

CENTRAL PERU

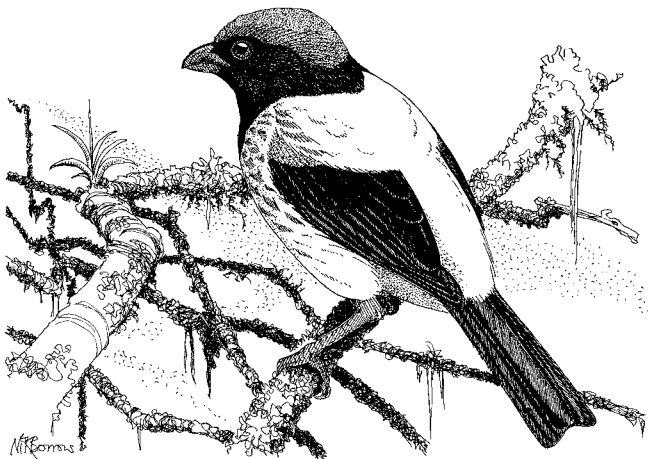
The Ultimate Peruvian Endemics Tour

Thursday 7th July – Saturday 23rd July 2011 (17 days)

Leader: Pete Morris and a local ornithologist-guide

Group Size Limit: 10

Tour Category: Easy at times, but mostly Moderate, and there are two or three fairly Demanding hikes



Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager (Nik Borrow)

Forming a huge block of land on the western side of South America, Peru is one of the continent's most mountainous countries, where isolated valleys and cordilleras have seen avian evolution in full swing. Not only boasting an amazing avifauna of about 1800 species, it also holds a considerable number of little-known and highly localized endemics, several dozens of which have only been discovered in the last few decades.

Designed as the ultimate itinerary for Peruvian endemics, this fabulous journey takes us through a wide range of habitats across the topographically complex Peruvian Andes.

We start our journey in Lima, from where we will head up the arid Santa Eulalia Valley to look for Bronze-tailed Comet, Canyon Canastero, Rufous-breasted Warbling-Finch and many other interesting birds.

Next we will visit the high Andean bogs of

Marcapomacocha, the haunt of the legendary Diademed Sandpiper-Plover and a handful of exciting endemics including White-bellied Cinclodes. Farther inland lies Lago Junín, the second largest lake in the country, and home to the endangered Junín Grebe.

From here we will continue our journey to Huancayo (after which the famous Peruvian dish 'papas huancaínas' is named) to explore some seldom-visited mountains and valleys where our main targets will be several more endemics: Fire-throated Metaltail, Eye-ringed Thistletail, the recently described Black-goggled Brush-Finch and a newly discovered but as yet undescribed wren.

Next we shall descend to Huanuco, our base for exploring the rich and bromeliad-laden cloudforests of the Carpish Mountains and the Paty Trail. An enticing set of multi-hued tanagers and shimmering hummingbirds

will await us here, as well as such secretive forest-floor endemics as Bay and Chestnut Antpittas, and a superb supporting cast of other cloudforest birds.

One of the highlights of the tour will undoubtedly be our trek up to the remote Bosque Unchog, where will camp for three nights. Only first visited by ornithologists in the 1970s, this land of misty paramos and contorted elfin forests is where we shall seek out some of Peru's most wanted endemics, including the enormous Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager, the smart Bay-vented Cotinga, the awkward Pardusco and the elusive Rufous-browed Hemispingus.

The penultimate leg of our journey will be through the breathtaking Cordillera Blanca, not only the setting for some of the continent's most spectacular scenery but also home to yet another set of exciting endemics. Here we will search high-elevation *Polylepis* woodland, shrubby gullies and boulder-strewn slopes for such interesting birds as Ancash Tapaculo, White-cheeked Cotinga, Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch and Rufous-eared Brush-Finch, whilst the awesome contours

of Huascaran, Peru's highest mountain, constantly loom in the background.

Finally we will visit the Lomas de Lachay and their characteristic 'fog vegetation', inhabited by such desirable endemics as Coastal and Thick-billed Miners, Cactus Canastero and Raimondi's Yellow-Finch.

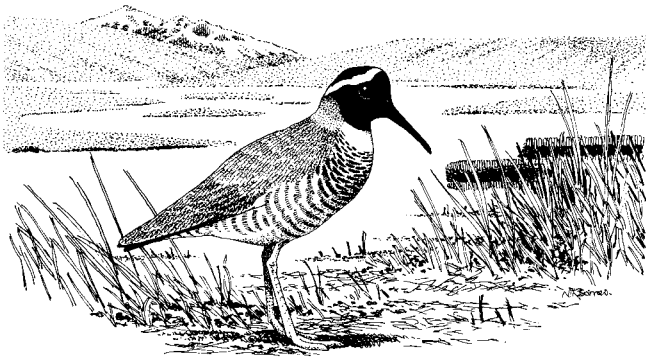
Birdquest has operated tours to Peru since 1982.

Itinerary

Day 1 The tour begins this evening at Lima airport, from where we will drive to nearby Santa Eulalia for a two nights stay.

Day 2 An early start along the dusty but spectacular Santa Eulalia road will take us high into the mountains above Lima. After crossing a bridge over a tremendous chasm we shall reach a shrubby hillside and small ravine where the rare and endemic Rufous-breasted Warbling-Finch is still regularly seen. As the early morning sun hits the slopes we will be sorting through flocks of the much more numerous Mourning Sierra-Finch in the hopes of finding this elusive speciality, but we will be fortunate if





Diademed Sandpiper-Plover (Nik Borrow)

we encounter this threatened species. Giant Hummingbirds are particularly numerous here, but we shall be on the lookout for the endemic and less conspicuous Bronze-tailed Comet. Other endemics we will try to find in this area are Black-necked Woodpecker, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spintail (here the nominate race with a solid rufous crown), Canyon Canastero and Rusty-bellied Brush-Finch, while the supporting cast may include Black Vulture, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Variable Hawk, American Kestrel, Eared and White-tipped Doves, Bare-faced and Black-winged Ground-Doves, White-collared and Andean Swifts, Sparkling Violetear, Peruvian Sheartail, Streaked Tit-Spintail, Pied-crested and Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrants, White-browed Chat-Tyrant, Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant, Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant, House Wren, Long-tailed Mockingbird, White-capped Dipper, Chiguanco Thrush, Hooded Siskin, Cinereous Conebill, Rufous-chested and Blue-and-yellow Tanager, Peruvian Sierra-Finch, Collared Warbling-Finch, Band-tailed Seedeater, Greenish Yellow-Finch, Rufous-collared Sparrow, Golden-bellied Grosbeak and Scrub Blackbird. With a modicum of luck a majestic Andean Condor will even grace the scene.

Day 3 Providing a stark

contrast to the arid coastal plain only about 25 miles (40km) away, the cold, high-elevation bogs of Marcapomacocha are home to one of the world's most highly sought-after waders, the exquisite Diademed Sandpiper-Plover. We shall find the air pretty thin this morning as we will be birding at an elevation of over 14,800ft (4500m), but the superb set of special birds to be found here will make our physical efforts well worthwhile. The scenery is without comparison, and at this time of year we can expect sun and a scattering of snow. We may well flush a startled Puna Snipe as we search through this often waterlogged habitat, while the drier slopes hold the small Grey-breasted Seedsnipe. We shall also be hoping to find four high-altitude endemics in this area. Among boulder-strewn grassy areas we will look for the large White-bellied Cinclodes (one of the most spectacular members of the Furnariidae), while flat areas hold Dark-winged Miners, sparse flowers attract shimmering Black-breasted Hillstars and areas of thick bunchgrass are home to strikingly-patterned Junin Canasteros. Olivaceous Thornbills often walk on matted grass in search of their scarce insect prey, while other birds we may find in this scenic area include Andean Goose, Crested

Duck, Mountain Caracara, Aplomado Falcon, Andean Lapwing, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Andean Flicker, Slender-billed Miner, Plain-breasted Earthcreeper, Bar-winged Cinclodes, Streak-throated Canastero, Puna, Cinereous, White-fronted and Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrants, Black Siskin, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, White-winged Diuca-Finch, Plain-coloured Seedeater and Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch. Later we shall drive to the small town of La Oroya for an overnight stay, keeping an eye out for Andean Swallows en route.

Day 4 Lago de Junín is one of Peru's largest lakes, second only to the enormous Lake Titicaca, and like the latter it harbours a flightless species of grebe. Sadly the Junín Grebe has suffered a steep decline during the last century, and our prime goal this morning is seeing this endangered endemic. It lives and breeds in the floating reed beds in the middle of the lake and so we shall go out in a motorized boat in order to find this legendary bird. Our expert boatmen will manoeuvre us among the reeds, where we will sort through the rather similar-looking Silvery Grebes as we try to find our quarry. The waters are crystal clear, often allowing for interesting views of the lake bottom, and we will also see a wide variety of other waterbirds. Possibilities include White-tufted Grebe, Speckled and Puna Teals, Yellow-billed Pintail and Andean Duck. Puna Ibises and Andean Gulls are often present in large numbers and we shall scan the shallows for Great and Snowy Egrets, Cinereous Harrier, the large *garmani* race of the Common Moorhen, Andean Coot and the elegant Andean Avocet. The *Acrocephalus*-like Wren-like Rushbird and the lovely Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant are common in the reedbeds, and around the fringes of the lake we may spot the secretive Plumbeous Rail.

Overhead we will watch for Short-billed Pipits performing their relentless song flights, and in surrounding fields and meadows we should find a number of passerines, such as Common Miner, Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant, Andean Negrillo and Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch. In the afternoon we shall continue our journey to Huancayo for a two nights stay.

Day 5 Today will leave very early for the road to Pariahuanca. This small Indian village is located in the dry Rio Mantaro Valley, where our primary target will be the only recently discovered and described Black-goggled Brush-Finch. The shrubby slopes also provide a home for the endemic Creamy-crested Spintail, Red-crested Cotinga, Sierran Elaenia, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, White-winged Black-Tyrant, Blue-and-white Swallow, Pale-legged Warbler, Black-throated Flowerpiercer and Golden-billed Saltator. Dense bamboo understorey in a forest patch a little higher up holds an a recently discovered *Thryothorus* wren, either an undescribed race of the endemic Inca Wren or perhaps a new species to science. Backtracking towards Huancayo, we shall stop at higher elevations where we may find Andean Ibis, White-throated Hawk, Band-tailed Pigeon, Shining Sunbeam, Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Purple-backed Thornbill, Tyrian Metaltail, Brown-bellied Swallow, Great Thrush, Spectacled Redstart, and Masked and Moustached Flowerpiercers. We will also have our first chance to find the endemic Tschudi's Tapaculo and will keep an eye on a rushing stream for Torrent Duck and White-capped Dipper.

Day 6 Another early start from Huancayo will take us northeast along the road to Satipo, where our goal is to reach a patch of high-elevation shrubbery, the haunt of two little-known and



Pearled Treerunner (Nik Borrow)

highly localized endemics, the shimmering Fire-throated Metaltail and the agile Eye-ringed Thistletail (it will not take long for us to find this striking furnariid). Other birds found in this area include the noisy but handsome endemic Striated Earthcreeper, the striking Stripe-headed Antpitta, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant and Sedge Wren. After the morning activity abates we will embark on the long journey to Huanuco, where we will stay for three nights.

Days 7-8 As one passes through the Carpish Tunnel east of Huanuco the landscape suddenly changes from an arid interior valley to humid, mossy cloudforest. The birding here is superlative to say the least, and in the course of the tour we will have several days to explore the verdant montane forests in this area. The legendary Paty Trail provides access to the cloudforest interior, the realm of the endemic Chestnut and Bay Antpittas, and we shall make a concerted effort to try and see these ultimate forest floor skulkers. Other furtive denizens of the dark understorey along this trail and at higher elevations near the tunnel are Trilling Tapaculo and the endemic Peruvian Rufous-vented Tapaculo. Excellent mixed species flocks regularly make their rounds, and among a colourful palette of tanagers we may well see Common and Grey-hooded Bush-Tanagers, White-browed

(split from Black-capped), Superciliaried, Oleaginous, Black-eared and Drab Hemispinguses, Grass-green, Rufous-crested, Blue-capped, Saffron-crowned, Flame-faced, Beryl-spangled and Blue-and-black Tanagers, and Hooded, Lacrimose and Blue-winged Mountain-Tanagers. A variety of suboscines also accompany these often chaotic mixed flocks. Streaked Tuftedcheeks inspect the detritus accumulating inside the omnipresent bromeliads, Montane Woodcreepers and Pearled Treerunners shuffle up moss-encrusted branches and Band-tailed Fruiteaters unobtrusively flit through the foliage in their quest for protein-laden berries. A multitude of glittering hummingbirds are found in these bird-rich cloudforests and possibilities include Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Bronzy and Collared Incas, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Emerald-bellied Puffleg and Long-tailed Sylph. We shall be seeking out a number of Peruvian endemics found in this fabulous area, including Masked Fruiteater, 'Huanuco Fruiteater' (a small, distinctive race of Green-and-Black Fruiteater which probably merits being elevated to species level), Peruvian Tyrannulet, the bamboo-loving Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Inca Flycatcher and the vociferous Peruvian Wren. Other birds we may find during our days working up and down these

forest-clad slopes include Turkey Vulture, Roadside and White-rumped Hawks, Andean Guan, Speckle-faced and Scaly-naped Parrots, Golden-headed Quetzal, Masked Trogon, Black-throated Toucanet (split from Emerald), Grey-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Bar-bellied, Crimson-mantled and Powerful Woodpeckers, Azara's and Rufous Spinetails, Rusty-winged Barbtail, Striped Treehunter, Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner, Uniform and Variable Antshrikes, Long-tailed Antbird, Rusty-breasted Antpitta, the impressive Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Streak-necked, Flavescent, Cinnamon, Dusky-capped and Golden-crowned Flycatchers, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, White-tailed and Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulets, Smoke-coloured Pewee, Maroon-chested Chat-Tyrant, Smoky Bush-Tyrant, Barred Becard, Grey-breasted Wood-Wren, the gorgeous White-eared Solitaire, Mountain Wren, the melodious Chestnut-breasted Wren, Glossy-black Thrush, White-collared Jay, Brown-capped Vireo, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Tropical Parula, Citrine and Russet-crowned Warblers, Capped Conebill, Plush-capped Finch, Blue-black Grassquit, Tricoloured, Slaty and Stripe-headed Brush-Finches, Yellow-billed Cacique and Dusky-green Oropendola. If we are very fortunate we will even see such highly sought-after specialities as the impressive Crimson-bellied Woodpecker, the rarely seen Andean Tyrant, the shy Golden-browed Chat-Tyrant or the mega-elusive Masked Saltator, while pre-dawn nightbirding sessions may produce a White-throated Screech-Owl or a Swallow-tailed Nightjar.

Day 9 In the 1970s some Louisiana State University researchers stunned the ornithological world with the discovery of three new species to science on a remote mountain in Central Peru. In a high area of wet elfin

forests they not only found a splendid new mountain-tanager (the brilliant Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager, the largest of them all!), but also a rare cotinga in a totally new genus (the Bay-vented Cotinga), and a very odd small tanager, the Pardusco, that did not look like anything previously known to science and warranted the description of a new genus (*Nephelornis*). Reaching this remote mountain in order to search for these highly-prized and little-known birds requires some effort. This morning we will head up a narrow and winding road towards the small village of Cochabamba, where nearby drier habitat holds the endemic Brown-flanked Tanager, as well as the endemic Baron's Spinetail and the striking Black-crested Tit-Tyrant. From here we will bird our way up to the mist-enshrouded Bosque Unchog, high in the mountains above the Carpish Tunnel. We plan to camp at treeline in this area for three nights, maximizing our chances of finding the area's specialities. Arriving in the afternoon, we may have time for some late birding as our crew sets up our camp. While enjoying a hearty dinner prepared by our cooks, we will no doubt be chatting about the legendary birds that await us in the coming days.

Days 10-11 Our days in Bosque Unchog will be spent birding the often misty paramos and treeline forests in search of the three main specialities and several other endemics. The easiest of these is the abundant Coppery Metaltail, and we should soon become familiar with both sexes of this little treeline hummer. The odd-looking Pardusco is numerous and is found in small to large flocks, sometimes mixed in with other species, which work their way energetically amongst the stunted bushes on sunny mornings. The other specialities require more work and a lot of patience. We shall diligently scan the



White-cheeked Cotinga (Nik Borrow)

tops of bushes and small trees for the elusive Bay-vented Cotinga, which is only sparsely distributed across this inhospitable habitat. Indeed, finding their first *Doliornis* is often the prime reason for keen birders to make the effort to reach these remote mountains, but we will need a modicum of luck to find this highly prized endemic. The most glamorous bird in Bosque Unchog is the spectacular Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager, which moves through the tops of *Escalonia* trees as the sun comes up in the morning. Later in the day this avian jewel can, in spite of its glamorous appearance, be very sneaky and so, as the birds move long distances between feeding areas, finding this superb endemic will take some perseverance. Hopefully we will also encounter the handsome Rufous-browed Hemispingus, another Peruvian endemic

which is virtually inaccessible elsewhere. We plan on spending plenty of time at a particular forest patch where this attractive bird is an unobtrusive but core member of mixed flocks working through the dense stands of Chusquea bamboo. It forages closer to the ground than other members of the genus, and it can be a hard bird to see well, even once found, as it often keeps out of sight as it hops among moss-laden, fallen trunks. We will also listen for the monotonous calls of the endemic Neblina (or Elfin Forest) Tapaculo, while we hope to find the smart Line-fronted Canastero in grassy areas with large boulders. In the event we do well on our main targets, we may descend on trails into taller forest at lower altitude. White-banded Tyrannulet and Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher are common here, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrants often perch in the open, and at the trumpet-shaped *Datura* flowers we may see the unbelievable Sword-billed Hummingbird. We will also make special efforts to see the endemic Large-footed Tapaculo as well as the reclusive *obscura* race of the Rufous Antpitta (likely to be elevated to full species status and often referred to as 'Fulvous Antpitta'). We will also have another chance to see the endemic Tschudi's Tapaculo should we have missed it earlier. Other birds which are likely to be found in this misty environment while we quietly stalk our main targets are White-chinned Thistletail (here of the endemic southern race, which is sometimes split as Plenge's Thistletail), Many-striped Canastero, Barred Fruiteater, White-throated Tyrannulet, Peruvian (or Kalinowski's) Chat-Tyrant, Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, Paramo Pipit, Blue-backed Conebill, Golden-collared Tanager, the endemic Yellow-scarfed Tanager and Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager. Open areas hold the retiring Curve-

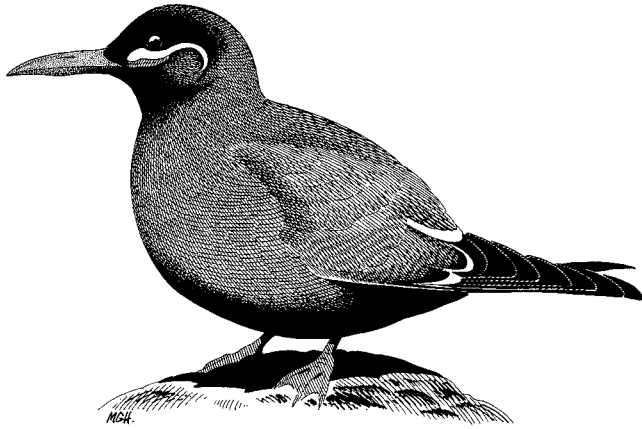
billed Tinamou, but this highly sought-after bird usually manages to keep well out of sight. Rufous-banded Owls sometimes call near camp at night, and a diligent scanning of the skies at very first light may produce a roding Andean Snipe.

Day 12 After some final birding at Bosque Unchog we will head back down to Cochabamba and then drive to Huanuco for an overnight stay. A lower-elevation stop in the arid Huallaga Valley may produce Croaking Ground-Dove, Smooth-billed Ani, White-bellied Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Tropical Kingbird, Fasciated Wren (which has an isolated population in this valley) and Blue-grey Tanager.

Day 13 This morning we shall travel south of Huanuco to an arid canyon where we will look for the endemic Rufous-backed Inca-Finch. We shall diligently search the bush tops and cacti for this secretive endemic, which tends to deliver its high-pitched song from a conspicuous perch once the sun starts hitting the slopes, but keeps in thick cover for most of the day. Afterwards we leave on the long journey to Huaraz. Along the way we will enjoy some breathtaking scenery and we will make a few stops to catch up on some of the birds we might have missed so far. Huaraz is the main base from which to explore the 'Roof of Peru' or the 'Himalayas of the Neotropics' as the guide books and tourist brochures like to call the splendid Cordillera Blanca. Along the way we will cross the headwaters of the Rio Marañon, one of the rivers giving rise to the mighty Amazon, though here it is only a small stream in comparison to the great river that it becomes further north. We will continue our journey through temperate but arid inter-montane valleys, skirting several picturesque Andean villages. By the afternoon we will reach the high pass

between the Cordillera Blanca and the Cordillera Huayhuash, where the scenery is so overwhelmingly stunning that it is regarded by many as unsurpassed in South America, with line upon line of snow-capped peaks stretching away on both sides. We will have another chance for Rufous-bellied and Grey-breasted Seedsnipe here should we have missed them at Marcapomacocha, and we will scan the slopes for the rabbit-like Mountain Viscacha. Descending west of the pass, we will pass through paramos studded with giant *Puya raimondi*, a terrestrial bromeliad known for having the world's largest flowering stalks, and if we find one in flower we will stop to watch the show provided by dozens of hummingbirds thirstily zooming in to sip the copious nectar. Time permitting, we shall stop at a marshy valley bottom which is part of the Cordillera Blanca National Park. Giant Coots nest right next to the road here and a variety of other aquatic birds may be seen. Around nightfall we will roll into Huaraz, where we will stay for three nights at one of the most pleasant hotels in Peru. The restaurant serves a fine selection of dishes and the towering peak of Huascarán (at 22,205ft or 6768m, the second highest mountain in South America) is visible from the hotel gardens!

Days 14-15 Two full days of birding the exhilarating mountains of the Cordillera Blanca will surely provide us with a grand finale for our exciting journey. We will spend a lot of time at Quebrada Llanganuco above the village of Yungay. A more astounding setting cannot be imagined, as the magnificent peak of Huascarán forms an impressive backdrop which dominates the landscape. The *Polylepis* groves at the upper end of the valley are among the most accessible in all of Peru and within a short time here one can usually see a

*Inca Tern (Michael Hodgson)*

very fine variety of birds. A readily found speciality of these gnarled woods (especially where *Gynoxis* bushes are prominent) is the colourful Tit-like *Dacnis*, but our prime target will be the striking White-cheeked Cotinga, a low-density bird that may well require some persistence and a modicum of luck. This high-elevation frugivore mainly feeds on mistletoe berries, and so we shall keep an eye out for patches of this parasitic epiphyte. We will also seek a handful of other endemics inhabiting this scenic area. Black Metaltails thirstily sip from the mistletoe flowers, the secretive Ancash Tapaculo is usually singing from boulder-strewn slopes and the smart Rufous-eared Brush-Finch is common here. Other birds we may find during our exploration of these wonderful mountains include Green-headed Hillstar (often lumped in Andean Hillstar), White-winged Cinclodes, Green-tailed Trainbearer, the streak-crowned *cajabambae* race of the Rusty-crowned Tit-Spintail, D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant, Rufous-webbed Tyrant, and Rufous-naped and Plain-capped Ground-Tyrants. A beautiful trail through taller *Polylepis* woodland lower

down leads us into the haunts of the nuthatch-like Giant Conebill, the shy Jelski's Chat-Tyrant and the endemic Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch, and we should also find Black-crested Warbler (here near the southern limit of its range). Closer to Huaraz we shall visit an area of dry scrub in the bottom of the 'Callejon de Huaylas' where we hope to find the undescribed cinnamon-tailed race of the endemic Pale-tailed Canastero. The endemic Spot-throated Hummingbird is common here, Southern Beardless Tyrannulets deliver their plaintive calls from this cactus-studded habitat and Vermilion Flycatchers add a touch of colour to the scene.

Day 16 After some final birding in the Cordillera Blanca we will descend along the western slope of the Andes. Here our prime targets will be the endemic Great Inca-Finch and the gorgeous Oasis Hummingbird, but time permitting we shall also investigate shrubby gullies for Purple-collared Woodstar and Bay-crowned Brush-Finch. By noon we should reach the cool breezes of the Pacific Ocean, where a scan over the nutrient-rich waters of the Humboldt

current should produce the huge Peruvian Pelican, Peruvian Booby, Neotropic and Guanay Cormorants, Band-tailed, Grey and Kelp Gulls, and perhaps Guanay Cormorant and the delicate Inca Tern. We will investigate more rocky shorelines for Blackish Oystercatcher and the endemic Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes, while a rocky island may hold roosting Red-legged Cormorants and South American Terns. Noisy Killdeer patrol open areas and a scan of the beach may reveal an American Oystercatcher or two. Cinnamon Teal and Grey-hooded Gulls float on the coastal ponds, and Groove-billed Anis and Chestnut-throated Seedeaters seek their living in the borders of irrigated fields. Later we will continue our journey to Lima for an overnight stay and as we approach the city we will see our first Pacific Doves.

Day 17 Today we will visit the Lomas de Lachay, an area of low coastal hills that are covered in a unique 'fog vegetation' (i.e. the sparse plant life obtains its moisture almost entirely from condensation in this almost rainless landscape). We will first visit a desolate desert canyon where, among the sparse cacti and large boulders, we shall look for the endemic Cactus Canastero. We shall also keep an eye out for the cryptic Peruvian Thick-knee, the small desert race *nanodes* of the Burrowing Owl and the near-endemic Greyish Miner (which tends to roam around in flocks at this time of year). Taking the road to the main entrance of the reserve, we will check the sandy desert for the endemic Coastal Miner as well as the diminutive Least Seedsnipe. Rocky areas higher up hold

yet another endemic miner, the large Thick-billed Miner. Other birds we may find in the lomas include Tawny-throated Dotterel, *Amazilia* Hummingbird, Yellowish Pipit (the local form perhaps meriting specific status as Peruvian Pipit), Band-tailed Sierra-Finch, Grassland Yellow-Finch and Peruvian Meadowlark. Near the rubbish containers we may find the restricted-range Sechura Fox, while if we are very fortunate indeed we will even find the rare Raimondi's Yellow-Finch (although our time to look for this nomadic species will be limited). After we return to Lima in the late afternoon, the tour will end.

Accommodation & Road

Transport: The hotels/lodges are of normal Birdquest standard. At Bosque Unchog we will stay for a total of three nights in a simple but comfortable tented camp (with twin or single occupancy available) specially set up for us by our local agent. Road transport is by small coach and roads are decidedly variable in quality (rough in some areas).

Walking: The walking effort is mostly easy or moderate, but there are two or three more strenuous hikes.

Climate: Rather variable. At low and middle elevations many days are warm or hot, dry and sunny, though on other days it can be cool and overcast. A large part of our time will be spent at high altitudes, where conditions range from warm or cool to decidedly cold. It may well rain at times and it will be rather humid in the Carpish Mountains and at Bosque Unchog.

Bird Photography:

Opportunities are quite good.