pigeon, *Columba subvinacea*. This was a common species in Varzea forest. Was heard almost daily and seen every other day.

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columba talpacoti*. Few were observed in the farmland near Supay and in open areas.

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*. Mostly seen in flight over river islands and across channels and creeks.

Gray-fronted Dove, *Leptotila rufaxilla*. Mostly heard. Andy reported one on the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Hoatzin, *Opisthocomidae***

**Hoatzin, *Opisthocomus hoazin*.** We enjoyed very nice views in Zapote and Dorado creeks. A nesting pair allowed views of a chick. While observing this species we learned some aspects of the natural history of it. This is one of the most fascinating bird species in our planet. The Hoatzin has a long crop that function as a rumen to allow digest poisonous leaves. It was believed to be a relative with the *Tinamidae* and later with the *Cracidae*, *Rallidae*, *Otididae*, *Pteroclididae*, *Columbidae*, *Colidae*, *Cariamidae*, and *Cuculidae*. It is now believed to be a very old lineage with a long lonely evolutionary history and no close living relatives. Its taxonomical position has been greatly debated and remains unclear.

### **Cuckoos, *Cuculidae***

Little Cuckoo, *Piaya minuta*. Seen by everyone on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*. Seen by everyone in two consecutive days.

Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*. Groups varying from trips to dozens were observed moving along the riverine forest. We discussed the behavior of this species to follow troops of squirrel monkeys to feed on well-camouflaged disturbed arthropods that are otherwise difficult to see, when not moving.

Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*. It was common in flooded plains and marshes.

### **Owls, *Strigidae***

Tropical Screech-Owl, *Megascops choliba*. Heard only by Andy in the night outing on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*. Frequently heard. Seen by Andy on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Nightjars & Allies, *Caprimulgidae***

**Sand-colored Nighthawk, *Chordeiles rupestris*.** A group of about 70 individuals were observed flying back to the roost during the first light in the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Later, a group of more than 350 individuals was reported near the mouth of the Dorado creek.

**Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*.** Two individuals were spotted by one of the boat drivers roosting along a branch of a tree in the riverine forest. We were impressed that he found these couple of individuals while he was driving the skiff back to the ship. Boreal migrant.

Short-tailed Nighthawk, *Lurocalis semitorquatus*. Eventually seen by both groups, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb and 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar, *Hydrosalis climacocerca*. This species was the commonest nightjar in riverine forest of the Amazon. We enjoyed repeated views during the night outings and also when roosting on fairly exposed branches on daytime.

### **Potoos, *Nyctibiidae***

Great Potoo, *Nyctibius grandis*. 2 individuals were seen very well on forest edge from the ship's upper deck.

Common Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*. An individual was observed on forest edge from the ship's upper deck.

### **Swifts, *Apodidae***

***Cypseliodes* sp.** A large swift (presumably all black) was seen by David group in the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. Presumably, it could have been White-chested Swift, *Cypseloides lemosi*.

Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*. This fairly common species was seen over the

Ucayali tributaries, especially prior to dusk.

Pale-rumped Swift, *Chaetura egregia*. Reported by Andy on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift.** *Panyptila cayennensis*. Seen by David group on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb and by Andy group on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Fork-tailed (Neotropical) Palm-Swift, *Tachornis (Reinarda) squamata*. A common and widespread swift apparently restricted to clusters of Moriche (*Maurutia flexulosa*) palm trees.

### **Hummingbirds, Trochilidae**

Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsutus*. Seen by both groups on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

White-bearded Hermit, *Phaethornis hispidus*. Reported by Andy on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Reddish Hermit, *Phaethornis ruber*. Seen by both groups on the 24<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*. Eventually seen by everyone at different locations on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. It responded to the whistle of the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl.

**Festive Coquette.** *Lophornis chalybeus*. We were astonished with views of a male foraging on tiny flowers of an unidentified tree on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. Unfortunately did not remain long enough for everyone to see it.

Long-billed Starthroat, *Helimaster longirostris*. Reported by Andy on the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Blue-chinned Sapphire, *Chlorostilbon (Chlorestes) notate*. This was one of the commonest hummingbirds for the trip. Individuals in male and female plumage were reported at various locations. David's group found two females nesting within 10 meters (ca. 30 feet) distance one to another. The nests were built some 50 inches above the water level in braches or forks of small trees in the understory of the flooded forest.

**Olive-spotted Hummingbird,** *Leucippus chlorocercus*. This river island specialist was seen only once by David skiff on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Glittering-throated Emerald, *Amazilia fimbriata*. A fairly common hummingbird in secondary growth, river island vegetation and forest edge. Seen in various locations.

**Golden-tailed Sapphire.** *Chrysuronia oenone*. Found by Andy on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Trogon, Trogonidae**

Black-tailed Trogon, *Trogon melanurus*. Probably the most common trogon in the flooded forest of the Ucayali river and its tributaries. Seen almost every day.

Green-backed Trogon (a split from White-tailed Trogon), *Trogon viridis*. Both groups saw this species in four consecutive days, from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Amazonian Violaceous Trogon** (named erroneously Gartered Trogon in the checklist. Gartered Trogon is found in the Andean foothills). *Trogon caligatus*. This species is the least common of the Amazonian trogons in the flooded forest. We saw a male on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Blue-crowned Trogon, *Trogon curucui*. Eventually seen by all tour participants in 3 different outings.

Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris*. Found by Andy and David in two different mornings. Seen by everyone.

### **Motmots, Momotidae**

Amazonian (formerly Blue-crowned) Motmot, *Momotus momota*. David's group enjoyed great views of a pair in Supay.

### **Kingfishers, Alcedinidae**

Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*. Seen daily. This is the commonest kingfisher in the Amazon basin. Nesting colony was seen.

Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazon*. It was less common than the previous species. Seen daily in fewer numbers.

Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana*. Few individuals were observed repeated times. This small kingfisher favors forested areas.

Green-ad-rufous Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle inda*. This is one of the most difficult-to-see kingfishers. It is exclusive of flooded forested areas. Seen mostly flying.

(American) Pygmy Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle aenea*. Only seen a couple of times. Andy's boat saw it perched.

### **Puffbirds, *Bucconidae***

Black-fronted Nunbird, *Monasa nigrifrons*. Common species. Seen daily.

Swallow-winged Puffbird, *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*. Seen mostly from the ship's upper deck. Favors bare tips of vertical branches.

### **Jacamars, *Galbulidae***

White-eared Jacamar, *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*. The most beautiful and most numerous jacamar for the trip.

Bluish-fronted Jacamar, *Galbula cyanescens*. Two pairs were observed in riverine forest in 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Although similar White-chinned Jacamar (*G. tombacea*) may occur in the area we did not see the dark forehead of the latter species.

Paradise Jacamar, *Galbula dea*. A big thanks goes to Andy for finding this species in Supay creek. All cruise participants saw it.

### **Barbets, *Capitonidae***

Scarlet-crowned Barbet, *Capito aurovirens*. A widespread species found at edge of riverine forest. Its common voice was heard almost daily.

Lemon-throated Barbet, *Eubucco richardsoni*. Seen twice by Andy's boat.

### **Toucans, *Ramphastidae***

Lettered Araçari, *Pteroglossus inscriptus*. Singles or pairs were observed on the upper Ucayali part of the river.

Chestnut-eared Araçari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*. This was probably the commonest of the aracaries. It was seen in almost all tributaries.

White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan, *Ramphastos cuvieri*. Heard mostly. One individual was seen flying across the river on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Channel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus*. Only heard and briefly seen on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Woodpeckers, *Picidae***

Lafresnaye's Piculet, *Picumnus lafresnayi*. Heard only by both leaders.

**Plain-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus castelnaui***. This is the default piculet at river edge. It was seen almost daily.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cruentatus*. Seen mostly from the ship's upper deck. Fond to forage in bare branches of exposed trees.

Little Woodpecker, *Veniliornis passerines*. This woodpecker is specialized in river island vegetation and in Cane-growth Island. Both groups saw it.

Red-stained Woodpecker, *Veniliornis affinis*. Reported once by Andy. Not seen by all participants.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes (Chrysoptilus) punctigula*. This woodpecker is fond to

riverine forest. Both groups saw it repeated times.

Scale-breasted Woodpecker, *Celeus grammicus*. Seen by Andy's group only once.

Chestnut Woodpecker, *Celeus elegans*. The Amazon is probably the best biome to see this woodpecker. We saw various active pairs during the cruise.

Cream-colored Woodpecker, *Celeus flavus*. This is the commonest woodpecker in riverine forest. Several pairs were observed almost daily.

**Ringed Woodpecker, *Celeus torquatus***. This is probably the rarest woodpecker for the cruise. An individual as observed by David's group on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*. Heard and seen repeated times. We noticed its slightly smaller size compared with the next species.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*. Seen by both groups only a couple of times. This is a relative (same genus) of the enigmatic Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

### **Falcons and Caracaras, *Falconidae***

Black Caracara, *Daptrius ater*. Only a pair or individuals were seen in the Ucayali river section of the cruise.

Red-throated Caracara, *Ibycter americanus*. Heard only.

Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago Chimachima*. This species was the commonest caracara of the trip. Feeds on invertebrates in floating vegetation and forest edge. Seen daily.

Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*. I love this raptor for many reasons. First, because of its unique voice. Second, because is mostly a snake-specialist and these are not easy prey. Third, because of its immaculate mask, rounded wings and unique flight pattern. David's skiff enjoyed one individual flying overhead. Eventually seen by both groups, more than once.

### **Parrots & Parakeets, *Psittacidae***

The Amazon is home for several macaws, parrots, parakeets and parrotlets. That's why traders and illegal trappers focused in Iquitos area for decades. At one point (back in the 60's and 70's), Iquitos became the pet-trade provider for many European traders. Populations were decimated and several species almost wiped-out of the Peruvian map. Fortunately, that has changed. Nowadays, wildlife is legally protected and the government pays attention to it. As a result, we were fortunate to observe 20 species of this wonderful family.

**Rose-fronted Parakeet, *Pyrrhura roseifrons***. Unfortunately, only seen in flight by David's skiff.

White-eyed Parakeet, *Aratinga leucophthalma*. Few were observed, mostly in flight. Notice this bird does have a dark iris. The name "white-eyed" applies to the eyering.

Dusky-headed Parakeet, *Aratinga weddellii*. Fairly common, especially in open areas.

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severus*. Few pairs were observed along the Moriche palm stand being drained by the Ucayali river. We believe some were guarding the palm cavity for the forthcoming nesting season.

**Scarlet Macaw, *Ara macao***. Pairs were seen in the Ucayali River from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna***. This macaw was commoner and more numerous than the previous species. On the 25<sup>nd</sup> Feb we saw a group of about 10 individuals. It was seen almost daily in the Ucayali river tributaries that we explored.

Red-bellied Macaw, *Orthopsittaca manilata*. This is the most abundant of the macaws in the Peruvian Amazon. Its small size resembles like a large parakeet but its bare face plus screechy voice are distinctive field marks. Largest number in a single day was 50+ individuals on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Blue-winged Parrotlet, *Forpus xanthopterygius*. Pairs or trios were seen at forest edge,

especially in areas rich in Cecropia trees.

White-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus*. Flocks varying from dozens to larger groups (up to about 70 individuals) were seen daily.

Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanoptera*. Pairs were reported daily.

Tui Parakeet, *Brotogeris sanctithomae*. Pairs were reported daily. It was more numerous than the previous species.

**Scarlet-shouldered Parakeet, *Touit huetti***. Seen by Andy's boat only on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

**Black-headed Parrot, *Pionites melanocephalus***. We saw this species repeated times in groups usually between 3 to 5 individuals. Notice that a groups seen on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. included a pale individual that was probably a hybrid with White-bellied Parrot, *Pionites leucogaster*.

**Orange-cheeked Parrot, *Pyrilia barrabandi***. Only seen in flight by David's boat on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. and by Andy's group on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Short-tailed Parrot, *Graydidascalus brachyurus*. The commonest of the parrots given its harsh and uncomfortable voice thus not hunted extensively as other parrots for the pet trade. Seen daily.

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*. Only 2 pairs were seen on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Festive Parrot, *Amazona festiva*. Few pairs were seen along the tributaries of the Ucayali. Eventually everyone saw its distinctive red back patch in flight.

**Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala***. We saw this species more times than in previous Amazon cruises (various pairs were observed). Still, this is the least common of the Amazonian parrots.

Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinose*. The largest of the *Amazona* parrots was found in pairs or loose groups almost daily.

Orange-winged Parrot, *Amazona amazonica*. Without a doubt this is the commonest of the *Amazona* parrots. Several pairs were reported daily.

### **Antbirds, *Thamnophilidae***

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*. Both groups enjoyed superb views of a male and a female.

**Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis***. Both groups enjoyed views of a pair at the mouth of Yanalpa creek. We learned the historical reason for the misnomer "*canadensis*".

Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*. This is a common species in forest edge and secondary growth at river edge. It was seen several times.

**Castelnau's Antshrike, *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus***. What a view! We enjoyed superb views of a very cooperative pair on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Notice that this species can be noticeable difficult to observe.

Amazonian Antshrike, *Thamnophilus amazonicus*. This is a fairly common species along the river edge. Pairs were observed a couple of times.

Plain-throated Antwren, *Iseria hauxwelli*. Seen by David's skiff on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. Seen only once.

Spot-winged Antshrike, *Pygoptila stellaris*. Andy's skiff nailed this one on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Pygmy Antwren, *Myrmotherula brachyuran*. Seen by Andy's skiff on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. Heard only in David skiff.

Moustached Antwren, *Myrmotherula ignota*. Heard buy both groups. Andy saw it briefly.

Amazonian Streaked-Antwren, *Myrmotherula multostriata*. Pairs were observed frequently singing at about eyelevel at forest edge of riverine forest. We discussed its rough similarity of the male with Black-and-white Warbler.

Peruvian Warbling Antbird, *Hypocnemis peruviana*. A pair was seen a couple of times on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> (David) and 26<sup>th</sup> (Andy and David). Formerly called Warbling Antbird and now split in five

species.

Band-tailed Antbird, *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*. This common antbird was found in understory of riverine forest. Pairs were observed moving along twigs and hanging roots (adventitious roots) in shady areas near the water level.

Gray Antbird, *Cercomacra cinerascens*. Heard only by David's skiff on Feb. 24th. The presence of this species suggested there was a terra firma forest nearby.

Blackish Antbird, *Cercomacra nigrescens*. Seen by Andy's skiff on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Heard only by David's skiff.

White-browed Antbird, *Myrmoborus leucophrys*. This might have been the species that we tried to bring out of a flooded forest in a black water channel on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Heard only.

**Black-tailed Antbird, *Cercomacra melanurus***. Two pairs were observed in black water rivers in Igapó forest. Notice that when this species was first found in the VENT Amazon Cruise it was a lifer for all the VENT leaders, including Bob Ridgely! Both groups enjoyed superb views.

**Black-and-white Antbird, *Myrmochanes hemileucus***. A river island specialist seen very well by both groups in the early morning outing to the river islands near Iquitos. This species is restricted to successional vegetation on river islands.

Black-throated Antbird, *Myrmeciza atrothorax*. Seen repeated times after much effort in thick understory of riverine forest. We noticed its distinctive voice.

**White-shouldered Antbird, *Myrmeciza melanocephala***. Both groups enjoyed superb views of a male of this amazing antbird.

Plumbeous Antbird, *Myrmeciza hyperythra*. Heard frequently. Various pairs were seen in riverine forest.

Sooty Antbird, *Myrmeciza fortis*. Heard only by Andy on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Black-spotted Bare-eye, *Phlegopsis nigromaculata***. Andy's group saw this astonishing bird on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. This species is usually heard in the Amazon cruise but almost certainly never seen!

#### **Antthrushes, *Formicariidae***

Black-faced Antthrush, *Formicarioides analis*. Heard only in David's skiff on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. The presence of this species suggested some terra firme forest in the vicinity.

#### **Ovenbirds, Sipnetails and Woodcreepers, *Furnariidae***

Olivaceous Woodcreeper, *Sittasomus griseicapillus amazonus*. Heard only in David's skiff. Notice that this species will be split in about 5 species. Soon more!

Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes rufigula*. This distinctive woodcreeper is associated with riverine forest. It was seen repeated times in fairly open vegetation with patches of tall trees.

Long-billed Woodcreeper, *Nasica longirostris*. There is no successful Amazon Cruise without the views of this astonishing woodcreeper. Furthermore, its voice is part of the dawn call of the forest every morning. This species was observed in several mornings. Its long bill stands for probing tank bromeliads.

Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes certhia*. An individual was observed in David's skiff on Feb. 23th. This species is uncommon in Amazonia.

Black-banded Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes picumnus*. Heard only by Andy on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Strong-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes promeropygus*. An elusive individual was only seen in flight across the river on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*. Found commonly in varzea forest. It was one of the commonest woodcreepers for the trip.

Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*. This one was equally common. It was heard almost every day. Also, seen repeated times.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*. Another species common to flooded forest although it prefers areas less forested and more open. It was seen by both groups on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

**Zimmer's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus kienerii*.** The Ucayali river is perhaps the best location in Peru for finding this enigmatic woodcreeper. It is usually overlooked given its similarity to Straight-billed Woodcreeper. Both voice and streaks in the back are the best way to tell part one from another. Seen by both groups.

**Slender-billed Xenops, *Xenops tenuirostris*.** This uncommon xenops was seen by Andy's skiff on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. The following day, David's skiff found a pair nesting. This is perhaps the first nest record for this species!

**Point-tailed Palmcreeper, *Berlepschia rikeri*.** We enjoyed clear but distant views of a pair at the river edge in a very sunny day. Seen by both groups.

Hornero Pale-legged, *Furnarius leucopus*. This is the commonest of the horneros in Amazonia. It was seen in riverine forest and in open terrain, on grassland.

Pale-billed (Bay) Hornero, *Furnarius torridus*. It is said that good luck is a consequence of continuous efforts in the correct direction. If that's right, then this is the reason why we enjoyed astonishing views of this species. We (Andy and myself) worked in tandem to bring this species in view, and the reward was an individual perched for various minutes inside a dense and dark understory. There were various "windows" to which participants were able to observe it very well. You might be the first VENT group ever to see this species so well...

Lesser Horner, *Furnarius minor*. This river island specialist is frequently seen searching for arthropods on driftwood. An individual was observed on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Orange-fronted Plushcrown, *Metopothrix aurantiaca*. Several nests were observed along the tributaries of the Amazon and Ucayali rivers. Many cruise participants commented its similarity with a warbler. Seen by both groups.

**Parker's Spinetail, *Cranioleuca vulpecula*.** This is a river island specialist with an interesting and peculiar taxonomic history. First considered as part of Rusty-backed Spinetail, it was VENT leaders Kevin Zimmer and Andrew Whittaker whom found the differences in voice and habitat from the former. Nowadays named after famed colleague Ted Parker, this river island specialist prefers tall cane growth in sedimentary river islands. To a lesser extent, also found in scrubby vegetation. It was seen by David's skiff on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb and later by all participants near Iquitos.

Speckled Spinetail, *Cranioleuca gutturata*. Seen by Andy's skiff on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Yellow-chinned Spinetail, *Certhiaxis cinnamomea*. This is an uncommon river island specialist in the Amazon. We saw a pair on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Red-and-white Spinetail, *Certhiaxis mustelina*. This is one of the commonest but nevertheless most beautiful spinetail in Amazonia. Various pairs were seen on flooded grassland alongside of the river, oxbow lakes and channels. A pair was observed building a nest.

Dark-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albigularis*. A pair was seen by David's skiff on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

White-bellied Spinetail, *Synallaxis propinqua*. Heard most days and seen in the river island near Iquitos.

### **Tyrant Flycatchers, *Tyrannidae***

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*. Various pairs were observed in forest edge and *Cecropia* growth. This active species is distinctively conspicuous at the presence of a pygmy owl. Seen by all cruise participants.

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannous elates*. Several times was seen and frequently heard

(its unique *free-beer!* call was learned by cruise participants).

Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*. Heard only.

Yellow-crowned Elaenia, *Myiopagis flavivertex*. Heard infrequently. Seen once on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

River Tyrannulet. *Serpophaga hypoleuca*. We enjoyed nice studies of a pair during the last morning outing.

Slender-footed Tyrannulet. *Zimmerius gracilipes*. Heard few times and seen only twice. Better called by its voice.

**Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, *Stigmatura napensis***. This distinctive river island specialist was seen in pairs. We enjoyed superb views on the last morning when exploring the river islands near Iquitos.

Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant. *Myiornis ecaudatus*. Seen only by few participants on Andy's skiff on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. This is the smallest passerine in the world.

Spotted Tody-Tyrant, *Todirostrum maculatum*. A small bird attached to a bill. We noticed the powerful voice of this small tody-tyrant, one that's fairly common on flooded shrubs along the river edge.

Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*. I am sure you remember the expression "follow the bumblebee!" It was for seeing this tiny tyrant-flycatcher moving among forest canopy. Eventually seen by all cruise participants when perched on a bare branch of a Cecropia tree. Seen on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Olivaceous Flatbill. *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*. Participants on David's skiff enjoyed views of a territorial pair at understory of the river rine foresto n the 23rd Feb.

Orange-eyed Flycatcher. *Tolmomyias traylori*. Andy found this species on Supay and some participants were able to observe it. David's skiff had only flash views. This *Tolmomyias* flycatcher is poorly known.

Yellow-margined Flycatcher. *Tolmomyias assimilis*. Called in Andy's skiff on the 24th. This species is a good candidate for a future split between the Amazonian and the Guianan populations.

Gray-crowned Flycatcher. *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*. Heard frequently and seen only on the 23rd and 24th Feb.

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher. *Tolmomyias flaviventris*. Another candidate for a future split. Seen twice on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

(Amazonian) Royal Flycatcher. *Onychorhynchus coronatus*. Heard infrequently in tributaries with stationary water and hanging vines.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher. *Terenotriccus erythrurus*. Heard only by Andy on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Fuscous Flycatcher. *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*. Seen only once inside flooded forest on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. We noticed the similarity of its voice with the one of Yellow-crowned Elaenia.

Drab Water-Tyrant. *Ochthornis littoralis*. This rather dull but comical bird was frequently found along floating vegetation debris or exposed roots alongside of the rivers. We saw many pairs during our cruise. During low water they remain at vertical cuts of the riverbank.

White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*. Only a male was seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Cinnamon Attila, *Attila cinnamomeus*. This common species was found in flooded forest. It was heard and seen many times. We noticed its distinctive hooked bill and rich cinnamon rufous plumage.

Dull-capped (White-eyed) Attila, *Attila bolivianus*. A more difficult-to-find attila. We came across various unresponsive individuals and finally, on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> it was seen well. We like the name White-eyed Attila better than the current name because it denotes one of the main field marks, its white eyes!

Grayish Mourner, *Rhytipterna simplex*. It was seen only once by David's skiff on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*. Heard by both groups and seen by Andy's skiff on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*. A fairly common *Myiarchus* flycatcher in the Amazon basin. It was heard frequently and seen few times.

Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus (Philohydor) lector*. Seen daily along edge of riverine forest (river side). Often heard uttering its unique "squeeze-me" call of giving its duet with a soft and fast "kis-ka-dee!"

Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*. Found fairly common along disturbed forest and open areas. It was seen almost daily.

Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*. Although similar to the kiskadees, we noticed its wider bill and distinctive voice. One or two individuals were seen every other day.

Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*. This is the commonest of the kiskadee look-alike. It was seen every day.

Gray-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*. This is less common to previous species and apparently prefers open areas with palm trees. All sights were in areas nearby communities.

Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*. One was seen by David's skiff on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. *Myiodynastes luteiventris*. Reported by Andy only once perched atop a tree on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*. Reported near a community calling insistently. This species harass cacique females (in nesting colonies) to take over their nest.

Crowned Slaty Flycatcher. *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*. Andy reported this individual on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. Apparently not seen by cruise participants.

White-throated Kingbird. *Tyrannus albogularis*. Early Austral migrant (migrating from southern South America) were observed from the ship's upper deck. We noticed the clearly notched tail and distinctive white throat. We also learned to tell apart this species from juvenile Tropical Kingbird. It was seen in disturbed habitat.

Tropical Kingbird. *Tyrannus melancholicus*. This was the common kingbird in open areas, river islands and farmland.

Eastern Kingbird. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Unlike the White-throated Kingbird, this species is a boreal migrant, meaning that migrates from North America. We enjoyed views of groups gathering to start the migration to the breeding grounds. They were very active feeding on arthropods.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher. *Tyrannus savanna*. We reported several groups roosting in river islands and gathering in marshes. In one afternoon (Zapote) we saw so many of it that we called it: *A river of fork-tailed flycatchers!* It was seen almost daily.

### **Cotingas, Cotingidae**

Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*. Both skiffs observed few groups. We noticed its distinctive voice and barking call notes.

**Amazonian Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus ornatus***. Briefly seen in flight by Andy. Unfortunately, not seen by all tour participants.

**Plum-throated Cotinga, *Cotinga maynana***. Definitely, this was one of the participant's top species. We saw four different males (and about 3 females) during our field trips and everyone enjoyed superb views of it. I always remember cruise participants expressions when we first see this bird, from *wow!*, to *amazing!*, or *unbelievable!*

Bare-necked Fruitcrow, *Gymnoderus foetidus*. Seen mostly in the middle Ucayali river flying across the tributaries explored. We enjoyed views of flying and perched individuals.

### **Tityras & allies, Tityridae**

Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*. We noticed several pairs nesting in tree cavities, especially of rotting species with hollow trunk like Cecropias. This species was seen at least on three different days.

Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*. This is the commonest tityra in the Amazon. Seen daily.

Varzea (Greater) Schiffornis, *Schiffornis major*. This is a common voice of dark understory inside flooded forest. Nevertheless, it can be extremely difficult to see. We were favored by cloudy days that allowed good views of this species perching near the skiffs.

Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*. Various pairs were seen at forest edge and disturbed habitat with shrubs and scrubs.

White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*. A fairly common dimorphic becard in the Amazonia. Both groups saw individuals in male and female plumage.

Black-capped Becard. *Pachyramphus marginatus*. Seen in Andy's skiff on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Pink-throated Becard. *Pachyramphus minor*. Seen twice, on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Vireos & Greenlets, Vireonidae**

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus (chivi)*. Both groups saw scattered pairs. The individuals we saw are probably of a resident population and has been suggested to be called Chivi Vireo, *Vireo chivi*.

Gray-chested Greenlet, *Hylophilus semicinereus*. Heard only by both groups.

### **Crowns & Jays, Corvidae**

Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*. A group of three individuals was seen in Tahuayo creek on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Heard also in two other locations.

### **Swallows & Martins, Hirundinidae**

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*. A common species found in tributaries of the Amazon and Ucayali. Seen daily.

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*. Several individuals were observed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Also, some were seen from the ship's upper deck on the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Brown-chested Martin. *Progne tapera*. On the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb we observed a large group of the Austral migrant race (*tapera*) in Faucet creek. These individuals will continue their flight northward to the Caribbean coast of South America.

White-winged Swallow, *Tachycineta albiventer*. This is the commoner swallow of the Amazon river and its tributaries. It was found perched on bare branches of floating trees in the water.

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*. A group of more than 200 individuals was found in the oxbow lake (Lucero Pata) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*. Seen every day in groups varying from half dozen to almost a hundred.

Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*. Only one individual as found by the Cotingas group on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

### **Wrens, Troglodytidae**

Thrush-like Wren, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*. This relative of the Cactus Wren was found atop of trees in various days. It was far more heard than seen.

Buff-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus leucotis*. A common Amazonian species, it was heard every

day. Eventually all Cruise participants also saw it.

White-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucosticta*. Heard only on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Donacobius, *Donacobiidae***

Black-capped Donacobius, *Donacobius atricapilla*. Suffering a long and controversial taxonomic history, this species was first believed to be a relative of the thrushes and the mockingbirds, and named Mockingthrush. Later, it was moved with the wrens and renamed after its genus, *Donacobius*. Today, it is believed to be a distant relative of the old world warblers and placed in the Sylvioidea clade. Several pairs or family groups were enjoyed as they gave their unique choreography moving their tail sideways while singing.

### **Thrushes, *Turdidae***

Hauxwell's Thrush, *Turdus hauxwelli*. Heard frequently. Seen by both groups on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*. Seen mainly in Iquitos as well as in the farmland on the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **New World Warblers, *Parulidae***

Yellow Warbler, *Setophaga petechia*. Seen only one by Ann and Segundo from the Iquitos waterfront.

### **Tanagers and allies, *Thraupidae***

Red-capped Cardinal, *Paroaria gularis*. Daily views near water. The population of the Orinoco basin is now considered a separate species.

Hooded Tanager, *Nemosia pileata*. A common species in areas rich in Cecropia and other successional vegetation. Seen almost daily.

Orange-headed Tanager, *Thlypopsis sordida*. Reported by Andy on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*. Three individuals were seen in David's skiff on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Yellow-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufiventer*. Seen by Andy's group on the 24<sup>th</sup> feb.

Masked Crimson Tanager, *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*. This is one of the most beautiful tanagers in the Amazonia. It was seen repeated times in forest edge and secondary growth.

Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*. Seen daily although less common than the previous species.

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*. Daily. Found in fairly open vegetation. Numerous in Iquitos.

Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*. Seen almost every day but less numerous than Blue-gray Tanager.

Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*. Daily. We enjoyed the rich turquoise color contrasting to the dark red belly.

**Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis***. This is by far one of the favorite species of the tour. Everyone loved seeing its seven colors! On the 24<sup>th</sup> we saw up to 12 individuals!

Green-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*. Another striking tanager! It was less common than the previous two species but surely seen by both groups.

Yellow-bellied Dacnis, *Dacnis flaviventer*. A common member of mixed species flocks. It was enjoyed in four consecutive days, from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*. Seen by Andy's skiff on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*. A male was seen in Iquitos on the 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. This

species colonizes secondary growth, in disturbed vegetation.

Caqueta Seedeater, *Sporophila murallae*. A frequent visitor to flooded grasslands at edge of the river. Only seen a couple of times.

Lesson's Seedeater, *Sporophila bouvronides*. This species was once considered as part of Lined Seedeater, *Sporophila lineola*. It differs in the dark sides, distinctive voice (silent this time of the year) and breeding territory (Northern South America). One male was observed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb by David's skiff.

Lined Seedeater, *Sporophila lineola*. Three individuals were observed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. from David's skiff.

Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila castaneiventris*. This is the default seedeater in flooded grassland and low growth in Amazonia. It was seen almost daily.

Chestnut-bellied (Lesser) Seed-Finch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*. A pair was

Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*. Seen at edge of open vegetation contiguous to forest. Also reported in river islands.

Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*. Seen in Andy's skiff on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **New World Sparrows, *Emberizidae***

Yellow-browed Sparrow, *Ammodramus aurifrons*. A common sparrow in moistened grassland and floating vegetation. Several individuals were observed during the tour.

### **Troupials, Blackbirds and allies, *Icteridae***

Oriole Blackbird, *Gymnomystax mexicanus*. This large blackbird frequents River Island and disturbed forested regions and we saw it in these habitats frequently. It was also seen on floating vegetation. Although most times we observed pairs we saw a small group on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Velvet-fronted Grackle, *Lamprosar tanagrinus***. Andy reported a single individual on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. This is an interesting record since it usually moves in groups. This kind of record have been reported in our previous Amazon cruises.

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*. Family groups and large flocks were observed in three locations.

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*. We noticed the presence of this species in the vicinity of Yellow-rumped Cacique nesting colonies. This is *not* a coincidence since this species lay eggs in other species nest.

Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*. We saw this large cowbird from the ship's upper deck several times. Like the previous species, this one also parasitize other birds nest but given its size it goes after oropendolas and other large birds instead of the caciques. We saw it repeated times.

Orange-backed Troupial, *Icterus croconotus*. Heard only on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Solitary (Black) Cacique, *Cacicus solitarius*. Heard frequently but seen only a couple of times.

Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*. We enjoyed views of nesting colonies with the alpha-male spending much of his daytime displaying and singing. We also discussed the hierarchy among females when building the nest.

Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*. This species was common at river edge. Seen daily.

Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*. Heard only. 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

, two seen flying over the upper Caño Zapote on the 16<sup>th</sup> were the only ones we saw

### **Euphonias, *Fringillidae***

Purple-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia chlorotica*. The commonest euphonia at river edge. It was seen near packs of mistletoe.

Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris*. A pair was reported with a feeding flock on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

Golden-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*. This species is also called White-lored Euphonia (a more appropriate name). Pairs were seen in about four times.

White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*. We enjoyed repeated views of this diminutive euphonia responding to the whistle of a pygmy owl.

**Rufous-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia rufiventris*.** David's skiff enjoyed astonishing views of an active pair on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

## OTHER SPECIES LIST

### Sloths, *Bradypodidae*

Brown-throated three-toed Sloth, *Bradypus variegatus*.

### Marmosets & Tamarins, *Callitrichidae*

**Pygmy Marmoset, *Cebuella pygmaea*.**

Saddleback Tamarin, *Saguinus fasciollis*.

### New World Monkeys, *Cebidae*

Dusky Titi-Monkey, *Callicebus moloch*.

Common Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri sciureus*.

Brown Capuchin, *Cebus paella*.

Equatorial Saki Monkey, *Pithecia aequatorialis*.

**Monk Saki Monkey, *Pithecia monachus*.**

**Night Monkey (Owl Monkey), *Aotus* sp.**

Red Howler Monkey, *Alouatta seniculus*. Heard only.

### Spiny Rats & Tree Rats, *Echimyidae*

Amazonian Bamboo Rat, *Dactylomys dactylnus*.

Yellow-crowned Brush-Tailed Tree Rat, *Isothrix bistriata*.

### Sheath-tailed Bats, *Emballonuridae*

Long-nosed Bat, *Rhynchonycteris naso*.

Jamaican Fruit Bat, *Artibeus jamaicensis*.

### Bulldogs Bats, *Noctillionidae*

Fishing Bat, *Noctilio leporinus*.

### Otters, *Mustelidae*

Neotropical Otter, *Lontra longicaudis*.

### Dolphins, *Iniidae & Delphinidae*

Pink River Dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*.

Gray River Dolphin, *Sotalia fluviatilis*.

### Reptiles and Amphibians

Spectacled Caiman, *Caiman crocodilus*.  
Iguana, *Iguana iguana*.  
Tegu Lizard, *Tupinambis sp.*  
**(Guianan) Caiman Lizard, *Dracaena sp***  
Amazonian Water Snake, *Colubridae*.  
Whip-tailed Lizard, *Ameiva sp.*  
*Anole sp.*  
Goliath Gladiator Frog, *Hyla boans*.  
Hatchet-faced Frog, *Sphaenorhynchus sp.*  
Variable Clown Frog, *Hyla sp.*  
Rain Frog, *Rana asp.*  
Polka dot Tree Frog, *Hypsiboas punctatus*

### ***Fishes***

Armored Catfish, (Order Siluriformes)  
Red-bellied Piranha, *Pygocentrus sp.*  
Silver Dollar Fish, (Family Characidae)  
Fresh Water Sardine. Scientific name not found in literature.  
Sabalo Fish, *Brycon melanopoterum*  
Cururara Fish, Scientific name not found in literature.  
Tetra Fish, (Family Characidae)

### ***Invertebrates***

Arboreal Termite.  
Orb weaver Spider.  
Jumping Spider.  
Rainbow Grasshopper.  
Pink-footed Tarantula.  
Cicada.  
Leaf-cutter Ant.  
Millipede.  
Aztec Ant.

# **Lima, Pantanos de Villa, Pucusana bay and Lurín river valley.**

## **BIRDLIST**

LM. Lima area.

PV. Pantanos de Villa.

PC. Pucusana bay.

LU. Lurín river valley.

### **Ducks & Geese, *Anatidae***

Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*. PV.

White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis*, PV.

Ruddy (Andean) Duck. *Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*. PV.

### **Grebes, *Podicipedidae***

Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*. PV.

Great Grebe, *Podiceps major*. PV.

### **Penguins, *Spheniscidae***

**Humboldt Penguin, *Spheniscus humboldti***, PC.

### **Boobies, *Sulidae***

Peruvian Booby, *Sula variegata*, PC.

### **Cormorants, *Phalacrocoracidae***

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*, PV, PC.

Red-legged Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax gaimardi*. PV, PC.

Guanay Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*. Lima coast. 50.000 individuals were observed in 30+ minutes.

### **Pelicans, *Pelecanidae***

Peruvian Pelican, *Pelecanus thagus*, Lima coast. PC.

### **Hérons & Egrets, *Ardeidae***

Great Egret, *Egretta alba*. PV.

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*. PV.

Little Blue-Heron. *Egretta caerulea*. PV.

Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*. PV.

Striated Heron. *Butorides striatus*. PV.

Black-crowned Night-Heron. *Nyctanassa nycticorax*. PV.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*. PV.

### **Ibises, *Threskiornithidae***

Puna Ibis, *Plegadis ridgwayi*, PV. A high Andean species that migrates to the Pacific side lowlands.

### **New World Vultures, *Cathartidae***

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*.

Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura*.

**Osprey, *Pandionidae***

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*. PV.

**Hawks and Kites, *Accipitridae***

Harris's Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*. PV.

**Rails & Coots, *Rallidae***

Common Gallinule (Moorhen), *Gallinula chloropus*. PV.

Slate-colored Coot, *Fulica ardesiaca* (includes all Andean forms). PV.

**Thick-knees, *Burhinidae***

**Peruvian Thick-knee, *Burhinus superciliaris***. 2 were seen well from the bus near PV.

**Stilts, *Recurvirostridae***

Black-necked Stilt. *Himantopus mexicanus*. PV.

**Oystercatchers, *Haematopodidae***

American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*. PV beach. PC.

Blackish Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ater*. PC.

**Plovers and Lapwings, *Charadriidae***

Semipalmated Plover. *Charadrius semipalmatus*. PV beach.

Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferous*. PV beach. Resident subspecies.

**Sandpipers, *Scolopacidae***

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*. PV.

Greater Yellowlegs. *Tringa melanoleuca*. PV.

Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*. PV.

Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*. PC.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. *Calidris pusilla*. PC.

Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*, PC.

**Gulls & Terns, *Laridae***

Gray-hooded Gull, *Chroicocephalus (Larus) cirrocephalus*. PV, PC.

**Gray Gull, *Leucophaeus (Larus) modestus***. PV.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus (Larus) pipixcan*. We observed hundreds (if not thousands) molting to breeding plumage (pink cast). PV.

Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull, *Larus belcheri*. PV.

Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*. PV.

**Inca Tern, *Larosterna inca***. PC. Arguably, the most beautiful tern in the world!

Elegant Tern, *Thalasseus elegans*. Only 1 individual was seen. PV.

Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*. Hundreds. PV.

**Pigeons & Doves, *Columbidae***

Feral (Rock) Pigeon, *Columba livia*. LM.

West Peruvian (Pacific) Dove, *Zenaida meloda* (formerly *asiatica*). LM.

Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*. LM, LU.  
Croaking Ground-Dove, *Columbina cruziana*. LI, LU.

#### **Cuckoos, *Cuculidae***

Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*. PV.

#### **Owls, *Strigidae***

Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia*. PV.

#### **Hummingbirds, *Trochilidae***

**Purple-throated Woodstar.** *Calliphlox mitchellii*. LU.

**Peruvian Sheartail.** *Thaumastura cora*. LU.

Amazilia Hummingbird, *Amazilia amazilia*. LM, LU.

#### **Falcons & Caracaras, *Falconidae***

Crested Caracara. *Caracara cheriway*. LU.

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*. PV.

Aplomado Falcon. *Falco femoralis*. LU.

Peregrine Falcon. *Falco peregrinus*. LU.

#### **Parrots & Parakeets, *Psittacidae***

Red-masked Parakeet. *Aratinga erythrogenys*. LM.

Pacific Parrotlet, *Forpus coelestis*. LM.

#### **Ovenbirds and woodcreepers, *Furnariidae***

Wren-like Rushbird, *Phleocryptes melanops*. PV. Unfortunately, only seen by few participants.

Surf (Peruvian Seaside) Cinclodes, *Cinclodes taczanowskii*. PC.

#### **Tyrant Flycatchers, *Tyrannidae***

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet. *Camptostoma obsoletum*. LM.

Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, *Tachuris rubrigastra*. Superb views of one individual! PV.

Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*. Dark morph. LM.

Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*. LM.

#### **Swallows, *Hirundinidae***

Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon (Notiochelidon) cyanoleuca*. LU.

#### **Wrens, *Troglodytidae***

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*. LM.

#### **Mockingbirds, *Mimidae***

Long-tailed Mockingbird, *Mimus longicaudatus*. LM, LU.

#### **Tanagers, *Thraupidae***

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*. LM.

Cinereous Conebill, *Conirostrum cinereum*. LM.

Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*. LU.

Chestnut-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila telasco*. LU.

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*. LM, LU.

**Blackbirds, *Icteridae***

Peruvian Meadowlark, *Sturnella bellicosa*. LU.

Scrub Blackbird, *Dives warszewiczi*. LM, PV, LU.

Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*. 1 male. PV.

1 male in tall reeds just back from beach

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*. LU.

**Old World Sparrows, *Passeridae***

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*. LI.

**OTHER SPECIES**

South American Sea Lion, *Otaria flavescens*. PC.