

# PERU 2003



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ROGER AHLMAN

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IF YOU WISH TO USE ANY PHOTOS FOR WHATEVER REASON, PLEASE CONTACT ME.**

# INTRODUCTION

During the year 2003 I made a yearlong trip to Ecuador and Peru. The main objective was to see as many birds as possible. In order to achieve this I started off with 10 weeks of Spanish lessons to be able to speak and understand while travelling. I also bought myself a car, a jeep Chevrolet Blazer -94. It is obviously more convenient to have your own transport instead of travelling with public transport (which is possible).

For Ecuador, see a separate report.

In late 2001 I read an article in a Swedish newspaper about studying Spanish in Ecuador. I know a few people who have done that and it sounded like a good idea to me as well, specially since some of the Spanish schools were listed in the newspaper with some information, one being "...is one of the oldest schools in Quito and offers lessons in other parts of the country like Mindo..." Mindo happens to be one of the hot-spots for bird-watching in Ecuador and South America and thus a perfect place for Spanish lessons combined with birding. The Equinoccial Spanish School was happy to welcome me to Mindo for ten weeks. During 2002 I started to plan things more seriously and in late summer I sold my apartment and moved out by Christmas, in the later part of the year I also resigned from my job. Several CDs and books were bought and I gathered several trip reports and could plan things more thoroughly. As I had only been to South America twice before, four weeks in Bolivia in dec 1998 and two weeks in Venezuela in june 2000, there was obviously a lot to learn.

This report contains the 1056 species I saw and/or heard during four and a half months in Peru. Obviously if you let out a hard-core, well-equipped birdwatcher for such a long time in such a bird-rich country, you will come across some rare birds and you will find some out-of-range birds, mainly in altitude. The general rule in South America is that you don't get anything accepted unless you have a specimen, a photo or a tape-recording or if you should happen to be a well-known name in this part of the world. I use a Leica telescope and a Nikon CoolPix 995 camera, commonly called digiscoping. This works fairly good in open country but is useless inside forests. All the species that I have taken pictures of are included here. I also have a MiniDisc and microphone and I have made a lot of recordings, over 600 in total for Ecuador and Peru. All of them have been revised by Jonas Nilsson who has identified some, corrected a few and approved the rest. With each rare or scarce species that I have recordings of, I have written this in the report. Most of the good birds are, however, undocumented and will probably not appear in any official publications. To readers of this report I can only say - take it or leave it!

**Roger Ahlman** -Värnamo jan -04  
[rahlman2002@yahoo.se](mailto:rahlman2002@yahoo.se)



*View of lake Titicaca from Peru towards Bolivia. On the far side Cordillera La Paz.*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Travelling in Peru is generally easy, regardless if you're doing it by public transport or with your own car. When enter the country you get a three months tourist visa which can be extended by leaving the country and go back again. As I was going to stay longer in Peru I had to leave the country and did that to Chile. The border town, Arica, is a nice modern town and it has an endemic as well - Chilean woodstar. This little bug took some time to see and it is becoming more and more threatened due to the expansion of the Peruvian sheartail.

In Lima and some touristy places you can find the odd person who speaks English otherwise noone speaks anything but Spanish and in some parts also Quechua, which is completely different. If you want to travel in more remote parts or a bit more hazard-free, you'll have to learn some Spanish.

The currency in Peru is Soles. The exchange rate was 3.5 Soles for 1\$. The price-level is low compared to Sweden, and it got progressively cheaper while I was there because the dollar got weaker to the Swedish crone. Ex. A gallon of petrol cost 11.S for the best petrol or 8.S for a not so good. In Sweden you pay about 5 \$ for a gallon. Beer is 5.S (67 cl) compared to 6\$ in Sweden etc...

## BIRDING IN PERU

Peru is a nice and friendly country to bird, though not as easy as Ecuador. The number of species available, more than 1800, the variety of different habitats and in many places good infrastructure for birders with lodges, trails, all this makes for a rewarding birding holiday regardless if you're going for a couple of weeks or for several months. Since 2002 there is a very bad, brand new fieldguide for Peru. For those who wishes there are several bird-guides and tour-companies in Peru that makes the birding more efficient and convenient with longer lists - and more expensive. In some parts of the country it is by far the best option to use a guide or go with an organized tour, specially the northern parts. You also have the possibility to join a pelagic off Lima which I strongly recommend.

One should bear in mind that Peru is a very big country and it is not possible to do it all on a few three week trips. There will be many and long drives up and down the mountains so lot of time will be lost in the car.

In 2002 a mailing-list about birds and birding in Peru started. The name is BirdingPeru. To subscribe send an empty mail to [BirdingPeru@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BirdingPeru@yahoogroups.com) Main language is English. In late 2003 a new webpage about birding in Peru was launched [www.birding-peru.com](http://www.birding-peru.com)

For more info about books, CDs and guides, see the Reference section.

## WEATHER AND TIMING

Peru is very big and there are great differences in the weather and the topography and naturally the birdlife as well. I didn't know much about where to go when, so I miss-timed several sites. The northern, dry parts are important to visit during the rainy season (dec-march) and not july when I was there. I did however not have any rain but birdactivity was very low.. In Peru I was on the east slope in july-sept and had fair weather so this time is probably better on the east slope. In Ecuador I visited several east slope sites in april-may and had rain and fog pretty much all the time with only short glimpses of clear weather. The west slope and the coastal lowlands are very dry and desert like. The higher parts of the Andes are as always in the mountains, you can have any weather and it changes rapidly. The high plateau of the Andes, mainly in the central and southwards, is called the puna and it is generally dry, cold and windswept. Many birding sites are at high altitudes, almost up to 5000 masl. Altitude sickness is a possibility here and these sites should not be visited during the first days.

## FOOD AND DRINKS

Food, drinks and accommodation is generally not a problem in Peru as everything is readily available. Tap water should be avoided and mineral water is available everywhere. Beer is also found without problems. The most popular brand is Cusquena, also on offer is Cristal and Arequipena. Other soft drinks are also available everywhere. Local spirits like rum and vodka can be bought for a few dollars.

In the bigger cities you can find all sorts of restaurants in all price ranges. In more rural areas you are often left to smaller, local restaurants which often have just one or two things for lunch or dinner. You simply order an "Almuerzo" which is lunch of the day. You get a big bowl of soup with big bits of all sorts of things. At one place I got three chicken feet! The main course is often chicken or meat with rice, potatoes, pasta or yucca or a combination. Sometimes you have two choices for main course. You also get a glass of juice or soft drink. The juice is often fresh made of tree tomatoes. All this for 1.5-2\$. The dinner, or "Merienda", is often the same. The lunch and dinner in the rural areas is nothing you will remember as one of your better meals but they are

perfectly all right and considering the price it is very good value for money. The good thing with the soup is that you get almost half a litre of warm liquid in your body, you sometimes tend to drink too little during the day.

For breakfast I usually bought some bread and yogurt and ate it at the birding site. I also bought a steel thermos in Quito and got hot water from hotels and restaurants so I could have hot coffee in the field as well.

Accommodation is also easily found. The prices range from a few dollars to whatever you want in the posh hotels in Lima or Cusco or fancy lodges. In some places like in the lowland Amazonas you have no choice but staying in lodges and they are generally expensive. Generally the standard and price goes hand-in-hand with *Hotels* being most expensive and also best. Next step is *Hostals* which are slightly cheaper. *Hospedajes* are even cheaper and at the bottom you'll find *Recidenciales*. These often charge only 3-5\$ and don't expect private bathrooms or even clean bathrooms.

Two other similar types of accommodation are the *Lodges*, which are often situated in reserves or at least in the forest. They offer full board and nice accommodation in cabins. Mostly expensive. *Hosterías* are similar with nice cabins and full board, generally cheaper but often found close to roads or along the coast.

Breakfast is sometimes served but you normally want to be in the field by the time they start serving breakfast so I rarely had breakfast in "hotels".

### STUDYING SPANISH AND BUYING A CAR

As I was in South America for almost a year I opted for buying a car rather than renting one or going by public transport. Renting a car for so long time is not an option and as I had 35 kg of equipment when I left Sweden I didn't want to carry around all that. Buying a car is obviously more expensive but it is much more convenient and birding so much more efficient as well.

I had a Swedish driving licence which now is the same in all off the European union and this licence is good enough in Peru as well. I spoke with the Ecuadorian ambassador in Stockholm before I left Sweden and he assured me it was perfectly all right in Ecuador. A few police officers in Peru had some objections about my driving licence but I told them it was an international licence and they were happy with that.

Driving is on the right hand side of the road and the traffic is much more disorganized than in Sweden. You get used after a while. It is worse in Lima, really bad actually! Roadsigns are generally good in Peru but you frequently have to ask for the way and you will drive the wrong way often. The road conditions are generally good on the main roads. The most annoying things are the buses, minibuses and taxis that drives just like they want and stops everywhere, even in the middle of crossroads. The bus drivers are a real danger when driving outside cities. They drive very fast and overtakes other vehicles everywhere, even in curves and just before a hilltop!

The police in Peru is just crazy. They are everywhere along the major roads standing just before or after any little village and stopping you to look at your license and matricula. If you have that in order they are often happy with that but they are looking very carefully for any little thing that they could fine you for - and they expect to be bribed. I had to bribe myself free twice and while I was travelling with the different groups we were delayed several times because of frequent stops.

### A FEW WORDS ABOUT LIMA

I came back to Lima several times for various reasons. Driving in Lima is something you do want to avoid. This 9 million people capital is BIG and it takes a long time to drive anywhere. The traffic is very disorganized and most people drive like maniacs. During the daytime most people stop for red light but at night-time that seems to be a mere recommendation. The sole traffic rule that most people follows is 'biggest goes first'. To Lima's credit I should say that the traffic signs are very good and as long as you stay on the main avenues you are likely to reach your destination.

On 16th november I went to Estadio Monumental to see the World Cup qualifier between Peru and Brazil. I bought a good black-market ticket outside the stadium without problems for 30\$. The match was great as was the atmosphere with 80 000 spectators cheering for Peru and abusing Brazil and the referee. The match finished 1-1 and that was good figures for Brazil as Peru, surprisingly to me, was better.

### WHEN WAS I WHERE?

To give a rough idea about my birding in Peru I'll give the dates for the different regions of Peru.

Pelagics off Lima 29/6 and 13/7. Río Canute-Satipo road-Oxapampa (Naturetrek) 16-25/6. Iquitos 26-27/6. Santa Eulalia valley 30/6-2/7, 5/10 and 17/11. Central Highway 2-10/7 alone and 18-26/11 with Naturetrek as

coleader. Northern Peru 15/7-5/8 on a semi-organized Kolibri Expedition trip. The southwest 8-12/8. Arica in Chile 12-14/8. Titicaca-Sandía-Cusco 15-19/8. Cusco-Macchu Pichu 19-26/8. Manu road 27-31/8 and 19/9 with Walter Mancilla. Amazonía lodge-Pantiacolla-Manu 1-18/9. The Tambopata area 21-29/9. Cusco-Abancay-Nazca-Pisco-Lima 1-6/10. San Damian 7/10.

On three occasions I was on more or less organized tours with Kolibri Expeditions. Twice with Naturetrek groups for which Kolibri is the ground agent. In november I joined that trip as co-leader. I also went on a semi-organized tour together with three Swedes, three Dutch, one Canadian and one Peruvian plus driver.

I would recommend going on organized tours in Peru, specially in the north which is big and has many good, rare and/or endemic birds and they are well spread out over the north part of the country. The classic Peruvian birding destination in the southeast around Cusco, along the Manu road and the Manu lowlands can be done by oneself but anyone will obviously benefit from having a guide who knows many of the stake-outs and birdsounds etc.



*My car. Make sure to buy a jeep. Some roads are bad and you will need the high ground clearance and at times also the 4WD.*

## MY EQUIPMENT

As I was going to spend such a long time travelling to see as many birds as possible I had to bring clothes for all situations. Apart from the most obvious clothes I had a pair of padded pants which was very nice in mornings and evenings at high altitude. I had rain-clothes which I didn't use very much. They are actually only useful in the mountains otherwise it gets too hot, so in the lowlands I used an umbrella when it was raining.

My binoculars are Zeiss 7x45 and the telescope is a Leica APO Televid placed on a video-head and a Manfrotto tripod. Many people claim that scopes are not necessary in the tropics. This is of course wrong and untrue. While walking inside forests you don't want to carry the scope but you are often birding roads and then scopes are invaluable for identifying treetop birds. There are of course the more obvious situations like sea-, shore- and wetland birding when you definitely want a scope. Try visiting a canopy tower without a scope! Also lodge clearings offers a good view of the surrounding forest and then a scope is useful.

I have a MiniDisc, a small microphone and a small speaker for recording and play-backing sounds. This is an absolute necessity if you wish to see the skulkers. It is also good for identifying afterwards or for documenting what you hear. I had a GPS from Garmin which was brand new. There are several references in this report to coordinates that I took with my GPS. I had no reports from others with coordinates so my use was rather limited to reading the altitude, taking coordinates and using the compass. Disappointingly there are several functions that could be useful but the GPS' have limitations. It needs an open sky to work which means you can't have it in your rucksack because it turns itself off. It is difficult to use it in the car or inside dense forest and besides it eats batteries.

I used a digital camera from Nikon, CoolPix 995 and an adapter from Eagle-Eye. The zoom on the camera broke down in late march and got stuck on max optical zoom (x4) which doesn't matter so much for digiscooping but is bad for taking general pictures of views, buildings and people.

For books and sounds, see references below.

## REFERENCES

*I used the following books etc:*

- Clements and Shany 2001. A Field Guide to the Birds of Peru.

This new book is a great disappointment to me and most others. The colour plates are generally bad and disorganized as well. Some of the paintings are really bad and should not appear in a modern fieldguide. To be fair I should say that some plates are actually very good and useful. The text is short and doesn't give too much information. The size of the book is however handy due to the scant information. This book is the only book

where you can find all of Peru's 120 endemics.

A new fieldguide for Peru is under production and rumours says that that one is going to be 'the real thing'. Authors are Schulenberg, O'Neil et al. Keep an eye out for this book before going to Peru.

- Ridgely and Tudor 1994. The birds of South America.

I took digital photos of all plates in my books and printed them digitally in A5 size. This was a good complement for some birdgroups. The plates are very good in these two volumes. It would naturally be better to bring both books to have the text as well but they are big and heavy.

- Fjeldså and Krabbe 1990. Birds of the High Andes.

I didn't bring my copy of this landmark fieldguide, unfortunately. I came across it a couple of times and I used it for preparation. If you have space in your luggage, bring this book!

- Rheindt Frank 1998. A Birdwatcher's Site Guide to Peru

This book is more like an extensive tripreport. It is good and sometimes useful but many good sites are missing and it doesn't cover all of Peru, just parts. A complement for those who wants to read a lot.

- B&B Map. Roadmap of Peru, scale 1:1750000. Reasonably good. The map is laminated which is good.

- International Travel Maps. Peru South scale 1:1500000. Reasonably good. Slightly better than above for the southern half of Peru.

- All articles in Cotinga dealing with birds in Ecuador.

### ***I used the following sound collection:***

- Krabbe Niels and Nilsson Jonas 2003. Birds of Ecuador DVD-rom.

In late december 2003 an new groundbreaking DVD was published. It contains mainly sounds, more than 6000! Almost all of them made by Niels Krabbe and Jonas Nilsson, although I contributed with some and also some photos. Unfortunately it only works on PC leaving us Mac-users behind. Can be ordered from Bird Songs International BV [www.birdsongs.com](http://www.birdsongs.com)

- Krabbe Niels et al. Birds of the Ecuadorian Highlands.

Vocalizations from 246 species in the upper montane and paramo zones of Ecuador. A box with 4 CDs.

- Isler Phyllis R and Whitney Bret M 2002. Songs of the Antbirds

Songs of all antbirds in the world except a few that has not been recorded. A box of 3 CDs.

- Schulenberg Thomas S 2000. Voices of Andean Birds vol I-III

Three CDs dealing with birds at different altitudes in Peru and Bolivia.

- Schulenberg Thomas S et al 2000. Voices of Amazonian Birds vol I and II.

Two CDs dealing with lowland birds in Peru and Bolivia.

## **BIRDCGUIDES**

Some birdguides and birdtours are available in Peru. I don't know about all of them a can only single out a few that I can recommend.

- If you want to have a top-class birdguide in Peru, ***I can strongly recommend Jonas Nilsson***. He is Swedish and lives in Quito since about ten years. He has been working as a birdguide for many years in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. He is very good at birdsounds, he speaks Swedish, English and Spanish. For more info about prices etc he can be contacted at [birdbolivia@hotmail.com](mailto:birdbolivia@hotmail.com) or by phone 593-2-24 02 14.

- Mauricio Ugarte-Lewis in Arequipa. I met Mauricio while on a Kolibri trip to the north and he later went with me to Arequipa and we went birding there for one day. He has a very good knowledge about the birds around Arequipa and where to find the specialities. I recommend him for anyone who wish to bird around Arequipa for a few days. He can be contacted at [mugartelewis@yahoo.com](mailto:mugartelewis@yahoo.com) or tel.054-205 978.

- Kolibri Expeditions. This Lima-based tour company run by Swedish Gunnar Engblom takes you to any remote corner of Peru for a lower price than any other tour operator. Unfortunately they use very old vehicles which frequently breaks and are very uncomfortable. They've got a wreck-van from '84 which I've been sitting in for five weeks and we had lots of problems with the car. They also have two Toyota Landcruisers from the mid80s. To their credit I should say that they have some very good drivers and a good cook and also a good organization with lots of contacts throughout the country. They also provide everything for a comfortable camping and camping is necessary to see some of the best birds. Check out their website [www.kolibriexpeditions.com](http://www.kolibriexpeditions.com)

- Oropendola tours. This small tour company is owned by Walter Mancilla and his Japanese girlfriend Tomoko Suzuki. Walter is a pioneer in the Manu area having started both the Blanquillo lodge and Manu Wildlife

Center together with others but for various reasons he has been bought out of these places. He now has a lodge of his own and a property in the Manu area. Between 1998 and 2002 he was the mayor of Boca Manu and did a lot to promote eco-tourism here and involve the locals in various projects, for example by building the lodge in Boca Manu that the whole community can benefit from. He knows everyone here and walking around the village with him makes you meet locals. He has a very good knowledge about the birds in the lowlands, what they sound like and where to find them. Oropendola Tours offers full board tours to Manu including Manu road, boat, food and access to the Blanquillo facilities etc. A trip with Walter is bound to be hassle-free as he can sort out anything en route with his local knowledge. Tomoko Suzuki has written several books and articles about Andean culture and can guide to the many historical sites around Cusco and probably elsewhere as well. Both speaks good English. If going to Manu you have no choice but going in some sort of organized form and using Oropendola Tours and Walter Mancilla will definitely be a good option and cheaper than most (all?) others. You will also get a very good birdguide in the package. Check out their website at [www.oropendolaperu.org](http://www.oropendolaperu.org) or contact them at [oropendolaperu@yahoo.com](mailto:oropendolaperu@yahoo.com)

### **LAYOUT FOR THIS REPORT**

As I spent four and a half months in Peru visiting virtually every part of Peru including some parts that are not frequently visited by birders and most readers of this report are not likely to do the same in one trip, I have simply listed each site and some of the birds I saw at each site. A potential visitor to Peru on a two-four week trip are likely to visit only some of the sites and instead of having all 1056 species that I saw to bother with, you'll only have the birds that I saw at those sites. I have not listed each and every species that I've seen at each site. Also when I've been with groups I have only listed what I have seen.

Over the next pages I will explain how I have divided the country and which sites can be found where. One should bear in mind that there are differences over the year even in the tropics so visiting a site at a different time of the year means that you will see different birds and numbers. To illustrate this see Lomas de Lachay which I visited at to very different times.

To make the reading a bit easier for readers who are not familiar with all of the birds in Peru, I have underlined all species that are endemic to Peru. Species in bold letters are range-restricted and/or rare birds all over their range. Specially in northern Peru I could have put a lot or all of the Tumbesian endemics in bold letters. Many of those are however rather common and they occur in southern Ecuador as well. I have also made some comments about taxonomy and in many cases put out which race has been seen.





# NORTHERN PERU

## RAFÁN

Rafán is a small village in the middle of the coastal desert about 30 kilometers south of Chiclayo along the PanAmerican Highway. It is a good site for Peruvian Plantcutter and Rufous Flycatcher. To get there, go to Mocupe Nuevo, then turn westwards on a sandy road. After 10 kilometers you reach Rafán. Ask for directions at Mocupe if in doubt. Search the acacia woods on both sides of the road just east of the village. There is an area just to the left of the track which is fenced in by piles of acacia branches. Inside this fence are the biggest acacias and this is where we saw the plantcutters.

Birds seen: Collared antshrike 1, Peruvian plantcutter 1 male+2 females, Tumbes tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias tumbeza*) 2 Recently split from *Phaeomyias murina*, Gray-and-white tyrannulet 2, Baird's flycatcher 1, Rufous flycatcher 1, Streaked saltator ssp. *flavicollis* 5, Parrot-billed seedeater 2 and Cinereous finch 5.

## BOSQUE DE POMAC

This site is NE of Chiclayo near the town Batán Grande. The HQ is close to the main road and birding is done along a dirttrack going west from the HQ. After about 1 km you'll come to a 1000-year old tree and soon after that a path leads down to the right to a river which was just an almost dried out riverbed. If you continue the track you eventually come out on the Chiclayo-Olmos road. If you continue on this track, with permission from the HQ you come to a dam building with concrete canals. This is a good place for Tumbes swallow and we saw 4 here. All birds that can be found at Rafán can be found here as well including Peruvian Plantcutter and Rufous Flycatcher. Black-faced ibis have been seen in the river. We didn't spend much time here just a few afternoon hours but birding was good anyway with many Tumbesian species.

Birds seen: Harris's hawk 1, Pearl kite 1, Collared plover 3, Scarlet-backed woodpecker 10, Necklaced spintail 1, Streak-headed woodcreeper 2, Collared antshrike 2, Tawny-crowned pygmy-tyrant 5, Gray-and-white tyrannulet 2, Baird's flycatcher 5, Short-tailed field-tyrant 3, White-tailed jay 1, **Tumbes swallow** 4, Fasciated wren 20, Superciliated wren 15, Collared warbling-finch 2 and White-edged oriole 1.

## QUEBRADA LIMÓN (NEAR OLMOS)

Quebrada Limón is about 1-1.5 hour from the main road. Driving was on a maze of tracks and dry riverbeds before we eventually came to a small village where we picked up a guide. We had some prearrangement through Kolibri Expeditions with a guide, otherwise one could possibly arrange this through the White-winged guan centre which you pass on the way from Olmos. The turnoff from the main road is a few kilometres beyond the centre in a small spreadout village.

The track was not driveable all the way to the quebrada and we walked the last kilometre or so. We didn't reach the quebrada until 9.30 am by which time it had started to get hot. With the help from the guide we all got good views of the critically endangered White-winged Guans. The best time to see them is in the early morning but that includes camping in the quebrada which would have been a perfect option. In a dead tree near the start of the quebrada that goes up to the left is a nesthole of West Peruvian Screech-owl. The guide showed us this.

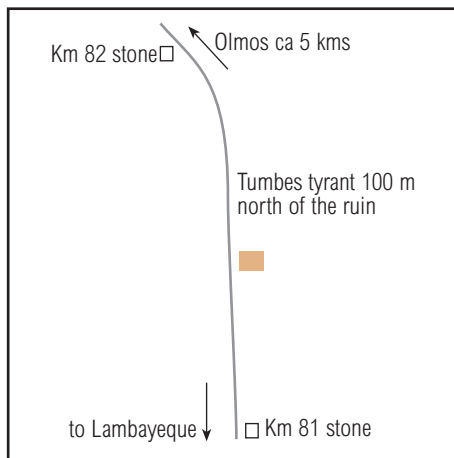
We saw many other good birds here on the way to and from the quebrada. On the plain closer to the main road we found some Tumbes sparrows and later we searched at nearby El Tocto for birds like Tumbes hummingbird and tyrant without luck. In retrospect we could very well have looked for these on the way to Quebrada Limón as the habitat looked good here as well.

Birds seen: Laughin falcon 2, White-winged guan 3, West peruvian screech-owl 1 in nest hole, Peruvian pygmy-owl 1, Long-billed starthroat 1, Short-tailed woodstar 1, Blue-crowned motmot 1, Chapman's antshrike 1, Pacific elaenia 1, Gray-and-white tyrannulet 10, Sooty-crowned flycatcher 1, White-tailed jay 2, Hepatic tanager 2, White-headed brush-finch 15, Tumbes sparrow 10, Cinereous finch 20.

## 2 KMS EAST OF OLMOS

This little complex of rice paddies near the 94 km-stone just east of Olmos makes for a nice stop from the guans.

Cocoi heron 1 and Spotted rail 1. Lots of Moorhens but few other wetland birds.

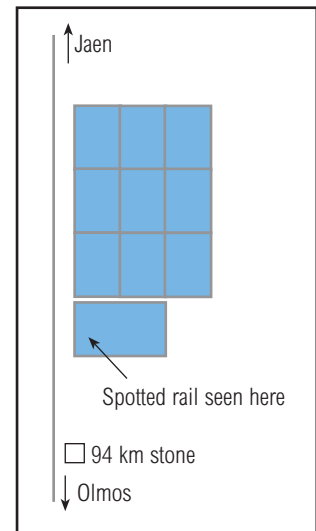


Map of the Tumbes tyrant-site

## 5 KMS SOUTH OF OLMOS

Juan José had found a nest of Tumbes tyrant here in June and I learned about this on the BirdingPeru mailinglist and got the stake-out from Juan. Thanks! I didn't find the nest but after a short search I had good views of a Tumbes tyrant as it fed in the subcanopy of an acacia.

Birds seen: Pacific pygmy-owl 1, Amazilia hummingbird 3, Scarlet-backed woodpecker 1, Tumbes tyrant 1, Collared warbling-finch 1.



Map of the Spotted rail-site

## ABRA PORCULLA

We drove straight from Olmos to Abra Porculla without stops as there is no forest en route. It is not much at Abra Porculla either but at least there are some patches of scrubby forest in the ravines and slopes here. There is a small village at the pass and we headed northwest uphill on a dirt track and birded patches of forest here. Birding was very difficult as it was very windy. Later we tried the wind-sheltered slope on the other side of the village, where the forest was slightly better and birding as well. We failed to find the specialities here like Piura chat-tyrant and Rufous-necked foliage-gleener although we had a swift view of a possible Chat-tyrant. Later I heard that better birding could be had if you stop before the pass and walk uphill, however I don't know exactly where.

Birds seen: Variable hawk 3, Gray-chinned hermit ssp *porcullae* 3, Spot-throated hummingbird 5, Green-tailed trainbearer 10, Chapman's antshrike 1, Chestnut-crowned antpitta 1, Tufted tit-tyrant 4, Black-crested tit-tyrant 10, Rufous-browed pepper-shrike 2, Rusty flowerpiercer 2.

This race of Gray-chinned hermit is sometimes regarded as a separate species.

A Peregrine falcon was seen from a roadside restaurant a few kilometres after (towards Jaén).

## JAÉN

The birding is done about 15 kms south of Jaén just as you've turned north in the junction in the small village Chamaya which is along the main road from Olmos to Bagua Grande. About a kilometre after the junction you can stop and bird the roadside scrub and forest patches. There is small but rather obvious hill to the right which is a good place for Little Inca-finch. You can also try walking up the small gullies and bird the scrub for the inca-finch and other Marañón endemics. Hotels are available in Jaén.

Birds seen: Peruvian pigeon 1, Striped cuckoo 2, Peruvian pygmy-owl 1, Spot-throated hummingbird 2, Common thornbird ssp. *peruvianus* 2, Tawny-crowned pygmy-tyrant 1, Purple-throated euphonia 2, Little inca-finch 5, Streaked saltator ssp. *peruvianus* 2, Drab seedeater 2.

Common thornbird is sometimes divided into three species.

## TAMBORAPA

Tamborapa is a small village some 40 kilometres north of Jaén. You have to register at the police checkpoint in the middle of the village. Soon after the police checkpoint the road forks and we took the right track and stopped soon as our driver told us. We birded the scrubcover hillside for a while without seeing anything special.

We headed north for about 8 kilometres to a site mentioned in *Cotinga* for Marañón spinetail but as we only

had the GPS coordinates we ended up on the wrong side of the river. The habitat looked good and we decided to bird here instead of spending time trying to get across.

Most people in the group did it the easy way and birded from the road. I found a path into the forest and it turned out to be a good path giving good access to the forest interior and I found two Marañón spinetails without playback. Other good birds in here was Marañón Slaty-antshrike and Buff-bellied tanager. We didn't see Marañón Crescent-chest but it could probably be found anywhere in suitable habitat.

Birds seen: Cinnamon ground-dove 25, Scarlet-fronted parakeet 50, Spot-throated hummingbird 5, **Maranon spinetail** 2, Chichipe spinetail 4, Maranon slaty-antshrike 2, Yellow-bellied elaenia 1, Short-crested flycatcher 2, White-winged becard 1, Rufous-browed pepper-shrike ssp. *saturatus* 2, Tropical gnatcatcher ssp. *maior* 4, Buff-bellied tanager 1, Red-crested finch 25, Yellow-tailed oriole 10.

The tropical gnatcatcher is often regarded as a separate species.

## BAGUA CHICA TO IMAZITA

The road from Bagua Chica to Imazita, which is the launching point for Nuevo Salem, is very rough, muddy and slow. It is actually a distinct possibility that you can get stuck on the road and have to spend the night here. A few kilometres before Imazita a big bus had driven off the road in sharp bend and no other traffic could pass. We had to walk to Imazita and our driver and Mauricio stayed with the car and waited. They came to Imazita at midnight. Other busses and lorries had severe problems at other stretches and if a big car gets stuck you'll get nowhere. It is a good idea to bring some extra supply of food and water before setting off from Bagua Chica or Imazita on the way back.

There are many parts along the road which has good lowland and foothill forest close to the road and thus offers good birding. Unfortunately most of the day is spent driving otherwise birding would probably be very rewarding along the road. We just made a few roadside stops where it looked good. The road traverses a low mountain range after the village Moyo with a pass situated at around 800 masl. Just before the pass the forest is rather OK. Beyond the pass the forest is largely undisturbed for a while. We found a good mixed species flock containing among other things a Straw-backed Tanager. This tanager was unusually low at 660 masl, well below the given range in the literature. The exact spot is S05°29' W78°37'.

The stretch between Chiriaco and Imazita had good roadside birding, with species like Many-spotted Hummingbird.

WARNING! The safety in this rarely visited part of Peru is a problem and we had to have an armed police in our van. We heard rumours about assaults within a few days of our trip. Reportedly a large group of American missionaries were shot at along this road, they too had an armed guard who responded to the fire and no one was hurt. Arrangements to visit the area and Nuevo Salem have to be made through Gunnar Engblom or Barry Walker (Manu Expeditions).

Birds seen: Double-toothed kite 1, Scarlet-fronted parakeet 8, Painted parakeet 10, Sand-coloured nighthawk 4, Lesser nighthawk 3 (near Bagua Grande), Rufous-breasted hermit 1, Wire-crested thornbill 1, Gray-breasted sabrewing 4, Sapphire-spangled emerald 1, **Many-spotted hummingbird** 1, Amethyst woodstar 1, Gilded barbet 1, Chestnut-eared aracari 4, Brown-mandibled aracari 6, White-throated toucan 1, Scaly-breasted woodpecker 1, Lafresnaye's piculet 1, Short-billed antwren 1, Spangled cotinga 1, White-bearded manakin 1, Golden-headed manakin 1, Dwarf tyrant-manakin 2, Ochre-bellied flycatcher 2, Mottled-backed elaenia 2, Yellow-browed tody-flycatcher 4, Black-faced dacnis 10, Yellow-bellied dacnis 1, Rufous-bellied euphonia 1, Opal-crowned tanager 1, Yellow-bellied tanager 2, **Straw-backed tanager** 1, Masked crimson tanager 4, Solitary cacique 2, Yellow-rumped cacique 300.

## NUEVO SALEM

Only a few groups of birders have visited this Aguaruna community near Imazita. Orange-throated Tanager is the main attraction here but it is a bit difficult to find. The most reliable place is the clearing about a kilometre above the village along the main trail. We had gripping views of one here in the same tree as a Blackish pewee. It certainly helps that the locals know this bird very well. We spent two full days and one morning at Nuevo Salem and birded mainly along the main trail but also on a trail along the río Marañón. The Aguaruna community has a newly started ecotourism project, and besides the birds, you also get the rare opportunity to experience life in a native Amazon village. Food and lodging is simple and cockroaches are plentiful.

Birds seen: Cinereous tinamou 1, King vulture 1 ad, Gray-headed kite 1 ad, Chestnut-headed crake 2, Black-bellied cuckoo 2, Rufous-breasted hermit 1, **Olive-spotted hummingbird** 1, Gilded barbet 4, Lemon-throated barbet 1, Yellow-ridged toucan 1, Crimson-crested woodpecker 1, Amazonian barred woodcreeper 1, Lined woodcreeper 1, Gray antbird 1, Sooty antbird 1, Thrush-like antpitta 1, Spangled cotinga 1, Golden-headed manakin 1, Wire-tailed manakin 1, Dwarf tyrant-manakin 4, Yellow-olive flatbill 2, White-lored tyrannulet 1, Gray elaenia 2, Drab water-tyrant 3, **Blackish pewee** 1, Dusky-chested flycatcher 2, Bright-rumped atilla 4, Masked tityra 1, Black-crowned tityra 3, Tanwy-crowned greenlet 1, Tropical gnatcatcher ssp. *parvirostris* 2, Yellow-bellied dacnis 1, Rufous-bellied euphonia 3, Masked crimson tanager 20, **Orange-throated tanager** 1, Flame-crested tanager 5, Yellow-backed tanager 2, Green-and-gold tanager 50, Masked tanager 3, Opal-rumped tanager 2, Opal-crowned tanager 5, Slate-coloured grosbeak 2.

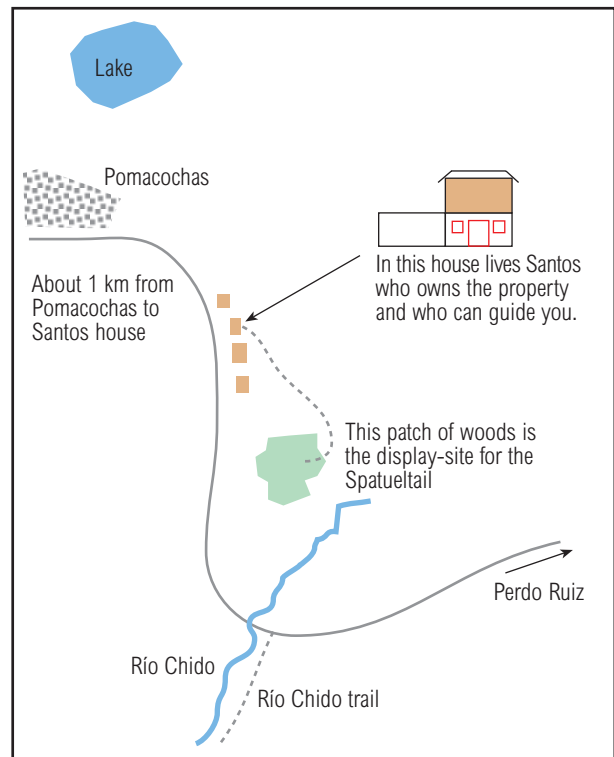
## POMACOCHAS

The small town of Pomacochas is easily reached from Bagua Grande or Pedro Ruiz in the Utcubamba valley. The main attraction here is the absolutely fabulous Marvelous Spatuletail, which is rather easily seen with the help of a guide. We had Santos as our guide, and 10 minutes later we could watch the **unbelievable display of 2 adult male Spatuletails!** A juvenile male and a female made short appearances. The males are lekking until 8, so you need to be there rather early in the morning.

Marvelleous spatuletail 2 displaying males and 1 female. This was probably the highlight in Peru. Well worth traveling all the way to Pomacochas to see this outstanding show!

## RÍO CHIDO TRAIL

The Río Chido trail is 5 kilometers from Pomacochas towards Pedro Ruiz. It starts on the left side of the bridge crossing the river. The forest in the lower parts has been much degraded, but still many birds hang around. Above the village of San Lorenzo there is good forest and páramo, but it might take hours to get there. Ask for directions in the village if you want to explore the area.



Map of Pomacochas and the start of the Río Chido trail. We just asked around and found Santos. There are at least one other guide here as well.

Birds seen: Mountain caracara 1 ad, Speckled-faced parrot 4, Gray-chinned hermit ssp. *zonura/griseogularis* 1, Chestnut-breasted coronet 3, Mountain velvetbreast 1, Sword-billed hummingbird 1, **Emerald-bellied puffleg** 2, Rufous-capped thornbill 5, White-bellied woodstar 1, Emerald toucanet 4, Gray-breasted mountain-toucan 1, Variable antshrike 1, Rufous-capped antshrike ssp. *jaczewskii* 2, Red-crested cotinga 1, Moroon-cheasted chat-tyrant 2, White-capped dipper 1 juv, Superciliated hemispingus 2, Silver-backed tanager 20, Chestnut-capped brush-finch 1.

## ABRA PATRICIA

This road offers absolutely fantastic birding! During my 11 months in Peru and Ecuador I came to many good birding sites but this was probably the best. Considering that I visited Manu road and Satipo road in Peru and Mindo and Podocarpus NP in Ecuador, that should be enough to understand the potentials of this road that goes from 2300 masl down to about 1000 m with good roadside birding pretty much all the way.

We spent three full days here plus one morning which really wasn't enough. Originally we had planned to stay five full days but we had to cut off one day due to longer traveltimes for the rest of the trip and also the Sendero Luminoso had an armed genral strike along the road on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. No vehicles were allowed on the road and people around here were obviously very scared. We spend that day on the rio Chido trail which was rather good.

The kilometre stones are a bit confusing here, the pass is at km 365. From here a small trail goes into the left but only for a few hundred metres. We didn't see much here, a Rusty-tinged antpitta called and some saw it. The area around km posts 369-370 had huge flocks, containing Inca Flycatcher etc. In the classic ridge-top area between km 383-385 we eventually found several of our best birds; Bar-winged Wood-Wren, Lulu's Tody-Tyrant and Royal Sunangel (including the first nest ever to be discovered, under a rocky outcrop). At km 384 just where the road make a sharp righthand turn and you have a good view, a trail starts to the left, the trailhead is rather obvious. This trail takes you into the forest but it was, for some reason, a pin-drop silence.

Perhaps one of the least birded parts of Abra Patricia is the sharp hairpin bends between km 386 and 389. We walked here in one late afternoon and had some good birds. I saw a male *Dysithamnus* Antvireo that looked like White-streaked antvireo. However a new species of *Dysithamnus* Antvireo was found here in 2001 by an LSU expedition. I don't know what that species is supposed to look like or if the White-streaked antvireo occurs here together with it. The LSU expedition in 2001 investigated "Cerro Patricia", reached by a trail leading southwards near a lonely house at km post 389. We didn't have time to try this trail, but it's surely worth exploring. The Long-whiskered Owlet was finally rediscovered here, with 4 birds mist-netted but none seen in the field. Amazingly, a recording was made from inside a tent when an Owlet was kept there overnight! Its voice is a single, grumpy hoot, and the recording is available at [www.museum.lsu.edu/lane/DFLresearch1.html](http://www.museum.lsu.edu/lane/DFLresearch1.html). About 9 Ochre-fronted Antpittas were captured or observed in the field, and tape recordings were made also of this species.

Birding was done at 1800-2300 masl. Birds seen: Fasciated tiger-heron 1, Plain-breasted hawk 1, Sickle-winged guan 1, Scaly-naped amazon 30, [Golden-plumed parakeet 2 seen at 2000 masl was probably this species], Rufous-banded owl 1, Rufous-bellied nighthawk 1, White-tipped swift 2, Royal sunangel 1 female +1 female at a nest, **Emerald-bellied puffleg** 3, Bronzy inca 1, Chestnut-breasted coronet 3, Booted raquet-tail ssp. *peruvianus* 2, Crimson-mantled woodpecker 3, Streaked xenops 1, Spotted barbtail 1, Antvireo sp nov 1-2 heard and 1 male seen, Rusty-tinged antpitta 1 heard, Rufous-breasted anthurus 1 heard, Green-and-black fruiteater 2, Sulphur-bellied tyrannulet 2, Black-capped tyrannulet 1, Ashy-headed tyrannulet 1, Cliff flycatcher 4, Lulu's tody-tyrant 1, Inca flycatcher 2, Rufous-tailed tyrant 7, White-collared jay 10, **Bar-winged wood-wren** 2, Andean slaty-thrush 1 male, Three-striped warbler 3, Bluish flowerpiercer 1, Bronze-olive euphonia 2, Hooded mountain-tanager 5, Black-faced tanager 1, Yellow-throated tanager 4, Yellow-scarfed tanager 6, Vermilion tanager 2, Yellow-whiskered bush-tanager 5, Ashy-throated bush-tanager 2, Oleaginous hemispingus 10, Brad hemispingus 3, Rufous-crested tanager 6, Silver-backed tanager 5, Metallic-green tanager 5, Rufous-naped brush-finch ssp *latinuchas* 10, Tricoloured brush-finch 1, Olivaceous siskin 2.

## AFLUENTES AND AGUAS VERDES

The Afluentes and Aguas Verdes is on the Rioja side of the pass and offers good birding at lower altitudes around 1000-1400 masl. The roadside habitat is generally good but best around km 400 to 402. At Aguas Verdes we stayed in the restaurant by the bridge at km 409. We slept on the floor in a room nextdoor to the restaurant. The restaurant served good food as well. Others have slept here before and it seems to be common practise among birders. Lyre-tailed nightjar and Band-bellied owl was heard and briefly seen across the road. Many tanagers and Cock-of-the Rocks were seen from the bridge. Just opposite the restaurant a good trail winds up into the mountain and we followed this for a kilometre and saw among other things Buf-tailed sicklebill and Scaled fruiteater. Closer to Aguas Verdes village roadside birding was highly productive with a big, diverse and lingering flock.

A Chestnut-crested Cotinga was seen near Afluentes at 1430 masl was a surprise find this low. Nearby were also Ecuadorian piedtail and Scarlet-breasted fruiteater.



Chestnut-crested Cotinga at 1430 masl above Aguas Verdes. Low altitude for this species.

Birding at 1000-1500 masl. Birds seen: White-throated quail-dove 1 seen, Red-billed parrot 3, White-eyed parakeet 30, Band-bellied owl 1, Lyre-tailed nightjar 1, Blue-fronted lancebill 1, Green-fronted lancebill 1, Golden-tailed sapphire 1, **Buff-tailed sicklebill** 2, Black-eared fairy 1, **Ecuadorian piedtail** 1, Fork-tailed woodnymph 1, Golden-headed quetzal 1, Masked trogon 2, Lemon-throated barbet 1, Versicoloured barbet 1, Speckle-chested piculet 1, Emerald toucanet 1, Black-mandibled toucan 2, Ocellated woodcreeper 1, Streaked xenops 5, Rufous-tailed foliage-gleener 1, Buff-fronted foliage-gleener 1, Olive-backed woodcreeper 3, Short-tailed antthrush 1, Peruvian rufous-vented tapaculo 5 heard, Scaled fruit-eater 1, Scarlet-breasted fruit-eater 1 male +1 female, Cock-of-the-Rock 5, **Chestnut-crested cotinga** 1, Golden-winged manakin 1 male +2 females, Golden-faced tyrannulet 5, Variegated bristle-tyrant 1, Marble-faced bristle-tyrant 1, Ecuadorian tyrannulet 1, Plumbeous-crowned tyrannulet 1, Slaty-capped flycatcher 1, Long-tailed tyrant 2, Lemon-browed flycatcher 4, Black-and-white becard 1, White-banded swallow 1, Gray-mantled wren 2, Glossy black thrush 10, Andean solitaire 2, Red-eyed vireo 5, Brown-capped vireo 1, **Yellow-crested tanager** 1, Deep-blue flowerpiercer 1, White-winged tanager 2, Orange-eared tanager 30, Blue-naped chlorophonia 2, Golden-eared tanager 10, Russet-backed oropendola 5, Crested oropendola 1.

Other tanagers include Green-and-gold, Golden, Paradise, Spotted and Blue-necked.

The Chestnut-crested cotinga was seen at 1430 masl which is well below the given range in the literature.

### CHACHAPOYAS TO BALSAS

A roadside stop by the Utcubamba River near Tingo, between Chachapoyas and Leimebamba, produced several exciting species. Riparian vegetation, adjacent fields and slopes held several good birds. We also birded some patches of forest/scrub higher up but birding was generally slow.

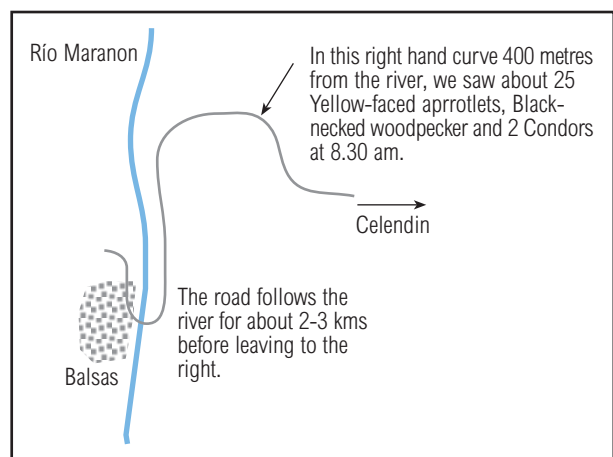
Birds seen: Mountain caracara 1, Plumbeous rail 3, Mitred parakeet 30, White-bellied hummingbird 3, Shining sunbeam 2, Rainbow starfrontlet 2, Purple-throated sunangel 2, Purple-collared woodstar 1, Baron's spinetail 1, Red-crested cotinga 2 ad+juv, Brown-backed chat-tyrant 2, Red-rumped bush-tyrant 1, Streak-throated bush-tyrant 1, **Maranon thrush** 4, Black-lored yellowthroat *Geothlypis auricularis peruviana* 1, Tropical gnatcatcher ssp. *maior* 2, Moustached flowerpiercer ssp. *unicinta* 2, Golden-rumped euphonia 2, Buff-bridled inca-finch 5 above Balsas.

The Black-lored yellowthroat was formerly lumped into one species, Masked yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*, but that species is split into four. The *peruviana* race of Maranon in Peru may represent yet another species. The Mitred parakeet should not be here according to the literature but recent studies have proved that the *alticola* subspecies occurs here. See message nr 1096 on BirdingPeru.

### BALSAS TO CELENDIN

We found our only Buff-bridled inca-finches a few kilometres before Balsa coming from Leimebamba where the Bombax-tress grows. A short morningscan from the bridge in Balsas produced some Peruvian pigeons. About two kilometers west of the bridge (see map) we were fortunate to encounter no less than 32 Yellow-faced Parrotlets, a Black-necked Woodpecker and 2 Andean Condors. A simple hotel is available just north of Balsas.

Two birds to look for en route to Celendin are Rufous-backed Thornbird and Grey-winged Inca-finch. The latter was found at kilometre 140 to the left of the road in the scrub. Others in the group saw it nearby. The Thornbird was found a few kilometres before that. The Hunnybunn report gives good info about both.



Map of Balsas and the beginning of the road to Celendin.

Birds seen: Black-chested buzzard-eagle 1, Andean condor 2 ad, Yellow-faced parrotlet 32, Great horned owl 1 heard in Balsas, Spot-throated hummingbird 5, Purple-throated woodstar 4, Tyrian metaltail ssp. *septentrionalis* 3, Black-necked woodpecker 2, Andean flicker 1, Chestnut-backed thornbird 2, Black-billed shrike-tyrant 1, Buff-bellied tanager 1, Purple-throated euphonia 2, Gray-winged inca-finch 2.

## CELENDIN TO CAJAMARCA

Gunnar had made arrangements (without our knowledge!) with a local guide, Wilson, to accompany us in the Celendín/Cajamarca area. We had not arranged a meeting place, so it was just pure luck that he showed up when we were having lunch in Celendín! We bargained a while but eventually agreed a price and I don't think we would have seen any of the good birds without his local knowledge.

There is not much natural habitat along the road, mostly pastures and farmland. Our first stop about an hour from Celendin was at about 4000 masl in a small scrubby forest patch. We heard a Blackish tapaculo (*S l intermedius*) here and saw a few hummers and Many-striped canastero.

An hour further down the road took us to a small village called Cruz Conga and near here was a patch of pine and eucalyptus on the right hand side of the road. This is the site for the Rufous antpitta which will be split when that complex is thoroughly investigated. After some playback we had a good view of one bird. The landowner came and was rather upset about our presence here. Take some time to ask for permission and possibly pay a small fee to the landowner.



*Black-necked woodpecker, a Peruvian endemic seen near Balsas.*

Less than 5 kilometres from the antpitta site, in a sharp lefthand bent, an obvious trail leads up to the right near a house. About two hundred metres along this track was where we found a White-tailed Shrike-tyrant. We had a Black-billed near the road so check all Shrike-tyrants carefully. We made some more roadside stops and saw most of the usual highland selection, Rufous-webbed Tyrant was locally very common.

Birds seen: Aplomado falcon 1, Black metaltail 1, Gray-bellied comet 2 at nest near Cajamarca, Giant hummingbird 1, Shining sunbeam 1, White-winged cinclodes 4, Many-striped canastero 2, Streak-throated canastero 2, Rusty-crowned tit-spinetail 1, Rufous antpitta ssp. *cajamarcae* 1, Blackish tapaculo *Scytalopus [latrans] intermedius* 1 heard, Black-crested tit-tyrant 1, White-browed chat-tyrant 3, Black-billed shrike-tyrant 1, **White-tailed shrike-tyrant** 1, Rufous-naped ground-tyrant 1, Black-throated flowerpiercer 3.

This Rufous antpitta will get species status as soon as the Rufous antpitta complex has been written up. The *intermedius* tapaculo may also represent a separate species.

## HUASCARÁN

A spectacular national park! We stayed in Yungay and birded the Llanganuco area one late afternoon and most of the day after. During this time we managed to find most of the area's specialities. It takes 30-40 minutes to reach the first lake from Yungay. Hotels can be found in Yungay. In the afternoon we birded around the first lake and a few hundred metres along the Doña Josefa trail in the polylepis. Stripe-headed antpitta was easy to see and a couple of flocks were encountered containing stuff like Plain-tailed Warbling-finch, Baron's Spinetail, Striated Earthcreeper and Rufous-eared Brush-finch etc.

The second lake held the usual selection of andean wetland birds. Beyond this lake in the forested valley to the left is a good site for the rare White-eared Cotinga. We eventually found one with a bit of luck. Other goodies here include Ancash tapaculo, Green-headed hillstar and Tit-like dacnis. here and a bit



*Giant hummingbird at Huascarán. This bird has apparently been feeding on yellow flowers.*





White-cheeked Cotinga. A rare and difficult to find Peruvian endemic.

higher up we found three groups of Plain-tailed Warbling-finches and also Olivaceous thornbill.

Birding from about 3800 to 4150 masl. Birds seen: Puna ibis 4, Andean goose 20, Andean ruddy duck 30, Speckled teal 15, Puna teal 15, Crested duck 20, Andean coot 2, Olivaceous thornbill 1, Green-headed hillstar 3, Black metaltail 15, Rainbow starfrontlet 1, Andean flicker 5, Striated earthcreeper 1, Baron's spinetail 8, Rusty-crowned tit-spinetail ssp. *cajabambae* 5, Stripe-headed antpitta 10, Ancash tapaculo 2, White-cheeked cotinga 1, Pied-crested tit-tyrant 5, D'Orbigny's chat-tyrant 5, Black-billed shrike-tyrant 1, Rufous-naped ground-tyrant 2, Cinereous ground-tyrant 3, Tit-like dacnis 1, Blue-and-yellow tanager 3, Black-throated flowerpiercer 5, Plain-tailed warbling-finch 20, Rufous-eared brush-finch 4.

A Peregrine falcon was seen in the Río Santa Valley en route from Cimbote.

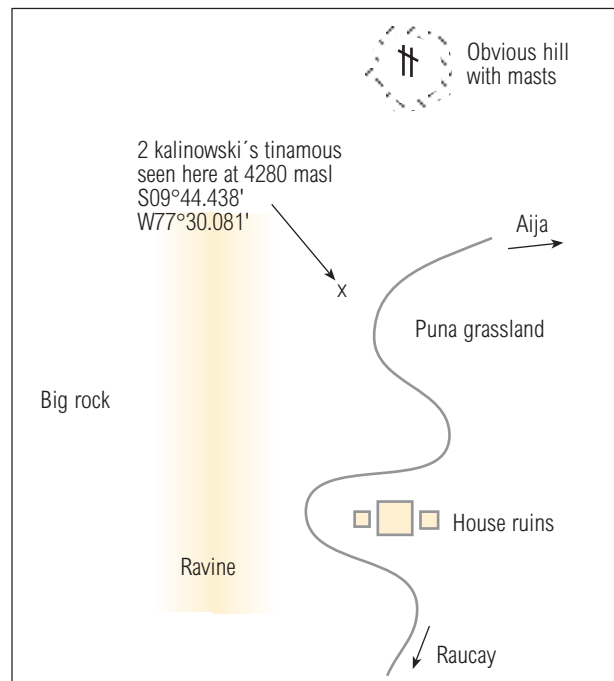
### RECUAY TO AIJA TO SAN DAMIAN

To get to San Damian, we had to pass the Cordillera Negra on the Recuay-Huarmey road. According to Adriano, Pale-tailed Canastero is found also above Recuay. We searched for it in the most extensive area of cacti we could find. No canasteros, but wonderful views of Cordillera Blanca and lots of other birds, including Giant Hummingbird, Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant and numerous finches and seedeaters.

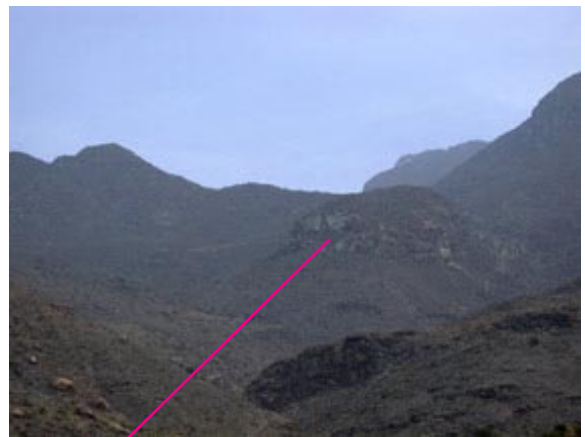
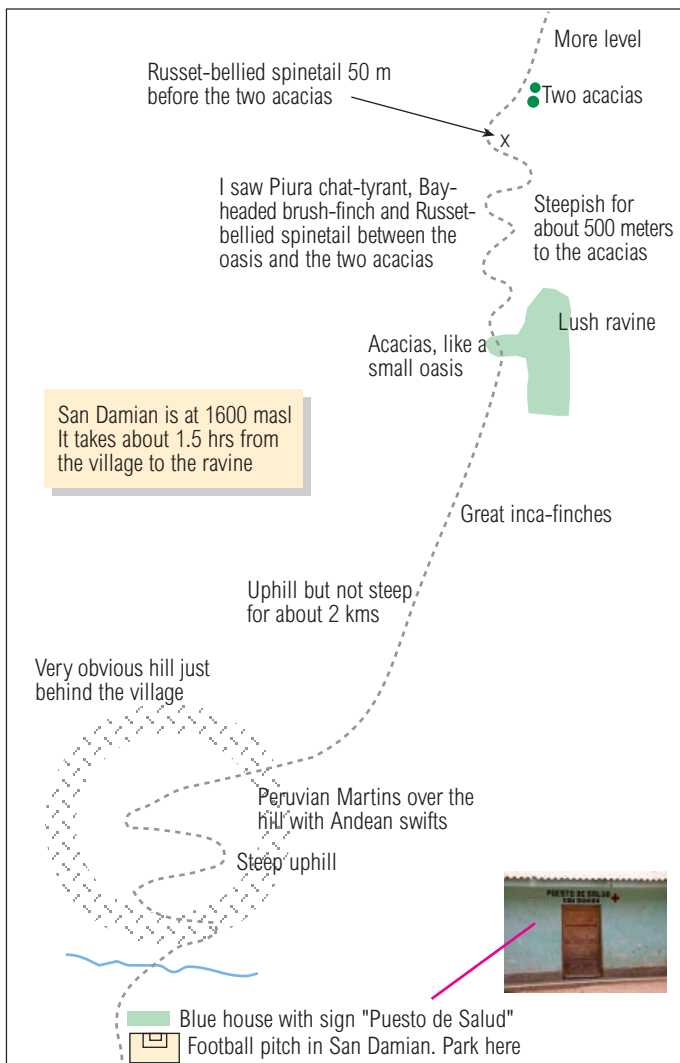
At 4200 m the agricultural land gives way to fairly intact, dry bunch grass. Here, at 4280 masl (S09°44.438' W77°30.081'), Carl suddenly spotted two tinamous walking through a small semiopen area of grass some 50 meters away. We initially drew the logic conclusion that they were Ornate Tinamous, but when we walked out to flush them they showed characteristics of Kalinowski's Tinamou, a bird so rare that it is practically unknown in life! The birds flew down into a deep gully, but we managed to flush one of the birds again, unfortunately without Benny being able to videotape it. Although this is only a sight record we are convinced that our identification is correct, supported by later research of about all material available on the species. Except for the tinamou, we also found Aplomado Falcon, Gray-breasted Seedsnipe, Puna Snipe, Plain-breasted Earthcreeper, Streak-throated Canastero and Páramo Pipit in the area. From Aija on the west slope of the cordillera, the road continues (the turn-off is just before you enter the town) westwards. The habitat is dry and the road passes some spectacular gorges. Amazing how they can build a road.

Birds seen: Kalinowski's tinamou 2, Aplomado falcon 1, Gray-breasted seedsnipe 4, Pacific pygmy-owl 1, **Green-headed hillstar** 1, Giant hummingbird 1, Amazilia hummingbird 15, Oasis hummingbird 5, Plain-breasted earthcreeper 3, Spot-billed ground-tyrant 10, Blue-and-yellow tanager 10, Collared warbling-finch 1, Greenish yellow-finch 5.

The identification of the tinamou could be questioned, specially since this is the second ever field observation and without any documentation. We did see the birds very well and we've read everything that has been written and looked at skins of Ornate tinamou. Recently it has been questioned whether this is a valid species. That is a question I cannot answer.



Map of the place where we saw the Kalinowski's tinamou.



Aim for this rock. The best birds are just to the left and above. View from the football pitch in San Damian.

### SAN DAMIAN

It is impossible to reach San Damian in the morning if you start from Recuay. Even from Huarney it takes 2 hours to get there. I came here at about 8.00 am and started to walk up the hill together with a local from the village. You don't really need a guide but that's an opportunity for someone from the village to earn some money (10 soles). It took me 1.5 hours stiff walking to reach the forest/scrub and I saw all good birds within half an hour. The spinetail is the most difficult one.

Birds seen: Pacific pygmy-owl 1, Andean swift 10, Russet-bellied spinetail 1, Streaked tit-spinetail ssp. *superciliaris* 1, Piura chat-tyrant 1, Peruvian martin 2, Great inca-finch 4, Bay-crowned brush-finch 3, Band-tailed sierra-finch 10.

### PUERTO HUARMEY

A convenient site just south of Huarney, which is sign posted. Seasonal wetlands and coastal habitats can yield a good mix of shorebirds, Humboldt current species and oasis birds. When I was here in early august we saw a nice selection of wetland birds, no big numbers but still. When I came back here in early october it was almost completely dried out and I didn't see anything.

Birds seen: Red-legged cormorant 2, American oystercatcher 20, Turnstone 1, Greater yellowlegs 1, Lesser yellowlegs 1, Least sandpiper 3, Western sandpiper 1, Semipalmated sandpiper 10, Baird's sandpiper 10, Spotted sandpiper 1, Willet 1, Semipalmated plover 5, Snowy plover 2, Killdeer 3, Black skimmer 15, South american tern 1.

## AROUND LIMA

### LOMAS DE LACHAY

Lomas de Lachay is a national park about 100 kms north of Lima along the PanAmerican. As soon as you leave the highway you can start birding and after a couple of kilometres you come to a checkpoint where you pay the entrance fee 5 soles. The road continues further into the hills (lomas). There is also a visitor centre higher up and paths. In the big round-about on the highway before coming to the park entrance, you can turn right and bird the road south of the park. The habitat here is more desert like and here is where we saw the Thick-knees.

Birds seen 14/7: **Peruvian thickknee** 30, Least seedsnipe 200, Coastal miner 50, Yellowish pipit 1, Grassland yellow-finch 200.

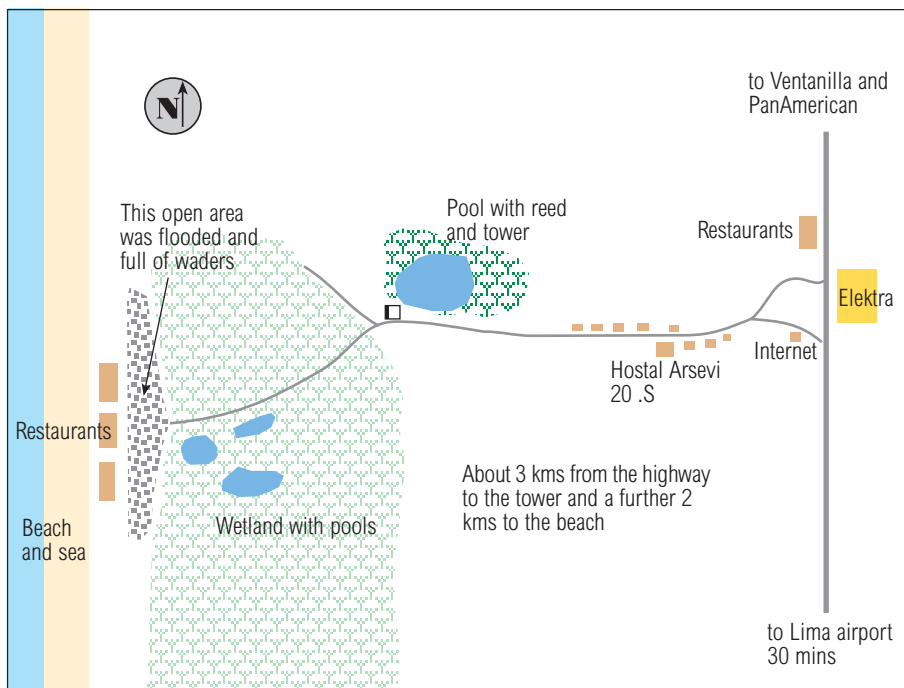
Birds seen 6/10: Black-chested buzzard-eagle 4, Least seedsnipe 10, Oasis hummingbird 5, Thick-billed miner 3, Black-lored yellowthroat ssp. *auricularis* 1, Band-tailed sierra-finch 10, Hooded siskin ssp. *peruana* 4,

At km 134.2 some 30 kms north of Lomas de Lachay we spotted a flock of 10 Tawny-throated dotterels in the middle of the desert.

## PANTANOS DE VENTANILLA

Ventanilla is about 30 minutes north of Lima airport along a good road. Just west of the town is a good piece of wetlands and a small lake with a tower. Good accommodation is available close to the birding site.

Birds seen: Little blue heron 50, Black-crowned night-heron 3, Least bittern 1, Harris's hawk 2, Plumbeous rail 4, Stilt sandpiper 12, Wilson's phalarope 1000 out of which one was albino, Yellow-hooded blackbird 2, Many-coloured rush-tyrant 10. Good numbers of many waders like 'Semiwestern' sandpipers, Least sandpiper, Sanderling, Greater- and Lesser yellowlegs, Whimbrel and Turnstone.



Map of Pantanos de Ventanilla. The "Elektra" is a big yellow shopping mall.

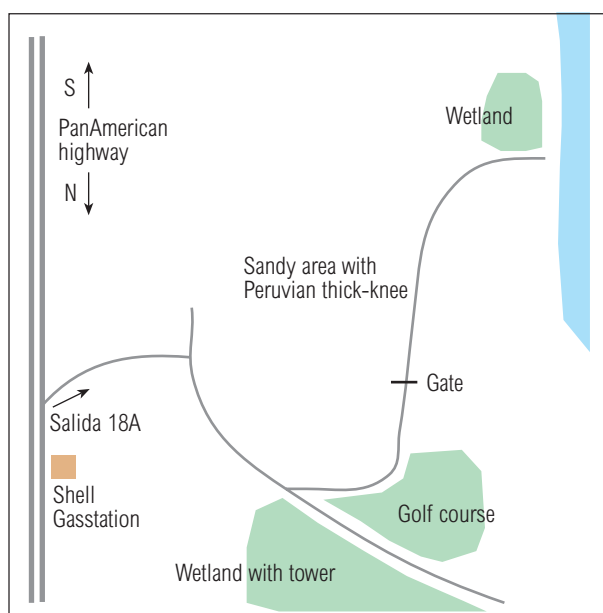
## PANTANOS DE VILLA

This wetland site is just at the southern outskirts of Lima. Turn off the PanAmerican at Salida 18A and turn right. Soon you'll see observation towers overlooking some ponds.

Birds seen: Great grebe 10, Peruvian thick-knee 2, Least sandpiper 2, Greater yellowlegs 3, Lesser yellowlegs 4, Sanderling 30, Semipalmated plover 30, Franklin's gull 5000, Yellow-hooded blackbird 3.

## PANTANOS DE PUERTO VIEJO

This site is 70 kilometres south of Lima along the PanAmerican. There is a sign 69.4 km and around here is wetland on the west side of the road. A dirt track leads off to the right and back, coming from the north. A few hundred metres onto this track takes you to ponds and reed. A short bit further south along the highway is a turn-off to the right to Puerto Viejo. There is a guard here and you'll have to leave your passport here and tell them nicely that you just want to birdwatch for a while. Then you may enter.



Map of Pantanos de Villa just south of Lima. A good place to spend an afternoon or some spare hours.



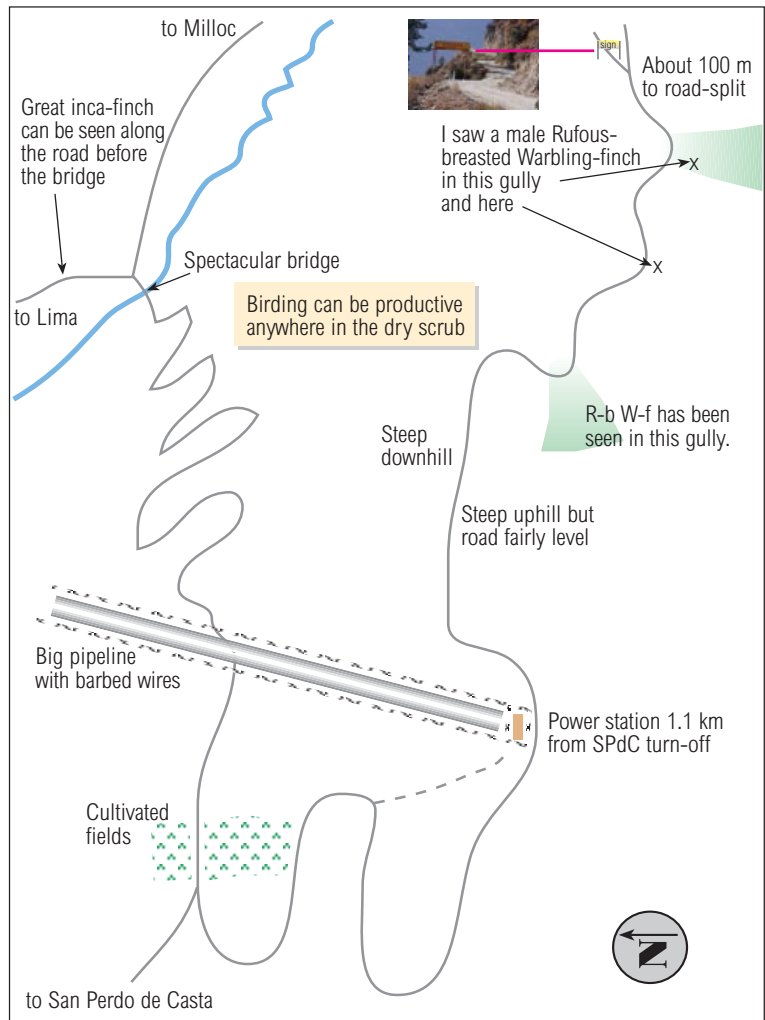
Black-necked stilt (left) and possible hybrid Black-necked x White-necked Stilt at Pantanos de Puerto Viejo 8/8. Compare to the picture of true White-backed Stilts from lake Titicaca on page 32. Note that this bird shows traces of the white eyebrow and that the forehead is a bit smudged. The white neckband seems to be just as clearcut as a typical White-necked Stilt.

Birds seen: Great grebe 7, White-tufted grebe 2, Least bittern 1, Cinereous harrier 3, Plumbeous rail 2, White-backed stilt 1, Black-necked stilt 50, Turnstone 14, Spotted sandpiper 1, Wren-like rush-bird 3, Many-coloured rush-tyrant 5, Dark-faced ground-tyrant 6, Yellowish pipit 5, Cliff swallow 5, Sand martin 5, Grassland yellow-finch 6.

### SANTA EULALIA VALLEY

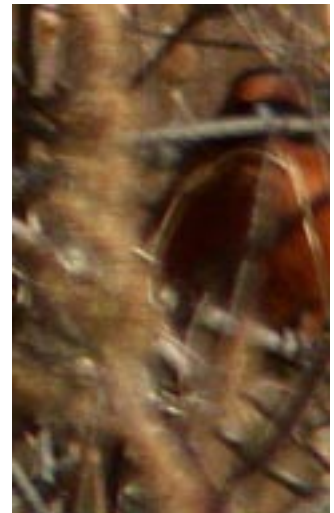
The Santa Eulalia valley is just east of Lima and accessed within a couple of hours. Drive to Chosica and turn left there towards Santa Eulalia. Pass through that village and continue on a dirt road up the valley. When you cross the river the first time you can start birding looking for Black-necked woodpecker and Peruvian pygmy-owl etc. You can continue uphill until you came to a junction where the right hand fork takes you across a rather spectacular bridge and up the hillside (see map). If you turn left you'll reach higher altitudes and you can continue all the way to Marcopomacocha and then onto the central highway. By far the best bird to be seen here is the Rufous-breasted warbling-finch which is rare even here. A number of other endemics can be seen as well, see below. Hotel is available in San Pedro de Casta.

From Chosica up to San Pedro de Casta: Andean tinamou 3, Torrent duck 2, Andean condor 3, Black-chested buzzard-eagle 1, Bare-faced ground-dove 5, Black-winged ground-dove 4, Mountain parakeet 15, Pacific pygmy-owl 1, Peruvian sheartail



5, Oasis hummingbird 1, Bronze-tailed comet 4, Black-necked woodpecker 1, Rusty-crowned tit-spinetail 4, Tropical pewee 1, Pied-crested tit-tyrant 10, Yellow-billed tit-tyrant 6, White-browed chat-tyrant 5, Blue-and-yellow tanager 2, Collared warbling-finch 15, Rufous-breasted warbling-finch 2 males, Great inca-finch 3, Rusty-bellied brush-finch 20, Band-tailed seedeater 25, Peruvian sierra-finch 2, Mourning sierra-finch 10.

Above San Pedro de Casta to Camarpoma: Black-chested buzzard-eagle 1 juv, Bare-faced ground-dove 50, Bronze-tailed comet 2, Giant hummingbird 10, Black-breasted hillstar 2, Black-necked woodpecker 2, Canyon canastero 7, Yellow-billed tit-tyrant 1, Spot-billed ground-tyrant 4, White-capped dipper 1, Rusty-bellied brush-finch 10, Mourning-, Ash-breasted-, Plumbeous-, Band-tailed- and Peruvian sierra-finches -common.



A very poor picture of a male Rufous-breasted Warbling-finch.

## PELAGICS

I joined two pelagics off Lima on 29/6 and 13/7 organized by Kolibri Expeditions. The first one was better due to better weather and we saw more birds. The boat leaves around 6 am from the porttown Callao. In my, and many others opinion the boat is a bit too small. Too rough sea makes birding difficult in a small boat. The price 135\$ seems to me to be a bit steep although food is served on the boat. You return about 5-6 pm.

Birds seen with first number from 29/6 and second number from 13/7: Waved albatross 50/10, Black-browed albatross 2/1, Shy albatross ssp. *cauda* 10/5, Cape petrel 1/5, White-chinned petrel 75/100, Pink-footed shearwater 100/25, Sooty shearwater 5000/1000, Wilson's stormpetrel 100, White-vented stormpetrel 50, Wedge-rumped stormpetrel 10, Band-rumped stormpetrel 0/1, Markham's stormpetrel 3/5, Ringed stormpetrel 30/10, Peruvian diving-petrel 2/1, Guanay cormorant 75, Red-legged cormorant 1/1, Humboldt penguin 10, blackish oystercatcher 0/2, Red phalarope 1/0; Chilean skua 30/15, South polar skua 1/0, Swallow-tailed gull 13/0, South american tern 2/0, Inca tern 300, Peruvian seaside cinclodes 0/1.

On 13/7 we also saw a Blue whale which was the first time for the pelagics.

A pelagic off Lima should not be missed. Check with Kolibri Expedition about departures.



Waved albatross. One of the most sought after species on the pelagics and regular throughout the year.

# CENTRAL HIGHWAY

## RÍO BLANCO

In a sharp left hand curve is a track off to the right and ends after about two hundred metres. The turn-off is near a sign for Río Blanco about two hours from Lima towards La Oroya.

Birds seen: White-winged cinclodes 2, Rusty-crowned tit-spinetail 2, Spot-billed ground-tyrant 1, Rufous-naped ground-tyrant 2, White-capped dipper 1, Rusty-bellied brush-finch 3, Greenish yellow-finch 2.

## TIKLIO BOG

The Tiklio bog is at 4500 masl soon before the Tiklio pass at 4815 masl. A track leads off to the left coming from Lima and almost immediately you can start look for birds. After a few hundred meters there is a pond on the left. Start look here and then all over the bog but take it easy, altitude sickness is a distinct possibility here.

Birds seen: Andean ibis 3, Andean goose 6, **Diademed sandpiper-plover** 1-2, Puna snipe 10, Rufous-bellied seedsnipe 4, Gray-breasted seedsnipe 5, Olivaceous thornbill 1, White-bellied cinclodes 8, White-fronted ground-tyrant 4, White-winged diuca-finch 10.

Eight White-bellied cinclodes on one visit is a good percentage of the world population of about 30-40 birds.

A few kilometres below, the track to Marcopomacocha branches off to the right in a left hand curve. About 200 metres onto this track and just across the railway you can park and walk back and uphill in the tall grass. I saw 2 Junín canasteros here and one other canastero which I think was Streak-throated.

## LAKE JUNÍN

Lake Junín at 4100 masl offers very good wetland birding and some specialities as well. Drive from Junín to Óndores (about 45 mins) and bird as you drive. There are loads of birds on the short grass and at times the road goes close to the water as well. 2-3 kms after Óndores is a good viewpoint over the lake and it is here where you have a reasonable chance of seeing the Junín grebe from the shore. You need to have good weather without heat-haze or strong wind. You also need a *good* telescope and high magnification. Otherwise a boat can be arranged in Óndores. Don't forget to scan the rocky parts along the road. Hotels are available in Junín.



*Diademed Sandpiper-plover. Arguably one of the most wanted birds in Peru by visiting birders. It is almost guaranteed at Tiklio bog.*



*White-bellied Cinclodes. A rare and endangered species with a limited distribution in central Peru. Recent estimations talk about less than 50 birds left. Easily seen at Tiklio bog.*

Don't forget to bring warm clothes as it gets very cold in the evening and early mornings.

Birds seen: Junín grebe 4 displaying, Silvery grebe 4, White-eared grebe 10, Chilean flamingo 30, Puna ibis >1000, Yellow-billed pintail 50, Puna and Speckled teal >1000, Andean coot and Moorhen >5000, Giant coot 50, Cinereous harrier 2, Variable [Puna] hawk 1 juv and 1 dark morph, Aplomado falcon 1, Plumbeous rail 5, Greater yellowlegs 2, Lesser yellowlegs 2, Puna snipe 4, Burrowing owl 3, Black-breasted hillstar 1 male, Andean flicker 10, Plain-breasted earthcreeper 5, Dark-winged miner 1, Slender-billed miner 2, Wren-like rush-bird 2, Many-coloured rush-tyrant 3, Andean negrito 25, Ochre-naped ground-tyrant 1, Black-billed shrike-tyrant 4, Andean swallow 5, Correndera pipit 2, Short-billed pipit 3, Bright-rumped yellow-finch 100, Black siskin 15.

In early July the waterlevel was high and the grebes could be seen from the shore a few kilometres beyond Óndores. In late november there was hardly any water among the reed and very few waterbirds close. At this time it was not possible to reach the lake with boat. The grebe is out-of-reach when the water level is low.



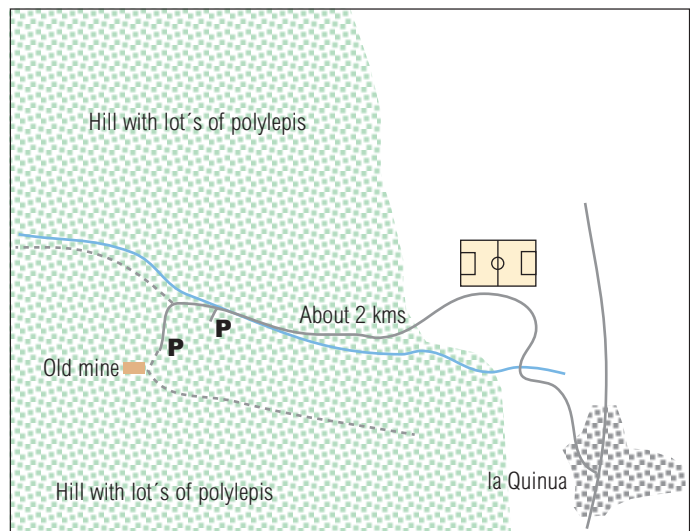
Stripe-headed Antpitta at la Quinoa. They are common and very confiding here.

Cerro de Pasco. A track branches off to the south and soon you have access to very nice polylepis forest. The forest here is sacred since hundreds of years and has survived. You can drive up to the old mine and walk around anywhere, there are a couple of trails. Streak-headed antpitta is very easy to see and they often hops in the open on the patches of short grass between the polylepis trees.

Birds seen: Mountain caracara 1 pair with 2 almost fledged chicks in the nest 23/11, Baron's spinetail 1, Rusty-crowned tit-spinetail 2, Striated earthcreeper 1, D'Orbigny's chat-tyrant 3, Rufous-naped ground-tyrant 2, Stripe-headed antpitta 10, Giant conebill 5, Thick-billed siskin 5.

### KM 368

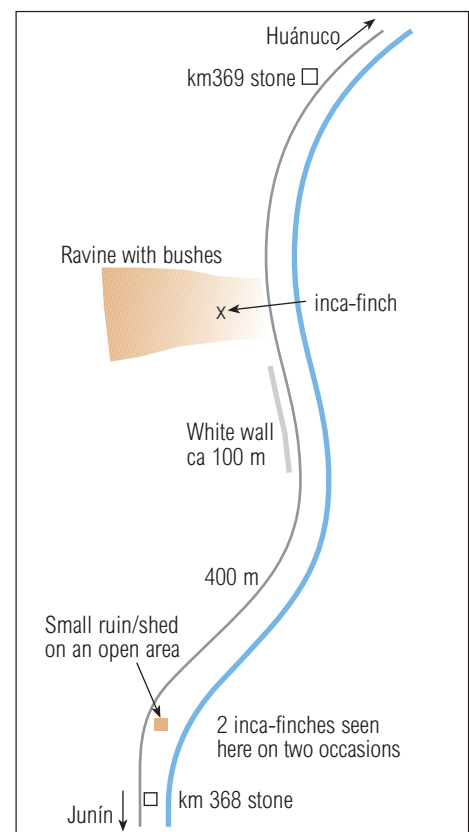
The stretch between kilometre 368 and 369 is a good site for the tricky Rufous-backed inca-finch.



Map of la Quinoa (above) and Km 368 (below)

### LA QUINUA

The small village la Quinoa is along the central highway between Huánuco and



Birds seen: Black-cheasted buzzard-eagle 1, Andean swift 10, White-bellied hummingbird 5, Pied-crested tit-tyrant 3, White-browed chat-tyrant 3, Rufous-backed inca-finch 3.

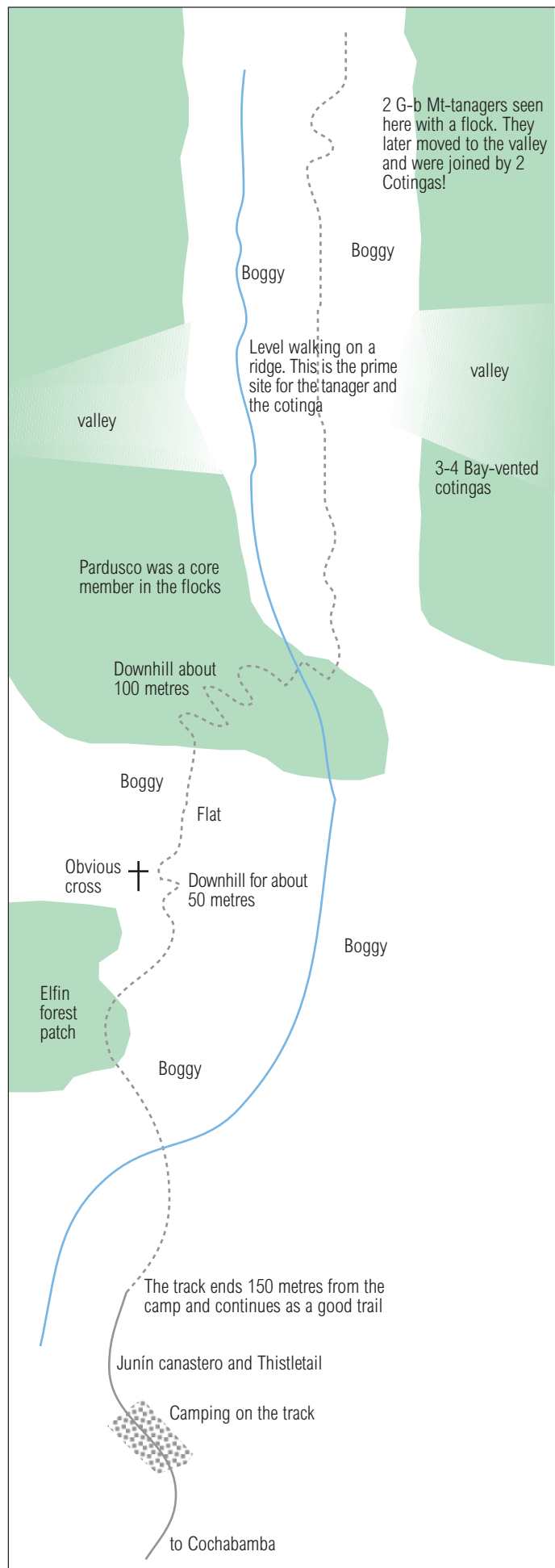
### BOSQUE UNCHOG

This beautiful elfin/temperate forest is a bit tricky to access. The turn-off from the highway is about half an hour east of Huánuco. From there it is about 1.5 hrs to the track ends and you have to camp here. Make sure you spend two nights here to make up for bad weather. If it is cloudy you'll see nothing. This site is best done in an organized form as it is very difficult to find the way up here. Camping is done at 3500 masl and birding at similar altitudes so warm clothes are mandatory. Birding is done along a fairly level trail so it is not that strenuous.



Adult Bay-vented Cotinga. One of the star birds at Bosque Unchog.

Birds seen: Speckle-faced parrot 1, Coppery metaltail 10, Shining sunbeam 1, Great sapphire-wing 1, Tyrain metaltail 10, White-chinned thistletail ssp. *plengei* 1, Junín canastero 1, Line-fronted canastero 1, Rufous antpitta ssp. *obscura* 1, Unulated antpitta 1 seen and 2 heard, Stripe-headed antpitta 1 heard, Neblina tapaculo 5 heard, Red-crested cotinga 1, Bay-vented cotinga 4 ad+juv, Red-rumped bush-tyrant 1, Páramo pipit 2, White-browed conebill 5 (without white chin), Drab hemispingus 2, Brown-flanked tanager 2, Golden-backed mountain-tanager 2, Golden-collared tanager 2, Pardusco 5-10, Golden-billed saltator 20.







*Golden-backed Mountain-tanager at Bosque Unchog. Scarce, difficult to find, endemic and beautiful.*

The saltator and Brown-flanked tanagers were seen on the dry side of the pass on the way down towards Cochabamba. The Rufous antpitta will be a separate species when that complex has been written up.

#### CARPISH TUNNEL

About one hour east of Huánuco is the Carpish tunnel at 2700 masl. It is amazing to drive through the tunnel as the landscape is completely different on the wet east side with beautiful cloud-forest. The west side is much drier, this is however where you should look for the endemic Brown-flanked tanager. It can be seen in any little patch of trees. Just when you come out on the east side of the tunnel a track branches off to the left. Drive about 50 metres or so, just so your car is not seen from the road and slowly bird the track for about 1-2 kms.

Birds seen: Broad-winged hawk 1, Gray-breasted mountain-tanager 1, Violet-throated starfrontlet 5, Amethyst-throated sunangel 5, Tyrian metaltail 5, Mountain velvetbreast 2, Azara's spinetail 5, Rufous spinetail 3, White-crested elaenia 2, Highland elaenia 1, Rufous-headed pygmy-tyrant 2, Unstreaked tit-tyrant 2, Tufted tit-tyrant 2, Rufous-webbed bush-tyrant 3, Barred fruiteater 3, Bay antpitta 1 heard, Tschudi's tapaculo 1 heard, Blue-backed conebill 5, Yellow-scarfed tanager 5, Buff-breasted mountain-tanager 1, Chestnut-breasted mountain-tanager 2, Brown-flanked tanager 2, Slaty brush-finch 2, Stripe-headed brush-finch 1.

Birds seen: Broad-winged hawk 1, Gray-breasted mountain-tanager 1, Violet-throated starfrontlet 5, Amethyst-

#### PATI TRAIL

The Pati trail starts about 5 kms below the Carpish tunnel near some food stalls. You may have to ask people for the trailhead. It then goes down a long way into the valley below through mostly degraded habitat. Birding is excellent anyway and at least two days should be spent here. Walking along the road uphill is also productive. You can either camp in the school at the trailhead or stay in Huánuco and commute from there (about 1 hr).

Birds seen: **Black-and-chestnut eagle** 1 juv, Andean guan 1 ad+1 chick, Collared inca 1, Bronzy inca 4, Amethyst-throated sunangel 1, **Emerald-bellied puffleg** 3, Masked trogon 3, Gray-breasted mountain-toucan 5, Bar-bellied woodpecker 1, Crimson-mantled woodpecker 3, Powerful woodpecker 2, Streaked tufted-cheek 5, Tyrannine woodcreeper 1, Olive-backed woodcreeper 3, Handsome flycatcher 3, Cinnamon flycatcher 10, Flavescent flycatcher 2, Sierran elaenia 1, Golden-browed chat-tyrant 1, Pale-edged flycatcher 1, Uniform antshrike 1, Long-tailed antbird 2, Bay antpitta 1 seen and 4-5 heard, Trilling tapaculo 2 heard, **Red-ruffed fruitcrow** 1, White-eared solitaire 3, Rusty flowerpiercer 2, Gray-hooded bush-tanager 5, Drab hemispingus 4, Oleaginous hemispingus 2, Black-eared hemispingus 10, Flame-faced tanager 3, Yellow-scarfed tanager 10, Buff-breasted mountain-tanager 1, Grass-green tanager 5, Plushcap 6, Slaty brush-finch 1, Stripe-headed brush-finch 1, Slaty finch 2, **Masked saltator** 1, **Yellow-billed cacique** 1.

#### TINGO MARIA AND THE OILBIRD CAVE

The Oilbird cave (Cueva de las Lechusas) is only 15 minutes from Tingo Maria and the cave itself is only 5 minutes walk from the parking. It is however productive to walk past the cave and keep birding.

Birds seen: Undulated tinamou 3 heard, Little tinamou 2 heard, Speckled chachalaca 2, Hoatzin 1, Pied lapwing 1, Blue-headed macaw 3, White-eyed parakeet 50, Blue-headed parrot 20, Band-bellied owl 1, Spectacled owl 1 heard, **Oilbird** 100, Golden-tailed sapphire 1, **Many-spotted hummingbird** 1, Bluish-fronted jacamar 1, Chestnut-eared aracari 3, Lafresnaye's piculet 2, Great antshrike 1, White-browed antbird 1, Spot-winged antbird 2, **Dusky-chested flycatcher** 1, Gray-capped flycatcher 1, Cliff flycatcher 2, Short-crested flycatcher 1, Huallaga tanager 10, oriole blackbird 5, Giant cowbird 30.

## REFUGIO ECOLÓGICO MANANTIAL ETERNO, TINGO MARIA

This rather simple but charming lodge is short before Tingo Maria coming from Huánuco. Turn right by a sign for Santa Rosa. The dirt track splits a few times but ask in the village. It is some 5-6 kms from the main road. They have trails in forest and there are leks of Cock-of-the-Rock. The forest looks very good but the terrain is steep. Given the altitude, about 700 masl, and trails to access the forest this site could be a very interesting site. There is also a good viewpoint just above the lodge.

Birds seen, mainly in secondary habitat: Speckled chachalaca 6, Ruddy quail-dove 1, Ferruginous pygmy-owl, Great-billed hermit 3 at lek, Glittering-throated emerald 2, Amazonian white-tailed trogon 2, Lafresnaye's piculet 2, Buff-throated foliage-gleaner 2, Variable antshrike 2, Warbling antbird 2, Yellow-crowned tyrannulet 1, Sulphur-bellied flycatcher 1, Hauxwell's thrush 1, Black-billed thrush 5, Masked Crimson tanager 3, Huallaga tanager 3, White-lored euphonia 10, Crested oropendola 1.

## POMACOCHA TO PUNTO

The high altitude lake Pomacocha at 4500 masl is close to Huancayo. A few hours drive across the puna take you to the end of the road at a small village called Punto at 3900 masl. Below this village is a valley to the Otutu forest.

Birds seen: **Andean ibis** 10, Speckled teal 2, Variable [Puna] hawk 3, Aplomado falcon 1, Gray-breasted seedsnipe 1, Fire-throated metaltail 1, Blue-mantled thornbill 2, Andean flicker 5, Common miner 5, Streak-throated canastero 1, Striated earthcreeper 1, D'Orbigny's chat-tyrant 1, White-browed chat-tyrant 1, Cinereous ground-tyrant 3, Ochre-naped ground-tyrant 2, Andean negrito 10, Golden-billed saltator 1.

## PUNTO

We birded for a few hours starting at dawn (cold). We walked as far down as we needed to see the Brush-finch which we saw at 3500 masl. Obviously the walk uphill was hard.

Birding was good and we saw: Andean parakeet 8, Mountain velvetbreast 2, Giant hummingbird 3, Tyrian metaltail 4, Fire-throated metaltail 4, Creamy-crested spinetail 15, Tawny-rumped tyrannulet 1, Stripe-headed antpitta 1, Plain-tailed wren 2, Rust-and-yellow tanager 1, Blue-and-yellow tanager 2, Chestnut-bellied mountain-tanager 1, Peruvian sierra-finch 3, Black-throated flowerpiercer 2, Black-spectackled brush-finch 2, Golden-billed saltator 5.

This and a nearby valley are the only known places for the Brush-finch. The Plain-tailed wren here may represent a separate species. This population was discovered by Gunnar Engblom. While we walked back I saw a perched hummingbird looking like a female Tyrian metaltail but with a 4 mm wide, white band along the back from the neck to the rump! Whether this bird was an aberrant or partial albino or a new taxon is unknown to me. Future visitors may keep an eye open.

## SATIPO ROAD

The road to Satipo offers excellent east slope birding just as good as the classic Manu road. Camping is the only option along the road and three days is a minimum here. Good forest and birding is found from about 1200 masl all the way up to 3400 where the forest gives way to the puna. At 2200 masl there is a village and a few hundred metres up and down the habitat is a bit degraded.

Day 1. Birding from 3400 to 2200 masl

Andean guan 3, Speckle-faced parrot 25, Green-fronted lancebill 1, Violet-throated starfrontlet 2, Sword-billed hummingbird 2, Amethyst-throated sunangel ssp. *decolor* 3, Fire-throated metaltail 2, Masked trogon 1, Blue-banded toucanet 3, Gray-breasted mountain-toucan 2, Eye-ringed thistle 7, Rufous spinetail 1, Barred fruit-eater 1, Band-tailed fruit-eater 1, Large-footed tapaculo 2, Tschudi's tapaculo 2, Peruvian rufous-vented tapaculo 1, **Ochraceous-breasted flycatcher** 10, Maroon-chested chat-tyrant 2, Peruvian wren 15, Slaty-backed nightingale-thrush 1, White-collared jay, Yellow-whiskered bush-tanager 2, Gray-hooded bush-tanager ssp. *chrysogaster* 5, Black-eared hemispingus ssp. *berlepschi* 2, Black-capped hemispingus ssp. *auricularis* 5, Drab hemispingus 10, Rufous-chested tanager 3, Chestnut-bellied mountain-tanager 2, Moustached flowerpiercer

10, Tricoloured brush-finch 5, Slaty brush-finch 15, Stripe-headed brush-finch 2, Dusky-green oropendola 5.

Day2. Birding from 2600 to 1650 masl

Fasciated tiger-heron 1 juv, Torrent duck 1, Gray-fronted dove 1, Green-fronted lancebill 1, Chestnut-breasted coronet 1, White-bellied woodstar 1, Highland motmot 1, Versicoloured barbet 2, Blue-banded toucanet 3, Striped treehunter 1, Peruvian rufous-vented tapaculo 1, Band-tailed fruit-eater 1, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock 2 males, Lemon-browed flycatcher 3, Streaked flycatcher 1, Superciliated hemispingus ssp. *leucogaster* 5, Rufous-chested tanager 1, Blue-naped chlorophonia 1, Orange-eared tanager 2, **Blue-browed tanager** 2, Silver-backed tanager 1, **Golden-collared honeycreeper** 1, Yellow-throated tanager 2, Black-backed grosbeak 1, Olivaceous siskin 1.

Day3. Birding from 1600 to 1200 masl.

Red-throated caracara 2, Green hermit 1, Reddish hermit 3, White-bellied hummingbird 1, Glittering-throated emerald 1, Violet-fronted brilliant 1, Booted raquettail ssp. *annae* 2, Amethyst woodstar 1 female, White-bellied woodstar 3, Amazon kingfisher 1, Bluish-fronted jacamar 2, Golden-olive woodpecker 1, Blackish antbird 4, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock 1 male, Yellow-margined flycatcher 1, Coraya wren 4, Golden-bellied warbler 3.

### SATIPO TO OXAPAMPA

Fasciated tiger-heron 1 ad, Black caracara 3, Speckled chachalaca 1, Black-fronted nunbird 2, Buff-throated woodcreeper 1, Little ground-tyrant 2, Gray-capped flycatcher 2, Variegated flycatcher 1, Caquetá seedeater 1 male.

### OXAPAMPA

This beautiful cloud-froest area near Oxapampa offers very good birding in a spectacular setting. We camped at 2600 masl and birded a bit up and down from there. We had been given a tape of the endemic Cloud-forest screech-owl and in the evening they started to sing. When we spotlighted them, they turn out to be White-throated screech-owls! Apparently the Cloud-forest S-O is found lower down but in the same general area.

Birds seen: Barred parakeet 75, White-throated screech-owl 2 seen and 3 heard, Violet-throated starfrontlet 3, Green-tailed trainbearer 1 male, Rufous-capped thornbill 2, Powerful woodpecker 1, Bay antpitta 2 heard, **Rufous antpitta** ssp.?? 5 heard, Tschudi's tapaculo 2 heard, **Chestnut-crested cotinga** 1, Barred fruit-eater 1 male, White-eared solitaire 1, Yellow-scarfed tanager 5, Russet-backed oropendola 3.

## IQUITOS

### RESERVA ALLPAHUAYO-MISHANA

I made a short visit here with Ashley Banwell and Lee Mixon. Jon Hornbuckle was also with us for an hour. We were supposed to have a guide that never showed up and we didn't have much gear so we didn't do very well here. The Allpahuayo-Mishana reserve is easily reached from Iquitos along a good paved road and it takes just 50 mins. At km 27 there is biological station where we stayed one night for a rather expensive 15\$ per person. A good trail starts here which offers good birding. The best birds are however found along the trail at km 25 where there is a small guard station.

Birds seen: Short-tailed hawk 1, Bat falcon 1, Dusky-headed parakeet 4, Crested owl 1 seen + 2 heard, Spectacled owl 1, Black-throated brilliant 2, Fork-tailed woodnymph 1, Pheasant cuckoo 1 heard, Amazonian violaceous trogon 1, Paradise jacamar 1, Yellow-billed nunbird 1, White-throated toucan 1, Yellow-throated woodpecker 1, Barred antshrike 1, Variable antshrike 1, Gray antwren 2, **Ancient antwren** 3, Allpahuayo antbird 1 male, Screaming piha 5, Purple-throated fruitcrow 3, Slender-footed tyrannulet 3, Mishana tyrannulet 1, **Zimmer's tody-tyrant** 1, Red-legged honeycreeper 15 in one flock, Flame-crested tanager 2, Rufous-bellied euphonia 2, Opal-crowned tanager 2, Slate-coloured grosbeak 4.

# THE COAST SOUTH OF LIMA

## PUCUSANA

This little fishing-village offers some nice birding. We stopped here for a couple of hours to have a brunch and some birding.

Birds seen: Sooty shearwater 1, Red-legged cormorant 1, **Peruvian thick-knee** 2 just south, Inca tern 50, Peruvian seaside cinclodes 1.

## RÍO CANETE

We drove up the valley along río Canete and made stops en route for birding at different altitudes. The drive was longer than expected and we didn't have time to bird as much as we wanted. As can be seen on the birdlist below, we birded a wide range of altitude. The higher parts before Huancayo goes over the puna with scattered bogs and lakes. The río Canete valley is generally dry and similar to the Santa Eualalia valley. Higher up there are a few patches of dry polylepis before coming up to the puna. We spent one night in a simple residencial, otherwise camping is the only option.

Birds seen: Silvery grebe 2, Puna ibis 100, Chilean flamingo 20, Andean goose 100, Speckled teal 4, Crested duck 10, Puna teal 100, Torrent duck 10, Mountain caracara 4, Giant coot 2, Andean lapwing 1, Spot-winged pigeon 25, Bare-faced ground-dove 20, Mitred/Scarlet-fronted parakeet 20, Andean parakeet 20, Andean swift 50, Black metaltail 3, Oasis hummingbird 1, White-bellied woodstar 1, Purple-collared woodstar 1, Peruvian sheartail 4, Black-necked woodpecker 1, White-bellied cinclodes 1, Rusty-crowned tit-spinetail 2, Dark-winged canastero ssp. ?? 1, White-crested elaenia ssp. *modesta* 2, Bran-coloured flycatcher ssp. *rufescens* 1, Yellow-billed tit-tyrant 1, Tufted tit-tyrant 2, Common miner 1, D'Orbigny's chat-tyrant 2, Andean negrito 1, White-capped dipper 3, Chiguanco thrush 10, Black siskin 1, Mourning sierra-finch 1, White-winged diuca-finch 1, Great inca-finch 1, Bright-rumped yellow-finch 20.

We found a new site for the critical endangered White-bellied cinclodes. The race of Dark-winged canastero here is an undescribed subspecies.

## JAHUAY

We just made a roadside stop along the PanAmerican when we saw loads of birds passing north over the sea. This village is a bit north of Pisco.

Guanay cormorant about 50 000 flew north during half an hour 9.30-10.00. On the beach American oystercatcher 20 and Whimbrel 2.

## PARACAS

Paracas is just south of Pisco along the coast. You can bird most of the bay without entering the national park and pay the entrance fee but if you want to visit the peninsula you have to pay the entrance fee. I didn't see very much in the actual park and had much better birding near Pisco (see below). In the afternoon it was very windy at the tower, perhaps mornings are better.

Birds seen: Chilean flamingo 300, Surfbird 2, Sanderling 200, Semipalmated sandpiper 1000, Western sandpiper 50, Least sandpiper 20, Franklin's gull 1, Elegant tern 5, Royal tern 2, **Peruvian tern** 15, Peruvian seaside cinclodes 1.

## PISCO - SAN ANDRES

Just north of Pisco is an estuary that has lots of birds. Basically drive north along the coast in Pisco until you've past the last houses and turn left onto a dirt track. This area has a bad reputation for robberies so be careful. The best birding for me in early october was along the road from Pisco south towards Paracas near a small village called San Andres. Very easy access to thousands of waders close to the road and it is easy to pull over and scan the shoreline. Pisco has many hotels and restaurants.

Birds seen: Marbled godwit 1, Whimbrel 25, Red knot 50, American golden plover 1, Gray plover 100, Semipalmated plover 500, Snowy plover 10, Sanderling 200, 'SemiWestern' sandpiper 3000, Ruddy turnstone 500, Wandering tattler 3, Greater yellowlegs 50, Wilson's phalarope 5, Peruvian tern 11, Yellowish pipit 2.

The vast majority of the semiwesterns were Semipalmated with only smaller numbers of Western and Least. The Peruvian terns were seen just north of Pisco. Marbled godwit is a major rarity in Peru.

### NAZCA

I just made a random stop where it looked good for the canastero and I found a pair before leaving my car. Other valleys nearby probably holds the canastero as well. I had some swift views of a pair of Streaked tit-spinetails here but I didn't see them good enough to be able to put a subspecific name to them. According to the literature this is just inbetween two races.

Black-chested buzzard-eagle 1, Cactus canastero 2, Streaked tit-spinetail sp? 2.

### SAN JUAN

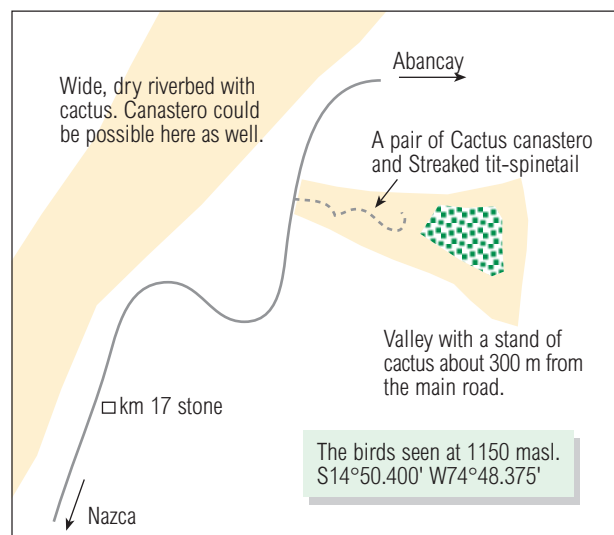
Tawny-throated dotterel 3

### YAUCA

The famous olive groves at Yauca is a stronghold for the near-endemic Slender-billed finch. We drove into the valley and parked at the mayors house and birded the olive groves. Mauricio knew the people here. You'd better ask for permission or better, park by the bridge over the river and bird the riverside scrub, that is where the finches are anyway. We stayed at San Juan by the coast but you might as well stay in Nazca and start early.



Marbled godwit at San Andres. A major rarity in Peru.



Map of the Cactus canastero-site near Nazca

Plumbeous rail 1, Pacific pygmy-owl 1 heard, **Slender-billed finch** 5 ad+juv.

### KM 716

Southern fulmar 1 flew south, Cinnamon teal 1 flew south, Gray gull 200 flew south.

We just made a short roadside stop for a leg-strecher with a saevew and were lucky to see a Southern fulmar.

### KM 765

Raimondi's yellow-finch 6

### CHIGUATA

This site is about an hour above Arequipa and offers good dry scrub and polylepis birding. Birding starts basically just past the village Chiguata. Birding can then be productive all the way up to lake Salinas. When we were here in mid-august the lake was almost completely dried out and had very few birds. Otherwise you can see all three species of flamingoes here. Mauricio knew of a small spot in the polylepis with a small pond. This place was wonderful in the morning when lots of birds came in to drink and bath. I recommend having Mauricio as a guide for this area. He also knew about nests of White-throated earthcreeper etc.



*Tamarugo conebill at Chiguita above Arequipa.*

Birds seen: Black-chested buzzard-eagle 1, Oasis hummingbird 1, Andean hillstar 25, Giant hummingbird 3, Andean flicker 2, **Straight-billed earthcreeper** 1, **White-throated earthcreeper** 2, Plain-breasted earthcreeper 3, Unidentified Earthcreeper 10, **Thick-billed miner** 2, Cordilleran canastero 5, Dark-winged canastero ssp. *arequipae* 20, **Canyon canastero** 5, Andean tit-spinetail 1, Streaked tit-spinetail ssp. *striata* 1, Yellow-billed tit-tyrant 2, D'Orbigny's chat-tyrant 2, Black-billed shrike-tyrant 1, **Tamarugo conebill** 25, Giant conebill 5, Thick-billed siskin 20, Yellow-rumped siskin 1, Black siskin 1. The following Sierra-finches were common: Mourning-, Ash-breasted-, Black-hooded-, Peruvian- and Plumbeous. Around Lago Salinas, which was almost completely dried out, higher up the following was seen: Puna plover 3, Baird's sandpiper 5, Andean gull 2, Cinereous ground-tyrant 10, Spot-billed ground-tyrant 3, Rufous-naped ground-tyrant 4,

#### LAGUNAS DE MEJIA

This nice national park along the coast near

Arequipa makes for some good wetland birding. It is the only site in Peru for Red-fronted coot. Ask the park guards for the best places to see it. The site constitutes of a series of ponds fringed with reed. There are several towers and the nearby seashore hold typical shorebirds as well.

A driveable track takes you around the area. The track was very wet in places and 4 WD is mandatory. There is a 5 soles entrance fee. Accomodation is in Arequipa or presumably in nearby Mejia which would be even better.

Birds seen: Great grebe 10, Tricoloured heron 1, Chilean flamingo 50, Cinereous harrier 1, Harris's hawk 1, Osprey 1, **Red-fronted coot** 17, Andean coot and Moorhen - common, Sanderling 100, Gray plover 2, Whimbrel 1, Burrowing owl 1, House wren ssp. *tecellatus* 2, Wren-like rush-bird 2, White-backed stilt 2, Black skimmer 43, Elegant tern 3.

#### MOQUEGUA

**Black-faced ibis** 19, Dark-faced ground-tyrant 4.

## ARÍCA - CHILE

#### AZAPA VALLEY

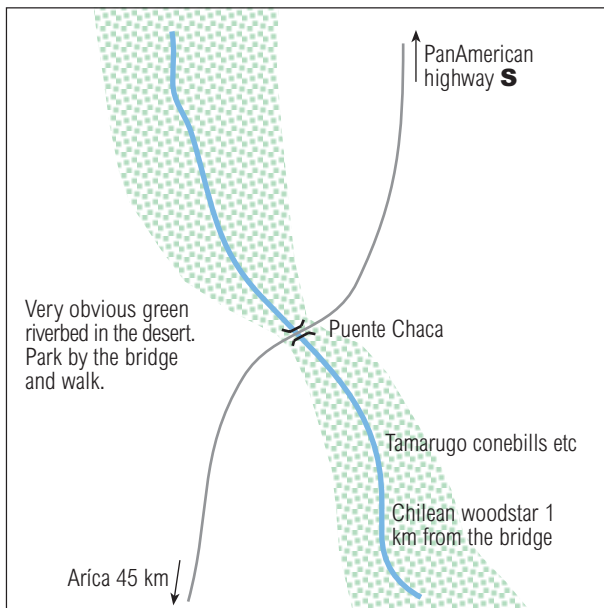
The Azapa valley is just east of Arica and easily accessed within ten minutes. I birded mainly around the museum and botanical garden. This site is formerly a good place for the Peruvian woodstar but it seems like that species has expired from this and the Llauta valleys due to the expansion of the Peruvian sheartail which pushes it away. It can now only be found in a few desert oases further south which the Sheartails haven't reached - yet. The woodstar has been discussed on BirdingPeru and it seems like there are no reliable observations from the Azapa and Llauta valleys in recent years. Note that the females of the woodstar and the sheartail are very similar.

Birds seen: Oasis hummingbird 20, Peruvian sheartail 10, Streaked tit-spinetail 3, Slender-billed finch 10

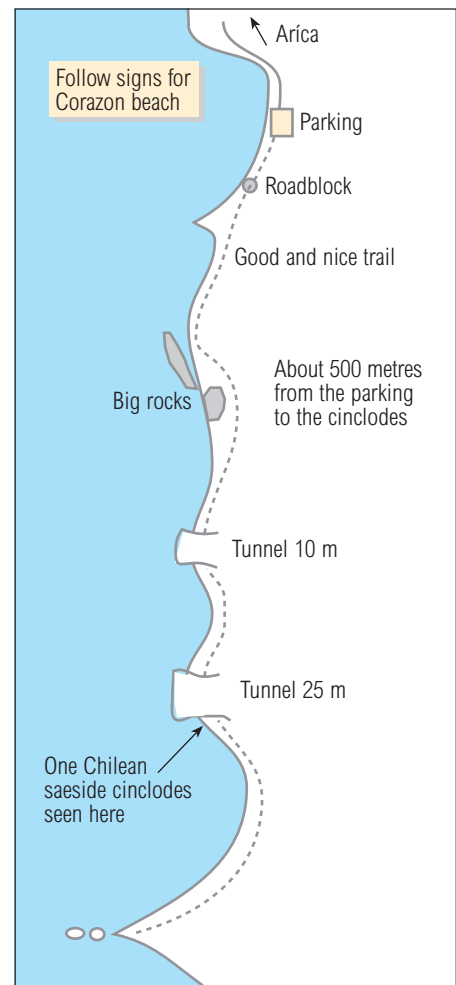
## SOUTHERN ARÍCA

Just drive south from Arica along a good paved road. You'll pass some fisheries and you'll see signs for Corazon beach. Drive to the road ends and walk from there. The cinclodes could probably be found anywhere along the rocky shoreline.

Birds seen: Red-legged cormorant 3, Blackish oystercatcher 6, Burrowing owl 1, Chilean seaside cinclodes 1. Peruvian booby and pelican, Gray-, Band-tailed- and Kelp gull, Guanay- and Neotropical cormorant - all common



Map of the Chaca valley 45 kms south of Arica



Map of the Chilean Seaside Cinclodes south of Arica

## CHACA VALLEY

This site is 45 kms south of Arica along the Panamerican highway. It is one of the last strongholds for the rare Chilean woodstar which has been pushed away from the Azapa and Llauta valleys near Arica by the Peruvian sheartail which in recent years have started to colonize those valleys. It is a very obvious place with a streambed at the bottom of a valley and a lot of vegetation. I parked at the bridge and followed the stream downstream.

Birds seen: Cinereous harrier 1, Chilean woodstar 1 male, Oasis hummingbird 5, Streaked tit-spinetail 5, **Tamarugo conebill** 5, **Slender-billed finch** 10.

# SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

## MOQUEGUA TO LAKE TITICACA (DESAGUADERO)

This road is paved all the way and offers some fairly good high altitude birding. I was intended to drive from Moquegua to Puno but took a wrong turn in a junction. The road to Puno is not paved. I searched in vain for Lesser [Puna] rhea. I asked all the people I met and they were all familiar with it but I couldn't find any. A few lakes near the road had the usual birds and some Andean avocets. The best lake was lago Tanka Tanka for which see below.

Birds seen: Short-winged grebe 5, Andean swallow 20, **White-throated sierra-finch** 2, Greenish yellow-finch 50. A few wetland birds in some of the lakes along the way like Chilean flamingo and 2 **Andean avocets**.

## LAGO TANKATANKA

This wetland with lots of birds is close to the village Sicuyani about 30 kms west of the border town of Desaguadero. The site is at 3670 masl. Nearby was some ruins with the same name as the lake.

Birds seen: Maguari stork 2!!!, Cinereous harrier 1 male, **Andean avocet** 3, Puna plover 100, Baird's sandpiper 100, Pectoral sandpiper 3, Stilt sandpiper 10, Wilson's phalarope 1, Gray-breasted seedsnipe 50, Black-winged ground-dove 2, Golden-spotted ground-dove 10, Common miner ssp. *titicacae* 5, Black-billed shrike-tyrant 2, Puna Yellow-finch 5.

It was surprising to find two Maguari storks this high up.



*A surprising find was two Maguari storks at lago Tanka Tanka at 3670 masl.*

## LAKE TITICACA

I birded from Puno south to the village Chucuito and back. Lots of wetland birds but a bad backlight in the morning. The grebe is easily seen as are many other wide-spread wetland birds.



*Titicaca Flightless Grebe. Easy to see along the lake*



*White-backed Stilts at lake Titicaca. Compare to the possible hybrid on page 20.*

Birds seen: Titicaca flightless grebe 20, White-tufted grebe 100, Silvery grebe 5, **Andean ibis** 2, Cinereous harrier 1, Mountain caracara 20, Spot-winged pigeon 4, Cordilleran canastero 1, Common miner 25, Yellow-winged blackbird 100.

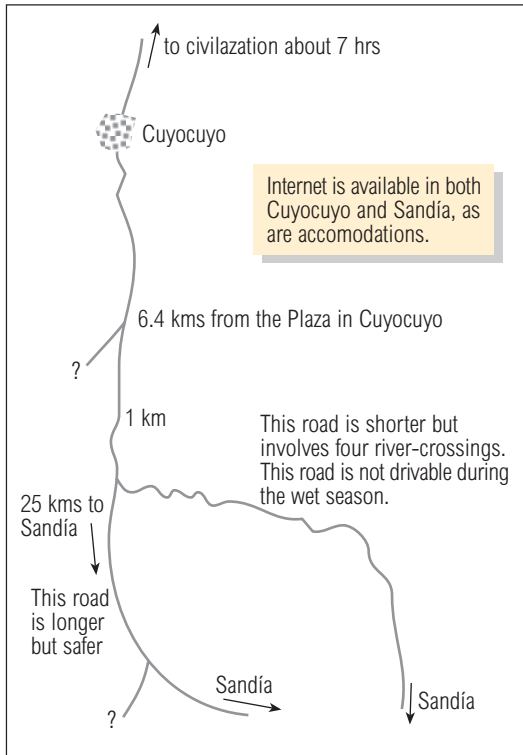
## SANDÍA

This is the only site in the world for Green-capped tanager and it is remote. I knew it was a long drive but I didn't know that the road was that bad. From Juliaca it is a good paved road to the village Huancané. From there it is a bumpy dirtroad across the puna. I made it only to the village Cuyocuyo before darkness. To my surprise internet was available here!!! From Cuyocuyo it is about 2 hours drive to Sandía. I didn't have any gen about the tanager, just what is written in the book. I drove a bit east of Sandía and made some stops where there were some scrub and had a brief view of one. In the afternoon I birded near Sandía and easily saw 3-4, see map. On the way back I started earlier and drove straight with very few stops and took a different route via Azángaro and came out on the highway at Pucará. This track was shorter but still bad and not on my map and

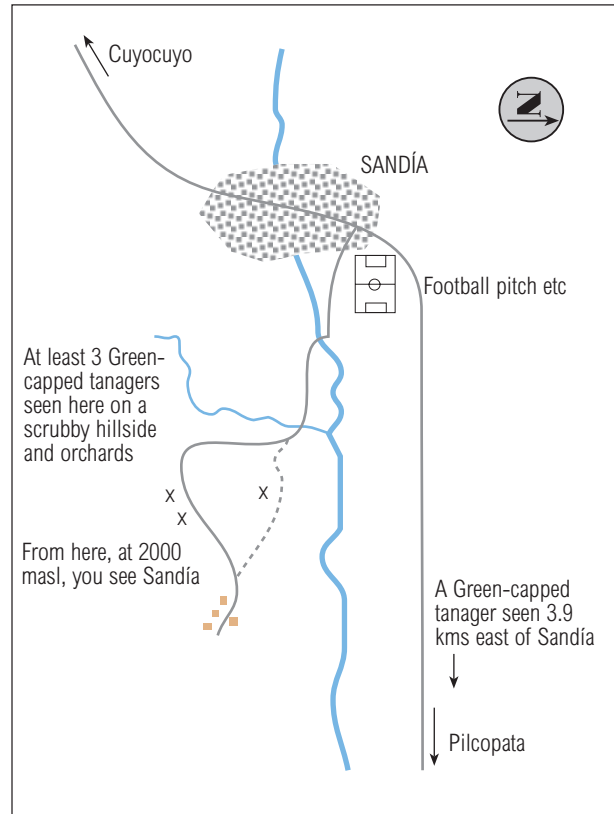


it is a long way between the houses so make sure your vehicle is in good condition because you don't want to get stuck out here. Driving is mostly around 4000 masl. Birding along the way is rather poor with some puna species and you pass a few lakes that has the usual selection of birds.

Birds seen: Torrent duck 5, Andean condor 3, Band-tailed pigeon 200, Andean parakeet 15, White-bellied hummingbird 10, White-winged black-tyrant 10, Tufted tit-tyrant 5, Streak-throated bush-tyrant 2, White-capped dipper 10, Green-capped tanager 5, Blue-gray tanager 3, Golden-billed saltator 2.



Map of how to get to Sandía from Cuyocuyo



Map of Sandía and the Green-capped Tanager-sites

### SANDÍA TO PUCARÁ

For logistics see above.

Birds seen: **Andean ibis** 2, Cinereous harrier 2, Mountain caracara 50, Tawny-throated dotterel 1, Black-winged ground-dove 10, Spot-winged pigeon 13, Andean flicker 25, Giant coot 50, Slender-billed miner 4, Plain-breasted earthcreeper 3, Ochre-naped ground-tyrant 3, Black siskin 10.

### LAGO HUARCAPAY

This lake is just half an hour southeast of Cusco along the highway to Puno. A good paved road encircles the lake and offers easy access. The north side of the lake is best for wetland birds and the south side is lined with tobacco plants which the endemic Bearded mountaineer favours. This is also where I saw Rufous-fronted canastero.

Birds seen: Plumbeous rail 10, Bearded mountaineer 2, Sparkling violetear 10, Black-tailed trainbearer 1 male, Rufous-fronted canastero 3.



Tawny-throated Dotterel between Sandía and Pucará

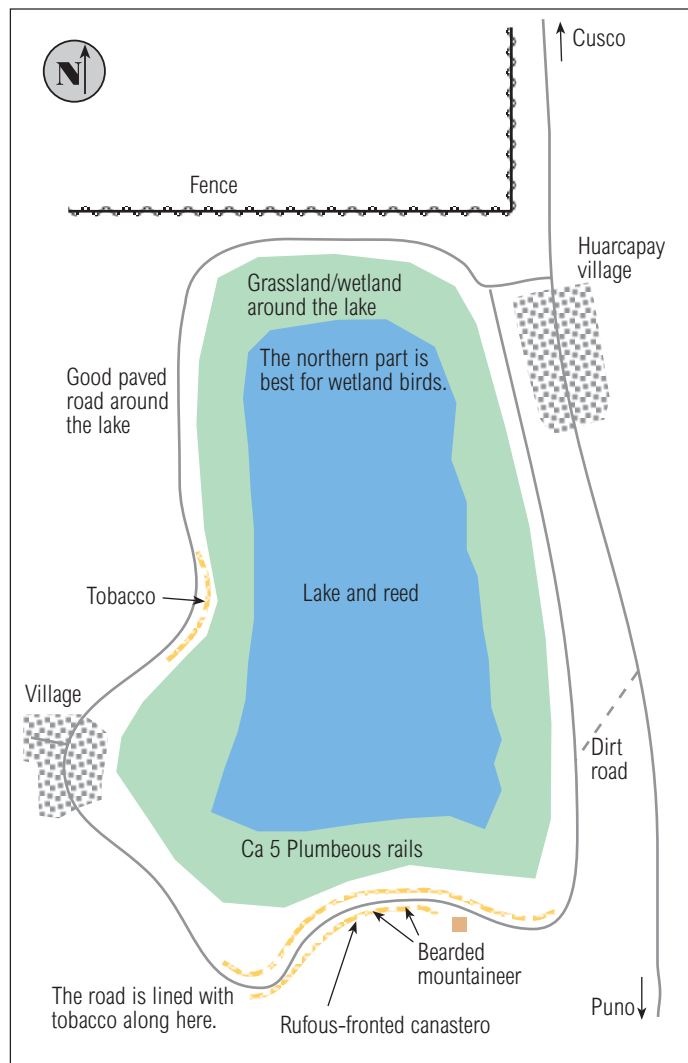
## PENAS

This little village and ruins is about an hour drive north of Ollantaytambo towards Abra Malaga (and Quillabamba). The scrub here has some good birds and offers some good birding for a couple of afternoon hours. There are lots of accommodation in Ollantaytambo.

Birds seen: White-tufted sunbeam 5, Great sapphire-wing 4, Giant hummingbird 1, Creamy-crested spintail 1, Yellow-billed tit-tyrant 2, Chestnut-breasted mountain-finch 1, Golden-billed saltator 10, Black-backed grosbeak 3.

## ABRA MÁLAGA

The Abra Malaga pass at 4250 masl is 45 kms and takes 70 minutes from Ollantaytambo. This is a traditional site for the rare *polylepis* species but I was told by Gunnar that the *polylepis* is now rather degraded here and the Royal cinclodes is difficult. Gunnar hadn't seen it the last two times he had been here and he suggested that I visit another place for the *polylepis* species. I did that and I didn't bird the *polylepis* at Abra Málaga but this road offers good temperate birding anyway with two endemics - Marcapay spintail and Parodi's hemispingus. If you want to visit the *polylepis* here you'd better allow for two days birding as the road merits for a day. I had a sunny day here which is bad news as the bird activity drops to zero (or below!) by 10.00 am. *If it is sunny, try seeing the target species as soon as possible.*



Map of lake Huarcapay just 30 minutes from Cusco

Birds seen: White-tufted sunbeam 5, Andean hillstar 2, Sword-billed hummingbird 2, Great sapphirewing 3, Gray-breasted mountain-toucan 1 heard, Marcapay spintail 5, Diademed tapaculo 3 heard, Red-crested cotinga 2 ad+juv, Black-capped tyrannulet 1, Unstreaked tit-tyrant 2, Pale-footed swallow 20, Páramo pipit 2, Inca wren 20 heard, White-browed conebill 1, Blue-backed conebill 2, Parodi's hemispingus 2, Three-striped hemispingus 10, Rust-and-yellow tanager 3, Chestnut-bellied mountain-tanager 1, Tit-like dacnis 1.

## PUEBLO HOTEL, AGUAS CALIENTES

The hotel ground of the posh Pueblo hotel in the outskirts of Aguas Calientes offers very good birding. They have lots of hummingbird feeders and they feed tanagers etc with fruits. They have a short trail called the Orchid trail and it has surprisingly lots of birds. I just asked at the entrance if I could bird the grounds and that was no problems, one girl in the staff even had a good knowledge of the birds! They may charge a fee for non-staying visitors.

Birds seen: Andean guan 1, White-throated quail-dove 1-2, Mitred parakeet ssp *alticola* 15, White-tipped swift 2, Green-and-white hummingbird 20, White-bellied woodstar 2, Gould's inca 1, Highland motmot 2, Cock-of-the-Rock 1 male, Masked fruiteater 1 heard, Ashy-headed tyrannulet 1, Mottle-cheeked tyrannulet 4, Sclater's tyrannulet 2, Golden-crowned flycatcher 1, Glossy black thrush 5, Red-eyed vireo 2.

## MACCHU PICHU

I guess most birders would like to visit the ruins on a visit to this part of Peru. The busses leaves from early morning at Aguas Calientes and take you the 9 kms up to the ruins. Birding around the ruins are poor but you

go here for other reasons. The road back to Aguas Calientes offers very good birding, see below.

Birds seen: Green-and-white hummingbird 3, White-crested elaenia 2, Mottle-cheeked tyrannulet 2, Inca wren 10 mostly heard, Rusty flowerpiercer 1, Blue-capped tanager 5.

### AGUAS CALIENTES TO MACCHU PICHU

The road from Aguas Calientes and about half-way up to the ruins offers very good birding. Just walk out of Aguas Calientes and start birding!

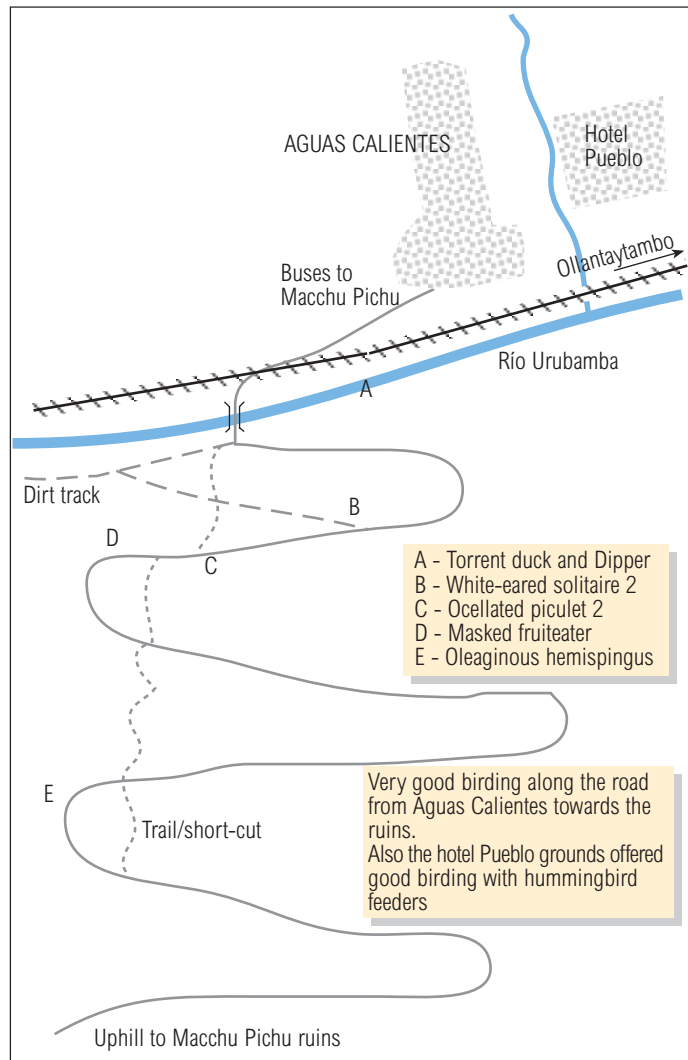
Birds seen: Torrent duck 1 pair with 2 pull, Andean guan 4, Mitred parakeet 20, Green hermit 1, Green-and-white hummingbird 20, Highland motmot 1, Versicoloured barbet 3, **Ocellated piculet** 2, Streaked xenops 1, Variable antshrike ssp. *melanochrous* 1 male, Masked fruiteater 1 male seen and 1 heard, Mottle-cheeked tyrannulet 10, Sclater's tyrannulet 1, Torrent tyrannulet 3, Common tody-flycatcher 1, White-eared solitaire 2 seen and 2 heard, Andean solitaire 5 heard, White-capped dipper 2, Red-eyed vireo 5, Brown-capped vireo 2, Russet-crowned warbler 10, Rust-and-yellow tanager 10, Oleaginous hemispingus 2, Gray-hooded bush-tanager 2, Rusty flowerpiercer 5, Silver-backed tanager 5, Chestnut-capped brush-finch 2, Black-backed grosbeak 3, Dull-coloured grassquit 20, Olivaceous siskin 15, Dusky-green oropendola 5.

### CAUNYACOCHA

I had got a name of a guide in Ollantaytambo by Gunnar Engblom and I contacted him and arranged with him for a trek up to a polylepis forest. The forest I was taken to is not the one Gunnar pointed out to me but it didn't matter and apparently I was the first birder to visit this forest.

The guide is Egideo Rimachi and he can be contacted at Hostal el Albergue which is just by the railway station and a good place to stay. Arrange with Egideo for the trek and go to Macchu Pichu while he organizes everything. He arranges with porters, food, tent and cocking facilities. He charges 25\$ per day and porters are 25 soles per day. Half an hour drive east of Ollantaytambo takes you to a small vilage called Huilloc at 3530 masl. Very few people speaks Spanish here, the language is Quechua. You park here and start walking uphill and there is no worthwhile birding until you reach the polylepis. The walk took us three hours in a moderate pace up to 4350 masl where we camped. It gets below freezing during the night

*The polylepis forest and the rare inhabitants at Caunyacocha are under the same threat as everywhere else. Locals cut the trees for firewood.*



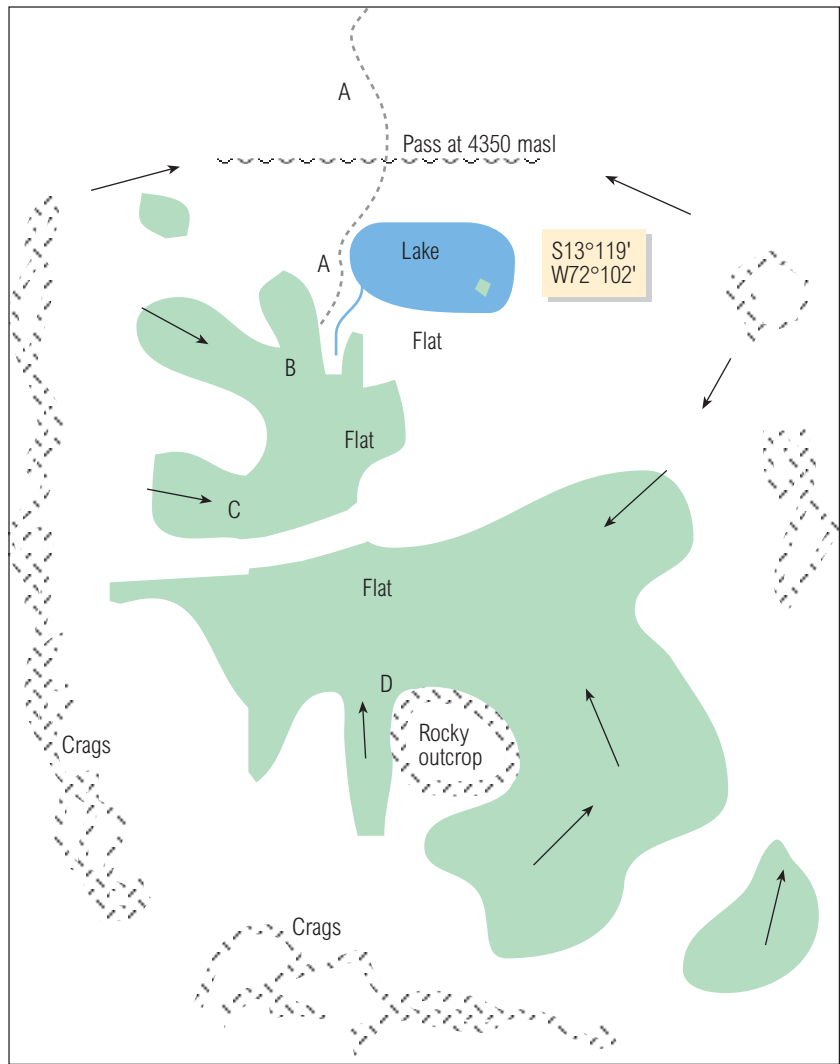
Map of the Aguas Calientes - Macchu Pichu road



Map of the Caunyacocha. The green is polylepis and a would estimate the total area of polylepis to about 15 ha. Some trees are 25 cms wide at the base.

- A - Short-tailed finches, 1 pair each
- B - Campsite at 4350 masl. Giant conebills, Ash-breasted tit-tyrant 2, Tawny tit-spinetail 5.
- C - Giant conebills about 10
- D - 4450 masl. Royal cinclodes 1-2, White-browed tit-spinetail 3, Tawny tit-spinetail 5 incl nest-building, Ash-breasted tit-tyrant 1, Thick-billed siskins and Puna tapaculo.

so a good sleeping bag is mandatory as are warm clothes. The scenery is spectacular and birding is good so it is well worth the effort. If you start early and only bring a day pack you can do this site in one day provided you are reasonably acclimatized to the high altitude and fit. I saw all of the good birds in the afternoon but I didn't see all of them the next morning so it is not necessary to visit this site at dawn.



A very poor photo of Short-tailed Finch at Caunyacocha. One of few records for Cusco department.

The patch of polylepis where I saw all of the good birds including Royal Cinclodes. This patch is site D on the map.

Birds seen: Black-winged ground-dove 2, Bare-faced ground-dove 10 both doves just above the village, Andean hillstar 3, Giant hummingbird 1, Andean flicker 5, **Royal cinclodes** 1-2, Bar-winged cinclodes 10, **White-browed tit-spinetail** 3, Tawny tit-spinetail 10, Stripe-headed antpitta 2, Puna tapaculo 1, **Ash-breasted tit-tyrant** 5, Giant conebill 10, Chestnut-breasted mountain-finch 1, **Short-tailed finch** 4 (2 pairs), Thick-billed siskin 10, Black siskin 1.

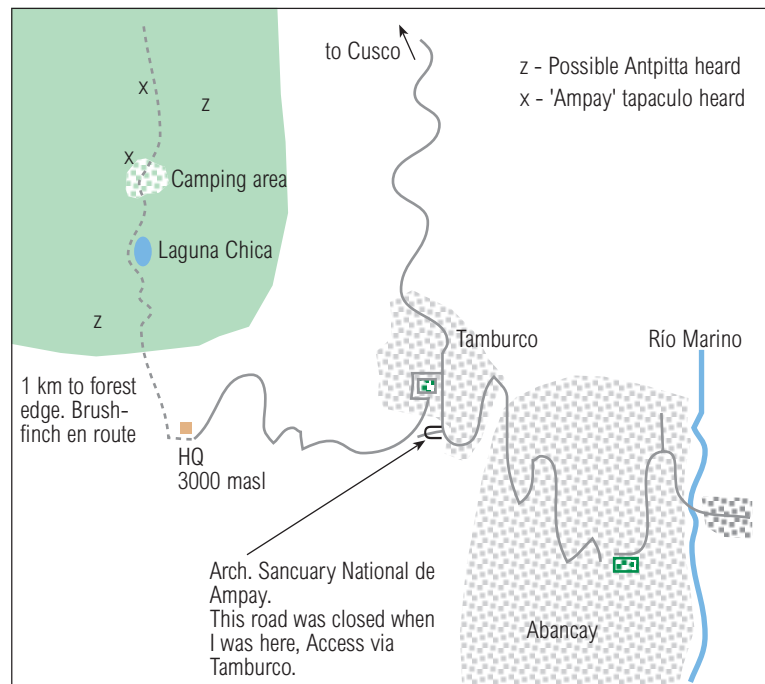
I thought that Short-tailed finch was a new record for Cusco dept but when I released this on BirdingPeru it turned out that it has been seen since 2001 in a few nearby valleys.

## CUSCO TO ABANCAY

Mountain caracara 1 subad, Mitred parakeet 20, Coppery-naped puffleg 1 above Abancay.

## BOSQUE DE AMPAY

This nice podocarpus forest is just in the outskirts of Abancay. Drive out on the way towards Cusco. In a sharp right hand curve there is an arch with a sign for the forest but this road was closed when I was here. A bit further up the road is the suburb Tamburco and access was here. Note that the road forks a few times before coming to the headquarter and you may have to ask for the way. The headquarter is at about 3000 masl and a good wide trail goes uphill from here through scrub before entering the forest. In the forest the trail splits several times with shortcuts so it is a bit difficult to follow the right trail. Higher up the forest stops and gives way to scrub and even higher up to puna grassland. I walked a bit to the left when I came out of the forest but it looked better if you keep right and aim for a hill with a sign on the top. From there it seemed like a trail continued up in to more undisturbed grassland. Maybe Tacsanowski's tinamou could be seen here??



Map of Bosque de Ampay and Abancay

Birds seen: Mountain caracara 2, Wilson's phalarope 1 in laguna Chica, Band-tailed pigeon 20, Andean parakeet 20, Violet-throated starfrontlet 1, Mountain velvetbreast 3, Sword-billed hummingbird 1, Shining sunbeam 1, White-tufted sunbeam 4, Andean flicker 1, Apurímac spinetail 7, Creamy-crested spinetail 3, Vilcabamba thistletail 4, Undulated antpitta 8 heard, Possible antpitta sp nov 2 heard and recorded, Ampay tapaculo 2 heard, Red-crested cotinga 1, White-throated tyrannulet 2, Yellow-billed tit-tyrant 1, Tufted tit-tyrant 5, Rufous-breasted chat-tyrant 6, White-browed chat-tyrant 1, Rufous-webbed bush-tyrant 1, Streak-throated bush-tyrant 1, Black-billed shrike-tyrant 1, Rufous-naped ground-tyrant 5, White-winged black-tyrant 3, Great thrush - common and 1 partial albino, Black-throated flowerpiercer 5, Rust-and-yellow tanager 1, Blue-and-yellow tanager 5, Apurímac brush-finch 1, Golden-billed satator 15.

This site gave me some headache. The Ampay tapaculo was undescribed when I was here. I asked about this one on the BirdingPeru mailinglist when I had heard it and Jon Fjeldså replied that he was just about to describe this species. I don't know whether the official name will be Ampay tapaculo (*Scytalopus ampayensis*?). I saw the Thistletails at 3700 masl which is above the actual forest in the scrub. I first saw a pair that looked very much like the Puna thistletail as depicted in Birds of Peru picture 8b on plate 62. A bird with a reddish tail and wings, prominent orange chin-patch and a rather well-defined supercilium. The Thistletail that is supposed to be here is Vilcabamba thistletail *Schizoeaca vilcabambae*, and that is what the other two looked like though the underside was not blotched like picture 5a on plate 62. I have got a recording of the latter but unfortunately not of the first 'Puna' type. Others have seen the thistletails below the forest.

There has been a rumour about an all dark big antpitta here that has been seen a few times. I was aware of this and I heard what to me sounded like an antpitta with a double-note whistle at about 3300 masl in the forest. I made a recording but the bird was too far away for playback and the vegetation was very dense so I didn't see the bird. I've played my recording to Jonas Nilsson who didn't recognize it but it sounded like an antpitta to him as well. It seems likely that this is the song of undescribed antpitta.

### URBANISATION MARINO, ABANCAY

This site is just in the outskirts of Abancay and a trail leads up the hillside and the canastero can be found here. I got this site from David Gaele. Thanks!  
Pale-tailed canastero 3

### ABANCAY TO NAZCA

Fasciated tiger-heron 1, Torrent duck 1, Andean condor 8 at RN Pampa Galeras, Black-chested buzzard-eagle 4, Wilson's phalarope 300, Slender-billed miner 2, Plain-breasted earthcreeper 10.

## MANU

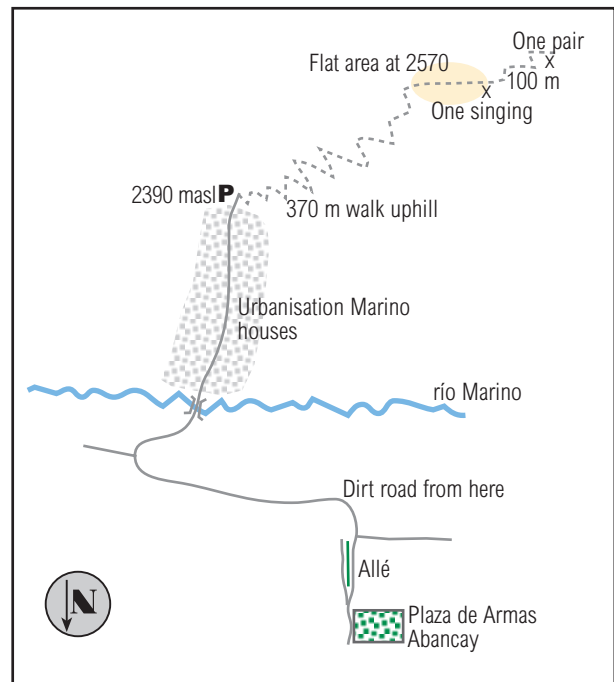
### MANU ROAD

This classical bird destination offers some of the best birding in South America (in the world?). Unfortunately accommodation is scarce along the road. It takes about 3 hours to drive from Cusco via Paucartambo (hotels) to Tres Cruces where the Manu road starts or at least where birding starts. Next proper accommodation is at Manu cloud-forest lodge at 1600 masl and several hours lower down. There is a possibility to spend the night at Pillahuata at 2550 masl. You can sleep on the floor here and you have to bring all food etc. As the birding is so good all the way, this is definitely a must option rather than driving down to the lodges. Birding is good all the way down to about 700-800 masl when more degraded habitat takes over. Good forest is not far away however and good birds can be seen anywhere even lower down around Pilcopata (hotels) and Atalaya (port village).

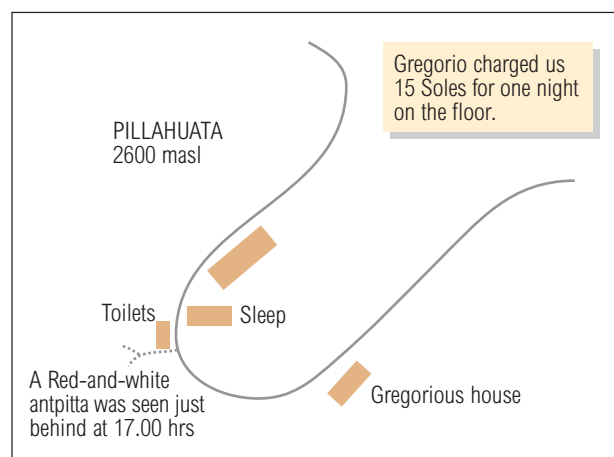
Birds seen from 3500 masl (Tres Cruces) to 2300 masl (Buenos Aires). Night at Pillahuata at 2550 masl.  
 Andean guan 3, Scaly-naped parrot 5, White-bellied woodstar 3, Shingling sunbeam 5, Violet-throated starfrontlet 1, Chestnut-breasted coronet 5, **Gould's inca** 1, Amethyst-throated sunangel 5, **Buff-thighed puffleg** ssp. *assimilis* 1, Masked trogon 2, Golden-headed quetzal 2, Blue-banded toucanet 5, Crimson-mantled woodpecker 2, Puna thistletail 2, Montane woodcreeper 2, Red-and-white antpitta 1 seen behind the toilets at Pillahuata for about 5 minutes!, Barred fruiteater 1, Black-throated tody-tyrant, Peruvian chat-tyrant 1, Moaroon-chested chat-tyrant 10, Streak-throated bush-tyrant 2, **Rufous-bellied bush-tyrant** 2, White-collared jay 10, **Pale-footed swallow**, Golden-collared tanager 4, Black-capped hemispingus 5, Dark-faced brush-finch 20.

Birds seen from 2300 (Buenos Aires) to 1400 (Cock-of-the-Rock lodge)

White-throated hawk 1, **Black-and-chestnut eagle** 1, Rufous-breasted wood-quail heard, Speckle-faced parrot 3, Scaly-naped parrot 25, Short-tailed swift 100, Green hermit 2, Green-fronted lancebill, Violet-fronted bril-



Map of the Urbanisation Marino and the Pale-tailed Canastero-site



Map of Pillahuata along the Manu road

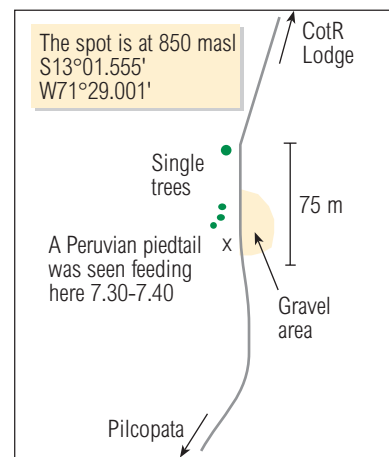
liant 15, **Gould's inca** 1, Rufous-capped thornbill 1, Black-streaked puffbird 1, Versicoloured barbet 1, White-backed fire-eye 1, Rufous-breasted antthrush 1 heard, Barred antthrush 1 heard, Red-and-white antpitta 3 heard, White-throated antpitta 1 heard, Slaty gnateater 1, Chestnut-crowned gnateater 1, Cock-of-the-Rock 4, Yungas manakin 1, Fiery-capped manakin 1 found dead at the lodge!, Marble-faced bristle-tyrant 2, Peruvian tyrannulet 1, Little ground-tyrant 1, Chestnut-breasted wren 1, White-eared solitaire 1, Yellow-whiskered bush-tanager 1, Black-eared hemispingus 5, Slaty tanager 10, Yellow-throated tanager 5, Chestnut-bellied mountain-tanager 1, Bronze-green euphonia 2, Orange-eared tanager 2, Dark-faced brush-finch 10, Stripe-headed brush-finch 1.

Birds seen around Cock-of-the-Rock lodge 1000-1800 masl  
 Brown tinamou 1 heard, White-throated hawk 1, **Black-and-chestnut eagle** 1, Tiny hawk 1 ad, Barred forest-falcon 1, Speckled chachalaca 2, Chestnut-fronted macaw 2, Squirrel cuckoo 1, Rufescent screech-owl 1 heard, **Andean potoo** 1 at daytime roost!, Lyre-tailed nightjar 1 female on nest, Great-billed hermit 1, Wire-crested thornbill 1, **Many-spotted hummingbird** 1, Fawn-breasted brilliant 1, Bronzy inca 1, Booted raquettail 1, Bluish-fronted jacamar 2, Highland motmot 2, Vesicoloured barbet 6, Crimson-crested woodpecker 1, Dark-breasted spinetail 3, Striped treehunter 1, Montane foliage-gleener 6, Buff-fronted foliage-gleener 2, Olivaceous woodcreeper 1, Bamboo antshrike 2, Chestnut-backed antshrike 2, Stripe-chested antwren 2, Gray antwren 1, Blackish antbird 1, Black antbird 1, Warbling antbird 1, Slaty gnateater 1, Trilling tapaculo, Cock-of-the-Rock 5 males at the lek + 10, Yungas manakin 3 males, Slaty-capped flycatcher 1, Marble-faced bristle-tyrant 5, Peruvian tyrannulet 4, Ochre-faced tody-flycatcher 1, Lemon-browed flycatcher 1, Chestnut-breasted wren 2, White-eared solitaire 3, Purplish jay 7, Gray-manteled wren 2, Three-striped warbler 2, Two-banded warbler 2, Black-eared hemispingus 5, Slaty tanager 5, Black-goggled tanager 1, White-winged tanager 1, Yellow-throated tanager 10, Bronze-green euphonia 1, Blue-and-black tanager 1, Orange-eared tanager 5, Golden-naped tanager 2, Deep-blue flowerpiercer 2, Dull-coloured grassquit 5, Chestnut-bellied seedeater 1 male.



Andean Potoo at daytime roost near Cock-of-the-Rock lodge

Birding from 1000 (Quintacalzones bridge) to 570 (Pilcopata)  
 Greater yellow-headed vulture 1, King vulture 1 ad, Black hawk-eagle 1, Speckled chachalaca 2, Dusky-headed parakeet 20, Great-billed hermit 1, Fork-tailed woodnymph 3, Peruvian piedtail 1, Blue-tailed emerald 1, Bluish-fronted jacamar 3, Yellow-billed nunbird 1, Swallow-wing 3, Chestnut-eared aracari 1, Rufous-breasted piculet 1, Fine-barred piculet 3, Crimson-crested woodpecker 1, Plain-crowned spinetail 1, Red-billed scythebill 1, Fasciated antshrike 1, Bamboo antshrike 1, Bluish-slate antshrike 1, Warbling antbird ssp. *peruviana* 4, Stripe-chested antwren 1, Ornate antwren 3, **Manu antbird** 1, Goeldi's antbird 1, Yungas manakin 1, Streak-necked flycatcher 1, Olive-striped flycatcher 2, Rusty-fronted tody-flycatcher 1, **Cinnamon-faced tyrannulet** 1, Yellow-breasted flycatcher 1, Tawny-breasted flycatcher 1, Gray-capped flycatcher 1, Chestnut-breasted wren 1, Purplish jay 20, Olivaceous greenlet 1, Two-banded warbler 5, Blue-naped chlorophonia 2, Lesser seed-finch 1.



Map of the site where I saw a Peruvian Piedtail

### AMAZONÍA LODGE

This nice lodge is only 20 minutes downstream from Atalaya at the end of the Manu road. Good food and accomodation. The trails are a bit of a disappointment though. You are provided with a trailmap but there are more trails than on the map so it is easy to get lost or not finding the trails you want. I tried twice to reach the ridge but couldn't find the trail up there. All trails are unmarked. They have a 20 metre high canopytower

about 20 minutes from the lodge halfway up the hill. The tower has a small platform and is very shaky so people who are afraid of heights do better to stay clear of this tower. Using a telescope up here is very difficult and all in all, the tower is not very good. I only went here once. Close to the lodge near a small marsh is another small tower which is much better. You have a view from here and the small marsh holds Rufous-sided crakes and Blackish rails which can be seen from the tower. The flowers around the lodge are good for hummers including good ones.

Birds seen: Undulated tinamou 1 seen and 5 heard, Gray tinamou 1 heard, Great tinamou 1 heard, Cinereous tinamou 2 heard, Black-capped tinamou 5 heard, Sunbittern 1, Rufescent tiger-heron 1, King vulture 2, **Black-and-white hawk-eagle** 1, Tiny hawk 1, Bat falcon 3, Starred wood-quail heard, **Razor-billed currawong** 2, Speckled chachalaca 5, Spix's guan 3, Hoatzin 20, Limpkin 1, Rufous-sided crake 2, **Uniform crake** 1 heard, **Blackish rail** 1, Gray-breasted wood-rail 2, Sungrebe 2, **Pale-winged trumpeter** 1, Large-billed tern 1, Gray-fronted dove 1, Red-and-green macaw 3, Red-shouldered macaw 2, Chestnut-fronted macaw 10, Dusky-headed parakeet 4, Dark-billed cuckoo 1, Tawny-bellied screech-owl 1 heard, Crested owl 1 heard, Common potoo 1, **Long-tailed potoo** 1 heard, Pauraque 3 heard, White-



*Female Rufous-crested Coquette at Amazonia lodge. A pair was regular at the flowers around the lodge buildings.*

bearded hermit 2, Koepke's hermit 4, Pale-tailed barbtroop 1, Gray-breasted sabrewing 3, **Many-spotted hummingbird** 1, Rufous-crested coquette 2, Blue-tailed emerald 1, Violet-headed hummingbird 2, Golden-tailed sapphire 3, Sparkling violetear 1, Gould's jewelfront 2, Long-billed starthroat 1, Amethyst woodstar 1, Black-tailed trogon 5, Amazonia violaceous trogon 1, Blue-crowned trogon 1, Collared trogon 3, Ringed kingfisher 2, Amazon kingfisher 1, Rufous motmot 2, Bluish-fronted jacamar 2, Black-fronted nunbird 5, Chestnut-capped puffbird 1, Lemon-throated barbet 2, Emerald toucanet 2, Chestnut-eared aracari 4, Brown-mandibled aracari 1, Fine-barred piculet 2, Little woodpecker 1, Red-stained woodpecker 1, White-throated woodpecker 1, Lineated woodpecker 2, Cabanis's spinetail 3, Plain-crowned spinetail 1, Slender-billed xenops 1, Streaked xenops 1, Plain xenops 2, Chestnut-winged foliage-gleener 1, **Dusky-cheeked foliage-gleener** 1, Buff-throated foliage-gleener 1, Chestnut-crowned foliage-gleener 1, Plain-brown woodcreeper 1, Black-banded woodcreeper 2, Great antshrike 2, Bamboo antshrike 5, Bluish-slate antshrike 5, Pygmy antwren 3, Dot-winged antwren 2, White-backed fire-eye 1, **White-lined antbird** 3, Sooty antbird 2, Goeldi's antbird 2, Black-throated antbird 3, Black-faced antbird 2, White-browed antbird 5, Band-tailed antbird 1, Black-spotted bare-eye 1, Black-faced antthrush 2, Round-tailed manakin 4 males, Band-tailed manakin 1, Fiery-capped manakin 1, Plum-throated cotinga 2, Grayish mourner 1, Lesser elaenia 1, Forest elaenia 2, Mottle-backed elaenia 2, Rusty-fronted tody-flycatcher 1, Johannes' tody-tyrant 1, White-cheeked tody-tyrant 2, Ringed antpiper 1, Scaly-breasted wren 3, Moustached wren 2, Black-billed thrush 5, Tawny-crowned greenlet 3, Two-banded warbler 3, Buff-rumped warbler 2, White-winged shrike-tanager 2, Flame-crested tanager 1, Olive tanager 8, Rufous-bellied euphonia 2, Purple honeycreeper 1, Blue-black grosbeak 1, Epaulet oriole 5, Solitary cacique 1, Amazonian oropendola 1.

#### ALTO MADRE DE DIOS RIVER

Some birds can be seen from the boat up and down the river but generally the boatrides are rather boring. In late august and september the water level is low and the boat sometimes has to be pushed.

Birds seen: Cooi heron 3, Capped heron 3, Little blue heron 3, Fasciated tiger-heron 7, Muscovy duck 6, Black caracara 2, Osprey 1, Pied lapwing 2, Large-billed tern 3, Yellow-billed tern 7, Black skimmer 2, Sand-coloured nighthawk 150, Amazon kingfisher 2, Bare-necked fruitcrow 2, Drab water-tyrant 4, Lesser ground-tyrant 1, Fork-tailed flycatcher 1, White-winged swallow - common, White-banded swallow 10.



## PANTIACOLLA

The Pantiacolla lodge is about 2 hours downstream from Atalaya. The lodge itself is a bit more rustic than Amazonía and cheaper as well. They have a good trail system which are all well marked and you are provided with a map as well. Two trails are way much better than the others. The Tinamou and Capybara trails offered very good birding and you can walk them over and over again and still see new birds. Birding along the other trails offered much slower birding but you see different birds so you have to walk these trails as well. There is a long trail to the Mirador (viewpoint). You can walk here starting very early in morning with one of the staff. You need to bring breakfast and box lunch as it is a long day. Even better is to camp at the Mirador and be at the spot at dawn. The view is fantastic over the lowlands. The habitat is clearly distinct here from the surroundings as the Mirador is higher, about 700 masl, and it is almost cloud-forest here.

Birds seen: White-throated tinamou 1 heard, Great tinamou 1 seen, **Black tinamou** 1-2 heard at the Mirador, Undulated- and Black-capped tinamou - heard, Cocoi heron 1, Capped heron 2 ad+juv, Great black-hawk 1, Black hawk-eagle 1, Barred forest-falcon 1 heard, Red-throated caracara 1, Spix's guan 2, Starred wood-quail 2 seen, **Pale-winged trumpeter** 8+1+2, Gray-necked wood-rail 3, Sunbittern 1, Solitary sand-piper 2, Large-billed tern 2, Ruddy quail-dove 1, Mealy parrot 10, Dusky-headed parakeet 4, **Rufous-vented ground-cuckoo** 1, Tawny-bellied screech-owl 1 found in nest-hole, heard every evening, Sand-coloured nighthawk 50, Ladder-tailed nighthawk 1, Ocellated poorwill 2 found on nests along the trails. Eggs laid 10-11/9, Great-billed hermit 2, **White-browed hermit** 1, **Needle-billed hermit** 1, Pale-tailed barbtroop 1, Gray-breasted sapsucker 1, Golden-tailed sapsucker 1, Gould's jewelwing 4, White-necked jacobin 1, Long-billed starthroat 1, Blue-crowned trogon 1, Collared trogon 2, Rufous motmot 1, **Scarlet-hooded barbet** 2, Gilded barbet 1, Collared puffbird 1, Rufous-capped nunlet 1, Emerald toucanet 2, Lettered aracari 2, Channel-billed toucan 1, White-throated toucan 3, Rufous-breasted piculet 1, Little woodpecker 3, Golden-green woodpecker 1, Crimson-crested woodpecker 1, **Plain softtail** 1, Plain-crowned spinetail 2, Dark-breasted spinetail 1, Ruddy spinetail 2, Chestnut-winged hookbill 1, Chestnut-crowned foliage-gleaner 1, Olive-backed foliage-gleaner 2, **Dusky-cheeked foliage-gleaner** 2, **Brown-rumped foliage-gleaner** 1, Cinnamon-throated woodcreeper 1, White-chinned woodcreeper 1, Buff-throated woodcreeper 3, Black-banded woodcreeper 1, Ocellated woodcreeper 1, Spix's woodcreeper 1, Red-billed scythebill 3, Spot-winged antshrike 2, Dusky-throated antshrike 2, Bluish-slate antshrike 3, Bamboo antshrike 3, Plain-tailed antwren 2, Long-winged antwren 1, Plain-throated antwren 2, Gray antwren 2, **Ihering's antwren** 2 pairs, White-flanked antwren 4, Pygmy antwren 1, Striated antbird 1, Warbling antbird ssp. *subflava* 1, Blackish antbird ssp. *fascicauda* 1, Spot-winged antbird 1, Chestnut-tailed antbird 5, Sooty antbird 2, White-lined antbird 1, Goeldi's antbird 4, Scale-backed antbird ssp. *griseiventris* 3, **White-throated antbird** 8, Black-spotted bare-eye 1, Amazonian antpitta 1 heard, Black-faced antthrush 1, Rusty-belted tapaculo 3, Bare-necked fruitcrow 1, Screaming piha 4 heard, Cinereous mourner 1, Green manakin 5, Band-tailed manakin 1, Round-tailed manakin 2, Blue-crowned manakin ssp. *exquisita* 5, Dwarf tyrant-manakin 3, Thrush-like schiffornis 1, Slender-footed tyrannulet 2, Sepia-capped flycatcher 5, **Flammulated bamboo-tyrant** 1, Johannes'tody-flycatcher 2, **White-cheeked tody-tyrant** 7 ad+juv, Mottle-backed elaenia 1, Dusky-tailed flatbill 1, Large-headed flatbill 2, Euler's flycatcher 1, Great kiskadee 4, Little ground-tyrant 1, Muscivora wren 1, Lawrence's thrush 3, Hauxwell's thrush 4, Tawny-crowned greenlet 2, Yellow-bellied dacnis 3, Red-crowned ant-tanager 5, Green-and-gold tanager 2, White-shouldered tanager 2, White-winged shrike-tanager 1, Rufous-bellied euphonia 1, Purple honeycreeper 1, Green honeycreeper 1, Buff-throated saltator 2, Double-collared seedeater 7, Pectoral sparrow 4, Epaulet oriole 3, Red-rumped cacique 1, Amazonian oropendola 100.



Ocellated Poorwill at nest. I found two nests along the trails.

At the nearby Hot springs

Russet-crowned crane 1, Blue-crowned manakin 2, Purple honeycreeper 1

The *fascicauda*-race of Blackish antbird is often considered a separate species 'Riparian antbird'.

The *griseiventris*-race of Scale-backed antbird is confusing, the females lacks scales on the back.

Also note that the female Red-crowned ant-tanager is a very confusing bird. The female is brownish and recalls a foliage-gleener.

Red-rumped cacique was new to Pantiacolla lodge.

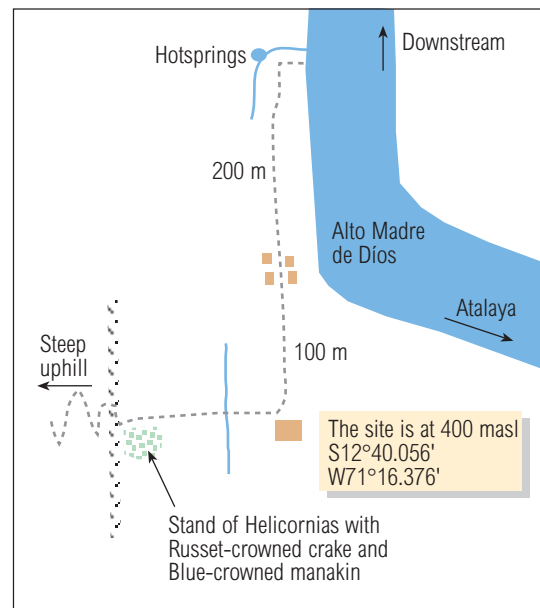
## MANU/BOCA MANU

Boca Manu is a small village soon after the Alto Madre de Dios river merges with Manu river and forms Madre de Dios river. There is a nice lodge type of accommodation in Boca Manu (10\$) owned by the community and the villagers takes in turn to run the place and they also share the income. Fairly productive birding can be had just around the village, check in particular the stands of *Heliconia* which holds the near-endemic Rufous-fronted antthrush. About 2 hours further downstream takes you to Manu Paradise lodge owned by Walter Mancilla. The diningroom, toilets and showers are all very nice. Sleeping is done in tents provided by Walter. In other words it is rather simple compared to other lodges but on the other hand much cheaper. There is a good, wide trail behind the lodge into great rainforest. Walter also have a hide in which you can sleep that overviews a clay-lick for animals and Tapirs are regulary seen.

A further 15 minutes downstream is the more famous Manu Wildlife Center, in which Walter formerly was part owner. 30 minutes downstream from here is the Blanquillo lodge which is the first lodge in the Manu area, also founded by Walter and some relatives. The Blanquillo lodge have a very good canopytower on its property. You can visit the tower even if you are not a guest at the lodge for a 15\$ fee. The Blanquillo lodge also have a very good macaw-lick only five minutes from the lodge and you watch from a floating hide. This coast 25\$. Close to the lodge is also a oxbow lake which has a group of Giant otters. You "paddle" around the lake on a platform with chairs. You can use the telescope on this platform. The entrance fee is 5\$.

Birds seen: Great tinamou 1 seen, Least grebe 15, Capped heron 2, Horned screamer 10, Anhinga 2, Wood stork 5, Green ibis 2, Orinocco goose 2, Muscovy duck 4, King vulture 2 ad, Osprey 1, Snail kite 3, Crane hawk 1, Slate-coloured hawk 2, Great black hawk 1, Black hawk-eagle 1, Tiny hawk 1, Laughin falcon 1, Bat falcon 1, Blue-throated piping-guan 6, **Razor-billed currawong** 1 heard, Sungrebe 2, Hoatzin 5, Wattled jacana 20, Pied lapwing 3, Pale-vented pigeon 100, Blue-and-yellow macaw 75, Red-and-green macaw 50, Red-bellied macaw 3, Orange-cheeked parrot 7, White-bellied parrot 10, Yellow-crowned parrot 3, Painted parakeet 1, Tui parakeet 20, Mealy parrot 4, Black-bellied cuckoo 1, Tawny-bellied screech-owl 2 heard, Crested owl 2 heard, Amazonian pygmy-owl 1 heard, Ferruginous pygmy-owl 1 heard, Short-tailed swift 20, Collared trogon 2, Broad-billed motmot 1, Blue-crowned motmot 1, Green kingfisher 2, Green-and-rufous kingfisher 2, Gilded barbet 3, **Scarlet-hooded barbet** 1 heard, **Purus jacamar** 4, Chestnut-capped puffbird 1, White-fronted nunbird 2, Brown-mandibled aracari 3, Curl-crested aracari 1, Lineated woodpecker 1, Plain-crowned spinetail 2, Chestnut-winged foliage-gleener 1, Straight-billed woodcreeper 1, Striped woodcreeper 1, White-flanked antwren 2, Warbling antbird 3, Blackish [Riparian] antbird 1, Plumbeous antbird 2, Goeldi's antbird 1, Chestnut-tailed antbird 5, Silvered antbird 1, **Rufous-fronted antthrush** 1 seen and 1 heard, Amazonian antpitta 1 heard, Bare-necked fruitcrow 4, Band-tailed manakin 1, Small-billed elaenia 1, Yellow-crowned elaenia 1, Slender-footed tyrannulet 1, Yellow-browed tody-flycatcher 2, Rusty-fronted tody-flycatcher 1, Golden-crowned spadebill 2, Piratic flycatcher 1, White-eyed attila 4, Greater (Várzea) schiffornis 3 heard, White-winged becard 1, Pink-throated becard 1, Black-tailed tityra 2, Masked tityra 6, Barn swallow 30, Moustached wren 1, Musician wren 1, White-winged shriketanager 1, **Yellow-shouldered grosbeak** 2, Double-collared seedeater 20, Troupial 1, Casqued oropendola 3.

Strangely one of the Warbling antbirds seen was completely without any yellow. The lowland race *subflava* has a yellow wash to the underparts which the foothill race lacks.



Map of the hot springs and the Russet-crowned Crane-site

# TAMBOPATA

## BOAT ON TAMBOPATA RIVER

As with the Alto Madre de Días river it is rather boring to sit in a boat for hours and birding is not very rewarding. Low waterlevel in the river in september slowed down the pace and the boat had to be pushed on a few occasions.

Birds seen: Anhinga 1, Capped heron 10, Orinocco goose 2, King vulture 1 ad, **Razor-billed currawong** 5, Sand-coloured nighthawk 50, Black skimmer 4

## EXPLORER'S INN

This is one of the oldest lodges and the one that boasts the biggest birdlist for any lodge in the world. Good trails and you are provided with a trailmap. Being a rookie in the lowland rainforest obviously means that you would benefit a lot from having a birdguide. I didn't have this in the Tambopata area and my list from here is not very impressive. The rather short list is also due to the very hot weather that I had here. Even the locals on the lodges complained about the heat. Birdactivity was very low and it was almost a pin-drop silence already at 7.30 am.

Birds seen: Great tinamou 1 seen, White-throated tinamou 2 seen, Cinereous tinamou 1 seen, **Small-billed tinamou** 1 seen, Horned screamer 1, Black caracara 5, Spix's guan 7, Blue-and-yellow macaw 2, Scarlet macaw 2, Dark-billed cuckoo 1, Great potoo 1 at daytime, **White-browed hermit** 2, Blue-crowned motmot 2, Rufous motmot 1, Semi-collared puffbird 4, Curl-crested aracari 15 in one flock, Golden-collared toucanet 2, Cream-coloured woodpecker 1, Red-necked woodpecker 5, **Rufous-headed woodpecker** 1 heard, Orange-fronted plush-crown 1, Plain xenops 2, Chestnut-winged hookbill 2, Chestnut-crowned foliage-gleener 2, Olive-backed foliage-gleener 3, Cinnamon-rumped foliage-gleener 1, Rufous-rumped foliage-gleener 1, Ocellated woodcreeper 1, Great antshrike 1, Bamboo antshrike 2, Plain-winged antshrike 1, Bluish-slate antshrike 1, Plain-throated antwren 6, White-eyed antwren 5, Gray antwren 2, Ringed antpipit 2, Scale-backed antbird 2, Plumbeous antbird 1, White-throated antbird 1, Black-throated antbird 2, Chestnut-tailed antbird 2, Goeldi's antbird 3, Black-spotted bare-eye 2, Black-faced antthrush 1 seen, Rufous-capped antthrush 1 seen, Blue-crowned manakin 1, Rufous-tailed flatbill 2, Olivaceous flatbill 2, Sulphur-bellied flycatcher 1, Musician wren 5, Buff-breasted wren 1, Lawrence's thrush 3, Red-crowned ant-tanager 1.

## TAMBOPATA RESEARCH CENTER TRC

The very short time I was here was completely ruined by rain and I didn't see anything good. The only thing of some note was a White-throated tinamou.

## POSADA

The Posada lodge is owned by the same company as TRC. The lodge itself is a bit more posh than TRC and the food is, like all lodges, very good. Posada has a canopytower which is high with two small platforms. The tower is however shaky and not for the fainthearted. It is also very difficult to use a telescope as the tower shakes if someone moves just a little. I only spent one afternoon and one morning here.

Birds seen: Black-capped parakeet 4, White-bellied parrot 12, Orange-cheeked parrot 2, White-browed hermit 1, White-necked puffbird 1, Gilded barbet 1, Chestnut-eared aracari 2, Plum-throated cotinga 1 male, Grayish mourner 1, Dusky-capped greenlet 2, Flame-crested tanager 2, White-shouldered tanager 3.

## ECO AMAZONÍA

This lodge is actually along the Madre de Días river about 2.5 hours from Puerto Maldonado. You are provided with a guide here and I had a guide that had some knowledge about birds but not much enough to be called a birdguide. A trail takes you to a lake where they have a good tower and also a platform near the water. Good viewing facilities over the lake and the surrounding dead trees which attracts all sorts of birds in the morning and evening. A long trail takes you to another tower which is built in a tree overlooking a huge palm swamp. This tower is definitely not for the fainthearted as you climb up the tree high up. As it is 8 kms from the lodge you

cannot be here early in the morning. Part of the walk can be changed to canoe along a canal with good birding. Bring box lunch as it is a long day.

Birds seen: Cinereous tinamou 1 seen, Wood stork 1, Roseate spoonbill 1, Horned screamer 15, Muscovy duck 3, Double-toothed kite 2, Slate-coloured hawk 2, Black-collared hawk 1, Gray hawk 1 juv, Bat falcon 1, Blue-throated piping-guan 1, Hoatzin 2, Black skimmer 5, Pale-vented pigeon 10, Red-shouldered macaw 2, Black-capped parakeet 9, Tui parakeet 10, Rufous-breasted hermit 1, White-bearded hermit 2, White-necked jacobin 1, Black-tailed trogon 3, Blue-crowned trogon 1, Ringed kingfisher 1, Green-and-rufous kingfisher 1, Curl-crested aracari 1, Chestnut-eared aracari 3, Crimson-crested woodpecker 2, Rufous-tailed antwren 1, Plum-throated cotinga 1, Bare-necked fruitcrow 2 juv, Black-tailed tityra 7, Black-capped tityra 2, Lesser elaenia 1, Lesser kiskadee 10, **Three-striped flycatcher** 1, Sulphur-bellied flycatcher 2, Eastern kingbird 4, Bright-rumped attila 1, White-winged becard 2, Thrush-like wren 2, Moustached wren 1, White-necked thrush 1, White-winged tanager 1, Solitary cacique 2.

#### **PUERTO MALDONADO AIRPORT**

Upland sandpiper 1, Buff-breasted sandpiper 6

The waders were running on the runway. Upland sand is a Peruvian rarity.