

by Peter Hawrylyshyn (epna AT rogers.com)

**PARTICIPANTS:** Peter Hawrylyshyn (Canada), Robert Lewis (USA) and Daniel Uribe (Colombia)

**OBJECTIVE:** This would be my fifth trip, and Bob's third trip to Colombia. The main purpose was to visit the Choco rainforest of western Colombia. We each had key endemic target species for life-lists or special photographic projects

**LOGISTICS:** Once again Daniel was our principle guide and driver in his new Gran 4x4 Vitara. The main highways and secondary roads thru the Cauca valley were mostly paved. The dirt roads at Anchicaya were at times challenging, but easily passable with 4WD. Daniel had arranged for a local guide Jose Luna (based in Cali) for our time in the Anchicaya Valley. The infamous access road to Cerro Montezuma which required special 4x4 taxis in 2013, has now been resurfaced making for a much easier drive. But the road at Santa Rosa de Cabal has deteriorated making it almost impassable in sections. Only once did a landslide (at Anchicaya) impact our travel plans. Never were there any safety concerns

**WEATHER:** The trip was planned for September which is considered part of the dry season. Days generally started with overnight mist which quickly cleared, mostly sunny during the morning with increasing cloud. By late afternoon/evening rain showers would have developed. On a couple of days there were brief intense afternoon thunderstorms. However, overall the weather did not restrict our birding objectives for the trip.

**SITES** - A brief description and location of the main sites/lodges which we visited :

**Finca Alejandria (El Paraiso de los Colibries)** (3° 32' 21"N, 76° 36' 21" W, 1984m) – is located about an hour east of Cali, near the Km 18 marker along the highway from Cali to Buenaventura. We both had visited the lodge briefly in 2013 (see prior report), but because it was enroute to Anchicaya, we decided to return for a half-day to photograph species at the feeders. The site is still operated by Raul Nieto and his lovely wife Elsa Ruiz. The hummingbird feeders have been expanded and over 30 species have now been recorded. It is also the only site in Colombia where the Multi-colored Tanager is known to come to banana feeders.

**Anchicaya Valley** – Only recently has this area re-opened to birders. The area had been a guerrilla/FARQ stronghold. The old Cali-Buenaventura road follows the Anchicaya River thru lush Choco rainforests. Although the km markers reference the distance from the start of the road in Cali, actual markers no longer exist along the road. Much of the area up to and around the main town of El Queremal at Km 48 (3° 31' 42"N, 76° 42' 55" W 1450m) is now mostly deforested. El Descanso - Dona Dora is a small local kitchen with hummingbird and tanager feeders at Km 55 (3° 32' 5"N, 76° 45' 13" W 1265m). The best forest for birding is between Km 60-76. The road is paved for about 16km beyond El Queremal and then becomes a dirt road which passes/descends thru several hamlets/farming co-operatives (La Elsa, El Engano and Rio Blanco) to reach the river valley floor at Las Cascada (3° 35' 33"N, 76° 50' 11" W 295m). From here the road follows the river for about 8-10km to El Danubio at Km 88 (3° 36' 36"N, 76° 53' 3" W 225m). The small hamlet is situated at the bridge over the Anchicaya River which leads to one of two hydro-electric projects : the original, upper Alto Anchicaya hydro-electric dam built in 1974. In town, there is one small store and a hostel with very basic lodging. There is also a second, newer hydro-electric dam about 5km beyond El Danubio generally referred to as Bajo Anchicaya. It is important to note that the GPS locations of the two dams do not correspond to the two hot-spots labelled Alto and Bajo Anchicaya on e-Bird. Past the Bajo Anchicaya dam, the road becomes much rougher as very few people travel beyond this point. As a result, the primary Choco rain forest remains

untouched with incredible birding. The road once again starts to ascend the mountain side to La Chorera at 8.7 km beyond El Danubio (3° 37' 21"N, 76° 55' 41" W 491m) where it passes under two waterfalls. From here the road again slowly descends to the small town of Agua Clara at Km 100 (3° 40' 13"N, 76° 56' 39" W 55m) marked by a bridge crossing the junction of the Rio Clara River and Anchicaya River. There is a small hostel and nearby there are alluvial gold mining sites. Birding activities for the most part end here.

**Cerro Montezuma** (5° 13' 49"N, 76° 5' 1" W, 1351m) – is located in Tatama NP and has now become one of Colombia's premier birding sites. Our visit in 2013 was cut short by rain and a national strike which threatened to close the only access road. The lodge is still run by the Tapasco family (Michele, her sister and five daughters). Lodging facilities were expanded in 2016 and the infamous access road was recently resurfaced making for a much easier drive. A local guide must still accompany all birding trips. We were joined by Fernando (a nephew of Michele) who was very good – he knew all the bird calls and where to find rarer target species. The meals and lodgings were again excellent.

**Laguna Sonso** (3° 53' 21"N, 76° 20' 51" W, 935m) - Located about 10 minutes west of Buga, this is an important wetland site that is a series of marshes, lagoons and mixed dry forest along the east bank of the Cauca River. The wetlands have become overgrown with invasive water hyacinth species impacting its use as a migratory stop-over point. The water fowl which can be seen depends on the amount of flooding, but can include Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal, Cocoi and Striped Herons, Limpkins, Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilt and Rails. The semi-dry forests are home to several specialty species such as **Grayish Piculet**, **Apical Flycatcher**, Spectacled Parrotlet, Bar-crested Antshrike, Cinereous Becard and Jet Antbird. Ruby Topaz Hummingbird can also be seen here.

**Santa Rosa de Cabal** – The old road from Pereira to Manizales heads north east towards the town of Santa Rosa de Cabal and then ascends the Central Andes. I had briefly visited the site in 2016. Near the summit in Vereda Cortaderal reserve, there are two important birding sites which are reliable locations for high-altitude hummingbird species and the endangered **Indigo-winged or Fuente's Parrot**.

**Canon de Combeima** – serves as the southerly access point to Los Nevados NP. The road follows the Combeima river to the town of Juntas (about a 1 hour drive north of Tolima) where lodgings can be found at the Hotel Iguaima. Nearby, Ukuku Lodge is a short 15-20 minute hike from town. The main endemic targets here were the **Tolima Blossomcrown and Tolima Dove**.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** A few photos from the trip can be found on the last page of the report. More extensive galleries of bird photos can be seen at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pahyyz/albums/72157686481388541> under the Colombia 2017 folder

## ITINERARY

**Sept 6** – Late afternoon and evening arrivals into Cali where we met Daniel. Overnight at Lodge Santa Eulalia near KM 14 marker along Cali-Buenaventura Highway

**Sept 7** – Morning spent at Finca Alejandria. Afternoon birding roads nears KM 18. Overnight at Hotel El Campanario in El Queremal.

**Sept 8** – We were joined by Jose Luna. Morning spent at El Descanso-Dona Dora. Afternoon birding sites (Alto Anchicaya) enroute to El Danubio. Overnight at Hospedaje La Sirena in El Danubio

**Sept 9** – All day birding Anchicaya. We drove from El Danubio to just beyond Agua Clara. An intense afternoon thunder storm forced us to stop at La Chorera for 30 minutes before it was safe to pass under the two waterfalls. Overnight at Hospedaje La Sirena in El Danubio

**Sept 10** – All day birding Anchicaya. Unfortunately a landslide near La Chorera effectively closed the road. Overnight at Hospedaje La Sirena in El Danubio

**Sept 11** – Morning birding around El Danubio. Afternoon drive back to El Queremal and then northward to Buga. Overnight at Hotel Guadalajara in Buga.

**Sept 12** – Morning birding at Sonso Marsh. Afternoon drive (4-5 hours) to Tatama NP/ Cerro Montezuma. Overnight at Lodge at Cerro Montezuma.

**Sept 13** – All day birding Cerro Montezuma. Overnight at Lodge at Cerro Montezuma

**Sept 14** – All day birding Cerro Montezuma. Overnight at Lodge at Cerro Montezuma

**Sept 15** – Morning birding Cerro Montezuma. Afternoon drive (4 hours) back to Pereira and Santa Rosa de Cabal. Overnight: Finca Hotel Don Lolo.

**Sept 16** – Morning birding Vereda Cortaderal above Santa Rosa de Cabal. Afternoon drive (5 hours) to Ibague. Overnight at Hotel Iguaima in Juntas

**Sept 17** – All day birding Canon de Combeima. Morning near Ukuku Lodge and afternoon along road near Juntas. Late afternoon drive (4 hours) back to Bogota. Overnight at Marriott Courtyard

**Sept 18** – Return flight to Toronto via Miami.

## **DAILY BIRDIING REPORTS**

Transit between the lodges was often accompanied by unscheduled road side birding stops which are not always included in the following reports. Colombian endemics or near-endemics are highlighted in **bold**.

**Sept 7** – After a tasty breakfast (fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, pastries and coffee), we departed early in heavy mist for the short 15 minute drive to Finca Alejandria. The skies cleared by mid-morning. The main lodge now has 20 HB feeders which attracted 16 species. A Greenish Puffleg favored feeder#5 and the Blue-headed Sapphire frequented feeders #18-19. About 10 species of tanagers visited the banana feeders. This included **Scrub Tanagers**, the colorful Blue-winged Mountain, Silver-throated and Saffron-crowned Tanagers. Sadly the **Multi-colored Tanager** only appeared twice over our eight hour stay. The prior week it was attending much more regularly. Mid-morning we also birded the nearby road where we found Quetzals, woodpeckers and several flycatchers including Variegated Bristle-tyrant. We departed late afternoon for the drive (about 1 hour) to El Queremal. We stopped for dinner at La Cabana where we enjoyed what would be our last steak dinners for about a week. We spent the night at Hotel El Campanario. It is the largest hotel in the Anchicaya valley, but it is at least several hours from the best birding sites. The rooms were comfortable, but WiFi was unavailable.  
<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347208> - Finca Alejandria

**Sept 8** –After meeting Jose Luna, we again departed early in light rain for the short 20 minute drive to El Descanso. Enroute we saw a striking **Crested Ant-Tanager**. The site is a popular local road-stop for breakfast and lunch which also has feeders for hummingbirds and tanagers. Dona Dora is the charming chef and owner. We saw at least 10 species of hummingbirds (notably White-whiskered Hermit, Booted Racket-tail, White-tailed Hillstar, Empress Brilliant, and Crowned Woodnymph). The banana feeders were attended by numerous

species including Lemon-rumped Tanagers, Golden Tanager, Blue-winged Tanagers, **Rufous-throated Tanager** and Toucan Barbet. We also saw Black-headed and **Tricoloured (Choco) Brush-Finch**. By 1PM the skies had cleared and we departed for El Danubio which would be our base for the next several days. We stopped at several sites enroute. We found a pair of Spot-crowned Barbets at our first stop. Next we found a small mixed flock that included **Sooty-headed Wren**, Pacific Antwren, Fulvous-breasted and Pacific Flatbill. Nearby we found a tanager flock with several **Rufous-throated Tanagers**, **Grey-and-gold Tanagers**, Golden-hooded Tanager and Blue Dacnis. Near Rio Blanco a Laughing Falcon was perched along the road-side at eye-level. The overnight lodgings at the small local hospice known as Hospedaje La Sirena in El Danubio were very basic (a clean bed with a washroom and cold shower). Supper was chicken with rice and plantains.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347298> - El Descanso Dona Dora

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347315> - Alto Anchicaya enroute to El Danubio

**Sept 9** – After an early 6:30AM basic breakfast (scrambled eggs, rice and fried plantains with coffee) we headed west and made stops whenever we encountered an interesting call or flock of birds. Our first stop was about 1.4 km from town at two hydro-electric poles where there was a platform with an overview of the forest and river valley. Here we photographed a pair of Cinnamon Woodpeckers, a Chestnut-backed Antbird, Squirrel Cuckoo, and heard our first Thicket Antpitta. Our next stop was near the Virgin Mary Roadside shrine (about 3.6km from town) where we saw several flycatchers and tanagers. As we proceeded, it was mostly cloudy and we passed several landmarks – the cut-off road to Bajo Anchicaya (about 5.1km from town), the large waterfall on right side of road (about 8.0 km from town), La Chorera (about 8.7km from town) where the road passes under two smaller waterfalls, and by 10AM we had reached the **Tooth-billed Hummingbird** lek area (about 9.1km from town). Although not active, we did hear their high-pitched calls, and I spent some time photographing a couple of birds. Bob explored the nearby road with Jose and found two **Baudo Guans** and a Little Tinnamou. By late morning, it was partly sunny and we moved on. We found an overlook (about 13.4km from town) where there were lots of tanagers ((Emerald, **Lemon-spectacled**, (**Gold-chested**, Scarlet-browed, **Scarlet-and-white**, ...)) and we managed to get a few photos. Here we also saw our first Purple-chested Hummingbird. We stopped here for lunch (sandwiches and fruit which we had brought with us). By 1PM we moved on and found a large heliconia stand (about 14.2km from town) where we briefly saw a White-tipped Sicklebill. A **Tooth-billed Hummingbird** was also feeding on Cavendeschia flowers nearby. A flock of 5-6 Tawny-crested Tanagers made an appearance, but the birds were constantly on the move (ie – no good photos). We had yet to hear or see a Sapayoa (a key target bird for Bob), and given the good weather decided to travel to the lowlands west of Agua Clara (about 20km from El Danubio). We missed on the Sapayoa and Band-tailed Barbthroat, but did see a Purple-crowned Fairy and Laughing Falcon. By mid-afternoon the clouds were building and we heard distant thunder, so decided to head back. Soon we were in a heavy thunder-storm. When we reached La Chorera, the two “gentle” waterfalls had become raging downpours making safe passage impossible. We had to wait 30-40 minutes for the water flow to subside before we ventured thru the falls and reached town by about 6PM. Dinner was rice, fried plantains with pork ribs and “lolo” fruit juice.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347348> -- Bajo Anchicaya

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347357> -- West of Rio Clara

**Sept 10** – We awoke to light rain. Our plan had been to once again bird from the road as far as the Tooth-billed Hummingbird site. At each stop, there would be new species. About 2km from town we found a mixed flock low even to allow photos of **Scarlet-and-white** and **Scarlet-browed Tanagers**. But the highlight came mid-morning when we encountered an ant swarm moving along a rock outcropping beside the road (about 3.6km from town). There were at least 5-6 Ocellated Antbirds, 3-4 Bicolored Antbirds and 1-2 Zeldin’s Antbirds moving with the ants. The Antbirds would periodically perch in the open on tree roots allowing for amazing views and photos. Nearby we also heard and found a Bay Wren. We eventually moved on and found a tree with fruit that was attracting some tanagers (Blue-gray and Palm), a Plain Xenops, and several Slate-colored Grosbeaks. We had intended to have lunch at the TB HB site, but a land slide had brought down a massive tree at about 7.5 km from town. It was impossible to move or drive past by the tree. By now it was mostly sunny, hot and very humid – the birds became very quiet. We decided to slowly drive back towards town and stop if

we encountered anything exciting. At our first stop, we found and photographed a pair of Brown-billed Scythebills. At our next stop, some tanagers were feeding in a tree that was almost at eye-level. In the flock were Dusky-faced Tanagers, a **Blue-whiskered Tanager** and two **Grey-and-gold Tanagers** which we patiently photographed. We missed at the third stop for **Lita Woodpecker**. We decided to drive to one more site where a Sapayoa had been reliably seen a few months ago (along the river about 2-3km east of town). No luck, but we did see some interesting flycatchers and our only **Rufous-winged Tanager** for the trip. We returned to the hostel by 5:30pm. Soon a light rain had begun, but Bob and Daniel went out at dusk to look and find a **Choco Poorwill**. Dinner was rice, fried plantains with grilled chicken or pork and “tree tomato” fruit juice.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347383> -- Bajo Anchicaya

**Sept 11** – Yet again we awoke to light rain. Our plan had been to try once more for Lita Woodpecker. We drove up as far as the Holy Mary Shrine. Although we saw numerous tanagers and heard **Choco Toucan**, we missed yet again on the woodpecker. So by 9:30 we returned to town, finished packing and departed back towards Cali. We stopped again about 3-4km east of El Danubio along the river at the Sapayoa site, but yet again no luck. We did however see some new notable birds including **Pallid Dove**, Barred and White-whiskered Puffbirds, Collared Aracari, Great Antshrike, Orange-billed Sparrow, ... On the river we saw Spotted Sandpiper and Blue-winged Teal. After about an hour, we departed and arrived at El Descanso-Dona Dora at about noon where we had a delicious lunch (soup, salad, and empanadas). As the weather was somewhat better, we spent until about 2pm photographing around the hummingbird and banana feeders. The species list was very similar to a few days earlier. We then departed for EL Queremal where we said good-bye to Jose. As Daniel’s license plate did not permit driving in Cali that day, we had to take the old road. But traffic was light and we arrived in Buja by 5:30pm. Overnight at Hotel Guadalajara – a 4-star hotel with HOT showers and an excellent restaurant.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347420> - around El Danubio

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347463> - El Descanso (Dona Dora)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347490> - Road stop several km east of Dona Dora

**Sept 12** – After an excellent buffet breakfast, we departed by 7AM for nearby Laguna Sonso. This is an important wetland site that is a series of marshes, lagoons and mixed dry forest along the east bank of the Cauca River. The birding was excellent – in three hours we saw about 60 species. This included such shore birds as Cooi Heron, Striated Heron, Southern Lapwing, Lesser yellowlegs, Black-necked Stilt and Gray-cowled Wood-Rail. Both Greater and Smooth-billed Ani were easily seen, as well as three species of woodpecker (Lineated, Spot-breasted and Red-Crowned) and Cocoa Woodcreeper. Five species of hummingbirds (Ruby Topaz, Black-throated Mango, Green-crowned Brilliant, Steely-vented and Rufous-tailed) were seen feeding in the wild flowers. But the main target birds here were Jet Antbird, Dwarf Cuckoo, **Apical Flycatcher** and Cinerous Becard, all of which we managed to find and add to Bob’s life list. We departed by 11AM and started the long drive to Pueblo Rico. We stopped and had lunch at one of Daniel’s favorite roadside restaurants west of Cartago (great steak and fries). The drive took all afternoon, and as planned, we arrived at the cut-off road to Cerro Montezuma around 4:00pm. We stopped at where a creek crossed the access road and where **Crested Ant-tanagers** were known to roost. Sure enough, we quickly managed to call in a pair of the striking birds. We drove on and arrived at the lodge which would be our base for the next several days by 5:00pm. The access road to Cerro Montezuma has been repaired/resurfaced making access much, much easier. As well the lodge has been expanded with several new rooms.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347510> - Hotel Guadalajara

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39144349> - Laguna Sonso

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347064> - Access road to Cerro Montezuma

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347523> - Cerro Montezuma Lodge

**Sept 13** – It rained heavily overnight, but had stopped by dawn. We were up by 5:30AM, met our local guide Fernando, and by 6AM were headed up the mountain. We drove about an hour to reach Los Chorros where the forest hummingbird bird feeders are located. Fernando refilled the feeders and soon we were seeing Empress Brilliant, Greenish Puffleg, Collared Inca, Purple-throated Woodstar, Violet-tailed Sylph and Velvet-Purple Coronet. White-sided and Indigo Flowerpiercers also attempted to come to the feeders. Several tanager species were feeding in a nearby tree (Gold-ringed Tanager, Purplish-mantled Tanager and Blue-capped Tanager). Further up the hill we could hear a Munchique Wood-wren calling. We enjoyed our box-breakfast with fresh juice and coffee in the crisp fresh mountain air whilst gazing across the vast pristine cloud forest. By 9:30 we started to work our way back down the mountain. We made multiple stops whenever we encountered a mixed flock or heard a special bird. Highlights were close-up views of Grey-breasted Wood-wren, Glistening – green Tanager, Handsome Flycatcher, Tawny-bellied Hermits, .... By noon we were just below Los Cajones where we stopped for lunch which had been brought up from the lodge. Just down the road past the major land slide site, we found a large mixed flock with three species of Fruit-eaters, two species of Chlorophonia, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Uniform Antshrike, Black Solitaire, Indigo Flowerpiercer, ... But by 13:30 a light rain had started so we moved further down the mountain, but the wet weather kept following us. By 16:00 we were back at the lodge where we spent the next hour photographing the variety of species attending the feeders. Dinner at 18:30 consisted of grilled catfish, fried rice, a tomato-avocado salad and fresh lolo juice. By 19:00 light rain had started at the lodge which continued overnight.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347528> - Cerro Montezuma : Los Chorros

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347534> - Cerro Montezuma : Los Cajones

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347538> - Cerro Montezuma : Lodge

**Sept 14** – Our plan was for the most part very similar to yesterday, except that we would slowly work our way up the mountain. We spent several hours between the first two lower bridges and saw an amazing 38 species which included close-up views of Moustached Puffbird, Lanceolated Monklet, Grayish Piculet, Lineated Woodpecker, Checker-throated and Slaty Antwrens, Parker's and Zeldon's Antbirds, Chestnut-crowned Gnatcatcher and Long-billed Gnatcatcher, and at least six species of Tanagers. Mid-morning we tried for Ochre-breasted Antpitta, but again it and the Tatama Tapaculo were only heard. By mid-day we had driven up to Los Cajones for lunch. Birding activity was much slower given the partly sunny weather, and by 15:00 heavy fog and light rain had started forcing us down the mountain. We spent the last hour (16:30 – 17:30) again photographing species around the lodge.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347543> - Cerro Montezuma : lower road up to 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347553> - Cerro Montezuma : 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge to Los Cajones

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347569> - Cerro Montezuma : Lodge

**Sept 15** – It rained again overnight. After another early 5:30AM breakfast, we departed the lodge by 6:00AM and drove up the road about 5 km where we stopped and walked up and down the road for about ¼ mile. Enroute we saw five Chestnut Wood-Quail running along the roadside. We spent some time photographing our main target – a pair of Bicoloured Antvireos. I also managed to finally get photos of a perched Tawny-bellied Hermit. Other species we saw included Golden-headed Quetzal, Toucan Barbets, Spotted Barbtail, and five species of Flycatchers. By 10:00AM it is full-bright sun and bird activity had ceased, so we returned to the lodge to finishing packing. We did manage to see and photograph a male and female Western Emerald that were visiting the verbena bush adjacent to the dining area. Lunch was at 12:00 noon, after which we departed for the 5 hour drive back to Peirera and Santa Rosa de Cabal. Overnight: We had planned to stay at Finca Hotel Don Lolo, but it was unavailable due to a large reception/party. Instead we stayed at Lagos de Venecia on the Via a Guacas, which because it was on the opposite side of Santa Rosa (ie – north end), added 30-45 minutes travel time in each direction. As well, there was considerable more road noise.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347578> - Cerro Montezuma : up to 1<sup>st</sup> bridge ( La Clarita)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39347587> - Cerro Montezuma : Lodge

**Sept 16** – An early 4:45AM start for the planned 1.5 hour drive to Vereda Cortaderal (also known as P.N. Campoalegere) above Santa Rosa de Cabal. Because the road has deteriorated significantly, it took over 2 hours to reach the 2<sup>nd</sup> yellow bridge (about 25.8km from town). Enroute we saw a Band-winged Nightjar. We had waited about an hour at the overlook, when finally six **Indigo-winged Parrots** flew along the valley floor and up the hill-side. We trekked across a pasture and found them feeding in a nearby tree, allowing for some photos. We then drove about ½ mile further up the road to the hummingbird site (3160m 10,550'). Although we saw six species (Tourmaline Sunangel, Purple-backed Thornbill, Tyrian Metaltail, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Mountain Velvetbreast and Sword-billed Hummingbird), the Mountain Avocetbill did not show. We also saw some interesting Mountain Tanagers ( Hooded, Lacrimose and Scarlet-bellied), Golden-fronted Redstart, Citrine Warbler, and Blue-backed Conebill. By 10:30AM it was time to leave. We returned to the hotel, quickly packed and by 13:00PM started to long drive across the Central Andes to Ibague. From there it was another 45 minutes up the Colbeima Canyon to Juntas. Overnight: Hotel Iguaima

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39345611> - P.N. Campoalegre (37 species)

**Sept 17** – The overnight accommodations were outstanding – spacious, hot water showers, excellent restaurant. The hotel grounds have numerous feeders and flower gardens. When we awoke, a brief walk outside at 6:30AM quickly produced 29 species. We departed at 7AM for the short drive to the main bridge, from where it was a 15-20 minute hike to Ukuku Lodge. We were soon photographing the 13 species of hummingbirds which visited the four feeders. This included Lesser and Sparkling Violetear, Long-tailed Sylph, Booted Racket-tail, White-bellied and Purple-throated Woodstars, **Red-billed Emerald (female)**, Crowned Woodnymph, Andean Emerald, and **Indigo-capped Hummingbird**. Luckily after about ½ hour, our main target – the endemic **Tolima Blossomcrown**, also showed allowing for some great photos at a feeder setup. We also had a delicious breakfast prepared by David's wife. Sadly we had to depart by 10:30AM, but the lodge, garden settings and trails deserved a much longer stay. We arrived back at Hotel Iguaima by 11:30, and then photographed species visiting the feeders and flowers in the garden. This included a very accommodating male **Red-billed Emerald** and a male Lazuline Sabrewing, which according to most reference books is restricted to the Eastern Andes. After an excellent buffet lunch, it was time to pack, and by 14:30PM I departed by car for Bogota. It was an easy three hour drive on a four-lane road to reach Bogota, but then took over 2 hours to traverse the city to the airport. Overnight : Marriott Courtyard at Airport (excellent new hotel which opened last year)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39345274> - Hotel Iguaima : early AM (29 species)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39345129> - Ukuku Lodge (33 species)

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39342471> - Hotel Iguaima : mid-day (27 species)

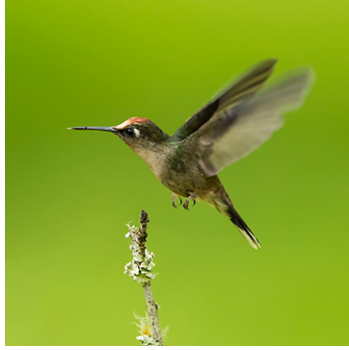
**Sept 17** – I was on the 7AM flight to Miami, while Bob and Daniel continued on to Laguna de Tabacal in search of the Rosy Thrush-Tanager.

**CONCLUDING COMMENTS:** It proved to be another very successful trip. We saw almost 400 species and Bob added 75 “lifers”. We photographed 46 species of hummingbirds. Once again there were never any safety concerns, and everyone we met was friendly and hospitable. Use of the local guides at Anchicaya and Montezuma proved invaluable. The Choco rain forest has incredible birding opportunities which should be a must-see for every serious birder. The Colbeima Canyon/Ibague area is easily accessible by car from Bogota. Both Hotel Iguaima and Ukuku Lodge offer excellent accommodations and very good birding for Tolima endemics – and as such the area makes an interesting alternative site when birding around Bogota. Lastly, yet again a special thanks to Daniel for his safe driving and excellent work in organizing the logistics for the trip.

**BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS:** Here are some photos of just a few of the species seen on the trip:



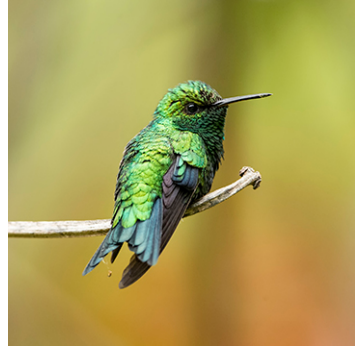
Tooth-billed Hummingbird



Tolima Blossomcrown



Woodnymph & Empress Brilliant



Red-billed Emerald (Male)



Immaculate Antbird



Bicolored Antbird



Jet Antbird (Male)



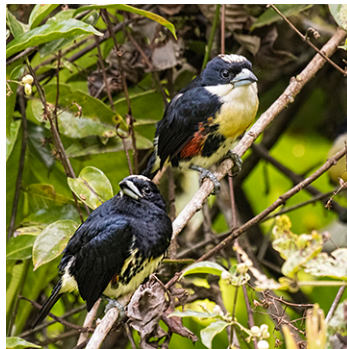
Bicolored Antvireo (Male)



Brown-billed Scythebill



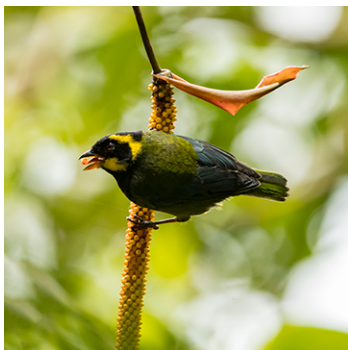
Lanceolated Monklet



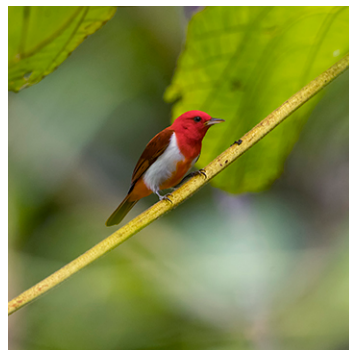
Spot-crowned Barbets



Scaled Fruit-eater



Golden-ringed Tanager



Scarlet-and-white Tanager



Rufous - winged Tanager



Crested Ant-Tanager