

# Nord Peru

Bird trip 4-24 July 2005





## Guide :

Nick Athanas (Tropical Birding)  
<http://www.tropicalbirding.com>

## Participant:

Niels Poul Dreyer (Danemark)  
Jacques Erard (Suisse)  
Jean-Michel Erard (Suisse)

## Rapport

Version française, Jacques Erard  
Version anglaise, Niels Poul Dreyer

## Birdlist:

Nick Athanas, Tropical Birding

## Itinerary

- 2 July Arrival in Lima. Night in Lima.
- 3 July Santa Eulalia road. Night Santa Eulalia.
- 4 July Marcapomacocha. Night Lima.
- 5 July San Marcos. Night Cajamarca.
- 6 July Fly to Cajamarca. Rio Chonta & Abra El Gavilan. Night Cajamarca.
- 7 July Cajamarca-Celendin road & Marañon Canyon. Camp.
- 8 July Marañon Canyon & Abra Barro Negro. Camp.
- 9 July Forest patches above Leimebamba. Night Leimebamba.
- 10 July Utcubamba Valley and the Marvelous Spatuletail. Night Pomacochas.
- 11 July Abra Patricia & Alto Nieve. Night Pomacochas.
- 12 July Rio Chido trail. Night Pomacochas.
- 13 July Afluente & Aguas Verdes. Night Rioja.
- 14 July Morro de Calzada. Night Rioja.
- 15 July Aguas Verdes, Afluente, Bagua. Night Jaen.
- 16 July Tamborapa & Jaen. Night Jaen.
- 17 July Abra Porculla & Quebrada Limon. Camp.
- 18 July Quebrada Limon. Night Chiclayo.
- 19 July Bosque de Pomac & Puerto Eten. Night Chiclayo.
- 20 July Sinsicap. Camp.
- 21 July Sinsicap, Cañon del Pato, Pueblo Libre. Night Yungay.
- 22 July PN Huascarán (Llanganuco). Night Yungay.
- 23 July Llanganuco, drive to coast. Night Barranca.





## INTRODUCTION

We arranged the trip through Tropical Birding to Northern and Central Peru in order to see most of the special birds in that region. We managed to see 54 endemics out of a total of 488 birds and missed only a few. The itinerary included Santa Eulalia and Marcapomacocha above Lima. Then we flew to Cajamarca and did the Northern Peru circuit. We returned overland in a small minivan. En route we stopped at Sinsicap which is not well known, then Cordillera Blanca and finally at Lomas de Lachay.

The scenery was magnificent and very diverse, ranging from desert at 1200 meters to elfin forest at 4000 meters to upper tropical forest to the east of Abra Patricia. Our guide Nick Athanas from Tropical Birding organized this trip through Manu Expeditions.

Nick knew the voices very well and brought a complete playback digital system to attract the birds. We had a very good driver by the name Guillermo who had done the area many times with birding groups. Consequently he knew the hotspots and where to stop for picnic and camping sites. We had several dangerous episodes on the road and once Guillermo avoided an accident through his prudent and defensive driving style.







*The map shows the route from Cajamarca, Balsas, Pedro Ruiz, Pomacochas, Affluente, Rioja, return to Rio Utcubamba to Jean, then Olmos, Chiclayo, south to Trujillo towards Huancaran*

It was the first time for Jacques Erard and his father Jean-Michel to join an organized trip with a driver and guide. We did not regret to do it in this way as the birds are very localized partly because of habitat destruction and also because many species are very hard to find without proper taping gear. We are convinced that without Nick and Guillermo we would have lost much time searching around for the endemics and consequently we would have missed many local birds.

The highlights were many but we have to mention a few here in the introduction such as the **White-bellied Cinclodes** and the **Diademed Sandpiper-Plover** which we found after a long search at Marcapomacocha. We managed to see a young male **Marvelous Spatultail** with half grown tail feathers, one female and one male without a tail. It was however necessary to find a local boy to show us another patch as the old site had been cleared for farming.

Habitat degradation is rampant in this region east of Pomacochas so the Spatultail has a uncertain future.

Additionally, we saw 48 species of hummingbirds including the rare **Grey-bellied Comet**, which prove that Northern Peru is one of the real epicenters for hummingbird distribution in the Andes. We also added all 9 possible **Chat Tyrants** to our lists and got photographs of **Piura** and **Jelskys Chat Tyrants**. We only missed the Great Inca finch, but saw the rest, 10 spinetails including the endangered **Rufus-bellied Spinetail** at Sinsicap. We were especially pleased to see 6 **Antpittas**, which I think is only possible with 3 people in a group.

The star antpitta was **Pale-billed Antpitta**, a vocal but very shy bird in bamboo thickest at 2800-3000 meters along the Rio Chido trail, an area currently under conversion to coffee plantations and cattle pasture.

We also got on 7 **Tapaculos** and we brought great photographs of **Yellow-faced Parrotlets** home. Finally we have to mention that we photographed the **Luluís Tody Tyrant** at Abra Patricia one on the recently described species to science and saw the local **White-barred Wood-Wren** and attracted a difficult **Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant** with tape playback.

## Day to day program

### Saturday 2 July

We met in Amsterdam airport to catch the KLM flight to Lima with a stop on the Caribbean Island Bonaire north of Venezuela. Several *Ruby-topaz Hummingbirds* were feeding in the flowers and we had a chance to watch it from the transit building. Then we had a late afternoon flight across the western Amazonian to Lima in nice weather. It was encouraging to see that a lot of forests are still intact.

We met Nick in the Hotel Manhattan which is situated only 10 minutes drive from the airport.

### Sunday 3 July (41 birds seen)

We had an early start at 3.30 am which was not too bad as it is equal to 9.30 am for us because of the time difference to Europe. The weather in Lima is depressing as the low stratus hang over the city and the pollution from some factories made the air very smelly at places. The slums along the highway are equally bad and nobody would dare to walk through this area on foot.

We had to go through an insurance paper control arranged by the police just as we had left Lima. It was clear from the negotiations that our driver had to bribe the police officer in order to get a passage. We counted about 50 insurance paper control check points during our journey through the country. Fortunately only 2 check points asked for money and we only had to bribe once. We had 2 drivers on the trip, one for the first 2 days, then we met Guillermo in Cajamarca. This is because Guillermo had all the papers and was very tough in his approach to the police officers so consequently he never bribed anybody!

I would hate to do this trip in a privately rented car especially as none of us speak good Spanish. After undergoing this check, we turned off to Santa Eulalia road which is the old road to Marapomacocha. We were above the cloud in magnificent clear weather.

The ascent along this route is vertiginous with a lot of hard turns on a steep road. When we reached a plateau above a bridge at 2600 meters we stopped to do birding along the road. Here we found the *Bronze-tailed Comet*, heard and attracted *Canyon Canastero* which proved to be a bit shy. Both *Oasis hummingbirds* and *Peruvian Sheartails* were common and *Collared warbling Finches* were seen everywhere. Giant Hummingbirds were actively feeding in yellow flowers in cactus.

About 5 times we got a view of *Pied-crested Tit-Tyrants*. During our picnic we were disturbed by a flock of *Mountain Parakeets* while several *White-browed Chat Tyrants* were singing nearby. After lunch we did some walking about an abandoned farm and we had several chances to see a pair of the very active endemic *Black-necked woodpecker* in the eucalyptus.

On the road we met a group of *Greenish Yellow-finches*. We tried in vain to find the *Great Incafinch* at lower elevation near a dam in some degraded habitat. We stayed overnight in a good hotel with swimming pool in Santa Eulalia.







*Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant*



*Grey-breasted Seedsnipe*

## Monday 4 July (33 species seen)

A new start at 3.30 am brought us on a 3 hours drive towards Marcapomacocha. We followed the main highway to La Oroya where we bifurcated to the left along a gravel road up to the high Andes at 4900 meters. This road had no road sign. Although the sun appeared to shine on the peaks it became colder and colder as we ascended rapidly into the frost zone. All water along the roadside was frozen. As the birds were numerous along the road all the way to the pass at 4900 meters we made a lot of stops. We had great views of a pair of *Junin Canastero* which was calling into the frosty air and responded so well to the playback that they circled around our van.

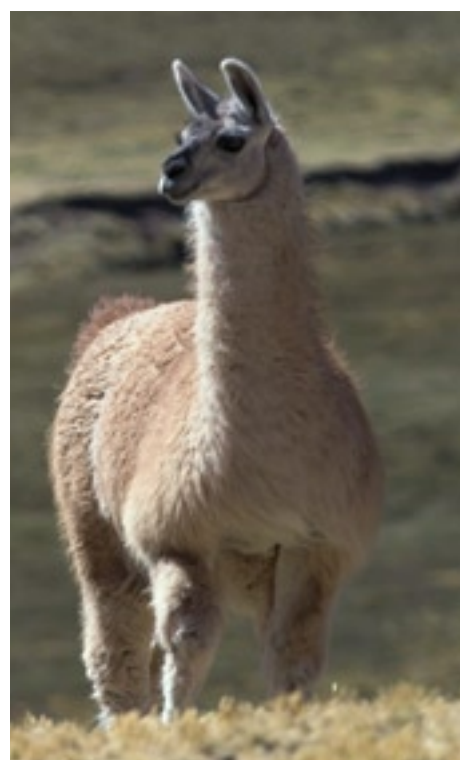
A very dark hummer with a bright green throat was sitting on a flower was identified as a *Black-breasted Hillstar*. It appeared nicely in the first spot of sunlight on the ravine as it flew slowly from plant to plant. The *Dark-winged Miners* were common and we had several views of *Slender-billed Miners* on 4 occasions before we reached the pass. The *Ground Tyrants family* was represented mainly by *Cinereous*, less so by *Ruff-naped* and 3-4 *White-fronted Ground-Tyrants*.

On the other side of the pass we met another car filled completely with Peruvians, which was the only one we met on this road. They drove with high speed and they just broke before hitting our bumper about 1 meter away. It was impossible to pass it on our descent. They only needed to reverse back 20 meters, while we had to pull back about 200 meters uphill to find a spot wide enough to let 2 car pass.

No way they would move one inch and they did not want to get out of the car. As we discovered a nice group of 3 *Grey-breasted Seed-snipes* we exited the bus. However the impatient Peruvians pushed the horn madly to indicate that they want to press on regardless of the situation, probably provoked by our leisurely pace. If our driver had not started to reverse, the incident could have degenerated into a very tense and threatening situation. Finally after 15 minutes dispute the hard headed Peruvians got their way and our driver reversed the 200 meter back.

It was our first meeting with the locals and it left us with a very bad feeling. Our hart beats caused by this incident also reminded us that we moved around in 4900 meters altitude.

We had our breakfast a little lower down in the valley on the limit to a marsh close to the intersection of 2 roads. As the sun has gained height we felt the warmth and the ice started to melt. The sky was completely clear with no wind and the mountains were white with snow. Nick told us that the weather can be atrocious here in Macapomacocha.



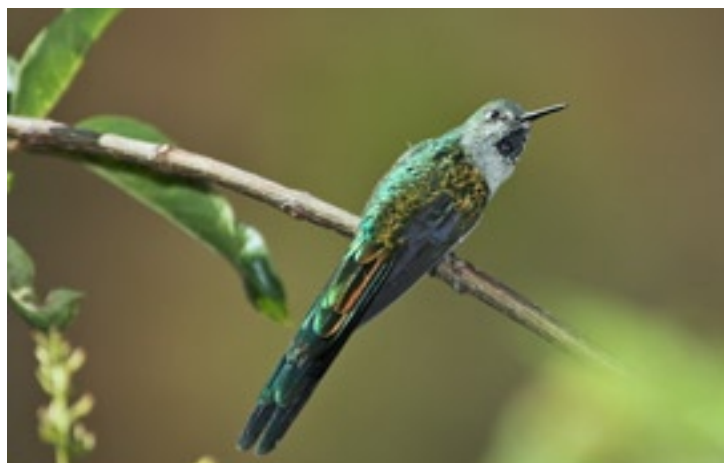
An *Olivaceous Thornbill* came to our company to feed on a very tiny red flower. In the boggy marsh we spotted *Puna Ibis*, *Andean Goose* and the *White-winged Duca-Finch* were found everywhere. We descended on foot down in the valley for 3 hours to explore the area. First at the end of our search, we found the key species such as the *White-bellied Cinclodes* and 1 *Diademed Sandpiper Plovers*. The *White-bellied Cinclodes* passed us and it was great to get a close-up view of this endangered endemic in flight. Of other birds we saw in the marsh were 2 *Puna Snipes*, 4 *Andean Lapwings*, 6 *Crested Ducks*, 2 *Olivaceous Thornbills*, 5 *Andean Flickers*, 1 *Common Miner*, 1 *Streak-throated Canastero*, 6 *Black Siskin*, several *Plumbeous Sierra Finches*. An *Andean Condor* soared across the valley in perfect light. A group of seedsnipes flew around us while we in exhaustion ascended up to the road.

On the way back we got a close-up photo of a pair of *Grey-bellied Seedsnipes* which came close to the bus. After we drove across the pass on the way back to Lima we added the *Plain-breasted Earthcreeper* to our lists. Late in the afternoon we reached hotel Manhattan.

## Tuesday 5 July (36 species seen)

Another early start from the hotel was necessary in order to catch our northbound flight to Cajamarca at 7 am. During the flight we followed the fantastic snowcapped Cordillera Blanca. We arrived at the airport around 9 am where we found our driver Guillermo. He had just finished another tour with Birdquest, so it was more practical he picked us up here. We left right away to visit the canyon of Rio Chonta which is only 20 minutes drive away from the airport.

Just before the canyon we stopped to do a small walk into a small ravine. Here we found a lot of birds such as 3 *Rusty-crowned Tit-Spintails*, several *Black-crested Tit-Tyrants*, 2 *Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant*, 2 *Black-crested Warblers*, several *Rusty Flowerpiercers* and one *Black-throated Flowerpiercer*. We did not wait long to discover the star attraction the large *Grey-bellied Comet* which was sitting inactive in the shade for a long time on a small branch above some large yellow flowers next to a tinkling waterfall. Suddenly it was hovering beefy over the flower before reverting



to the branch. In order to get a photo we were standing in hiding close to the bushes for more than an hour to catch the hovering comet in the sunlight in the front of the yellow flowers. Jacques had the courage to find a great spot next to a ravine on steep slope where the flower were hanging down towards to him and consequently he was rewarded with some magnificent photographs of this endangered endemic. During the wait we saw 4 *Green-tailed Trainbearer*, 6 *Tyrann Metaltails*, 3 *Black Metaltails* come nearby. After this successful meeting with the comet we returned down in the canyon. Here we observed several *Golden-billed Saltators*, a lot of *Band-tailed seedeaters*, another *Grey-bellied Comet* under the escarpment of the canyon.

On the return to Cajamarca we saw a soaring *Black-chested Buzzard Eagle*. After we have checked in the hotel Continental we went down in the town to a nice restaurant. The food was great and we returned several times during our 2 days stay in Cajamarca. In the afternoon we went to a small patch of habitat in a ravine surrounded by a larger eucalyptus plantation to seek the *Unicolored Tapaculo* which is a recent split from the more widespread Blackish Tapaculo.



## Wednesday 6 July (49 species seen)

After about 2 hours drive in darkness we arrived at the border to a small valley which was sloping down to San Marcos. We started to look for the *Great Spinetail* before breakfast. Nick played the tape once and immediately 4 *Spinetails* appeared in the acacia like trees. We also found an active nest which explains why they were calling vigorously. We did not wait long to find our target bird for the day. As we were leaving this rare bird on our way back to a well prepared breakfast by Guillermo, we tumbled into a pair of the magnificent *Buff-bridled Inca-Finch*. While we were drinking our coffee one *Cinereous Harrier* passed along the escarpment but to our surprise in this dry landscape 2 *Andean Gulls* came along the same place.

After breakfast we commenced our 3 hours descent down in the valley towards San Marcos. The valley was well vegetated with dry scrub and cactus and a few larger trees were standing on the steeper slope. We could however see denuded hills further away which indicated that this area was a relatively small patch of habitat in a degraded region.

We were thrilled by great views of the following birds: 1 *Black-chested Buzzard Eagle*, lots of *Spot-throated Hummingbirds*, 1 *Amazilia Hummingbird*, 2 *Purple-colored Woodstar*, several *Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrants*, 1 *Bran-colored Flycatcher*, 2 *Black-billed Shrike Tyrant*, 2 *Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant*, 4 *White-winged Black-Tyrant*, 4 *Dull-colored Grassquet* and a group of *Buff-bridled Inca-Finch*.

After having a meal in San Marcos we returned to Cajamarca. We were lucky to see 2 *Andean Tinamous* crossing the road. We made a short stop in order to find the *White-tailed Shrike Tyrant*, but we did not have any luck. The last stop was near a desolated lake where we saw some common birds such as *Aplomado Falcon* and 2 *Mourning Sierra Finchs*. In the afternoon we did some shopping for the next 2 days of camping.

## Thursday 7 July (64 species seen)

Again we had an early departure which brought us a long way towards Marañon Canyon. At sunrise we stopped on a high plateau which was green with a lot of small cattle pasture filled with groups of dairy cows like the ones you can see in Jura in Switzerland. The sun rose through a hole of dark



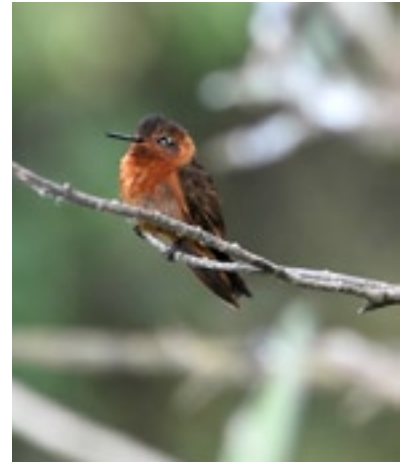
*Great Spinetail*





high altitude clouds which exposed the landscape in a nice soft way. Along the hedges and in the small patches of small vegetation the birds were active. Nick played the tape of the local race "Cajamarca" Rufous Antpitta which will become a newly split species in the near future. Fairly quickly we got a response further down the slope, so it was necessary for us to descend a bit down to sit in front of a small opening. Then Nick replayed the tape without a response.

Without warning the Antpitta appeared and posed itself on a small branch 10 meters from us without moving and in complete silence. After a short while it jumped away into the vegetation. On our return to the road we heard **Striated Earthcreeper** singing from a hidden location in a tree, but suddenly we saw 2 other earthcreepers on a rock nearby.



*Shining Sunbeam*

Of hummingbirds seen were the common **Shining Sunbeam** and one **Mountain Velvetbreast**. Along the hedges we could locate several **Brown-backed Chat-Tyrants**. As we spotted a mixed species flock above in a paddy we decided to enter a property above the road. Nick asked a farmer for his permission and it appeared that it was okay. After we saw 2 Tit-like Dacnis, several endemic Baron's Spinetails and one **Spectacled Redstart**, two women and one man approached us. They appeared to be sympatric, but we quickly found out that they wanted us to leave their property. From Nick who speaks Spanish we all got an impression that they had a pistol, but they did not wish to use to kill us, if we promptly left the site.

Nick responded that we already got the permission to visit the site, but it was clear from the episode that it would be best to retreat back to the van as quickly as possible. It is probable that the farmers feared that we were prospectors from a mining company as we brought telescopes, binoculars and cameras, the kind of gear which could be confused with equipment used for searching for rare minerals. In Peru there have been a lot of disputes between mining companies and the local population and no one are prepared to give up their farmland for anything.

A bit chocked of the second incident in rural Peru we finished our breakfast at the roadside and then pressed on towards Celedin. En route we had a glimpse of a **Slender-billed Miner**. In the town





Celedin we had lunch and a fresh cold beer. On the other side of the town we drove up in a pass into a high plateau prairie where we had a chance to log one *White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant* accompanied with 6 *Black-billed Shrike Tyrants* and 2 *Rufous-webbed Tyrants*. Finally we reached the rim of the Marañon Canyon which is one of the wonders of the world. Never have I seen such a spectacular canyon. We were at almost 4000 meters and there is a drop down to the river at 1200 meters. That makes a vertical descent of 2800 meters. Several life zones from paramo to desert scrub exists here and consequently we made a few profitable stops during our 4 hours descent into the depth.

On the first stop we got on 3 *Chestnut-backed Thornbirds*, 2 *Great Sapphire-wings*.



*A view across Marañon valley from 3800 meters altitude.*

*Great-winged Inca-Finch*

A bit further down after a bit searching we found 2 *Great-winged Inca-Finches* in the foliage of several trees growing in a ravine. Just before dusk we arrived near the riverbed to our campsite. It was warm and dry. We could watch the sunlight creeping up on the rim along the valley as the sun sets rapidly at this latitude.

We had a nice chicken with vegetables in our dingy tent in protection from flies and mosquitoes. We could enjoy a excellent bottle of Chilean wine to the meal.

### **Friday 8 July (57 species seen)**

For the first time we could sleep a bit longer as we were based in the middle of the habitat. It was a privilege to wake up in such an environment. The first rays from sun lighten up the summits of the rim and we commenced to take down the camp. After the coffee we started to explore the area along the riverbank on foot. It was a cactus desert like landscape like Arizona. The Peruvian Pigeons were sitting in the top of the trees and we counted 6 of this Marañon endemic. Two Andean Condors flew majestically along the lower hills in the valley overhead. We had to be careful not to get entangled in the spines of the cactus while we were







walking to watch birds. We disturbed a pair of **Maranon Thrush** which only allowed us a glimpse before they flew into the center of a thick bush.

As the rays from the sun reached us, a group of **Parrotlets** flew across and landed 50 meters away in a cactus. It was the rare and little known **Yellow-faced Parrotlet**. They were completely preoccupied from eating the flowers in the cactus, so it was possible to approach the birds within 5 meters with our cameras. There were several flocks??

of the parrotlets which apparently migrate erratically through the semi desert to seek food randomly.

When we started our ascent on the eastern rim, we had another chance to see the parrotlets as 7 flew into the trees next to the road. After a "cola" stop in Puente Chacanto on the other side of the bridge we stopped in a gallery forest along the road. Here we had good views of the local **Maranon Thrush**. Further uphill at 2600 meters we had a lunch stop in an orchid grown cloud forest. Here we had a chance to see a few butterflies.



Further uphill Nick heard a call of the rare **Jelski's Chat Tyrant** and a few minutes later we were able to take some great photographs of this bird. Here we had a proof that it is worthwhile to have a Nick as our guide on a trip like this one. About a few hours after midday we were standing at 3850 meters on the opposite side looking at a landscape extraordinaire which is a bit vertiginous. It was very windy so it was hard to stand upright. In the area we spotted a few interesting flowers belonging to the family Proteae, a well known type of flower in South Africa.

During our descent from Abra Barro Negro into a patch of forest we had a chance to view one **Yellow-scarfed Tanger** and one **Coppery Metaltail**. A Violet-throated Starfrontlet appeared to feed in some long white tubes bordered with green flowers, but I missed the photographic shot as the batteries suddenly were flat. We installed our camp next to a school after having asked around for permission but got confusing answers. We had to toss a coin to make the decision for the locals. As we had to spend the night at 3000 meters it was bitterly cold and Jean-Michel and my sleeping bag was not adequate to keep us warm.



After supper we had a leisurely stroll for night birds, but the owling trip produced only a **Barn Owl**.

## Saturday 9 July (61 species seen)

When we felt the first warmth from the sun in the early morning, we dismantled the camp and packed our gear. A group of **White-collared Jays** sat in a tree behind the school, but we had difficulty to hold the binoculars with our frozen hands. Soon after a flock of **Hooded Mountain-Tangers** and **Mountain Caciques** came into the tree to entertain the jays. After breakfast in the sun we





commenced our walk down the road to a patch of bamboo forest, the same patch we did the owling the previous night. The target bird the endangered endemic *Russet-mantled Softail* were calling??, but did not respond to playback. The Softail depend upon bamboo cycles. As the forests retreats due to clearing for pasture the chances for the birds to find ripe bamboo diminish with the size of the patches.

The patches were full of *Chat-Tyrants* and we managed to find 4 species which were the more common *Rufous-breasted*, 3 *Brown-*

*backed*, 1 *Crowned* and one *Golden-browed Chat-Tyrant*.

We had to climb up the steep slope in order to get up into the bamboo in order to see the Softail. It was a very wet experience as the vegetation was drenched from the rain the previous day and the dew. Consequently we were soaked completely.

However we were rewarded for this endeavor with great views of the *Russet-mantled Softail* responding to playback by doing display in the air. From the forest a *Mountain Wren* and *Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant* came out to see what was going on.



On the way down we were distracted by the calls from singing *Chestnut-crowned* and *Rusty-breasted Antpittas* and *Blackish Tapaculo*. Several hummingbirds were actively feeding in the red flowers higher up in the epiphytes in the moss laden trees such as 2 *Shining Sunbeams*, 2 *Mountain Velvetbreast*, 2 *Violet-throated Starfrontlets*, 1 *Rainbow Starfrontlet*, 3 *Amethyst-throated Sunangel*, several *Tyrian Metaltails*. The mixed species flocks contained several

species such as *White-banded Tyrannulets*, *Drab Himispingus*, several tanagers including one *Yellow-scarfed* and a *Grass-green Tanager*.



*Golden-naped Puffleg*

Slowly we took a stroll into the same patch from the other side of the school to a higher elevation. Here Jacques got his life shot of a *Golden-naped Puffleg* in a flower just above his head. After lunch we left the school and did a walk into a forest further down. It was a bit quiet with only a view of a group of *Stripe-headed Bush-Finches*, but a lot of flowers and butterflies gave us all the midday entertainment we needed and great opportunities to take some photographs.

We arrived in Leimebamba at dusk and settled in the Hotel Los Condores. Despite of the noise from a festive arrangement nearby we had a good sleep.



## Sunday 10 July (36 species seen)

The road from Leimebamba to Pomacocha is a long one. Despite of the usual early start we arrived first around 13.30 in Pedroz Ruiz. First we followed the road along Rio Utcumbamba into the Department Amazonas. It is a dry valley with gallery forest and growth along the river, but the slopes are covered with cactus. The route descends along the river from 2200 meters to 1400 meters.

We were occupied observing birds all the time and we had some great views of *Scarlet-fronted Parakeets*, *2 White-bellied hummingbirds*, *1 Little Woodstar*, *1 Speckled-chested Piculet (endemic)*, *3 Black-necked Woodpeckers (endemic)*, *1 Speckled-breasted Wren*, *5 Marañon Thrush*, *2 Buff-bellied Tanager (endemic)*.



As it was Sunday, the locals were dressed in nice costumes as they were walking in groups to the church. Additionally, we watched several historic fortresses along the route.

After a great meal in a nice restaurant in Pedro Ruiz, we started our ascent into the eastern cordillera towards Pomacocha.

This region had suffered from severe deforestation so most of the hills are now denuded. In the afternoon we arrived to the *Marvelous Spatultail* site, but after 1 hour

wait in vain we realized that we have to walk into the valley several kilometers before the Rio Chido trail in order to find another place with bushes with fresh white flowers. We walked for 1 km. to a small patch. A young boy who had an age of 5 to 6 years followed us. After some time the boy asked us whether we would like to a special bird called *icolibri con dos spatulas*. He knew the place where the males came to feed. Nick responded yes and we followed the boy a little way back so we could climb another small track uphill to some small trees down in a gully. The bushes had some vines with large white flowers, so we were almost sure to see it.

Not long after a small green kolibri appeared very low down and our hearts were beating hard. It behaved like a violetear. Now we had some doubt whether the boy actually knew the bird and has confused with a violetear. Jacques saw something moving about 7 meters below the large white flowers in a small tree with tiny white flowers. The head appeared and suddenly the tail came into view. It was no doubt the *Spatultail*, but only Jacques saw the hummer before it disappeared. As it was late in the afternoon the timing seemed to be critical.

Fortunately it reappeared at the same place about 15 minutes later and we all got on it this time. It was a young male and the tails were only half grown. Another male sat in top of a tree further away with full plume, but without any tail. Two females came to feed on the same flowers and one female flew around several times. We gave a tip to the boy and asked him to keep the site secret in order to avoid that other jalousie boys may destroy the trees and kill the birds. It is clear that this bird with a limited distribution would be endangered from habitat destruction. However Birdlife International has commenced a project to save some patches for the bird. We arrived at dusk in hotel Puerto Pumas in Pomacocha.

## Monday 11 July (64 species seen)

We left for Abra Patricia and we reached the destination in time for dawn. For the first time on this trip the weather was dull and misty that morning with drizzle. We began to explore the forest edge along the road right at the top of the pass just a few 100 meters after the restaurant.



Very quickly the small newly described *Lulus Tody-Tyrant* displayed itself in front of our firing flashes from our cameras. In the bamboo we quickly nailed down a *Rusty-breasted Antpitta* with tape playback and in the heavy mossy vegetation Nick managed to attract a *Rufous-vented Tapaculo* into view.

As we thought we had a group of *White-crowned Tanagers*, we rushed back to the field in the front of the restaurant, but it turned out to be a flock of White-collared Jays. Apparently the calls are very similar. The White-crowned Tanager is a very rare bird and Abra Patricia is one of the best sites to find it, but the birds are migratory depending upon seasonally fruits. By the way Nick told us that he had eaten two times in that restaurant and got sick each time, so he had arranged picnic lunch instead.

As Nick heard a *Rusty-tinged Antpitta* further down in the mossy cloud forest, we decided to head down along a not so well maintained path. We did not manage on this occasion to get that bird into a view, but further down we found a large stand of mature trees along the path.

Here we found the following birds in a mixed species flock: high up a *White-eared Solitaire*, 3-4 *Green-Black Fruiteaters*, 1 *Emerald (Black-throated) Toucanet (Aulacorhynchus astrogularis)* which is still is regarded as a subspecies in the Handbook of The World, close up views of *Sharpe's Wren* and 1 *Twany-bellied Hermit*.

When we returned to the road we jumped into the van to descend a few kilometers down to Alto Nieve, where we had a few great moments along the road. We started with a great view of a very corporative endemic *Bar-winged Wood-Wren*



which would have been easy to photograph if it did not rain so much.

As soon as the bird disappeared, the rain stopped and the sun came out. The potholes attracted a lot of colorful butterflies in the group *Eighty-eighty*. As the sun lit on the blue flowers we managed with some patience to see 2 very nice male of the *Royal Sunangel* in a ravine and one female higher up along the road side. The sunny weather created the conditions for the *White-tipped Swift* to appear and we had some great views of 4



*Royal Sunangel female*

14 Nord Peru July 2005



swift flying right across an outcrop next to the road. A little down in a ravine a **White-backed Fire-eye** called and it appeared nicely. However, an actively singing **Barred Antthrush** was located high up in an inaccessible patch of secondary growth. Consequently, it was impossible to seek that bird. The hardest endemic bird to bring into a view was the **Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant**. Finally after one hour of finding the right angel in the forest to locate it in the tree, we got great views of that skulker.

We had a nice flock of Tanagers along the road which produced the following species: One **Rufous-crested, Blue-capped, 3 Yellow-throated, and Blue-browed Tanagers**. On the way back to the pass in the late afternoon, we stopped in order to try for the **Chestnut Antpitta**. One responded to the tape and came into 2 meters from us in the thick vegetation, but was obscured from view. Only Jean-Michel managed briefly to see a brown ball moving around.

Another stop at the restaurant produced a great view of a sitting lonely **Silver-backed Tanager** preening. One of the prettiest birds on the trip, but that depends upon ones taste. An **American Kestrel** flew around and we got a very nice sunset over the forest filled with heavy misty clouds.

We returned one hour later to the hotel Puerto Pumas, Pomacocha in the dark.

## **Tuesday 12 July (65 species seen)**

This day was dedicated to trek uphill along the Rio Chido trail into a forest patch above the valley. The target bird for that day was the Pale-billed Antpitta, a bird few ornithologists have seen. We left the hotel as usual before dawn in order to be in the area before sunrise. A newly constructed road has recently collapsed right at the start so our driver Guillermo had to leave us at the main road. After 2 kilometers of walking on the new gravel road, we bifurcated to the left uphill on a small path. It took a while to find the exact location of this patch, so we had to search around and ask some locals. It was a strenuous ascent up through the fields, but fairly quickly we observed a pair of the **Rufous-capped Antshrike** and saw some **Emerald-bellied Pufflegs** along the hedges. A newly fledged **Tapaculo** was photographed inside a thick bush.

It was farmland with a few scattered trees, some with nice flowers which entertained us with great photographs of several **White-bellied Woodstars**. Of other birds seen high up in the trees were singing **Ashy-headed, White-tailed and 4 White-banded Tyrannulets**. Lower down in some



*Black-throated Tody-Tyrant*



*White-bellied Woodstar*



scrub we managed to find a ***Black-throated Tody-Tyrant***. A few peasants passed us on donkeys followed by barking dogs. Some of the dogs were so aggressive that we had to throw stones at them to keep them at bay, the locals were just laughing of our conduct.

Finally we passed the last farm and could enter the forest. A ***Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan*** flew briefly among the trees out of sight. We quickly noticed the song of at least 2-3 ***Rusty-tinged Antpittas***, and Nick quickly found the right place to attract one of them into

view near the path. A young or female with brown cap did a circle around us, so we all had several opportunities to see the bird posing on the path or a tree log.

Further uphill, we could hear the ***Pale-billed Antpitta*** and we quickly packed up and continued our Antpitta quest. We tried one in the bamboo without luck, as it did not appear outside the dense vegetation although it was on 3 meters from us. We tried again for 1 hour further down in the bamboo where Nick made a little hole with his machete.

No luck except Nick got a brief sighting without looking through his binoculars, as it suddenly unexpected appeared behind us. We decided to try another one further beyond. It appears to be relatively common in the area, as we heard at least 4 calling along the 3-5 km long trail.

The second one was found in a bit more open habitat next to a stand of bamboo further down in the forest. We all found a place to sit and wait below the path while Nick played the tape, but still without luck. The call of the Antpitta was not the only noise in the forest. Chainsaws were actively working near a new paddy below us in the valley, as the farmers and settlers were clearing the land. It is obvious that this forest will not exist for much longer.



*Chestnut-bellied Coronet*



*Sparkling Violetear*

Further along the trail we watched several mixed species flocks which contained several ***Collared Incas***, ***2 Rufous-capped Thornbills***, ***1 Smoky-brown Woodpecker***, ***2 Streaked Tuftecheeks***, ***1 Inca Flycatcher***, ***2 groups of Peruvian Wrens***, 1 group of ***White-collared Jays***, ***1 White-browed*** and ***1 Supercilliated Hemispingus***, ***4 Flame-faced Tanager***, ***1 Plush-capped Finch***, ***2 White-sided Flowerpiercer***, heard the ***Ash-colored*** and the ***Trilling Tapaculo***. On our retour, we made a stop to try the last time for the elusive ***Pale-billed Antpitta***. We again took our old positions below



the trail and Nick played the tape. Suddenly, I could see a large bird standing below a small tree stem. I looked through my binoculars and could see the **large Antpitta** with his ivory bill. The others saw it briefly too, but it moved so rapidly around that we could not by any means dwell upon the bird.

We commenced our decent and passed the farms in perfect afternoon light which exposed the area so nicely. It was a gorgeous day in an area which is transforming rapidly into a less diverse place. For a naturalist that is a sad experience. We stopped at a bush with white flowers and we quickly found a **Chestnut-breasted Coronet** actively feeding in the flowers, so Jacques managed to get his lifetime hummingbird shot in perfect light. Not long after a **Sparkling Violetear** came into the flowers which gave Jacques another chance to take a perfect photograph. Down in the bottom of the valley we were rewarded with great views of 2 fantastic **Red-hooded Tanagers** and further on a **Maroon-chested Chat-Tyrant appeared**. A White-capped Dipper took a rest on the road and followed us a bit down towards the main road junction where Guillermo was waiting for us.

It is necessary to walk about 2 hours without stopping in order to reach the **Pale-billed Antpitta** site. Fortunately it appears that the **Antpitta** is active during the day so it can easily be done within reasonable time as long as the forest still exists.

When we returned to the hotel in Puerto Pumas de Pomacocha, we had a nice cold beer on terrace next to the swimming pool with a view across the lake. However the lake was not great for birds. The architecture of the hotel is modern but the corridors were filled with strange wooden pictures and artwork. We were the only people in the hotel, so it was necessary for the owner to organize a cook to prepare the food. It was a very comfortable experience in the remote, rural and rustic Northern Peru.

### Wednesday 13 July (96 species seen)

We left the hotel in order to reach Affluente which is situated at 1800 meters altitude at sunrise. It



*A view of the forest at 1800 meters altitude*

took us about 1 hours drive without stops. We spent most of the day between 1500-1800 meters altitude in upper tropical forest along the road. The traffic was moderate, but it will get worse with time as the lowlands beyond Affluente area will become more and more populated in the future. The forest is in good condition but a few small clearings on the slopes can be seen from the road. Just as we arrived we could observe a hovering **Ecuadorian Piedetail** feeding in some small flowers along the roadside. A pair of actively singing **Blackish Antbirds** appeared after tape playback.

We had two huge mixed species flocks with entertained us for 2 hours in the morning. Nick who knew the calls well helped us to concentrate on the special birds such as **1 Versicolored Barbet**, **Chestnut-tipped Toucanets**, some **Speckle-chested Piculets**, **3 trilling Equatorial Greytail** in the top of a tree, **2 Wing-barred Piprites**, **1 Olive-striped Flycatcher**, **2 Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet**, **4 Ecuadorian Tyrannulets**, **1 Red-billed Tyrannulet (with a great photo)**, **2 Olive-chested Flycatchers**, **1 Yellow-cheeked Becard**, **1 Black-billed Thrush**, **4 Olivaceous Greenlets**, several **Huallaga Tanagers**.

As the activity dropped, we could finally have breakfast. This is the main area to see the rare

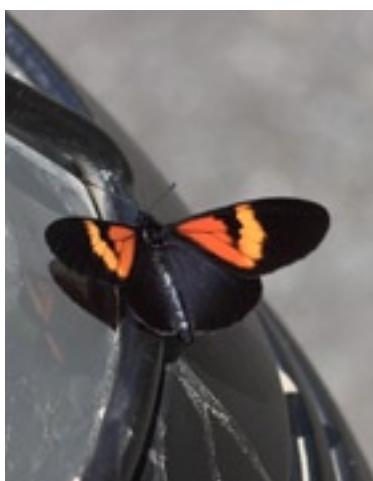


endemic *Ash-throated Antwren*, but that bird proved to be too elusive for us.

The butterflies appeared as the day got warmer in the sun, only to be distracted by **1 Black-billed Trehunter**, **1 White-crowned Tapaculo**, **2 Giant Cowbirds**, **1 Ash-browed Spinetail**, **1 Yellow-rumped Cacique**, **a pair of singing Lined Antshrike** and **2 beautiful Orange-eared Tanagers**, and not to forget two nice flyovers by the *Andean Cock-of-the Rock*. We could hear an active lek nearby in the morning.

After lunch, we started to descend down to

a bridge near Aguas Verdes at 1300 meters, and here we saw a group of *Guildeck Barbet* and *Swallow-tailed Kites*. We saw beautiful butterflies and a huge walking stick at the bridge. Just before sunset we spent an hour along the road to Rioja where we looked for some birds in some dry second growth and fields. Here we located quite a few *Russet-crowned Crakes* in a grassy field



*Actinote sp.*



*Skipper (Vettius marcus)*



and a pair of *Spectacled Chachalaca* and **1 Black-fronted Nunbird** in the cicropia trees nearby. The plains between Aguas Verdes to Rioja are quite flat and rather dry as the area is located in a rain shadow. Although we were at 1000 meters altitude, the weather felt very hot and tropical. The area is under rapid agricultural development mainly to cattle, rice and soybean farming.

Despite of the festivities in the bustling Rioja we had a good sleep in the Hotel Bonbonaje.

## Thursday 14 July (63 species)

This was the second trekking day on our journey, as we decided to climb the isolated mountain by the name Moro de Calzada about 15 km outside Rioja. Moro de Calzada means boot in Spanish and that was the form of the mountain.

The climb is from 900 meters to 1400 meters through dry tropical forest. The avifauna consists of a mix of Amazonian lowland species and lower subtropical Andean forms. The lowland species reach higher elevation here than what is normal in other places, but the diversity is limited due to the isolation and relative dryness of this area.

We missed the Mishana Tyrannulet and the Buff-throated Tody-Tyrant, which are the special birds on this mountain, probably because the bird activity that day was very subdued. The morning was slow as the sky was overcast and later it got too hot for anything to move around. Near the entrance we managed to get on to **1 Scale-backed Antbird**, one group of *Paradise Tanager*, **2 Pale-breasted Thrush** and **2 Swallow-wings**. We heard 3 species of Trogons around the picnic area, but only





managed to view 2 of them as the ***Violaceous Trogon*** stayed obscured in the background. However, we observed after playback the ***White-tailed*** and the ***Blue-crowned Trogon***. In a small tree with pale greenish yellow flowers a pair of ***Glittering-throated Emeralds*** and one ***Blue-tailed Emerald*** came in to feed.

Inside the forest, it was possible to see a ***Plumbous Kite*** and a ***Yellow-ridged Toucan*** flying by along the rim. We found a couple displaying ***Golden-collared Toucanet*** close above us. As the male Toucanet exclaimed a series of veered noises, he was bending

forward with his head right down towards his breast while the wing was held a bit open and his feather plumage was inflated and vibrant. The female also undertook a similar performance.

We also found some interesting caterpillars forming a group on the path and later some nice butterflies. A group of hermits have found a place to display in a kind of lek under some huge leaves. It was difficult to see the ***hummingbirds*** through as they quickly moved out of sight. On the way up we stopped to locate ***2 Warbling Antbirds***, ***1 Plain-winged Antshrike*** and one ***White-flanked Antwren***. Near the top the vegetation became more stunted and sparse. Here at the escarpment we heard and attracted a noisy pair of the ***Red-stained Woodpecker***. At the summit a ***Short-tailed Hawk*** appeared to our gratification.

We had picnic on an outcrop with views across the plains 500 meters below. Here we could notice that the forest is now fragmented into islands in an open farmed landscape. Some of us had a quick descent to the base of the mountain, but I had stomach trouble which made the trip very hard. As we were assembling at the picnic area, we saw ***2 sooty-headed Tyrannulets***, ***1 Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet***, and ***1 Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant***. I went down to the van to persuade Guillermo to drive back to the town, so I could purchase some anti-diarrhea tablets and to have a rest in the hotel. The rest of us carried on in the afternoon and found following birds: ***1 Chestnut-eared Aracari***, heard ***Russet-crowned Crake***, ***1 Green-and-gold Tanager***, ***2 Black-faced Dacnis***, ***2 Purple Honeycreepers***, ***Pearl-vented Tody-Tyrant***, ***1 Yellow-breasted Flycatcher***, ***1 Scale-breasted*** and a group of ***Coroya Wrens***.



***Red-billed Tyrannulet***

## Friday 15 July (76 species seen)

We had a long day in front of us as we had to drive all the way to Jean in the Department of Cajamarca. On our return on the same route we came from, we stopped near Aguas Verdes, Affluente, Abra Patricia and Pedro Ruis. After the turn at Pedro Ruis, we entered new territory along the route to Bagua then we crossed Rio Marañon before climbing the hills towards Jean.

We arrived at our first stop near Aguas Vedes just before dawn where we had our breakfast along the roadside while we could hear the birds waking up in the forest. After great views of one ***White-browed Antbird***, we commenced to walk back along the road for 300 meters. A lot of hummingbirds such ***Grey-chinned Hermits***, ***2 Green Hermits***, ***1 long-tailed Sylph*** were seen along

this road. Like the first time at Affluente, we arrived just as a huge mixed flock passed through the canopy. No wonder this place is called Affluente- which means a place in abundance. The star bird today was marvelous views through the Swarovski scope of a Lanceolated Monklet. Just as we were walking along the road a male Cock-of-the-Rock crossed the road in front of us. Just next to a small settlement, we found a nice pair of the Lemon-browed Flycatcher.

The time constraints demanded a quick departure, but we stopped once again at 2500 meters elevation to try for the ***Chestnut Antpitta***. The taped-out Antpitta did not bother to respond, so we could quickly pack up to carry on. Just as we ready to go an ***Andean Tyrant*** appeared in a tree next to the road and a pair of ***Barred Becard*** and one ***Sierra Eleania*** sang from the trees across the road. Just at Abra Patricia we had a brief try of the White-crowned Tanager without success.

We enjoyed a nice meal in the same restaurant in Pedro Ruis, before heading to the ***Little Inca Finch*** site near Bagua around 15.30 pm. We spent about 1 hours in the dry cactus and acacia bush area looking for the bird. It is hard to believe that we had just been in a tropical rainforest 5 hours earlier and in a misty cool cloud forest at 2800 meters about 3 hours beforehand. We saw one ***Little Inca-finch*** briefly against the sun, so we decided to try harder for it. Further away one hour later, we found and photographed a small family of Little Inca Finches feeding in some cactuses. One young and an adult pair were moving around to our delight. Not many birds were seen, but we managed to get on to a ***Faciated Wren***, one ***Short-tailed Field Tyrant***, several ***Vermillion Flycatchers***, and we refound the common ***Spot-throated Hummingbird***.

We enjoyed the view of this landscape while we were driving towards Jean in the late afternoon sunlight. We quickly installed ourselves in the nice and comfortable hotel Bosque. Jacques and his father had a nice swim in the pool, while I still had to rest with my bad stomach. In this town it was possible to purchase good quality South American wines.

## Saturday 16 July ( 46 species seen)

We arrived just before dawn to our destination one hour drive north of Jean in the Tamborapa region. Our aim on this morning was to find the last endemics from the dry Marañon area along a dirt track in a well vegetated stunted deciduous forest and scrub. The versatile and rather shy ***Marañon Spinetail*** played a kind of marry dance with us as it always wanted to be just in an obscured position when we tried to get our binoculars on the darn thing. It was necessary to sit down to



*Little Inca-Finch*





wait for the elusive bird to appear, a good technique if you are in a group. My observation from 30 years of birding is that birds tend to become shier if more than 2 folks enter into their vicinity.

We had a *Hook-billed Kite* overhead during our breakfast table and Jacques got a magnificent photo of that raptor. After our first meal of the day, we returned to look for the dark looking *Maranon Spinetail* which we found in a flock with *Slaty Antshrike* and 7 more *Chinchiye Spinetails* which suddenly were less shy (the maranon was shy not he chinchiye). Back on

the road Nick found a nice endemic *Maranon Crescent-chest* with conspicuously white edged white in its wing-coverts. The activity and response to tape play-back was good given the hot conditions. Of other birds we saw this morning were *Grey-chinned Hermit*, 1 *Spot-throated Hummingbird*, a *Mouse-colored (Tumbesian) Tyrannulet*, 6 *Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant*, 2 *Sooty-crowned Flycatcher*, 1 *Yellow-cheeked Becard*, 2 *Buff-bellied Tanager*, 2 *Purple-throated Euphonia*, 2 *Red-crested Finch*, 2 *Black-capped Sparrow*, 1 *Yellow-tailed Oriole*. Further down the track about 1½ km there we reached a secluded stream filled with butterflies. *Huge Swallowings*, *Eighty-eights*, *other nymphalinaes butterflies* came down to the stream and we counted at least about 15 large species. This experience was absolutely one of the highlights of the trip.

We had a siesta in the hotel and a swim in the pool, then shopping for the next days camping, a nice lunch in a mixed grill with cold beer in an open air restaurant with nice ambiance.

In the afternoon we had a leisurely stroll in the rice fields outside town. We stopped at the outskirts of Jean where we met a curious group of people. We showed them our book with drawings of rails and other birds which had our interest. They responded that there were many rails in the rice paddies and a guy who would be able to show us the birds shown in the book. We departed soon afterwards along the small banks which separated the paddies.

Nick almost fell into the paddy with all his gear as the walkway was a bit slippery in places. We asked our new local guide repeatedly with insistence to leave his dogs behind instead of having them running in the front chasing the birds away, but no matter what we said, the dogs kept going. A young boy showed us with pride a rail which he had stoned to death.

During all this encounter of frustration with the locals, we had succumb to the fact that we were not successful in finding the birds we were looking for, but it was nevertheless an interesting experience to see another picturesque landscape in the last rays of afternoon sunlight.



*Ceryx Eighty-Eight Diaethria ceryx*

However, we managed to see some common water birds including 50 + *Scarlet-fronted Parakeet*, 2 *Ecuadorian Ground Doves*, and about a dozen *Drab Seed eaters*. Back in town we went on a motorbike taxi to town to buy some red wine. It was an experience to try the local Asiatic transport system. This part of the country is like Asia in many ways due to the immigration of Japanese to Peru – a country which have had a president with a Japanese origin by the name Fujimori. An election is due in 2006 and some of the candidates were already preparing for their debut as they had their supporters writing election slogans on every wall in the towns. Especially a candidate by the name Allan is displaying his program everywhere. He was for everything from roads to good health, schools and farming and against corruption of course. Some folks even suggest that Fujimori should return to run again despite of he is tried for corruption and misconduct by the supreme court of Peru.

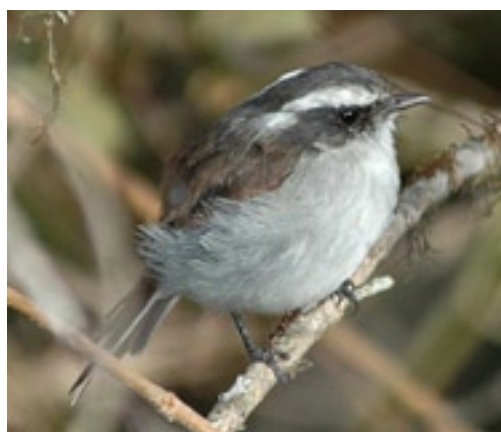
## Sunday 17 July (74 species seen)

We left the hotel around 4 am in the morning in order to reach Abra Porculla just after sunrise. In order to reach the site, we had to bifurcate to the right in a small village to make a steep ascent up to the west side of the ridge. The place was a bit degraded but still had enough vegetation to support the key species we tried to seek this morning.

After 2 hours of intensive birding we nailed down some great views of all the target birds. A group of 3 very tame *Ecuadorian Piculets* were photographed while they were busy feeding, we got on to several common *Line-cheeked Spinetail*. Further down below the road we managed to locate 3 Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaners together with 2 *Black-cowled Saltators* and quickly afterwards we spotted 2 large sized *Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaners* feeding on dead leaves down below a bush next to the road, and just above them a nice looking *Chapman's Antshrike* was turned into a permanent digital image. We had great views of two shy *Elegant Crescent-chest*, *Tree-banded Warbler*, 2 *Bay-crowned Bush-Finch*. Jacques saw the *White-winged Bush-Finch* but it proved to be too elusive to reappear. However a nice Pair of the rare endemic *Piura Chat Tyrant* sat in a bush for a while so we managed to sneak in closer to bring home a photograph.



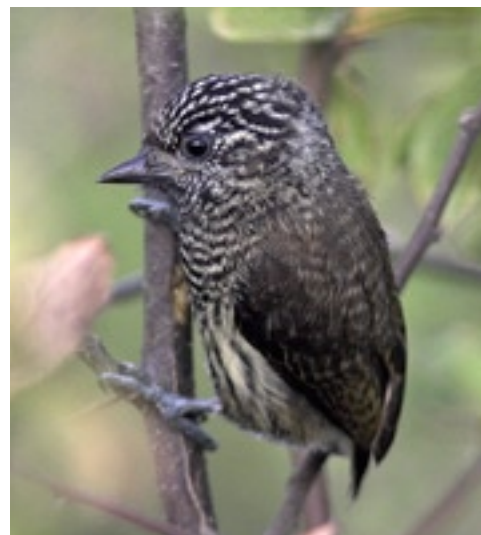
*Chapman's Antshrike*



*Piura Chat-Tyrant*

We could easily have passed more time here, but as we had a long drive in front of us we packed up after breakfast to continue our journey into the Tumbesian region along the North-west coast in order to reach the final destination Quebrada Limon. We drove there directly without more than a drink and a toilet stop for about 4 hours. But during one rest stop we saw a *Peruvian Pygmy-Owl* and a group of White-tailed Jays.

It is not easy to find the Quebrada Limon reserve, but we were in good hands as Guillermo knew the way. Once we had to leave the main road in order to look around as there are many small dirt roads into the plains towards the hills. However there is only one road which leads to the reserve, but the locals proved to be very reserved as they would not reveal the secret to us. It is a general observation that in Northern Peru people are more reserved than folks we have met in Brazil and Venezuela. It is one of the poorest regions in all of South America.



*Ecuadorian Piculet (*



Finally we managed to enter the reserve as we were driving along a dry riverbed on a very badly maintained road. It would have been impossible to get here during the rain season. We arrived to our campsite around 3 pm while it still was a bit hot. As we were eating late lunch we could



*White-winged Guan*

hear and later see a group of **Red-masked Parakeets**. Shortly afterwards we set out on a trek to find the **White-winged Guan** up in the valley. The reserve was established to protect 6 pairs of this critically endangered species, but according to Birdlife International the conservation measures undertaken seems to be working.

We found a local guide in the habitation next to our camp and it took us about 2 hours of walking with a few brief stops to reach the site as we did not have much time. In some flowering tress we found both a **Purple-collared Woodstar** and 2 **Short-tailed Woodstars**.

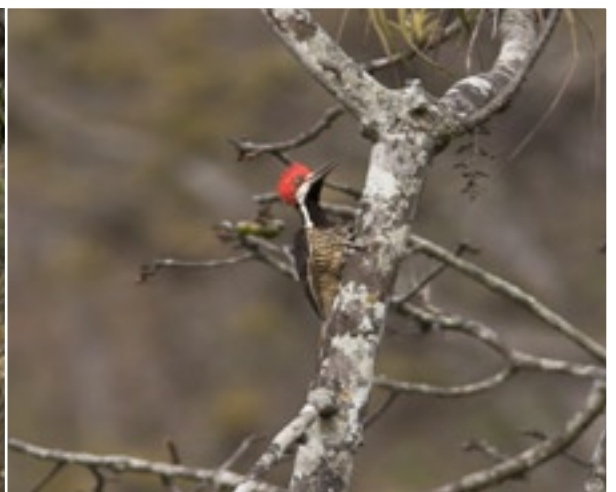
As we climbed up the last hill we entered a grassy slope with a view op in another valley to the left (south). Our guide soon after exclaimed "Alla Alla" and we could see some movement in the trees about 300 meters away near the slope.

Suddenly, we could see a pair of **White-winged Guans** flying down. It was great treat to observe the guans flying, as they had enormous amount of white in the wings- actually the wings were almost completely white.

It was possible to get into a position about 30 meters from the guans and consequently we managed to get some decent images of this endangered bird. Then a **Guayaquil Woodpecker** appeared in the tree and joined the party. Content with our observations this afternoon

we descended slowly into the forested riverbed area in the bottom of the valley to seek a shy pair of **Tumbes Tyrant**. We managed to get a poor view of one jumping around a huge rock. Of other birds in the area were **Tumbes Swift** and a **Bat Falcon**.

Further down along the valley we could observe another pair of Guans moving along some bushes upslope, and Jean Michel found another one on his own. We had seen 30% of the population in



*Guayaquil Woodpecker*

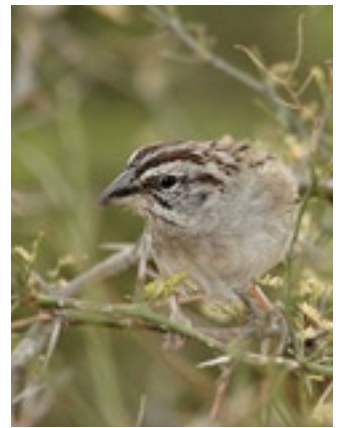
the reserve! As it was almost dark he could attract a *Scrub Nightjar* to tape play-back. We reached the camp in darkness to enjoy a nice meal with Chilean red wine.

### Monday 18 July (57 species seen)

It was great to sleep a bit longer after having the habit to get up to the heart of the action very early. After having breakfast we went up the same valley not to seek Guans but to do some general birding. We quickly noticed the voices from the noisy *Pacific Parrotlets* and *Red-masked Parakeets*. The hummingbirds such as the *Amazillias* & *Tumbes Hummingbirds* and *Short-tailed Woodstars* were mocking a *Peruvian Pygmy-Owl* and we found several during our observations. Additionally we found a family of *Scarlet-backed Woodpecker* feeding a young member.

The Golden-olive Woodpecker was quite common and we again found a *Guayaquil Woodpecker* but further away than the previous afternoon. Of other birds of interest in the area were *Necklaced Spinetail*, *Streaked-headed Woodcreeper*, *Collared Antshrike*, *Baird's Flycatcher*, *Plumbeous-backed Thrush* and *White-headed Brush-Finch*. On this day we had revenge with the *Tumbes Tyrant* which unlike the other one appeared out in the open so Jacques managed to photograph it.

After a picnic in camp we packed up to undertake a leisurely drive towards Chiclayo. Between the reserve and the main highway we stopped to see **1 Pearl Kite**, **3 Grey-white Tyrannulets** and a group of *Parrot-billed Seedeaters* and *several Tumbes Sparrows*. On the main route we stopped at one site where the Cinereous Finch is known to occur and we successfully found it within ½ hour.



*Tumbes Sparrow*



*Peruvian Plantcutter*

We rolled into the secluded hotel Inca downtown Chiclayo in the late afternoon.

### Tuesday 19 July (56 species seen)

We reached the reserve Bosque de Pomac after 1 hours drive from Hotel Inca just at sunrise. We had to get hold on the warden to open the gate. We parked at the picnic table inside the reserve under a fig tree where we had breakfast among the local endemics. This is the place to see the *Peruvian Plantcutter*.

The call of the Plantcutter is like to listen to some one with a sore throat. The *Collared Antshrike* was jumping along the tree branches and in the end it displayed right in front of our cameras just when we finished our meals.

Nick managed to attract a *Rufous Flycatcher* with his play-back equipment.

We continued along a dirt sandy track to look for more Plantcutters of which we managed to photograph on several occasions. The habitat is dry Acacia and a kind of oak scrub, but we noticed that extraction of trees occur in the reserve.

During our stroll along this track in a cool nice clear morning we saw the following birds: **3 Harris Hawks**, **1 Tumbes HBs**, **1 Short-tailed Woodstar**, **1 pair of Lineated Woodpecker**, **several Necklaced Spinetails**, **6 Peruvian Plantcutters**, **2 Rufous Flycatchers**, **2 Baird's Flycatchers**, a group of **8 Tumbes Swallows** with pale grey underparts and (long tails?) white rump seen in good light, *Fasciated* and *Superciliated*





Wren on the ground, *2 White-tailed Jays (photo)*, many *Cinereous Finchs*, *2 White-edge Orioles*.

We had a look in the visitor centre where we found an exhibition of the biology and conservation of the Tumbesian region. Here we found a class of students learning about conservation which was an encouraging experience. We returned to Chiclayo for a downtown restaurant.

In the afternoon we went to the coast to look at birds in some coastal marches. The wind was strong so it was hard to keep our scopes still. However we managed to log *3 Little Blue Heron, about 30 White-cheeked Pintails, about 40 Cinamon Teals, 3 Kildeers, several Wren-like Rushbirds, 3 Many-colored Rush-Tyrants*. Night in hotel Inca.



### Wednesday 20 July (37 species seen)

Our trip to N Peru is coming to a close and we are heading south to Sinsicap which is a small town at 2600 meters altitude southeast of Trujillo. It is rarely visited area, but just outside town it is possible to see the endangered endemic *Russet-bellied Spinetail* and an undescribed hummingbird which is similar in appearance to *Spectacled Hummingbird (adelomyia)*.

Unlike the Spectacled it has white in the tail and it lives in a habitat very different from the cloud forests of the east slope

of the Andes. It took us 8 hours to reach Sinsicap from Chiclayo and we arrived about 12.30. The coastal region is always misty and cloudy but as soon one ascent above 1000 meters the sky is always clear.

We placed our picnic table next to the road to the amusement to the local inhabitants nearby. We asked ourselves where to look for the Spinetail. Nick has never visited this area and had to rely on some general information obtained from Manu Expeditions. The slopes were nearly free of larger trees, only scrub and tall grass exists especially in the gullies. Subsistence farming over the years has transformed the western slopes to drier habitat.

We decided to walk upslope about 300 meters (southward to the right from the road about 400 meters before entering the village) along a small pass which lead us up along a slope facing towards the coast. It was a quiet afternoon but a group of *Andean Swifts* flew above us, and a female *Sheartail* came into a view briefly, further down in some eucalyptus we could see a pair of *Black-necked Woodpeckers* partly hidden behind a tree trunk.

After 1½ hours exploration a small squabbling noise brought our attention to some grass stems in a dry scrub. Nick quickly recorded something which could be a call from a *Spinetail* and played it back. Briefly a Spinetail appeared upslope. After the first playback the bird started to sing proper and Nick got a nice recording of this rare bird. We all managed to see *2 Rufous-bellied Spinetails* well after ½ hours of moving





*Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero*

around to get into the right position.

We never found any more spinetails in that afternoon, but instead we found 1 ***Collared Warbling Finch*** and several ***Bay-crowned Brush-finches***. In the late afternoon we returned to the village to find a camping spot. Some of us went into the village to take some photographs and to have a look. It is a very basic place with few thrills. Nick and Jacques found a ***Piura Chat Tyrant*** not far from the campsite.

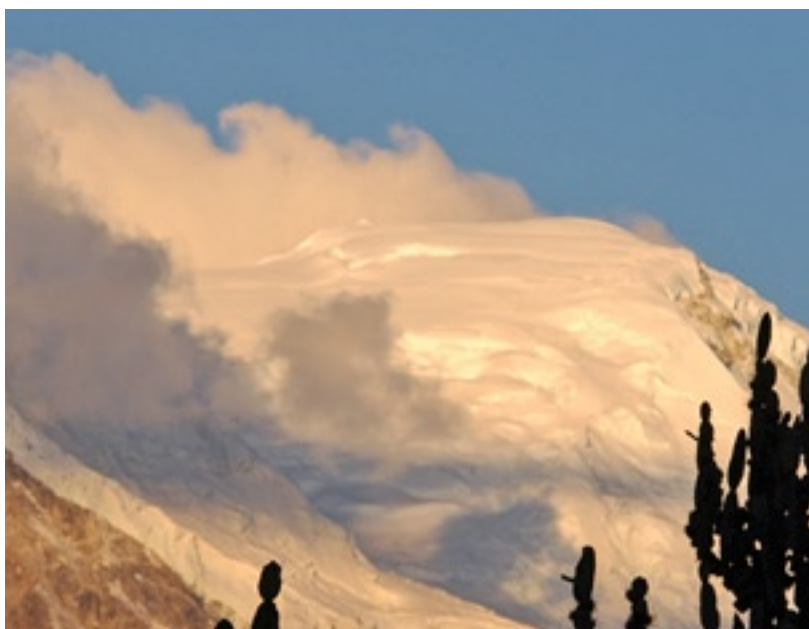
While we were enjoying our meals to a nice South American wine, a powerful loud speaker interrupted us several times as it brought outside phone calls to the attention to the villagers. There is only one phone in town and everybody must walk to the post office in order to answer the phone. Some of us feared that the phone would ring all night but it stopped about 10 pm. Some one had contacted the police when they saw our camp and consequently several armed police officers arrived to the camp just as we had finished our meal. They wanted to check whether we were suspected traffickers. We were asked to fill in some declaration forms the next morning before we could leave. After they left we listened in hope to hear a Koepcke's Screech Owl but in vain. We had a nice sleep in not too cool place.

### Thursday 21 July (22 species seen)

We packed up our camp in the morning and then we had breakfast. We had a nice surprise as we finally saw the a ***hummingbird*** about 15 meters away which looked like the ***Spectacled Hummingbird***, but it had white in the tail feathers. Finally we booked the perhaps newly found bird but not yet described species.

We had an obligation to visit the police office in town to registrar as requested the day before, before we could depart from Sinsicap. They were very proud of having to show up and the secession appeared to be very official. We were asked to sit down to write down our passport information on a blank paper. After finalizing the procedures, Nick and Jean-Michel had a chance to communicate to the officers and finally we could leave this comic affair. The police in Peru are obsessed with forms and paper but less so with reckless driving as we later found out. We had a long way in front of us as we would like to reach Hurasacan before dark.

After 1 hours descent we reached the main paved Pan American highway. En route we had lunch in a restaurant in Santa before we bifurcated on a road towards Canyon del Pato along the Rio Santa. After about ½ hours driving the road became gravel and we started to ascent into the mountains. First the landscape was denuded for any vegetation but further up in the hills the first cactus appeared.



The canyons and rock formations are truly spectacular and vertiginous in places. In some places we could see huge rocks above the road which appeared to rest in fragile equilibrium.

Unlike many other places in this world the rivers in Peru still flow free and are not yet dammed or rerouted. Only on place we passed a hydro-electrical installation. It took about 4 hours after lunch to reach Yungay.

We arrived to Pueblo Libre a small town about ½ hours north of Yungay which is the known to be a good place to have a shot at the rare un described unstreaked





*Rufous-tailed* version of the *Creamy-breasted (Pale-tailed) Canastero (Asthenes dorbignyi huancavelicae)*.

This is the taxonomy according the Handbook of the birds of the *World Vol. 8*.

We had 1 hour to find the bird before dark in this desolated windy place in a cactus ravine not far from some houses.

Despite of all the obstacles, with help of tape play back we quickly succeeded to find a pair of canasteros which were singing vigorously, as they were nesting in a small tree in the ravine.

The nest was a closed cylindrical construction of thorny sticks with a entrance tube on the top.

In the dark we rolled into the noisy rudimentary half finished basic hotel Huascarán the worst hotel on the trip. Yungay is situated at the base Huascarán Nation Park which attracts a lot of tourists, so one should wonder why no hotels of a reasonable standard exists in this town?

### Friday 22 July (53 species seen)

We left Yungay in the dark, the sky had a panorama of stars in the clear night. We could watch the snow capped peaks of the two Huascarans in full moonlight as we did the ascent uphill in our van. After 1 hours of driving from Yungay we passed the 2 Llanganuco lakes, and after the first sharp turn we stopped at 4200 meters elevation. We felt a cold wind when we stepped out of the car. The sun was still behind the mountains so it was bitterly cold and frosty. A small group of *Plain-tailed Warbling Finches* passed by in the Polylepis trees next to the road.

After breakfast picnic we started to walk down into the forest towards a stream in the bottom of the valley. Of course, it would be nice to a White-cheeked Cotinga, but that proved too difficult, as we did not find any flowering mistletoe during our 1½ day visit to this area. Without the small fruits no Cotinga!



*Rufous-eared Brush-Finch*

However we got great vies of the following species: *1 Blue-mantled Thornbill, 2 Andean Flickers, 3 Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetails, 2 Many-striped Canasteros with photo, 1 Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant, 2 DiOrbigny's Chat-Tyrants, 2-3 Taczanowski's Ground-Tyrants, the very abundant Tit-like Dacnis, 2 Rufous-eared Brush-Finches.*

After a nice morning of birding we re-found Guillermo who followed us parallel on the road along the valley. We decided to visit a place higher up in the park to see weather any mistletoe trees were flowering but in vain.

The landscape was magnificent as we could see peaks in both directions. Here we found *2 Baron's Spinetails, 2 Streaked-throated Canasteros with photo, 1 DiOrbigny's Chat-Tyrant,*



*Pale-winged Cinclodes*

**2 Rufous-webbed Tyrants.** Then we re-descended to the lakes to have lunch. As we were eating we could watch one **Giant Coot** with fellowship of **2 Black-crowned Night Herons**, several ducks including one lonely **Yellow-billed Duck**.

After lunch we had a go at a corporative **Ancash Tapaculo** of which Jacques was able to photograph. Several **Rufous-naped Ground Tyrants** hopped on the ground near the lake shore.

After Guillermo had finished packing up the picnic we continued our descent towards Yungay with a few stops to look for mistletoe. We had to pay a park fee on our return as the park office was closed in the early morning.

About 1 km further down from the gate, the landscape changed into a more mixed farm country with scattered patches of natural dry vegetation. Just at the turn out of the gorge we stopped to look for the **Rufous-backed Inca Finch** which Nick quickly attracted with his digital tape play back gear.

It was with great pleasure to see another handsome **Inca Finch**. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> Inca Finch on our lists, but however, we still needed to see the Great Inca Finch. Consequently in the late afternoon we went to the Yungay Cemetery a place some folks have seen the bird. The cemetery was a reminder from the year 1978 when Yungay was hit by an earthquake.

A huge avalanche from Huascaran buried the town except the church which miraculously escaped the abyss. The place was a bit run down and burned and perhaps too small to support a viable Inca Finch population as the cemetery was surrounded by human habitation and farms. Some of us had a bad night in the noisy Hotel Huascaran.

## **Saturday 23 July (54 species seen)**

We started the day in the same way as we did the day before, but this time we stopped near the 2 lakes where the sun rays arrived above the peaks a bit earlier. In that way we could become warmer a bit earlier. No miracle arrived this day which suddenly would have changed our fortunes regarding the White-cheeked Cotinga. However we managed to find some new birds this day such as **2 Black-crested Tit-Tyrants**, **1 Strip-headed Antpitta** hopping right out in the open in a patch of Polylepis, and great views of **2 Giant Conebills**.

After the morning breakfast picnic we drove higher up along the road than the place we visited the day before. Here we had even better views of the landscape as we could watch people walking on the glacier in the mountains above us. Of birds observed in the polylepis here were one **Blue-mantled Thornbill**, **1 DíOrbignyís Chat Tyrant**, **2 Baronís Spinetails**.

Reluctantly we had to leave this magnificent place as we had a long way to go before reaching our final destination down on the Peruvian coast.

After having passed Yungay we continued uphill in the valley following the river Santa up to a mountain pass at 4000 meters elevation. The landscape was magnificent in the clear weather as we could watch the length of the mountain range Cordillera Blanca to the west.

On the other side we commence a descent into a hazy valley deep down towards the misty and cloudy coastal areas. We stopped 2 times to search for the great Inca Finch, but not with any luck. We were pretty tired when we arrived to the comfortable hotel after having encountered about 12 police check points as one check point was set up for every 5 km. It appeared that from Huascaran to Baranco the local police officer has an obsession in checking insurance papers. Guillermo refused to give bribe in one place and had to find





extra papers in the van to get through without paying.

Just before the city of Baranco on the main Pacific Highway in dense traffic an empty bus with one driver was pressing on from behind. After a while, the bus made a hazardous overtaking which almost pushed our van into a telephone pole as he pushed the bus back into our lane in the middle of the overtaking. An accident avoided by the experienced and competent driving of Guillermo.

Some people at the hotel told us that driving north of Lima is tantamount to Russian roulette. Where were the police folks who were checking insurance papers? We had farewell dinner with the driver, Nick as Guillermo had to head north the next day to meet another bird group in Carmajca. A new driver came to Baranco to take us to Lima Airport the next afternoon.

### Sunday 24 July (31 Species seen)

The next morning we went to the coast to watch the *Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes*, a dark slaty funarid on rocks together with 2 *American Oysercatchers*. We also saw some Peruvian Boobies, one *Blue-footed Booby*, *Sooty Shearwaters*, big flocks of *Grey, Kelp and Grey-headed Gulls* from shore.

Then we drove south towards Lachay Reserve, Nick spotted a group of 27 *Peruvian Thicknees* on a ploughed field just north of Huacho. In the Reserve Natural De Lachay we found some of the target birds such as more than 60 *Least Seedsnipes*, several *Coastal Miner* in the sand dunes in a kind of a moon landscape.

Near the picnic place at 500 meters altitude we had a walk down to the park headquarters where we found one Thick-billed Miner singing in a tree in the mist and a *Yellowish Pipit and Band-tailed Sierra-Finch*. The weather was cloudy and misty all morning, but after lunch it was more bright but still partly overcast.

Further to the south we had a walk down in a rocky and stony canyon with scattered cactus. Here

we were looking for the *Cactus Canastero*. Apart from some *Burrowing Owls* and 1 *Common Miner* we did not see much. We finally went up in a side valley and heard something calling from the rocks higher up in the ravine. Nick played back his tape but in vain as it did not respond for a long time.

We were almost giving up and returned down again, as we were pressed to move on in order to be in time for our flight departure. Jacques decided to stay in order to take a photo. Suddenly he heard it calling from the rim.

We could not resist the urge to climb uphill again. In the end we got great views of this pale *Cactus Canastero*. This was our final bird before the departure towards Lima. It was however a depressing sight to drive through poor and ugly Lima in this grey weather.

It was time to head back to a nice European summer.

The tour came to a conclusion.

*The layout of this trip report has been prepared by Niels Poul Dreyer, [www.dreyerfoto.dk](http://www.dreyerfoto.dk) and Jacques Erard  
Photos are taken by Niels Poul Dreyer and Jacques Erard.*



## BIRD LIST

This list compiled by **Nick Athanas**, *Tropical Birding* includes all the bird species that were recorded by at least one of us. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow:

**Clements, James F. 2000. Birds of the World: A Checklist. Fifth Edition. Vista, CA: Ibis Publishing Co.**

I have also included the latest updates to the list. These updates can be found online at:

<http://www.ibispub.com/updates.html>

If I managed to count them correctly, there were 493 bird species seen and 39 heard only.

(H)=Heard Only. Comments given for the endemics or other interesting records

### TINAMOUS (Tinamiformes Tinamidae)

Cinereous Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinereus*) (H)

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) (H)

Andean Tinamou (*Nothoprocta pentlandii*) - One seen crossing the highway on our way back from San Marcos.

### GREBES (Podicipediformes Podicipedidae)

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

### SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS (Procellariiformes Procellariidae)

Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*)

### PELICANS (Pelecaniformes Pelecanidae)

Peruvian Pelican (*Pelecanus thagus*)

### GANNETS AND BOOBIES (Pelecaniformes Sulidae)

Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*)

Peruvian Booby (*Sula variegata*)

### CORMORANTS (Pelecaniformes Phalacrocoracidae)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

### HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS (Ciconiiformes Ardeidae)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

### IBIS AND SPOONBILLS (Ciconiiformes Threskiornithidae)

Puna Ibis (*Plegadis ridgwayi*)

### DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS (Anseriformes Anatidae)

Andean Goose (*Chloephaga melanoptera*)

Speckled Teal (*Anas flavirostris*)

Crested Duck (*Anas specularioides*)

Yellow-billed Pintail (*Anas georgica*)

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)

Puna Teal (*Anas puna*)

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

Andean Duck (*Oxyura ferruginea*)



## NEW WORLD VULTURES (Falconiformes Cathartidae)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*) - One seen soaring at Marcapomacocha and two more seen high above us from the bottom of the Marañon canyon.

## HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES (Falconiformes Accipitridae)

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*)

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

Pearl Kite (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*)

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*)

Cinereous Harrier (*Circus cinereus*)

Plain-breasted Hawk (*Accipiter ventralis*)

Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*)

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)

Red-backed Hawk (*Buteo polyosoma*)

Puna Hawk (*Buteo poecilochrous*)

## FALCONS AND CARACARAS (Falconiformes Falconidae)

Mountain Caracara (*Phalcoboenus megalopterus*)

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*)

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*)

## GUANS, CHACHALACAS, CURASSOWS (Galliformes Cracidae)

Speckled Chachalaca (*Ortalis guttata*)

White-winged Guan (*Penelope albipennis*) - Five seen on our first afternoon in Quebrada Limon.

## RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS (Gruiformes Rallidae)

Russet-crowned Crake (*Anurolimnas viridis*) - What a pain. They were abundant by voice in dry overgrown fields around Rioja, but the best we could do was a couple of quick glimpses as they ran across a path.

Plumbeous Rail (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*) (H)

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Slate-colored Coot (*Fulica ardesiaca*)

Giant Coot (*Fulica gigantea*) - One seen together with the previous on one of the lakes at Llanganuco.

## OYSTERCATCHERS (Charadriiformes Haematopodidae)

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*)

## AVOCETS AND STILTS (Charadriiformes Recurvirostridae)

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

## THICK-KNEES (Charadriiformes Burhinidae)

Peruvian Thick-knee (*Burhinus superciliaris*) - A group of 26 seen in a field just north of Huacho along the

Panamerican Highway.

#### PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS (Charadriiformes Charadriidae)

Andean Lapwing (*Vanellus resplendens*)

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Diademed Sandpiper-Plover (*Plegadis mitchellii*) - One of the targets at Marcapomacocha - not easy to find, we only saw one despite the perfect weather.

#### SANDPIPERS (Charadriiformes Scolopacidae)

Puna Snipe (*Gallinago andina*) - Two at Marcapomacocha near where the sandpiper-plover was.

#### SEEDSNIPES (Charadriiformes Thinocoridae)

Gray-breasted Seedsnipe (*Thinocorus orbignyianus*) - Surprisingly common at Marcapomacocha. Many seen.

Least Seedsnipe (*Thinocorus rumicivorus*) - Huge numbers of them this year along the entrance road to Lachay. At least 40 seen.

#### GULLS (Charadriiformes Laridae)

Belcher's (Band-tailed) Gull (*Larus belcheri*)

Gray Gull (*Larus modestus*)

Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*)

Gray-headed Gull (*Larus cirrocephalus*)

Andean Gull (*Larus serranus*)

#### PIGEONS AND DOVES (Columbiformes Columbidae)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) - A single bird at Aguas Verdes.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)

Peruvian Pigeon (*Patagioenas oenops*) - Several seen at the bottom of the Marañón canyon.

Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*) (H)

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)

Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*)

Pacific (West Peruvian) Dove (*Zenaida meloda*)

Ecuadorian Ground-Dove (*Columbina buckleyi*) - A pair seen in a rice paddy north of Jaen.

Croaking Ground-Dove (*Columbina cruziana*)

Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*)

Bare-faced Ground-Dove (*Metriopelia ceciliae*)

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

#### PARROTS (Psittaciformes Psittacidae)

Scarlet-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga wagleri*)

Red-masked Parakeet (*Aratinga erythrogenys*) - Common in Quebrada Limon.

White-eyed Parakeet (*Aratinga leucophthalmus*)

Mountain Parakeet (*Psilopsiagon aurifrons*) - Several seen well on the Santa Eulalia road; heard at Lachay.

Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestis*) - A common Tumbesian endemic.

Yellow-faced Parrotlet (*Forpus xanthops*) - Easy this year with two seen near the campsite at the bottom of the Marañón canyon, then another flock of about eight right at the bridge!

Cobalt-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*) (H)

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)

Red-billed Parrot (*Pionus sordidus*)



Speckle-faced (White-capped) Parrot (*Pionus tumultuosus seniloides*)

Scaly-naped Parrot (*Amazona mercenaria*)

CUCKOOS (*Cuculiformes Cuculidae*)

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*)

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*)

BARN-OWLS (*Strigiformes Tytonidae*)

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) (H)

OWLS (*Strigiformes Strigidae*)

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) (H)

Peruvian (Pacific) Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium peruanum*)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

NIGHTJARS (*Caprimulgiformes Caprimulgidae*)

Scrub (Anthony's) Nightjar (*Caprimulgus anthonyi*) - One came into the tape the evening we camped at Quebrada Limon.

SWIFTS (*Apodiformes Apodidae*)

Chestnut-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne rutila*)

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)

Gray-rumped Swift (*Chaetura cinereiventris*)

Tumbes Swift (*Chaetura ocybetes*) - Many seen in and around Quebrada Limon.

White-tipped Swift (*Aeronautes montivagus*)

Andean Swift (*Aeronautes andecolus*)

HUMMINGBIRDS (*Trochiliformes Trochilidae*)

Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*)

Gray-chinned Hermit (*Phaethornis griseogularis*)

Tawny-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis syrmatophorus*)

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*)

Sparkling Violet-ear (*Colibri coruscans*)

Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*)

Blue-tailed Emerald (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*)

Fork-tailed Woodnymph (*Thalurania furcata*)

Tumbes Hummingbird (*Leucippus baeri*) - Several at Quebrada Limon and Bosque de Pomac.

Spot-throated Hummingbird (*Leucippus taczanowskii*) - A very common Mara on endemic, seen in many places.

White-bellied Hummingbird (*Leucippus chionogaster*)

Amazilia Hummingbird (*Amazilia amazilia*)

Glittering-throated Emerald (*Polyerata fimbriata*)

Ecuadorian Piedtail (*Phlogophilus hemileucurus*) - Good views of one seen feeding at small flowers along the side of the highway at Afluente.

Speckled Hummingbird (*Adelomyia melanogenys*)

Undescribed taxon from Sinsicap (*Adelomyia* sp.) - It looks like a Speckled Hummer but with a lot more white in the tail and different habitat (montane scrub as opposed to humid montane forest). It could be a new species or only an undescribed race of Speckled Hummer.

Chestnut-breasted Coronet (*Boissonneaua matthewsii*)  
 Shining Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*)  
 Black-breasted Hillstar (*Oreotrochilus melanogaster*)  
 Mountain Velvetbreast (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi*)  
 Collared Inca (*Coeligena torquata*)  
 Violet-throated Starfrontlet (*Coeligena violifer*) - Several between Abra Barro Negro and Leimebamba.  
 Rainbow Starfrontlet (*Coeligena iris*) - In forest patches above Leimebamba.  
 Great Sapphirewing (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*)  
 Giant Hummingbird (*Patagona gigas*)  
 Amethyst-throated Sunangel (*Heliangelus amethysticollis*)  
 Royal Sunangel (*Heliangelus regalis*) - 2 males and 1 female seen near the highway at Alto Nieve.  
 Coppery-naped Puffleg (*Eriocnemis sapphiropygia*) - Recently split from Sapphire-vented Puffleg. We saw it in forest patches above Leimebamba.  
 Emerald-bellied Puffleg (*Eriocnemis alinae*) - Several great views on the Rio Chido trail.  
 Booted Racket-tail (*Ocreatus underwoodii*)  
 Black-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia victoriae*)  
 Green-tailed Trainbearer (*Lesbia nuna*)  
 Bronze-tailed Comet (*Polyonymus caroli*) - Easy to see on the Santa Eulalia road near San Pedro.  
 Tyrian Metaltail (*Metallura tyrianthina*)  
 Coppery Metaltail (*Metallura theresiae*) - Two in the temperate forest below Abra Barro Negro.  
 Black Metaltail (*Metallura phoebe*) - Many sightings in the higher elevations.  
 Rufous-capped Thornbill (*Chalcostigma ruficeps*) - A male and a female on the Rio Chido trail.  
 Olivaceous Thornbill (*Chalcostigma olivaceum*) - Three in the puna on the road to Marcapomacocha.  
 Blue-mantled Thornbill (*Chalcostigma stanleyi*)  
 Gray-bellied Comet (*Taphrolesbia griseiventris*) - Two at the usual stakeout along the Rio Chonta near Cajamarca.  
 Long-tailed Sylph (*Agelaiocercus kingi*)  
 Marvelous Spatuletail (*Loddigesia mirabilis*) -  
 Two males feeding on rosemary flowers at a well-known site west of Pomacochas. Neither had full-length tail feathers, and we were unsure if they were juveniles or adults who had recently molted. Still very nice though!  
 Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*)  
 Oasis Hummingbird (*Rhodopis vesper*) - Several on the first day of the trip on the Santa Eulalia road turned out to be the only ones of the trip.  
 Peruvian Sheartail (*Thaumastura cora*) - Also seen easily on the first day. Afterwards only a female was seen at Sinsicap.  
 Purple-collared Woodstar (*Myrtis fanny*)  
 Short-tailed Woodstar (*Myrmia micrura*) - Nice males at Quebrada Limon and Bosque de Pomac.  
 White-bellied Woodstar (*Chaetocercus mulsant*)  
 Little Woodstar (*Chaetocercus bombus*) - One, possibly two females seen in the Utcubamba canyon.

#### TROGONS AND QUETZALS (*Trogoniformes Trogonidae*)

White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*)  
 Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) (H)  
 Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*)  
 Blue-crowned Trogon (*Trogon curucui*)  
 KINGFISHERS (*Coraciiformes Alcedinidae*)



Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*)

PUFFBIRDS (Piciformes Bucconidae)

Lanceolated Monklet (*Micromonacha lanceolata*) - A single bird seen right by the road at Afluente; always a stunner!

Black-fronted Nunbird (*Monasa nigrifrons*)

Swallow-wing (*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*)

BARBETS (Piciformes Capitonidae)

Gilded Barbet (*Capito auratus*)

Versicolored Barbet (*Eubucco versicolor*) - **One stunning male at Afluente.**

TOUCANS (Piciformes Ramphastidae)

Black-throated (Emerald) Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus atrogularis*) - A recent (and questionable) split from Emerald Toucanet.

Chestnut-tipped Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus derbianus*) - Two called in at Afluente. Chestnut-eared Aracari (*Pteroglossus castanotis*)

Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena hypoglaucha*) - Very brief views on the Rio Chido trail.

Golden-collared Toucanet (*Selenidera reinwardtii*)

Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*)

WOODPECKERS (Piciformes Picidae)

Lafresnaye's Piculet (*Picumnus lafresnayi*)

Ecuadorian Piculet (*Picumnus sclateri*) - A whole family of them at Abra Porculla; Neils got a killer photo.

Speckle-chested Piculet (*Picumnus steindachneri*) - First seen in the Utcubamba canyon, then many more seen between Abra Pat and Afluente.

Scarlet-backed Woodpecker (*Veniliornis callonotus*) - Plenty seen at Quebrada Limon and Bosque de Pomac, but never where we could get a decent photo...

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis fumigatus*)

Red-stained Woodpecker (*Veniliornis affinis*) - One seen at 1200m on Morro de Calzada, by far the highest elevation I've recorded it at.

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*)

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (*Piculus rivolii*) (H)

Black-necked Woodpecker (*Colaptes atricollis*) - A nice Peruvian endemic. We saw them on the Santa Eulalia road, the Utcubamba canyon, and at Sinsicap.

Andean Flicker (*Colaptes rupicola*)

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)

Guayaquil Woodpecker (*Campephilus guayaquilensis*) - A pair was nearby while we were watching out first White-winged Guans in Quebrada Limon.

OVENBIRDS (Passeriformes Furnariidae)

Coastal Miner (*Geositta peruviana*)

Common Miner (*Geositta cunicularia*) - Marcapomacocha.

Dark-winged Miner (*Geositta saxicolina*) - Also at Marcapomacocha, and much more common than the previous.

Thick-billed Miner (*Geositta crassirostris*) - A pair seen very well at Lachay despite the fog.

Slender-billed Miner (*Geositta tenuirostris*) - Several at Marcapomacocha and a single in flight between Cajamarca and Celendin.

Plain-breasted Earthcreeper (*Upucerthia jelskii*) - One, possibly two at Marcapomacocha.

Striated Earthcreeper (*Upucerthia serrana*) - Several seen very well between

Cajamarca & Celendin; also heard at Llanganuco.

Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes (*Cinclodes taczanowskii*) - A single scoped from the Christ statue at Barranca.

Bar-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes fuscus*)

White-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes atacamensis*)

White-bellied Cinclodes (*Cinclodes palliatus*) - This has got to be the best cinclodes in the world, and probably the rarest too. We only saw one at a bog at Marcapomacocha.

Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero (*Furnarius leucopus cinnamomeus*)

Streaked Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura striata*) - One seen very briefly at Lomas de Lachay.

Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura pileata*) - First along the Rio Chonta, then later at Llanganuco.

Wren-like Rushbird (*Phleocryptes melanops*)

Russet-bellied Spinetail (*Synallaxis zimмери*) - Our main target at Sinsicap. We saw two birds fairly easily though they weren't terribly vocal.

Rufous Spinetail (*Synallaxis unirufa*)

Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*)

Dark-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albigularis*) (H)

Dusky Spinetail (*Synallaxis moesta*) (H)

Marañon Spinetail (*Synallaxis maranonica*) - After initial frustration we saw several really well along the road west of Tamborapa.

Necklaced Spinetail (*Synallaxis stictothorax*)

Chinchipe Spinetail (*Synallaxis chinchipensis*) - Abundant north of Jaen. We did not see them elsewhere.

Great Spinetail (*Siptornopsis hypochondriacus*) - We found four (including a pair nest-building) in some dry woodland right near the road north of San Marcos.

Baron's Spinetail (*Cranioleuca baroni*) - Sometimes called Southern Line-cheeked Spinetail. Seen east of Cajamarca and at Llanganuco; heard elsewhere.

Line-cheeked Spinetail (*Cranioleuca antisensis*) - Abra Porculla only.

Ash-browed Spinetail (*Cranioleuca curtata*)

Pale-tailed Canastero (*Asthenes huancavelicae* ?) - One seen well despite the wind one afternoon at a well-known stakeout near Pueblo Libre north of Yungay. This is an undescribed taxon with a rufous tail.

Canyon Canastero (*Asthenes pudibunda*) - A few brief views on the Santa Eulalia road. Not terribly responsive.

Cactus Canastero (*Asthenes cactorum*) - The very last bird of the tour, and we nearly had to give up or risk missing flights. In the end we climbed up a steep rocky slope and had a great view at Lachay.

Streak-throated Canastero (*Asthenes humilis*) - Several good views at Marcapomacocha and Llanganuco.

Junin Canastero (*Asthenes virgata*) - One seen well in puna bunchgrass on the way to Marcapomacocha.

Many-striped Canastero (*Asthenes flammulata*)

Russet-mantled Softtail (*Phacellodomus berlepschi*) - This one required a lot of work. We climbed up off the road to some bamboo, played the tape and heard them respond a lot farther up. So we climbed up even farther to a nice open area with lots of bamboo where we could see one fairly well, though always briefly.

Common (Rufous-fronted) Thornbird (*Phacellodomus rufifrons*)

Chestnut-backed Thornbird (*Phacellodomus dorsalis*) - Easily found in the afternoon near Hacienda Limon in the Marañon Canyon.

Equatorial Graytail (*Xenerpestes singularis*) - Several were moving with the huge mixed flock at Afluente.

Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*)

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) (H)

Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*)

Montane Foliage-gleaner (*Anabacerthia striaticollis*)

Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*)

Black-billed Treehunter (*Thripadectes melanorhynchus*) - We went in off the road after one at Afluente and nailed it.



Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*) (H)

Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla ruficollis*) - A responsive pair easily seen at Abra Porculla.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus ochrolaemus*)

Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner (*Hylocryptus erythrocephalus*) - Also at Abra Porculla, though not responsive. We got lucky and found one foraging in the open on the ground right near the side of the road. Heard at Quebrada Limon.

#### WOODCREEPERS (Passeriformes Dendrocolaptidae)

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus amazonus*)

Strong-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*)

Olive-backed Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes triangularis*)

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*)

Montane Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*)

#### TYPICAL ANTIBIRDS (Passeriformes Thamnophilidae)

Collared Antshrike (*Sakesphorus bernardi*) - Many sightings in the Tumbesian lowlands.

Chapman's Antshrike (*Thamnophilus zarumae*) - Only at Abra Porculla, where it was common.

Lined Antshrike (*Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*) - A bold pair at Afluente.

Plain-winged Antshrike (*Thamnophilus schistaceus*)

Marañon (Northern) Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus leucogaster*) - We saw several west of Tamborapa but nowhere else.

Variable Antshrike (*Thamnophilus caeruleus subandinus*)

Rufous-capped Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ruficapillus jaczewskii*) - Several on the Chido trail. A potential split (Marcapata Antshrike)

Plain Antwren (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) (H)

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)

Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*) (H)

Yellow-breasted Antwren (*Herpsilochmus axillaris*)

Long-tailed Antbird (*Drymophila caudata*)

Blackish Antbird (*Cercomacra nigrescens*)

White-backed Fire-eye (*Pyriglena leuconota*)

White-browed Antbird (*Myrmoborus leucophrys*)

Warbling Antbird (*Hypocnemis cantator*)

Scale-backed Antbird (*Hylophylax poecilinota*)

#### ANTTHRUSHES AND ANTPITTAS (Passeriformes Formicariidae)

Barred Antthrush (*Chamaeza mollissima*) (H) - Alto Nieve... There was a steep bank right above the road and it was impossible to get in there or we would have tried.

Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapilla*) (H)

Stripe-headed Antpitta (*Grallaria andicola*) - We discovered that the cut on the Birds of Bolivia CD-ROM that was supposedly this species was actually Ancash Tapaculo... In any event, we saw one without tape in the polylepis above the Llanganuco lakes.

Pale-billed Antpitta (*Grallaria carrikeri*) - The main reason to climb up the Rio Chido trail. We heard them easily in three different places and spent hours looking for them with partial success, as some of us had reasonably good views. What a shy bird!

Rusty-tinged Antpitta (*Grallaria przewalskii*) - Much better luck with this one near the Chido Trail. We had one crossing back and forth across the trail exactly where we wanted it.

Rufous Antpitta (*Grallaria rufula*) (H)

Rufous "Cajamarca" Antpitta (*Grallaria rufula cajamarcae*) - It popped up into a little gap and sat there for a

minute or so. It'll be split eventually once some overworked ornithologists finds time to write it up. We saw it between Cajamarca and Celendin.

*Chestnut Antpitta (Grallaria blakei)* - What a nightmare of a bird! Armed with a machete and a lot of patience we went after one below Abra Patricia, but only Jean-Michel saw it well.

*Rusty-breasted Antpitta (Grallaricula ferrugineipectus)* - Nice close views of one right at the pass at Abra Patricia.

#### TAPACULOS (Passeriformes Rhinocryptidae)

*Elegant Crescent-chest (Melanopareia elegans)* - One seen at Porculla.

*Marañon Crescent-chest (Melanopareia maranonica)* - An absolute stunner, hopping around in the open near the roadside west of Tamborapa. We all thought it was one of the best of the trip.

*Ash-colored Tapaculo (Myornis senilis)* (H)

*Unicolored Tapaculo (Scytalopus unicolor)* - Recently split from the next. We saw it well in some scrub below Abra El Gavilan.

*Blackish Tapaculo (Scytalopus latrans)* - Two seen between Abra Barro Negro and Leimebamba. They sound a little bit different from the ones farther north, but for the moment that are considered to be this sp.

*Trilling Tapaculo (Scytalopus parvirostris)* (H)

*Rufous-vented Tapaculo (Scytalopus femoralis)* - Clear views at the pass at Abra Pat.

*White-crowned Tapaculo (Scytalopus atratus)* - A few glimpses at Afluente.

*Ancash Tapaculo (Scytalopus affinis)* - One came right out into the open like a sparrow in response to tape at Llanganuco.

#### COTINGAS (Passeriformes Cotingidae)

*Peruvian Plantcutter (Phytotoma raimondii)* - At least five at Bosque de Pomac.

*Green-and-black Fruiteater (Pipreola riefferii)*

*Barred Fruiteater (Pipreola arcuata)* (H)

*Andean Cock-of-the-rock (Rupicola peruviana)*

#### MANAKINS (Passeriformes Pipridae)

*Wing-barred Piprites (Piprites chloris)*

#### TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (Passeriformes Tyrannidae)

*White-lored Tyrannulet (Ornithion inerme)* (H)

*Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (Camptostoma obsoletum)*

*Mouse-colored (Tumbesian) Tyrannulet (Phaeomyias murina tumbesiana)* - Tamborapa, Porculla, Pomac.

*Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (Tyrannulus elatus)*

*Forest Elaenia (Myiopagis gaimardii)* (H)

*Pacific Elaenia (Myiopagis subplacens)* - Just one at Quebrada Limon.

*Gray-and-white Tyrannulet (Pseudelaenia leucospodia)* - Several in and around Bosque de Pomac.

*Yellow-bellied Elaenia (Elaenia flavogaster)*

*White-crested Elaenia (Elaenia albiceps)*

*Sierran Elaenia (Elaenia pallatangae)*

*Torrent Tyrannulet (Serpophaga cinerea)*

*Olive-striped Flycatcher (Mionectes olivaceus)*

*Inca Flycatcher (Leptopogon taczanowskii)* - One on the Chido trail.

*Slaty-capped Flycatcher (Leptopogon superciliaris)*

*Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant (Pseudotriccus ruficeps)*

*Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant (Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus)*

*Ecuadorian Tyrannulet (Phylloscartes gualaquizae)* - Several seen at Afluente.



Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseiceps*)

Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias plumbeiceps*) - Finally! This had been a “bogey bird” for me for years. I heard one singing as soon as we got out of the car at Afluente, but it wasn't until later in the morning that they came through in the big mixed flock.

Black-capped Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*)

Ashy-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias cinereiceps*)

Red-billed Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius cinereicapillus*) - See the photo on page 19. Often a very hard bird to find, we saw it easily this time at Afluente and heard them at Morro de Calzada.

Golden-faced Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius chrysops*) - The birds from Abra Pat down to Aguas Verdes are still being called this, but it is possible that they represent some undescribed taxon due to vocal differences.

White-throated Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus leucophrys*)

White-tailed Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus poecilocercus*)

White-banded Tyrannulet (*Mecocerculus stictopterus*)

Black-crested Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes nigrocristatus*) - Best seen at Llanganuco, but some duller individuals were found along the Rio Chonta.

Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes reguloides*) - Santa Eulalia and Sinsicap only.

Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes flavirostris*)

Tufted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes parulus*)

Many-colored Rush-Tyrant (*Tachuris rubrigastra*)

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*)

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*)

Lulu's (Johnson's) Tody-Tyrant (*Poecilotriccus luluae*) - A little gem of an endemic that we nailed as soon as we left the van at Abra Patricia. Jacques' photo on page 14 was stunning...

Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus striaticollis*) - One near the entrance to Morro de Calzada.

Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*) - Definitely heard, possibly seen. The tody-tyrants near the forest edge at Morro de Calzada looked a lot like Pearly-vented, but I have not been able to match the recording I made to anything yet. Possibly something else but it still remains a mystery.

Black-throated Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus granadensis*) - Abra Pat and above Leimebamba.

Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus cinnamomeipectus*) - Persistence finally paid off as we lured one down to the road at Alto Nieve - this is a tough one!

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurens*)

Gray-crowned Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias poliocephalus*)

Yellow-breasted (Olive-faced) Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias flaviventris viridiceps*)

Ornate Flycatcher (*Myiotriccus ornatus*)

Bran-colored Flycatcher (*Myiophobus fasciatus*)

Olive-chested Flycatcher (*Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*) - Afluente.

Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*)

Cliff Flycatcher (*Hirundinea ferruginea*)

Smoke-colored Pewee (*Contopus fumigatus*)

Tropical (Tumbes) Pewee (*Contopus cinereus punensis*) - Common in the Marañon and Tumbesian areas.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

Crowned Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca frontalis*) - Nine chat-tyrants in one trip is certainly a personal record! This one was near the Russet-mantled Softtail at 3100m above Leimebamba.

Jelski's Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca jelskii*) - Heard from the moving vehicle high up the east side of the Marañon Canyon. We jumped out and managed to call it in for a good view and another cracking photo for Jacques.

Golden-browed Chat-Tyrant (*Ochthoeca pulchella*) - A big surprise in a forest patch above Leimebamba, near

the northern limit of its range.

*Maroon-chested Chat-Tyrant (Ochthoeca thoracica)* - Recently split from Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant. Seen at Abra Pat and near the Rio Chido.

*Piura Chat-Tyrant (Ochthoeca piurae)* - Several seen easily at the traditional site below Abra Porculla. Two more seen at Sinsicap.

*D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant (Ochthoeca oenanthoides)* - Several in the polylepis at Llanganuco.

*Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant (Ochthoeca rufipectoralis)* - Including three at 4080m above Llanganuco!

*Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant (Ochthoeca fumicolor)* - In the temperate forest on either side of the Marañon.

*White-browed Chat-Tyrant (Ochthoeca leucophrys)* - On the Santa Eulalia road and around Cajamarca.

*Tumbes Tyrant (Tumbezia salvini)* - One of my favorite birds of the trip as not only is it a beauty, it was the only Tumbesian endemic I hadn't seen. The first one ran us on a merry chase, but the second one posed for gratifying views.

*Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant (Myiotheretes striaticollis)*

*Smoky Bush-Tyrant (Myiotheretes fumigatus)* (H)

*Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant (Agriornis montana)*

*White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant (Agriornis andicola)* - One studied well between Cajamarca & Celendin - there was even a Black-billed nearby for comparison.

*Rufous-webbed Tyrant (Polioxolmis rufipennis)* - Between Cajamarca & Celendin, also quite common at Llanganuco.

*Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant (Muscisaxicola maculirostris)*

*Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant (Muscisaxicola rufivertex)* - Marcapomacocha and Llanganuco.

*Taczanowski's (Plain-capped) Ground-Tyrant (Muscisaxicola griseus)* - Llanganuco.

*Cinereous Ground-Tyrant (Muscisaxicola cinereus)* - Marcapomacocha only.

*White-fronted Ground-Tyrant (Muscisaxicola albifrons)* - A few at Marcapomacocha.

*Short-tailed Field-Tyrant (Muscigralla brevicauda)* - First in the desert west of Bagua, then more at Quebrada Limon.

*Andean Tyrant (Knipolegus signatus signatus)* - Abra Patricia; a rarely-seen bird. This race, found only from extreme s Ecuador to c Peru may soon be split off as a distinct species (Black Andean-Tyrant).

*Rufous-tailed Tyrant (Knipolegus poecilurus)*

*White-winged Black-Tyrant (Knipolegus aterrimus)*

*Long-tailed Tyrant (Colonia colonus)*

*Rufous Flycatcher (Myiarchus semirufus)* - The first bird we saw in Bosque de Pomac - the rarest and most distinctive member of the genus.

*Dusky-capped Flycatcher (Myiarchus tuberculifer)*

*Short-crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus ferox)* (H)

*Sooty-crowned Flycatcher (Myiarchus phaeocephalus)* - Different races occur in the Tumbesian and Marañon, but they are nearly identical.

*Great Kiskadee (Pitangus sulphuratus)* - One juvenile seen in a rice paddy north of Jaen - it seems to be out of range here.

*Boat-billed Flycatcher (Megarynchus pitangua)*

*Social Flycatcher (Myiozetetes similis)*

*Lemon-browed Flycatcher (Conopias cinchoneti)* - We stopped to look at a pair between Aguas Verdes and Afluente.

*Baird's Flycatcher (Myiodynastes bairdii)* - Yet another distinctive flycatcher of the Tumbesian region! We saw them at Quebrada Limon and Bosque de Pomac.

*Streaked Flycatcher (Myiodynastes maculatus)*

*Piratic Flycatcher (Legatus leucophaeus)* (H)

*Tropical Kingbird (Tyrannus melancholicus)*



Yellow-cheeked Becard (*Pachyramphus xanthogenys*)  
Barred Becard (*Pachyramphus versicolor*)  
White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) (H)  
Black-and-white Becard (*Pachyramphus albogriseus*)  
Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*)

#### SWALLOWS (*Passeriformes* *Hirundinidae*)

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*)  
Tumbes Swallow (*Tachycineta stolzmanni*) - About five flew over at Bosque de Pomac.  
Blue-and-white Swallow (*Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*)  
Brown-bellied Swallow (*Notiochelidon murina*)  
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)  
Chestnut-collared Swallow (*Petrochelidon rufocollaris*) - We stopped in the middle of a town south of Chiclayo to look at a small flock.

#### WAGTAILS AND PIPITS (*Passeriformes* *Motacillidae*)

Paramo Pipit (*Anthus bogotensis*) (H)  
Yellowish Pipit (*Anthus lutescens*)

#### WRENS (*Passeriformes* *Troglodytidae*)

Thrush-like Wren (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*) (H)  
Fasciated Wren (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*)  
Gray-mantled Wren (*Odontorchilus branickii*) (H)  
Sharpe's (Sepia-brown) Wren (*Cinnycerthia olivascens*) - Abra Pat.  
Peruvian Wren (*Cinnycerthia peruana*) - A big surprise on the Rio Chido trail - this must be right at the northern limit of its range. Its chatter call is much more rapid than the previous species, which seems to be found in this area mainly at lower elevations.  
Coraya Wren (*Thryothorus coraya*)  
Speckle-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus sclateri sclateri*) - Along the Utcubamba canyon. We did not see the Tumbesian race.  
Superciliated Wren (*Thryothorus superciliaris*) - Super common in the Tumbesian lowlands. It seems to be much more common here than it is in Ecuador.  
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)  
Mountain Wren (*Troglodytes solstitialis*)  
Sedge (Grass) Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)  
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*)  
Bar-winged Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucoptera*) - We all had our cameras put away due to the rain, so wouldn't you know it, this cute little wren came straight out to the side of the road at Alto Nieve and sat, completely exposed, singing away!  
Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*)

#### MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS (*Passeriformes* *Mimidae*)

Long-tailed Mockingbird (*Mimus longicaudatus*)

#### THRUSHES (*Passeriformes* *Turdidae*)

Andean Solitaire (*Myadestes ralioides*) (H)  
White-eared Solitaire (*Entomodestes leucotis*) - One came in with a mixed flock at Abra Pat. Apparently a "bogey-bird" for Niels and he was ecstatic!  
Chiguanco Thrush (*Turdus chiguanco*)

Great Thrush (*Turdus fuscater*)

Glossy-black Thrush (*Turdus serranus*) (H)

Plumbeous-backed Thrush (*Turdus reevei*) - Abundant at Quebrada Limon.

Marañon Thrush (*Turdus maranonicus*) - A distinctive speckle-breasted thrush. Seen at the bottom of the Marañon canyon and in the Utcubamba canyon.

Pale-breasted Thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*) - Morro de Calzada.

#### GNATCATCHERS (Passeriformes Polioptilidae)

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) - The ones we saw west of the Andes. Oddly, the two we saw west of Bagua Grande looked like this race too, even though on previous visits I have seen maior here. Were they juveniles? Did we not look closely enough?

Tropical "Marañon" Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea maior*) - The ones we saw in the Marañon drainage, though see above. A past and possible future split.

#### CROWS AND JAYS (Passeriformes Corvidae)

Green (Inca) Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*)

White-tailed Jay (*Cyanocorax mystacalis*) - Quebrada Limon and Bosque de Pomac

White-collared Jay (*Cyanolyca viridicyana*)

#### OLD WORLD SPARROWS (Passeriformes Passeridae)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

#### VIREOS AND ALLIES (Passeriformes Vireonidae)

Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*)

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Olivaceous Greenlet (*Hylophilus olivaceus*) - It took a while, but one finally came close enough to see at Afluente.

Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius leucotis*) (H)

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)

#### FINCHES, SISKINS, CROSSBILLS (Passeriformes Fringillidae)

Hooded Siskin (*Carduelis magellanica*)

Olivaceous Siskin (*Carduelis olivacea*)

Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)

Black Siskin (*Carduelis atrata*)

#### WOOD WARBLERS (Passeriformes Parulidae)

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)

Masked (Black-lored) Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis auricularis*)

Slate-throated Redstart (Whitestart) (*Myioborus miniatus*)

Spectacled Redstart (Whitestart) (*Myioborus melanocephalus*)

Citrine Warbler (*Basileuterus luteoviridis*)

Black-crested Warbler (*Basileuterus nigrocristatus*)

Russet-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus coronatus*)

Three-banded Warbler (*Basileuterus trifasciatus*) - Common at Abra Porculla; we did not see them elsewhere.

Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*)

#### BANANAQUIT (Passeriformes Coerebidae)

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)

#### TANAGERS AND ALLIES (Passeriformes Thraupidae)



Cinereous Conebill (*Conirostrum cinereum*)  
 Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)  
 Capped Conebill (*Conirostrum albifrons*)  
 Giant Conebill (*Oreomanes fraseri*)  
 Black-faced Tanager (*Schistochlamys melanopis*)  
 Magpie Tanager (*Cissopis leveriana*)  
 Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferii*)  
 Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*)  
 Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus canigularis signatus*)  
 White-browed (Black-capped) Hemispingus (*Hemispingus auricularis*)  
 Superciliaried Hemispingus (*Hemispingus superciliaris insignis*)  
 Drab Hemispingus (*Hemispingus xanthophthalmus*) - Numerous in mixed flocks between Abra Barra Negra and Leimebamba.  
 Rufous-chested Tanager (*Thlypopsis ornata*)  
 Buff-bellied Tanager (*Thlypopsis inornata*) - Two in the Utcubamba canyon, and another two west of Tamborapa.  
 Rufous-crested Tanager (*Creurgops verticalis*)  
 White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)  
 Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava lutea*)  
 Red-hooded Tanager (*Piranga rubriceps*) - A stunning pair on the way back down the Chido trail.  
 Huallaga Tanager (*Ramphocelus melanogaster*) - A lot like the Silver-beaked Tanager, which it replaces in the Huallaga river drainage. We saw several in Afluente.  
 Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)  
 Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanocephala*)  
 Blue-and-yellow Tanager (*Thraupis bonariensis*)  
 Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)  
 Hooded Mountain-Tanager (*Buthraupis montana*)  
 Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus igniventris*)  
 Yellow-throated Tanager (*Iridosornis analis*)  
 Yellow-scarfed Tanager (*Iridosornis reinhardti*) - We found two in mixed flocks between Abra Barro Negro and Leimebamba.  
 Fawn-breasted Tanager (*Pipraeidea melanonota*)  
 Purple-throated Euphonia (*Euphonia chlorotica*)  
 Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*)  
 Bronze-green Euphonia (*Euphonia mesochrysa*) (H)  
 Orange-bellied Euphonia (*Euphonia xanthogaster*)  
 Blue-naped Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia cyanea*)  
 Orange-eared Tanager (*Chlorochrysa calliparaea*)  
 Paradise Tanager (*Tangara chilensis*)  
 Green-and-gold Tanager (*Tangara schrankii*)  
 Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*)  
 Saffron-crowned Tanager (*Tangara xanthocephala*)  
 Flame-faced Tanager (*Tangara parzudakii*)  
 Yellow-bellied Tanager (*Tangara xanthogastra*)  
 Spotted Tanager (*Tangara punctata*)  
 Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*)

Blue-browed Tanager (*Tangara cyanotis*)  
 Blue-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanicollis*)  
 Beryl-spangled Tanager (*Tangara nigroviridis*)  
 Blue-and-black Tanager (*Tangara vassorii*)  
 Silver-backed Tanager (*Tangara viridicollis*) - One male that Niels found for us near Abra Patricia turned out to be the only one. Good for him since it was another of his "bogey" birds!  
 Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*)  
 Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)  
 Purple Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*)  
 Tit-like Dacnis (*Xenodacnis parina*) - Amazingly common at Llanganuco.  
 Swallow-Tanager (*Tersina viridis*)  
 Plush-capped Finch (*Catamblyrhynchus diadema*)

#### BUNTINGS, SEEDEATERS, ALLIES (Passeriformes Emberizidae)

Red-crested (-pileated) Finch (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)  
 Peruvian Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus punensis*) - Lots of sightings in the highlands.  
 Mourning Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus fruticeti*)  
 Plumbeous Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus unicolor*)  
 Band-tailed Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus alaudinus*) - A pair at Lachay.  
 Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus plebejus*)  
 White-winged Diuca-Finch (*Diuca speculifera*)  
 Cinereous Finch (*Piezorhina cinerea*) - Seen in and around Bosque de Pomac.  
 Rufous-backed Inca-Finch (*Incaspiza personata*) - We got it one afternoon near the entrance gate to Llanganuco.  
 Gray-winged Inca-Finch (*Incaspiza ortizi*) - A nice responsive pair in a shrubby streambed at Hacienda Limon in the Marañon Canyon.  
 Buff-bridled Inca-Finch (*Incaspiza laeta*) - Two seen at San Marcos. Oddly, we did not see it in the Marañon Canyon, though we weren't especially looking for it.  
 Little Inca-Finch (*Incaspiza watkinsi*) - The bird that graces the cover of this report. Easily found in the desert west of Bagua Grande.  
 Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza alticola*) - Several in the polylepis at Llanganuco.  
 Collared Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza hispaniolensis*) - Many sightings in arid scrub west of the Andes.  
 Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*)  
 Drab Seedeater (*Sporophila simplex*) - A small flock found along the road north of Jaen.  
 Parrot-billed Seedeater (*Sporophila peruviana*) - A huge flock at a trickle of water in a dry riverbed along the way to Quebrada Limon. Another smaller flock seen south of Olmos.  
 Band-tailed Seedeater (*Catamenia analis*)  
 Plain-colored Seedeater (*Catamenia inornata*)  
 Dull-colored Grassquit (*Tiaris obscura*)  
 Rusty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa sittoides*)  
 White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*)  
 Moustached Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa mystacalis uncinata*) - One in a mixed flock below Abra Barro Negro. My favorite race of this really cool bird.  
 Black-throated Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa brunneiventris*)  
 Deep-blue (Golden-eyed) Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis glauca*)  
 Bluish Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis caerulescens*)  
 Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossopsis cyanea*)



*Saffron Finch (Sicalis flaveola)*  
*Grassland Yellow-Finch (Sicalis luteola)*  
*Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch (Sicalis uropygialis)*  
*Greenish Yellow-Finch (Sicalis olivascens)*  
*Yellow-breasted (Rufous-naped) Brush-Finch (Atlapetes latinuchus latinuchus)* - On the east slope of the Andes.  
*Yellow-breasted (Baron's) Brush-Finch (Atlapetes latinuchus baroni)* - In the Marañon drainage.  
*Bay-crowned Brush-Finch (Atlapetes seebohmi)* - Abra Porculla and Sinsicap.  
*Rusty-bellied Brush-Finch (Atlapetes nationi)* - Many seen on the Santa Eulalia road.  
*White-winged Brush-Finch (Atlapetes leucopterus dresseri)* - One seen by Jacques only at Abra Porculla.  
*White-headed Brush-Finch (Atlapetes albiceps)* - Plenty in Quebrada Limon.  
*Rufous-eared Brush-Finch (Atlapetes rufigenis)* - Two seen in the polylepis at Llanganuco, though others were heard.  
*Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (Buarremon brunneinucha)* (H)  
*Stripe-headed Brush-Finch (Buarremon torquatus)*  
*Orange-billed Sparrow (Arremon aurantirostris spectabilis)* (H)  
*Black-capped Sparrow (Arremon abeillei abeillei)* - The black-backed Tumbesian race was common in Quebrado Limon.  
*Black-capped (Marañon) Sparrow (Arremon abeillei nigriceps)* - The prettier green-backed Marañon race we saw west of Tamborapa.  
*Tumbes Sparrow (Aimophila stolzmanni)* - At Quebrada Limon and south of Olmos.  
*Yellow-browed Sparrow (Ammodramus aurifrons)* (H)  
*Rufous-collared Sparrow (Zonotrichia capensis)*

#### SALTATORS, CARDINALS AND ALLIES (Passeriformes Cardinalidae)

*Streaked Saltator (Saltator striatipectus)* - Streaked peruvianus in the Marañon drainage and unstreaked flavidicollis at Bosque de Pomac.  
*Grayish Saltator (Saltator coerulescens)* (H)  
*Buff-throated Saltator (Saltator maximus)*  
*Black-cowled Saltator (Saltator nigriceps)* - Two of this handsome Tumbesian endemic at Abra Porculla.  
*Golden-billed Saltator (Saltator aurantirostris)*  
*Golden-bellied (Southern Yellow) Grosbeak (Pheucticus chrysogaster)*

#### BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, GRACKLES, ETC. (Passeriformes Icteridae)

*Peruvian Meadowlark (Sturnella bellicosa)* - Including a few at Pomacochas.  
*Scrub Blackbird (Dives warszewiczi)*  
*Shiny Cowbird (Molothrus bonariensis)*  
*Giant Cowbird (Molothrus oryzivorus)*  
*Yellow-tailed Oriole (Icterus mesomelas)*  
*White-edged Oriole (Icterus graceannae)*  
*Yellow-rumped Cacique (Cacicus cela)*  
*Mountain Cacique (Cacicus chrysonotus peruvianus)* - This species is sometimes split into "Northern" and "Southern", but there is disagreement about which species the race we saw would belong to.  
*Crested Oropendola (Psarocolius decumanus)*  
*Russet-backed Oropendola (Psarocolius angustifrons)*