

# The birds of Parque Nacional Ybycuí, Paraguay

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## Resumen

El Parque Nacional Ybycuí está compuesta de 5,000 ha que se caracteriza por la presencia de bosque húmedo sobre colinas de pendiente suave, con arroyos y cataratas permanentes. El bosque es extenso, y representa el bosque húmedo más grande en el oeste de la región Oriental del Paraguay. El bosque representa el límite occidental de muchas especies de aves que son habitantes del bosque Paranense del Paraguay oriental y regiones adyacentes de Brasil y Argentina. Se presenta una lista de 223 especies de aves registradas en el parque. También se presentan direcciones para observar las aves a lo largo de los senderos del parque.

Parque Nacional Ybycuí, established in 1973, is located about 150 km south-east of the Paraguayan capital Asunción, in Departamento Paraguarí. The park is named after the nearby town of Ybycuí, which means "sand" in Guaraní. The park comprises 5,000 ha of subtropical deciduous forest on rolling hills dissected by clear, cascading streams and several scenic waterfalls. The forest, which reaches a height of about 30 m, is the most extensive tract of humid forest remaining in the western Orient of Paraguay, and currently represents the westernmost limit of many species of birds characteristic of the Paraná forests of eastern Paraguay and adjacent Brazil and Argentina<sup>9</sup>. Ironically, much of this forest was cut and burned in the 1860s to produce iron during the War of the Triple Alliance (1865-1870), which pitted Paraguay against Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. The historic ironworks are preserved at Santa Rosa, at the south-western entrance to the park.

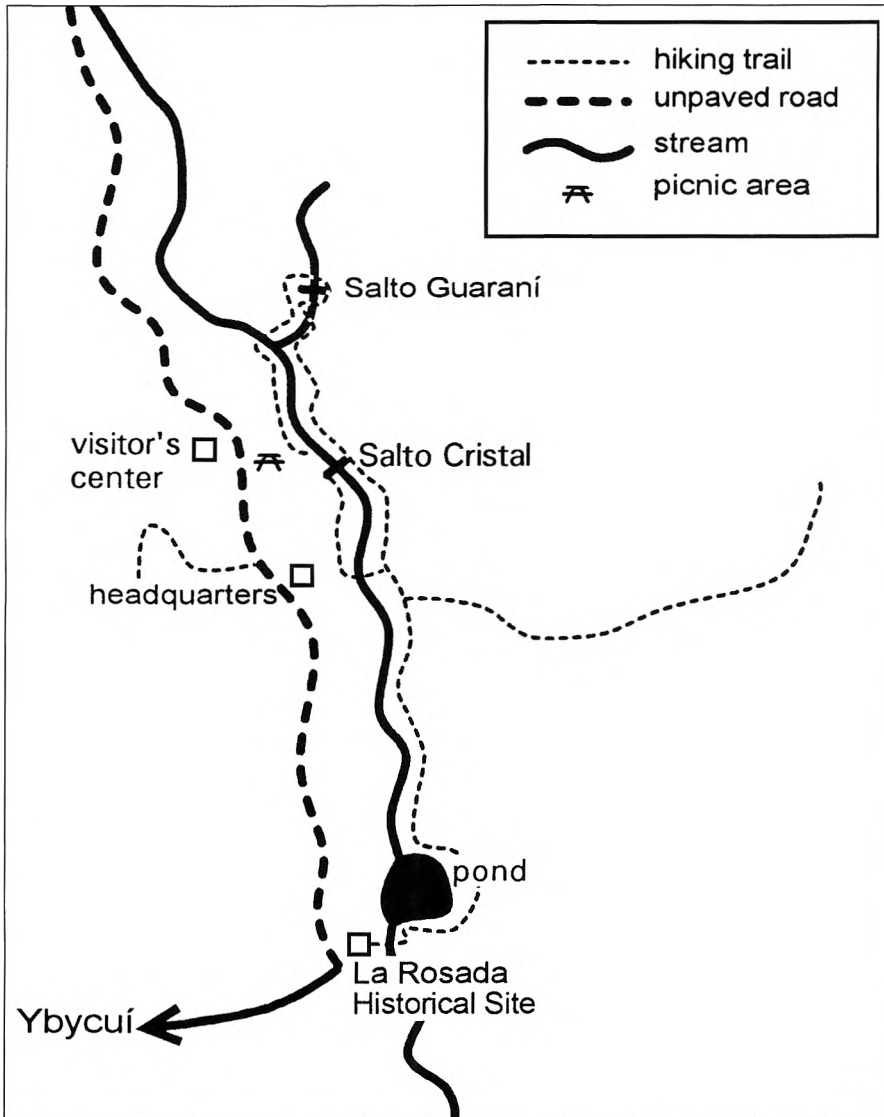
Ornithological work within the park began in June 1979, when Philip Myers of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ; Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.) spent a few weeks collecting birds and mammals in the area. During the early 1980s, an extensive collection of birds was obtained from Ybycuí by the *Inventario Biológico Nacional*, a fledgling project under the auspices of the *Servicio Forestal Nacional*<sup>7</sup>. Unfortunately little has been published about the specimens collected, which are currently housed in the ornithological collections of the National Museum of Natural History (Washington, D.C.,

U.S.A.), Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California (Berkeley, California, U.S.A.), and Museo Nacional de Historia Natural del Paraguay (MNHNP; San Lorenzo, Paraguay). Information on the natural history of the park has been summarized in a guide to some of the park's vertebrates<sup>1</sup> and in a series of articles on the natural history of Arroyo Mina, the major stream on the western side of the park<sup>3-6,8,12-14</sup>.

The only previously published information on the birds of Ybycuí includes a brief list of birds along Arroyo Mina<sup>13</sup>, a few species mentioned in a brief review of the park<sup>2</sup>, and a few specimens and observations of migrants reported in two recent publications on bird migrants in Paraguay<sup>10, 11</sup> and in a review of the birds of Paraguay<sup>9</sup>. During the period of 1987-1994, we intermittently spent 28 days observing the birds of the park during each



Arroyo Mina with Salto Cristal in the background at Parque Nacional Ybycuí, Paraguay. (Floyd E. Hayes)



Map of Parque Nacional Ybycuí

month of the year except January. Further observations were made by Beatrix E. Treiterer, a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer who worked at Ybycuí during 1989-1991. A list of 223 species is given in Table 1, based mostly on our observations, specimen records at the UMMZ (other museums have not given permission to publish their records), and a few reported sightings. Undoubtedly many others will be added in the future as birders spend more time in the park and the specimens in other museums are reported.

Parque Nacional Ybycuí is only a two hour drive from Asunción. By bus, the park is best reached by catching the 07h00 "Ybycuí" bus at the terminal in Asunción. The bus arrives in the town of Ybycuí at about 10h15, and from the Ybycuí bus station you must transfer to the "Mbocaya-pucú" bus, which leaves the terminal at about 11h00. This bus normally passes beside the park headquarters, where you can ask the driver to drop you off. But during rain, the bus stops where the pavement ends about 2 km south of the park headquar-

ters. Camping is available at the park headquarters; the nearest hotels are located in the town Ybycuí.

Driving to Ybycuí is much more convenient. Drive south-east on Ruta 2 toward Encarnación. After passing through Yaguarón and Paraguairí you will cross a relatively flat area that ends at Carapeguá. Turn left at the intersection in Carapeguá and drive through the towns of Acahay and Ybycuí. In Ybycuí, follow the main paved road through the town and continue beyond the town until it ends at the border of Parque Nacional Ybycuí.

Where the pavement ends, you may wish to park and walk at La Rosada, the historical ironworks site. A small lake and some swampy areas have produced most of the waterbirds seen within the park, and an assortment of land birds can be seen in the trees bordering the fields. To continue to the park headquarters, turn left (north) onto a dirt road and continue about 2 km to a fenced-in area with several buildings on the right. Personnel from the park live here, and can provide you with further information. Camping is permitted. On the left side of the road there is a narrow trail (often overgrown) that winds up the hill for a short distance to a lookout (*mirador*) from which you can see the forest covering the valley and hills. **Rufous Gnateater** *Conopophaga lineata* has been seen along this trail.

From the park headquarters, continue a few hundred metres up the road to a large clearing with a visitor center on the left and a picnic area and restrooms on the right. Park along the road and walk a short distance toward Arroyo Mina, a small river, on the right. At this point you will see Salto Cristal, the largest and most scenic waterfall in the park, which attracts hordes of "Asunceños" during summer weekends. The waterfall also attracts **Great Dusky Swifts** *Cypseloides senex* and **White-collared Swifts** *Streptoprocne zonaris*, which fly in during the evening to roost. **Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper** *Lochmias nematura* can be regularly found along the banks upstream from the waterfall (listen for its high-pitched calls). Between this picnic area and park headquarters there is a small network of trails that may be good for birding. **White-eyed Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus leucophthalmus* is often seen in this area. However, the best birding is along the forested

trails on the other side of the river.

Cross Arroyo Mina just above Salto Cristal to another picnic area on the east side of the stream. When the water is high, crossing the stream requires a balancing act across a narrow log bridge from which birders have slipped (a birder recently soaked a Marantz recorder here), so be careful. At the upstream (north) end of this picnic area there is a trail that continues upstream about a kilometre to Salto Guaraní, another scenic waterfall. Just before reaching the waterfall there are two streams that must be carefully crossed. Along this trail we have seen **Solitary Tinamou** *Tinamus solitarius*, **Gray-hooded Flycatcher** *Mionectes rufiventris*, **Cream-bellied Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila lactea* and **Chestnut-headed Tanager** *Pyrrhocomma ruficeps*. A newer trail on the west side of the stream, just upstream from the restrooms, winds upstream to the top of Salto Guaraní. Birding along this trail can also be rewarding.

An even longer trail system begins at the downstream (south) end of the picnic area, beginning with a steep (but short) descent at the east side of Salto Cristal. This trail borders the river downstream for about 2.5 km, ending at the Santa Rosa historical area and passing through a swampy area along the way. Nearly 1 km downstream from this picnic area, another trail branches perpendicularly to the left, and climbs uphill through the forest, eventually winding through some small clearings and ending in a large clearing. Along these trails we have heard **Pheasant Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx phasianellus* and seen **Short-tailed Antthrush** *Chamaeza campanisona* (three in one day) and **Red-ruffed Fruitcrow** *Pyroderus scutatus*.

Some of the more ubiquitous species in the park include **Surucua Trogon** *Trogon surrucura*, **Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner** *Philydor lichtensteini*, **Plain Antvireo** *Dysithamnus mentalis*, **Blue (Swallow-tailed) Manakin** *Chiroxiphia caudata*, **Golden-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus culicivorus* and **Black-goggled Tanager** *Trichothraupis melanops*.

The main road continues northward along the park, and birding can be productive along the sides of this road. It is the best place to bird in the late afternoon, when the forest becomes too dark to see the birds along the forest trails.

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**Table 1. The birds of Parque Nacional Ybycuí, Paraguay.**

The symbols before each species denote relative abundance: C = common (observed daily in appropriate habitat); U = uncommon (seen every 2-10 days); R = rare (seen at intervals of 10 or more days). Species not seen (or heard) by us are indicated by one or more asterisks at the end of the scientific name: \* = specimen record at UMMZ; \*\* = specimen record at MNHNP<sup>10</sup>. Taxonomy follows the most recent review of the birds of Paraguay<sup>9</sup>.

**TINAMIDAE**

- R Solitary Tinamou *Tinamus solitarius*
- R Small-billed Tinamou *Crypturellus parvirostris*\*
- U Tataupa Tinamou *Crypturellus tataupa*
- U Spotted Nothura *Nothura maculosa*

**PHALACROCORACIDAE**

- R Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

**ANHINGIDAE**

- R Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

**ARDEIDAE**

- U Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*
- U Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
- U Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

**THRESKIORNITHIDAE**

- R Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus*

**CATHARTIDAE**

- C Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

**ANATIDAE**

- R Brazilian Teal *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

**ACCIPITRIDAE**

- U Rufous-thighed Kite *Harpagus diodon*
- R Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*
- R Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*
- C Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*
- R Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*

## FALCONIDAE

- C Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*  
 C Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*  
 U Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*  
 R Barred Forest-Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*  
 R Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*  
 R American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*  
 R Bat Falcon *Falco rufigularis*

## ODONTOPHORIDAE

- R Spot-winged Wood-Quail *Odontophorus capueira*

## RALLIDAE

- U Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

## ARAMIDAE

- U Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

## CHARADRIIDAE

- U Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

## JACANIDAE

- R Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*

## SCOLOPACIDAE

- R Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*  
 R Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia\*\**

## COLUMBIDAE

- U Picazuro Pigeon *Columba picazuro*  
 R Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*  
 U Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*  
 C Picui Ground-Dove *Columbina picui*  
 R Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa*  
 C White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*  
 R Gray-fronted Dove *Leptotila rufaxilla*  
 R Violaceous Quail-Dove *Geotrygon violacea*

## PSITTACIDAE

- U White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalmus*  
 C Reddish-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura frontalis*  
 U Yellow-chevroned Parakeet *Brotogeris chiriri*  
 U Scaly-headed Parrot *Pionus maximiliani*

## CUCULIDAE

- C Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*  
 R Pheasant Cuckoo (*Dromococcyx phasianellus*)  
 U Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*  
 C Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*  
 C Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*

## STRIGIDAE

- U Tropical Screech-Owl *Otus choliba*  
 U Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*  
 R Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*)\*

## NYCTIBIIDAE

- U Gray Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

## CAPRIMULGIDAE

- R Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus*  
 U Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*  
 R Little Nightjar *Caprimulgus parvulus*

## APODIDAE

- U Great Dusky Swift *Cypseloides senex*  
 U White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*  
 U Ashy-tailed Swift *Chaetura andrei*  
 R Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

## TROCHILIDAE

- R Scale-throated Hermit *Phaethornis eurynome*  
 R Planalto Hermit *Phaethornis pretrei*  
 R Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis*  
 U Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon aureoventris*

- R Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata*  
 R Violet-capped Woodnymph *Thalurania glaucopsis*  
 U Gilded Sapphire *Hylocharis chrysura*  
 R Blue-tufted Starthroat *Heliomaster furcifer*

## TROGONIDAE

- R Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*  
 C Surucua Trogon *Trogon surrucura*

## MOMOTIDAE

- U Rufous-capped Motmot *Baryphthengus ruficapillus*

## ALCEDINIDAE

- U Ringed Kingfisher *Ceryle torquata*  
 C Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*  
 U Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

## BUCCONIDAE

- R White-eared Puffbird *Nystalus chacuru*  
 R Rusty-breasted Nunlet *Nonnulla rubecula*

## RAMPHASTIDAE

- U Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis*

## PICIDAE

- U White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*  
 U White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*  
 R Yellow-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes flavifrons*  
 U Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus*  
 R White-spotted Woodpecker *Veniliornis spilogaster*  
 U Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros*  
 C Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*  
 R Pale-crested Woodpecker *Ceulex lugubris*  
 R Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*  
 R Robust Woodpecker *Campophilus robustus*

## FURNARIIDAE

- C Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*  
 R Rufous-capped Spinetail *Synallaxis ruficapilla*  
 R Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens*  
 U Gray-bellied Spinetail *Synallaxis cinerascens*  
 R Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*  
 C Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor lichtensteini*  
 U Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufus*  
 C White-eyed Foliage-gleaner *Automolus leucophthalmus*  
 R Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*  
 R Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*  
 R Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus scansor*  
 C Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper *Lochmias nematura*

## DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

- U Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*  
 U White-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes albicollis*  
 R Great Rufous Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes major*  
 R Planalto Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*  
 U Narrow-billed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*  
 R Scaled Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes squamatus*  
 R Lesser Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes fuscus*

## FORMICARIIDAE

- R Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*  
 C Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens*  
 C Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis*  
 U Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*  
 R Dusky-tailed Antbird *Drymophila malura*  
 C Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona*  
 R Rufous Gnateater *Conopophaga lineata*

## TYRANNIDAE

- R Greenish Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias virescens*

R Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*  
 U Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola*  
 U Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*  
 U Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*  
 R Small-billed Elaenia *Elaenia parvirostris*  
 R Olivaceous Elaenia *Elaenia mesoleuca*  
 R Sooty Tyrannulet *Serpophaga nigricans*  
 R White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata*  
 U Gray-hooded Flycatcher *Mionectes rufiventris*  
 U Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*  
 U Southern Bristle-Tyrant *Phylloscartes eximius*  
 U Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes ventralis*  
 R São Paulo Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes paulistus*  
 U Southern Antpiper *Corythopis delalandi*  
 U Eared Pygmy-Tyrant *Myiornis auricularis*  
 U Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*  
 U Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum plumbeiceps*  
 U Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphureus*  
 R White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*  
 R Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*  
 U Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus eulerei*  
 U Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*  
 R Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*  
 R Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus*  
 U Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*  
 R Streamer-tailed Tyrant *Gubernetes yetapa*  
 R Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys*  
 C Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosus*  
 U Rufous Casinornis *Casinornis rufa*  
 U Sirystes *Sirystes sibilator*  
 R Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni*  
 R Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*  
 U Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*  
 C Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*  
 C Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarhynchus pitangua*  
 R Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*  
 R Three-striped Flycatcher *Conopias trivirgata*  
 U Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*  
 R Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*  
 R Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius*  
 C Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*  
 C Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*  
 R White-naped Xenopsaris *Xenopsaris albinucha*  
 R White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus*  
 U Crested Becard *Pachyramphus validus*  
 U Greenish Schiffornis *Schiffornis virescens*  
 U Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana*  
 U Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*

## COTINGIDAE

R Red-ruffed Fruitcrow *Pyroderus scutatus*

## PIPRIDAE

C Swallow-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia caudata*  
 R Wing-barred Manakin *Piprites chloris*  
 R Band-tailed Manakin *Pipra fasciicauda\**

## HIRUNDINIDAE

U Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*  
 R Brown-chested Martin *Phaeoprogne tapera*  
 U White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*  
 R Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*  
 R Cliff Swallow *Hirundo pyrrhonota*

## CORVIDAE

C Purplish Jay *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*  
 C Plush-crested Jay *Cyanocorax chrysops*

## TROGLODYTIDAE

R Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapillus*  
 C House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

## MUSCICAPIDAE

U Cream-bellied Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila lactea*  
 R Slaty Thrush *Turdus nigriceps*  
 C Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*  
 U Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*  
 U Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*  
 R White-necked Thrush *Turdus albicollis*

## MIMIDAE

U Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

## VIREONIDAE

U Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*  
 U Rufous-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus poicilotis*  
 U Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

## EMBERIZIDAE

U Tropical Parula *Parula pitaiayumi*  
 R Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*  
 C Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*  
 C White-browed Warbler *Basileuterus leucoblepharus*  
 C Chestnut-vented Conebill *Conirostrum speciosum*  
 U Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota*  
 R Chestnut-backed Tanager *Tangara preciosa*  
 U Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana*  
 C Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*  
 R Blue-naped Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia cyanea*  
 U Purple-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chlorotica*  
 U Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea*  
 R Golden-rumped Euphonia *Euphonia cyanocephala*  
 R Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis*  
 C Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*  
 R White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*  
 C Ruby-crowned Tanager *Tachyphonus coronatus*  
 C Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*  
 R Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*  
 C Black-goggled Tanager *Trichothraupis melanops*  
 R Chestnut-headed Tanager *Pyrrhocoloma ruficeps*  
 U Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata*  
 C Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira*  
 R Swallow-Tanager *Tersina viridis*  
 R Indigo Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia glaucocaeerulea*  
 R Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*  
 C Red-crested Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus*  
 U Saffron-billed Sparrow *Arremon flavirostris*  
 R Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*  
 R Lesser Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis*  
 R Uniform Finch *Haplospiza unicolor\**  
 C Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*  
 R Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*  
 C Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*  
 C Chopi Blackbird *Gnorimopsar chopi*  
 R Yellow-rumped Marshbird *Pseudoleistes guirahuro*  
 R Screaming Cowbird *Molothrus rufaxillaris*  
 R Giant Cowbird *Scaphidura oryzivora*  
 C Epaulet Oriole *Icterus cayanensis*  
 C Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*