

AMAZON RIVER CRUISE
A BIRDING AND NATURAL HISTORY ODYSSEY
ABOARD *LA ESTRELLA AMAZONICA*

[LIMA BIRD LIST INCLUDED AT END]

FEB. 18 – 28, 2016



Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*. Photo: D. Ascanio

LEADERS: DAVID ASCANIO & DAVID WOLF

IE REPRESENTATIVE: ANGEL CÁRDENAS

NATURALISTS: SEGUNDO MESIA & USIEL VASQUEZ

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Feb. 19 – 28, 2016
By David Ascanio**

Photo album:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157663984130953>

Cruise video:

<https://youtu.be/VMXMg4E7Q0k>

Our flight to Iquitos left arid Lima behind as it gained elevation. Those of you that had a window seat enjoyed the snow-capped peaks and glaciers as we passed through the Andes. As soon as we were on the East side of the Andes we noticed that these mountains were dropping to an extensive green carpet, so big that the word “extensive” seemed minute when compare to it. As we approached to Iquitos we noticed windy rivers, flooded forest and oxbow lakes. From the air, this vegetation seemed homogeneous. Yet, the days to come were an eye-opening experience to understand the complexity of this “apparently” uniform vast green biome.



Excited to learn about this part of the world, we explored the Amazon using skiffs to reach the flooded forest and look for hard-to-see birds such as the Black-tailed Antbird or little known primates as the Pygmy Marmoset. Every morning we were delighted with macaws flying overhead, as well as parrots and parakeets calling as they broke the silence of the night. Around the bend of the river, there was a canoe, an on it, a kid proudly showing with hands up the fish he

just caught. As the day warmed up, bird activity along the river dropped dramatically and then it was the time to look for feeding flocks, or look for birds under the flooded forest, or find a raptor perched on an exposed branch.

The afternoons were a great opportunity to look for birds missed in the morning, or in any previous days. We also took some time to learn about the myths and legends of the Amazon, to follow-up our route in maps and to bird from the upper deck seeing canopy species, at eye level!

To provide a more detailed report, here is a brief of our day activities:

Our first day in the Amazon River welcomed us with pink river dolphins moving at the river surface and an endless number of birds calling from all directions. There were spinetails, seedeaters, caracaras, blackbirds, kiskadees, oropendolas, caciques, flycatchers and parakeets. It seemed to us that every morning brought a celebration of life!



The second day found us in one of its main tributaries, the Ucayalli (meaning “canoe breaker”). A morning exploration in Yarapa gave us amazing views of the smallest primate in the world, the Pygmy Marmoset. Also, we enjoyed shocking views of two species of toucans and a pair of Red-throated Caracara displaying. After the mid morning break some when to visit a community while others returned to Yarapa river using the skiffs. We continued birding until around 11.00AM when a pair of Blue-and-yellow Macaw flew across the river, screaming as if they were saying: *too warm! Go back to the ship!* In the afternoon we made a shorter field trip to a swamp and admired the flowers and spiny leaves of the Amazon Water Lily, the largest in the world. The day rounded-up with Great Black Hawk perched on a branch and a Golden sunset, a typical one of the Amazon.

After a nice coffee and a rich breakfast, the third day started in a unique way: with superb views of Blue-and-yellow Macaw guarding their nest site. This day we decided it was time to look for

less common or confiding species. For that, we visited Yanallpa river and you bet it paid well. There was a male Black-crested Antshrike, plushcrowns building a nest, pygmy antwrens, feeding flocks and an astonishing Sungrebe swimming across the river. In the afternoon we continued to look for rare species and we were rewarded with views of Pale-billed (Bay) Hornero and Sand-colored Nighthawk.

Our furthest away point in the Ucayalli was El Dorado River, and we visited it during our fourth day. Although we planned to use the skiffs we were discouraged by a heavy rain. Nevertheless, we didn't give up and enjoyed a wonderful birding morning from the upper deck of the ship. Because we were contiguous to the Varzea (flooded forest of a white water river) we were able to see Coraya Wren and the Amazonian forms of Blackish Antbird (now called Riparian Antbird, *Cercomacroides fuscicauda*). Also, we heard Black-throated Antbird, saw Orange-fronted Plushcrown and learned to tell apart Purple-throated from Orange-beilled Euphonia. Later in the morning we enjoyed Segundo's lecture about the Amazon tales and he shared much of the legends he heard when he was a child. Another lecture, this time by Usiel, provided some facts and figures about the Amazon region. The morning ended with a *Hoatzin express*: we went to look for this bizarre species in the rain! Towards the end of the day we waited in our skiffs for sunset and explored the flooded forest in the dark. There were Sand-colored and Band-tailed nighthawks, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, toads, frogs and fireflies. Yet we were determined to see more and you bet we got it. As we approached a vine hanging from the canopy we noticed movement and upon our approach we discovered an Amazonian Milky Opossum moving along of it. Furthermore, as we were seeing the opossum we heard a soft descending laugh, a voice hardly confused with anything else. After we called it it flew over our heads and landed on an open branch. There it was, the incredible Spectacled Owl.



The fifth day found us again in Yarapa where we saw again the Pygmy Marmoset along with superb views of Paradise Tanager, Band-tailed Antbird, Chestnut Woodpecker and a small group of Purple-throated Fruitcrow. Some decided to pay a visit to a community and the local people

welcomed them with chants and games. The rest of the group chose to continue seeking for Amazonian wildlife.

During our last full day in the Amazon we offered an unique opportunity to look for different birds and for that we visited a terra firme forest trail contiguous to an abandoned lodge. The trail crossed patches of riverine and terra firme forest, the latter a type of habitat that never gets flooded (not even during the peak of the rainy season). In this area we came across feeding flocks and enjoyed Gray Antwren, Dusky-throated Antshrike, Fasciated Antshrike, Common Scale-backed Antbird and much more. Also, we enjoyed close views of woodcreepers and a troop of Dusky Titi Monkey.



In our last morning, and prior to disembarkation, we visited another distinctive habitat, one that hosts high insect density and thus, some specialists that feed almost exclusively on it. It was a sedimentary river island, which by the time of our visit was flooded but the willows and shrubs were still hosting some new birds to us including Lesser Wagtail Tyrand and Parker's Spinetail. After another delicious breakfast we said good by to *La Estrella Amazonica* and took the flight back to Lima. From the window plane, the Amazon now looked very different to us compared to when we landed just a week ago.

Now that you have learned and appreciated much of the Amazonian fauna and history, I want to invite you to join us in other destinations, equally interesting and beautiful but remarkably different from this biome.

Cuba: Birds and people

Cuba has always been the bucket-list island to visit. Until recently it was a dream going birding there. Not any more! We bird three major areas of the island and look for most of the endemic birds including the Bee Hummingbird, the smallest bird in the world. See the photos and the video of our 2015 Cuba tour in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157651912764991>

Video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIRHvB1jzDI>

The Panama Canal: *a relaxed and easy tour.*

Panama offers a unique opportunity to enjoy first class birding at a relaxed and easy pace. We spend most of the nights in a small inn located in the town of Gamboa, by the Panama Canal. Short walks around the town plus a boat trip to the Chagres River and a visit to the famous Pipeline road offers views of a nice mix of hummingbirds, tyrant flycatchers, tanagers, woodpeckers and honeycreepers. We offer an optional visit to the Canopy Tower where we can see canopy species at eye level. You can enjoy the photos and the video of our 2015 Panama Canal tour in:

Photo album

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

Video link

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

Costa Rica: *a relaxed and easy tour.*

Our *relaxed and easy* Costa Rica tour is for those who wish to bird various altitudinal levels, from cloud forest to lowland rain forest, and still do it in a slow pace. In this tour we include a ride along the aerial tram and besides seeing birds we also learn about the flora and other fauna of this spectacular country. This tour is designed for seeing gaudy species such as tanagers and honeycreepers as well as many hummingbirds. For that, we visit various hummingbird feeder stations. See the photos and video of our 2015 in:

Photo album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157659475059484>

Video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzgD6NfVNSE>

Thank you for joining us!

Itinerary:

- 18 Feb. 2016. Arrival to Peru.
19 Feb. 2016. Lima area: Pantanos de Villa, Pucusana, Rio Lurín valley.
20 Feb. 2016. Flight to Iquitos. Birding the Amazon from the ship's upper deck.
21 Feb. 2016. Tahuayo creek, Lucero Pata and Morichal.
22 Feb. 2016. Yarapa river and Puerto Sol.
23 Feb. 2016. Yanallpa and Faucet (misspell of Fawcett).
24 Feb. 2016. Dorado river. Farmland and riverine forest in Supay.
25 Feb. 2016. Yarapa and 09 of October creek.
26 Feb. 2016. La Posada del Marañón. Amazon river.
27 Feb. 2016. Itaia river islands. Flight to Lima.

Habitats:

- RF. Riverine forest. Includes all kind of forest at sides of water, either in black or white-water rivers and natural channels.
MH. Marsh.
SW. Swamp.
TF. Terra firme.
FM. Farmland.
RV. River, river edge and flood plains.
RI. River island.
SG. Secondary growth.

THE BIRDLIST

Tinamous, Tinamidae

- Cinereous Tinamou**, *Crypturellus cinereus*. Heard only. TF.
Undulated Tinamou, *Crypturellus undulatus*. Heard only. RF.

Screamers, Anhimidae

- Horned Screamer**, *Anhima cornuta*. MH.

Ducks & Geese, Anatidae

- Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata*. RF, MH.

Guans and Chachalacas, Cracidae

- Speckled Chachalaca, *Ortalis guttata*. RF.

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

- Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*. MH, RV.

Anhinga, Anhingidae

- Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*. RV.

Hérons & Egrets, Ardeidae

- Rufescent Tiger-Heron. *Tigrisoma lineatum*. SW.

Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*. RV.
Great Egret, *Ardea alba*. RV.
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*. RV.
Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*. RV, FM.
Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*. RF, MH, RV, RI.
Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*. RF, MH.
Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*. RF.

Ibises & Spoonbills, *Threskiornithidae*

Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*. Heard infrequently. RF.

New World Vultures, *Cathartidae*

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*.
Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*. We saw the resident race *ruficollis*.
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes burrovianus*. MH.

Osprey, *Pandionidae*

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*. Boreal migrant. RF, SW, MH.

Hawk & Eagles, *Accipitridae*

Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, RF, gray morph.
Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*. RF.
Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*. FM.
Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*. RF.
Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*. MH.
Slender-billed Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*. RF.
Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*. RF.
Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*. MH, RF.
Slate-colored Hawk, *Leucopternis schistaceus*. RF.
Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*. RF, SW, MH, FM.
Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*. Widespread in all kind of open habitats.
Zone-tailed Hawk. *Buteo albonotatus*. RF.

Sunbittern, *Eurypygidae*

Sunbittern, *Eurypyga helias*. RF.

Rails and Gallinules, *Rallidae*

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*. MH.

Finfoots & Sungrebe, *Heliornithidae*

Sungrebe, *Heliornis fulica*. RF. We were astonished to see an individual swimming across a tributary of the Amazon river.

Limpkin, *Aramidae*

Limpkin, *Aramus guarauna*. SW, RF.

Plovers & Lapwings, *Charadriidae*

Pied Plover (Lapwing), *Vanellus cayanus*. FM.

Jacanas, *Jacanidae*

Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*. MH, RV on floating vegetation.

Sandpipers & allies, *Scolopacidae*

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*. RV on floating vegetation and logs. Also, along the riverbank.

Gulls & Terns, *Laridae*

Yellow-billed Tern, *Sternula superciliaris*. RV. Frequently found in shallow water or rivers without much current.

Large-billed Tern, *Phaetusa simplex*. RV.

Pigeons & Doves, *Columbidae*

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*. Iquitos.

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*. RF.

Ruddy Pigeon, *Columba subvinacea*. RF.

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columba talpacoti*. Iquitos.

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*. RF. Only flying from one side to the other of the river.

Hoatzin, *Opisthocomidae*

Hoatzin, *Opisthocomus hoazin*. 3 individuals were observed in Yuracochea, in a boat trip prepared to see 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 apparently, remains unclear.

Cuckoos, *Cuculidae*

Little Cuckoo, *Piaya minuta*. RF.

Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*. RF.

Striped Cuckoo, *Tapera naevia*. MH.

Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*. RF, SW.

Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*. MH, FM.

Owls, *Strigidae*

Spectacled Owl, *Pulsatrix perspicillata*. RF. Superb views of it!

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*. Heard frequently.

Nightjars & Allies, *Caprimulgidae*

The nighthawks and nightjars observed in our tour were observed in the night outings. The nighthawks were seen foraging over the tributaries of the Amazon and the nightjars were usually seen perched at the forest edge.

Sand-colored Nighthawk, *Chordeiles rupestris*. RF.

Band-tailed Nighthawk, *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*. RF.

Common Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*. RF.

Ladder-tailed Nightjar, *Hydropsalis climacocerca*. RF, SW.

Potoos, Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo, *Nyctibius grandis*. RF. Seen in day time!

Common Potoo. *Nyctibius griseus*. SW. Seen in night time.

Swifts, Apodidae

Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*. RF.

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

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila cayennensis*. RF, flying high at dawn.

Fork-tailed (Neotropical) Palm-Swift, *Tachornis (Reinarda) squamata*. RF, Moriche palm stands, FM with presence of palm trees.

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsutus*. RF.

White-bearded Hermit. *Phaethornis hispidus*. TF.

Reddish Hermit. *Phaethornis ruber*. RF.

Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*. RF.

Green-tailed Goldenthrout. *Polytmus theresiae*. RF, RI.

Long-billed Starthroat, *Heliomaster longirostris*. RF.

Blue-tailed Emerald. *Chlorostilbon mellisugus*. RF. Reported by David Wolf.

Blue-chinned Sapphire, *Chlorostilbon (Chlorestes) notata*. RF. One of the commonest hummingbirds in the tour.

Fork-tailed Woodnymph. *Thalurania furcata*. RF.

Olive-spotted Hummingbird, *Leucippus chlorocercus*. Seen in Iquitos waterfront!

Glittering-throated Emerald, *Amazilia fimbriata*. FM, edge of RF.

Trogon, Trogonidae

Black-tailed Trogon, *Trogon melanurus*. RF. The commonest trogon in the Peruvian Amazon.

Green-backed Trogon (a split from White-tailed Trogon), *Trogon viridis*. RF.

Blue-crowned Trogon, *Trogon curucui*. Heard only. RF.

Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris*. RF.

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*. RF, MH, SW.

Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazon*. RF, MH, SW.

Green Kingfisher. *Chloroceryle americana*. RF.

Green-ad-rufous Kingfisher. *Chloroceryle inda*. RF.

(American) Pygmy Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle aenea*. Heard only. RF.

Puffbirds, Bucconidae

Black-fronted Nunbird, *Monasa nigrifrons*. RF.

Swallow-winged Puffbird, *Chelidoptera tenebrosa*. TF contiguous to RF.

Jacamars, Galbulidae

White-eared Jacamar, *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis*. RF.

Bluish-fronted Jacamar, *Galbula cyanescens*. Family groups. RF.

Barbets, *Capitonidae*

Scarlet-crowned Barbet, *Capito aurovirens*. RF. Daily views!
Gilded Barbet, *Capito auratus*. TF.
Lemon-throated Barbet, *Eubucco richardsoni*. RF.

Toucans, *Ramphastidae*

Lettered Araçari, *Pteroglossus inscriptus*. RF.
Chestnut-eared Araçari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*. RF.
White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan, *Ramphastos cuvieri*. RF.
Channel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus*. RF.

Woodpeckers, *Picidae*

Plain-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus castelnau*. RI.

Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cruentatus*. RF, TF.

Little Woodpecker, *Veniliornis passerines*. RI.

Yellow-throated Woodpecker, *Piculus flavigula*. RF contiguous to TF.

Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes (Chrysoptilus) punctigula*. RF, TF.

Chestnut Woodpecker, *Celeus elegans*. RF. A favorite for cruise participants!

Cream-colored Woodpecker, *Celeus flavus*. RF. The commonest of the *Celeus* woodpeckers in the Peruvian Amazon.

Ringed Woodpecker, *Celeus torquatus*. The least common of the *Celeus* woodpeckers. RF.

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*. RF.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*. RF, TF. This is a relative (same genus) of the enigmatic Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

Falcons and Caracaras, *Falconidae*

Black Caracara, *Daptrius ater*. MH, RI.

Red-throated Caracara, *Ibycter americanus*. RF.

Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago Chimachima*. MH, RI, FM.

Laughing Falcon, *Herpethotes cachinnans*. RF.

Parrots & Parakeets, *Psittacidae*

The Amazon is home for several macaws, parrots, parakeets and parrotlets. That's why illegal trappers used Iquitos as headquarters for the illegal parrot trade several decades ago. At one point (back in the 60's and 70's), Iquitos became the largest pet-trade provider for many European countries. Populations were decimated and several species were 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 18 species of this wonderful family.

Tui Parakeet, *Brotogeris sactithomae*. RF, RI.

White-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris versicolurus*. RF.

Cobalt-winged Parakeet, *Brotogeris cyanoptera*. RF, RI.

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*. RF.

Short-tailed Parrot, *Graydidascalus brachyurus*. RF. This is probably the only parrot that was never decimated by the illegal traders back in time and it was probably due to its awful voice.

Festive Parrot, *Amazona festiva*. RF.

Yellow-crowned Parrot, *Amazona ochrocephala*. RF.

Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*. RF.

Orange-winged Parrot, *Amazona amazonica*. RF. The commonest *Amazona* parrot in the Peruvian Amazon.

Blue-winged Parrotlet, *Forpus xanthopterygius*. RI.

Black-headed Parrot, *Pionites melanocephalus*. RF. A favorite among cruise participants!

Maroon-tailed Parakeet, *Pyrrhura melanura*. RF.

Dusky-headed Parakeet, *Aratinga weddellii*. RF.

Red-bellied Macaw, *Orthopsittaca manilata*. RF, Moricha palm stands.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna*. RF.

Scarlet Macaw, *Ara macao*. RF.

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severus*. FM, Moriche palm stand.

White-eyed Parakeet, *Aratinga leucophthalma*. RF.

Antbirds, *Thamnophilidae*

Fasciated Antshrike, *Cymbilaimus lineatus*. Heard only. TF.

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*. Heard only. TF.

Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis*. RF.

Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*. RF, SG.

Mouse-colored Antshrike, *Thamnophilus murinus*. TF.

Castelnau's Antshrike, *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*. RI. Found in areas packed with Cecropia trees.

Amazonian Antshrike, *Thamnophilus amazonicus*. RF.

Cinereous Antshrike, *Thamnomanes caesius*. TF.

Spot-winged Antshrike, *Pygoptila stellaris*. RF.

Pygmy Antwren, *Myrmotherula brachyuran*. RF.

Amazonian Streaked-Antwren, *Myrmotherula multistriata*. RF.

Gray Antwren, *Myrmotherula menetriesii*. TF.

Dugand's Antwren, *Herpsilochmus dugandi*. Heard only. TF.

Band-tailed Antbird, *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*. RF.

Blackish Antbird, *Cercomacra nigrescens*. RF.

Black-tailed Antbird, *Cercomacra melanurus*. RF. When this species was found in our first VENT Amazon Cruise it was a lifer for all the VENT leaders, including Bob Ridgely.

Riparian Antbird, *Cercomacroides fuscicauda*). RF with secondary growth. Previously called Blackish Antbird.

Black-and-white Antbird, *Myrmochanes hemileucus*. RI.

Black-throated Antbird, *Myrmeciza atrothorax*. RF.

Plumbeous Antbird, *Myrmeciza hyperythra*. RF.

Common Scale-backed Antbird, *Willisornis poecilinotus*. TF.

Tapaculos, *Rhinocryptidae*

Rusty-belted Tapaculo, *Liosceles thoracicus*. Heard only. TF.

Antthrushes, *Formicariidae*

Black-faced Antthrush, *Formicarius analis*. Heard only in David's skiff on Feb 26th. 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. TF.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*. TF.

- Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, *Dendrexetastes rufigula*. RF.
 Long-billed Woodcreeper, *Nasica longirostris*. RF.
 Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes certhia*. Heard only. TF.
 Strong-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*. Heard only. RF.
 Striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*. One of the commonest woodcreepers in Amazonian riverine forest. RF.
 Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*. RF.
 Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*. RF.
Zimmer's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus kienerii*. A very special target species in the Amazon. It was seen by everyone. RF.
Point-tailed Palmcreeper, *Berlepschia rikeri*. Moriche palm stand. Great views by all!
 Pale-legged Hornero, *Furnarius leucopus*. RF.
 Pale-billed (Bay) Hornero, *Furnarius torridus*. Another hard-to-see species seen by all cruise participants. RF rich in Heliconia species.
 Lesser Horner, *Furnarius minor*. Iquitos waterfront.
 Orange-fronted Plushcrown, *Metopothrix aurantiaca*. RI specially near Cecropia trees.
Parker's (White-breasted) Spinetail, *Cranioleuca vulpecula*. RI.
Yellow-chinned Spinetail, *Certhiaxis cinnamomea*. Flooded grassland. A very rare species in the Amazon. A pair was observed nesting. Seen by all cruise participants.
 Red-and-white Spinetail, *Certhiaxis mustelina*. This is one of the commonest but nevertheless most beautiful spinetail in Amazonia. MH.
 Dark-breasted Spinetail, *Synallaxis albigularis*. RI.
 White-bellied Spinetail, *Synallaxis propinqua*. RI.
 Plain-crowned Spinetail, *Cranioleuca gujanensis*. SG. Another rare Amazonian spinetail.

Tyrant Flycatchers, *Tyrannidae*

- Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, *Phaeomyias murina*. SW, Iquitos area.
 Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannous elates*. RF, SG.
 Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*. RF.
 Yellow-crowned Elena, *Myiopagis flavivertex*. Heard only. RF.
 River Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga hypoleuca*. RI.
 Slender-footed Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius gracilipes*. RF, TF.
Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, *Stigmatura napensis*. This distinctive habitat specialist was seen in pairs. RI.
 Spotted Tody-Tyrant, *Todirostrum maculatum*. SW, SG.
Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus galeatus*. SW.
 Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*. TF.
 Olivaceous Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*. RF. Common voice at dawn in Yanallpa.
 Gray-crowned Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*. RF.
 Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias flaviventris*. Nesting. RI.
 Drab Water-Tyrant, *Ochthornis littoralis*. RI and river edge.
 White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*. RI, floating vegetation and MH.
 Cinnamon Attila, *Attila cinnamomeus*. RF.
 Dull-capped (White-eyed) Attila, *Attila bolivianus*. Heard only. RF.
 Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*. Heard only. TF.
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*. RF.
 Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*. RF, RI, FM.
 Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus (Philohydor) lector*. Edge of RF and floating vegetation

contiguous to it. Often heard uttering its unique “squeeze-me” call of giving its duet with a soft and fast “kis-ka-dee!”

Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*. Forest edge, SG, FM, MH, SW.

Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*. RF, RI near Cecropia trees.

Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*. Edge of RF, RI, MH, SW.

Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*. RF.

Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*. FM, edge of RF, Moriche palm stand.

Sulphury Flycatcher, *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*. Moriche palm stand, RF.

Tropical Kingbird. Common in open areas.

Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*. A boreal migrant. In one location we saw more than 80 individuals. Frequently in RI and to less extent at edge of RF.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher. *Tyrannus savanna*. MH, RI.

Cotingas, Cotingidae

Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*. RF.

Amazonian Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus ornatus*. RF and large patches of Cecropia trees along rivers.

Plum-throated Cotinga, *Cotinga maynana*. RF.

Screaming Piha, *Lipaugus vociferans*. Heard only. TF.

Bare-necked Fruitcrow, *Gymnoderus foetidus*. RF.

Manakins, Pipridae

Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin, *Tyrannetes stolzmanni*. Heard only. TF.

Blue-crowned Manakin, *Lepidothrix coronata*. TF.

Striped Manakin, *Machaeropterus regulus*. Heard only. TF.

Tityras & allies, Tityridae

Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*. RF.

Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*. RF.

Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*. RF.

Varzea (Greater) Schiffornis, *Schiffornis major*. RF, SW.

Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*. RF.

White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*. RF.

Black-capped Becard, *Pachyramphus marginatus*. Seen in Andy’s skiff on the 24th Feb.

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

Vireos & Greenlets, Vireonidae

Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus (chivi)*. RF. The individuals we saw are probably of a resident population and it has been suggested to call Chivi Vireo, *Vireo chivi*.

Gray-chested Greenlet, *Hylophilus semicinereus*. RF, edge.

Crowns & Jays, Corvidae

Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*. A group of three individuals was seen in Tahuayo creek on the 22nd Feb. Heard also in two RF.

Swallows & Martins, Hirundinidae

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*. RV at edge of forest.

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea*. FM, open areas.

Brown-chested Martin, *Progne tapera*. Open areas near FM and edge of open RF. These are Austral migrant race (*tapera*) and will continue their flight northward to the Caribbean coast of South America.

White-winged Swallow, *Tachycineta albiventer*. RV.

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*. RV, MH.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*. Floating vegetation in RV. MH.

Wrens, Troglodytidae

Scaly-breasted Wren, *Microcerculus marginatus*. Heard only. TF.

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*. Iquitos.

Thrush-like Wren, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*. RF.

Coraya Wren, *Pheugopedius coraya*. RF.

Buff-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus leucotis*. RF.

Gnatcatchers, Polioptilidae

Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila plumbea*. RI.

Donacobius, Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius, *Donacobius atricapilla*. Edge of MH. Infrequently at edge of RF. 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 giving an unique choreography with their tail moving sideways as they were singing.

Thrushes, Turdidae

Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*. RF.

Hauxwell's Thrush, *Turdus hauxwelli*. RF.

Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*. MH, FM, Iquitos area.

New World Warblers, Parulidae

Yellow Warbler, *Setophaga petechia*. Iquitos area.

Blackpoll Warbler, *Setophaga striata*. Iquitos area.

Tanagers and allies, Thraupidae

Red-capped Cardinal, *Paroaria gularis*. MH, SW.

Hooded Tanager, *Nemosia pileata*. Edge of RF, RI.

Orange-headed Tanager, *Thlypopsis sordida*. RI.

Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*. RF.

Masked Crimson Tanager, *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*. RF, SW.

Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*. RF.

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*. All kind of open habitats.

Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*. Moriche palm stand.

Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*. RF.

Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*. RF. This was one of the tour favorites!

Green-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*. RF.

Swallow Tanager, *Tersina viridis*. RF.

Yellow-bellied Dacnis, *Dacnis flaviventer*. RF.
Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*. RF.
Pearly-breasted Conebill, *Conirostrum margaritae*. RI packed with Ceropia trees.
Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*. MH.
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila castaneiventris*. MH.
Chestnut-bellied (Lesser) Seed-Finch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*. MH, SW.
Caqueta Seedeater, *Sporophila murallae*. MH.
Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*. SW.
Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*. RI, MH, RF.

New World Sparrows, *Emberizidae*

Yellow-browed Sparrow, *Ammodramus aurifrons*. RI, MH.

Cardinals and allies, *Cardinalidae*

Blue-black Grosbeak, *Cyanocompsa cyanoides*. Heard only. RF.

Troupials, Blackbirds and allies, *Icteridae*

Oriole Blackbird, *Gymnomystax mexicanus*. MH. River edge.
Velvet-fronted Grackle, *Lamprosar tanagrinus*. RF.
Yellow-hooded Blackbird, *Chrysomus icterocephalus*. MH.
Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*. Open areas contiguous to RF, MH, FM.
Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*. Edge of RF. This species parasitizes oropendolas nests.
Orange-backed Troupial, *Icterus croconotus*. RF.
Solitary (Black) Cacique, *Cacicus solitarius*. SW.
Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*. Open areas.
Russet-backed Oropendola, *Psarocolius angustifrons*. Edge of RF, RI, SW.

Euphonias, *Fringillidae*

Purple-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia chlorotica*. RF.
Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia lanirostris*. RF.
Golden-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*. RF.
White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*. RF.
Rufous-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia rufiventris*. RF, SW.

OTHER SPECIES LIST

American Opossums, *Didelphidae*

Western Woolly Opossum or Brown-eared Woolly Opossum, *Caluromys lanatus*. RF.

Sloths, *Bradypodidae*

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

Marmosets & Tamarins, *Callitrichidae*

Pygmy Marmoset, *Cebuella pygmaea*. RF.
Saddleback Tamarin, *Saguinus fascicollis*. RF, SW. RI?

New World Monkeys, *Cebidae*

Dusky Titi-Monkey, *Callicebus moloch*. RF, TF.

Common Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri sciureus*. SW, RF.
White-fronted Capuchin, *Cebus albifrons*. RF.
Equatorial Saki Monkey, *Pithecia aequatorialis*. RF.
Monk Saki Monkey, *Pithecia monachus*. RF.
Night Monkey (Owl Monkey), *Aotus sp.* RF.

Squirrels, *Sciuridae*

Northern Amazonian Red Squirrel, *Sciurus igniventris*. RF.

Porcupines, *Erethizontidae*

Bicolor-spined Porcupine, *Coendou bicolor*. RF.

Spiny Rats & Tree Rats, *Echimyidae*

Yellow-crowned Brush-Tailed Tree Rat, *Isothrix bistrata*. RF.

Sheath-tailed Bats, *Emballonuridae*

Long-nosed Bat, *Rhynchonycteris naso*.

Bulldogs Bats, *Noctillionidae*

Fishing Bat, *Noctilio leporinus*.

Dolphins, *Iniidae* & *Delphinidae*

Pink River Dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*.
Gray River Dolphin, *Sotalia fluviatilis*.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Iguana, *Iguana iguana*.
Tegu Lizard, *Tupinambis sp.*
(Guianan) Caiman Lizard, *Dracaena sp.* RF.
Tiger Snake, *Spilotes pullatus*.
Whip Snake, *Chironius sp.*
Rain Frog, *Rana sp.* TF.
Polka dot Tree Frog, *Hypsiboas punctatus*. MH.

Fishes

Armored Catfish, (Order Siluriformes)
Silver Dollar Fish, (Family Characidae)

Invertebrates

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

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

LM. Lima area.
PV. Pantanos de Villa.
PC. Pucusana bay.
LU. Lurín river valley.

THE BIRDLIST

Ducks & Geese, *Anatidae*

Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*. PV.
White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis*, PV.
Puna Teal. *Anas puna*. 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.
Blue-footed Booby. *Sula nebouxii*. 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*

Least Bittern. *Ixobrychus exilis*. PV.
Great Egret, *Egretta alba*. PV.
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*. PV.
Little Blue-Heron. *Egretta caerulea*. PV.
Cattle Egret, *Bulbulcus ibis*. 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.

Roseate spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja*. PV.

New World Vultures, *Cathartidae*

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*.

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*.

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*

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

Sandpipers, *Scolopacidae*

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*. PV.

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*. PV.

Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*. PV.

Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*. PV.

Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*. 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*. 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!

Royal Tern, *Thalasseus maximus*. PV.

Sandwich Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicencis*. PV.

Elegant Tern, *Thalasseus elegans*. PV.
Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*. 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

Peruvian Sheartail. *Thaumastura cora*. LU.
Amazilia Hummingbird, *Amazilia amazilia*. LM, LU.

Falcons & Caracaras, Falconidae

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*. PV.

Parrots & Parakeets, Psittacidae

Red-masked Parakeet. *Psittacara erythrogenys*. LM.
Scarlet-fronted Parakeet. *Psittacara wagleri*. 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.
Barn Swallow. *Hirundo rustica*.

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.

Grassland Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis luteola*. LU.

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

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

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*. LM, LU.

Streaked Saltator, *Saltator striatipectus*. LU.

Blackbirds, *Icteridae*

Peruvian Meadowlark, *Sturnella bellicosa*. LU.

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

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

Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*. LU.

Old World Sparrows, *Passeridae*

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*. LI.

OTHER SPECIES

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