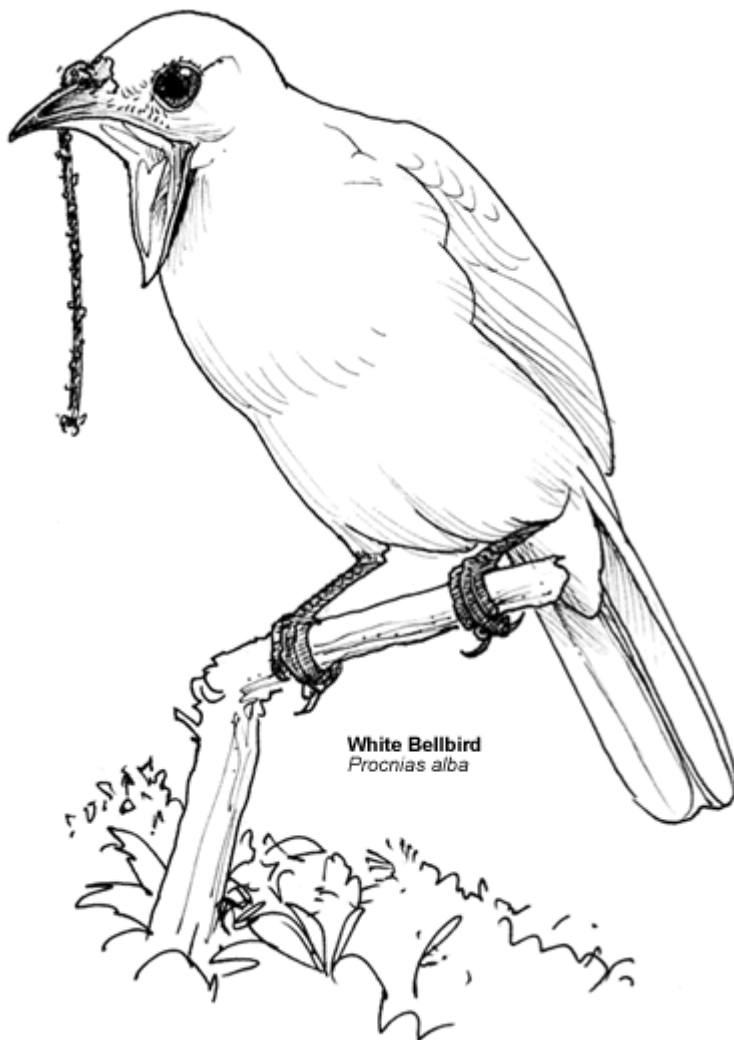


SUMMER EASTERN VENEZUELA

June 20-29, 2005



Leader: David Ascanio
Compiled by: David Ascanio

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Tepui endemics in the Sierra de Lema and Lowland rainforest species in Rio Grande forestry reserve

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It was 68 years ago when Thomas Gilliard, ornithologist of the American Museum of Natural History, sailed from New York with some of the staff of the museum in the hope to reach the summit of a tepui yet unexplored in southeastern Venezuela. Nobody then thought that such expedition would change the course of the history of the Ornithology in Venezuela. Yet, the results of the Auyan-tepui expedition inspired William Phelps, the supporter of the expedition, to create a year later the Phelps Ornithological Museum, in Caracas. Since then and for decades, the efforts to understand the avifauna of these geological wonders continued under the support of the Phelps family, publishing their first accounts in 1967 in a manuscript entitled *The origin of the Bird Fauna of the South Venezuelan Highlands*. In such work, Mayrn and Phelps summarized the avifauna of several table-top mountains and analyzed the origin of many endemic species.

Amazingly, the origin of these "tepui endemic species" is still nowadays a mystery and a source of many scientific interpretations. There is no doubt about the relationship of some of these species and their counterparts from the Andes, thus the way they took to reach this distant table-top mountains is still under debate.

Enchanted with the mystery about the origin of these endemic species and with the hope to see as many as possible, we started our VENT Summer Eastern Venezuela tour in the Sierra de Lema, where besides many "Tepui" and "Roraima" named species, both Bellbirds (white and bearded) were enjoyed almost every day of our visit.



But I should say that it wasn't only these endemic species what attracted us to this region, part protected as a national park and another as a forestry reserve. Many rare, skulk, gigantic and bizarre birds of Venezuela are also found here. Starting the trip we had encounters with the Flutist Wren, later the Roraiman Antbird and twice the Roraiman Barbtail. In the lowlands it was the turn for the Capuchinbird and Musician Wren, the Capped Heron and the gorgeous Crimson Topaz.

Other species observed included a pair of Marail Guans, Crested and Harpy eagles, 19 species of Psittacidae (macaws, parrots, parakeets and parrotlets), 46 species of

Tyrant-Flycatchers, 9 species of Swifts, 20 species of Tanagers and 23 Pantepui endemics among the 334 species reported in this ten days trip.

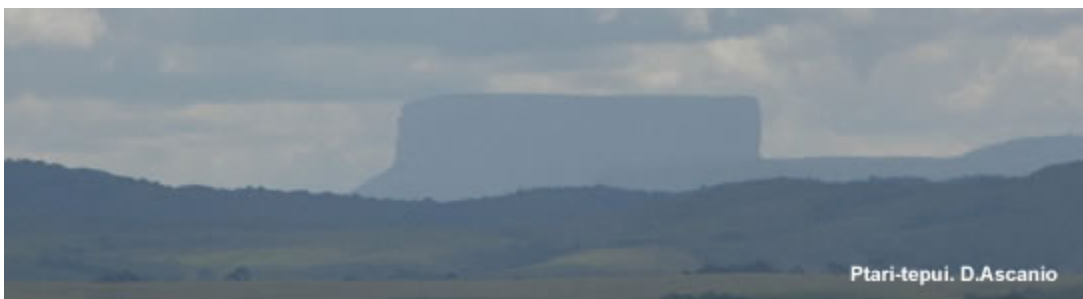


One morning we left the lodge very early and were rewarded with a close encounter with the Roraiman Nightjar, being the first VENT group to appreciate this tepui endemic. Also, in the savannas of El Palmar we had the first record of Pinnated Bittern for that area, while we found a minor range extension of Black-striped Sparrow along the bank of the Orinoco river. Other memorable moments included a Crested Eagle soaring over the forest canopy and flying right over our heads in Sierra de Lema; also the Tepui Antpitta silently moving on the ground and hiding behind roots while Red-fan parrots, the Capuchinbird and the majestic Harpy Eagle were seen throughout the scope.

I want to thank you all for joining me in this one, my favorite Venezuela tour. I also want to thank Jose (our driver) for delivering an excellent job and assisting with the picnic meals. César and Diego demonstrate good driving skills while Javier was very kind to clear the trail in Rio Grande, although I am sure that Alice would have preferred that he brought a chain saw to cut the large tree falls!

In our last day, we spent some time exploring the riverine sandy scrub of the Orinoco river. I wasn't certain about what we would find there, since no birders have been before in the area. Surprisingly, we added a good number of species to the list, including Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant and Yellow-bellied Seedeater.

As we took off from Puerto Ordaz, I looked down from the plane and there was again the majestic Orinoco, with islands still unexplored, with patches of intact forest and probably a new bird still to be found. I hope to see you back to the neotropics...maybe as soon as *Pasado-mañana!*



THE BIRDLIST

1. Rio Cuyuni watershed, Sierra de Lema and the Gran Sabana.
2. Puerto Ordaz and vicinity (Rio Orinoco, Cachamay, Llovizna), savannas of El Palmar and roads.
3. Rio Grande.

Habitats visited during this trip: Premontane Humid Forest (Cloud Forest), Tropical Humid Forest (Rain Forest), Tropical Moist Forest, Tropical Dry Forest, Sandy Scrub, Grassland, Pastures, Secondary Growth, Scrub Woodland and Wetlands. Endemic, near-endemic and rare species are marked in bold.

Remark: The taxonomy is a fascinating field. Every year, there are new species described, other lumped, while sometimes some species are placed in a different family, or order. In most cases it is very difficult for birders to “follow-up” these changes. This list follows the taxonomy and order of *Birds of Venezuela* by S.Hilty. 2003. The alternative common english name given to some species is placed in brackets.

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Variiegated Tinamou	<i>Crypturellus variegatus</i>			✓	Heard in Rio Grande
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>				Hotel Puerto Viejo
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>		✓		several in the farmlands along the road, and in Cachamay as well as in Macagua dam
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>		✓		one in Cachamay
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>				Hotel Puerto Viejo
Capped Heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>		✓		Savannas of El Palmar
Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>		✓		Cachamay and savannas of El Palmar
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓		Scattered records along the road
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		✓		Only one ind by D.Ascanio west of El Palmar
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		✓		few near El Palmar
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓		several along the road
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>		✓		wetlands of El Palmar
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>		✓		An adult in the savannas of El Palmar
Pinnated Bittern	<i>Botaurus pinnatus</i>		✓		three ind in El Palmar. First record for N Bolivar
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>		✓		Few in El Palmar
White-faced Whistling-Duck			✓		El Palmar wetland
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>		✓		El Palmar wetland
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>		✓	✓	Hotel Puerto Viejo
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		✓	✓	Hotel Puerto Viejo
Greater Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes melambrotus</i>			✓	Rio Grande

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
King Vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>			✓	Rio Grande
Gray-headed Kite	<i>Leptodon cayanensis</i>			✓	soaring high, in Rio Grande
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	✓		✓	several records
Pearl Kite	<i>Gampsonyx swainsonii</i>	✓			photo record in northern Gran Sabana represents an altitudinal extension
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>		✓		Farmlands along the road
Double-toothed Kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>	✓			One individual seen with the scope in Sierra de Lema
Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	✓	✓	✓	several sights
White Hawk	<i>Leucopternis albicollis</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>		✓		open farmlands
Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	several sights
Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	✓			1 ind soaring in Sierra de Lema
White-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>		✓		El Palmar
Crested Eagle	<i>Morphnus guianensis</i>	✓			amazing views of 1 ind (presumably male) literally flying over our heads in Sierra de Lema
Harpy Eagle	<i>Harpia harpyja</i>			✓	scope views of a 18 months chick
Ornate Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>			✓	1 ind soaring distant in the Harpy eagle nest area
Red-throated Caracara	<i>Ibycter americanus</i>			✓	superb views of group vocalizing
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>		✓		scattered records in open savanna
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	✓	✓		scattered records in open savanna
Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>		✓		close view from the bus near Tumeremo
Lined Forest-Falcon	<i>Micrastur gilvicollis</i>			✓	heard in Rio Grande
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	✓	✓		open country
Bat Falcon	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	✓		✓	couple of pairs
Little Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis motmot</i>		✓		seen by some in the drive to rio Grande
Marail Guan	<i>Penelope marail</i>	✓			David: GUAN, GUAN! Participants: ONE WHAT?
Marbled Wood-Quail	<i>Odontophorus gujanensis</i>			✓	heard in Rio Grande
Russet-crowned Crane	<i>Anurolimnas viridis</i>	✓			heard in Gran Sabana. Tried to see without success
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>		✓		El Palmar
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓		El Palmar
Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>		✓		El Palmar and wetlands along the road
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>				Hotel Puerto Viejo
Rock Pigeon (1)	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓		always close to human populated areas
Scaled Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>	✓			Rio Cuyuni bridge

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>		✓		El Palmar savannas
Ruddy Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>		✓		El Palmar savannas
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>		✓		near El Palmar and in Puerto Ordaz
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina minuta</i>		✓		Near Guasipati
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>		✓		several records
Scaled Dove	<i>Columbina squammata</i>		✓		mostly Puerto Ordaz
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>			✓	El Palmar
Gray-fronted Dove	<i>Leptotila rufaxilla</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Red-and-green Macaw	<i>Ara chloroptera</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema and Rio Grande
White-eyed Parakeet	<i>Aratinga leucophthalmus</i>		✓		Tumeremo and El Palmar
Brown-throated Parakeet	<i>Aratinga pertinax</i>	✓	✓		from Gran Sabana down to El Palmar
Painted Parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura picta</i>			✓	flocks in Rio Grande. Not seen well this trip
Fiery-shouldered Parakeet (E)	<i>Pyrrhura egregia</i>	✓			amazing views with the scope of flock foraging on a scrub in Sierra de Lema
Green-rumped Parrotlet	<i>Forpus passerinus</i>		✓		El Palmar
Orange-chinned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>			✓	Puerto Ordaz, southernmost population in Eastern Venezuela
Golden-winged Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chrysopterus</i>			✓	mainly Rio Grande
Tepui Parrotlet	<i>Nannopsittaca panychlora</i>	✓			flying very high every day in Sierra de Lema
Lilac-tailed Parrotlet	<i>Touit batavica</i>			✓	large flock in Rio Grande
Black-headed Parrot	<i>Pionites melanocephala</i>			✓	scope views in Rio Grande
Caica Parrot	<i>Pionopsitta caica</i>			✓	fly by, it was never seen perched in this trip
Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>	✓	✓		many records
Blue-cheeked Parrot	<i>Amazona dufresniana</i>	✓			pair in Sierra de Lema
Yellow-crowned Parrot	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>		✓		some near El Palmar
Orange-winged Parrot	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	✓	✓	✓	many records
Mealy Parrot	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>			✓	daily encounters in Rio Grande
Red-fan Parrot	<i>Deroptryus accipitrinus</i>	✓			Scope views of 3 ind
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	✓			Remember the color of the orbital area?
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>		✓		open country and edge habitat
Striped Cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>		✓		singing in El Palmar
Spectacled Owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i>	✓			heard in Las Claritas
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	✓	✓		heard twice
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>		✓		El Palmar
Blackish Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus nigrescens</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Roraiman Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus whitelyi</i>	✓			close encounter with one ind at 05:40AM!
Tepui Swift (E)	<i>Cypseloides phelpsi</i>	✓			Gran Sabana
White-collared Swift	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	several ind, usually flying low in overcasted days
Band-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>	✓		✓	Forested lowlands
Gray-rumped Swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Chapman's Swift	<i>Chaetura chapmani</i>	✓			Good studies of about 6 ind
Short-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura brachyura</i>		✓	✓	usually in open country
Ashy-tailed Swift	<i>Chaetura andrei</i>			✓	large flock in Rio Grande, Seen in the same location for about 5 years. Considered as Vaux's Swift by some taxonomists but clearly a separate species
Fork-tailed Palm-Swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>		✓		Tumeremo area
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>	✓			great views on the lowlands of the Alto Cuyuni
Pale-tailed Barbthroat	<i>Threnetes niger</i>	✓			only one ind in Sierra de Lema
Eastern Long-tailed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis superciliosus</i>	✓			few in Sierra de Lema
Straight-billed Hermit	<i>Phaethornis bourcierii</i>	✓			several in Sierra de Lema
Reddish Hermit	<i>Phaethornis ruber</i>			✓	couple of times in Rio Grande trail
Brown Violet-ear	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>	✓			Mainly heard
Crimson Topaz	<i>Topaza pella</i>	✓			a male seen with the scope
Peacock Coquette	<i>Lophornis pavoninus</i>	✓			One ind in female plumage foraging in Sierra de Lema
Blue-tailed Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon mellisugus</i>	✓			Gran Sabana
Fork-tailed Woodnymph	<i>Thalurania furcata</i>	✓			few sights in Sierra de Lema
White-chinned Sapphire	<i>Hylocharis cyanus</i>			✓	a male in Rio Grande
Tepui Goldenthrout (E)	<i>Polytmus milleri</i>	✓			we managed to see this one very welll. Everyone was able to see the white patch at the base of the outer tail feathers!
White-chested Emerald	<i>Agyrtria brevirostris</i>			✓	several singing in Rio Grande
Glittering-throated Emerald	<i>Polyerata fimbriata</i>		✓		near Puerto Ordaz
Copper-tailed Hummingbird (E)	<i>Saucerottia cupreicauda</i>	✓			Gran Sabana
Velvet-browed Brilliant (E)	<i>Heliodoxa xanthogonys</i>	✓			a male flying around us in Sierra de Lema
Black-eared Fairy	<i>Heliothryx aurita</i>	✓			gorgeous birds! Seen foraging in Sierra de Lema
Long-billed Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster longirostris</i>	✓			one ind seen by Alice in Sierra de Lema is possibly this species
White-tailed Trogon	<i>Trogon viridis</i>			✓	male in Rio Grande
Violaceous Trogon	<i>Trogon violaceus</i>			✓	male in Rio Grande
Masked Trogon	<i>Trogon personatus</i>	✓			various pairs in Sierra de Lema

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>		✓		El Palmar wetland
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>		✓		El Palmar wetland
Brown Jacamar	<i>Brachygalba lugubris</i>	✓			a pair entering Gran Sabana
Green-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula galbula</i>	✓			nice male in Alto Cuyuni road
Paradise Jacamar	<i>Galbula dea</i>	✓			Scattered ind in Alto Cuyuni area
Great Jacamar	<i>Jacamerops aureus</i>			✓	Rio Grande
Russet-throated Puffbird	<i>Hypnelus ruficollis</i>		✓		nice pair near Puerto Ordaz
Swallow-wing	<i>Chelidoptera tenebrosa</i>	✓			various seen even along the roads
Black-spotted Barbet	<i>Capito niger</i>			✓	Couple of males in Rio Grande
Green Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus viridis</i>	✓		✓	several views. We enjoyed the head plumage of the female with the scope
Black-necked Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus aracari</i>	✓			several times, even in disturbed habitat
Channel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i>	✓		✓	various sights
Red-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i>	✓		✓	pair in Rio Grande, singing
Golden-spangled Piculet	<i>Picumnus exilis</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes cruentatus</i>	✓		✓	several sights
Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>		✓		near Puerto Ordaz
Golden-collared Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis cassini</i>			✓	One ind with a feeding flock in Rio Grande
Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Piculus rubiginosus</i>	✓		✓	various sights in forested areas
Waved Woodpecker	<i>Celeus undatus</i>	✓			good views in Alto Cuyuni road and in Rio Grande
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>		✓		near Puerto Ordaz
Red-necked Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus rubricollis</i>			✓	male flying in Rio Grande trail
Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>	✓			Alto Cuyuni road
Pale-breasted Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis albescens</i>	✓			Pair in Gran Sabana and also near the Orinoco
Plain-crowned Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis gujanensis</i>			✓	seen by some, this was the skulky spinetail in Rio Grande
Tepui Spinetail (E)	<i>Cranioleuca demissa</i>	✓			very good views of one ind right above our heads in low scrub
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomea</i>		✓		El Palmar
Roraiman Barbtail (E)	<i>Roraimia adusta</i>	✓			excellent views of two pairs
Plain Xenops	<i>Xenops minutus</i>	✓			seen with a feeding flock
White-throated Foliage-gleaner (E) (Tepui Foliage-gleaner)	<i>Automolus roraimae</i>	✓			excellent views of one ind foraging with a feeding flock that included only tepui endemic species!
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner	<i>Automolus ochrolaemus</i>			✓	Rio Grande
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>			✓	Race seen in this tour (<i>fuliginosa</i>) is the largest for Venezuela

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>	✓			many in the slope of Sierra de Lema and in adjacent Cuyuni lowlands
Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Dendrexetastes rufigula</i>			✓	superb views of a pair, first reported in Venezuela less than a decade ago
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>			✓	Rio Grande
Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus pardalotus</i>	✓		✓	aparently replaces the previous one in the slope of Sierra de Lema (Hilty,2003).
Streak-headed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>		✓		Seen in tropical dry forest near Puerto Ordaz
Curve-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus procurvoides</i>			✓	excellent views of race <i>sanus</i> in Rio Grande. Probably a separate species (A.Whittaker pers.comm.).
Great Antshrike	<i>Taraba major</i>			✓	male in Rio Grande
Black-crested Antshrike	<i>Sakesphorus canadensis</i>		✓		seen twice in the vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Streak-backed Antshrike (E)	<i>Thamnophilus insignis</i>	✓			excellent views of a pair. Sierra de Lema
Dusky-throated Antshrike	<i>Thamnomanes ardesiacus</i>			✓	feeding flock leader, mostly heard, once seen
Cinereous Antshrike	<i>Thamnomanes caesius</i>			✓	feeding flock leader, seen a couple of times
Pygmy Antwren	<i>Myrmotherula brachyura</i>	✓		✓	nice views in the upper Cuyuni area
Roraiman Antwren (E)	<i>Herpsilochmus roraimae</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema, several times
White-fringed Antwren (Northern White-fringed Antwren)	<i>Formicivora grisea</i> (<i>Formicivora (g.) intermedia</i>)		✓		male near the Orinoco river
Gray Antbird	<i>Cercomacra cinerascens</i>	✓			heard frequently
Dusky Antbird	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>			✓	pair in Rio Grande
Warbling Antbird	<i>Hypocnemis cantator</i>	✓			seen in various occasions in Sierra de Lema
Roraiman Antbird (E) (Spot-winged Antbird)	<i>Percnostola saturata</i> (<i>Schistocichla leucostigma</i>)	✓			A very responsive male in Sierra de Lema. This recently described Tepui Endemic is a split from Spot-winged Antbird. For more details see: Braun et al. 2005. Speciation in the Tepuis: <i>Percnostola saturata</i> . <i>The Condor</i> 107: 327-341.
Ferruginous-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza ferruginea</i>			✓	gorgeous bird! Indeed, one of my favorite <i>Thamnophilidae</i> of Venezuela. A male seen very well in Rio Grande
Rufous-throated Antbird	<i>Gymnophylax rufigula</i>	✓			A pair foraging "away" of army ants was very responsive to playback in Sierra de Lema
Spot-backed Antbird	<i>Hylophylax naevia</i>	✓			heard in Alto Cuyuni road
Scale-backed Antbird	<i>Hylophylax poecilinota</i>			✓	scope views in Rio Grande
Rufous-capped Antthrush	<i>Formicarius colma</i>			✓	one ind in Rio Grande
Black-faced Antthrush	<i>Formicarius analis</i>			✓	heard several times, but not seen
Short-tailed Antthrush	<i>Chamaeza campanisona</i>	✓			although we tried to see this one in Sierra de Lema, it refuses to approach to us
Scaled Antpitta	<i>Grallaria guatemalensis</i>	✓			pair heard frequently in Sierra de Lema

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Thrush-like Antpitta	<i>Myrmothera campanisona</i>			✓	heard in Rio Grande
Tepui Antpitta (E)	<i>Myrmothera simplex</i>	✓			seen by half of the group in Sierra de Lema
Screaming Piha	<i>Lipaugus vociferans</i>			✓	heard in Rio Grande
Rose-collared Piha (E)	<i>Lipaugus streptophorus</i>	✓			beautiful scope views of a male perched in a open branch!
Purple-throated Fruitcrow	<i>Querula purpurata</i>			✓	group vocalizing in Rio Grande
Red-ruffed Fruitcrow	<i>Pyroderus scutatus</i>		✓		male flying over a clearing, Rio Cuyuni
Capuchinbird	<i>Perissocephalus tricolor</i>	✓			scope views of a male displaying in the lek
White Bellbird	<i>Procnias alba</i>	✓			several males heard and a couple seen well throughout the scope. Daily encounters
Bearded Bellbird	<i>Procnias averano</i>	✓			as the one above, seen with the scope almost every day in Sierra de Lema
Guianan Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola rupicola</i>	✓			male seen by Sandy Komito while most group had a young male perched on a branch. Not very cooperative this year
Olive Manakin (E)	<i>Chloropipo uniformis</i>	✓			good views in Sierra de Lema
White-throated Manakin	<i>Corapipo gutturalis</i>			✓	male seen by Ken
Golden-headed Manakin	<i>Pipra erythrocephala</i>			✓	a male seen with the scope foraging on berries of a <i>Melastomataceae</i>
Scarlet-horned Manakin	<i>Pipra cornuta</i>	✓			male seen with the scope displaying throughout the foliage. Sierra de Lema
Tepui Manakin (Orange-bellied Manakin)	<i>Lepidothrix suavisissima</i> (<i>Pipra suavisissima</i>)	✓			views of young males. Awful idea to name "tepui" a species that is widespread in the lowlands and not restricted to the "tepuis"
Wing-barred Piprites	<i>Piprites chloris</i>	✓			good view of one ind foraging with a feeding flock
Thrush-like Schiffornis	<i>Schiffornis turdinus</i>	✓			heard twice in Sierra de Lema
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>		✓		seen in the vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Mouse-colored Tyrannulet	<i>Phaeomyias murina</i>		✓		several sights near Puerto Ordaz
Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>		✓		pair heard in Rio Grande
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet	<i>Tyrannulus elatus</i>		✓		heard in Cachamay park
Forest Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis gaimardii</i>		✓		seen in Cachamay and Rio Grande
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>		✓		heard in El Palmar
Plain-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia cristata</i>	✓			more than 3 individuals in Gran Sabana
Great Elaenia (E)	<i>Elaenia dayi</i>	✓			very good views with the scope of a single individual, not a pair
Sierran Elaenia	<i>Elaenia pallatangae</i>	✓			seen a couple of times in Sierra de Lema
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>	✓			seen with a feeding flock in Sierra de Lema
Sooty-headed Tyrannulet	<i>Phyllomyias griseiceps</i>			✓	heard in Rio Grande
Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Euscarthmus meloryphus</i>		✓		nice and unexpected. Rio Orinoco river bank

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Myiornis ecaudatus</i>			✓	heard in Rio Grande
Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus galeatus</i>	✓			seen well in Alto Cuyuni road
Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilotriccus sylvia</i>			✓	beautiful, one of my favorite tody-flycatchers. Seen well, perched inside a scrub in Rio Grande
Ruddy Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilotriccus russatus</i>	✓			after some effort, seen very close in Sierra de Lema
Painted Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum pictum</i>			✓	several times heard but not seen. We tried a couple of times
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>		✓		near Puerto Ordaz
Yellow-olive Flycatcher	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>		✓		Cachamay, coming after pygmy-owl whistle
Yellow-margined Flycatcher (Zimmer's Flatbill)	<i>Tolmomyias assimilis</i>	✓		✓	various encounters, usually associated with feeding flocks
Gray-crowned Flycatcher (Gray-crowned Flatbill)	<i>Tolmomyias poliocephalus</i>			✓	mostly heard, calling frequently from the forest canopy in Rio Grande. One individual seen
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher (Ochre-lored Flatbill)	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>		✓		Cachamay park
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Terentotriccus erythrurus</i>			✓	seen by Ken and others in Rio Grande
Cliff Flycatcher	<i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>	✓			Piedra de la Virgen
Smoke-colored Pewee	<i>Contopus fumigatus</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Pied Water-Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>		✓		El Palmar wetland
White-headed Marsh-Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>		✓		El Palmar wetland
Long-tailed Tyrant	<i>Colonia colonus</i>			✓	Rio Grande, always associated with wetlands
Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosus</i>		✓		El Palmar farmlands
Cinnamon Attila	<i>Attila cinnamomeus</i>			✓	Rio Grande, scope views
Grayish Mourner	<i>Rhytipterna simplex</i>			✓	One seen well, foraging with feeding flock
Swainson's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus swainsoni</i>	✓			pair at the entrance of Gran Sabana. Due to the distinctive voice of this race (<i>paheonotus</i>), more studies are needed in comparison with other races.
Short-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>		✓		common near Puerto Ordaz
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>		✓		La Llovizna park
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		✓		Common and widespread in drier habitat. Lowlands
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>		✓		Cachamay park and Cuyuni river
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	common in forested and non-forested lowland habitats
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>		✓		common in non-forested lowland habitats
Yellow-throated Flycatcher	<i>Conopias parva</i>	✓			pair in Sierra de Lema
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>			✓	various sights of resident race <i>tobaguensis</i>

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	✓		✓	several sightings, forested and non-forested lowlands
Variegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonomus varius</i>	✓			various sightings of resident race <i>rufinus</i>
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	Edge species. Common and widespread in all areas
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>		✓		El Palmar wetland
Black-capped Becard	<i>Pachyramphus marginatus</i>	✓		✓	Sierra de Lema and Rio Grande
Cinereous Becard	<i>Pachyramphus rufus</i>		✓		very nice views near Puerto Ordaz
Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>	✓			austral migrant, race <i>fusca</i> . May the large concentrations on electric wires be of individuals gathering to depart south soon
Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	✓	✓	✓	common and widespread
White-winged Swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>		✓		always close to water. Wetlands of El Palmar
Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Black-collared Swallow	<i>Atticora melanoleuca</i>	✓	✓		Cachamay and Rio Cuyuni
Tawny-headed Swallow	<i>Alopochelidon fucata</i>	✓			Gran Sabana
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>		✓		Puerto Ordaz
Bicolored Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus griseus</i>		✓		El Palmar
Coraya Wren	<i>Thryothorus coraya</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema. Taxonomy of races in Venezuela is confusing and poorly studied. Races <i>barrowclougiana</i> from Roraima and <i>Kukenam</i> and <i>ridgwayi</i> from Sierra de Lema and other tepuis might be lumped into one race and elevated as separate species. Keep track with this one!
Buff-breasted Wren	<i>Thryothorus leucotis</i>	✓			near Rio Cuyuni
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	✓	✓		common and widespread
Flutist Wren (E)	<i>Microcerculus ustulatus</i>	✓			beautiful! Walked across the area I said to everyone it would do it!
Musician Wren	<i>Cyphorhinus aradus</i>			✓	gorgeous! This melodious dweller of the forest was enjoyed by everyone while did sing for a while on a branch in the interior of the forest
Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	✓	✓		Gran Sabana and dry country of the lowlands
Yellow-legged Thrush	<i>Platycichla flavipes</i>	✓			male in Sierra de Lema
Pale-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>		✓		mostly in the vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Black-billed Thrush	<i>Turdus ignobilis</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema and Gran Sabana
Bare-eyed Thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>		✓		mostly in the vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Long-billed Gnatwren	<i>Ramphocaenus melanurus</i>			✓	nice views of a pair in Rio Grande
Tropical Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila plumbea</i>		✓		mostly in the vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Cayenne Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cayanus</i>	✓			Alto Cuyuni area

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>		✓		Individuals seen in this tour are the resident race <i>vividior</i> , sometimes named "Chivi Vireo"
Lemon-chested Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus thoracicus</i>			✓	very good views in Rio Grande
Tepui Greenlet (E)	<i>Hylophilus sclateri</i>	✓			seen most times with feeding flocks
Buff-cheeked Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus muscicapinus</i>	✓		✓	mostly heard in Sierra de Lema and Rio Grande
Scrub Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus flavipes</i>		✓		seen near Puerto Ordaz
Tawny-crowned Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus ochraceiceps</i>			✓	heard in the Alto Cuyuni road
Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo	<i>Vireolanius leucotis</i>	✓		✓	seen very well in Rio Grande
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	<i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>			✓	Rio Grande
Tropical Parula	<i>Parula pitiayumi</i>			✓	Rio Grande
Slate-throated Redstart (Slate-throated Whitestart)	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>	✓			mostly at lower elevations in Sierra de Lema, although comes into contact with Tepui Whitestart at higher elevations in the Sierra de Lema
Tepui Redstart (E) (Tepui Whitestart)	<i>Myioborus castaneocapillus</i>	✓			various encounters in Sierra de Lema
Two-banded Warbler (Roraiman Warbler)	<i>Basileuterus bivittatus</i> (<i>Basileuterus (b.) roraimae</i>)	✓			various encounters with pairs vocalizing
Rose-breasted Chat	<i>Granatellus pelzelni</i>			✓	pair in Rio Grande. Beautiful! Recent studies suggest a new position in the taxonomical order
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	✓	✓	✓	I guess we all managed to see the race <i>roraimae</i> which indeed lacks the "white spot on the wing". Lowland race also seen well
Black-faced Tanager	<i>Schistochlamys melanopsis</i>	✓			Gran Sabana
Yellow-backed Tanager	<i>Hemithraupis flavicollis</i>			✓	group in Rio Grande
Olive-backed Tanager (E)	<i>Mitrospingus oleagineus</i>	✓			groups in Sierra de Lema
Fulvous Shrike-Tanager	<i>Lanio fulvus</i>	✓			feeding flock leader, seen well in Sierra de Lema
Fulvous-crested Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus surinamus</i>			✓	nice view of two males in Rio Grande
White-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus luctuosus</i>			✓	male in Rio Grande
White-lined Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>		✓		Couple of times near Tumeremo and in the vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Red-shouldered Tanager	<i>Tachyphonus phoenicius</i>	✓			Gran Sabana
White-winged Tanager	<i>Piranga leucoptera</i>	✓			male in Sierra de Lema
Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>	✓		✓	various sights
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	✓		✓	common in all areas
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	✓			mostly in Gran Sabana
Purple-throated Euphonia	<i>Euphonia chlorotica</i>	✓			a male near El Dorado
Violaceous Euphonia	<i>Euphonia violacea</i>	✓			various sights, commonest Euphonia in SE Venezuela

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Orange-bellied Euphonia	<i>Euphonia xanthogaster</i>	✓			several sights in Sierra de Lema
Blue-naped Chlorophonia	<i>Chlorophonia cyanea</i>	✓			heard in Sierra de Lema
Turquoise Tanager	<i>Tangara mexicana</i>	✓			seen about 3 times in different locations
Paradise Tanager	<i>Tangara chilensis</i>	✓			beautiful! Nice flock in Sierra de Lema
Yellow-bellied Tanager	<i>Tangara xanthogastra</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Speckled Tanager	<i>Tangara guttata</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	✓		✓	Sierra de Lema and lowlands
Burnished-buff Tanager	<i>Tangara cayana</i>	✓			Gran Sabana and near El Palmar
Black-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara cyanoptera</i>	✓			a female seen by all participants and a male was seen by Dorothy. Keep track of this one because is likely to be split as a separate tepui endemic in the near future
Opal-rumped Tanager	<i>Tangara velia</i>	✓			seen once in Sierra de Lema
Blue Dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>	✓			Sierra de Lema
Green Honeycreeper	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>	✓		✓	several encounters
Purple Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>	✓		✓	commonest of all honeycreepers
Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>	✓		✓	several times, enjoyed the "plastic legs"
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>			✓	several males displaying over grasses along the roads
Gray Seedeater (Ring-necked Seedeater)	<i>Sporophila intermedia</i>			✓	We saw a male "ring-necked" type in the forest edge of El Dorado and a regular "gray" type in El Palmar. According to Restall, these are two separate species
Lesson's Seedeater	<i>Sporophila bouvronides</i>			✓	male singing near Puerto Ordaz
Lined Seedeater	<i>Sporophila lineola</i>			✓	several individuals foraging in grass seedlings
Yellow-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila nigricollis</i>			✓	male near the Orinoco river
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	<i>Sporophila minuta</i>			✓	various sights near Puerto Ordaz
Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch (Lesser Seed-Finch)	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>			✓	various males vocalizing. Interesting record since it has been almost extirpated in neighboring Guyana and Suriname.
Greater Flowerpiercer (E)	<i>Diglossa major</i>	✓			superb views in Sierra de Lema, twice
Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>			✓	near Puerto Ordaz
Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch	<i>Sicalis citrina</i>	✓			Gran Sabana
Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch	<i>Emberizoides herbicola</i>	✓			1 ind flying across the road in Gran Sabana
Red-capped Cardinal	<i>Paroaria gularis</i>			✓	near Puerto Ordaz
Tepui Brush-Finch (E)	<i>Atlapetes personatus</i>	✓			very good views, a couple of times
Pectoral Sparrow	<i>Arremon taciturnus</i>			✓	nice views of one ind singing in Rio Grande trail
Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>	-	✓	-	Minor range extension. One ind seen near the Orinoco river
Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	✓			race <i>roraimae</i> in Gran Sabana. Common

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Red-and-black Grosbeak	<i>Periporphyrus erythromelas</i>			✓	heard very close but unfortunately not responded to playback due to a heavy rain
Grayish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>		✓		near Puerto Ordaz
Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>			✓	male in Rio Grande
Slate-colored Grosbeak	<i>Saltator grossus</i>	✓		✓	several times heard, seen only once
Yellow-green Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes canadensis</i>			✓	seen by half of the group in Rio Grande
Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanooides</i>			✓	heard in Rio Grande
Yellow-hooded Blackbird	<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus</i>		✓		El Palmar wetlands
Red-breasted Blackbird	<i>Sturnella militaris</i>		✓		El Palmar wetlands
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>		✓		El Palmar wetlands
Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>		✓		Seen mostly in Puerto Ordaz and El Palmar
Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>		✓		Puerto Ordaz and El Palmar
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	✓			Las Claritas
Yellow Oriole	<i>Icterus nigrogularis</i>		✓		Puerto Ordaz
Venezuelan Troupial	<i>Icterus icterus</i>		✓		Venezuela's national bird. Seen twice near El Palmar
Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>		✓		various sights in drier country
Red-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus haemorrhous</i>			✓	Rio Grande
Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>		✓		several along the road. Prefers open country and edge habitat
Green Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius viridis</i>	✓		✓	mostly in forested areas of Sierra de Lema and Rio Grande
Golden-tufted Grackle	<i>Macroagelaius imthurni</i>	✓			various groups in Sierra de Lema

OTHER WILDLIFE LIST

English name	Scientific name	1	2	3	Comments
Brown Capuchin Monkey	<i>Cebus olivaceus</i>		✓		Cachamay park
Red-howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>			✓	Rio Grande, heard every day
Red-rumped Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta agouti</i>		✓		vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Capybara	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>		✓		vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Blue Morpho Butterfly	<i>Morpho sp.</i>	✓			Alto Cuyuni area
Heliconia Butterfly	<i>Heliconia sp.</i>		✓		vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Green Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>		✓		vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Spectacled Cayman	<i>Cayman crocodilus</i>		✓		vicinity of Puerto Ordaz
Land Snake	<i>Ninia atrata</i>		✓		El Palmar
Tarantula	<i>Psalmopoeus sp.</i>	✓			road in Sierra de Lema
Poison Dart Frog	<i>Dendrobates leucomelas</i>		✓		one ind in the vicinity of Puerto Ordaz

