

# Bolivia - Highlands (BB)

Naturetrek Tour Report

18 - 29 November 2007

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## Day 1

**Monday 19th November**

Those of us who were on the earlier lowlands tour had a great day. It began with a quick flyby Red-winged Tinamou at Viru Viru and, after a modest delay, a short, easy flight to Cochabamba. The afternoon saw us visit Laguna Alalay where we saw Cinnamon Teal, Yellow-billed and White-cheeked Pintails, Rosy-billed Pochard, Andean Ruddy Duck, Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant and Wren-like Rushbird. Not so, alas for the highlands-only participants who spent an awful day trapped at high altitude in La Paz waiting for their postponed flight to Cochabamba. Eventually it arrived in the middle of the night. Thanks to you four for your great patience and good humour, and for not balking, even a little bit, when I told you we would be getting up at 4.30 the following morning.

## Day 2

**Tuesday 20th November**

Today, we took on the upper cloud-forests of the Chapare but, to be quite frank, the cloud-forests won. Or rather their rains did, but not before we had first seen some wonderful birds. Near the treeline we had brief, in-flight encounters with both Black-winged and Plum-crowned Parrots, and good views of Violet-throated Starfrontlet and the dazzling Collared (Gould's) Inca. Flocks here contained Light-crowned Spinetail, White-browed and Blue-backed Conebills, Plushcap, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Rust-and-Yellow Tanager and Spectacled Whitestart.

Once the torrentially heavy rains set in we decided to head lower in the Chapare, to Laguna Esperanza, and lucky for us that we did as here, under lighter rain, we saw Red-billed and Scaly-naped Parrots, Blue-banded Toucanet, Bolivian Tyrannulet, Mountain Wren, White-eared Solitaire, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager and Three-striped Warbler. A stop for lunch at a raging river was very productive; here were Torrent Tyrannulet, Torrent Duck, White-capped Dipper, Yellow-browed Sparrow and a rare Orange-breasted Falcon. Finally, before the heavy rains finally defeated us, we were very privileged to watch a Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper visiting its nest in the community of Miguelito.

## Day 3

Wednesday 21st November

This morning saw us head up the Cerro Tunari. On the mountain's lower slopes we saw such wonderful creatures as Giant Hummingbird, Grey-hooded Parakeet, Brown-backed Mockingbird, Rufous-sided and Bolivian Warbling-Finches, Grey-bellied Flowerpiercer, Rufous-bellied Saltator and Bolivian Blackbird. Higher up we were treated to many encounters with the much-sought Cochabamba Mountain-Finch with a supporting cast of Red-tailed Comet (hardly a C-list celebrity), Black-hooded Sierra-Finch, Brown-capped and Tawny Tit-Spintails, Red-crested Cotinga, Tufted and Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrants and White-browed Chat-Tyrant.

Unfortunately our attempts to finish with the puna-species at the top of the mountain were blighted by dense fog and a hailstorm. To our credit we braved the zero-visibility fog until the rain and hail drenched us entirely, but we did manage encounters with Plumbeous, Ash-breasted and Mourning Sierra-Finches and a momentary Maquis Canastero.

## Day 4

Thursday 22nd November

Back to the Chapare today. After breakfast at the treeline – Southern Mountain-Cacique and the glorious White-collared Jay – we drove down to the San José track where the birding was, quite simply, thrilling. We stood amazed by a fruiting Cecropia as bird after charismatic bird came to feed – seven sparkling species of Tangara (Blue-and-Black, Beryl-spangled, Golden-naped, Saffron-crowned, Golden, Blue-necked and – the jewel in the crown – Straw-backed), Orange-eared, Scarlet and Palm Tanagers, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Masked Flowerpiercer, Versicoloured Barbet and Blue-banded Toucanet. Another fruiting tree allowed us to watch feeding White-eared Solitaire and Magpie Tanager. And other popular birds today included Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Masked Trogon and Deep-blue Flowerpiercer. Wow!

## Day 5

Friday 23rd November

Today saw us leave Cochabamba for Oruro. An early morning stop at a site outside Quillacollo allowed the highlands-only participants to see dry valley species such as Greater Wagtail-Tyrant and Grey-crested Finch. Also here we saw our only Southern Beardless Tyrannulet of the two tours together! At Arque we had our first real taste of puna birding (having been hailed off the top of the Cerro Tunari) – Cinereous and Puna Ground-Tyrants, Aplomado Falcon, Puna Hawk, Andean Flicker, Bar-winged Cinclodes, Common and Slender-billed Miners, and Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch. On reaching Oruro, having admired its unique architectural charms, we headed straight for Lago Uru Uru and other nearby wetlands but, alas, only Chilean Flamingos were to be seen. However, very good runner-up prizes here included Andean Avocet, Andean Negrito, Mountain Parakeet, Andean Swallow and Crested Duck.

## Day 6

Saturday 24th November

Early this morning we again visited a small wetland outside Oruro where in addition to many Wilson's Phalaropes we saw Puna Yellow-Finch, a first-winter Grey Plover and a couple of Puna Plovers. We then drove on to La Paz, stopping to admire Vicuñas along the way. An afternoon stop at Caracollo produced, as it has never failed to do, Short-billed Pipit and in the late afternoon we reached the crazy, wonderful, bustling city of La Paz.

## Day 7

### Sunday 25th November

This morning saw us leave La Paz early in search of puna and cloud-forest birds to the north east. Quick roadside stops were made for two crisply beautiful high Andean waterbirds - Andean Goose and Silvery Grebe. We then birded roadside stops whenever the heavy mist allowed, seeing some great birds: White-winged Diuca-Finch, White-fronted Ground-Tyrant, Streak-throated Canastero, Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant and Peruvian Sierra-Finch. Our customary stop at the Valle de Choquetanga was very worthwhile. The star birds here were the better-than-ever Short-tailed Finches but there was tough competition indeed from many Streak-throated Canasteros, Stripe-headed Antpitta, Tawny Tit-Spinetail, Brown-backed and D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrants, Puna Tapaculo and Taczanowski's Ground-Tyrant. We next stopped at the top of the road to Chulumani, a little beyond Unduavi. This usually excellent site was quieter than normal but, as Brown-bellied Swallows whirled overhead, we were happy to see Light-crowned Spinetail, Pale-legged Warbler, Plushcap and Rust-and-Yellow Tanager.

## Day 8

### Monday 26th November

Back to the cloud-forests and puna north east of La Paz today. The undisputed highlight of the day came in the form of a wonderful flock at Chuspipata containing Three-striped, Orange-browed and Drab Hemispingus (and I am sure that the bird I glimpsed in flight with the naked eye was a fourth species: Superciliaried, Blue-backed Conebill and Light-crowned Spinetail. Another great flock nearby was dominated by handsome, charismatic Hooded Mountain-Tanagers but also held a Streaked Tuftedcheek. A stop in the puna near La Cumbre on the way back brought us a much-sought encounter with a male Andean Hillstar.

## Day 9

### Tuesday 27th November

Our last day was spent visiting Lake Titicaca and the small community of Curupampa on the road to Sorata. As soon as we reached the lake we found our two principal targets - Short-winged (Titicaca Flightless) and White-tufted Grebes. We then headed for the hills, through massive rain and hailstorms, towards Curupampa. And as soon as we got out of the bus here (mercifully in a break in the rain) our first bird was a glorious Black-hooded Sunbeam. We quickly thereafter found our first Berlepsch's Canastero. Sunbeams and canasteros remained with us for the rest of the morning, affording superb views and doing just about everything sunbeams and canasteros can be expected to do. Another great favourite here was a resplendent male Green-tailed Trainbearer, and the supporting cast included a male Black-backed Grosbeak, several Tyrian Metaltails and Sparkling Violetears, Brown-capped Tit-Spinetails, Andean Flickers and smart little Black-throated Flowepiercers.

## Day 10

### Wednesday 28th November

Yet another early morning .....dawn today saw us at the airport in La Paz saying our farewells.

**Summary:** Thanks to you all for a wonderfully happy and successful tour: for your great energy and constant smiles, for your sharp eyes and keen interest in the birds, for your great respect for Bolivia, and for your deep concern for keeping its beer and wine industries afloat. Thanks also, of course, to all-singing-all-dancing Leo for driving us safely, finding us many birds and keeping us well-fed and entertained throughout. Final thanks go to everyone who helped us, amused us, and smiled at us along the way. And to Bolivia's incomparable birds sine qua non.

## Systematic list

Species named in bold letters were seen well by the leader and at least one tour participant. Species marked [ ] were either heard only or, in a very few cases, seen by inadequately or by only one person.

Taxonomy and nomenclature are largely derived from **Hennessey, A. B., Herzog, S. K. & Sagot, F.** 2003. Lista Anotada de las Aves de Bolivia. **Quinta edición. Asociación Armonía/BirdLife International, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.** However, in the case of common names, British spellings are used here where American spellings are used in that publication.

## Birds

### TINAMIDAE: TINAMOUS

[Brown Tinamou, *Crypturellus obsoletus*: heard only, in the lower Chapare.]

**Andean Tinamou, *Nothoprocta pentlandii***: seen briefly trotting along the roadside on the way up to the upper Chapare from Cochabamba and again the following day (again briefly) low on the Cerro Tunari.

### ANATIDAE: WATERFOWL

**Andean Goose, *Chloephaga melanoptera***: this striking bird, known in Quechua and Aymará as *wallata*, was seen near the lake at La Cumbre on two days and at the Giant Coot site on the final day.

**Torrent Duck, *Merganetta armata***: these wonderful birds were much appreciated over lunch by a ranging river in the Chapare.

**Crested Duck, *Lophonetta specularoides***: we saw this big, beefy duck on four days of the tour at extreme highland wetlands including Uru Uru, La Cumbre and the Giant Coot site. Aka *Anas specularoides*.

**Speckled Teal, *Anas flavirostris***: very common at highland wetlands, no matter how small. Aka Yellow-billed Teal, though this is an inadequate name as northern subspecies (split by some as a separate species) have blue-grey bills.

**Yellow-billed Pintail, *Anas georgica***: seen at wetlands around Cochabamba, Oruro and La Paz. A very handsome duck (with rather nicer habits than its seal-blubber-chomping South Georgian counterparts).

**White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis***: a pair of these pretty birds was seen at Alalay.

**Puna Teal, *Anas puna***: seen many times around Cochabamba and Oruro, and at Titicaca.

**Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera***: at Alalay, Uru Uru and Titicaca. Very beautiful indeed.

**Rosy-billed Pochard, *Netta peposaca***: seen at some distance at Alalay on the first day.

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**Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*:** at Alalay, La Cumbre and Titicaca. Sometimes split as Andean Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura ferruginea*, though northern and Andean birds seem to intergrade in Colombia.

#### PODICIPEDIDAE: GREBES

**White-tufted Grebe, *Rollandia rolland*:** unusually we did not see this very pretty bird until our last day at Titicaca.

**Short-winged Grebe, *Rollandia microptera*:** seen with great ease, and much to the delight of the whole group, at Titicaca near Huarina. **Endemic** to the Titicaca catchment in Perú and Bolivia. Aka Titicaca Flightless Grebe (and I prefer this name to be honest) and *Centropelma microptera*.

**Silvery Grebe, *Podiceps occipitalis*:** this lovely species was seen - in bright breeding plumage - at the lake at La Cumbre.

#### PHALACROCORACIDAE: CORMORANTS

**Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*:** Seen on the first day - at Alalay - and the last - at the Giant Coot site (I wish I knew a proper name for this lake: 'Giant Coot site' is somewhat lacking in poetry.) Aka Olivaceous Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*.

#### ARDEIDAE: HERONS & EGRETS

**Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*:** we saw this widespread species at Alalay, Uru Uru and Titicaca. Called *cuajo* in the lowlands and *huaco* in the highlands - both onomatopoeic renditions of the bird's flight call.

**Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*:** seen several times around Cochabamba, Oruro and Titicaca.

**Great Egret, *Ardea alba*:** Aka *Casmerodius albus*: seen only on the first day at Alalay.

**Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*:** like the cormorant, we saw this elegant bird only on the first and last days of the tour - at Alalay and Titicaca.

#### THRESKIORNITHIDAE: IBISES & SPOONBILLS

**Puna Ibis, *Plegadis ridgwayi*:** this species was common as ever around Cochabamba, Oruro and Titicaca. Known as *ch'uwan kara* in the form of Quechua spoken in La Paz department.

Sorry, despite much wishful thinking on the part of some participants: no Andean Ibises.

#### CATHARTIDAE: NEW WORLD VULTURES

**Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*:** this buoyant bird was seen on four days of the tour, in cloud-forests of Cochabamba and La Paz and in the dry valleys on the road from Cochabamba to Oruro.

**Andean Condor, *Vultur gryphus*:** both on the lowlands and highlands tours we did very well for Condors. We saw them, this week, on the Cerro Tunari and over the cloud-forests at the top of the Chulumani road. In both Quechua and Aymará this majestic bird is known as *mallku*.

## PHOENICOPTERIDAE: FLAMINGOS

**Chilean Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus chilensis*:** we grilled every flamingo in the environs of Oruro and they all proved to be this most attractive species.

## ACCIPITRIDAE: HAWKS & EAGLES

**Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*:** this wonderful bird was seen looping gracefully over the cloud-forests on both days in the Chapare. A moment of great excitement came when we watched these birds dive-bombing a Solitary Eagle on the San José track.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*:** this dashing little hawk was seen over cloud-forest near Unduavi. Many authorities (though not the list I am using) now recognise this form as a separate species: Plain-breasted Hawk, *Accipiter ventralis*.

**Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*:** an adult was seen on the Cerro Tunari and a juvenile was an identification-test for tour-participants at Arque.

**Solitary Eagle, *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*:** a magnificent adult on the San José track in the lower Chapare.

**Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*:** this common hawk was seen on both days we spent in the Chapare.

**Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*:** we saw this North-American breeder in the upper Chapare.

**Puna Hawk, *Buteo poecilochrous*:** this truly broad-winged beast (*much* more so than the last species) was seen both at Arque and at the mouth of the Valle de Choquetanga. Now commonly regarded as Variable Hawk, a species which includes Red-backed Hawk, *Buteo polyosoma*.

## FALCONIDAE: FALCONS & CARACARAS

**Mountain Caracara, *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*:** seen on no fewer than eight days – almost exclusively black and white adults, which are known as *alkamari* in Quechua and Aymará and are considered omens of good luck. The milky-tea brown juveniles, known as *marujita*, are considered omens of ill-luck (but we barely saw any).

**American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*:** seen commonly throughout the tour.

**Aplomado Falcon, *Falco femoralis*:** first seen at Arque. At Curupampa on the last day we studied a perched individual in minute detail.

**Orange-breasted Falcon, *Falco deiroleucus*:** this rare and much-desired falcon was seen first in flight and then perched (alas – facing away from us and some distance away) over lunch on our first day in the Chapare.

#### RALLIDAE: RAILS & CRAKES

**Plumbeous Rail, *Rallus sanguinolentus*:** seen well at Alalay. At Uru Uru a forlorn-looking bird sprinted across a wide-open mudflat between two patches of rushes.

**Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*:** numerous at many wetland sites.

**Giant Coot, *Fulica gigantea*:** still there at the lake at the cumbre of the road to Sorata. Still too fat to fly off to anywhere else.

**Slate-coloured Coot, *Fulica ardesiaca*:** numerous at Alalay and Titicaca. Also seen in small numbers at Uru Uru. Aka Andean Coot.

#### JACANIDAE: JACANAS

**Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana*:** at Alalay we saw this lovely bird, more commonly associated with lowland wetlands.

#### RECURVIROSTRIDAE: AVOCETS & STILTS

**Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*:** this impossibly elegant bird was seen at Alalay, at Uru Uru and at Titicaca. Sometimes split as White-backed Stilt, *Himantopus melanurus*. Then again, some people still regard all pied stilts worldwide as Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus*.

**Andean Avocet, *Recurvirostra andina*:** great views of this beautiful bird at Uru Uru and other wetlands around Oruro. It made a somewhat unusual reappearance at the end of the tour at Titicaca.

#### CHARADRIIDAE: PLOVERS

**Andean Lapwing, *Vanellus resplendens*:** around Uru Uru and Titicaca we saw many of these striking, vociferous birds which are known in Quechua and Aymará as *leque leque* and very frequently depicted (rather unidentifiably to a western ornithologist's eye) in Andean textiles.

**American Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*:** seen on the first day at Laguna Albarrancho (Zona Franca) and seen again by some at Uru Uru.

**Grey Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*:** the first winter bird we saw outside Oruro was only my second – in ten years – for Bolivia. Aka, in North America, Black-bellied Plover.



**Puna Plover, *Charadrius alticola*:** adults and a chick seen in puna near Oruro.

#### SCOLOPACIDAE: SANDPIPERS

**Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*:** first heard at a river outside Cochabamba. Seen the following day near Oruro and at the end of the tour at Titicaca.

**Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*:** this delicate wader was seen at Alalay, Uru Uru and Titicaca.

**Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*:** we watched an individual of this species bathing at Laguna Albarrancho in Cochabamba.

**Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*:** first seen at Alalay. The next day we saw another along a river in the Chapare.

**Baird's Sandpiper, *Calidris bairdii*:** enormously scarcer than it usually is. We only saw this species around Oruro.

**Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*:** also scarcer than usual. We saw pecks at Albarrancho and at Titicaca.

**Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*:** present in numbers at a small lake on the edge of the Oruro golf course (where we speculated that Lewis Carroll had come up with the idea of putting with flamingos). Previously placed, with its two pelagic congeners, in the family Phalaropodidae. Also sometimes placed in the genus *Steganopus*.

#### LARIDAE: GULLS & TERNS

**Andean Gull, *Larus serranus*:** seen on seven days. Common at every wetland site in the highlands. Handsome all the same. Bird of the day – almost every day - for a certain German larophile.

#### COLUMBIDAE: PIGEONS & DOVES

**Spot-winged Pigeon, *Columba maculosa*:** first seen very briefly in flight at Caracollo (the Short-billed Pipit stop). Later seen very well, perched on roofs and walls, as we drove back from Curupampa on the last day.

**Band-tailed Pigeon, *Columba fasciata*:** seen on four days at sites around Cochabamba and La Paz.

**Plumbeous Pigeon, *Columba plumbea*:** heard in the Chapare on our first visit and seen here on our second.

**Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*:** plankton.

**Picui Ground-Dove, *Columbina picui*:** seen on six days, principally around Cochabamba. It made a reappearance at Curupampa on our last day.

**Bare-faced Ground-Dove, *Metriopelia ceciliae*:** common, but nonetheless extremely attractive, at many sites around Cochabamba, Oruro and La Paz.

**Black-winged Ground-Dove, *Metriopelia melanoptera*:** this handsome bird was seen on the Cerro Tunari and around Oruro. Over lunch on the last day we watched as a team of them apparently played a friendly match against a mixed team of Emberizids on the football pitch at the Hotel Titicaca.

**Large-tailed Dove, *Leptotila megalura*:** seen twice at low elevations on the Cerro Tunari.

## PSITTACIDAE: PARROTS

[Green-cheeked Parakeet, *Pyrrhura molinae*: heard shrieking past us in the lower Chapare.]

**Grey-hooded Parakeet, *Psilopsiagon aymara*:** this wonderful little bird was seen in numbers on the Cerro Tunari. Aka *Bolborhynchus aymara*.

**Black-winged Parrot, *Hapalopsittaca melanotis*:** we only managed to see this beautiful, rare bird very briefly at the treeline of the Chapare. Nonetheless its unique silhouette and flight call gave it away. This subspecies is also known as Black-eared Parrot.

**Plum-crowned Parrot, *Pionus tumultuosus*:** in the mist and drizzle a brief pair of flyovers of this scarce species were identified by flight call – much squeakier, somehow, than the other Bolivian *Pionus* – and if you were lucky enough to see them by their distinctive yellow bills. Sometimes lumped with White-capped Parrot, *Pionus seniloides* as Speckle-faced Parrot.

**Red-billed Parrot, *Pionus sordidus*:** in the lower Chapare we saw numerous birds of this species.

**Scaly-naped Parrot, *Amazona mercenaria*:** we saw this most attractive species on both days we spent in the Chapare.

## CUCULIDAE: CUCKOOS

**Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*:** this charismatic bird was seen in the lower Chapare.

## APODIDAE: SWIFTS

[Chestnut-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne rutila*: unfortunately only I saw this handsome species in the lower Chapare. The rest of you, in a very poor show of dedication to the task at hand, refused to stare straight into the blaring midday sun at minute black dots in the stratosphere in order for me to be able to count the species on my list. Poor show indeed. Aka *Cypseloides rutilus*.]

**White-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne zonaris*:** this dramatic beast was heard in the lower Chapare and seen the following day as we drove to Oruro.

## TROCHILIDAE: HUMMINGIRDS

**Sparkling Violetear, *Colibri coruscans*:** this usually common bird was scarce on our tour. We heard it on the first full day as we drove towards the Chapare and it was then seen momentarily on the Cerro Tunari (where generally it is common) but it took us until the last day – at Curupampa – to see one properly.

**Green Violetear, *Colibri thalassinus*:** just one was seen in the upper Chapare.

[Speckled Hummingbird, *Adelomyia melanogenys*: another common bird that was hard to come by; it was seen by a couple of tour participants only, on the day we visited the upper Chapare.]

**Glittering-bellied Emerald, *Chlorostilbon aureoventris*:** this charming little bird was seen on the first day in Cochabamba and at our first stop on the road to Oruro.

**White-bellied Hummingbird, *Amazilia chionogaster*:** typically, this boisterous, argumentative bird was seen at the same sites as the last species.

**Black-hooded Sunbeam, *Aglaeactis pamelae*:** we saw this breathtaking **Bolivian endemic** better than ever at the usual site at Curupampa. The first bird we saw as we got out of the bus was one of these dazzling creatures and we continued seeing them – performing just about every move in their little hummingbird repertoire, including repeatedly gathering something (cobwebs perhaps?) from the cement of a new building – until we left the site. Marvellous!

**Andean Hillstar, *Oreotrochilus estella*:** we saw a wonderful male of this lovely species, the *lulinchu* of Quechua myth, at clumps of the orange *itipillu* flowers they almost always frequent, in puna near La Cumbre.

**Bronzy Inca, *Coeligena coeligena*:** one of the first birds we saw in the lower Chapare was an individual of this handsome dark-chocolate species.

**Collared Inca, *Coeligena torquata*:** this magnificent creature was seen on both days spent in the Chapare. One individual was engaged in a thrilling dog-fight with a Violet-throated Starfrontlet. Though the list I am using still calls this bird Collared Inca, the orange-collared form in south Perú and Bolivia is now generally regarded as a separate species: Gould's Inca, *Coeligena inca*. Whatever its name it is a glorious bird.

**Violet-throated Starfrontlet, *Coeligena violifer*:** a stunner. We saw this charming bird at the top of the Chapare and again at the top of the Chulumani road, near Unduavi.

**Great Sapphirewing, *Pterophanes cyanopterus*:** several zip-pasts were all we got of this superb creature at the top of the Chulumani road in La Paz.

**Giant Hummingbird, *Patagona gigas*:** a real crowd-pleaser. This magnificent bird was seen well on the Cerro Tunari

**Amethyst-throated Sunangel, *Heliangelus amethysticollis*:** a few people saw this, another attractive species, at the top of the Chapare, where we also heard its raspberry call. We later saw it perched at Cotapata.

**Booted Racquet-Tail, *Ocreatus underwoodi*:** two females and one male were swiftly seen (this bird never seems to stand and stare) on the day spent in the lower Chapare.

**Green-tailed Trainbearer, *Lesbia nuna*:** we saw this impossibly long-tailed hummingbird extremely well at Curupampa. Having initially heard it and then waited what seemed like a very long time, we thoroughly *deserved* to see it.

**Red-tailed Comet, *Sappho sparganura*:** a male was seen and photographed in glorious technicolour perched atop a *chillka* bush high on the Cerro Tunari. Dazzling. Several others had been seen quickly lower down on the wonderful mountain.

**Tyrian Metaltail, *Metallura tyrianthina*:** seen many times in the upper Chapare, and the cloud-forests of La Paz. Also another of the hummingbird species seen at the sunbeam site.

**Scaled Metaltail, *Metallura aeneocauda*:** we had good looks at a perched bird of this species at the top of the Chulumani road.

[Blue-mantled Thornbill, *Chalcostigma stanleyi*: seen by just one of us in the Valle de Choquetanga.]

**Long-tailed Sylph, *Aglaiocercus kingi*:** we saw this wonderfully beautiful bird on our first visit to the Chapare.

[White-bellied Woodstar, *Chaetocercus mulsant*: unfortunately only I was able to see a female of this diminutive species on the day we visited the lower Chapare. Aka *Acestrura mulsant*.]

## TROGONIDAE: TROGONS AND QUETZALS

[Crested Quetzal, *Pharomachrus antisianus*: this stunning bird was heard very distantly in the lower Chapare.]

**Masked Trogon, *Trogon personatus*:** we heard and then saw this extremely beautiful bird in the lower Chapare.

## CAPITONIDAE: BARBETS

**Versicoloured Barbet, *Eubucco versicolor*:** in the lower Chapare we were treated to superb looks at a female of this glorious species in a fruiting *Cecropia*. A male in another fruiting tree nearby was rather less obliging.

## RAMPHASTIDAE: TOUCANS

**Blue-banded Toucanet**, *Aulacorhynchus derbianus*: on our first visit to the Chapare we had distant looks at a perched bird. On our second we were thrilled to see a bird come into a fruiting *Cecropia* (that fruiting *Cecropia*) right in front of us.

[Hooded Mountain-Toucan, *Andigena cucullata*: it was a great disappointment that we only heard – and only once at that – this most charismatic denizen of the cloud-forest treeline.]

#### PICIDAE: WOODPECKERS

**Crimson-mantled Woodpecker**, *Piculus rivolii*: we did well for this superb species, seeing it beautifully at a fruiting tree in the lower Chapare and again in a mixed flock at the treeline in the cloud-forests of La Paz.

**Green-barred Flicker**, *Colaptes melanochloros*: another very attractive bird and one which we saw on the Cerro Tunari.

**Andean Flicker**, *Colaptes rupicola*: one of the most charismatic species of the puna. We saw them on five days of the tour – on the Cerro Tunari, between Cochabamba and Oruro, between Oruro and La Paz, and at Curupampa. Onomatopoeically known as *yaka yaka* in Quechua and Aymará.

#### DENDROCOLAPTIDAE: WOODCREEPERS

**Montane Woodcreeper**, *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*: seen in the upper Chapare. Aka *Lepidocolaptes affinis*.

#### FURNARIIDAE: OVENBIRDS

**Common Miner**, *Geositta cunicularia*: the first of our double-whammy of miners at Arque on the day we drove to Oruro. Later seen again around Oruro, on the road to La Paz and at La Cumbre.

**Slender-billed Miner**, *Geositta tenuirostris*: this more highly-prized bird was also seen at Arque.

[Rock Earthcreeper, *Upucerthia andaecola*: all we saw of this very attractive species was a bright rufous tail as one flew up from the roadside on the Cerro Tunari.]

**Bar-winged Cinclodes**, *Cinclodes fuscus*: very common everywhere where there was open ground or water in the extreme highlands. Nonetheless very cute, especially when performing its wing-lifting display.

**Rufous Hornero**, *Furnarius rufus*: seen around Cochabamba on the first five days of the tour.

**Wren-like Rushbird**, *Phleocryptes melanops*: seen, and heard snapping angrily, at Alalay and Titicaca.

**Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper**, *Lochmias nematura*: we were very pleased indeed to see one of these elusive birds visiting a nest-hole over (somewhat appropriately) a stream in the community of Miguelito in the lower Chapare.

**Brown-capped Tit-Spintail, *Leptasthenura fuliginiceps*:** seen on the Cerro Tunari and on our final day at Curupampa. Very pretty and definitely tit-like.

**Tawny Tit-Spintail, *Leptasthenura yanacensis*:** having previously seen this scarce species high on the Cerro Tunari, we were treated to a positive deluge of them in the Valle de Choquetanga above La Paz.

**Black-throated Thistletail, *Schizoeaca harterti*:** we saw this charming **Bolivian endemic** several times at the top of the Chulumani road and at Cotapata. Birds from La Paz belong to the subspecies *S. b. harterti*.

**Azara's Spintail, *Synallaxis azarae*:** heard numerous times in cloud-forest sites. Seen by some people in the lower Chapare.

[Sooty-fronted Spintail, *Synallaxis frontalis*: this dry valley bird was heard at our first stop outside Cochabamba on the road to Oruro.]

**Light-crowned Spintail, *Cranioleuca albiceps*:** we all saw orange-crowned birds in Cochabamba and/or dazzling white-crowned birds in La Paz. This species, while not endemic, is largely restricted to Bolivia.

**Stripe-crowned Spintail, *Cranioleuca pyrrhopia*:** we were very pleased to see an individual of this delightful species, doing its I-so-want-to-be-a-woodcreeper routine, at our first stop as we headed for Oruro.

**Streak-throated Canastero, *Asthenes humilis*:** we had many tremendous looks at this rock-and-tussock loving species in the Valle de Choquetanga and sites nearby.

**Rusty-vented Canastero, *Asthenes dorbignyi*:** this pretty little bird was seen on the Cerro Tunari and on the day we drove to Oruro.

**Berlepsch's Canastero, *Asthenes berlepschi*:** this extremely range-restricted **Bolivian endemic** (which, in case you are still in any doubt, looks absolutely nothing like any of the pictures in the books) was seen repeatedly and extremely well around two nests at Curupampa, always with sunbeams nearby. What a great site!

**Maquis Canastero, *Asthenes heterura*:** this **Bolivian near-endemic** was seen for a moment through heavy mist at the top of the Cerro Tunari and later seen very well at Arque.

[Scribble-tailed Canastero, *Asthenes maculicauda*: we searched, and searched, and searched for this lovely bird at its usually reliable site in the Valle de Choquetanga in La Paz. However, despite agonisingly hearing it sing every time we decided to give up, we were never able to see the bird. Such is birding.]

[Streak-fronted Thornbird, *Phacellodomus striaticeps*: heard calling briefly at the bottom of the Cerro Tunari.]

**Pearled Treerunner, *Margarornis squamiger*:** this most beautiful bird was seen in the upper Chapare and again on the road to Chulumani.

[Montane Foliage-gleaner, *Anabacerthia striaticollis*: heard in the lower Chapare but seen here only by some.]

**Streaked Tuftedcheek, *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*:** seen in a flock, largely composed of Hooded Mountain-Tanagers, at Chulumani in the cloud-forests of La Paz.

#### FORMICARIIDAE: GROUND-ANTBIRDS

[Short-tailed Antthrush, *Chamaeza campanisoma*: heard distantly, giving its exuberant song, in the lower Chapare.]

[Rufous Antpitta, *Grallaria rufula*: heard at some distance on three days both in the upper Chapare and at Cotapata.]

[Rufous-faced Antpitta, *Grallaria erythrotis*: where has this beautiful **Bolivian near-endemic** (very recently recorded just over the border in Perú) gone? I am sure we used to hear it much more commonly and easily than we did on either the lowlands or the highlands tour this year. We only heard it distantly on the day we visited the upper Chapare.]

**Stripe-headed Antpitta, *Grallaria andicola*:** this fantastically charismatic dweller of wet scrub above the treeline was very obliging in the Valle de Choquetanga.

#### RHINOCRYPTIDAE: TAPACULOS

[Trilling Tapaculo, *Scytalopus parvirostris*: heard in the upper Chapare. Formerly part of Unicoloured Tapaculo, *Scytalopus unicolor*.]

[Bolivian Tapaculo, *Scytalopus bolivianus*: heard in the lower Chapare. Aka Southern White-crowned Tapaculo.]

**Puna Tapaculo, *Scytalopus simonsi*:** eventually seen well by everyone, scurrying among the rocks, at the Valle de Choquetanga above La Paz. Formerly part of Andean Tapaculo, *Scytalopus magellanicus*.

[Diademed Tapaculo, *Scytalopus schulenbergi*: heard only, at the top of the Chulumani road.]

[Olive-crowned Crescent-chest, *Melanopareia maximiliani*: heard several times at mid elevations on the Cerro Tunari.]

#### TYRANNIDAE: TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

[Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias uropygialis*: seen only briefly by some at the treeline of the La Paz cloud-forests.]

**White-crested Elaenia, *Elaenia albiceps*:** common, as it almost always is, at cloud-forest sites in Cochabamba and La Paz.

**Highland Elaenia, *Elaenia obscura*:** several of these surprisingly distinctive flycatchers were seen at mid elevation on our first visit to the Chapare.

**Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*:** seen just once, at our first stop as we drove from Cochabamba to Oruro; previously heard low on the Cerro Tunari.

**White-throated Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus leucophrys*:** seen on three days in cloud-forests of Cochabamba and La Paz.

**Greater Wagtail-Tyrant, *Stigmatura budytoides*:** this charismatic denizen of the dry valleys was seen at its usual site outside Quillacollo on the road to Oruro.

**Tufted Tit-Tyrant, *Anairetes parulus*:** this charming creature was seen on the Cerro Tunari and in several sites around La Paz.

**Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant, *Anairetes flavirostris*:** another very lovely little bird; we saw it low on the Cerro Tunari.

**Torrent Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga cinerea*:** this charming little bird was seen very well over lunch by a major river (Torrent Ducks and an Orange-breasted Falcon nearby) on our first visit to the Chapare.

**Bolivian Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius bolivianus*:** we saw this very plain-green flycatcher extremely well in the upper and lower Chapare.

**Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes ventralis*:** seen well in the lower Chapare.

**Streak-necked Flycatcher, *Mionectes striaticollis*:** this very attractive slate-, moss- and lemon-coloured flycatcher was seen in the lower Chapare at a couple of fruiting trees.

**Slaty-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon superciliaris*:** also in the lower Chapare, we saw this species just once at a fruiting tree. Thank goodness for fruiting trees!

**Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant, *Tachuris rubrigastra*:** a dazzling little bird and one that we saw well at Alalay at the start of the tour and less well at Titicaca at the end.

**Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, *Poecilatriccus plumbeiceps*:** heard many times and seen – rather well for this skulky little species – in the lower Chapare. Aka *Todirostrum plumbeiceps*.

**Cinnamon Flycatcher, *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*:** this extremely attractive flycatcher was seen on both days we spent in the Chapare.

**Cliff Flycatcher, *Hirundinea ferruginea*:** this creature of great beauty was seen not far from Cochabamba on the day we drove to Oruro.

**Smoke-colored Pewee, *Contopus fumigatus*:** seen, perched as is typical at the top of a tree, in the lower Chapare.



**Western Wood-Pewee, *Contopus sordidulus*:** we watched one of these subtle boreal migrants near a fruiting tree (with less subtle Versicoloured Barbet and White-eared Solitaire) in the lower Chapare.

**Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans*:** seen at our riverside lunch stop on the first day we visited the Chapare.

**Andean Negrito, *Lessonia oreas*:** at Uru Uru we saw several of these charismatic little puna-dwellers.

**White-winged Black-Tyrant, *Knipolegus aterrimus*:** this smart-plumaged bird was seen well on the lower slopes of the Cerro Tunari and close to Cochabamba on the day we drove to Oruro.

**Rufous Casiornis, *Casiornis rufa*:** this pretty bird was, rather unusually, seen and heard near a fruiting tree in the lower Chapare.

**Yellow-browed Tyrant, *Satrapa icterophrys*:** seen very nicely at lower altitudes on the Cerro Tunari.

**Taczanowski's Ground-Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola grisea*:** seen in the Valle de Choquetanga. A recent split from Plain-capped Ground-Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola alpina*.

**Puna Ground-Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola juninensis*:** seen very nicely, with a recently-fledged chick, at La Cumbre.

**Cinereous Ground-Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola cinerea*:** this, the plainest of all ground-tyrants, was seen at Arque between Cochabamba and Oruro.

**White-fronted Ground-Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola albifrons*:** this largest species was seen in a rocky valley near La Cumbre, La Paz.

**Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola rufivertex*:** we had very good looks at this distinctive, clean-plumaged species at Arque.

**Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant, *Agriornis montana*:** one seen near La Cumbre above La Paz.

**Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*:** unusually scarce on this tour. We nonetheless saw it very nicely in the upper Chapare and at the top of the road to Chulumani.

**Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, *Ochthoeca fumicolor*:** first seen by just a few above the treeline of the Chapare; later admired by all in the Valle de Choquetanga.

**D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant, *Ochthoeca oenanthoides*:** seen at Arque and in the Valle de Choquetanga.

**White-browed Chat-Tyrant, *Ochthoeca leucophrys*:** seen several times on the Cerro Tunari.

**Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*:** seen several times around Cochabamba. The birds here seem so much paler than birds in the lowlands.

**Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*:** seen near a fruiting tree in the lower Chapare.

**Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*:** also seen in the lower Chapare, right by the Social Fly as it happens.

## COTINGIDAE: COTINGAS

**Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*:** these handsome bird was seen on both of our visits to the Chapare.

**Red-crested Cotinga, *Ampelion rubrocristatus*:** we saw this dapper species several times in *Polylepis* forest on the Cerro Tunari.

[Barred Fruiteater, *Pipreola arcuata*: this wonderful treeline bird was heard on both visits to the upper Chapare but only seen here by a lucky few.]

**White-tipped Plantcutter, *Phytotoma rutila*:** this very charismatic bird with a great call was seen on three days around Cochabamba. Formerly placed in the now defunct Plantcutter family, Phytotomidae.

## PIPRIDAE: MANAKINS

[Yungas Manakin, *Chiroxiphia boliviana*: heard singing at its usual lek in the lower Chapare.]

## CORVIDAE: CROWS AND JAYS

**Purplish Jay, *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*:** this handsome rogue was seen on both of our visits to the Chapare.

**White-collared Jay, *Cyanolyca viridicyana*:** on our second visit to the Chapare treeline we were treated to brief views of this wonderful bird.

## HIRUNDINIDAE: SWALLOWS & MARTINS

**Andean Swallow, *Hirundo andecola*:** seen on no fewer than five days of the tour. Common on the Cerro Tunari, around Oruro, around La Cumbre and near Titicaca. Aka *Haplochelidon andecola*.

**Blue-and-White Swallow, *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*:** seen on six days, at a range of sites around Cochabamba and La Paz. Aka *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*.

**Pale-footed Swallow, *Notiochelidon flavipes*:** one of these scarce birds was identified by its very distinctive call as it flew past us at Chulumani.

**Brown-bellied Swallow, *Notiochelidon murina*:** common at treeline sites above La Paz.

**Sand Martin, *Riparia riparia*:** seen only at Alalay on the first day. Aka Bank Swallow.

**Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*:** seen first at Alalay and later on the drive to Oruro. Aka *The Swallow*.

#### TROGLODYTIDAE: WRENS

**House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*:** recorded on seven days of the tour in a very wide range of habitats and at widely varied altitudes. Split by some as Southern House Wren, *Troglodytes musculus*.

**Mountain Wren, *Troglodytes solstitialis*:** this pretty bird was seen in the upper Chapare and, by some, in the cloud-forests of La Paz.

[Grey-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorbina leucophrys*: we only heard the lovely song of this retiring bird on both days in the Chapare. Some of you, quite rightly, commented how much skulkier Bolivian birds of this species are than their cousins, for example, in Ecuador.]

#### CINCLIDAE: DIPPERS

**White-capped Dipper, *Cinclus leucocephalus*:** everyone had good views of this most attractive species over lunch on our first day in the Chapare. It is known in Quechua as *mayupisq'u* meaning river-bird.

#### TURDIDAE: THRUSHES & SOLITAIRES

[Andean Solitaire, *Myadestes ralloides*: a very poor show by this lovely bird. We only heard its haunting song once over a raging river in the Chapare.]

**White-eared Solitaire, *Entomodestes leucotis*:** but a very good show by this one. Having first heard their bizarre songs we saw one on our first visit to the Chapare and later were treated to many (admittedly partial) views of a bird or birds feeding in a fruiting tree on our second visit.

**Great Thrush, *Turdus fuscater*:** common at higher elevations in the Chapare and in the upper cloud-forests of La Paz. Very distinct from Chiguanco Thrush once you have seen a few of each.

**Chiguanco Thrush, *Turdus chiguanco*:** very common at all dry sites in the upper valleys.

**Glossy Black Thrush, *Turdus serranus*:** seen well in the upper and lower Chapare and on both days in the cloud-forests of La Paz. Both males and females of this species are distinctive and attractive. The short, aimless song of the male is one of the most frequently-heard sounds of these forests.

**Creamy-bellied Thrush, *Turdus amaurochalinus*:** seen commonly around Cochabamba.

#### MIMIDAE: MOCKINGBIRDS

**Brown-backed Mockingbird, *Mimus dorsalis*:** this lovely bird was seen very well by everyone at its usual haunt on the lower slopes of the Cerro Tunari.

#### MOTACILLIDAE: PIPITS

**Short-billed Pipit, *Anthus furcatus*:** true to form, we found this puna-dwelling would-be Woodlark at Caracollo.

#### THRAUPIDAE: TANAGERS

**Magpie Tanager, *Cissopis leveriana*:** one of these very striking creatures was seen in the lower Chapare.

**Three-striped Hemispingus, *Hemispingus trifasciatus*:** ultra-numerous, but nonetheless extremely attractive, in the superb flock we watched at Chulumani.

**Orange-browed Hemispingus, *Hemispingus callophrys*:** this wonderful little bird was also very obliging in the Chuspipata flock.

**Drab Hemispingus, *Hemispingus xanthophthalmus*:** not quite so striking as the last two species, but all the same very much appreciated in the flock at Chuspipata.

[Black-eared Hemispingus, *Hemispingus melanotis*: seen by just a few at Laguna Esperanza in the lower Chapare.]

**Rust-and-Yellow Tanager, *Thlypopsis ruficeps*:** typically easy to find in cloud-forest flocks in Cochabamba and La Paz.

**Sayaca Tanager, *Thraupis sayaca*:** very common around Cochabamba where it was seen on five days.

**Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*:** only seen in the lower Chapare, visiting our most spectacular fruiting *Cecropia*.

**Blue-capped Tanager, *Thraupis cyanocephala*:** this handsome tanager was seen many times, and on every day we spent in cloud-forest.

**Blue-and-Yellow Tanager, *Thraupis bonariensis*:** what a beauty. We saw this glorious species low down on the Cerro Tunari, on the road to Oruro, and at Curupampa on the last day.

**Hooded Mountain-Tanager, *Buthraupis montana*:** this wonderfully big, entertaining tanager was seen in numbers at Chuspipata.

**Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, *Anisognathus igniventris*:** this remarkably lovely bird was seen on all four days we spent in the cloud-forests of Cochabamba and La Paz.

**Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, *Anisognathus somptuosus*:** perhaps the loveliest of Bolivia's mountain-tanagers; we saw it at its usual haunts in the Chapare, including birds visiting our favourite fruiting *Cecropia*.

**Saffron-crowned Tanager, *Tangara xanthocephala*:** this delightful bird was seen on both visits to the Chapare, including adult and immature birds visiting the *Tangara*-tree in which we saw seven species of this amazing genus.

**Blue-necked Tanager, *Tangara cyanicollis*:** very hard to name a favourite in such a breathtaking genus but this wonderful bird has to be a front-runner. A pair repeatedly visited the fruiting *Cecropia* in the lower Chapare.

**Blue-and-black Tanager, *Tangara vassorii*:** also seen on both days in the Chapare, including birds at the same fruiting tree.

**Beryl-spangled Tanager, *Tangara nigroviridis*:** several times these interesting, pretty little tanagers came to visit us and brighten up the already bright show at our tree.

**Golden-naped Tanager, *Tangara ruficervix*:** adults and juveniles of this wonderfully lovely bird were seen at the fruiting *Cecropia*.

**Straw-backed Tanager, *Tangara argyrofenges*:** this, the most sought-after of the *Tangara* species we saw, and also one of the most striking, was seen extremely well and many times (males and females) visiting the same tree.

**Golden Tanager, *Tangara arthus*:** just dazzling. Just when we thought we had seen all the possible *Tangara* species in the area, a pair of these beauties visited the tree too.

**Orange-eared Tanager, *Chlorochrysa calliparaea*:** three of these sparkling creatures came twice to visit our fruiting *Cecropia*. In summary: wow!

**Cinereous Conebill, *Conirostrum cinereum*:** we saw many of these lovely little birds on the Cerro Tunari and at Curupampa.

**Blue-backed Conebill, *Conirostrum sitticolor*:** this beautiful bird was seen in the upper Chapare and at Chuspipata.

**White-browed Conebill, *Conirostrum ferrugineiventre*:** first seen above the treeline of the Chapare, this pretty bird made a reappearance in the Valle de Choquetanga in La Paz.

[Rusty Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa sittoides*: just a couple of us saw this species, very high in a flowering *Eucalyptus* on the lower slopes of the Cerro Tunari.]

**Moustached Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa mystacalis*:** only seen very briefly, and never well, both at Cotapata and at Chuspipata.

**Black-throated Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa brunneiventris*:** this delightful bird was heard singing constantly and seen almost constantly at Curupampa.

**Grey-bellied Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa carbonaria*:** we saw this **Bolivian near endemic** (just creeps into northern Argentina) repeatedly on the Cerro Tunari. Formerly known as Carbonated Flowerpiercer

**Deep-blue Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa glauca*:** the bright golden eye of this pretty bird stands out very obviously. We saw a couple in the lower Chapare.

**Masked Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa cyanea*:** seen beautifully many times, and on every day we spent in cloud-forests, where its piercing vocalisations are constantly to be heard.

**Plushcap, *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*:** we saw these gorgeous birds both at the treeline of the Chapare and at Chuspipata. The taxonomy of this bird is unclear. It has been a finch, it has been placed in its own family - Catamblyrhynchidae - and now it's a tanager.

**Common Bush-Tanager, *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*:** seen on both days we spent in the Chapare.

**Hepatic Tanager, *Piranga flava*:** this handsome bird was seen low on the Cerro Tunari. Both Ridgely & Tudor (Birds of South America Volume 1) and Isler & Isler (The Tanagers) treat all forms of Hepatic Tanager as one species but recognise the possible existence of three species. The form we saw is the putative Highland Hepatic Tanager *Piranga lutea* (as opposed to the Northern Hepatic Tanager *Piranga hepatica* of North and Central America and the Lowland Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* principally of the south eastern lowlands of South America) but, let's face it, a lot of people spend a lot of time worrying about things like this when they should just be enjoying birds for the amazing beauties that they are.

**Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*:** a winter-plumaged male of this lovely species visited the infamous fruiting *Cecropia* in the lower Chapare.

[Purple-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia chlorotica*: heard at our first stop outside Cochabamba *en route* to Oruro.]

**Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogastra*:** heard on our first visit to the Chapare and seen several times visiting the fruiting *Cecropia* on our second.

**Blue-naped Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia cyanea*:** this wonderful bird was also seen in the same fruiting tree in the lower Chapare.

## EMBERIZIDAE: FINCHES & NEW WORLD SPARROWS

**Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*:** ultra-abundant everywhere, as it is wont to be. Seen every day of the tour.

**Yellow-browed Sparrow, *Ammodramus aurifrons*:** seen by some people over lunch by a river on the first day spent in the Chapare.

**Black-hooded Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus atriceps*:** we saw this very handsome bird on the Cerro Tunari and on the drive to Oruro.

**Peruvian Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus punensis*:** just as lovely as the last bird, this one we saw on all three days spent around La Paz.

**Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus unicolor*:** this attractively understated little bird was seen first through the mist at the top of the Cerro Tunari. It was later re-encountered on both days spent in wet puna above La Paz.

**Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus plebejus*:** common at a wide variety of sites around Cochabamba, Oruro and La Paz.

**Band-tailed Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus alaudinus*:** seen by most on the days we drove to and from Oruro, though never seen terribly well.

**Mourning Sierra-Finch, *Phrygilus fruticeti*:** this most attractive bird was first seen as the mist and rain descended on the Cerro Tunari. Over lunch on the final day by Titicaca we were treated to prolonged looks at a female.

**Short-tailed Finch, *Idiopsar brachyurus*:** we saw this scarce bird superbly on our first visit to the Valle de Choquetanga. What a dumb name for a bird which does not have an especially short tail but does have a monstrously disproportionate bill. Taxonomists need to get out more.

**Grey-crested Finch, *Lophospingus griseocristatus*:** two were briefly seen at their usual spot outside Quillacollo on the road to Oruro.

**White-winged Diuca-Finch, *Diuca speculifera*:** we saw these boldy handsome creatures by the roadside on both days near La Cumbre.

**Bolivian Warbling-Finch, *Poospiza boliviana*:** seen very satisfactorily by all on the Cerro Tunari. A **Bolivian virtual endemic** (just creeps into Argentina) and a lovely one at that.

**Rufous-sided Warbling-Finch, *Poospiza hypochondria*:** common on the lower slopes of the Cerro Tunari.

**Ringed Warbling-Finch, *Poospiza torquata*:** we saw this lovely bird low on the Cerro Tunari.

**Cochabamba Mountain-Finch, *Poospiza garleppi*:** we had great luck with this endangered, beautiful **Bolivian endemic** seeing no fewer than eight at several spots at the lower edge of the *Polylepis* forests on the Cerro Tunari.

**Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis uropygialis*:** this very charismatic inhabitant of the puna was first seen, very poorly, on the Cerro Tunari. It was later seen much better at Arque and at sites near La Cumbre.

**Citron-headed Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis luteocephala*:** this stunning **Bolivian virtual endemic** was seen low on the Cerro Tunari.

**Greenish Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis olivascens*:** subtle but also lovely. This bird was seen well by all on the Cerro Tunari and on the drive to Oruro.

**Puna Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis lutea*:** just one of these impossibly yellow birds was seen, perched on a crumbling house outside Oruro.

**Saffron Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*:** common around Cochabamba.

**Grassland Yellow-Finch, *Sicalis luteola*:** seen in the company of the last species on the shores of Laguna Alalay.

**Great Pampa-Finch, *Embernagra platensis*:** seen on both days as we drove back to Cochabamba from the Chapare and again the following day on the road to Oruro.

**Band-tailed Seedeater, *Catamenia analis*:** very pretty; seen in dry valley habitat on the Cerro Tunari, on the road to Oruro and at Curupampa.

**Plain-coloured Seedeater, *Catamenia inornata*:** seen on four days around Cochabamba and La Paz.

**Rufous-naped Brush-Finch, *Atlapetes rufinucha*:** this **Bolivian endemic** (according to a recent split) was seen on all four days spent in cloud-forests of Cochabamba and La Paz.

#### CARDINALIDAE: GROSBEAKS & SALTATORS

**Black-backed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus aureoventris*:** a splendid male was watched at length on our last day at Curupampa.

**Golden-billed Saltator, *Saltator aurantirostris*:** near-ubiquitous and wonderfully vocal at dry valley sites. No less beautiful for its abundance.

**Rufous-bellied Saltator, *Saltator rufiventris*:** now *this* is a very beautiful bird. On the Cerro Tunari we saw many individuals of this **Bolivian near-endemic** (like several of our species which were formerly considered endemics, this one just crosses the border into extreme northern Argentina).

#### PARULIDAE: NEW WORLD WARBLERS

**Spectacled Whitestart, *Myioborus melanocephalus*:** very common in cloud-forest flocks at higher altitudes. Aka Spectacled Redstart.

**Brown-capped Whitestart, *Myioborus brunnicaps*:** we saw this charmingly pretty bird on the Cerro Tunari and on the drive to Oruro.



**Citrine Warbler, *Basileuterus luteoviridis*:** this very smart bird was seen at the treeline on our first visit to the Chapare.

**Pale-legged Warbler, *Basileuterus signatus*:** slightly less bold-plumaged than the last species but, all the same, extremely attractive. We saw it on both days we visited the cloud-forests of La Paz.

**Three-striped Warbler, *Basileuterus tristriatus*:** this pretty bird was seen on our first visit to the Chapare and heard on the second.

## ICTERIDAE: NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS

**Dusky-Green Oropendola, *Psarocolius atrovirens*:** seen on both of our visits to the Chapare.

[Yellow-billed Cacique, *Amblycercus holosericeus*: a few of us glimpsed this retiring bamboo-lover flying across the San José track in the lower Chapare.]

**Southern Mountain Cacique, *Cacicus chrysonotus*:** this lovely bird was seen in the upper Chapare, in the distinguished company of a White-collared Jay. Formerly part of Mountain Cacique, *Cacicus leucoramphus*.

**Yellow-winged Blackbird, *Chrysosomus thilius*:** this striking bird – both males and females are attractive – was seen on the first day at Alalay and the last at Titicaca.

**Bolivian Blackbird, *Oreopsar bolivianus*:** this unassuming bird, the only member of a **Bolivian endemic genus**, made its usual appearances on the Cerro Tunari and, in numbers, along the early part of the road to Oruro from Cochabamba.

**Baywing, *Agelaioides badius*:** seen on all five days spent around Cochabamba. Formerly Bay-winged Cowbird, *Molothrus badius*. This species is not a brood parasite so it hardly seems fair to imply it's a cowbird.

**Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis*:** seen on three days around Cochabamba. This one is a *bona fide* brood parasite (if that's not an oxymoron) and a true cowbird.

## FRINGILLIDAE: OLD WORLD FINCHES & SISKINS

**Hooded Siskin, *Carduelis magellanica*:** this lovely little bird did very well for itself, being seen on six days of the tour, especially around Cochabamba.

**Black Siskin, *Carduelis atrata*:** this charming creature was first seen feeding on the seeds of yellow-flowered Compositae as we first approached La Paz (competing for our attention with a human skull in the riverbed nearby). We later saw many more near Titicaca.

## Mammals

### CAMELIDAE: CAMELS

**Vicuña, *Vicugna vicugna*:** we saw several herds of this charmingly fine wild camel in puna not far from Oruro. In recent years the Bolivian population, once on the very brink of extinction, has made a dramatic comeback with the help of heroic conservation efforts.

### CAVIIDAE: CAVIES

**Wild Cavy, *Cavia* sp. or *Galea* sp.:** ah, the charismatic megafauna. Seen well in dry, scrubby habitats around Cochabamba, Oruro and La Paz. Quite possibly more than one species involved but identification is for cleverer people than I.

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