

COLOMBIA BIRDING TOUR

**BOGOTA AREA, WETLANDS AND WESTERN CORDILLERA – IBAGUE CITY IN CENTRAL CORDILLERA AND LOW LANDS OF THE MAGDALENA VALLEY
SANTA MARTA MOUNTAINS AND GUAJIRA PENINSULA**

**Mr. David and Mrs. Margery Parsley
MANAKIN NATURE TOURS & MINDO BIRD TOURS**

**Leader:
HERNAN DARIO ARIAS / Bogotá and Ibagué
ELKIN LUIS RODRIGUEZ / Santa Marta and Guajira**

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Itinerary:

19 June / Day 1. Chingaza National Park (Wester Andes Cordillera) / Night in Bogota
20 June / Day 2. La Florida Park, El Tabacal National Park and Jardin Encantado "Hummingbird Garden", transfer to Ibague City
21 June / Day 3. Nevado del Tolima (Los Nevados National Park) in the morning and San Jorge Botanical Garden in the afternoon
22 June / Day 4. Clarita Botero Location in the morning and Payande location in the afternoon
23 June / Day 5. Andean Parrots Reserve all day
24 June / Day 6. Mana Dulce natural Reserve and come back to Bogota city
25 June / Day 7. Flight to Barranquilla city, Salamanca National Park, Pericos Location, night in Riohacha city
26 June / Day 8. Los Flamencos National Park and transfer in the afternoon to Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (El Dorado Eco-lodge)
27 June / Day 9. Sierra Nevada de Santa marta all day and El Dorado Natural Reserve
28 June / Day 10. Minca location in the morning and transfer to Cartagena city in the afternoon / The End

Hernan Dario Arias wrote:

Day 1. Chingaza National Park

We transfer early in the morning to Chingaza National Park a really nice cloud forest and paramo of the Eastern Andes. There we can see some very interesting birds as Black billed Mountain Toucan, Eastern Meadowlark and Andean Guan, when we was waiting the Flame winged Parakeet that was seeing flying above our heads (12 individuals). In the Paramo (moorland) we saw the smoky Bush-Tyrant and some mix flogs that had some interesting species as Scarlet bellied Mountain Tanager, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, Grass green Tanager, Rufous Wren, Golden fronted Restart and others. We can see a very interesting group of the uncommon Black chested Mountain-Tanager and other flogs with Capped Conebill, Rufous browed Conebill, Andean Siskin, Mountain Woodcreeper, and others, definitely very good time in Chingaza. When we was downing to Mundo Nuevo Village we can see the incredible Blue throated Starfrontlet in a flowers groups, also we heard some individuals of Matorral Tapaculo and Rufous Antpitta that unfortunately cannot see. When we are ready to departure to Bogota we saw an incredible group of Tropical Screech Owl perched in a branch so nice. Close to 4 PM we comeback to Bogota and arrive to the hotel a little late per a problem with the traffic entering to Bogota. We will rest in Patio Amarillo Hotel, a very nice and comfortable hotel in the north of Bogota.



Eastern Meadowlark



Blue throated Starfrontlet



Andean Guan



Tropical Screech Owl

Day 2. La Florida Park, El Tabacal Park and Jardin Encantado

With a very cold morning we visit La Florida Wetland Park inside Bogota city. The first bird that we record was Apolinar's Marsh Wren that unfortunately doesn't come to the playback song. However we can see the endemic and beautiful Silvery throated Spinetail and other very interesting birds as Subtropical Doradito in a nest, also we can see the rare and endanger Bogota Rail crossing per the limit of the wetland so fast. Another birds that we can see in la Florida, include Noble Snipe flying, yellow hooded Blackbird and some Andean Siskin.

After to La Florida we travel to El Tabacal Natural Reserve in La Vega village, a really nice park with beautiful portion of humid tropical forest and secondary forest in an elevation of 1000 meters. Some birds that we can saw there was White bellied Antbird, jet Antbird, Bar crested Antshrike, Stripe Manakin, and the new slip Colombian (Speckle breasted) Wren. Other birds that were heard include Rusty breasted Antpitta that call really close and Rosy thrush Tanager. A really nice show was an Orange bellied Sparrow with the baby that crosses in front of us and a Black Hawk Eagle flying above our heads.



Subtropical Doradito



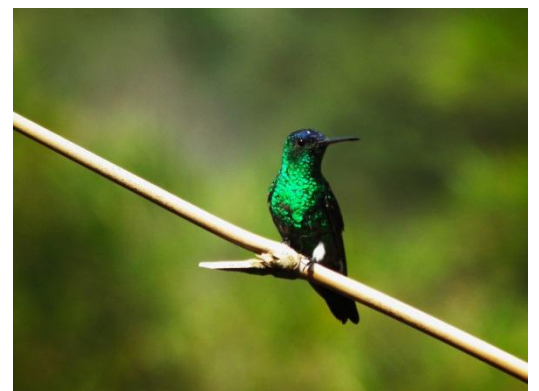
White bellied Antbird

When we finish in Tabacal we take the lunch in a typical Paisa Restaurant and transfer to Jardin Encantado "Hummingbird House" in where we can saw an incredible number of hummingbirds and a really nice show. The hummingbird that we can see was White vented Plummetear, Rufous tailed Hummingbird, Indigo capped Hummingbird, Brown Violetear, Green Violetear, Spakling Violetear, Gorgeted Woodstar, White bellied Woodstart, Black throated Mango and other birds as Ruddy Ground Dove, Bananaquit,

Blue and grey Tanager, Crimson back Tanager and other. In the final of the day we travel to Ibague a city of the medium lands of the Magdalena Valley.

Day 3. Nevado del Tolima, San Jorge Botanical Garden

We transfer early in the morning to Los Nevados national Park – Nevado del Tolima from Ibague. We take a good breakfast in a really nice hotel called Iguaima in where have some hummingbird feeders and are possible to see some interesting hummingbirds and birds as Fawn breasted Brilliant, Indigo capped Hummingbird, Rufous tailed Hummingbird, Torrent Tyranulet and other. After we searched per many time the Blossomcrow but unfortunately he don't come to the natural flowers close to Iguaima. In our route to Nevado del Tolima we can see some interesting birds in mix flogs as Yellow



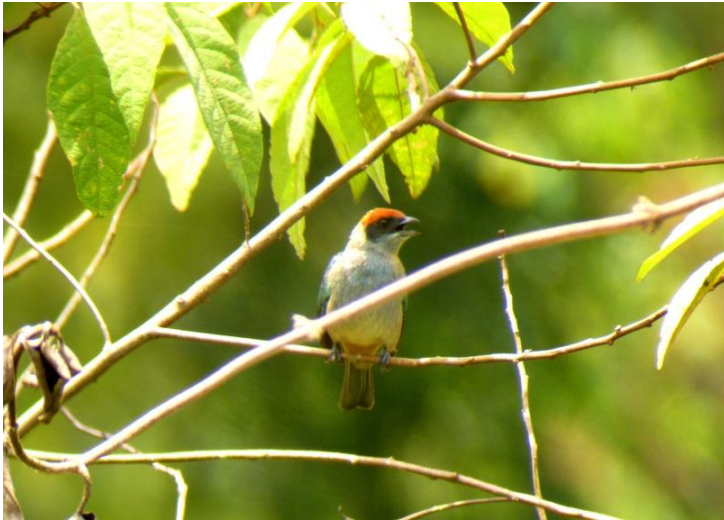
Indigo capped Hummingbird

headed Brush-Finch (endemic), Tolima Dove (hear), Streaked Tuftedcheek, Pearl Treerunner, Mountain Foliage gleaner, Crimson mantlet Woodpecker, another's. Really a very nice morning with too much species and very nice landscapes.

In the afternoon we visit the beautiful San Jorge Botanical Garden in where we saw many birds but also we saw incredible nice plants as orchids, heliconias and a great collection of palms and others. Some birds that we saw this afternoon that was really nice was Yellow tufted Dacnis, Bay headed Tanager, Scrub Tanager, Blue neck Tanager, Red crowned Woodpecker, Piratic Flycatcher, Rusty margined Flycatcher, and many more. A nice day in where we enjoy of two different ecosystems and many different birds.



Pearl Treerunner



Scrub Tanager



Crimson mantlet Woodpecker

Day 4. Clarita Botero, Payande

In the morning of this day we up to Clarita Botero location in the western mountains of Ibagué city, a nice location that combine the secondary forest, the coffee plantations and a small relict of cloud forest very close to the city and the best place to see some birds as Tolima Dove that sometimes can be very difficult as in this opportunity in where we hear two individual calling so close but we cannot see very well, however some birds that we can see well was the Yellow headed Brush Finch again and other as Yellow throated Brush-Finch, Smoky brown Woodpecker, Golden Olive Flycatcher, Mask Trogon, Golden, Beryl spangled, Metallic green Tanager, Rufous naped Greenlet and the really nice and endemic Crested Ant Tanager, also Bar crested Antshrike and Olivaceous Piculet.

In the afternoon we decided to change of habitat per a Humid Tropical Forest in Payande municipality on the route to the waterfalls, there we can see some interesting birds that include Rufous tailed Jacamar, White shoulder Tanager, Pearly vented Tody-Tyrant and others. When we come back to Ibagué, we funded a holiday parade of folklore of San Juan that was really really funny and beautiful; we take pictures of the people dancing on the streets and the aspirants to queens of the folklore. This day we will come back to hotel to rest.



Yellow throated Brush Finch



Beryl spangled Tanager



Rufous-tailed Jacamar



Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant

Day 5. Andean Parrots Reserve

This day was a most hard day in all the tour, because we were upping per 3 hours to the Central Andes Cordillera searching some very interesting birds of the high elevations. We can record birds as Glossy Flowerpiercer, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Collared Inca, Glowing Puffleg and many birds in the mix flocks that include Agile Tit-Tyrant, Mountain Wren, Supercilliated Hemispingus, Pale-naped Brush Finch, Slaty Brush Finch, Oleagineous Hemispingus and others, unfortunately we don't have too much activity in this reserves and we cannot see in this opportunity the Fuerte's Parrot, however we can see incredible good after of too much work an incredible individual of Chestnut-naped Antpitta. In the afternoon we come back to Ibagué to rest of this long day.



Pale-naped Brush Finch



Chestnut-naped Antpitta

Day 5. Mana Dulce Reserve

After to the breakfast we travel to Agua de Dios municipality to Mana Dulce Natural Reserve, a great humid tropical forest of 60 hectares in where Esteban the local guide of the reserve received us very good. We walk for the different path of this reserve all the morning and saw some incredible birds as Jet Antbird, Lance-tailed Manakin (manakin nature tours logo), Apical Flycatcher (endemic), Velvet-fronted Euphonia, Slate-headed Tody-Tyrant, White-bellied Antbird and other common birds as Blue-gray Tanager, Palm Tanager, Striped Saltator, Common Tody Flycatcher and others. Also we can hear so far away the Pheasant Cuckoo. In the afternoon we will come back to Bogotá to rest and to be ready for the next part of the tour in the Caribbean Coast.



Apical Flycatcher



White-cheeked Pintail

Elkin Luis Rodriguez wrote:

Day 6. Salamanca National Park, Riohacha City

The tour started in Barranquilla City at 8:40 am after got Mr. and Miss Parsley in the Airport. Then, we started to drive to Riohacha making some stop along the road. Our first birding stop was in Palermo, a warm and hot site, near from Magdalena River, where some common aquatic birds were found. During this stop, we registered Brown Pelican, Neotropic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Turkey Vulture, Limpkin, Snail Kite, Roadside Hawk, Brown-throated Parakeet, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Greater Ani, Smooth-billed Ani, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Russet-throated Puffbird and others.

After Palermo, we visited others site along the road finding native and migrant species between mangrove forest, marshal and wetlands. The species watched were Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Plover, Southern Lapwing and White-cheeked Pintail. After lunch, we drove toward Riohacha, where we had dinner and resting.

Day 7. Flamencos National Park and Minca Location

Our second day began early in the morning, when we started our trip towards to Santuario de Flora y Fauna Los Flamencos. This was a special and interesting site because there were different vegetation and habitats, near to the sea and some streams where some special birds were found. We also visited an interesting marshland near to the sea, where we saw an only one American Flamingo, and others aquatic species.

During the visit, we registered Bared-eyed Pigeon, Paled-vented Pigeon, Blue-headed Parrot, Buffy Hummingbird, Violet-bellied Hummingbird, Ringed Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, Yellow-legged Hornero, White-whiskered Spinetail, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Black-crested Antshrike, White-fringed Antwren, Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, Vermilion Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Vermilion Cardinal, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Striped Cuckoo, Chesnut Piculet, Tropical Mockingbird and others. In the afternoon, we drove towards Minca, where we arrived to La Casona (Hotel-Restaurant) where had lunch and watched some Hummingbirds arriving at feeders.



Ferruginous Pygmy-owl



Yellow chinned Spinetail



Chestnut Piculet

After, we started to go up toward El Dorado Natural Reserve. Along the way we made some stops watching birds like Sickie-winged Guan, Scaled Pigeon, Green-rumped Parrotlet, and others. In El Dorado Reserve, we had a delicious dinner and a good rest until morning.



Sickle winged Guan



Mr. David seeing bird in Guajira

Day 8. Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, El Dorado Reserve

Early in the morning, we left the lodge and we started to drive toward La Laguna. While we were going, suddenly a nocturnal bird flew through the road, we stopped the car and descended from this. I suspected it could be Santamarta Screech-Owl, so I put the Play-Back and then it answered and went back and perched in a branch in front of us, and there it was.

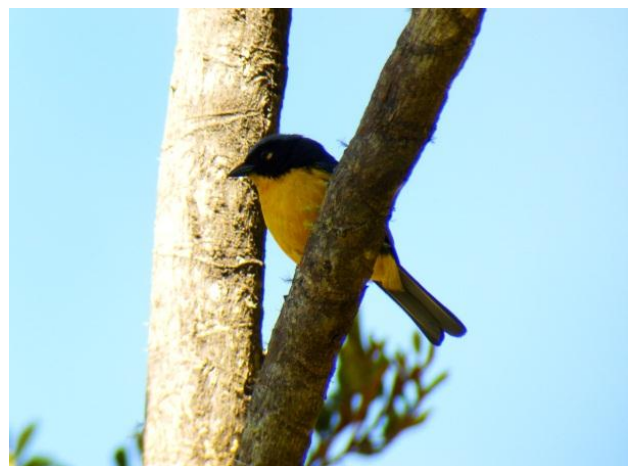
Upper, after breakfast, we walked along the road scouting some endemic species like Tapaculos, Antpitta, Hummingbirds, and others. Suddenly, a mixed flock started to sing and move around us, where were Santa Marta Brush-Finch (E), Santa Marta Mountain Tanager (E), Yellow-crowned Redstart (E), Rusty-headed Spinetail (E), Slate-throated Redstart, White-tail Starfrontlet (E), Tyrian Metaltail, Black Flowerpiecer. We heard Brown-rumped Tapaculo (E) and Santamarta Antpitta (E) near of us, but we did not see them well.

When the flock was gone, seven individuals of Santamarta Parakeet arrived to a tall tree where David and Margery watched them perfectly. A few minutes later, we heard a Bush-tyrant call from the canopy, after scouting through the forest we found the caller, it was Santamarta Bush-tyrant, lonely on the top of a branch.

Other species seen were Brown Violetear, Green Violetear, Sparkling Violetear, Violet-crowned Woodnymph, Streak-capped Spinetail, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, White-Throated Tyrannulet, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Flycatcher, Gray-breasted Wood Wren, Great Thrush, and others. After seeing the most species in the top of El Dorado, we decided to return to the lodge making stops along the way. After lunch, we decided to stay and birding on the balcony because the weather became rainy.



White tailed Starfrontlet



Santa Marta Mountain Tanager

Day 9. Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta Low Area, Minca, Cartagena

In this last day of the tour, we left the lodge after breakfast birding at the bottom of the reservation. Along the way back we made several stops in different types of habitat.



Mr. David and Mrs. Margery seeing bird in Santa Marta

Some of the species seen and heard on the way back to Minca were pale Breasted Thrush, Black-hooded Thrush, White-Lored Warbler (E), Rufous-capped Warbler, White-shouldered Tanager, Blue-capped Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Black-capped Tanager, Black-faced Grassquit, Sierra Madre Brush-Finch, Yellow Oriole, Crested Oropendola, and others.

In one of the sites, while trying to watch Santamarta Tapaculo, We heard a strong movement in the Canopy. Suddenly, We heard a strong movement in the canopy. Suddenly, a family of Red Howler Monkeys appeared scrolling through the branches of a large tree. It was a good nature scene.

After lunch in Minca, we headed towards the city of Barranquilla where the tour came to an end and we had to say goodbye because David and Margery Parsley took a new direction to the city of Cartagena.

It's very important to thank every person who played an essential role in this tour making Mr. and Mrs. Parsley feel safe and happy. To our good driver and persons who attended us in Sierra Nevada and Guajira, Thanks a lot.

All pictures per Hernan Dario Arias, Elkin Rodriguez and files of Manakin Nature Tours.

